

**ROUND 3 QUOTES**  
**August 25, 2024**

**TOM GILLIS (-8)**



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**Q. No surprise as to why you're here in front of the microphone. Just a few comments about how special this week was.**

**TOM GILLIS:** Well, it's where it all started for me in 1993, it was the first Tour event I ever played. I never even knew if I was going to be a member of the PGA TOUR. I happened to Monday qualify. So for it to come full circle and finish here after 34 years doing it as a professional, I just feel extremely blessed.

**Q. You don't have to get too much into the details, but when did this thought process start and when did you make the final decision?**

**TOM GILLIS:** I thought about it the last couple years. My mid back just has got so much arthritis and I can't rotate well and I can't put much time in. I just slowly fell down the money list. It was like OK, what's the next plan here, what are we going to do. So I've been thinking about it for two years to be honest with you.

**Q. Countless tours, countless countries. How satisfied I guess is the right word?**

**TOM GILLIS:** That's a good question. I said earlier to Vince Cellini this week, I never dreamed of playing the PGA TOUR. I grew up working at a country club a mile from my house. I saw the head pro, he played three days a week, he played tournaments, he played in tournaments in the Michigan section, he drove a nice car, he had winters off, he had a pretty wife. I'm thinking this is the greatest gig ever, I just want to be a club pro.

So then I just got better and better and I got out of college and the first backer I had was Mr. Eldrich (sp?) from Indian River Golf and Country Club, he backed me for a couple years. Then I had some other people. Then somewhere around '95 an old friend who passed, Jerry McWilliams, backed me and I went and played Europe for five and he sponsored me. I had a lot of breaks, I had a lot of people helping me.

**Q. And today how sentimental was today? I know I kind of asked you that in the beginning. Were there any moments of sadness, regret, or are you all just locked and loaded for what's next?**

**TOM GILLIS:** No, there's no sadness. The saddest I'm going to be in the next 40 minutes when we say goodbye to my son because he's going to go to college an hour and a half north. He's a freshman, he's got his first day of school tomorrow. We won't see him -- he's going to play basketball there, I don't think we'll see him until Christmas. That's really going to be emotional.

This will probably hit me at a later moment, maybe after I say buy to him. Tomorrow my emotions, I'm exhausted, so it will probably hit me somewhere tomorrow.

I don't know, I was all focused today. I had better focus today than I did the last three years on Tour, I don't know why.

**Q. How good was this up-and-down to finish?**

**TOM GILLIS:** It was fine. I was OK. I'm like walking up, I'm like whatever, this isn't going to define anything you've done in 34 years. Let's just go get it up and down. It makes you feel better, makes dinner taste better always.

**Q. Last two questions. In the event you top-10, would you consider playing?**

**TOM GILLIS:** No, because me and my wife are going to go see some friends in Prince Edward Island that we made a commitment, they've been trying to get up to come up there for 10 years and we decided next Thursday we're going to go. Even if I did, I wouldn't go.

**Q. Last question, what's next for you? Have you thought about what you're going to do the next chapter of life?**

**TOM GILLIS:** I have a few ideas, I'm just not at liberty to say right now. There's a couple more meetings I've got to have. It's going to be fine. I'll be home a lot. I'm looking forward to spending more time with my wife and my daughter, who's a junior in high school. It would just be nice to be home and not be looking for the airport over your shoulder all the time.