

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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TONY FINAU



MODERATOR: We have the 2022 3M Open champion, Tony Finau.

Tony, what's it like to be back at a place where you've had success?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, it's great to be back here in Minnesota, I've got a lot of great memories here. Winning in '22 is a highlight but I've had some nice finishes. It's a golf course that I enjoy playing, usually yields some birdies and I always look forward to being back here in Minnesota.

MODERATOR: You may not have your family here with you but it's a place where it's definitely family friendly, players love, just kind of the atmosphere. Will you make some time to fish this week?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, no doubt, we'll be on the lake. It's the Land of 10,000 Lakes, they say. I guess apparently there's more than that actually, but anyways there's a lot of lakes to be had so I'll definitely be out fishing. I don't have the family here this week but I guess I'll just be a lonely fisherman for the week.

I do enjoy everything this tournament has to offer. I think 3M does a great job as a sponsor bringing that family atmosphere and just bringing a lot of action to this great tournament, so I'm happy to be back.

Q. Great start at The Open. What's it like entering this week after a taxing last week and (inaudible)?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I'm optimistic about the week. I had a nice start to the week last week at The Open, didn't have the weekend that I was hoping for. A lot of positives to build from and build on from last week and looking forward to just progressing my way into this weekend.

As we finish up this season, my eyes and sights are on contending as many times as I can and just trying to play my best golf at the end of the season. Hasn't been my best season up to this point, but I know on any given week that can change. So I'm optimistic to have some good golf with me to finish out the rest of the year.

Q. Monday you had the Happy Gilmore 2 premiere. What was that like?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, that was so fun. I had never been a part of anything like that. My short cameo in Happy Gilmore 2 was fun to be a part of, fun to shoot with Adam Sandler. To be



asked to even do it was really an honor being a huge Happy Gilmore fan growing up.

So I think Friday it comes out on Netflix, and it will be interesting to see the reviews, but I really enjoyed it. It was funny as you would expect from Adam Sandler, and people are going to see a lot of guys, a lot of familiar faces from the PGA TOUR on there and I just enjoyed being one of them.

Q. What was it like filming?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, it was incredible to be there to film. I was fortunate to have my son there, who has a cameo in it as well. He played my caddie just in a very small scene, which was a lot of fun.

Adam Sandler couldn't have been a better human for me -- around me and my son. It was cool to see him in his element. He would be acting, and since he was directing the film as well, he would come back to the director's chair, rewatch. Just seeing him transform and just do what he does was really cool. It's kind of pull back the curtain and see what goes into making a movie.

Being part of that again, I can't even say it was a dream come true because I don't think I ever dreamed to even be in a movie let alone a sequel to Happy Gilmore, a movie that I loved growing up. So for me, just really honored to have been a part, a small part of something like that.

Q. Have you been able to watch it with your family, the movie?

TONY FINAU: Not yet. It doesn't come out until Friday, so my kids are anxious to watch it. My wife and I, I took my wife to the premiere and we both loved it, enjoyed it.

Again, it was an experience that was unlike anything I've ever experienced before. Having the green carpet, you're kind of -- to be I guess a movie star for an evening, even the small part that I played, was pretty exciting.

Q. (Inaudible) How do you define a successful season?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, that's a great question. You know, defining a season at the end of the year as far as it being a successful one, up to this point I just know this one hasn't felt like a successful season to me. I haven't played my best golf. I feel like when I've played golf, when I've played well, I haven't been able to finish off tournaments. So I just don't feel like I've gotten a lot out of my game this year.

Again, I'm optimistic that can change over the next few tournaments as I finish out the season. Yeah, I guess, you know, I guess in a roundabout way when a season finishes, you feel -- you know it just from how you feel, you know? You either feel like it's been a great season or not.



I think obviously wins are the easiest way to look back and say, all right, this was a successful season, but I've had a lot of seasons that I finished and I thought even though I didn't win, it was a very successful season. I guess I'm more of a feel guy, at the end of the year I kind of just know if I had a season that was worth remembering or forgetting.

Q. Inside the top-70, outside the top-50, is that something you're thinking about this week? Do you focus on the projections?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, it's definitely in the back of my mind because I know how important that top-50 number is, has become on the PGA TOUR. So it's definitely something in the back of my mind, but that's really where it is, it's back.

At the forefront of my mind this week is playing good golf and that's in my experience, you know, if you play good golf it always -- things always take care of themselves. So I'm trying to put myself in a situation to have a chance to win on Sunday this week and if I'm able to do that, then I know the points and everything will take care of themselves.

Q. You have the longest running streak (inaudible) TOUR Championship. What would it mean for you (inaudible)?

TONY FINAU: It would be incredible this season to have the season that I've had so far, if I were to make a run and do that this year. I think that would be maybe the most proud moment of my career, just again not having felt like I've had my best stuff all season. And so this year that would be really, I think where I stand today, it would be a pretty incredible achievement to make it to East Lake.

Q. This is the strongest field top to bottom that they've ever had at the 3M Open. As someone who's played in all six editions, how (inaudible) was that to see a lot of these guys here and support the event?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I think I've always said it, I think the more the guys play this golf course, play this tournament, I think more guys will continue to play it. It's cool to see that the field has strengthened, got stronger over the years and I think that's a trend that we'll continue to see as guys look to play and look to play more.

This is a golf course I think that's a ball-striker's golf course. I think it really can separate the guys that hit it really nicely. There's a lot of trouble in play on this golf course. You can hit it in the water on almost every hole and when that's the case, I think ball-strikers kind of shine. So the more top players are here to play, I think they'll enjoy it.

