

Utah Championship
Presented by Zions Bank

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTE
August 3, 2023

TIM WIDING (-9)



Q. Tim, big birdie there on 18 to reach 9 under par. How was it today?

TIM WIDING: It was great. Tee to green, just really solid. Hit a lot of fairways, gave myself a lot of good looks for birdie. And I've been playing really good last couple weeks, just haven't been scoring as well as I'd like, but today, you know, had a hot putter, made a lot of putts. Almost as hot as that bee who stung me on 17 fairway. Somehow it got into my pants and it stung on my left hamstring, so I had to take my pants off and --

Q. Today?

TIM WIDING: Yeah. And it flew right out. Was able to hit the wedge to three feet and made birdie after that. Yeah, so I've got to go ice it, it's a little bit swollen.

Q. You got stung by a bee on 17 and made birdie still?

TIM WIDING: Yeah.

Q. You had to take your pants off?

TIM WIDING: I did, yeah. That was interesting. I'll take it.

Q. Where were you? Were you like addressing the ball? When did it sting you?

TIM WIDING: I was walking up to the green, and then walking back I thought there was something in my pants. Then I reached down and it stung me right on the hamstring. I thought it was a bee but wasn't sure, so I took my pants off and it flew right out. Yeah, you know, if that requires to birdie 17, 18, I'll take it.

Q. I'm sorry that happened, I'm not laughing at you, just what a wild situation.

TIM WIDING: Yeah.

Q. Utah's the bee state. Very patriotic of you to get stung by a bee during the round.

What was the reaction from your playing partners?



TIM WIDING: I don't know. They were kind of like, are you serious? Like they didn't know what was going on, but kind of laughed when I took my pants off. I asked them if I should go run in the trees or something and they said no, just do it right here. All right.

Q. Wow, OK. So aside from that, looks like kind of your birdies came in pairs today, you had the two sets of two on the front nine and you ended there with a set of two. Talk about that a little bit.

TIM WIDING: Yeah, yeah. Like I said, my putter was really hot. Like I hit it close on a lot of holes. All the par 5s pretty much had tap-ins for birdie, and eagle looks, too. I made a couple 20-footers that I haven't made in a while. It was just nice to see it falling. And the misses I did, I missed in the right spots. I was never really in trouble to make bogey out here. Nice, comfortable round.

Q. It's known to be a low scoring course. Can you attest to that? How's the setup out there?

TIM WIDING: Yeah, especially with the rain we had, it just makes it so much softer, you can be a little more aggressive to the pins. Yeah, if you just hit the fairways, you can just go for pretty much every pin. Got to be careful not to spin it too much, there's a few holes where it spins a little bit. On 18 I had to club down just to make sure it didn't spin too much. Yeah, lot of birdies out there.

Q. You mentioned you've been playing really good, but you haven't seen the results that you want. What was it that was keeping you from seeing those results?

TIM WIDING: Yeah, obviously I played good in Denver, finished fourth. Then I missed the cut the week before. Well, I withdrew, but I would have missed the cut. I was still playing really good, a few mental errors.

And then last week, you know, you had to shoot 6, 7 under to have guys run past you, but I feel like I was 4, 5 under through 10 and then I messed it up a little bit on the back nine. Still hitting good shots, just didn't quite get the ball to fall in the hole.

Just golf, that happens. You can play poorly and shoot well and play good and don't have the scores. It's just the nature of golf. Today, felt like everything just clicked.

Q. Where were you when the delay came?

TIM WIDING: I was on 2 tee. I just finished the first hole making like a 12-footer for par. I guess that was my only trouble hole.

Q. Had you played this course before?

TIM WIDING: Never, no.



Q. You played in Utah before?

TIM WIDING: I have played in Utah before in college in Provo, played the BYU event a couple times. I'm used to the elevation change. Yeah, it goes far.

Q. Do you feel like you've got to keep the pedal to the metal here?

TIM WIDING: Oh, for sure. I haven't looked too much at the leaderboard, but I assume there's a lot of low scores out there. You know, especially in the afternoon, if the wind doesn't pick up, it's still going to be very attackable, so expect a lot of low scores.

Q. Are you glad to get your round in the books before hopefully whatever that's coming doesn't hit?

TIM WIDING: Oh, yeah, yeah, I'm happy. The morning rounds are nice because you get done early and can go home and rest a little bit. I always like playing early. Not the super early ones because it's tough to wake up, but 8:22 is perfect.

Q. Currently 34 on the points list. How does it feel being that close? We have a couple events left to go.

TIM WIDING: Yeah, if you would have told me that a year ago I definitely would have taken it. Coming out of Q-School just making it by two shots and to have a shot at the PGA TOUR is special, something I've dreamt about my whole life. So I'm really happy where I am and just try to have a good week here and get it done.

Q. Earlier you mentioned kind of having to play catch-up on a couple events, like you have to make 7 under just to put yourself in contention. But off to a hot start this week, does that make you free up a little bit knowing like, hey, I'm off to a hot start, I don't have to play catch-up?

TIM WIDING: Yeah, it's definitely going to free me up a little bit, but it's more so like I know I'm hitting it really good, so if I can just make sure I'm committing and trusting to my targets, I'm going to be fine.

