

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
September 12, 2021



DAVID TOMS (-10, won first playoff hole)

DAVID TOMS: I think if you ask the players, you always get excited for a new event because you don't know what to expect. You don't know the golf course, you don't really know where to stay, where to eat, how everything's going to be, what the scoring's going to be like. So, I mean, you see the golf course held up well, 10 under par for three days, that's a good score. You saw some guys quite a bit over, you saw a leaderboard that was bunched up. So it was tough to play, you had to pay attention to what you were doing out there, you had to hit your second shots in the right place to even have an attempt at a putt.

So I think first year, man, it went really well. It was supported by the community, fans came out, the weather was tremendous. A little bit breezy, but this time of year you'll take this every day. So obviously this is a great date for this city and the golf course held up well and I think it was well received amongst the pros.

Q. And Nick said you told him it felt like a PGA event. Expand on that.

DAVID TOMS: Yeah, especially yesterday, people were really out supporting. They were into it but polite at the same time. You could tell they were knowledgeable golfers, probably most of the golfers out here or just sports fans that wanted to see professional golf. It was a great city to host this event. We look forward to all of us coming back.

Q. Even though you were sensational at times, it was about rock steady two-putts down the stretch to win it.

DAVID TOMS: Yeah, it was breezy, so sometimes it was hard to hit the right club, and some of the pin placements were such that you had to play away from it. And you're right, that was the key to winning was just a couple of two-putts there on 17 and 18 when I was kind of not in trouble, but I wasn't in a great position.

I think the only thing that hurt me was not birdieing 15. I was right in front of the green in two, I had an easy chip. I didn't hit a very good chip and made par and I thought that might cost me, but in the end it was good enough.

Q. Having been friends for so long, was there any part of you that felt a little bit bad for him when he came up short on that?

DAVID TOMS: Yeah, because he's such a competitor. He started the season without status, he was having to Monday qualify. Then he won in Atlanta and kind of was able to take a breather, I guess you would say, not have to worry about going and trying to get there to Monday qualify and all that. He's obviously riding confidence from winning early in the

year.

And to make a putt on the last hole of the length that he did to even get in a playoff, that shows a lot. He's very competitive and I'm sure he's probably kicking himself that he missed the green right of the green there in the playoff.

Q. David, where were you watching? Were you in the clubhouse?

DAVID TOMS: I was actually right over there, I was warming up on the range, kind of getting ready. You never know. I didn't really pay too much attention to the guys after Dicky finished, they just said he had a 20-footer to tie, so that's when I went to the range and I was right over there hitting balls when he made it. So he was pumped. Then we had to wait a little while to have a couple groups finish and maybe he lost a little momentum with that.

Q. So you didn't see it, but you heard it?

DAVID TOMS: Yeah, I saw him kind of fist pumping right over here. It was great. It's great for the Champions Tour, it's great for television, obviously great for Dicky and I to play well. You know, that's why we play, you play forever and ever and then you still are able to compete at 54 years old and hit putts, make putts that mean -- it's not the money necessarily at this point in my career, it's just the fact that you work and you're competitive and you want to win. If you don't win, you want to play well, you want to grind on every shot even if it means finishing 20th instead of 30th. Guys do that and that's the beauty of this tour is everybody continues to grind it out and work hard and all meet up in South Dakota and we'll do the same thing again next week.

Q. No matter how long you've been doing it, is there adrenaline on that playoff hole? Are there butterflies?

DAVID TOMS: Oh, sure, sure. Even 18, I mean I'm walking down 18 trying to write a score down for Kevin Sutherland and you're shaking and everything. I mean, I wasn't nervous because I felt like I was in control, it's just adrenaline, gets your heart racing. You sit there and they tell you to breathe and try to calm down and you try to do that the best you can and you go back and try to draw on past experience and what that was like, but I hadn't won in a few years, so until you do it again, you always question yourself. The more you can do it, the easier it gets, for sure.

Q. Dicky said he's known you for three decades. What can you share with St. Louis about Dicky the golfer and Dicky the guy?

DAVID TOMS: I mean, we go way back to when he played at Alabama and I played at LSU. Then you go back to when he won in Memphis running around on the 18th green. He beat some stud players to get his Tour victory there and I was very happy for him. For a guy that kind of -- I guess he was the epitome of a journeyman for a long time. To come out here and be able to win on the Champions Tour and be able to set a schedule, I was very happy for

him when he won, and I'm sure he's happy for me because he knows that I've been close and I hadn't been able to do it in a while. He's a good enough friend where I'm sure he's happy for me as well.

Q. Do you think word will spread among other golfers maybe that didn't come this year, do you think this will become a popular stop?

DAVID TOMS: Oh, absolutely. I see probably just expanding on the field that was here this week, there were a lot of great players and the guys that weren't here missed out. It was a great event. I'm sure, like you said, word will get out.

The only thing, you just never know what guys' schedules are. I've got a daughter that's a junior in high school that's a varsity cheerleader and I mean, I'm missing her football games, but that's part of life. I'm lucky to be able to play a sport for a living that affords me to do a lot of other fun stuff and her as well, so she understands.

Q. The Golf Channel interview with Billy Ray, that's maybe about as emotional as honestly I've ever seen you. Where did that come from?

DAVID TOMS: I think it comes from just the unexpected. I feel like I'm preparing, I feel like I work hard at it, but then if you don't get results, you question what am I doing, what am I not doing. When you finally get over the hump and to win again, it hits you pretty hard that you're doing the right thing. That's what it's more about than anything else.

Q. You've had a ton of close calls on this tour.

DAVID TOMS: Oh, yeah. And the thing is, you just never know. Do you think Dicky's going to make a 20-foot putt downhill sidehill to get in a playoff? Once somebody does that, well, maybe it's not my time. If it doesn't happen today, you're playing well enough, maybe do it next week. He hit a bad shot and obviously I won. You just never know when it's going to happen.