



KEVIN SUTHERLAND

Q. So we can start out with your season as a whole leading up to this point. You had a really great season, 14 top-10 finishes, three runner-ups. How did you feel this whole year?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: I felt great about how I played all year. I've been real consistent. The last month I've been playing just kind of okay, but up until that point I played really consistent all year.

Q. What was the key this year that you could kind of focus on that really one part of the game was --

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: You know, I've always been pretty consistent about hitting the ball. I've always hit the ball consistently well. I think I did a really good job of -- I putted well for the most part. The last few weeks, whatever, I've putted okay, but I had some stretches where I putted tremendously well. I would say the biggest difference this year for me is I putted more consistently well.

Q. Coming into this week you secured a spot in the top-5 so you can control your own destiny. Is that in the back of your mind leading into competition this week?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: It's got to be. It's hard not to. Yeah, I know that if I can go out and play great golf and this is what it's going to take, you know that the scoring out here is tremendously good every week. So if I go play great golf, which I'm capable of doing and which I've done a lot this year, I can be right there in the mix come the last few holes and have a chance to win.

Q. You had eight runner-ups or something, you've been knocking on the door so much your knuckles must be raw. Do you feel like you're on the verge?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: I do. I just feel like if I keep playing the way I was playing and keep doing that in the future that, you know, that's going to happen. I haven't really -- people ask me if I've gotten frustrated. I really haven't. I just know that if I keep playing good golf -- at times I look at Dick's at Endicott and we both played great golf. I got done, I shot 64 the last day, it's hard to be disappointed. You want to win, but it's hard to be hard on yourself that you didn't win because I think I was 18-, 19-under par. You've got to say congratulations to the person you're playing with, Scott that week, and I went to the next week feeling great about how I was playing.

Q. You and Goydos are friends, right? You've been more consistent than he, but he

breaks through, he's won like five times?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: Absolutely.

Q. So it's like you know it's there?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: Oh, absolutely. I know it's -- a lot of times it just comes down to a shot here or there, a putt. It's not always putting, too. It's just an iron shot that you miss a green with that maybe, you know, make a bogey or take away a good opportunity for birdie. Sometimes that's just the difference, just a little something here and there on Sunday.

But Paul is -- Paul's had -- he won again this year. I think he's won every year the last four years, I think, or three, how many years we've been out here. He's obviously played great golf to do that.

Q. When did you guys first -- how far back does the friendship go? You guys play practice rounds and --

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: Well, we did on Tour, so I was on Tour for 18 years and he was about the same, so we played going back that far. We actually got to know each other playing college golf. I was at Fresno State, he was at Long Beach State and we played a lot of similar tournaments. We played a lot of golf together when we were in college, and then we played mini-tour golf in southern California a lot, so we just became friends through that. We got to know each other pretty well in college and then we started playing a lot of golf together as pros and just the friendship grew from there.

Q. What mini-tours were those?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: Well, the Golden State Tour down in southern Cal, and that was a long time ago.

Q. Was the Paul Goydos of 2017 the same as Paul Goydos of 1990?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: You know, pretty similar. His game hasn't changed a lot.

Q. How about personality?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: His personality, everything's the same. I mean, nothing's really changed. He's been pretty much the same guy from the first time I met him. He's self deprecating and cynical and all that, and I have a little bit of that in myself, too, so it's all good.

Q. Do you guys joke about Langer winning week in and week out, or do you kid him?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: I don't know a joke about it, just more like, you know, just marvel at

how great he's played. I've been out here for three and a half years and I know before I got here he's been doing the same thing he's done the last three and a half years. It's amazing. He pushes everybody to become a better golfer. I know that I do that, I'm that way. I practice a lot when I'm at home and I try to get in better shape because I know that guys like Bernhard and Scott, the list goes on and on, guys are doing the same thing. So you know you have to be ready to play and shoot some great scores just to be competitive on Sunday.

Q. What do you think of the track?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: I love it. I think it's going to be a great spot for us here. It's so intimate and close. It kind of reminds me a little bit of the course that I play in Sacramento, Del Paso Country Club, which they played the Senior Open there a few years ago. It's close together so it creates this intimacy and this environment and this atmosphere that's going to be a lot of fun.

Q. Remind you a little bit of Newport Beach, too?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: Same thing, absolutely. I think the scores are going to be good, though. I do think the scores are going to be good. The greens are a little bit soft and it's not real long. The scoring's always good out here, though. That's not saying anything new.

Q. Does the wind come up at all? I've been out there a couple times, it doesn't seem like much.

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: It gusted to like two or three, I think, at times. It was hard, man, it was hard to judge. No, I don't know what the weather forecast is going forward, but --

Q. 80s and sunny.

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: Yeah, it's a pretty good place to be a weatherman.

Q. He already left for the day.

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: Willis left for the day?

Q. He's got an easy week.

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: He's got an easy week, it's not going to be too hard. He'll show up for like half an hour every day and go play golf somewhere else.