

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
February 13, 2024



ADAM SCOTT

MODERATOR: We'd to welcome Adam Scott to the interview room here at the Genesis Invitational.

Adam, you're making your 16th start, seven top-10s, past champion. What's it like to be back?

ADAM SCOTT: Well, it's always a highlight of my year playing here. I love this track and I love this event. I'm lucky enough to have won it twice and it's my favorite event I play on tour, so I'm so thankful to be a sponsor's invite this week and get the chance to have another go around Riviera at the Genesis.

MODERATOR: You're making your third start this season coming off a top-10 finish last week. Just some comments on the state of your game right now.

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, I played quite nicely last week, especially Sunday I played 30-something holes, I think. Played nicely and finished with a top-10. I generally like the way my game is feeling. It's been two interrupted weeks for me on Tour this year so it's been tough to get in a rhythm. Hopefully a good week this week and I can keep the good momentum with my golf game going.

Q. You've had such an incredible career, it's funny hearing you say you're here on a sponsor's exemption. When's the last time you had to rely on a sponsor's exemption before this year, and what's that conversation like?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, I can't remember exactly when the last sponsor's invite was. I mean, I probably have been invited to a tournament in Asia or something like that throughout the years, but on the Tour, it's been a while, that's for sure.

That was fine and I fully -- I'm of the view that these invitations are unrestricted to the sponsors and they can invite whoever they want and that's up to them. So I feel lucky that I've got one of them. If I didn't, then, you know, I didn't qualify. So that's how it goes. I don't expect to get invited to every tournament that I ask for either, but I am very happy to be here. Like I said, this is an event I look forward to very much. It's my favorite track of the year and hopefully make the most of it.

Q. If you had to distill it down to what makes it golf course so special, what would you say?

ADAM SCOTT: I don't think too many people would argue that it's a great designed golf



course, but there are other things to me. Obviously I've played nicely here, so I have good feelings about that. I have feelings like I'm in Australia when I play the 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th holes. The eucalyptus trees kind of smell like it does in Australia, the grass is similar, the weather can be similar as well, nice weather here in L.A. You know, I just have this certain level of comfort.

There's more than just purely a great golf course for me.

Q. Adam, in terms of the player equity system, I'm wondering to what extent are you aware of the details of it? And secondly, why you think player equity is important.

ADAM SCOTT: I'm aware of the details as much as it's been shared with the entire membership, which is fairly broad outline and still some things to be worked out. But I think it is a good thing for players on the PGA TOUR going forward that they are sharing in the success of the Tour and certainly aligning their interests with the PGA TOUR. And going forward, hopefully that is a great reward for players who spend their life out here playing.

Q. I guess do players communicating with you in the board position, do they view it as important? Does it feel like an important asset that you guys will be having in the future?

ADAM SCOTT: I think in time they'll understand. Like we just said, I mean, not all the details are there, so recently not being a player on the Board and sitting in a big group of members, when things like this happen, I think sometimes little notice is taken until it's all finalized.

So I hope once all the details are ironed out and the equity program is put into place guys will be very excited and obviously be pushing for good things to happen at the PGA TOUR.

Q. Less equity in this question: When you have a Sunday like you just did, 30 holes or so, it's something you're not used to, I'm sure, what part of your game starts to feel different in those extra 12 holes or so? Is there anything that kind of tires out quicker or a way that you need to refocus?

ADAM SCOTT: Only the body and the mind, you know. (Laughs.)

There's for sure no doubt -- I haven't been 100 percent health the last few weeks, so last week was a bit of a challenge because I played like 30 holes on Friday and 30 holes on Sunday.

There's no doubt like I was feeling my left hip felt a bit tired like going into the last nine. The fact of the matter is I'm not 25 anymore, but I'm still in pretty good shape. I'm not complaining about it, I made it and I played well, but there is the reality of some age things. Recovery is important as well. I don't practice quite as much as I did 10 years ago either, so it's all a bit of a balance. Fortunately, I was in good enough health to get through last week.



Hopefully, I've got some in the tank for this week, too.

Q. How much -- what is your -- how many peak years do you have left? Do you ever think about stuff like that or do you still feel 30? That was a joke.

ADAM SCOTT: I think I've got at least a couple in me, Doug. Staying healthy, I'm in good shape. Just comparing myself to some of the guys who are playing at the top of the game, if you're looking at numbers and things like this, which we do a lot now, I think I'm relevant. But at the end of the day it's about executing it and I obviously have to do a little better job to think I'm one of the best players in the world at the moment.

But I for sure think I've got a couple more years unless all of a sudden my numbers start tapering off quickly.

Q. Who has impressed you the most for longevity?

ADAM SCOTT: There are a few guys. Well, even Fred Couples today, I mean, he's still making it look pretty easy at 64 years old. I know he looks like he's going to make the cut at the Masters most years still, it's quite impressive.

I think there are a few guys out here. Matt Kuchar's out here still playing at a high level. We saw Charley Hoffman at 47 nearly winning the other day. So it's possible, but it's definitely getting harder for the guys in their mid 40s to stay competitive at the top week in and week out. But when you're a talented player and you're on the PGA TOUR, any given week I think you can still get it done, but it's harder to do it year round.

Q. I have one more that's so stupid I'm going to turn it over to Adam first.

Q. I'm not sure mine's any better. What made you want to be on the policy board at this stage in your career?

ADAM SCOTT: When I put myself up for -- to be elected as chairman of the PAC, which puts you on the policy board, that was back in January last year. At that time the Signature Events had kind of been put in place and I was quite interested to be involved in the evolution of the competitions at the PGA TOUR and how the Signature Events might evolve in the competition and the FedExCup. I felt like I had a perspective that I could share and be helpful at the Board level with how that goes.

Little did I know that I would get involved in some business deals and other things like that, but that was my motivation for going on the Board. I felt like I could be a positive contributor in that sense.

Q. Are you concerned that it could be detrimental to your own game with the time commitment and how much you're having to do?



ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, I think if it's on going like how it's been. I have to give a lot of credit to the players who have been on there. I've been only on a month, but I know the players who were on there the last six months, the last year have given a lot of time.

Yeah, I think we have to be aware that we have another job and to play high level golf, you need to put a lot into that. And that includes time for the brain to rest and recover as well. I think everyone involved at the PGA TOUR and including SSG are grateful to the guys who have put in so much time and are hoping that it won't require as much time going forward.

Q. Where do you fall on the cuts during these Signature Events?

ADAM SCOTT: I generally think they should all look the same if they can. I know that might be tricky with Pebble Beach because it's a pro-am so that's a slightly different one, but generally I think they should all have cuts or all not have cuts. That's how I would answer that.

I don't mind. I mean, I would pick probably what is the best decision for television sponsors, fans, that's what I would pick.

But I think it would be a better look for people following the Tour if it was more similar so it was easier to follow along with what's going on rather than different things every week.

Q. Adam, your last win, which was here, was only a few weeks before COVID. Obviously as disruptive as that was in general, was it particularly momentum-killing for you? Seemed like you were in a really good spot at that moment and maybe had more trouble than others kind of getting back. I just wonder if you ever reflect on that and how it might have impacted you?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, probably. Yeah. I think I was playing great at the time when I won and I think I was top-10 kind of in the world and trending in a good direction.

Yeah, COVID was tricky because I think not living in the United States through that period was quite tough. I spent a lot of time quarantining I think it was 16 or 18 weeks in the end through the COVID period, so that was probably detrimental. A lot of time wasted in a sense not being productive or anything. I think it has been -- I have found it tougher to get back. I'm not complaining, I mean every one faced difficulties, but I sit here and I feel good about my game today and hopefully I'm on the path back to some high-level golf.

MODERATOR: Appreciate the time, Adam. Good luck this week.

ADAM SCOTT: Thank you.

