

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
June 22, 2017



Scott McCarron

CHRIS RICHARDS: Scott, thank you for joining us this afternoon.

SCOTT McCARRON: Thank you, Chris.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Let's start with a couple nights ago at the pro-am party. It seemed like you and Steve and Billy were having such a good time being around each other, and you see that out on the golf course. What does that say about how much fun it is for you guys out here competing against each other on a weekly basis?

SCOTT McCARRON: It's a lot of fun. I've known Billy Andrade since the PGA National Junior when I was 14 or 15 years old, so like 1980, '81. Stricker and I played a couple events on the Canadian Tour. So I've known these guys for a long time and a lot of the guys out here I've known for 20, 30 years. So to be able to hang out with your buddies and play golf, and at 51 years old being able to make a living doing it again, it's a lot of fun.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Coming to tournaments like this with big crowds, do you think that translates into a good fan experience as well?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, it does. Last year I was blown away at how many people came out, especially on Friday. I think they weren't ready for that many people to come out, so we had some traffic issues getting in here, but the fans really came out and supported this tournament, as they should. Putting a legend like Steve Stricker's name on this American Family Championship really is a boost to the tournament and it makes guys on our tour want to come play.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Turning to golf, you've had a great season so far on a string of top-10s. What's been the key to your sustained success so far?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, a lot of hard work, for one thing. When I came out here, I really wanted to play well, I wanted to give it my all. I worked really hard before I got out here, started working with a new golf coach, E.A. Tischler, got me swinging back kind of what I used to be doing that I got away from the last couple years when I was injured on the PGA Tour. So more than anything, it's been a lot of hard work, having fun and having someone by my side to travel with me. My wife has been coming out every week. We just got married a little over a year ago and that has been a lot of fun for me to be able to have someone to share that with.

Q. Scott, as kind of one of the top figures in the Charles Schwab Cup race how would you handicap the way things have gone and what's it going to take to win the scrum

with Bernhard and try to get on top of the heap?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, he's not here this week and we can gain something on him. I figure if I can gain 20 or 30 grand a week, in maybe 10 or 20 years I'll be able to catch him. He's just playing well. Every single time he tees it up, he's got a chance to win or he's in the top-5. He's amazing.

I mean, honestly, I was telling somebody, I think some media people a couple weeks ago, he's one of, you know, my inspiration. When I'm at home and I'm practicing or if I'm going to do a workout and I'm not feeling like going out and practicing and working out, I'm like, you know what, I know Langer is, so I've got to get out there and do it. But I said I should probably give him a call and see if he really is working out. If not, I'll just sit on the coach and eat potato chips or something.

He really is, he's pushing me, he's pushing a lot of guys out here to try to get better.

Q. When you saw him on the regular tour, did you think that he would be that guy that would set that kind of example? You know everybody wasn't working out back then.

SCOTT McCARRON: Everyone was working hard, but he was always one of the hardest workers. He and Vijay Singh I would say were the two hardest workers.

He was a great player. No. 1 in the world, won majors, the guy competed every time he teed it up it seemed like. But he played a lot in Europe, so I didn't see him a lot over here. But when he did come over here and when he started playing more towards the end of his career and I got to play with him, we played a lot together and so he was a guy that was very consistent. I wasn't thinking at that point much about the Champions Tour, you know, being on the regular tour, but for the last five or six years I've been watching what he's doing as I've been kind of getting ready and it's just unprecedented. The guy's amazing, and still he's turning 60 this year and he's as good as anybody. He could still compete on the regular tour if he wanted to.

Q. Would you give us a scouting report on the course from your perspective, maybe what the tricky spots are going to be for guys out there?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, I really like this golf course. For me, it's kind of a little bit of a bomber's golf course because you've got quite a few par 5s, you've got a par 4 that you can drive if the conditions are good. So it's a golf course that you want to be able to bomb it at.

I think the toughest hole out here is probably No. 4, that par 4. Got the water, the pond over on the right-hand side. A lot of guys try to carry it up the left-hand side, and if you pull it a little bit, you don't have a second shot into that green, which is a very tough green, elevated green. So I think four's probably one of the toughest holes. On the back side -- I think the front side's a little bit tougher. The back side is where that scoring side is, where you can

get some of those par 5s and a par 4 that's drivable. It's a lot of fun, very much a risk-reward golf course.

Q. Have you been happy with your consistency at that high level this year? Was there a certain step you were looking to take in 2017?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, last year going into the final Charles Schwab tournament in Phoenix I was second behind Langer. So my goal is to be second again and see if I can win that last one. I just don't know if he's going to be catchable. I have to play really, really well, but he would have to miss some tournaments or not play as well and I just don't see that happening. He's got such a big lead already on myself and the rest of the guys that he'll be very, very difficult to catch. So if I can just stay in his wake and then somehow win the last one, then we can still within the Schwab Cup, so that's the goal.

Q. And also about the new crop of 50-year-olds, including two from Wisconsin this year that are certainly -- Steve showed last week that he can still play out there as well, and Jerry has been eager to join the fun group for a long time. Have you had a chance to play with either yet out there and what are your impressions of them coming onto this tour?

SCOTT McCARRON: I haven't played with Steve yet. I have played with Jerry. Steve Stricker is still one of the top players in the world. He has over the last quite a few years not played full schedules a lot of the time, but when he competes, he competes really well. So it really is a bonus for us to have him come out and play. I hope he plays as much as possible out here. I know he's going to be bouncing around still a little bit, which he should. He can still compete and play.

And Jerry finished second last year. Jerry can still flat out play and can still play out there. I had dinner with Jerry last night and I asked him if he's playing anymore and he said, "I'm not, I'm coming out here." So he might play a few next year out there, but he's loving being out here with us old guys and he's having a blast. So we need guys like Jerry Kelly, Steve Stricker to come out. They're legends here in Wisconsin, so it will add a huge amount to this tournament, but they're legends everywhere they go and they're a lot of fun to be around and they're great characters, so good addition to our tour.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Thank you, Scott.

SCOTT McCARRON: Thanks, guys.