

1 FEBRUARY 10, 2010

2 INTERVIEW WITH TOMMY ARMOUR, III.

3 SPEAKER: Maybe just your thoughts on finally  
4 playing on the Champions Tour.

5 TOMMY ARMOUR III: It's both, you look forward  
6 to it and don't look forward to it. I guess, it's  
7 kind of a double-edged sword, but here I am, I'm  
8 glad to be here.

9 SPEAKER: You obviously had a chance to talk to  
10 some players beforehand. What was the --

11 TOMMY ARMOUR III: Seems like everybody's  
12 enjoying what they're doing. I mean, that's the  
13 feeling I get from all the players, they're enjoying  
14 this Tour. I'll come enjoy it with them.

15 SPEAKER: Paul Azinger was in here earlier. I  
16 guess he said when he was younger, he would have  
17 never envisioned even having any interest in wanting  
18 to play out here, and I guess the closer you get to  
19 50, the more viable it becomes.

20 Do you have any sentiments?

21 TOMMY ARMOUR III: Well, yeah, I'll tell you  
22 even last year, in the first part of the year, I  
23 mean, I was playing pretty good. I had five Top 20s  
24 or 25s, five Top 25s and I really wasn't thinking  
25 about playing the senior -- the Champions Tour.

1           Then I hurt my back, had my back operated on,  
2           and all of a sudden I was like, you know, it's  
3           feeling good now, but still I had to reevaluate a  
4           little bit just because of the situation.

5           So now I've looked at it this year and I've got  
6           a minor medical out there and it basically ended my  
7           year last year. Then I didn't play that good at the  
8           end of the year and so I didn't finish in the top  
9           125. I finished, I think, 140th or 130th, something  
10          like that. This is certainly a great alternative to  
11          that.

12          SPEAKER: A minor medical for this year or last  
13          year?

14          TOMMY ARMOUR III: For this year.

15          SPEAKER: This year. Are you going to use any  
16          of that --

17          TOMMY ARMOUR III: I am going to use it. I  
18          played on San Diego, so that's the only one I  
19          played. I'm going to play a few. Out here I've  
20          kind of looked at it like if I do want to play some  
21          of the Tour, you can take a cart out here and you  
22          can save some energy and still play golf.

23          SPEAKER: Do you have any specific competitive  
24          goals for being out here? I guess you're sort of a  
25          little bit famous for always having kind of a casual

1 attitude toward --

2 TOMMY ARMOUR III: Well, I don't know if casual  
3 is -- I mean, I work very hard on my game. I don't  
4 know if it's casual. It's just really hard to be  
5 the best player. I'm coming out here and I feel  
6 competitive and I'm going to see how competitive I  
7 am.

8 SPEAKER: Do you mind talking about that, that  
9 reputation? Folks might think of you of having sort  
10 of a laid-back approach to -- people maybe  
11 mistake --

12 TOMMY ARMOUR III: I don't know if it's laid  
13 back. They think I have a good time; that's  
14 different than laid back. Yeah, I mean, I like to  
15 have a good time, but I mean, you know, when I'm at  
16 tournaments, I don't, and I play golf. I've done  
17 that since my early 30s. A lot of my reputation was  
18 from my 20s and that's fine. I mean, that's a long  
19 time ago.

20 But I still enjoy having a good time and I have  
21 a lot of good friends that I like to hang out with,  
22 so I pick my places and enjoy my weeks off and work  
23 on my game as well on my weeks off and then golf's  
24 pretty much a serious business for me.

25 SPEAKER: How's the Champions Tour going to fit

1 with all these guys? Is it going to put a crimp on  
2 your lifestyle?

3 TOMMY ARMOUR III: I've never really gone out  
4 with that many players anyway, a couple here and  
5 there, but as far as, you know, socially, I mean,  
6 you see them every day. And I have a few friends  
7 that I spend social time with, but as far as on a  
8 whole, I really don't. But, you know, they don't  
9 either. It's, you know, I mean, when you see  
10 somebody all day, you don't want to see them all  
11 night. A few of them, you do. A crimp in my social  
12 style? I hope it doesn't.

13 SPEAKER: Where does Naples rank for its  
14 cultural scene?

15 TOMMY ARMOUR III: I don't know. Like I told  
16 you, when I play golf, I play golf. I don't  
17 really -- I don't really do much night activity or  
18 go places when I'm at golf tournaments.

19 SPEAKER: Tournament weeks are more about in  
20 the hotel?

21 TOMMY ARMOUR III: No, they're all about that,  
22 not "more."

23 SPEAKER: Who's the first person you saw in the  
24 locker room and what --

25 TOMMY ARMOUR III: The first person I saw when

1 I got here was -- who was the first person I saw?  
2 That was yesterday; I guess this is part of the  
3 Champions Tour when you get 50. Who was it? You  
4 know, I don't even remember. Actually, I saw a  
5 group of them at the same time when I walked in  
6 there.

7 You know, it's people that I've known from  
8 1982, my first year out here. So it's not like --  
9 you know, they've been friends of mine for a long  
10 time and everybody seems like they're enjoying  
11 themselves and it's different. I mean, just so far,  
12 I played the pro am today in a cart, that's  
13 different than I've done for 27 years, you know,  
14 on-site pro ams. Obviously, off-site pro ams over  
15 the years I've played in carts, but as far as  
16 on-site pro ams, the tournament course, that's  
17 different. And having the option to use a cart is  
18 obviously going to be different. I'm looking  
19 forward to it.

20 SPEAKER: How would you characterize your  
21 career on the PGA Tour? Satisfied?

22 TOMMY ARMOUR III: Well, you know, satisfied?  
23 I'd like to have won a lot more than I did, but I've  
24 won twice on the Tour, twice on the Nationwide, a  
25 couple international victories. I mean, you know,

1           it is what it is. If you sit and worry about what  
2           you didn't achieve, then you probably might not  
3           achieve again.

4           SPEAKER: Will that give you any greater  
5           incentive to try and win --

6           TOMMY ARMOUR III: I've always had an  
7           incentive. I've always wanted to. I've always  
8           worked at it. People don't see a lot because I  
9           don't spend a lot of time with a lot of the players,  
10          around a lot of the players. I spend a lot of time  
11          by myself and so they don't see what I do. I mean,  
12          nobody saw me up at 5:00 this morning, but I'm not  
13          the only guy that does that, a lot of guys do that.  
14          It's just because -- I mean, it's a full-time job  
15          and you don't just stumble into this, you earn it.  
16          The Champions Tour, you earn. You don't just walk  
17          out here and they give it to you. And you have to  
18          earn it once you get here.

19          So I'm not -- I don't have this preconceived  
20          notion that I'm going to come out here and they're  
21          just going to give me money every week. They're  
22          going to give you money, it's just a matter of how  
23          much. To make a lot of money, no matter where you  
24          play golf for money, you've got to play well. They  
25          don't just give it to you.

1           SPEAKER: Assuming that your back stays  
2 healthy, do you feel like you'll have some good  
3 chances?

4           TOMMY ARMOUR III: I hope so. I plan on it.

5           SPEAKER: What was the back issue?

6           TOMMY ARMOUR III: I herniated my L4 and L5 and  
7 I had a bone chip on my sciatic nerve which gave me  
8 drop foot, so I pretty much -- a few days after it  
9 was diagnosed, I had it operated on.

10          SPEAKER: Surgery on the bone, the bone chip?

11          TOMMY ARMOUR III: The bone chip was on the  
12 sciatic nerve, yeah. That's why I really had to  
13 have the surgery.

14          SPEAKER: What month was the surgery?

15          TOMMY ARMOUR III: It was June 17th.

16          SPEAKER: How long have you been back out going  
17 full strength since then?

18          TOMMY ARMOUR III: You know, I don't know if I  
19 can really say I ever went full strength at the end  
20 of the year, but now I'm starting -- about December,  
21 you know, he said when he did the surgery, due to  
22 the damage to the sciatic, which I've now come back  
23 from pretty good, he said it was going to be about  
24 six months until you really know what you're getting  
25 and know what the final -- and he said even into 10

1 months from -- you know, drop foot's a pretty  
2 serious thing for a professional golfer. I mean, if  
3 you're a whatever, an accountant, it's not that big  
4 an issue because you're sitting at a desk, working  
5 your numbers. But for a professional golfer, your  
6 right foot, I mean, it's a big part of playing golf.

7 But it's come back pretty good. I mean, we've  
8 both been very happy with it, and then I put in a  
9 lot of work. I did, you know, six weeks of pretty  
10 good rehab on it and then I've been trying to  
11 maintain it since.

12 SPEAKER: How do you think the transition will  
13 be to playing three tournament rounds instead of  
14 four? Some guys will talk about it's a little less  
15 stressful and there's no cut, but --

16 TOMMY ARMOUR III: I don't know because I  
17 haven't done it yet, but I'm going to find out  
18 Friday. I'm looking forward to it.

19 Honestly, you know, another thing about the  
20 Champions Tour that I've seen, you know, preparing  
21 for it is you can plan your whole year out. You can  
22 literally, you know where you're going to be.  
23 You're not like Friday afternoon and you're four,  
24 five over par and the cut's going to be two under  
25 par, you're not on the course going okay, well, I

1 can pack that and get that over there and get home  
2 maybe tonight or I don't know if I can get home  
3 tonight. There's none of that.

4 So I think maybe that's really what they talk  
5 about being less stressful because you know where  
6 you're going to be, you know what you're doing,  
7 you've planned it, you're doing it and it's much  
8 more structured, may I say. If you play well on the  
9 Tour, you don't miss a lot of cuts either, so I've  
10 gone stretches where I've missed cuts and where I've  
11 made a lot of cuts.

12 SPEAKER: Are you going to do most of the whole  
13 schedule out here?

14 TOMMY ARMOUR III: I'm only going to play all  
15 of them.

16 SPEAKER: Only going to play all of them?

17 TOMMY ARMOUR III: Um-hmm.

18 SPEAKER: The other thing would just be the  
19 reputation that you have for, like, going to enjoy  
20 yourself with friends, has that been overblown?

21 TOMMY ARMOUR III: Yes, I mean, but that's  
22 from -- I mean yes and no because I do like to enjoy  
23 myself, I do like to hang out with my friends, and I  
24 like to go down to Cabo and I have a lot of friends  
25 with the Discovery Land Company and we do a lot of

1 fun things with golf, around golf, and so I mean, I  
2 enjoy myself.

3 Is it blown out of proportion maybe as far as  
4 when I'm playing tournament golf? Yes, because I  
5 don't even drink tournament weeks and I haven't for  
6 a long time. Maybe a glass of wine at some -- with  
7 some friends of mine, but it would be one glass of  
8 wine and that's just what I've done for a long time.  
9 You really can't stay out here for 28 years and get  
10 drunk every night.

11 SPEAKER: And it's been a long time since you  
12 let it interfere with -- impact your game at all, if  
13 ever?

14 TOMMY ARMOUR III: Oh, no, when I was in my 20s  
15 I would go out and stuff during tournaments. But  
16 ignorance is continuing to repeat the same mistake  
17 and so I tried to quit doing that.

18 SPEAKER: Okay. Great. Thanks, Tom.  
19 Appreciate it.

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