

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW: TOM LEHMAN
May 2, 2015



PHIL STAMBAUGH: Tom, 6 under 66 today and you jump right in it here, move up the board and you're at 8 under. Just talk about the day. Another beautiful day here, perfect day for scoring.

TOM LEHMAN: Yeah, weather's just perfect and the course is in great shape. It is a good day for scoring, but I played well. You have to play well here. That's the one thing about this golf course, you don't get away with a whole lot. If you hit a bad shot, you usually get penalized a little bit in some way or another. For me, I didn't hit the ball super great. I think I hit the ball much better yesterday, but I seem to always manage to get it in the right places and shot a good score.

Q. Tom, you said you didn't hit the ball super great. On a course like this, though, you've got to hit fairways?

TOM LEHMAN: Yeah, and I drove it poorly. Seemed like I drove it pretty well on holes where you really have to drive it well, some of the tougher par 4s. But I hit a bunch of really mediocre tee shots, kind of hung a few out to the right, in fairway bunkers. On the 18th hole I hit it left, it hit a tree and it kicked way back and I had like 245 to the pin. A lot of, you know, shots that are a little bit unlike me off the tee. I usually drive the ball pretty straight. Today was a little bit iffy. Iron game was very good, putting was strong. Holed a wedge shot for an eagle, which helped.

Q. I was going to say, that's a pretty good save.

TOM LEHMAN: Yeah. It's funny, Dennis Trixler is caddying for me and he's only caddied maybe once every year for about the last 10 or 12 years. On the 15th hole I had about a 78 yard lob wedge and he said something to the effect of, "Just like the 12th hole at Disney." Well, the 12th hole at Disney one year when he was caddying I swished it with an 80 yard lob wedge, and I did it again. So he gave me this hug and he wouldn't let go, and I'm like, "Hey, c'mon, we're on TV, don't do that to me. (Laughter.)"

PHIL STAMBAUGH: I noticed also you played the other par 5s, birdied them all, so 5 under on the four par 5s.

TOM LEHMAN: Really? I wasn't aware of that. Like I say, I didn't always drive it great on those holes, but maybe sometimes being forced to lay up can be a good thing. I always worry on that 13th hole, you know, I don't want to hit it too good off the tee because I don't want to be tempted into going for it over the water. But sometimes when you drive it poorly and you have to lay up to the perfect yardage, if your wedge game is on, which mine was today, hit a lot of good wedges, you make a lot of birdies.

Q. The wedge shot, that was from 78 yards?

TOM LEHMAN: Yeah, 77, 78, something like that, somewhere in the 70s.

Q. Did you make any long putts or anything?

TOM LEHMAN: No, not really, no. I hit a lot of good putts and made a few. Hit a lot that looked pretty good that didn't go in, but hit a lot of really good iron shots. I have to say maybe if the driving wasn't special, the iron play was pretty good so I felt good about that.

Q. Why's Trixler on the bag?

TOM LEHMAN: Well, Andrew Martinez, my caddie of almost 23 years, got a great offer to go caddie on the PGA TOUR, so he made a jump back to where the young guys are.

Q. Full time?

TOM LEHMAN: Yeah.

Q. When?

TOM LEHMAN: A couple this is the second tournament without him.

Q. Who's he caddying for?

TOM LEHMAN: Zac Blair. Jimmy Blair, who's about my age, is a pro, played the tour, his son. He's a good little player, very good player. So, you know, any time I think a caddie has a chance to go and really do well over there with the money they're playing for, you have to support that. So I wish him the very best, but I miss him.

Q. I was going to say, it's like losing your right arm, you guys have been together for a long time.

TOM LEHMAN: Yeah, it's just different. It's really funny because he talks a lot, Andrew does, talks a lot, and on the golf course he talks a lot. He's talking about tennis or he's talking about backgammon or he's talking about politics or the movie he saw last night or whatever. And Dennis Trixler, who is probably the most talkative guy that I know, when he gets on the golf course shuts up. So I'm like, Are you mad at me? Is something bothering you? He says, Why? Well, you haven't said a word in four holes. I'm focused. Well, be focused but talk some, I've got to hear some noise out here.

Q. So is he going to caddie for you full time?

TOM LEHMAN: Uhuh.

Q. Or you're just looking?

TOM LEHMAN: I'm going to have my son caddie a little bit this summer. I'm going to have Dennis caddie a little, a couple other friends caddie a little. To me, caddying is more about being with somebody you enjoy being with, which is why with Andrew it worked so well for 23 years. I told him all the time, If you think the reason why you're my caddie is because you're such a great caddie, you're wrong. You are a great caddie, but I like you so much, I enjoy being around you so much. That's why it has worked all these years. So I'm going to surround myself with people that I really enjoy being with.

Q. That's going to be great for your son.

TOM LEHMAN: Yeah.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Tom, do you want to just talk about your first we're almost to the third of the year, just talk about how you've done the first part of the year.

TOM LEHMAN: You know, I'm happy with my game, I have to be honest. The results are reasonable. I started the year out hitting it well and putting terrible, so I've worked really hard on my putting, went back to the old putter that I used starting in about 2008 or so all the way through 2013. Pulled it back out and been working on the things I used to work on. My putting is improving again and I'm feeling more confident again and the results have been better; second at Mississippi, did okay last week, but playing well this week so I'm happy with where my game is at.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Any other questions? Good luck tomorrow.

TOM LEHMAN: Thank you.