

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
November 10, 2019



JEFF MAGGERT (-21, won 3rd playoff hole)

LAURA VESCOVI: Jeff Maggert, our Charles Schwab Cup Championship winner, what a fight, wire to wire. Talk us through 18, your finishing hole, and then leading into the playoff.

JEFF MAGGERT: Well, all day I said 22 under in my brain. I wasn't thinking about the leaderboard. I very rarely looked at the leaderboard. I just felt like 22 under, man, you get to 22 under, I think you've got it.

I was one short. I was on 18 and I wasn't sure if Retief two putted for birdie or if he two-putted for par, to be honest with you. I didn't know until I was actually on the green and I had that putt. And I hadn't been making many putts today and I said I've got to make this putt just to get in a playoff, so I made that.

I know Retief has the advantage on 18 because he's a long hitter. He hit his first drive was a little bit in the rough, but I knew I was probably going to be chipping and trying to get up and down for birdies.

I thought actually he would get the second playoff hole, I thought he was going to get that on the green. He must have misclubbed a little bit or mis-hit it. I hit a really good chip shot. I had the perfect lie to hit that chip that I was trying to play. It took one little skip and stopped right next to the hole.

Then Retief drove it in the bunker and I'm thinking, all right, this is a chance here. If I can make birdie, he might be struggling to make par. He hit an unbelievable shot out of that bunker three feet away. I was just trying to get my wedge somewhere on the green inside 10 feet at least to have a putt to make birdie because it looked like he had kind of a tap-in up there.

You know, I can't explain it. It was a good shot. It came off the club exactly kind of the way I was looking to hit it. It wasn't a full wedge, it was about a 90 percent shot and the trajectory was just going straight at the pin. I knew it had enough distance to clear the front of the green and it just -- I haven't seen the replay. Looked like it hit pretty close to the hole and kind of spun, had a little kick in to the side.

Anyway, **I didn't even know about the points. I was in the cart going back to the playoff and Miller Brady, our president, I said, "Well, who won the Schwab Cup," and he looks at me like I was nuts. He says, "Well, it's not over yet."**

I mean, not the tournament, like who won the thing, did Scott or who won it? And he goes, "Well, Retief might win it if he wins." I was like, I was shocked. I didn't even know that

Relief was even in the picture at this point.

Then I was thinking, oh, my gosh, he's going to be trying really hard. I better -- so anyway, I wanted to win the tournament and I was just focused on that. Two birdies on the first two playoff holes and really I was thinking if I could get through those first two, because I knew we were playing 18 twice, because he's a big hitter, if I could get to 17, maybe the advantage would be a little bit more in my favor.

Then he drives it in the bunker and I'm thinking, okay, this is good, I'm in the middle of the fairway. Then he just hits a great shot out of the fairway bunker so close to the hole, and I'm like, oh, here we go again, you'd better hit a good one.

Q. On the first playoff hole, were you surprised he missed the three-footer?

JEFF MAGGERT: Yes and no, because his putt was on the exact same line almost as mine and I thought my putt was going to pour right into the middle of the cup when it was about two feet from the hole, but it just, it stayed dead straight.

I thought he was -- he probably, that kind of showed him the line a little bit, but I don't know if he pulled the putt or not, but the putt had no break in it. It looked like either he was thinking it was going to move a little right or he just pulled it. I was very, very surprised.

Q. Just curious, it seemingly happened hours ago, but 15th hole, the shot you pulled left of the green and the next one, what's going through your mind?

JEFF MAGGERT: You know, at that point I'm just thinking you've got to save pars and make putts. I hit a lot of good iron shots today. It seemed like 10 to 15 feet was just so tough to make putts today for me. I finally made a nice long putt on the par 3 13th and that was my only bad iron shot all day was on 15. I pulled it a little bit. It was kind of a tricky little pin there, I was just trying to hit it in the middle of the green. I pulled it and had kind of a bad lie in the rough and it rolled in the fringe on the other side of the hole. It was just a straight uphill putt out of the fringe, but it's still 15, 18 feet. I'm thinking, you know, you've got to make these putts, you've got to make these putts. That one went in.

Then the next hole I hit it close on 16, missed another eight, 10-footer there. It was a struggle trying to get a little bit of a cushion on the leaderboard. I just never could get it all day long.

Q. On the hole-out on 17, what was the yardage and the club?

JEFF MAGGERT: 124 yards, a pitching wedge. Normally in the afternoon here when it gets warm, the ball carries really far. I had been hitting my gap wedge that yardage almost all week. It was about -- to be honest, if I would have been two yards closer, I probably would have hit the gap wedge, but it was late in the day and the sun was going down and the ball doesn't carry as much late in the evening. I says, all right, let's just hit the little

wedge here just about a three-quarter, 90 percent wedge, and the rest is history.

Q. It's been a little bit of a drought since you made it to the winner's circle, so it must feel especially good to end it this way?

JEFF MAGGERT: Well, four years without winning out here is like 20 years on the regular tour because you don't have a long time out here on this tour. I had a good start on this tour, I won my first event that I played in and I kind of played half the year that year. Then in 2015 I played really, really well and won four times. Had a chance, like Scott did, can to win the whole Schwab Cup and didn't play well in the finals. This was before we had the Playoffs.

Then I don't know why I haven't won in four years. I mean, sometimes you think it's going to get -- it's just easy. I think maybe I started out so well that I just thought it was going to keep continuing. Like Scott said, the players on this tour, I find that they're no different than they were 20 years ago. They're such good players, they hit the ball well, they do all aspects of the game very well.

The only difference is these young guys in their 20s just hit the ball so far. Unfortunately, at 55, that's what I dream about at night. I dream about 350-yard drives because I just -- it just amazes me to watch these guys. But other than that, the guys on this tour just play fantastic golf week in and week out. It's tough to win out here.

Q. So I'm guessing you're glad you didn't run over your clubs a couple weeks ago?

JEFF MAGGERT: It is. You know, you get in stretches out here and it's so frustrating. You're on the road all the time. My twins are in high school this year, so it's hard for them to get out and they've got their activities going on. It can be a very lonely experience out here, especially when you're not playing well.

Multiple times over the past couple months I told Michelle, I said, "Look, this is just enough, let me just take a few weeks off." She was just like, "No, no, no, you've got to stick to it." I says, "All right. Well, you have to make sure you're going to come to at least one tournament at the end of the year," because she's been so busy with the kids, the last tournament they were at was Hawaii, our first tournament back in January. Literally, she had not been to a tournament all year. I says, "All right, I'm going to keep playing, but you've got to come to a tournament." She said, "All right, I'm going to come to the final tournament." I says, "All right, you're here, you're going to be the good luck charm this week," and it was great.

Q. On an NFL Sunday, a shot like that's going to get some attention, but what does it mean? Like the question I asked Scott, bigger picture, you hole out for this tour, I mean that's a pretty big moment.

JEFF MAGGERT: Well, in reality, this tour's amazing. If you look at the names that are

playing, that are still playing and wanting to play and compete, it's a pretty impressive list of names.

If you took the field this week or really any tournament on our tour and you turned back the clock 20 years, you'd be like, wow, we've got like 30 of the best players in the world playing in this tournament. That's really almost what it is week in and week out. We're just not 25 anymore, we're 55. But the golf is fantastic. I hope guys that are getting close to this tour, I know Phil Mickelson's close, he wants to be -- we all want to be competitive when we're in our late 40s, but I hope he tries to come out and experience what we have. I think he'll enjoy it.

LAURA VESCOVI: Well, congratulations, Jeff. I know you've got a flight to catch, so I guess we'll see you in Hualalai and we'll do this all over again next year.

JEFF MAGGERT: Sounds good, you got it. Thanks, guys.