

FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW
June 24, 2018



SCOTT McCARRON (-15)

CHRIS RICHARDS: Good afternoon, everyone. I am pleased to be joined by 2018 American Family Insurance Championship winner, Scott McCarron.

SCOTT McCARRON: Oh, that sounds good. Thanks, Chris. By the way, you didn't pick me but I'm still trying to help you.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Congratulations again, Scott.

SCOTT McCARRON: Thank you.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Did the math and in your seven wins, your final round scoring average is 66.

SCOTT McCARRON: Oh, that's pretty good.

CHRIS RICHARDS: That is pretty good. You shot 64 today. When you know that you have to go low in the final round, does that just fit your game?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, it's so funny. I play my best when I don't even know how low I'm going. Today when I finished, honestly, I did not know what I had shot. I just kept seeing Steve Stricker, Jerry Kelly, Colin Montgomerie, all these guys making a bunch of birdies and I knew I just had to keep making birdies. I wasn't even thinking about score, I was trying to think about birdieing the hole in front of me. When I do that, I usually play my best. I'm staying right in the moment and I certainly did that today very well.

CHRIS RICHARDS: We had a lot of fun watching the leaderboard all day. It was an incredible field. What does it mean to you to come out on top of a tournament with a field like this one?

SCOTT McCARRON: This is probably the strongest field we've had all year I would say. Everybody was here, and we had Freddie Couples back, which was great to have him back playing with us. Stricker, anytime he plays, he's a guy that's going to be contending. And then you've got Jerry Kelly, hometown hero, Colin Montgomerie, Miguel Angel Jimenez, everybody seemed to be here. All the top players were here, and to be able to come out on top on a great golf course, great facility, this golf course, really feels special.

Q. Scott, as popular as Jerry and Steve are around here, how much support did you feel coming down the stretch?

SCOTT McCARRON: Not much (laughs.) You know, it was really funny, I kept hearing the roars in front of me and I kind of knew who was making what, either Steve or Jerry. You know, when I got to 16, I hit a good shot on 16, had a chance to make eagle there, didn't make it.

And then 17 I hit a beautiful 6-iron just to about seven and a half, eight feet and I hardly got any claps at all up there. I'm like, okay, they're still rooting for Jerry because Jerry was still playing 18 with a chance to make birdie to tie me.

Then on 18 I hit a really nice drive there and we had 167 up the hill and I hit a beautiful 7 right there and I was posing and just saying, be right, be right, be right. I knew it was close when I only got two or three claps, I knew everybody was kind of upset.

But still it was fun. Jerry and Steve both are true champions and local favorites, and of course everybody's going to be rooting for them. It was kind of nice, my wife's from Waukesha, so even though I'm not from Wisconsin, my wife is from Wisconsin and her mom was out there this week, too, Linda Klein. So it was really nice to have some family here and hopefully next year maybe I'll get a little support everyone knowing that my wife's from Wisconsin.

Q. Scott, your distance off the tee, Steve and Jerry both said when they saw you creep up the leaderboard and knowing there was a par 5 left, they figured that you would at least get that one. How did that help you down the stretch, especially with that run of birdies there in the back nine, and did you feel confident that that would be -- that your strength would pay off in that situation?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, I like those holes. I didn't play those holes great this week, but I hit a great 3-wood on 14 actually and it was just ended up in the first cut and I had sand wedge like 105, perfect yardage for my 56 because it was in the first cut. It didn't spin, so I hit that to about two and a half feet, made it.

But the drive on 15 was one of the best I hit all week, 297 to the hole and I just absolutely flushed it and ended up about 15 feet just short of the hole for eagle.

When I'm driving the ball well, I can compete out here, but you need to make putts. Even though if you drive the ball, you've still got to make putts and this week I finally got the putter figured out last week after I had it broken with the airlines here a couple months ago. Really turned around the putting this week and I made a lot of putts, which is great.

Coming to 16 I knew it's a hole I can reach in two and I hit a beautiful drive there and just laced a 6-iron to about 20 feet just left of it. I felt pretty confident I could make birdies on those holes coming in.

Q. My question is, what was your mindset coming into the round, today's round?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, today's round, we had so many -- we had 20-something guys within three shots of the lead so I knew it was going to be a shootout. I knew if I was going to have a chance I was going to have to go low, but I also knew I was going to have to stay patient. I knew guys were going to go out and make some runs early.

You had Glen Day started off birdie-eagle, I think, to get to 10. I just knew that I had to stay patient, just try to birdie the holes I felt like I could make birdie on, take advantage of the holes that I felt I could get to, and then some of the holes that played a little tougher, play to the middle of the green and try to make a 25-, 30-footer and I did that very well today. So my mindset was to stay patient and take advantage of the holes I felt that I could make birdie on. Great question.

Q. Jerry spilled the beans on the little nine-hole match that you and your wife had?

SCOTT McCARRON: Yeah, yeah, yeah, I told him he can keep the five bucks now. We did.

Q. Was it like a little Nassau thing?

SCOTT McCARRON: We did. We had a little best ball. My wife, who's a good player, got six shots and we took on Jerry and his caddie, Eric. It was good. Jerry made five birdies. He birdied like the last three holes and we ended up losing 1 down, so they won five bucks off us so I was a little upset there. But it's his home course. C'mon, I can't beat Jerry on his home course, but I can beat him here at the tournament.

Q. So what does this do in the context of the fact that you haven't won yet this year but you won a lot last year, and I guess did you feel this one coming?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, it's interesting, at this point last year I had only one once, so pretty much on the same path as I was last year. I was able to win four times last year, I won a lot at the end of the year.

You know, I've been close. I've been hitting the ball really well all year long, driving the ball well, hitting a lot of good iron shots, but I've not been putting as well as I did last year. Last year my stats were second to Bernhard Langer and I think our stats were the best two that's ever been recorded for putting. You know, my putter broke, like I said earlier, when I was traveling with the airlines early on in the year and I struggled to find another putter that felt the same. It really wasn't until last week TaylorMade sent me a couple. I took a couple that I had at home, I had to cut them down and add lead tape. I actually had to buy a gram machine because I'm trying to get all the putters the same weight so I had to buy this actual machine that can weigh putters because nobody has the gram machine that will go up to 1500 grams or so. So I finally got it all dialed in last week and started putting really well at home and came out this week and made some putts, which was nice.

Q. Scott, after the birdie on 16, the last two holes aren't easy. Did you have to change a little bit your mindset from being aggressive, making birdies or --

SCOTT McCARRON: No, my mindset was to birdie 17 and 18. I felt Jerry would probably birdie 18, so when I stepped up to 17 I hit -- I don't know what the yardage was on 17, close to 200, I think it was close to 200 but we wanted to land it about 10 yards short, which is 190, which is a little downwind playing about 185 or so. So I just laced a 6-iron right at it, hardly left the flag. It was just about seven feet just right of it. I hit a good putt, I just didn't hit it hard enough. It kind of went back up a little swale there, it was right dead center. A little disappointed I didn't make that. It would have been nice to have -- at the time I still thought Jerry would birdie the last hole.

After I missed that, I saw that he parred it so I had a one-shot lead going into the last hole and hit a really nice drive on the right-hand side and I had 167 up the hill with the wind a little bit into me out of the left, which is a tough wind for me being a cutter, and I just laced a 7-iron. I mean, it was a beautiful shot. I was kind of saying, be right, be right, and landed and I think I got two or three claps and I knew at that point it was close because no one was rooting for me at that point.

Q. Scott, you've been here before. Did the golf course play any different this week? It took a while to get some into double figures but then they were able to yield a lot of birdies down the stretch, but overall how would you say University Ridge held up this week?

SCOTT McCARRON: It held up great. Unfortunately, we had a lot of rain early in the week so it made it a little bit soft, but the greens were really slow the first two years we were here. This year they were absolutely perfect. These are the best greens I think we've puttied on all year. They were perfect speed for how much slope they have on the greens. My hat's off to the superintendents, they did a phenomenal job getting this golf course ready for us.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Do we have anything else for Scott? All right, thank you very much and congratulations.

SCOTT McCARRON: Thank you very much, appreciate it.