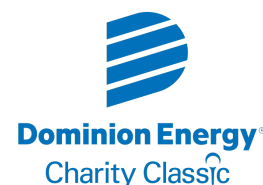


PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
October 18, 2018

SCOTT McCARRON



LAURA VESCOVI: Welcome, Scott, to the Dominion Energy Charity Classic, ranked No. 4 this week in the Charles Schwab Cup standings.

How does it feel to come back to a course that you've won on? It's three years in, so maybe not totally familiar yet, but getting to a good spot. How do you feel about the golf course here?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, I do, I like the golf course. Obviously won the first time we were here, last year I finished in the top-10. Langer played really well last year, couldn't quite catch him. But it's a golf course I like, sets up well for my game. I can reach the par 5s and there's a couple par 4s I can drive it up there close, so I think if you hit it straight and keep the ball in the fairway, it's a huge advantage to be long. But this rough this week is deeper than it's been over the last couple years, I think, so you've got to keep the ball in the fairway this week.

LAURA VESCOVI: So we've been talking with some of the other guys about the depth of this field. I think in past years it's been you and Langer everybody's chasing and now there's a lot of guys who are very competitive. So do you feel that way as well?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, certainly Langer and I got a pretty good lead on everybody last year. He had a million dollars more than I did and I had a million dollars more than the third guy, but this year it's bunched up. There's a lot of good guys, good players that can win week in and week out, so you're not able to separate yourself maybe as much as Langer was able to do last year.

Having said that, coming into this playoff system, we don't know how it's going to work yet. Double points, so there's a lot of guys -- you know, there are guys that could be in the 30s that could go win three events and would win this thing. Anybody still has a shot at it, which is pretty cool.

Q. Scott, the players as a whole have kind of all raved about this. You mentioned you like the golf course, but the event as a whole, are you one of those guys that likes it here, enjoys it? Just some of your thoughts on this event as a whole.

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, I do. This is a great golf course, phenomenal country club. The members have been just fantastic. They've really opened arms when we come here. The food's fantastic, there's great dining around here in Richmond. So they really come out and support it. The first year that we played here we weren't sure what to expect and it exceeded all our expectations. They put on one of the best tournaments that we played all

year just for their first event, so it just keeps getting better and better.

Q. What makes this course unique to you, Scott?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, one, I think you've got to work the ball both ways off the tee. You can't just hit straight shots all day long. There's a lot of holes that go left to right, there's some holes that go right to left. There's some holes that you can really take advantage of, especially on the back side, which is an interesting mix of holes. You've got a dogleg right on 13 that you can drive. Not a lot of guys do, but I always try to hit driver and go for it. And then two holes later on 15 is a dogleg left par 4 that I'm also trying to drive. Even though you're coming here, you can't just hit one type of shot, you've got to be able to work the ball both ways, so that's what makes it unique.

Q. Is there any part of your game or your career at this point that you feel better about than you might have when you were on the PGA TOUR?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, I think the biggest thing that I found, I'm more patient now than I might have been on the PGA TOUR. I always felt on the PGA TOUR I had to play my absolute best to win out there.

When I come out here, I have to play well, but I don't have to play my absolute best. I have to kind of stay even keel, in the hunt, be very, very patient. Then if you make a couple birdies coming down the stretch, you might have a chance. So I think I'm a lot more patient than I was when I played my career on the PGA TOUR. I wish I would have been more patient over those years on the PGA TOUR and it probably would have helped quite a bit.

Q. Because you've matured?

SCOTT McCARRON: I don't think I've matured, especially if you ask my wife. (Laughs.) I would say what helped me is when I was 48 and I was injured and I was only playing about 10 or 12 events on the regular tour, I took a job with Golf Channel to do some on-course commentating, then I worked for Fox doing the USGA package, so I was watching guys who were winning tournaments. I was watching the best players in the world winning tournaments and noticed that none of them were really pushing at it too hard, they were staying very patient. When they made a bogey they didn't get too upset, when they made birdies they didn't get too up. I think that helped me watching the best players in the world win championships and I was able to carry that over when I turned 50 when I got out here on the PGA TOUR Champions.

Q. You've been successful with the long putter even after the ban. Have you done anything --

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, they didn't ban the long putter.

Q. They didn't ban the long putter, but they banned the anchoring. So you had to go

through a lot of work to figure out how to hold it and all that?

SCOTT McCARRON: I did, yeah.

Q. Langer said he did a lot of hard work. Can you kind of --

SCOTT McCARRON: Yeah, you know, when the anchor ban went into effect, actually before it did, I started practicing with it not anchored and I felt like this was something I could still do.

I actually showed Langer. I was working for Fox at the U.S. Senior Open, Del Paso in Sacramento. Went out in one of the practice rounds just to talk a little bit and talked to him about the upcoming ban. I asked him if he had putted not anchored yet and at that point he hadn't, he wasn't sure what he was going to do. So I grabbed his putter and I said, listen, you can do it. He made a few putts and he looked at me and he goes, I can do that.

But having said that, yes, we could do it, but it took a lot practice to get good with it. Anybody can putt with a long putter not anchored, but it takes a lot of practice to be able to putt really well at it. Langer and I both putted with the long putter and used the same motion, myself since 1991. I think I'm the longest professional golfer that's been doing it continuously.

So it's not something that someone can just pick up and easily start putting better, you've got to work at it just like anything. It took me quite a long time to get where I could putt with it pretty well and then I started getting a little bit better and then last year I putted really well, probably some of my best putting stats that I've ever had. Same with Langer, his putting stats were better than anybody's ever had, I guess.

So it takes a lot of work, but it's something I still love to do and I'm trying to help as many people as I can to get over that. Yes, the anchoring is banned, but you can still putt with a long putter.

Q. Do you think because you are now more patient, you know, look at Webb Simpson and Keegan Bradley, they struggled until this year they finally got comfortable with what they were doing.

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, it takes time. Just like anything that you do, it takes time. They always say it takes 10,000 hours until you can finally start feeling comfortable with something when you make a change. It takes a long time. It's not something that you just pick up and all of a sudden start putting better with. Especially playing in competition like this under pressure, it takes time. Certainly for me it took a while to where I was able to feel comfortable and feel I could putt and compete on the PGA TOUR Champions.

Q. Any regrets to giving Langer a little more confidence in that?

SCOTT McCARRON: Yeah, he would have figured it out eventually. No, he's been a tremendous friend over the years and it's been so much fun. I get to play a lot with him out here now and just to watch him, watch what he does, how he prepares for a tournament, how he works out, how he eats right. I mean, he does the whole package. It's very impressive and he's certainly driven me to be a better player.

Q. You got married during a Tour event a couple years ago, correct?

SCOTT McCARRON: Yes, yes, I did.

Q. Is this about the only tour that you could do something like that? Everything else seems to be so --

SCOTT McCARRON: No, you can get married anytime. We did it in 24 hours.

Q. I can't see Jordan Spieth getting married during a PGA TOUR event.

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, we got married at the Bass Pro Shops. We literally decided to do it on Friday at about 5:00 and we got married Saturday at 7:00, so we're going to write a book on how to get married in 24 hours.

Q. But there's a relaxed atmosphere, or maybe it's very competitive on the course but it seems like after you guys are more relaxed about everything?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, I think we're more relaxed just because we're older. Being on the PGA TOUR, it's so cutthroat every year trying to keep your job, trying to be in the top 30. There's so many things you're working towards, you never really feel like you get to relax much when it's in the season.

Out here on the PGA TOUR Champions, it's still just as competitive I feel, but we're not out here trying to light the world on fire. We've either already done that or it's passed us by, so it's a little more relaxed after we get off the golf course definitely.

Q. But it's still not a bad job to have?

SCOTT McCARRON: It's a great job to have and I feel very fortunate at 53 now I get to still play the sport I love for a living.

Q. You're a young guy.

SCOTT McCARRON: I'm a young guy, that's right.

LAURA VESCOVI: Thank you for joining us today. Good luck this week.

SCOTT McCARRON: Thank you, guys. Appreciate it.