

LECOM Suncoast Classic

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW

April 23, 2023



SCOTT GUTSCHEWSKI (-21, won 1st playoff hole)

Q. Just feelings right now? I know it's a very generic question, but just how are you feeling right now?

SCOTT GUTSCHEWSKI: And I'll try to come up with a generic answer. No, it feels great, it's awesome, fun, it was a blast. Just putted out of my mind. Missed a short one on 8 today and yesterday, today for par, but other than that like I pretty much just made everything. It was kind of silly but it was fun, it was a blast.

I've been working hard on my putting. Didn't keep my card last year and kind of looked at where I was at and where I needed to improve. I needed to improve on my putting.

And I got a trainer and I said I need to feel better, I'm getting old and I need to feel better on the weekend, so we've been working on that. And it's not like I'm a gym rat or anything like that, but I'm just doing some little things to help me feel better on the weekend. Don't make it to a lot of weekends, but when I do I need to feel a little better. And it's been working a little bit this year, I've been feeling a little bit better. That doesn't always show with the finishes, but it's something you can feel and something you can build on.

Q. What were your goals like coming into this year? As you're back from the PGA TOUR and close to that 48, 49 category, what were your goals?

SCOTT GUTSCHEWSKI: Well, I mean, I've done this before, I kind of have a history. Like last time I won in '08, Luke, my oldest, was, what, 5 or 6 and he told the ladies at daycare the story where we won't be back next year but we'll be back the year after that.

So I kind of have a history of going back and forth. I'm obviously a little more comfortable out here, but obviously the goals for the year are always to move up to the other tour. I guess just keep trying. It's kind of our nature to kind of keep beating your head against the wall and you hope the wall breaks first.

Q. What's been the toughest thing over the last -- you made it back in '21, but what's been the toughest thing through this kind of back-and-forth journey that you've had over the last six, seven years?

SCOTT GUTSCHEWSKI: Well, I had some injuries from like '13 or so to '17, I didn't play that much, and then I had another foot surgery at the end of '17 and didn't play '18.



The toughest part is just my kids are so busy now and there's so much -- it's so much fun to watch them that, you know, it's kind of like unless I'm out here doing really well, I'd rather be watching them.

So this is obviously fun, more fun if they're here, great that my in-laws are here, but it's just so much fun to watch them because it's something that I can kind of help them with a little bit. I don't have a lot of skills otherwise, but I can help them a little bit with golf.

But it's just being away from home is the toughest part of it. I love being out here, I love playing out here, I love playing golf, I love playing with my family, I love playing with friends. I mean, this tour just keeps getting better and better every year.

I was just talking to Logan on the playoff hole, I was watching my son at Big 12s last spring and he was playing. These college kids are so good. I watch them play all the time, they're so good now, hit it so far that it's just, it's been really fun to watch people come up and progress through their career.

Kevin, I mean, gosh, that kid's so talented, such a bright future. It's just fun to be around them and watch how they do their stuff. It's fun to watch them succeed, it's interesting to watch them when they don't and how they handle it. But it's just, it's fun. I guess I'm kind of maybe a closet people watcher and just kind of enjoy that.

Q. What kind of feelings like came back today down the stretch of the tournament and when was the last time that you felt kind of anything resembling that?

SCOTT GUTSCHEWSKI: Well, I was in the last group in Boise a couple years ago and it didn't quite go how I wanted it to obviously, but I still played OK. I had a really nice finish last year in Reno, I birdied the last three holes, which is really nice.

I kind of thought -- this is going way back, but I kind of thought back to my first win, I had a really nice up-and-down on the first hole and made birdie there from the junk. I made a nice putt for birdie on 1 and just had some really good feels with the putter. I've been working on that pretty hard and just trying to trust it. Just a couple little setup posture changes, then just kind of trying to trust it.

Q. That's going to be my next one, what do you remember about each of your first two wins?

SCOTT GUTSCHEWSKI: Oh, gosh, the first one was my birthday week in '03. Gosh, that was forever ago. It was out in Monterey. Beautiful, great golf course out there with the whatchamacallit course. I forget what they call it, the black course and the other one, Bayonet. Yeah, that was an awesome week, that was a lot of fun.

But I was there by myself, so I actually had celebrated that week with Zach and Kim Johnson after I won. We drove to San Jose and went out to dinner. That was a long time



ago, right?

The second one, gosh, it was super hot in North Carolina that week in Raleigh at Wakefield, which I don't think we're playing anymore. I kind of win and then they don't play there anymore. Super hot that week, had a really nice finish. I think I birdied three of the last four or something like that, really nice finish there. That's where Luke made his little comment. My wife and my three older kids were there, so that was a lot of fun.

And then this one, my in-laws are here. Hopefully they keep coming back here, hopefully they don't wipe this off the schedule.

Yeah, just fun. I'm getting more and more comfortable on bermuda. I always struggled with it growing up in the Midwest, but my in-laws moved to Naples about five years ago and I've been down there practicing in the winter and stuff and starting to figure it out a little bit for a Midwesterner.

Q. And what would you say the significance of this win is compared to the first two?

SCOTT GUTSCHEWSKI: Oh, I don't know, I don't know. They're so far apart, such a different place in my life, I don't know. That's something you'd probably have to ask me a week or two from now to really understand.

I'm kind of -- I'm at a weird age, right? It's like you want to keep playing, you maybe want to give the Champions Tour a shot, but at the same time it's like those guys are really good, too. It's not like you can go anywhere and it's just a bunch of pushovers. I really enjoy it, I enjoy playing, I feel like I can still be competitive and I guess that's just kind of why I haven't hung 'em up. If I told you I hadn't thought about it, that would be a bald-faced lie.

Q. Were you aware that today you outlast Jason Gore on the career money list for the Korn Ferry Tour?

SCOTT GUTSCHEWSKI: Oh, gosh, that's awesome, that's great. Jason's awesome, I love Jason.

Q. Has Luke and Trevor kind of kept a fire in you seeing their ascension in golf and their success? Has that kind of pushed you to like keep going?

SCOTT GUTSCHEWSKI: Yeah, absolutely. I kind of -- you know, I played with Trevor's high school team a couple times this spring and they're good. He's got good players on his team. He's got a senior going to play golf at UNO next year, he's got a junior who's already committed and my son's a sophomore and he wants to play college golf somewhere.

And they're good. Playing against Luke in the summer when we get a chance to play together, like I've got to play good to beat him. I do still -- I still am able to flex my dad powers at times. I think Trevor told his buddies when I was playing with him, he goes, he'll



kind of, he'll just kind of hang around and he'll kind of see where you're at with a few holes to go and then he'll start making putts. So that definitely popped into my mind today.

I kind of feel -- I don't feel like I am an old guy out here, but yeah, it's fun to be able to play against my kids. And my daughter plays too and she's good. Yeah, for sure, no dad ever wants their kids to beat them. I mean, I would love for my kids to beat me like a drum, but not when we're playing together.

