

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
September 1, 2018



SCOTT McCARRON (-8)

Q. What was the highlights for you?

SCOTT McCARRON: Making a putt on the last hole was the highlight because I missed everything I looked at it seemed like. I'm hitting the ball well both last two days. I had 36 putts yesterday, I probably had somewhere around 32 or something like that today. I'm just not making anything, but I'm hitting the ball well enough to compete, and if I can get that putter hot, which I changed my grip in the middle of the round like on the 12th or 13th hole to a grip I've never used before, my right hand, just to try something different and I actually putted better. I didn't make a lot, but I actually stroked it better. So I'm going to go practice a little bit on the putting green and hopefully it will hold up tomorrow.

Q. T-6 yesterday, what was your mindset going into today?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, today we tried to go out there and make as many birdies as possible because I had a feeling the guys would go low, but the conditions were tough. It was cold this morning and windy, so nobody really went too low. I mean, there were a couple low scores early on, but the leaders kind of are bunched up a little bit. So if I can be within three or four shots of the lead, I'll be happy.

Q. Now you put yourself in the opportunity to maybe be the first person to defend this year. What would that mean and how are you going to do that?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, it would mean a lot. This tournament is such a popular tournament on the PGA TOUR Champions. Shaw's one of our best sponsors, they raised \$22 million in five years, they're trying to raise \$10 million this year for local charities. We'll get 40,000 to 50,000 people out here for the week, so this is a big tournament. To come out here and be the defending champion and see if we can back it up would be something pretty special.

Q. How did that weather play a factor in your play today?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, it was cold. I had a lot of layers on. I had thermals on and I had a ski hat warming up. Toque or toboggans you guys call them up here, which my mom used to call it, she's Canadian. So it was cold and the ball wasn't flying very far. Normally, we take off about five percent because of the altitude here, but we were playing pretty much normal yardages.

Q. What makes it so hard to defend? Like nobody's done that on this tour so far this year.

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, it's hard to win. It doesn't matter where you are. Defending, you're trying to defend one tournament. It really doesn't mean anything because you've got to go out and beat everybody. You know, you have a lot of good feelings coming here, but you've got to start at square one on Friday. You know, that's 80-something guys in the field and anybody can win, so that's why it's hard.

Q. What's, not the mindset, but if you can kind of describe what it's like. You show up tomorrow, you're certainly within striking distance. What's that day like?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, it's interesting. You've got to break it down to let's hit the first fairway. After that, then we'll see what happens. I can't really think about too much. I'm not really going to put a score in mind because it just depends on what the weather's like, what the conditions are like, and just not get too caught up in scoreboard watching too much. You've got to go out there and hit the first fairway and go from there.

Q. What is it about this course that fits your game so well?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, it's a good golf course. The shots are kind of prescribed for you because it's tree lined, so we've got right-to-left holes, left-to-right holes, so you get up there and the shot's already prescribed. I like that. It's just a golf course that is really good to my eye, and unfortunately, I haven't putt very well the last two days, so let's see if we can get some putts to go tomorrow.

Q. How long was that putt on 18?

SCOTT McCARRON: Nine feet. Yeah, it was probably my longest of the day actually. It felt good to hit a good putt and watch one go in.

Q. Are you superstitious at all or anything you've done the same as last year?

SCOTT McCARRON: You know, am I superstitious? A lot of times if I play well and I ate at a restaurant, I would go back there again. Last year I think I eight at Klein / Harris like four times. This year I've been kind of breaking it up a little bit, but we did have a great steak at Mercato last night, which was fantastic, so we might go back there, we'll see. The only other thing I'm superstitious, I kind of mark a ball with a quarter, '65, it's my birthday and 65's a good score and I shot 65 today.