

ROUND 3 QUOTES
October 20, 2024

TIM O'NEAL (-13)



Q. I could talk to you for an hour right now.

TIM O'NEAL: Yeah, no kidding.

Q. Your emotions right now? PGA TOUR Champions first win, your emotions?

TIM O'NEAL: I don't know what to think. It's been a long season and for me to get it done when I had to, that means a lot.

Q. You knew where you stood coming into this week.

TIM O'NEAL: Yeah.

Q. What flipped this week? Why did you have -- I played my last competitive round of golf with you and I said, man, it's not going to take long for Tim O'Neal to win a golf tournament. Why this week?

TIM O'NEAL: I don't know, it was just how it was supposed to happen, I guess. I've been playing well in the past few weeks, just giving too many shots back. The last two days was really solid. It only takes one week, right? I guess this is my week.

Q. Holes 11 through 15, you hung in there. How were you able to do that? You played such a great front nine. Great birdie at 10. Then 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 were kind of, you know, you had to reach down inside, deep inside. How were you able to survive that little stretch?

TIM O'NEAL: Really, I'm just playing one shot at a time. I know that's cliché. I didn't really scoreboard watch, I just kept telling myself just keep hitting greens and give myself birdie looks. When I had long birdie putts, I was able to lag it down there and not have a lot of stress.

Q. Lanny and I both agree that what really was impressive with you was you never got out of your routine, you never got out of your pace, you never got out of your speed. You didn't get too high, too low, too fast, too slow. Is that something that you've learned out here?

TIM O'NEAL: Yeah. I tried to walk slower this week, I tried to do everything a lot slower. I get going a little bit too fast sometimes and this week I was really focused on just trying to do that and it turned out to be a good week.

Q. Congratulations, really proud of you.

TIM O'NEAL: Thank you, appreciate it.

Q. On 18 after the birdie I finally saw a smile. I mean, how dialed in were you? Were you that focused and everything, but I finally saw a smile. Did you finally let yourself realize it at that point?

TIM O'NEAL: Well, yeah. Last hole was over, 54th hole, and after I made the last birdie, now I can relax a little bit. But it was no -- sometimes I get a little unfocused out there, so I was going to stay focused until I got done.

Q. When was your last win, professional win?

TIM O'NEAL: PGA TOUR Latin America, Dominican Republic, I want to say 2016.

Q. You've been through this in your head I'm sure at this level. Did this experience even come close to what you had imagined it would be like when you finally broke through?

TIM O'NEAL: Yeah, somewhat what I thought it would be like. I see guys win and I always wanted to be those guys that's holding the trophy at the end. For me to finally get it done today means the world right now.

Q. This seems to be a very popular win in the locker room. If these guys can't win, seems like you're the guy they would want to win. What does that mean to you?

TIM O'NEAL: I guess guys like me, I guess, I don't know. You know, I like all these guys out here and I've learned so much the past two years playing out here on PGA TOUR Champions. For them to feel that way for me, it means a lot because I feel like now that I've won, I feel like I belong.