

**FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW**  
**September 2, 2018**



**SCOTT McCARRON (-15)**

---

**JACKIE SERVAIS:** Please welcome to the media center 2017 and 2018 Shaw Charity Classic champion, Scott McCarron. Let's talk about No. 14, right? Big hole for you today. Can you talk about how your emotions changed after that hole?

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Yeah, I was hitting a lot of good shots and I was starting to make some putts today, which was great, but behind me Joe just kept topping -- everything I did, he was topping it, so I couldn't try to catch him at all.

And then when I got to 14, you know, that's a really tough hole location on the right-hand side there. You have no room for error there right. But Langer got up there and hit right in front of me an 8-iron, a beautiful 8-iron that never left the flag. So it gave me a good visual of the shot that I was trying to hit. A lot of times in that situation when I can't miss it right, I might pull it a little bit over to the safe side, and at that point after I saw his shot, I was like I've just got to take it right at it.

We had 148 yards adjusted for altitude and it was just a perfect 9-iron for me. As soon as I hit it I knew it was going to be good, but I didn't know how good. I guess someone told me that it hit once, one-hopped and went right in the hole. So that was a huge momentum change right there because then I got right near the lead or actually tied for the lead at that point. I didn't know Joe had not made a couple birdies after that.

So at that point I'm like, oh, we've got a chance now. Before it was like let's just keep plugging away and see what happens. As soon as I made that hole-in-one, it was like we have a chance now, let's go play some good solid golf coming in, which I did not do.

I followed that hole-in-one up with an 8-iron from 163 yards, almost the same type of shot, and I just made a really bad swing, hit it in the bunker and had no shot at all and made bogey.

Then I followed it up with a great 5-iron the next hole on 16, which is a hole location tucked left. Last year I hit it, 5-iron with that same hole location in that bunker and didn't get up and down, so this time I made sure I didn't hit it in the bunker. We were aimed a little bit right and I just pulled the 5-iron a tad, but came out beautifully and had an eight-footer down the hill to make.

Then I hit a drive down 17 which I thought it was a pretty good drive, but it just kicked left in the bunker. Didn't have the best lie, but wasn't the hardest shot out of a bunker you can have. But I just didn't quite hit it as solid as I wanted to, left it in the bunker with not a very difficult bunker shot and just kind of -- when I got in there with my feet, it just felt like there

wasn't much sand so I didn't swing as hard and I just kind of chunked it a little bit. But then almost made it with the putt. Then again, I figure if I eagle the last hole, we'll have a chance.

**JACKIE SERVAIS:** Let's talk about that 18 putt, what was your mindset going into it? You looked like you thought you had it there.

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Yeah, the tee shot, you know, it's like 290 yards to carry that left bunker. I knew if I just got up and hammered one I could probably come close to it, but I hammered it but pulled it just a tad. We weren't sure after the tee shot if it was in the bunker or not, if I was going to have to lay up. Then we saw John Cook walking up a yardage way up there, so at that point I knew that it probably had carried the bunker and got pretty far down there.

I had 210 yards to the hole there, which was just a perfect 5-iron, just trying to hit it off the Shaw logo in the grandstands off the S. Hit a little cut and we had a good shot right where I was aiming, just didn't quite cut as much. And we had 33 feet coming down the hill breaking about three feet, and when I hit that putt I actually thought I made it. I hit it right on the line I wanted to hit it right on the speed and I was waiting for it to keep turning and just unfortunately missed. It was a good two-putt there for birdie to at least give myself an opportunity.

**JACKIE SERVAIS:** We had we talked about how hard it is to defend on this tour, you being the first one this year. Can you talk about what that means to you and how special it is being here?

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Well, it's so special. Luckily, I had four chances here this year to try to defend. I won four tournaments last year, so I wasn't able to do it three times, and to be able to come here to the Shaw Charity Classic, which is truly one of the best events we play on the PGA TOUR Champions, is very special.

Playing up in Canada means a lot to me with my mom being Canadian, still a Canadian citizen. I first got my start in professional golf on the Canadian Tour. So being up here in Canada really means a lot for me, and to win this tournament twice now is just a dream come true.

**Q. Can you just -- in the 10 seconds after you jar one on 14, I'm sure a million things go through your mind. Okay, I kind of have a chance now. Can you just describe that moment, and then after that what needs to happen next for you?**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Well, at that moment, you know, one, I was thankful that my caddie, Rich Mayo, was standing over there gave me a good yardage and a good club. I made a big yell right there and then some high-fives, so I was just kind of excited that I made a hole-in-one. We have a hole-in-one club on the PGA TOUR Champions and so I get a little cash coming my way, so that's always kind of nice. No, there's no gambling. For Rich and I to come here and to have a chance, he just keeps me in it all the time.

So after I make that hole-in-one, I've got to take some deep breaths to calm down because I've still got a lot of golf to play. So I was really doing that after walking up there. Once I got the ball in the hole, I was standing on the side of the green, I was just trying to take some deep breaths, just try to get relaxed because I knew I had a very difficult hole coming up and a very difficult tee shot on 15.

**Q. Did it work, like did you feel relaxed?**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Yeah, I felt very relaxed over the tee shot. Hit a really good hybrid right down there and then had 8-iron in there and I got a little ahead of it, didn't make a good swing, but at that point I was still pretty relaxed. I just didn't quite have the actual shot in mind that I wanted to hit before I pulled the trigger, maybe just went a little quick and probably should have backed away at that point.

**Q. Kirk Triplett said he hopes you remember him and Joe at Christmastime. Did you know they both made a couple mistakes?**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** You know, I could care less what those guys are doing, to be honest. I've given guys tournaments before and I never got any gifts, so I'm not giving them a gift, either. That's why we play 54 holes. I mean, you know, there's so many tournaments where I feel like I've given it away, but you've got to go all 54 holes out here, and to do that, you've got to play some pretty good golf. You've got to control your emotions at the end, so I was able to do that pretty well today.

**Q. Everybody's going to remember the hole-in-one, but what are you -- when you look back on this week, what are you going to be most proud of?**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Well, I think a couple things. I think I'm most proud that I kind of persevered through the rounds. I hit the ball really well the first day, hit 17 greens and the only green I missed I missed by an inch and I had 36 putts. I just couldn't make a putt.

Then yesterday again I couldn't make a putt through about 11 holes and then on the 12th I'm like, you know what, I'm going to change my right-hand grip. So I changed my right-hand grip in the middle of the round, which to a grip I've never used before and I putted pretty good. I hit some really good putts coming down the stretch. I didn't make everything, but I made three nice putts yesterday.

Then today, interesting conversation texting with my dad. He said, "Great round," and I said, "Well, if I had you putting for me, we'd be winning this thing by 5." For whatever reason he started thinking about putting, he went out and hit some putts before dinner and he says, "You know what, I moved the ball up in my stance a little bit and I started putting it pretty well." For whatever reason, I came to the golf course with that in mind. You know what, maybe I've been trying to put the ball too far back, let's put it up just a little bit, see how that feels. I got on the practice green and put the ball up in my stance a little bit and started

hitting putts and started rolling it really well. I didn't want to tell my caddie that I was also going to put the ball up in my stance and also changing my grip, he'll think I'm nuts. But it worked really well today, I hit some great putts today. So I've got to credit my dad for finding his putting stroke and change his stance, which helped me today.

**Q. How many career aces is that now?**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** That's 15 now, yeah. So I'm 15 ahead of my wife, Jenny.

**Q. It's your fourth come-from-behind victory, your second one this year. What does it take to even start not being the leader and come from behind?**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Yeah, you know, it's interesting. I feel very comfortable just a little bit behind or in the lead. I've put myself in that position a lot and I've come through a lot. I've also failed a lot, too. The more times I've failed, the more times I've learned.

So every time that I don't play well, like last week I was in the final group, had a chance to win and I didn't play well, but I learned from it. One, I didn't have a great attitude on Sunday. I was down in the dumps a little bit, my head was down, I wasn't looking up, I wasn't smiling, I wasn't having fun. So I learned, you know what, no matter what, even if you're in the lead or in the final group, you've still got to have a good attitude.

So when we came to this golf tournament this week, that was one of the things I promised Rich, that I was going to have a good attitude, I was going to smile no matter what. And we had some good breaks and some bad breaks and I kept my head up, I kept plugging away. I learned a lot. Just again, it's the same thing, we learn these things over and over again just from having the opportunity not doing it helped me today. Controlling your emotions is a huge thing when you're in the hunt, to be able to be calm, to be confident, to see the shots you're going to hit, to go through the routine and all the things that I've practiced all the time paid off today.

**Q. Did you ever think you would on two cowboy hats?**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** I'm so thankful. You know, I actually felt like this is a golf course that I can play well at. I drive the ball very well. Even though I don't hit driver on a lot of these holes, I'm able to hit that hybrid out there pretty far where a lot of guys are hitting 3-wood. So I've got an advantage that I'm just hitting hybrid on a lot of these holes to start off with.

But putting the ball in play here is really key and I do a very good job of putting the ball in play, so it's a golf course that I like. So I felt like I was going to have a lot of opportunities to win here.

**Q. Not only did you win, but you inched closer to Miguel in the points standings.**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Yeah, I didn't really see where we finished up. He's taking three

weeks off right now, which is great. I'm giving him a little cash to take some three weeks off, paid leave. See if I can catch him before he comes back because he is very tough. And Jerry Kelly's a great player. We have so many good players all in the top-10 that if they get hot here in the next few weeks, there's going to be a lot of guys with a chance coming down to the Schwab Cup Finals.

**JACKIE SERVAIS:** You're second, 98,000 behind.

**SCOTT McCARRON:** 98,000 behind? Well, there you go.

**JACKIE SERVAIS:** Thank you.

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Thank you guys, appreciate it.