

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
June 20, 2019



SCOTT McCARRON

JACKIE SERVAIS: Please welcome defending champion Scott McCarron to the media center.

Scott, you are joining us off yet another win. Can you talk about how you're so hot right now? This has been an incredible season for you so far.

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, it's been a good year so far. I put myself in position to win four, five tournaments. Been able to come through on three of them. I kind of let a couple get away, I felt, but again, for us it's just getting yourself in position with nine holes to play as much as you can. Sometimes you're going to play well and win, sometimes you're not going to play well and you'll lose, or someone else will play better than you.

Coming out here and playing and competing, it's so much fun. I have to pinch myself at 53 I keep getting to play golf, the thing I love, for a living. It's pretty special.

JACKIE SERVAIS: This will be the seventh time that you're attempting to defend a title. You've done it once at Shaw before, but what would it mean to do it here?

SCOTT McCARRON: It would mean a lot because this tournament arguably has one of the best fields of the year. Stricker gets pretty much everybody to come and it's a great golf course. We get great crowds that come out here. American Family has done a tremendous job with sponsorship. Steve and Nicki and the tournament raised almost \$2 million last year, which is pretty special. For us to come here and be able to compete, it's phenomenal.

Trying to defend would mean a lot. When guys look at tournaments on a schedule, this is one they're going to come to and this is one you want to win.

JACKIE SERVAIS: Scott, I think I read somewhere where you said you thought you might have underachieved a little bit on the regular tour. What you're doing now, does that make up for it.

SCOTT McCARRON: No, I'm still underachieving. I've just got loftier goals now.

You know, again, I look back at my career. It was a good career. It got cut short a little bit through some injuries and other stuff, so I felt after I won my second year on tour in '96 and then again in '97, I thought yeah, if I could keep winning every year, this is going to be great. Then I didn't win until 2001 and then I didn't win again just because of injuries got in the way.

One of those things. Life throws at you a lot of things and I wasn't able to accomplish some

of the goals that I wanted to accomplish on the regular tour, but I kind of get a do-over here at 50.

This Champions Tour for me is kind of like a whole new lease on life. I'm really enjoying it, and to say that -- you know, Jack Nicklaus pulled me aside a couple years ago and said -- right after I had won Allianz. He said, "I want you to know I have one regret and I wish I would have played more on the PGA TOUR Champions. I loved playing out there, it was so much fun because once it's over, it's over."

I kind of took that to heart and I've played just about every event the last couple years because I'm enjoying it, I'm having fun, and I do know that there is an end in sight.

Q. Scott, when you win at a place and you come back to that place, does that give you a special confidence the next year?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, certainly anytime you've played well at a tournament and won, coming back the next year you've got good feelings. You start to remember some of the birdies you made, some of the holes you played well at coming down the stretch, hitting the shots that you needed to hit to win the tournament, so you have more confidence coming back. It doesn't mean you're going to play well, but you certainly have good feelings coming back here.

I always kind of stay at the same place, I eat at the same restaurants. We kind of do the same thing to see if it will work again, because if it doesn't, then we'll switch and move somewhere else.

Q. I added up for Stricker and Jerry Kelly, they played in Wisconsin 41 times between the GMO, AmFam and the major championships, and never won. Why is it so hard to point to a tournament on a certain week and win that tournament?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, I think it's also very hard anytime you are playing in your hometown. There's a lot more distractions going on for Steve Stricker this week because he is the host. There's even a lot more distractions going on for Jerry Kelly because he lives here, so you have a lot of friends and family.

But having said that, both those guys have played well here and they've done a very good job managing their time, and I think that's one of the things we learn the older we get, how to manage our time, how to manage the distractions in order for us to go ahead and compete at the highest level. I'm surprised that neither one of them won in Wisconsin, but again, they both play well seems like every week. I think they'll be okay.

JACKIE SERVAIS: Other questions? Okay, great. Thank you, Scott.

SCOTT McCARRON: Thank you very much.