

PURE INSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 2 QUOTES
September 21, 2024

MARK O'MEARA (+9)



Q. Can you just tell me what it means to you to retire here?

MARK O'MEARA: Well, it means everything. I mean, everything that's transpired in my life here is, Pebble Beach has been the dream. With that, coming here in '78, playing the state amateur in '79, winning the state amateur at Pebble Beach. My great lucky fortunes over the years to play well around this iconic place, the wins that I've had here, the memories of winning the last Crosby to playing with my father in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-am and winning the championship alongside my dad. I mean, I owe everything to Pebble Beach, it's just a blessing to be able to finish my career here.

Q. When you walked on to the 18th hole, what was going through your head?

MARK O'MEARA: Well, like the last couple holes, when I see my friends and family out here, they're supporting me. My daughter Michelle, guys that have worked for me, my caddies of past years and my wife, other friends that have flown in to celebrate this occasion with me, I mean, how can you not be emotional? I'm emotional still right now.

Q. I don't blame you, it's such a special moment. For the community here on the central coast who has seen such amazing accomplishments from you here at Pebble Beach, what would you say to them?

MARK O'MEARA: Well, we thank 'em for everybody's support. The fact that I'm able to play with these young great First Tee players, the young ladies and the young men that I've played with over the years, to watch them blossom and have an experience like this. You know, PURE Insurance has done a tremendous job with us as a great sponsor. I just, I think that of all the places that I've traveled and played around the world, there's no place prettier than the Monterey Peninsula. This is as good as it gets.

Q. Any plans for retirement now?

MARK O'MEARA: I mean, I'll still stay active in the game. Certainly I won't compete at this high level, but I feel a calling that I want to stay involved in the game.

And I have a lot of hobbies that I like outside the game whether it's in a river fly fishing somewhere or riding snowmobiles up in the backcountry, those are things that I love to do. Spend more time maybe with my family and not feel like I've got to get on a plane and travel so much and sit in hotel rooms by myself. I've had 44 years of doing that and I've been



thankful to do that, but I'm at a stage where I'm 67, almost 68 and it's OK to slow down a little bit.

Q. And for such a remarkable moment, is there anything else you'd like to add on today and what this means to you right here?

MARK O'MEARA: No. I'm just thankful that we had a great week. I know I didn't play as well as I would have liked to, but I kept trying, that's all you can do in the game of golf and in life, you know. You don't always have it go your way and sometimes you struggle a little bit, but you just have to hang in there and keep battling.

Q. Mark, we see you getting emotional. Just assess your round today, the emotions you were feeling and then that great putt on 17 and the walk up 18.

MARK O'MEARA: You know, like I've said earlier, I owe everything to Pebble Beach. The things that have transpired in my life, I would have never dreamed that as a young kid starting the game late at 12 and a half, 13, and growing up in southern California but coming to northern California and seeing the Monterey Peninsula, Pebble Beach, winning the Cal State amateur in '79 and then the rest of the things that have transpired, winning the last Crosby in '85, in '04 AT&T Pebble Beach pro-am, certainly the one playing with my father. I mean, I count my lucky stars that I've had this success here at Pebble Beach.

So for me to wind down my career and play my last competitive tournament at one of the most iconic places in the world and the memories have all kind of sunk in and that's why it's easy to get emotional coming down the last couple holes. Not that it's over, but more the celebrating what's transpired in my life here at Pebble.

Q. What does it mean to have your wife here, your kids here, all the people supporting you?

MARK O'MEARA: Listen, they're the greatest. You only have so many close people in your life. For them to come in and spend their weekend or coming to watch me, follow around the last 18 holes around Pebble meant the world to me. I'm very thankful for the people that have had an impact on my life. This game certainly has had a huge impact on my life and I won't forget that. I'm thankful for it every moment that I have walking certainly around this place. It's not like I'll never come back to Pebble Beach again, but the fact to be able to end a competitive 44-year career at Pebble Beach, yeah, I couldn't have picked a more special day and a more special place.

Q. What were you feeling on 18 walking off and hugging all your friends and family?

MARK O'MEARA: Look, I'm still teary eyed, I'm still kind of somewhat crying. And do I think I'm an emotional guy? I am a little bit, but it's a little overwhelming coming down the last hole, even on the 17th hole seeing a friend of mine who's caddying for another player out here who caddied for me for a number of years, another -- you know, Mitch Windsor who



caddies for Steve Flesch, and then Shane Joel who caddies for Doug Ghim on the regular tour who caddied for me for 10 years, to see that he would take the time to come up here and watch me go around. And certainly my manager, Peter Malik; my wife, Meredith; my daughter, Michelle; friends, my doctor and his wife and then friends that are in the business world that came and spent their Saturday afternoon to walk around Pebble Beach and watch me play my last round. Yeah, it's humbling and it's awe inspiring, so I'm thankful for them and what they've meant in my life.

Q. How much will you miss your friends and co-workers out here?

MARK O'MEARA: Well, I will. Everybody at the PGA TOUR, we have an incredible organization. They know that a lot of everybody at the Tour has my phone number and if I can ever help the Tour in any way. It's not like I'm never going to be involved with the game of golf or the PGA TOUR or the juniors that I've played with over the years. I always want them to feel like they can reach out to me and if I can be of help certainly I'll be there.

Q. What's next for you? How are you going to be spending your time now?

MARK O'MEARA: You know, I still do some -- a lot of my corporate stuff, companies I represent and this and that. This fall it's always steelhead season where I'm usually in my tent or I'm steelhead fishing in some river. I'll actually be up in northeastern Oregon, southeastern Washington swinging flies for steelhead, sleeping in a tent in about a week or so from now. That's my passion, that's what I love to do. And we don't kill any fish, we always let our fish go. It's more about being out in the environment and appreciating the beauty of the peace and tranquility of being in a river.

Q. Will you still check scores?

MARK O'MEARA: I follow it, I keep track of my friends and guys who play the regular tour, guys who play Champions Tour. When they win I make sure that I send them a text that I'm thinking about them, congratulate them. And it's not like I'm going to be too far away from the game. I'll always stay in touch with the game.

