

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
November 9, 2022



SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER

DOUG MILNE: We would like to welcome Scottie Scheffler to the interview room here at the Cadence Bank Houston Open.

Scottie, you're making your fourth start here in the event and coming off a T-2 last year on the strength of a 62 in the final round. Just some thoughts on being back here this week.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah, good to be back here in Houston. I love playing in the state of Texas and it's a golf course I like playing. It's a nice challenging golf course and looking forward to going out and playing it this week.

DOUG MILNE: Did I say final round or the second round?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Sixty-two was maybe the second round.

DOUG MILNE: OK. That leads me to this coming off a final round 62 last week, 9 under at Mayakoba, just a few comments on how you're kind of feeling about your game as you're heading into the week.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah, feeling good I hit the ball really nicely last week outside of a few tee shots that were a little errant and ended up in the mangroves, but I played solid golf last week. A few breaks go my way versus getting a few bad ones and I'm holing a few more putts and I may have been the one holding the trophy, but congrats to Russell, he played fantastic golf last week.

DOUG MILNE: And last one for me is you had a chance to see at least nine holes, just some thoughts on the condition of the course and how it kind of sets up for your game.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah, rough's healthy again this year. The greens are really, really good again. This tournament always seems to have fantastic greens. If you're hitting fairways, the golf course will open up for you a little bit, but if you're starting to struggle off the tee, it's going to be really hard to hit these greens. And then the surrounds are really tough to play out of, there's a lot of run-off areas and they're very challenging to play out of.

Q. You switched back to your old putter. How crazy is that balance to six months ago you're fresh off those four wins. How much changed you've had last year, what has that been like for you trying to get back to where you were or get back to where you really want to be?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah, think for me I'm always working and trying things. I've



always been a guy that makes little changes at a time, I don't really make huge changes and this is the kind of time of year where I'll test stuff out and see if it works and doesn't work. I switched putters at THE CJ CUP. I felt like I was putting OK, I was hitting a lot of good putts, the ball just wasn't going in the hole and it was more of the same at the beginning of the week last week. So after Friday's round I was like, well, let me see if it's me or it's the putter or whatever it is. I kind of went back to my old putter, something I'm comfortable with and I putted pretty good over the weekend, so using it again this week. Seemed like the little bit of an experiment failed.

Q. I'm guessing it probably wasn't changing technique or anything, just going back to the old one?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah, it's just something I'm used to. I think when you switch in a new piece of equipment, if it doesn't really work immediately, it's kind of a telltale sign that it is the equipment. And not that it's a bad putter or anything, it's just something that didn't really work for me.

Q. How much do you look back 12 months ago, your performance at Mayakoba in '21, a chance to win here, now 12 months later breaking through with all the victories in 2022, with maybe this stretch a year ago that maybe opened up the doors to what you've been able to do since?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah, I think for sure. I've never played very good in the fall. I don't know why that is. From the time I got to college and basically up until last year, I had always struggled in the fall. I don't know exactly why that was. I always kind of tried stuff, but in college, that was kind of the middle of our season. So it was weird for some reason, maybe it was because of football season, who knows, I've never played well. And last year was really the first time where I did and it was nice kind of going into the offseason feeling very comfortable where my game as at and I was able to just fine tune things instead of really feeling like I had to work on a ton of stuff. It was more like let's kind of get this thing rolling and going into the beginning of the year I just played really well.

Q. As I'm sure you will this week know that, okay, you've figured out October, November.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I'm getting there. Last week was definitely good. CJ obviously didn't play my best stuff, but last week was really solid golf and so it definitely gives me a good bit of confidence. And I'm working on a lot of the same stuff I was last year about this time and so hopefully it will continue to playoff.

Q. What do you think 12 months from now the fall might look like on the PGA TOUR and your plans for how it could appear in 2023?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah, who knows what I'll be doing next fall. I don't know if I'll be playing the same schedule or if I won't be playing at all or if I'll be playing more. For me it all



just kind of depends on how the years goes and how I'm feeling. This year particularly I felt pretty worn out as the year got done, and so able to take a little bit of time off. Obviously played Presidents Cup and this is my second start of the fall, but I really want doing a ton of the prep work that I would normally do and that's just because I was pretty worn down. It was definitely nice to kind of take a little mental break, do some other things and I'm definitely back to my full schedule of practice now, which is good.

Q. What did you learn about your game and yourself in that kind of that February to April streak this year? Ascending to No. 1 in the world, what did you learn about your game and yourself?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah, it was definitely nice to see those results. I had worked really hard to get to a point where I had opportunities to win events and it was definitely nice to capitalize on those. I think it was just kind of chance that I capitalized all at once, it seemed like there was a span of two months there I was just winning a bunch, which was definitely a lot of fun. But I had some really good stuff that I was working on in the offseason and going into last fall that really kind of just paid off and clicked, and I played some really good golf this year and it's definitely something I'm hoping to improve on going forward.

Q. What have you learned about your game and yourself kind of in the May to wherever, September, October span? You're still working, but it's not as many wins and everything.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah, yeah, I think winning out here is very difficult and I still gave myself some opportunities then. I was one shot back at the Open, the U.S. Open. I was close to competing at The Open Championship as well. I had that injury I talked about a bit earlier this year. Then I was close at Colonial. So I was still playing very good golf, it just so happened I wasn't able to capitalize as much. So for me, I'm still just trying to make those little incremental improvements and just try to get a little bit better at a time.

Q. Quick question about the big game this weekend with Texas-TCU, so I guess what's your predictions on the game?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Hoping Texas is going to get a win. Prediction, I hope they continue to play great in the first half and improve on their second half play and really take it to 'em. The teams, they've looked great this year. It's been a really fun season to be able to watch the squad. A few of the losses hurt, but we're building up leads, I think the team's just a little young and they're learning. It's definitely an exciting time to be a Texas football fan.

Q. Travis Vick has played the last couple weeks. With him being kind of a leader of that team, do you have an opportunity or has he kind of reached out at all since you guys have been close to each other these last two weeks just for advice for playing out here, since he's on a sponsor's exemption? Do you guys have any contact?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah, he hasn't reached out about advice or anything like that. I've



spoken to him a little bit just here and there. We played a practice round this year at the U.S. Open together.

Travis is not a super talkative guy. If he has a question, I'll answer it, but he likes to keep to himself, and whenever I can give him a little bit of wisdom. He learns a lot I think just by watching. I was kind of the same way in college. If I just got the opportunity to spend some time around guys like Jordan, I would just kind of sit and watch and I learned a lot by doing that. I think Travis is pretty similar. So I know he's learned a good amount out here just seeing how guys prepare for tournaments and what they do to perform their best.

Q. Scottie, great players use anything they can use to motivate themselves. Do you, having lost the world No. 1 to Rory, can you sense kind of an internal motivation to get yourself back there or does that matter to you?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Well, it definitely matters to me. I don't let a ranking define what I think of myself as a player. It was definitely fun being No. 1 in the world and it's something I hope to get back to, but all my motivation's always been internal. I'm a craze, crazy competitive person, so for me, I haven't really needed much outward focus to kind of get motivated to come out and play. If anything, I need to tone myself down a little bit and just let things go and kind of just go out and play.

As far as being motivated to do significant anything at home, it's all internal. I want to be the best and I want to try and win tournaments out here. That's what's fun. It's fun being in those moments, it's fun being able to compete for championships. I've dreamed of a long time to be out here on the PGA TOUR and it's definitely been a lot of fun to be able to compete out here.

DOUG MILNE: Scottie, thanks for your time, we appreciate it.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: All right. Appreciate it.

