

VERITEX BANK CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 3 QUOTES

April 27, 2024

TIM WIDING (-23)



Q. Tim, going into the lead for the final round tomorrow, kind of walk me through how today went.

TIM WIDING: Yeah, obviously a little tougher today with the wind to keep the ball in play. I was trying to just obviously still try to be aggressive, make birdies, just be a little smarter, be a little more mindful of my shots and really make sure I'm committed in the wind. Especially when it's swirling and changing a lot, it can get easy to change clubs or doubt your decision. I feel like I was very comfortable out there today, just tried to commit to every shot and executed pretty good.

Q. How was kind of settling into the round with the wind gusts that you were dealing with? Did it seem like that front nine, it was good but it was certainly challenging to kind of get into it?

TIM WIDING: Yeah. First of all, it's been a long day if you're not prepared early. Where I play in California right now in the spring, it's very windy. I love playing in the wind. I have a little lower ball flight, so it's also a little nicer. It's an extra challenge and keeps you on your toes a little bit.

Yeah, just trying to keep it in play and trying to stay energized. It's been a long day and the wind can kind of drain you a little bit as well. Feel I did a good job staying energized, committing to all my shots out there.

Q. Do you feel like you started building momentum there on the back, started to hit the ball closer?

TIM WIDING: Yeah, the wind kind of died out a little bit on the back nine and I had some good eagle looks and good birdie looks. Had a few that didn't go in, but I just -- I've been hitting it last week really good, and same this week. Just very comfortable with my game. Although I'm not -- if I don't make a birdie for a few holes, I'm confident in my game that I can get started a couple holes later. It's always nice to get a few in to kind of build that momentum.

Q. What's it been like winning last week, having all that emotion, and then coming into this week to still be competing at the same high level?

TIM WIDING: Yeah, coming into this week, obviously some long nights traveling and stuff



and getting here. I kind of had the mindset of obviously I want to compete, but no matter what happens this week I still had a great week last week winning. I feel like this week I just -- knowing I can win and compete out here, just kind of been very comfortable and just enjoying it. I feel like that helps a lot knowing if I can commit and execute my shots, probably going to end up pretty close to the flag. Just being able to play a little more fearless out there, not worrying too much about the results, just trust in my game and see what happens.

Q. Does being in your second year out here, has that kind of helped you be more comfortable and settle into that?

TIM WIDING: For sure. Last year I tried to play as many events as possible, just kind of see what my body can take, how many events I can do, and also with the planning as well. Knowing I have a full schedule out here, just been able to take a few weeks off. If there's a course I don't really like out here, I can kind of maybe take that one off.

Yeah, it definitely helps a lot seeing the courses for a second time, it's a huge difference from last year. Just being able, like I said, to have a full schedule and kind of put so much pressure off.

Q. What did you learn from last week that you can apply to tomorrow for the final round?

TIM WIDING: Yeah, still haven't really went -- over it a little bit a couple days ago. I'm kind of surprised how calm I was last week. I was close last year a couple times, didn't pull it off, but last week I just, you know, I was just trying to be as comfortable and calm as possible, just be in the moment as much as possible.

It's tough, especially when you're close to winning, it's easy to kind of get ahead of yourself. It's probably the biggest thing I learned last week, just try to -- whatever happens, happens and be fine with that. Be comfortable. And I said it last week, I started playing golf because I love the game and it's easy to forget that sometimes here playing week after week. Still very competitive, but I'm just trying to find a little more joy lately and it's paying off.

Q. What's the hardest part about trying to close out a golf tournament?

TIM WIDING: Yeah, like I said, it's probably easy to get ahead of yourself. Like you're in the lead and maybe easy to kind of worry about what the people behind you are doing. But tomorrow I'm just going to go out there and focus on my game. If it's windy or raining, it might be a little more challenging, so definitely have to make sure I'm being present and just take it shot by shot. Sounds easy, but really just got to focus on my game and not worry about what others are doing.

Q. What's the most exciting part about it?

TIM WIDING: I mean, this is -- it's hard to practice for these moments, so to actually get out



there under pressure and try to do what you've been practicing for, that's what I'm most excited about. Last year I was probably a little more scared, like anxiety coming in playing in the final group, but now kind of just changed the mindset to being hey, I'm playing great golf, just go out and do the same and enjoy it, enjoy it while you're playing well.

Q. Do you notice any subtle changes like when you're under pressure that you sort of have to either combat or brace?

TIM WIDING: Yeah, I have a tendency to overthink a lot and trying to -- especially easy shots where there's a lot of options, just trying to pick the right one. For me it's probably better to just pick one and commit to it. Like I know I can execute a lot of shots out there, if it's a draw, fade, so just really pick one and stick to it. That's probably -- especially tomorrow, probably going to want to overthink a lot. And you're in position to win, so you don't want to, you know, hit a bad shot and prevent that, but we've just got to be, you know, react to the targets instead of kind of controlling it too much.

