

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
September 25, 2019



ADAM SCOTT

DOUG MILNE: I would like to welcome Adam Scott to the interview room here at the Safeway Open. Adam, making your first start in the Safeway Open. You just had a chance to get around the course, so if we could just get a couple comments on your thoughts about the course?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, the course was great, probably what I was expecting having seen it a little bit on TV over the years and hearing from guys. It's in fantastic condition, so that always makes it a pressure to play anywhere when the course is in great shape. It's pretty firm and getting fiery out there. The greens have a bit of bounce in them, the fairways also, and the weather looks good, so I like to see a course play that way. You've really got to control your golf ball around here. I'm looking forward to getting this new season under way.

DOUG MILNE: It's not a whole lot of time between the old season and the new season. And speaking of the old season, you had a great season, a couple of runner-up finishes among, I think seven or nine top-10 finishes including top-10 finishes in each of the Playoff events.

How satisfied were you with your season, and with that short turnaround time, do you feel like it's a good chance to kind of continue that right into the '19-'20 season?

ADAM SCOTT: I guess there was some satisfaction in the fact that I had a better season than the season before, for sure. You know, it was frustrating not to win when I was in position, when I had myself up there. A couple of my finishes I felt could have been -- I played better than where I finished. A couple late bogeys was often the theme, certainly at the majors.

But, you know, I'm looking to get back in that winner's circle and I'm playing consistently well, but I just have to find that little something, that edge to kind of get me over the line and get a trophy back in my hands. I guess not waiting too long off the back of good play at the end of last season, let's get going in year and try and keep that momentum going and build into, you know, hopefully a really great season and looking into next calendar year, some great performances in the big events.

DOUG MILNE: And then my final question before we'll open it up with George is just on the way over we were talking about your fall schedule; it's quite a busy fall schedule. If you can just kind of run us through what your plans are and maybe kind of tie that into the significance of the fall and getting off to a good start?

ADAM SCOTT: Well, obviously getting going is helpful. The fall is really bulked up with 11

or so events now, which is getting close to a third of the regular season. I mean, in some ways you don't want to be starting out next year too far back. It's just that I normally start out at the end of the west coast because I play in Australia at the end of the year and that makes me start later. So if I start at the end of the west, coast we're almost halfway through the season and I will have played but two events. So I need to play a couple more this time around so I can actually get a break somewhere early in the new year.

I'm going to be finishing playing the Australian PGA on the 22nd of December this year, so there's got to be a break somewhere and that's going to be January and February for me.

There's pressure to play well in the fall, but you kind of need to play a little bit if I'm going to take that break in the first couple months of next year and get some points on the board. But more so than that, I feel like my game is in a position where I should be playing right now. I'm playing well, I've got some momentum going on my side from where I finished off last season.

Looking back on similar feelings in my career, I was at a point like this at the end of -- in 2012 where my game was consistently really good and I just needed to keep the intensity up and keep playing and get that win and then lots of great things happened soon after that happened in the end of '12. So I feel like it's in a similar place for me. It's a good spot to be on the course for me right now.

Q. You played a practice round yesterday. To actually be involved (inaudible,) how important is it for you to establish these relationships?

ADAM SCOTT: I think there is an importance in that and that's something that we've tried to do as much as we can throughout the year. You know, you can't do it every week, but certainly everyone getting to feel comfortable or getting to know, however you want to call it, I think is important as you step into that team dynamic or step into the same team room next year, or not next year but in December. Make sure there are no uneasy feelings, which can be the case certainly when the captain can be a hero for many of the players on the team. That dynamic in the team room and that attitude and the energy is so key.

I think I can see Ernie's made a big effort communicating to us this year to try and connect for practice rounds and we've been doing the best we can. I know a lot of guys have been playing different rounds with different guys.

Yeah, it's going to be a tough pick for Ernie in a few weeks, for sure. The last two weeks has thrown a couple more names into his hat and it's nice to see guys wanting to really make the team, performing and going to make it difficult for Ernie not to pick them.

Q. Adam, Steph Curry and Tony Romo are out there playing golf right now. What's been your experience of playing golf with athletes, top-level athletes from other sports, and why do you think they consistently underestimate how hard it is to play on the PGA TOUR?

ADAM SCOTT: You know, it's interesting that so many other great athletes play golf really. You know, for like an unpopular sport, a lot of great other athletes are very good at playing golf. I guess when you're a talented athlete, if you do spend some time doing something, you can get pretty good at it. But they've had other careers, so I don't know how much time they've been able to spend.

I play with Kelly Slater a lot. He's an incredibly good golfer for someone who spends most of his life floating around in the water. And I've played golf with Tony Romo as well and he's got an incredibly good swing and he's an incredibly good golfer considering he's been one of the best at what he does in another sport.

I don't know if they underestimate it. I think probably the standard generally of golf on the PGA TOUR is a bit underestimated. It was maybe clear when Tiger was dominating to see how good he was playing compared to everyone else, but now we don't have a guy who dominates quite like that. There isn't a benchmark, it's just a very high standard overall. Maybe it's harder to identify with that, I'm not really sure.

I think generally if you just look at the scoring last season, to me it felt like if you weren't at 20 under most weeks, then you didn't have a chance to win, which is pretty good playing for four days every week. The courses we play are not set up easy for us generally.

Q. How do you see the chances of the Presidents Cup team compared to two years ago? (Inaudible.)

ADAM SCOTT: Look, just putting it on paper, the American team is incredibly strong, so there's no doubt we're the underdogs, which we're kind of used to being.

I'm excited for this year because Ernie has certainly worked very hard in putting a plan in place for us to follow. Feel like we've got something we're working towards, where I think in years past it's been a bit of a mixed bag and a bit random the way we go about attacking these strong American teams. When it goes bad, we change tact, and we didn't really have a great plan in place and that didn't work for us, either. So then a couple of these Cups have really run away from us, like it did in New York.

So I think we've got a much better plan going in to not get into a position where we're too far behind. I think Ernie has really prepped the team well in what he wants to do.

As far as who I want to see? I just want to see really the best -- the guys in the best form come November 4th when they're picked on the team. I think that's going to help us a lot because it is pretty much a red-hot American team there. They have four picks, they've got a lot of depth to pick from as well, and those guys who are close to making that team on the numbers are in good form also.

So I think if I were the captain, and I'm not, but I would be looking at the form the next few

weeks quite closely and take some hot players and try and let their form continue down there.

Q. I have to ask you specifically about the Latinoamericans. There's three guys I would say, Muñoz, Niemann and Grillo. So what would you think?

ADAM SCOTT: And Jhonattan Vegas. I know he was very excited to play in the last one, so I'll include him in that, too.

You know, if you asked me 12 months ago I would have almost bet money on it that Joaquín Niemann would make the team. He was playing so good 12 months ago and he had a tough time and now he comes and wins. A player like him, hot, coming off of confidence of a win, I can absolutely see him on the team. But there are a lot of players in this category at the moment. Ernie's going to have very difficult decisions to make.

But I do, I like Joaquín Niemann a lot. He's young, he plays on his instinct and I think we need that kind of fresh mind and blood and spirit in our team, so I would be very happy to see him if he would end up making the team.

DOUG MILNE: Adam, thank you for your time and best of luck this week.

ADAM SCOTT: Thanks.