

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW: SCOTT McCARRON
Friday, October 30, 2015



DAVE SENKO: Well, Scott, thanks for joining us. An 8-under 63, and other than the bogey at 17 --

SCOTT McCARRON: Really, you're going to bring that up first, Dave? Thanks. (Laughs.) Yeah, it was a good solid round today. We got off to a pretty good start. I was aggressive out of the get-go. Hit driver off the first tee, which a lot of guys are laying up, to about 65 yards and knocked in there close. The wind was starting to get up a little bit, make it a little trickier out there. These greens are very small, lot of slopes, you've got to put it in the right spot.

DAVE SENKO: Do you want to go through your birdies real quick, start at No. 1?

SCOTT McCARRON: Yeah, birdied 1, good drive down the middle, 65 yards, hit a little sand wedge up there about three feet, made birdie. 3, the par 5, hit a good drive there, 3-wood right kind of on the front of the green, had about an 80 footer, almost made it, knocked it up there about six inches for birdie. 7, hit a drive down the left-hand side and had 90 yards, 60-degree wedge. Such a difficult green there, I think it's the toughest green out here. Knocked it in there about three feet, but that three-footer probably broke about six inches it seemed like, just such a sloping green. Then I went on a little run. 10, nice drive, 8-iron to about three feet, birdie. 11, I don't even remember 11. I hit hybrid up there and then sand wedge in there about maybe 10 feet or so, made that for birdie. 12, also hit hybrid off the tee there and then wedge in there, I think, for birdie.

Q. How far, Scott?

SCOTT McCARRON: I don't remember. Probably about 15 feet. That was -- yeah, 15 feet. Good little putt breaking a little left. 15, hit a great drive there on the par 5 15, had like 190, just cut a little 6-iron, held it up against the wind to about four inches for eagle, so that was nice. Made a really good par save on 16, had to make about a 10-footer. Hit 8-iron just the right -- on the green sloping up the hill and had about six feet and missed it left. It was a putt I had left edge and it went left, I just misread it. 18, good drive down the middle, hit 6-iron there about 10 feet, 12 feet, just didn't quite hit it enough, made birdie. So 63, yeah, good start.

Q. Missed a couple short putts on the last two holes?

SCOTT McCARRON: Yeah, a couple short putts. I also missed a couple putts in the middle of the round. I had an inside 10 feet probably two holes in a row there and just didn't -- you know, hit good putts just didn't go in. That's the way it goes.

DAVE SENKO: How would you assess your year so far?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, the first part of the year stunk because on the regular tour, I was missing cuts by a shot. Out here it's been wonderful. We started at the British Senior open, my girlfriend, Jenny Klein, caddied for me over there, did a wonderful job. Then my regular caddie, Rich Mayo, came back and we started 3M Championship. Seems like every week I've had a low round which has kind of got me in it. I played the final group at Calgary on Saturday with Colin Montgomerie. I played in the final group at Dick's, didn't play that well, and then I played the final group at San Antonio. So I've had some chances to win and two top 10s, a third, a 10th, a 12th, an 18th, 25th, something like that. So I'm playing with a lot of confidence right now and I went for quite a few years where I really wasn't playing with much confidence on the regular tour. I think that's been the biggest difference for me is I feel like I can play and I feel like I can win again.

Q. Did you know it was kind of a UCLA day for a while today, like four guys on the leaderboard at the top?

SCOTT McCARRON: I saw Steve Pate up there.

Q. Duffy and Pernice.

SCOTT McCARRON: And Pernice was up there, too? That's great. I just say Pater's name up there at like 7. I didn't see Duffy's or Pernice's. I wasn't really looking too much. I saw Rod Spittle up there, he was like 7-under through 11 or something like that. That's about all, I didn't look too much today. I did see one where it said the course record was 61, so I thought an eagle, make a couple birdies, I can do that, so that entered my mind a little bit.

Q. You were close to eagle on I think three of the par 5s. When you look at the par 5s here and just I don't want to say expect a birdie, but would you be upset if you didn't birdie those holes?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, I can reach them all, so obviously, yeah. If I hit a good drive there, I can reach all the par 5s in two. You know, luckily today we played two of them kind of downwind a little bit so that helped. Normally I'm not hitting 6-iron in, I'm hitting probably hybrid or 3-wood in, but today with it being a little bit downwind I was able to get it out there pretty good.

Q. Do you think this tournament can be won and lost on those holes?

SCOTT McCARRON: Oh, absolutely. I think you've got to play the par 5s here birdieing every one but throw in an eagle or two, absolutely. It seems to be a lot on the Champions Tour tournaments you've got it play the par 5s well.

Q. Are you used to -- (inaudible)?

SCOTT McCARRON: You know, it's off money, so I'm 62nd on the money list with 289,000,

so I've probably got to win this week.

DAVE SENKO: 52nd.

SCOTT McCARRON: Will a second get me there?

DAVE SENKO: No.

SCOTT McCARRON: There you go.

DAVE SENKO: Right now 30th is 552.

SCOTT McCARRON: That's what I figured, I would have to win to get into the Schwab Cup. I don't want my season to end yet.

DAVE SENKO: Scott, just backtrack a little bit on No. 17. Did you say you hit an 8-iron?

SCOTT McCARRON: 17, I hit 8-iron, yeah, from 180. Just hit right in the slope and it funneled over to the right a little bit so I had to come up over a slope and I was the first one putting from -- we were all down there and I just didn't hit it hard enough. I wish I had seen somebody else.

DAVE SENKO: How far was it?

SCOTT McCARRON: It was 39 feet and I know that because I step off everything. I learned from Phil Rodgers years ago down in San Diego actually, stepping off all my chips and all my putts and I've been doing it ever since I was about 12 years old. So if you asked me how far it was, I step them all off.

Q. What are you going to do with your putter in a couple months?

SCOTT McCARRON: I'm going to putt with the same putter, just not anchor it. I've practiced, I've played tournaments that way already and it doesn't make that much of a difference at all. And I hope everybody with long putters keeps using the longer putter and just not anchor it. It is still very similar to what we do already.

Q. So doesn't sound like it was that much of a transition to go from anchoring to non-anchoring?

SCOTT McCARRON: I don't think it's that much of a transition, no, I really don't. You just hold it off fairly steady and go ahead and put away, it's the same type of movement.