

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW**  
**March 8, 2019**



**SCOTT McCARRON (-7)**

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**Q. Conditions like this today, that's a great score.**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Yeah, that was tough. You know, we were lucky that 20 to 30 gusting to 40 yesterday when they were calling for that, it didn't really get up that high. But it was still a good, steady 20, 25, which was difficult today because when it's coming kind of out of the west and southwest and northwest, it's bouncing around a little bit, so it was changing. And every hole plays crosswind just the way this golf course is set up, and with this wind, it's tough. You've got to really change your start lines off the tee and be able to control the trajectory of the golf ball. I did that very well today.

**Q. Did 15 and 18 play a little more difficult because of the wind than normal? You reached 18.**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** I reached, and 15 I had 4-iron in. I just hit it in the bunker there. But again, that's a hole you've got to start the ball on the right side of the fairway, and then when you're trying to hit the green, you've got to start it on the right side of the green. The wind is affecting it pretty good. That was a tough hole location today on 15. I hit a nice bunker shot to make birdie.

Then you go to the next hole, 16, it's completely opposite, you know, left to right, howling. I'm happy with the way I finished today.

**Q. You and Quinn are up there, but a lot of other scores aren't.**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** It was tough. Fran's obviously playing a good round of golf right now, see if he can finish it off. But, you know, if you can shoot anywhere 2, 3, 4 under today with today's conditions, that's a good score.

**Q. Do you feel you have some unfinished business from a year ago?**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** I don't know if it's unfinished business, but I felt like I certainly had a chance to win last year. Bogey at 17 cost me, but I played well. And this is a golf course that I enjoy playing, so hopefully we can get in the hunt come late Sunday.

**Q. Do you feel like your game's kind of really starting to come together here?**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** My game's feeling pretty good. It's got off to a little bit of a slow start just because where I live in North Carolina, we haven't had very good weather. It hasn't been very good weather around the country. I'm starting to play some good golf. I had my

coach in, E.A. Tischler, last week in Tucson for a couple days just to tighten some things up and I'm feeling pretty good with the way I'm swinging right now.

**Q. How much of that three-hole run, from 6 to 8 (inaudible)?**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Got me 3 under par, yeah, it was good. You know, the birdie on 8 was good. That's like getting a shot and a half on the field today. That hole plays -- God, it had to be playing over par today. So to birdie 8, that was big. A lot of guys are birdieing 7. And 6 was a nice birdie, too. Again, you've just got to be able to control the golf ball and fortunately I was able to do that today real well.

**Q. When you see what O'Meara did last week, and it seems like the age of this Tour seems to get bigger and bigger and --**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Older and older, you mean? I like that, "bigger."

**Q. I mean the pool of guys that was all of a sudden, it's seemingly growing. How do you explain what he did? How do you explain we're at 59 point something, 25, is the average age --**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Yeah. Well, when you've got Langer winning and O'Meara winning, that will raise the age anytime that happens.

So I got to play with Mark on Sunday last week and he played as good as I think I've ever seen him play, and I played with him Saturday when he won the Masters at Augusta. He played better that day than he did that day Saturday. I mean, he just played flawless golf. It's just great to see that the golf ball does not know how old you are.

For us, if we can stay in shape and stay injury free, we can still play some pretty good golf. Langer's certainly proven that and Mark proved that last week.

**Q. Do you ever look at, you know, your longevity out here? For a while there it was like 52 to 54 was kind of the golden age of this tour.**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Langer has blown that out of the water. You know, I think he's motivated me, for sure, and I think he's motivated a lot of other guys to stay in shape, to practice, to work hard, to eat right, to know that you can have a long career out here.

When I got out on the Champions Tour, everybody was telling me you've got four or five years to go make your hay. Well, Langer has totally disproven that, and I feel like if I can stay in shape, I hit it pretty long, that I can have a long career out here just like Langer.

**Q. A year ago, did your win in Madison jumpstart your year? And how tough is it to kind of get where you want to be? Talk about slow out of the gates this year because of the weather back home, but for you, what does it take to get going?**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Yeah, you know, the only thing slow out of the gates, Hawaii finished 18th, then I finished fifth the next week. I didn't play well in Florida, but it wasn't a golf course that suited me, but then I finished second. So even though it's slow, it's still pretty good.

**Q. It is, yeah.**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** But I just feel like I haven't been able to practice and work at it like I would like to.

**Q. But you feel -- I mean, you can see --**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** I feel like I've won eight times out here the last two and a half years or so. Certainly, the win at Madison was big. It's probably one of our strongest fields of the year. Steve Stricker and Nicki do a great job at that tournament, AmFam. Anytime you win it just propels you to think you can keep doing it. I've been fortunate to put myself in position, but I also put myself in position coming down the stretch last year and didn't get the job done, which cost me winning the Schwab Cup. So I'm still trying to do whatever I can to win that Schwab Cup.