

LECOM Suncoast Classic

ROUND 4 QUOTES

April 21, 2024



TIM WIDING (-20, won in playoff)

Q. Tim, first career win, how does it feel?

TIM WIDING: I don't know, it's going to take me a couple days probably to process what just happened.

I don't know, I'm speechless. It's something I've practiced for every day and something you dream of, and for it to finally happen, it's just, it's a relief to finally pull it off. You keep telling yourself that you're very close, but winning golf tournaments is really tough and I'm just so happy I was able to pull it off. This is incredible. Yeah, I don't know what to say.

Q. Coming into today you were a few shots off the lead. Just what was the mindset knowing you were within striking distance of getting that win?

TIM WIDING: Yeah, I had a really good last night. Went to an Indian restaurant, I love Indian food. Just kind of get in a good mindset. Woke up this morning feeling good. I was very comfortable. I kept to myself, stayed in the present, don't look too far ahead. Although it was a little bit of a struggle to start, I was able to find a good rhythm and just take it shot by shot.

Yeah, it's always a little easier coming from behind, you kind of have to play a little more aggressive. I didn't really know what the score was when I holed the putt on 18. I thought I wasn't going to make it, or at least get into a playoff. So yeah, I don't know, I don't know what to say.

Q. Once you got off the course and you saw where you were at and a playoff was a possibility, just where did your mind go and where did it shift to?

TIM WIDING: Yeah, I kind of -- I was happy with even finishing tied for second or whatever I was going to be, I was happy with the week and everything I've done the last couple weeks to prepare myself for this event.

Then I heard going into a playoff. It was just kind of like before a tournament, just do a little bit of prep on the range, warm up and kind of get back to that focus. I just finished, too, 15 minutes before that so it wasn't really hard transitioning to that. Yeah, I was just happy I got a shot.

Q. Did you have any nerves there on the range when you were kind of just waiting



and seeing?

TIM WIDING: Yeah. Surprisingly, I wasn't as nervous as I probably should be. I was just very calm. I was putting on some of my favorite songs on Spotify and listening to my Swedish hockey team intro song and just kind of hyping up a little bit and kind of put me in a good mood. Not too nervous, just more excited. Kept telling myself that whatever happens, I played some really good golf this week.

Q. You get in the playoff then, it's a three-way. Just what's the start of the mindset there once you're teeing off? Did you have a target in mind thinking you needed birdie or par?

TIM WIDING: Yeah, I mean, probably think you need birdie. I wasn't -- I was trying to -- just like the round today, I wasn't trying to look ahead too much, I was just trying to stay present, shot by shot.

Hit a pretty poor tee shot. It was in the fairway, but I had a long way in. I just took a 6-iron, I was trying to go right at it, trying to make birdie. Same thing for the second playoff hole, just even though Steven was short right, was probably going to get that up and down, it's what I had in my head. So I wanted to get it close and try to get birdie.

Yeah, just try and be as free as possible and still try to make birdie and be aggressive.

Q. That first playoff hole, your par putt just kind of snuck in. Did your stomach drop a little bit?

TIM WIDING: Oh, my gosh, I thought I missed it. During the round I missed like a three-footer for birdie on 4 and three-putted from like eight feet on 9, missed a two-footer, walk away with par. It was kind of creeping into my mind a little bit. I missed those to the right, so I was kind of being a little conservative, tried to play it in the center, but I knew it was going to break a little left. Yeah, I told myself and the caddie afterwards, that's for what happened on 4 and 9, got to get one back.

Q. What was that initial feeling once you realized you won?

TIM WIDING: I don't know. I mean, I just gave Zach, my caddie a hug. As soon as I saw my wife crying running down, that's kind of when it really hit me. She's my biggest supporter and I love her so much. Everything she does for me, and she's a hard worker, but yeah, she means everything to me. Just seeing her walking down there and kind of this is a team win, for sure. I want to thank my whole team, too. Peter who was here, my mental coach, and Peter my swing coach back home, and my family. But it's real special having her here.

Q. You said she was supposed to be on a flight. Just what does that mean that she's here for this?



TIM WIDING: Yeah, she's supposed to go work in San Francisco and she was supposed to be on a flight at 7:30. She's not going to make that, I hope her colleagues understand. She can fly out tomorrow. Yeah, it meant a lot that she stayed here and supported me.

Q. What's the biggest thing you learned about yourself last season?

TIM WIDING: Last season, as a rookie, like you kind of want to learn as much as possible. I played -- I took one tournament off, so I played -- had those stretches in the middle of the summer where you play like seven weeks in a row.

I feel like that was too much golf for me, I was trying to chase it a little bit too much. This year, knowing I have my full card, being able to schedule a little bit better and take a few tournaments off has been very helpful. Then you can kind of prepare for those events, too.

That's probably the biggest difference, just knowing what's ahead of me and probably learn from the mistakes I did last year.

Q. What is the area you strive to improve upon the most coming into this season?

TIM WIDING: Probably putting. It's very -- for me, I like to -- I think we're all kind of perfectionists, but I wanted to be perfect all the time, tried different putters, different grips. If something doesn't work, I have a tendency to keep switching it up.

I think the key for me is to just kind of trust that I'm good enough and that -- at what I'm doing. You can have bad weeks, but doesn't mean you're going to play bad the next week. That's pretty much it, just work on the putting a little bit. I putt a lot, probably too much, but maybe take a step back and accept that 90, 95 percent could be actually pretty solid, doesn't have to be 100 percent all the time.

Q. Do you have any type of relationship with Ludvig at all?

TIM WIDING: We went to high school together. He's two years younger than me. It's been -- I don't know, he's unbelievable, but it's been fun watching him in college and what he's doing right now. It just doesn't seem to phase him, all the pressure. He's top-10 and almost winning every week.

Yeah, I think Sweden's got a very bright future ahead and I'd love to be part of that. Trying to follow his footsteps and hopefully I'll be on the PGA TOUR with him next year.

Q. Is there any similarities between you two, or differences that you think of?

TIM WIDING: I think we're both pretty good ball-strikers, tee to green, hits it pretty far. Yeah, I mean, I haven't seen him in a while, but I think our ball-striking's pretty similar. I think that's probably it.



Q. Kind of backing up to before the playoff, how did you lock in on the range?

TIM WIDING: How did I lock in?

Q. Yeah.

TIM WIDING: Yeah, I was listening to some of my favorite songs there, just trying to get in a good mood. It's easy to kind of get looking ahead too much. I was just trying to tell myself that I made it to a playoff, whatever happens, I can accept the result and be fine with that. Then I was saying earlier, I put on my Swedish hockey team like intro song, kind of get me a little pumped up. Yeah, that was I think key for me, just being as relaxed as possible.

Q. What were the songs that you played?

TIM WIDING: Some Kaigo. I love Kaigo. There were two Kaigo songs and then that song, it's probably someone else, but Kaigo.

Q. You did the little ball trick thing, shot the video of that. How important is having fun out here to you?

TIM WIDING: It's so important. I was saying earlier that I have a tendency to just kind of strive for perfection a little bit too much. Just being able to take a step back and have fun with it. Golf has always been a hobby, obviously my job, too. It's so important to kind of remember how it all started, the love for the game and just trying to have fun with it.

During COVID when the golf course closed a little bit, I was doing some trick shots in the backyard and stuff. I just love having fun with it and try to, yeah, see how far I can take it basically.

