

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
November 7, 2018



SCOTT PAREL

LAURA VESCOVI: Thank you for joining us here at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. Welcome to Phoenix. You're coming off an exciting week after a win at the Invesco QQQ Championship and now we had an off week.

How did you spend your off week prepping for the finale here?

SCOTT PAREL: Went home and just did some things around the house, played a couple days, played at Palmetto. We just reopened Augusta Country Club after being closed for about six months, so I got to play that on Saturday, and just kind of took it easy and left Sunday morning.

LAURA VESCOVI: So how are your nerves coming into this week because it's a big week? Everybody's chasing Langer. You're in a great position; if you win the tournament, you clinch the Cup. So any nerves coming in or are you playing it cool?

SCOTT PAREL: I don't feel any different than I have any other week and that's what I'm trying to do. I'm trying to just treat it like any other week and play as well as I can and we'll see what happens.

I'm certainly the underdog, so I'm not too worried about it. My expectations are to play well. I've been playing well, so I don't see any other reason why I shouldn't. Whether it's good enough to catch Mr. Langer, I don't know. We'll have to see what he does.

LAURA VESCOVI: We'll open it to questions.

Q. Scott, really, this is not the real tournament, so this is just an offhanded question, but when you were here last night, did you go to the party?

SCOTT PAREL: I did.

Q. Okay. And what did you think of the chef's food, because we just interviewed the chef?

SCOTT PAREL: Oh, I think the food was tremendous. The scallops and the lobster and the shrimp, I mean the crab, it was all very, very good. We came not expecting to stay real long and we stayed a lot longer because I was enjoying the food.

Q. I just wondered because he said -- did you see the fish, the tank of the fish that he had?

SCOTT PAREL: I didn't see that, no.

Q. Okay.

SCOTT PAREL: No, I didn't see it.

Q. If you win this week, win both trophies, what would this do for your career? And when you look back in nine or 10 years and you can say you won the Charles Schwab Cup, what would that mean?

SCOTT PAREL: I mean, it would be beyond my wildest dreams probably when I started. It's already going to be the best year no matter what happens this week, which at least helps take some of the pressure off maybe for me, but it's going to be a fantastic week.

Yeah, to win the Schwab Cup and to see the guys who are on that cup already and guys that I obviously respect and have admired for a long time, to be on that same trophy, that would be very special, yeah.

Q. Do you feel like it's an advantage to be at least starting the tournament in the same group as the guy you're chasing, or the guy everyone's chasing?

SCOTT PAREL: I don't know that it's an advantage, especially being that it's four days and this is just day one of four days. I like Bernhard a lot. I think we get along pretty well, I think it will be a comfortable pairing for me, and so from that perspective, you know, it's good for me because I enjoy playing with him. I've played with him before.

But as far as how the final outcome's going to go starting the first day with him, I don't know that it makes that big a difference.

Q. He has kind of this reputation for being a stoic guy, but from your experience playing with him, how would you describe playing with him?

SCOTT PAREL: I think he just keeps -- you know, he's obviously very focused when he's on the golf course so he keeps to himself. He's not yucking it up out there like maybe somebody else would be, but he's certainly very cordial. He's not at all standoffish. And I played with him the last day of a major in Birmingham two years ago and he was -- we got along fine.

Of course, he was shooting a ridiculously low score and killing us all anyways, so maybe he was in a good mood because of that. But he's a very good man and I know that I enjoy playing with him.

Q. You played here last year and you got a good look at the course this year. Is there anything specific about it that fits your eye or your game?

SCOTT PAREL: I like it off the tee, I think you've got to be a pretty good driver of the ball to have success here, and that in general for me is usually pretty good. I've been driving the ball well lately.

I think being a little bit longer probably is an advantage. I feel like this year the course might be playing a little longer than it has in the past. I feel like the overseed maybe has come in a little bit thicker this year, so it's slowing the ball down a little bit more in the fairways. Just now here in the practice round I killed a drive on 7, the par 5, and last year I got to that green hitting a drive like that pretty easily. And I hit driver off the deck today and it probably would have gotten there, but I was surprised how far short I had come up. So I think it's playing a little longer.

It's in fantastic shape. The greens are like putting on carpet. I think the scores will be pretty low just because the greens are so good, I think guys are going to make a lot of putts.

Q. In the past you've talked about how much you look forward to playing each event and how excited you are. Is tomorrow a new level of excitement with everything that you have to play for this week?

SCOTT PAREL: Sure. I mean, I'm excited about it, for sure. It's what you want to do. You want to have a chance to win the final prize on whatever tour you play, and if that doesn't get you a little more excited, then maybe you shouldn't be -- you know, maybe it's time to not play.

So yeah, I'm very excited, but I'm excited in a way that I'm looking forward to it. I'm not dreading it or worrying about any kind of pressure, I'm just going to play the way I've been playing. There's no indication to me that I'm not going to play well, so whether it's good enough to get it done, we'll just have to see.

Q. Going back to Boeing and then obviously a couple weeks ago at Invesco, they say you learn something from every victory, something unique. What did you learn about yourself, your game with each win?

SCOTT PAREL: Well, I think in Boeing I learned obviously that on the last day I can shoot a pretty low score to come from behind and that's always very encouraging. I had no expectations going into the last day and that probably helped. You know, being five shots behind, I certainly didn't -- when I put the tee in the ground on Sunday I didn't expect to win. Even if I shot 63, I wasn't sure that that was going to be good enough. But that day I did kind of set a goal that maybe if I can get to 18 under, which would take 9 under, then maybe that would be good enough. So I learned that maybe I can do that, I can set a number if I think, you know, and shoot for it and I was able to do that.

At Invesco it was a little bit different, I was only one shot behind and I was playing in the second-to-the-last group. I kind of knew what was going on behind me a little bit, I kept up

with that a little more where at Boeing I didn't really keep up with what was going on behind me until I got to the back nine. And I just -- I had a game plan on that Sunday and I stuck with it. I was just trying to give myself as many opportunities to make birdie, not be stupid aggressive. That golf course has some places where you can get in some trouble at Sherwood and you have to play what I would say is smartly aggressive and I think I did a pretty good job of that. To play bogey-free on the last day with a chance to win, I think that showed me that I got the insides that it takes to get it done and that's obviously, when you do that, it gives you confidence.

Q. As a follow-up, you mentioned just keeping an eye on what was going on around you and then not doing so, and obviously with your engineering background, you're a smart guy. There's some number crunching that goes into the Charles Schwab Cup. Certainly if you win, you win the whole thing.

But are you the kind of guy that would at the end of the day just take a look at the leaderboard, see where Toms is, see where McCarron is? Do you crunch numbers or do you just go out there and try to win the golf tournament?

SCOTT PAREL: You know, I haven't been in this situation, so I don't know what I'll do, but knowing myself, I probably will look at the numbers.

I'm not going to play thinking about the numbers. When the day is done and we see, okay, where do we stand and maybe get an idea, but I know that I need to win. If I win, then I don't have to worry about the numbers. So if I can at least put myself in a position on Sunday to where I have a chance to win, then I won't worry about the numbers.

You know, I thought until you guys started saying if I finish here and he finishes here, I really didn't -- you know, I didn't really pay any attention to that because I saw there's such a unique spread of numbers, I'm like, there's no way I'm going to be able to do all that math, it's going to take too much time.

So I'm not going to -- you know, maybe when it gets down to Sunday and I'm not -- potentially I'm not winning and somebody that can't win the cup is winning, maybe then I'll look to see, well, where's Bernhard and where am I or where's everybody else, but until late on Sunday, I don't think I'll pay much attention.

Q. Everybody's just having a great time out here, it seems real relaxed. That's kind of the hallmark of the Champions Tour, everybody's accessible and everybody's having a good time. Starting tomorrow, something clicks in there. Can you kind of explain that feeling, what happens?

SCOTT PAREL: I think, you know, if you do this for a living, we have a very unique sport. Guys will help each other all the way up to the first tee on Thursday. I mean, we'll help each other with swings, we'll talk about the golf course, how it's playing, what are you hitting on this hole, and so we're all encouraging each other because we want everybody to play their

best, because you don't want to win because somebody plays poorly. You see that all the time, a guy -- you go into a playoff and somebody hits one in the water and, you know, inevitably they're going to say, "I hate to win that way." I think truly that is how guys who play golf for a living, most of us feel.

So I think what you do, you encourage other people, you have friends out here you like to see do well, but once the tournament starts, you've got to get into your own zone and play your game and play the golf course and try not to worry about what anybody else is doing.

I don't know if there's a switch that goes off or something clicks in your brain, but once the tournament starts, you get that adrenaline, you get some butterflies, then you're still -- I'm still going to encourage the guy I'm playing with and tell him "good shot," but I'm still going to want to beat him.

I don't know what the mechanism is that makes that happen, but I think that anybody who likes to compete and anybody who's at this point in their career and still trying to compete -- somebody like Bernhard Langer's 61 and he wants to beat everybody every week. I think that's amazing that he still has that drive to prepare every week like he does. I don't think that gets enough recognition. You know, somebody who's 61 years old, he's been playing professional golf since he was a teenager and he still prepares every week like it's a major. That takes some kind of self motivation that most people don't have, and that's inspiring to a lot of us who are out here trying to beat him.

Q. It's inspiring to all of us watching, too. We really appreciate it. Thank you.

LAURA VESCOVI: Thank you for being here, Scott. We appreciate your time.

SCOTT PAREL: Yeah, glad to do it. Thank you.