

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
May 31, 2019



SCOTT PAREL (-9)

Q. Scott, I remember talking to you last year after the second round. You were so fired up the next day, your game was in a great place and you couldn't wait to get out there and play again, and you never got the chance.

SCOTT PAREL: Yeah, yeah.

Q. So maybe this place owes you one, huh?

SCOTT PAREL: I don't know about that. I mean, you never know what's going to happen the last day, but I would have liked to have the chance. Obviously I like the golf course, so yeah, I'm looking forward to two more days.

Q. Pretty good way to finish a round, you were on fire there, going for, what, five in a row there? That was great.

SCOTT PAREL: I don't know, it just kind of runs together. I don't know. I'm just trying to get the ball in the fairway and give myself a chance on the greens.

Q. How much did lift, clean and place help today? I mean, it usually does, but was it especially helpful for any reason out there today?

SCOTT PAREL: I mean, there was quite a few balls that were absolutely covered in mud, but, you know, for as much rain as they've had, it's really remarkable as dry as it really is, honestly.

It always helps to have the ball in your hand, though. Just like on that shot right there when I'm in the fairway up against that collar, normally I'm having to take a wedge and blade it. You don't have near as much confidence as being able to move it over and get a putter on it.

Q. What were some of your strengths today? What was working well for you?

SCOTT PAREL: Putted great today, I really did. I think I only had one putt that I probably, you know, think I should have made that I didn't make. I made just about everything I'm supposed to.

Q. Did you have to do much distance recalibrations based on how -- I mean, it's been pretty firm most years that it's been here. How much of a difference was that?

SCOTT PAREL: It was tough. I hadn't seen the front nine at all this week, so there's a few

tricky shots out there, especially like the tee shot on 6. Normally you can play that hole all kinds of different ways. We felt like, it being as soft as it was, you could hit driver. I would never hit driver when it's dry. It turned out to be right. We didn't run all the way through down there on the right. Yeah, you had to do a little bit of different lines maybe off the tee with it being so soft.

Q. Going into tomorrow with the lead, how does that change your approach or mentality?

SCOTT PAREL: No, I mean, it's one day. You can't win the golf tournament after one day. So you've got to keep trying to get the ball into the fairway, and hopefully my putter will stay hot.

Q. You've played at a very high level for the last couple years. The confidence level you play with, you must be in a pretty good place right now?

SCOTT PAREL: I am, yeah. I mean, I'm very comfortable out here, as comfortable as you can get in golf in general, but I like where my game's at. I'm comfortable, I know most of the golf courses now so I feel like I know how to play most of the places we go. It helps when you're hitting the ball in the fairway and you're putting well, everybody's confident like that.

Q. You didn't make a name for yourself on the PGA TOUR, so in a way you're out here and some people may not have heard of you. Does that bother you?

SCOTT PAREL: No.

Q. Your track record on the tour shows --

SCOTT PAREL: Not at all. This tour is called the PGA TOUR Champions for a reason. I mean, most of the guys on this tour were champions on the PGA TOUR. I'm just fortunate enough that they allow a few guys, you know, that show that they can play when they're over 50 to be able to play with these guys. I've got no problem with nobody knowing who I am. You know, as long as I play good golf and, you know, that's all I care about.

Q. That check still cashes, right?

SCOTT PAREL: That's right.

Q. Next couple of days, I mean, is it too much guesswork to think of how much anything might run out here at all? Does that enter your brain at all, or do you have to kind of just --

SCOTT PAREL: You mean the fairways and everything?

Q. Uh-uh.

SCOTT PAREL: No, I don't see it changing a whole lot. It's so wet that I can see it maybe firming up a little bit, but I don't see it playing a whole lot different.

Q. So you have to stay pretty aggressive?

SCOTT PAREL: I think so. I mean, this tour, you always have to stay aggressive anyway; I don't care where we are or what the conditions are. Pars generally don't work out here too often, so you have to shoot at pins that you've got good numbers at. For me, luckily I had a lot of good numbers, and when I didn't, I hit it 20 feet and I made a few 20-footers.