

**FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW**  
**November 12, 2017**



**KEVIN SUTHERLAND (- 15)**

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**LAURA VESCOVI:** I would like to welcome Kevin Sutherland to the interview room. Kevin, you are not only the champion of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship but the Charles Schwab Cup. Talk about how you're feeling right now.

**KEVIN SUTHERLAND:** You know, I don't even know. It's like a whirlwind thing. It's amazing. I mean, the names on this trophy are incredible. I've seen it, and to be on that list is just, I can't even put words to it, it's just amazing.

I played really well all year and I just couldn't find a way to get a win. So to win this tournament, it's unbelievable. I'm sure in a couple days it will sink in a little bit, but right now it just seems like I'm not even sure it really happened, I keep pinching myself. It feels good and it's been a long time since I won a tournament. I haven't won since 2002 Match Play, so 15 years, so it feels good.

**LAURA VESCOVI:** Can you talk about this season a little bit? You finished the season with 15 top-10s. You had an incredible season and you were able to really put a bow on it today, so your game this year?

**KEVIN SUTHERLAND:** I played fantastic. I hit the ball consistently well all year. It's just been something I've been doing really well all year, so it just seems like when I get a chance to putt, I putt pretty well, I get a good chance to win and I had a lot of good chances this year. I did putt well this year, and sometimes down the stretch I missed some putts that I would like to have back. But it didn't matter today, so it's all good. But I just hit the ball really well all year and that was the key to my success.

**Q. We added it up, we think it was 341 starts between wins. So when you have that stretch, do you have to redefine success? I guess what keeps you going?**

**KEVIN SUTHERLAND:** You know, I think early on I was beating myself up a little bit more. I'm going back 10 years, you know. This year I didn't really get too frustrated by it. I knew I was playing well and I knew if I kept doing what I was doing that eventually I would get a win.

That being said, there's times you doubt that it's going to happen. You know, it's just like it doesn't seem like it's in the cards sometimes. It's always -- I'm not -- a lot of times it's because of something I was unable to do and today I was able to take advantage of some opportunities. And I know Paul didn't have the best day today. Paul's a good friend of mine, but he didn't have the best day today, but it allowed me to kind of sneak in there and win.

**Q. He seemed more excited about your win than you were.**

**KEVIN SUTHERLAND:** Well, he's my biggest supporter. He's constantly telling everybody about how well I'm playing. I'm like, "Paul, I don't need a publicist." But he's always doing that. Like this week he's like, "Oh, my gosh, you're getting so disrespected." I'm like, "Trust me, I'm not getting disrespected, Paul, just settle down."

One thing I do know, Paul has a reputation, and it's not just with me, it's with other players, that when he gets the lead, he normally plays very well, and today it just didn't happen for him. I don't know why, I wasn't able to see it, but he didn't have it today and it allowed some other guys to sneak it.

**Q. Can you talk about being aggressive down the stretch, hitting driver on holes other guys weren't and going for it, 16, 17, 18?**

**KEVIN SUTHERLAND:** I decided early in the week that I was just going to hit drivers. I decided I was going to hit driver on 4, I decided I was going to hit driver on 5, I was going to hit driver on 6, I was going to hit driver on 9, the holes that some guys might not. 10, 11, I decided I was going to hit a driver. I was driving it well. I hit driver on 14. A bunch of guys started hitting 3-wood off that tee but I decided to hit driver.

And then 16, I did lay up yesterday when the pin was up front, but when the pin was in the back I had made a decision on Tuesday that I was going to hit driver on that hole. I didn't hit in the greatest spot, it would obviously have been really nice to be in the right side of the fairway, but I hit that shot into 16 from almost exactly where I wanted to hit it, my angle. I hit a great shot just to give myself an opportunity and I happened to make the putt, which was huge. It set up the last two holes. I would like to have the putt on 17 -- it would have made 18 a lot easier.

I was unaware of how everything stood a little bit. I didn't know how Lee was playing, so I decided that I was just going to play the hole -- I only had 6-iron into 18 and so I decided to go ahead -- go for it anyways. I think if I had known, I might have laid up, but I couldn't play the guessing game a little bit, decided just to play my game. I didn't hit a great shot, but it ended up pretty good shot.

**Q. And 18, the approach shot, you just wanted to stay away from the water, I assume?**

**KEVIN SUTHERLAND:** Yeah, part of the problem was I knew that David Frost didn't make birdie and so I knew that I had a one-stroke lead, but I was unaware of what Lee was doing. I didn't know if Lee had birdied 17 or something like that. I wasn't sure how I actually stood.

Billy and I decided, hey, just hit the 6-iron. It wasn't like I was hitting a 3-wood in there or something. So I decided to hit the 6-iron, but there was a part of me in the back of my mind that I was thinking, you know, I could have a two-stroke lead right now, or a one-stroke lead

on Vijay and a two-stroke lead on Lee Janzen, who was still playing. You know, if I hit the ball in the water, I'm going to feel really stupid. So I kind of pulled it, but it ended up in a really good spot. I was very fortunate. It was not a real hard chip. I didn't execute it that well, but I ended up in a good spot. I actually thought I hit a good putt on 18, I just didn't happen to make it.

**Q. Kevin, when did you see what Vijay had done?**

**KEVIN SUTHERLAND:** Somewhere early in the back nine. I don't remember where it was. I noticed that he was at 14 and done. So you know that's the number that you have to be above. He had an amazing round, 62, is that right? So I knew at that point, and I saw a cluster of guys at 14, but I wasn't -- I was aware of what was going on with the other groups, but I wasn't like dying to see every scoreboard I could find. I was really working hard. I knew I needed to be at 15 at least and so I was really focused on just making some birdies. When I got to 17, I happened to notice that David was at 14 and so I knew that he could birdie 18 to get to 15. But I happened to notice he didn't make birdie. I was in the fairway, I could tell he didn't make birdie at 18, so I knew that I had a one-stroke lead. I think in hindsight maybe the layup was the right play, but it worked out.

**Q. To play the back nine blemish-free given the stakes and just what maybe what was going through your mind at times, how do you explain that, and I guess how proud are you of that?**

**KEVIN SUTHERLAND:** I'm very proud. I mean, I talked a lot about how I hit the ball, but the biggest putt I made all day was on 11 for par. I had a wedge and it just bounced it over the back bunker and hit a very mediocre bunker shot and made about a 15-footer for par and that was an enormous putt.

But I just stayed aggressive. I was being aggressive all day. I went for the pin on 13, you know, against the water. I really wanted to stay aggressive. I knew I needed to make birdies and I was going to stay aggressive, and if it didn't work out, it didn't work out. I feel sometimes in the past one reason why I maybe hadn't won more was I hadn't been aggressive enough. So I made a conscious effort that I was going to be aggressive today, and on the back nine I was. I bounced over the green on 11, made a nice up-and-down, but for the most part it all worked out. To be the Schwab Cup champion...

**Q. The other day someone said if Kevin can hold on and win this, it's going to be one of the most popular victories of the year. Have you had any sense of that?**

**KEVIN SUTHERLAND:** Yeah, I had a bunch of guys come and give me a hug. This tour is amazing. The camaraderie amongst the players, it's second to none, it really is. We are competitors, but it's not life and death and we're basically in this together. We're all out here trying to play really good golf, but at the end of the day we're all good friends.

So when Sluman and Billy Andrade and Scott Parel and Corey Pavin were all giving me

hugs and stuff, and then I saw Paul, so it's -- and Scott McCarron. I'm not trying to leave people out. Like I've known Scott, we played high school golf against each other so I've known Scott way too long. 35 years probably.

**Q. He said junior golf?**

**KEVIN SUTHERLAND:** Junior golf and high school golf, yeah. When I got on the PGA TOUR, he sent me a picture. We were in the high school NorCal Championship together in the final group and we're shaking hands. There's a picture in the paper of me with these little tiny Oakley shorts. It was a really bad look. Yeah, so it wasn't good. But it was a funny picture and we're shaking hands on the last green, and he had more appropriate shorts than I did.

**Q. Were they orange?**

**KEVIN SUTHERLAND:** I hope not. It was black and white. I don't remember. I blame my mom for that. She let me leave the house with those on.

**Q. Both McCarron and Goydos said that when you win, you're going to win a bunch. How's that make you feel?**

**KEVIN SUTHERLAND:** It makes you feel good. You've still got to go out and do it. It's very complimentary and I appreciate what they say, but at the end of the day you've still got to go out and put the ball in the hole. But hey, I feel great about how I've been playing. Obviously this week I played tremendous golf, pretty much the whole year I played tremendous golf. I'm just looking forward to next year and playing some more good golf.

**LAURA VESCOVI:** Well, thank you. Congratulations.

**KEVIN SUTHERLAND:** Thank you.