

**SCOTT VERPLANK**

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**Q. All right. Scott, great playing today. What was the key to your good start?**

**SCOTT VERPLANK:** Well, really, I just got rolling on the -- I started on No. 10 and was doing okay, then started making a few putts, which -- really, I have not played any golf. I really was hoping I would shoot under par today, and I just -- listen, I just kept making birdies on the first nine holes. So I kind of came -- kind of came back to reality over on this side and got -- didn't quite -- I'm not overly -- I'm not in mid-season form yet. But I hung in there and shot a good round.

**Q. Does that tend to happen when you come in with modest expectations and then you do what you did?**

**SCOTT VERPLANK:** Oh, I think that helps. I mean, I have always enjoyed playing here. I've played a decent round here a number of times. And the weather is great. I was in an arctic vortex a week ago, so it was nice to be here. And I got a lot of great friends here in Tucson, so I enjoy coming here.

**Q. How much practice did you get in before coming out here?**

**SCOTT VERPLANK:** Not much. I didn't play for three months, and then I went to Scottsdale for five days, and then went home for the blizzard, and then I came back to Scottsdale for three days, and came here. And I've -- Monday I was in Scottsdale hitting balls, and I was like I'm not even sure I should go. So, anyway, yesterday on the range before the pro-am I started hitting some solid shots, and I went okay, maybe I got a chance. So that's how it goes.

**Q. The choice to not practice that much, or whatever, is that just like, I'm just going to chill for a while, or --**

**SCOTT VERPLANK:** It was chill for a while, and then I was getting my shoulder worked on for basically six weeks, and just -- and then the weather got bad. So it is what it is.

**Q. What happened with your shoulder?**

**SCOTT VERPLANK:** I had surgery on it about a year and a half ago. But it hadn't -- it's still kind of cranky, so the guys over here in the fitness trailer did a good job on it, and I have got a guy at home that's helped me out. So it's -- it's just really hard getting old.

**Q. Can you describe the sequence of events there on No. 9?**

**SCOTT VERPLANK:** Well, yeah, I was -- I hit a horrible tee shot. Like I said, I was kind of struggling coming in, just because I haven't played any golf at all. Quite honestly, I'm really tired. So it was a terrible tee shot, but it was all right. Then I didn't have a very good lie over there in the stuff, and it went into the bunker. And I had a good lie, and I was like, all right, let's -- I hadn't hit many bunker shots, but let's see what happens. And I hit a really good shot. But they're lucky when they go in, so I'll take it.

**Q. How serious were you about maybe not coming?**

**SCOTT VERPLANK:** Well, I was already out here, and I knew the weather was going to be good, so I was going to come. But I was hitting balls with Bob Tway on TrackMan up at Whisper Rock, and I was like -- this is not going to be good. So obviously I figured a little something out. So we'll see. At least it worked for nine holes.

**Q. You birdied 18 today.**

**SCOTT VERPLANK:** I did.

**Q. Do you consider that a bonus, like any time --**

**SCOTT VERPLANK:** Oh, absolutely. Yeah, 18 is a very difficult hole, in my opinion. It's a very -- it is a hard hole. So I hit a good enough drive, good enough 6-iron, made about a 15-footer, you know, one of those curlers. So I was happy with that, I promise you.

**Q. Are you surprised you haven't won out here on this tour?**

**SCOTT VERPLANK:** Well, not really. I haven't played that good. I've been so hurt and so many injuries and -- I mean, I have had some good chances. Yeah, I should have probably won a couple times a couple years ago, before I had the shoulder surgery. But all I know is out here you got to -- you got to make birdies and shoot well. Scores are incredibly low. So if I make enough birdies, I might win. That's it.

**Q. Curious. You have had your injuries and all that stuff. How hard is it to like keep grinding, keep coming, keep pushing yourself?**

**SCOTT VERPLANK:** Oh, well, I don't know any different. I mean, I have been diabetic since I was nine years old. I don't have a lot of give-up. So in the end, you can't. So I just keep playing. I mean, I would rather do this than most other things. So when you get the weather like this, pretty lucky to be here.

**Q. There has been talk from the players wearing red on Sunday to honor Tiger. Do you own anything in the color red?**

**SCOTT VERPLANK:** I do not. You know, I went to an orange school.

**Q. I know.**

**SCOTT VERPLANK:** Oklahoma State.

And I will put a ribbon on for him, though, if we have red ribbons. But, yeah, I don't have anything red, so --

**Q. I kind of figured.**

**SCOTT VERPLANK:** Hopefully he's going to get through this and be okay. He's honestly great for golf.