

**FINAL INTERVIEW**  
**June 10, 2018**



**TOM LEHMAN ( -13)**  
**Rain-shortened 54-hole event**

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**Q. When your daughter was in Sephora you got the phone call, but it wasn't that they called off the tournament, right, it was just to get back to Wakonda?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** It was, "Where are you? What are you doing? Where are you? We're going to make a decision at some point fairly soon here, just wondering where you might be."

So I've been charting the weather all day long and just looked to me like things weren't getting any better, so I figure once that phone call came, it probably was just a matter of a few minutes when they called back, which is what happened.

I spent the entire day today, every 30-minute timeout, I told Rachael that it's like a field goal kicker getting iced nine times but each one lasts 30 minutes. Every time they would delay it and push it back, it was just replaying the round one more time, going over the first tee shot and the second hole and the third hole, playing the course out in my mind, and then trying to relax and we would get another delay, so replay it again. So I really worked hard today trying to keep my mind focused on the fact that we were going to play. Whatever time it was going to be, didn't matter. When it's time to play, I'm ready.

**Q. So you said you got another call, then you were en route here when you found out?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Yes, we got in the car and drove in. Joe T. called.

**Q. Did you give her a high-five or what did you do?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** As much as you can in the car while you're driving, yeah. It's nice to win. I have to be honest, 20 years from now no one's really going to care too much about how you won, but a win is a win. Somebody has to be leading after three rounds.

There's times when you play that you know that the forecast on Sunday is really lousy and that it's really important that you try to get in Saturday night in the lead if you can because of the chance you might not play. I didn't see that coming. I thought there would be a delay until middle of the afternoon or something and we would go out and play, so I was really focused on trying to be ready whenever that delay was over.

**Q. So you get ready, go shopping and --**

**TOM LEHMAN:** We were at the hotel and I said, "I'm sick and tired of sitting around here, let's go do something," so we went to the mall. I was going to buy some tennis shoes, I was going to buy some zinc oxide for her lip, just kind of kill some time, wander around, then come out here like we always do two hours ahead of time and go stretch, get something to eat and then go play. But the weather just didn't cooperate.

**Q. Is it a little bittersweet, one, to get the win but you don't get to play that third round today and maybe see what you could have done after the way yesterday finished?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** You said something really, I think, significant is that making a bogey on 18 was like a kick in the teeth yesterday, it really was. To play so well for 35 holes and to hit a great tee shot and to have 63 yards to that pin, all I was thinking about was getting to 15 under. There's a lot of guys who are 11, 10, 9, 8. Every shot of separation means something, so my whole focus was just on hitting that wedge back there and making a birdie. To walk away with a bogey was really a bit of an emotional blow, so I had to spend some time working through that.

So I feel really good about the fact that once I kind of got past that, I was really focused on today. I think every golfer needs to feel good about walking out there on Sunday and dealing with the nerves and dealing with the pressure and dealing with the expectations and then playing the round of golf that wins. So I may have gone out today and played great. Maybe I would have played average and someone would have played great and won. I think I would have played a decent round of golf because I'm playing very well, but to not be able to do that is disappointing to me, disappointing I think to the players that were chasing, and certainly disappointing to the fans who were looking forward to I think a fun day.

**Q. Is this the first time -- forgive me if this is a stupid question -- that you've won a tournament that's been shortened?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** No. Actually, on the Hogan Tour in 1989, I think, or maybe 1990 there was a rainout on Sunday. There was three guys tied so we had a playoff and I won a nine-hole playoff. Ended up playing 45 holes or something, but only against three guys.

But it happens, it happens and it's part of the game. When guys win with a delay you're always happy for them, frustrated that you didn't get that chance. When it happens on your behalf, you're kind of like, well, golf is full circle, you win a few, lose a few, you got some breaks, you get some bad breaks. This was a good break.

**Q. You played on three of the PGA tours, some others, Asian, you're on the last one of the three. Do the victories taste even better, mean even more because at some point that window's going to close?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** I've thought about that. I'm 59, my birthday's in March so I'm three months closer to 60. But I think I'm really impressed by the quality of golf that guys are playing at

this stage of the game. Bernhard Langer is 60 and he's approaching 61. There's other guys who are in their late 50s who are still playing fantastic golf.

It's a testimony I think to, number one, being fortunate with having a good body, a body that's athletic and holds up and is strong, and number two, to hard work and expectations where you expect yourself to play well. I think that's really the secret to longevity is to be injury free but really still have the ability to be like a kid and be excited about the game and work at it and work hard and look forward to what's coming up.

**Q. Your daughter talked about her having bragging rights over the siblings now because she's the first one to be on the bag with a win. What did it mean to share that with her, too?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Well, I'm really happy for her, thrilled for her that she's able to be here. This is kind of an interim thing for her where she's caddying regularly until the next job comes along when they move to Phoenix. They live in Ft. Worth and they're moving back to Phoenix. When they move back, she'll probably find another regular job and move on again. So this is a really nice time for us to spend a lot of time together.

And we've had some discussions already today about what makes a great caddie and I've been saying forever -- when I say forever, I mean forever -- that what makes a great caddie is one who says the right thing at the right time, no more, no less. I don't need help reading a putt, I don't need help picking a club, I don't need help getting a yardage. I grew up playing golf, I became a professional because I was good at it, so I don't need somebody to reteach me how to do it. Even though having a caddie who does that is nice and it's helpful, and if a guy helps you that way that's great. But what I found is that at this age I'm at right now, 59, depending too much on a caddie ends up taking me totally out of the game. I lose my focus. When I'm doing my own yardages, doing my own wind, reading my own putts, I stay really in the game, which is why I think I play well with her and I hit it so well usually when she caddies. Most importantly, what I expect of a caddie is to say the right thing at the right time and she does. She's so encouraging and she's fun, she's funny, she always comes up with the right words no matter the situation and we're just doing great out there.

**Q. The fact that you won on a course that you played in college, kind of spanning your career here but that's kind of neat?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Yeah, I was thinking about that, yeah. I think I was 19 maybe when we played here the first time in the Drake Relays tournament and I won, so 19 to 59, that's 40 years, 40 years of golfing experience gone by. To kind of come back and win again at this level, I think it's kind of unique. It's one of those little things that nobody really knows or cares about except the people who are part of it and to me that's a nice little full circle story.

**Q. Rachael, where does she get that calming positive demeanor, is that you or is that her mom?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Well, I would say more me. She is probably more -- she's interesting personality-wise. She is very much like me, she's pretty laid back, she's calm, she is cool, collected.

My wife, her mother, is way more of a -- what's the right word? Well, she's just much more of a proactive person. She's on top of everything, nothing gets by her, she's very with it, she's very cool. Everybody loves her, she's incredibly social.

So Rachael has that combination of being really social like my wife and then calm like me. I think that's a good combo for her. My wife is maybe the most social person. Everybody who meets her loves her, she's just an amazing woman, and Rachael gets that from her. But she has a temper and she's more type A and I'm more laid back, so Rachael kind of gets that calmness from me so she's got a good combination.

**Q. Is it good that she doesn't play golf regularly?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** You know what? She could have been a very good golfer. She has never played but she had a tremendous golf swing, always been very strong and she could really hit it. Even as a little kid, she could really pound it, but she never really wanted to play so never did, which is too bad but she's happy, so that's okay.

**Q. It's U.S. Open week for the PGA. What do you remember about '95?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Windy. I recall that the first two days were overcast. It's right there on the coast, right there along the ocean. The first two days was semi foggy in the morning and then overcast all day, so the wind didn't blow a whole lot. Typically along the coast when the sun comes out, the wind starts to blow so you're kind of begging for a little bit of the overcast which keeps the wind down. First two days were that way, overcast, course played hard. I think I shot like whatever I shot.

Then the third day there was bright blue sky, started blowing about 20 to 25 and the scores just went off the charts, so high. I shot 67 and I went from literally I think like 45th place to leading in the course of one round.

Then the fourth round was the same way and Corey, Greg Norman and myself were 1, 2 and 3. Corey played a really tremendous round. It was all about not shooting yourself in the foot. Whoever survived without making a big blunder was going to win and Corey was the one who did that.

**Q. Where do you go from here? What does this win do for you moving forward for the summer?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Well, it's nice to be in the winner's circle no matter what. Whether it's rain shortened or not, it's a confidence booster. Played a lot of really good golf this week. I think I missed three greens and the three greens I missed, I think two of them were on the fringe

where I was putting.

So I hit the ball extremely well and kind of got back into stroking the ball without thinking about my stroke, which mentally was probably the most important part of the week was I wasn't worried about or thinking about my stroke. Typically when I am that way, I putt much better.

So hopefully what I would say is to kind of take that and move it forward. If I can keep putting like I putted the last two days, I think the second half of the year is going to be really quite good.