

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW: SCOTT McCARRON (-13)
September 2, 2017



DAVE SENKO: Well, we'd like to welcome Scott McCarron, followed his 63 with a 6-under 64 and you're two in front, 13-under 127. Another eagle at 18, so just maybe take us through your day real quick and then we'll get some questions.

SCOTT McCARRON: Yeah, we had a good grouping today. Love playing with Kevin Sutherland, and I play just about every Tuesday with Todd Hamilton so very familiar pairing. Everyone seemed to play pretty solid, we just didn't get a lot going early in the round. Just made one birdie early in the day, then followed up with a par 5 birdie and then hit it close on 8 for a nice birdie. And then unfortunately three-putt on 9, which I'd like to have back.

It's kind of funny, the bees are out there and they're flying and buzzing all over the place and one almost flew right in my ear right when I took it back and I should have stopped but I didn't and missed about a three-footer.

But I came back strong and made a nice birdie at 10, birdied 11. And where did I birdie? 14, made a nice birdie there on that par 3. It was kind of playing into the wind, then downwind and that was the hard part. The back nine, the wind was swirling quite a bit. It was only blowing 8, 9, 10, but it kept jumping around and you really had to be on it where the wind was. So I was fortunate to guess right the last couple holes.

Then 18 we had the tees up there today so instead of driver because I can reach the -- you know, hit it through the fairway too easy with driver, so I hit 3-wood. We had -- I think we had 249 or something like that downhill and the wind starting switching downwind again and I went from a 3-iron to a 4-iron. I just laced a 4-iron in there about 30 feet and had a putt that broke about a foot and poured it right in. So able to eagle 18 two days in a row which is nice, quite a finish.

DAVE SENKO: Back up on 14, what did you hit?

SCOTT McCARRON: I hit pitching wedge. Todd hit 9-iron right in front of me and hit it long and the wind just started getting a little bit downwind there. I had 151 I think it was to the hole and hit pitching wedge and hit a beautiful pitching wedge in there to about three and a half, four feet.

DAVE SENKO: And then birdies putts on 10 and 11?

SCOTT McCARRON: Yeah, 10 I hit a good 3-iron off the tee, pitching wedge from about 141 or 144, landed just by the hole and went about 24 feet by, curled that one in. Then 11 hit a good drive and had 7-iron into that par 5 actually and hit in there about 30 feet and just putted down to about a foot.

Q. Two-shot lead now. First of all, 18, is it just something around that water, some good feel as far as eagles?

SCOTT McCARRON: Yeah, I'm kind of a ham so we've got huge grandstands there, everybody one's waving the towels, which is a lot of fun, makes for a great environment. I love coming up here, I love the fans. They really enjoy golf, they enjoy good golf, and when we hit good shots they're very knowledgeable about golf. So coming up 18 it's just a lot of fun for us to have that grandstanding and all the fans up there. I've been lucky enough to make two long putts so hopefully I can do it again tomorrow.

Q. Specifically about the position, obviously you've had that winning feeling a few times this year, does it get easier when you get in a position or come into a final round with a lead?

SCOTT McCARRON: It doesn't get easier but I feel very confident in what I'm doing. I've worked very hard to get my game to where it is. I've been very comfortable in the lead, near the lead, with the lead, behind, coming back, so this is -- for me it's just another day to go out there and hit the first fairway. After that, then hit the green, then make a putt. Really try to keep it as simple as that.

Hale Irwin, I've spent a lot of time with Hale my first couple years on the PGA TOUR Champions and he told me he played his best golf from 50 to 53 and that really spurred me to think, okay, I can still play some of the best golf of my life now. I'm in good shape, I work out all the time, try to eat right, which I'll be going to Klein/Harris tonight downtown for the third night in a row. When you play well, you've got to go back there every night so we'll be doing that tonight. It's just one of those things.

I enjoy playing golf out here on the PGA TOUR Champions, it's fun. I'm playing with guys, you know, Kevin Sutherland and I have played together since we were probably 12, 13 years old. Billy Andrade and I since we were 14, 15. Brandt Jobe and I playing in college. So all these guys I've played with for years and it's just a lot of fun.

DAVE SENKO: Going back to Brandt, you guys met at UCLA obviously.

SCOTT McCARRON: We did.

DAVE SENKO: Maybe you could just talk a little bit about that, how you and Brandt met.

SCOTT McCARRON: We met actually my first day going down to UCLA. We were getting ready to leave for a golf tournament and I was supposed to drive down from Napa and meet Brandt Jobe in the parking lot. I drove down seven hours, pulled in the parking lot and there was Brandt Jobe. I rolled down my window and he goes, Are you Scott McCarron? Yeah, are you Brandt Jobe? He said, Let's go play, and that was it. We went and played Bel-Air that day and went out that night and left the next morning on a trip to Albuquerque. We were roommates in college and fraternity brothers and we've been very good friends ever since.

Q. Scott, are you going to need the menu tonight or do you just have to keep ordering the same meal?

SCOTT McCARRON: No, we've been ordering different stuff, the duck, the lamb, the candied pork belly, which was unbelievable, the cheesecake, the doughnuts, the tart. We've pretty much gone through almost the whole menu. And we took the Flesches last night so I don't know what's left. I'll figure something out.

Q. To have back-to-back eagles on 18, does that do anything for you tomorrow if you're within two either way? Is it any confidence boost to know what you can do on that hole?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, I know that if I hit a good drive and hit a good second shot, I'll have an opportunity. Other than that, it doesn't really do anything. But I've gained four shots on the field in two days on that hole so that's pretty special. I am leading the tour in eagles, so I'm kind of expected to make some eagles out there and that's a hole that sets up pretty well for me. The other par 5s I can get to. I have a chance on 11, and the other par 5 on the front, 5 or 4, it's pretty long but I can still get there. I hit it just over the green today.

Q. Will we be able to spot your Canadian relatives tomorrow?

SCOTT McCARRON: I don't know who all's coming out. My mom is from Kaslo, British Columbia. She still is a Canadian citizen, so I am half Canadian on the good side.

Q. Can you talk about the Shaw Classic and just the reputation it has on the tour?

SCOTT McCARRON: The Shaw Charity Classic, when I came here two years ago everyone had told me that you're going to love this golf course, old-style golf course, tree lined, you've got to drive it straight, but what they told me I would really enjoy was the fan support. The Shaw Charity Classic raises more money than just about any other PGA TOUR Champions event and I think that's really impressive. For us to come up here and see everyone come out, the fans, and see such a great sponsor with Shaw, it's a tournament I would never miss.

Q. You're looking at the list of all the guys behind you. What's going to be the key to fend off the challenges from those guys?

SCOTT McCARRON: You've got two really good players that have played well the last couple years, with The Mechanic and Kevin Sutherland. Scott Dunlap, when he gets hot with the putter he can really go low. Todd Hamilton hasn't had a very good year but played really well today so I was impressed the way Todd played today. And then you've got Nick Faldo. What's he doing? He's supposed to be announcing somewhere, isn't he? That's impressive. Here you've got a guy, one of the best players in the world during his time, hasn't played hardly at all for years and comes out here to join us. It's a big boost for us to

have Nick Faldo come out and to come out and play well, I think that's really impressive. Bob Estes, who still bounces around the PGA TOUR can go low, and then Jerry Kelly won last week. So there's some really good players right behind me and I'm going to have to put the pedal down and make a bunch of birdies tomorrow.

DAVE SENKO: Thanks, Scott.