

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
February 15, 2022



SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER

HALEY PETERSON: We would like to welcome Scottie Scheffler here to the media center at the Genesis Invitational.

Scottie, welcome back. This is obviously somewhere very special to you as a Collegiate Showcase winner. What's it like being back after an exciting week?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah, it's great to be back. I love this place, I really like this golf course, and so it's definitely good to be back here in L.A. It's raining today, which is a little bit strange, but the weather looks good for the rest of the week so should be good.

HALEY PETERSON: Since we spoke to you last on Sunday for your first PGA TOUR win, has it sunk in any more getting that first win?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Sunk in a little bit. Still haven't had too much time to think about it. But yesterday was a pretty tiring day, so we didn't do too much. We kind of just hung out at home and relaxed. Yeah, feels good. There's really not too much to say, to be honest with you. It's a nice accomplishment and it feels good to finally get a win out here. Just feels good.

Q. Scottie, why was it so tiring yesterday?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I mean, the playoff was long. It's been kind of a long journey up to this point of getting that first win, so I think just a lot of emotion surrounding it. I'm glad I was able to kind of get it done last week because I'm feeling pretty tired right now, so it would be pretty frustrating to come in second and still be this tired. I think it was just a lot of emotion surrounding it.

Q. More mental than physical then?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah. Physically I feel great, body feels good.

Q. You look good.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Thanks. (Laughs.)

Q. I guess you can answer this question now that you've done it, but how much does the "when are you going to win" type conversation, how much does that actually weigh on a player?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: So for me I wouldn't say it really weighs on me too much. I don't really think about it unless I'm kind of asked the question. Usually when I'm out here I'm just kind of out here playing and doing my thing. Sometimes when y'all have me in this room someone will ask that question and I'll kind of just brush it off.

It's been really fun just playing out here on Tour and to finally get that first win is tremendous. Leading up to it I really didn't think about it too much, I was just trying to get better, keep trying to improve. I still feel the same Tuesday as I did on Saturday so not much has changed in my head.

HALEY PETERSON: You weren't able to get a practice round in yesterday. With familiarity with the course, past two starts being Top 30s, so tell me how this course sets up with your game.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: The course sets up really good. I like coming to play these harder golf courses. This one is one of the courses where it kind of just ticks you off all week, it kind of is just a really frustrating golf course to play because it seems like it would be really easy, but it's extremely difficult. I'm looking forward to the challenge this week. Yesterday I definitely did not play a practice round, took some rest, but I'm looking forward to getting out on the course today.

Q. Just curious, did you ever imagine you would shoot a 59 on Tour before winning?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: No, I definitely did not think that I would shoot a 59 on Tour. Yeah, that was kind of just, that's one of those things you just get hot one day and I was able to finish off that round. Shooting 59 on Tour never crossed my mind when I was a kid. I think usually when I was younger I kind of struggled to keep those really hot rounds going and since I've turned pro I've done a really good job of being able to get hot in certain rounds.

Q. A couple of probably really bad question, but there's a number of really talented players coming out of the amateur college ranks that probably still haven't won. Would you know who some of those players are? Is that something you even think about? We do.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah, it's not something that I think about. I know there's a lot of talented players out here, Sahith being one of them and Zalatoris almost winning the other week. There's talent just really stretched across the entire PGA TOUR right now and I think the game of golf is in a really good spot, we have a lot of young talent and I think it's going in a good direction.

Q. When you're hanging with Sam, how much did he mention his two wins compared with your zero until last week?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: You know, not really too much. He definitely could have because it would have ribbed me pretty good, but no, that's -- you know, I think we joke around a lot

more with our personal lives than it comes to work. I think we joke around a lot less with work than we do our personal lives. He may tell me I'm ugly more often than he'll tell me he's won a couple times and random stuff like that. It never really came up too much.

Q. That's just an example, right?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: No, he never called me ugly. I just want to clear that up. He thinks I'm beautiful.

Q. This might be too soon for this, but having won, is it possible to look back now and does winning -- having won, does it seem harder than it actually was or were you making it too hard do you think?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I do think I was making it a little bit hard. I think at certain points in some of those final rounds I'd make a few mistakes and maybe get down a little bit. I wouldn't say I felt out of it last week, but I just kept telling myself there's going to be bumps in the road and I gave myself on Sunday way too many bumps. I think I made like four bogeys and they were all kind of bogeys where maybe I was trying to force a little something. Like I tried to force something on 8 after making a bogey on 7. I tried to force it close to the flag on 5 when I wasn't comfortable with the yardage. Then on 12 I really tried to make a good swing, but once again I short-sided myself.

I didn't really let those bogeys bother me as much as I would have in the past and I think I've always done a really good job of kind of fighting back through just regular rounds. I think it's something different in the final round when I'm trying to fight to beat everybody in the field. It's a lot easier on Thursday and Friday when you're just fighting to get back to par or 5th or 10th place or whatever. In final rounds I always viewed it as I had to play kind of this perfect version of golf and I think on Sunday I kind of proved that to myself where -- even throughout the whole week I kept telling Teddy on Thursday and Friday I was scoring really poorly. I was playing fantastic golf, my swing felt great, short game felt good, putting felt good, everything felt really good and I was only 3 under.

I was really fighting the cut line on Friday afternoon. I had to make like a six- or seven-footer on 7 for par to stay at 2 under, which was the cut line. Then I ended up making like a 40-footer for birdie on 8 to get to 3 under, and got up and down on 9 because I thought the cut line was going to be at 3 under.

If you would have told me a year ago that I would be making those kind of mistakes and been able to still win the golf tournament, I would have been pretty surprised, but I guess I proved a little bit to myself that it doesn't take perfect golf and it's more about coming back from the mistakes than it is just kind of cruising the entire time.

Q. In terms of your swing, did you play better Thursday and Friday or Saturday and Sunday?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I definitely hit the ball better on Saturday. Sunday my irons still were not very sharp. Saturday I gave myself a ton of looks, like a lot of really, really good looks. Sunday I did not do as good of a job of that as I did on Saturday, but I mean Thursday I think I was kind of striping it and I bogeyed -- I didn't birdie any of the par 5s, I bogeyed 15 and I just made a total -- I ended up birdieing the last two holes. It was kind of a miracle that I shot 3 under with how poorly I scored the entire day. But I would say, to answer your question, I definitely hit it the best on Saturday.

Q. Since it sounds like yesterday was a travel day, what did you do Sunday night?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Did like some interview stuff after the round, maybe took an hour. It was actually pretty quick, it wasn't too bad. Then we went out to dinner, just had some food and then just went to bed. My wife's brother and his fiancée were in town so all four of us just grabbed dinner, hung out, watched the end of the Super Bowl and went to bed. Nothing crazy. Just a simple night.

Meredith always, she asks me what I wanted to do after my first win and we've got a little something planned for at home, but I think what's cool about winning is kind of getting to enjoy the moment. I don't need to do anything special like go have a huge party or anything like that. It's really just kind of enjoying the moment.

Q. What do you have planned?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: There's a really good meat market in town that I like and I'm going to go get a bunch of steaks and grill them for our friends and family and then just have a good time at our new house.

Q. Scottie, can you elaborate a little bit on when you said this course ticks you off? Is that in a good way that it kind of brings out a certain something in you and is it something you have to be aware of as you play it to not lose your patience kind of with your history here and knowing the golf course the way you do?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I think it's a place you have to be really patient around. When you try and force your way in some of these areas, you can get caught in a really bad spot really quickly. It's kind of refreshing because you can score really well on this golf course, you can get really hot and have a really good round, but you'll see the winning scores, the winning scores aren't absurd here, they're always kind of in the same little area and you have to be really patient. I think most people know that going into the golf course, going into this tournament, too. It takes a lot, you have to be really sharp around this place.

Q. Scottie, you obviously went to University of Texas. A lot of great golfers have come out of there Spieth, Frittelli. How does it feel competing against those guys on the Tour knowing that you went to the same school and how do you feel that UT prepared you for the Tour?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I think UT did a great job of preparing me to play out here. We played a great schedule when I was in college. We played on a lot of different grasses, a lot of different temperatures and conditions and on some pretty difficult golf courses so it really prepared us to be out here.

As far as UT goes out on Tour, I think it's great, we kind of have a little fraternity of guys out here that are all pretty good buds. It was definitely nice early in my career seeing those familiar faces, kind of guys that I knew and guys that I competed against before and kind of helped prove to the younger guys like myself coming up that we could do this as well.

Q. And what would you say your favorite memory from playing golf at UT would be?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I mean, I've got a lot of them but mostly probably just spending time with the team. We used to have a lot of fun just going out and playing UT Golf Club and just having games throughout the week, just practicing together. Professional golf's a bit more lonely than it is college golf. College golf you're always surrounded by some of your best friends. Professional golf, I go out to the course now and I'm grinding by myself. It's a lot different. I get a lot more done now than I did in college, but definitely miss those times practicing with the guys.

Q. So you went to the same high school as Matthew Stafford. Do you know him? Have you heard anything from him with y'all both winning?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: No. So Clayton Kershaw and Matt Stafford both went to my high school and I've never met either of them. I think Clayton and I have a charity deal I think next week at home so I'll probably meet him then, but I haven't met either of those guys. Yeah, it was great, a lot of people in Dallas were pretty happy, so definitely a great Sunday for most of us.

HALEY PETERSON: That's all the questions we have. As always, thanks for taking the time to join us and good luck this week.