

THE ASCENDANT
Presented by Blue

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
July 15, 2023

TIM WIDING



Q. Great round. Obviously weird ending there with the delay, but why don't you just walk us through the highlights, the birdies today.

TIM WIDING: Yeah, kind of building off of the first two rounds, I was playing really solid tee to green. Had my birthday yesterday and kind of celebrated with my fiancée, just kind of put me in a good mood heading into today. Talking about trying to have my first day as a 26-year-old and start off good. Started off good on 1 and 2 making long putts for birdie and kind of just kept going from there. Good round of golf.

Q. What was the delay like and then having to come back and hit that shot out of the fairway?

TIM WIDING: Yeah, obviously I made a bogey, the only bogey today, which kind of stinks a little bit. I was just sitting around there, it wasn't too bad, but it's a shot if we would have continued playing, I think I would have pulled it off because I was kind of in a good zone going in. But it is what it is. I mean, you can't really predict or do anything about the weather. Just got to accept it and move on.

Q. You were in the same position about three weeks ago.

TIM WIDING: Yeah.

Q. What would you say is the biggest thing that you learned or maybe took away from that experience?

TIM WIDING: Yeah, Oklahoma was definitely fun and a new experience for me. Just being able to accept that the nerves are there and then just, you know, deal with it. Just be kind of -- for me, just focus on the breathing, look around at the surroundings and not think about too much what other guys are doing out there and look at their scores.

It's going to be interesting tomorrow. I know I've been playing really good lately, so just got to focus on that and just keep hitting good shots.

Q. Are the nerves the toughest thing to deal with, or was it something else, a combination of things?



TIM WIDING: Yeah, I mean, nerves are obviously there for a reason because you're playing good. It's a good thing that you're feeling nerves; otherwise, you wouldn't be playing too well. For me, it's just being able to handle it. It's obviously a little more pressure, you get a little more tense, so got to find ways to cope with that. For me, just help with breathing and smile and think about what put me there in the first place.

Q. How did you wind up at San Francisco?

TIM WIDING: Well, I got recruited. I committed like two years early when the Swedish National Team, we were playing pretty much all over the world and there were scouts from different colleges watching. I liked the program, I liked the courses they played and yeah, ended up being a great fit for me. Playing Olympic Club and Lake Merced every day has definitely helped me game tee to green. We had a pretty good team my last year as well. So yeah, cool city and great courses.

Q. Were you aware that if you made par you matched the tournament record, or were you aware of that?

TIM WIDING: I had no idea, no idea.

Q. OK. What made it more difficult when you came back out? Were you just stiff a little bit or conditions different?

TIM WIDING: Yeah, it felt good on the range. Then take that cart ride over to the tee and then they blew the -- I mean, the first time around we were just waiting around for so long and I was able to swing a lot. This time was kind of like, oh, they blew it, let's go ahead, so I felt like I was not as prepared and a little bit stiff. Probably the worst swing I had all tournament I feel like. It's just a standard 8-iron for me right at the pin, then ended up, I could have two-putted that easily, but with the rain and stuff, greens were a little slower so didn't really quite get it there.

Q. Don't know what's going to happen behind you, but I think you're 1 ahead as of now. How do you feel about that going into the last day?

TIM WIDING: It will be fun. Like I said earlier, I learned a lot from Oklahoma, so I'm just going to go out there and play my game and try to make a lot of birdies. As you've seen, there's some low scores, so just like Oklahoma, I know I have to shoot 4, 5, 6 under par to even have a chance. Just keep it going.

Q. What about 18 would you say makes it such a challenging hole?

TIM WIDING: Yeah, it's long and it's pretty tight to hit the fairway. If you go right, you're pretty much -- you're lucky to find the ball, but if you find it you probably just have to lay up in the fairway. And if you go left, which you have a lot of room left but the rough is really thick, so if you catch a bad lie, you might not even get to the green. The driver, if you put it in the



fairway, you should only have like a 7- or 8-iron in so you can attack the pin, but if you miss a little off the tee, you scramble to make par. It's a great finishing hole.

