

FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW: SCOTT McCARRON (-16)
September 3, 2017



DAVE SENKO: Well, Scott, congratulations. Finished 3-under 67 today and a one-shot victory, which is your fourth win of the year. Maybe just share your thoughts on that. I know it was a battle most of the day with Miguel and Kevin on your tail.

SCOTT McCARRON: Yeah, it was a battle all day long. I got off to a nice start, birdied the first hole. Kevin made that eagle on 4 to kind of catch me. We were kind of battling back and forth. Miguel was kind of just hanging in there, hitting a lot of good shots and just barely missing some putts. I knew I was going to have to play well on the back side and make a couple birdies to finish this thing off.

I certainly hit the ball well enough. Coming down the stretch I just missed a couple short putts, which I don't normally do, to make it interesting. So coming to the last hole knowing that I probably needed to make birdie because I figured Miguel might make his for eagle, and then when he missed his, all I had to do was two-putt so I was happy to get that second one in.

DAVE SENKO: Maybe just go over your birdies. You birdied 1.

SCOTT McCARRON: Dave, I have no idea what I did today. It's all a blur. (Laughs.)

DAVE SENKO: How about the eagle?

SCOTT McCARRON: I birdied No. 1, hit a really nice drive and hit sand wedge into 1, or 52-degree wedge to pin high to just about 10 feet and made that. Great birdie.

Then I birdied the par -- what did I birdie, the long par 5, I drove it just in the front of the green, had about 40 feet and just nestled that up there for a nice birdie.

Then I went and birdied the par 3, No. 5, hit a really good 8-iron just behind the pin and rolled that one in. Really nice putt there.

Then I bogeyed No. 8, three-putt. It was just unfortunate I just got distracted. When I took it back, someone was moving and I didn't stop. I should have stopped. Again, when you're in the hunt, things like that happen. You've got to be able to control your emotions. If a distraction comes -- you know, we've had a lot of bees out there -- you've got to be able to stop and start over again and there I did not and I knocked it by about three and a half, four feet and had a really tough putt and missed it.

Then I got to the par 5, No. 11. I hit a drive that just squirted a little bit right and hit the tree and came straight down, so instead of having a 7-iron in or 6-iron, I had 3-iron in from 249 and hit beautiful 3-iron, just landed short of the green, rolled up just on the front edge and

had about maybe 25, 30 feet. We had a really good read there, it was just left edge and I hit a good putt and it was just tracking the whole way and made that. That was nice.

No. 15, what did I do on 15?

DAVE SENKO: Birdie.

SCOTT McCARRON: Oh, I made birdie there? I think the toughest hole on the golf course is 15 and I think I birdied it twice. I hit a really good drive there. The wind was kind of in out of the right and hit a nice 8-iron to about 25 feet just off on the front of the green. Had a putt that was just coming straight up the hill and made that. That was a good putt because I just missed a 10-footer on the hole before for birdie and a 10-footer on the hole before that for birdie. Both of them going downhill and you're just trying to ease it down there, they're so fast and they just kind of wiggled a little bit and I didn't hit great putts to get it rolling, so that was a nice one to make.

Then 16 I hit it in the left bunker, which was just a poor iron shot. You're trying to aim right when you've got a three-shot lead. I hit a good bunker shot out there to about four and a half feet and had a putt I was playing on the right edge and just pushed it, didn't break at all, missed that one.

Then 17, hit a great drive on 17 and another 8-iron from I think we had 172 or something like that and knocked that in there about three and a half, four feet. I just had a putt that was, you know, starting left edge just trying to dribble it down there, but I needed to start it about a ball or two out and I just didn't hit it hard enough on the line that I picked and missed that and that was unfortunate.

Then 18, 3-wood off the tee in the bunker and Miguel hit a great drive right in front of me. So with the tee up I can't hit driver, I was just trying to hit 3-wood out there and I can still reach it with 3-wood or a long iron, but with the wind out of the left I just pulled that in the left bunker a little bit so made up my mind I had to lay up. Laid up to a nice distance, about 130 yards. Miguel hit a great shot, almost landed in the hole and went to the back of the green so he had some 50 feet or so. At that point was able to take it just a little bit left with a pitching wedge and hit a little cut in there, cut-spin it as close as I could and got to about 15 feet.

DAVE SENKO: You cut into Bernhard's lead now with a win today, so I think you're about 500 behind.

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, I'm trying to stay close. That was my whole goal this year. He got off to such a good start this year winning three majors and he plays well every single week. Just very difficult to catch. But I can stay close to him and that's kind of been my goal all year. If I can just stay close and then win the last one, we can still win the Schwab Cup unless I can convince him to stay at home a few more weeks, which I don't know. But he's a guy we're all striving to beat. He's our watermark. It's amazing what he does still at his age.

How well he plays, how hard he practices and his dedication to the game is like no other. He's the guy that I'm looking up to and trying to emulate.

Q. I know you mentioned when you were in here yesterday the conversation with Hale Irwin about kind of what he thought were some of his prime years. How did you digest that, if that's the right way to put it, and how did you maybe use that as kind of your own motivation?

SCOTT McCARRON: A couple things. It was my second year on tour and I just played the final group with Langer at the Regions and didn't play well on Sunday. I had had a couple rounds. I mean, my first year at Calgary I was in the final group I think Saturday or so and didn't play well. So I was putting myself in position but wasn't getting it done.

So I asked Hale to go to dinner and I started picking his brain. He's won more times than anybody out here, 45 times. It's just amazing what his record was out here.

So a couple things he told me. One, he said, "I played my best golf from 50 to 53," and I thought, you know what, I feel like I can do that, too.

Two, he said, "Find out what type of player you are and be that player." I thought that was really interesting because I wasn't quite sure what he meant, but what he meant was I was always that guy that tried to hit the heroic shot. I wanted to bomb it down there, I wanted to hit it close, I wanted to make the putt. What he was basically saying is you've got to be patient out here sometimes. Sometimes these tournaments just come to you when you don't play your best, but if you hang around there, it'll just happen. Don't get too down on yourself when you miss a shot, don't get too down on yourself when you miss a putt. That really struck me like okay, because I would be in the lead and I would really try to hit the heroic shot all the time and it's very difficult to pull off the heroic shot and you don't need that all the time. That meant a lot coming from Hale Irwin, just saying find out what type of player you are and be that player.

Q. Did we see some of that down the stretch today?

SCOTT McCARRON: Definitely. It's funny, even after that conversation, I've won some of these tournaments by doing some heroic things, eagling the last hole at Boca, birdieing the last three my first win at Principal, birdieing the last three at New York. So I've done a lot of those things but I've got in that position because I've been patient.

Today getting there coming down the stretch, I had a couple short putts that if I make those, then yes, I can be a lot more patient coming down the end. Even though I missed those short putts on 16, 17, I didn't let it bother me. I kept my head held high, I just kept doing my breathing and just kept plugging away. So before I talked with Hale, those type of things might have bothered me a little bit.

Q. The last putt you made to win there, how long was that and how did you make

that?

SCOTT McCARRON: It felt like 20 feet. It was probably about three feet or so. It was kind of a right-center putt and I didn't take much time over it because I saw it go right by. I knew exactly what it was going to do and I just missed a couple short ones before, so I didn't want to be thinking about it too long and stepped up and hit a good putt finally.

Q. How did it feel when that one went in?

SCOTT McCARRON: It felt good. A little bit of a relief because I played such good golf and battling out with Kevin Sutherland and Miguel Angel Jimenez really felt good to get that done.

Q. When you've done this four times this year, does winning ever get easier out here?

SCOTT McCARRON: No, winning does not get easier. These guys, these guys were the best players in the world at their time and they're still playing some great golf. I truly feel believe we've got 25 guys that could still play on the PGA TOUR and compete. These guys go low every single week, these are Hall of Famers, these guys were the best players in the world during their time and they're playing great golf now. So winning is not easy out here. I think winning has gotten a lot tougher out here over the last couple years with the quality of play.

Q. I got a chuckle out of your comment on 18. Is there more urgency to win when two weeks earlier you forgot to thank your wife in your victory speech?

SCOTT McCARRON: Of course there is. I was able to thank her, though, today so I made up for that.

Q. You mentioned the cowboy hat. You have someone with British Columbian roots, do you have a collection of those at home or is that new for you?

SCOTT McCARRON: That cowboy hat is new for me. I do have a couple pairs of cowboy boots. My wife is a cowgirl, she is a reining and cutting horse rider, was a world champion. She has not been riding lately because she's been hanging out with me, but I think she'd love to come back up here for the Masters at Spruce Meadows, so that would be our goal.

Q. Will you take a trip to Banff in the cowboy hat?

SCOTT McCARRON: The cowboy hat, if they actually give me one, is making the trip to Japan.

DAVE SENKO: Thanks, Scott.