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## MY TOUGHEST WIN EVER - NICK PRICE

Nick Price, three-time major winner and former World No 1, has finally landed his first Champions Tour title.

But it didn't come easily. In fact after a dramatic, see-saw final round he called it the "toughest win" of his stellar career.

Three double bogeys in Sunday's closing round of the 54-hole Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am at TPC Tampa Bay could so easily have destroyed a lesser man as desperate to win a seniors title as he was, but not on this day when the Price was right.

The 52-year-old overcame those three double bogeys with seven birdies and an ice cool par at the last to shoot an even par 71, finish with a nine-under 204 and beat Larry Nelson by two shots.

It was the Durban-born Zimbabwean's first win in the 38 events he has played in on the Champions Tour and earned him a first title of any kind since his victory in the PGA Tour's MasterCard Colonial 111 starts ago

Nelson, who spoiled his chances with four bogeys on the back nine, shot a final-round 70 for a seven-under 206 and sole second place with Americans Loren Roberts (71), Hal Sutton (69) and Lonnie Nielsen (68) tied for third, three shots off the pace.

A delighted, but exhausted Price said afterwards that he was amazed by his round.

"I've never played golf like that in my life," he said.

"To have three double bogeys and then to have three solid pars on the last three holes really helped. I really felt like I was playing well, but if you take those three double bogeys out of the equation, then it looks like a better round. I never play like that. Ever."

After his double bogey bungle, Price made three birdies in a row on 13, 14 and 15 to get back to nine under and regain his confidence, but the drama of his final round left him exhausted.

"I am absolutely spent and done," he said. "I am absolutely dumbfounded by this round. I might make some bogeys, but not three double bogeys like that. ... it's supposed to be easier when you get older, but that, without a doubt, is the toughest win I've ever had."

Price hit into the water on two of his three double bogeys. He said he lost concentration on the first one, but couldn't quite put a finger on the other two.

"I'll need to regroup the next couple of days," Price said.

Defending champion Tom Watson, who underwent hip surgery in October, never really featured in a tough weekend and finished 13 shots back.

### ALL THE FINAL ROUND SCORES

(USA unless stated, par 71):

204 Nick Price (Zim) 66 67 71

206 Larry Nelson 65 71 70

207 Loren Roberts 71 69 67, Hal Sutton 74 64 69, Lonnie Nielsen 68 69 70

208 Jay Haas 68 68 72

209 Mike McCullough 67 69 73

210 Bruce Fleisher 69 72 69, John Cook 69 72 69, Mark O'Meara 73 68 69, Jim Thorpe 71 71 68, Larry Mize 69 71 70

211 Bernhard Langer (Ger) 70 72 69, Tom Wargo 70 70 71, David Eger 69 71 71

212 Gene Jones 72 72 68, Joey Sindelar 72 70 70, Scott Hoch 70 73 69, Fuzzy Zoeller 70 72 70, Mark McNulty (Irl) 67 72 73



Price delighted by first Champions Tour win.

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