

SCOTT PAREL (-5)

Q. What a way to finish.

SCOTT PAREL: Yeah. Making a long putt, that's always nice.

Q. How long do you think that was?

SCOTT PAREL: I don't know, 30 feet maybe, something like that, yeah. It makes up -- I had quite few short ones on the front nine that I didn't make, so I guess it all evens out.

Q. With the field giving back today, what do you think allowed you to score so well today?

SCOTT PAREL: I don't know. I thought it was pretty soft. The greens I felt were a little softer than what I thought they would be, so I was kind of surprised. I thought scoring behind me would be pretty good, so I don't know what happened. But this golf course, it will get your attention. You start hitting some wayward tee shots and you can get in some bad spots out here.

Q. You were shooting for the lead. That's quite a putt to make at that point.

SCOTT PAREL: Well, it's only Saturday. It would be great if that happened tomorrow, but today is only Saturday, so the lead means nothing today.

Q. What are your thoughts going into tomorrow?

SCOTT PAREL: Yeah, I mean, it's going to be -- you know, it just depends on the course conditions. You know, if the greens get firm like they can get and, you know, if we have some gusty winds again. I thought today the wind was a little difficult to judge. You know, they were supposed to be southwest and west southwest. I swear, sometimes it felt like it was north. It was really swirling. I know with the big trees that makes it difficult. So, I mean, you really have to have a good idea of what the wind's doing out here because you don't want to put yourself in a bad spot.

Q. You have such an unusual story about being an engineer until you were 35. What swung the thing finally in the golf direction?

SCOTT PAREL: Oh, I don't know. My wife eventually pushed me into it. I complained about working in a cubical so long, she finally told me to get out and give this a shot.

Q. Where were you working at that point?

SCOTT PAREL: I was working for a company called Powerserve in Augusta where I live now. Just a company owned by some friends of mine.

Q. Does living in Augusta have anything to do with your love of golf?

SCOTT PAREL: Oh, for sure, 100 percent, yeah. I was very -- well, very. I was an athlete growing up. I like to play all sports, but when you grow up in Augusta, it's hard not to get interested in golf.

Q. (No microphone.)

SCOTT PAREL: I was born in Michigan, yeah, but I've lived in Augusta since I was 7.

Q. Do you go to the tournament every year when you were little or you couldn't afford tickets?

SCOTT PAREL: No. I didn't start going until I actually worked there, on the scoreboard, in high school. When I was in high school, they let the local kids, because we were all on spring break, they let us work in the tournament. Now it's adults that take vacations for the week, so I was fortunate to get to do that when I was young. Since I've turned pro, I get to go because I'm a PGA of America guy, but I don't have tickets, so that's how I get to go.

Q. You've won twice last season and you've been knocking on the door this season. Do you match that experience with "it's about darn time, I'm due"?

SCOTT PAREL: You know, this game is funny. I mean, I do feel like I'm due, I've been playing well, but that doesn't always translate into winning. I've played well out here a few times and not won. So we'll just see. I'll just try to play like I did today, you know, and if it's good enough, it's good enough. If it's not, this is still just a dream for me to be playing out here, so I would love to win, but...

Q. Size apparently doesn't matter to you as far as hitting the ball?

SCOTT PAREL: No. It's a good thing -- yeah, in golf that's a good thing, right? It doesn't really matter, your stature doesn't have a whole lot to do with it.

Q. Scott, how about a major championship this week, does that add any --

SCOTT PAREL: Well, I mean, it's definitely incentive. I mean, any tournament win would be great, but winning a major, yeah, especially with the field that we've got here. Guys like Retief and Steve, who are, you know, a Hall of Famer and multiple winners. Yeah, I mean, anytime you beat those guys, no matter major or not, but it would be special to win a major. And that was one of my goals this year was to, you know, contend in majors and try to have

a chance to win, so that's what I'm doing right now.

Q. Do you think at all about THE PLAYERS Championship, an opportunity to play that?

SCOTT PAREL: Not until you just said that. Yeah, that would be great. I mean, I'm not going to look ahead. Obviously tomorrow, 18 holes, anything can happen. But if I were to win, that would be really cool to get a chance to do that. And I've played in the U.S. Am there in '94 when Tiger won, so I kind of like that place. I made it to match play, I lost in the round of 32. I know it's a different course, but that would be neat.

Q. Who did you lose to?

SCOTT PAREL: I lost to Buddy Alexander, who then, if I had won, I would have played Tiger. So Buddy and I played in the morning and then he played Tiger in the afternoon and lost to him. That would have been a neat story to say that I had played Tiger.

Q. Did you play other sports in high school?

SCOTT PAREL: I did, yes. Golf was probably my third favorite. I loved football. I was pretty good at it, but obviously with my size I was never going to do anything. I was a pretty good baseball player and I liked golf as well. When I was 16, I would rather probably play baseball than play golf.

Q. What was your position?

SCOTT PAREL: I played shortstop.

Q. Okay. And what did you do in football?

SCOTT PAREL: Wide receiver, yeah. Returned kicks. I didn't like to hit people. I didn't like to get hit, either, so I would step out of bounds pretty often.

Q. So how many years were you in the engineering job?

SCOTT PAREL: For 10 years I was writing software, yeah. So right out of school. I graduated in December '86 and January '87 I started right with a software company and worked all the way up until probably August of '97. So yeah, 10 and a half years.

Q. Like being outside?

SCOTT PAREL: That's what I told everybody. A bad day out here is better than a good day in an office.