

**ROUND 2 INTERVIEW**  
**August 31, 2019**



**STEVE FLESCH ( -10)**

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**JACKIE SERVAIS:** Please welcome Steve Flesch back into the media centre. Great round for you today. I feel like yesterday I was telling you you just broke your 18-hole record and now you just broke your 36-hole, so what was working for you today?

**STEVE FLESCH:** You know, today I played just as well as yesterday, but I didn't hole any putts. The putts I made today were mostly tap-ins on par 5s. But I hit it so well again today that I'm getting a lot of opportunities out there, but I just haven't capitalized. But hopefully tomorrow I will convert some more birdies because I expect it's going to take a pretty good round tomorrow to win.

**JACKIE SERVAIS:** How much did that 18th hole putt mean? Obviously to put you in a solo lead now for the second time in your career, so what will that look like moving into tomorrow.

**STEVE FLESCH:** I didn't even know. I figured I was like tied for the lead or that would put me in the lead, but I really was just trying to make the eagle putt, just try and make one to end the day and finish off with a little momentum going into tomorrow.

But I'm hitting it well, can't wait to play tomorrow. Hopefully we have some decent weather, but I just look forward to it. I haven't been in here in the media centre since Atlanta last year and I haven't been in the final group in a while, so I'm looking forward to tomorrow.

**JACKIE SERVAIS:** Are you surprised you're here? I know yesterday you talked about how hard it was to put two rounds consistently together. Are you surprised you're sitting here or did you feel like your game's been just that much better that you could have done what you did today?

**STEVE FLESCH:** You know, I said to the television network guys I'm surprised I'm leading because I fully expected today's scores would be -- I saw there were some good scores today, but not as many as yesterday. I mean, the conditions weren't as great, but still not much wind so you could make a lot of birdies out there.

I'm kind of surprised I'm leading. I'm glad I am because I expected if I shot 2 under today I would have lost some ground. So I'm glad that I'm still leading and, you know, tomorrow's going to be a lot of fun.

**JACKIE SERVAIS:** Do we have questions for Steve?

**Q. Can you just describe what it's like to wake up Sunday morning leading the golf tournament?**

**STEVE FLESCH:** Well, there's always -- it's anxiousness. You're fine once you get to the golf course and you kind of step on the first tee and you get going, but it's the anticipation of what's going to go on the next day.

But I think it's a little bit different on this tour because you know there's really only one way you can play and that's kind of aggressively. You know, on courses where scores tend to be pretty low and you know you're going to have to make birdies, you can't go out there and protect anything. On the PGA TOUR, sometimes the courses are so hard you have to play a little bit differently, but I know that out here I just have to go out and play the same way. I hate clichés, but that's what got you here.

I'm looking forward to it. I'm sure I'll sleep fine with a little help from some Unisom and hopefully I won't wake up too early tomorrow. The problem is when you wake up too early, then you sit around you and you think, but it's all good.

**Q. You said that could be a good thing, though. You know you can't play defense tomorrow, like that's -- (inaudible)**

**STEVE FLESCH:** Absolutely, and it helps that I'm striking it well, because if you know you're striking it well, a few putts go in and you really get some momentum going.

So mainly I'm driving it pretty good, I'm keeping it in the fairway and my irons have been good, so I'm just looking forward to having a chance tomorrow.

**Q. I think you mentioned this yesterday, did you say you wouldn't have come to Calgary if your neck surgeon wasn't on vacation last year?**

**STEVE FLESCH:** Yeah, I kind of -- at the Senior British Open at St. Andrews last year I didn't sleep pretty much all week, I just was in so much pain that I basically called him and said, all right, I'm ready, let's do it, let's do the surgery, and he said, well, that's great but I'm out of town for 14 days doing a conference in Europe and I won't be back until I think it was like Monday of this week. I said, all right, we'll play the Dick's event in New York and Seattle, and then since we're already out there, if I think I can go, I'll play this. I knew my season was over once I had the surgery, so I figured as long as I have the pain medication, I can go one more week, and I did. I didn't play that great, but I don't even know what I finished last year.

Forty-sixth? That's great. But I went ahead and played and I knew the season was over after that. But it's all good, I'm just glad to be back really.

**Q. What's the difference a year later in terms of play? Sounds like night and day.**

**STEVE FLESCH:** Totally my health. Anybody who's battled any kind of nerve pain or back pain, I get where people just can't do it anymore and they just say that's it. It's mainly a

quality of life thing. There's medicine that helps mask the pain a little bit, but it never quite goes away and you're constantly gyrating to get comfortable. But if you're not getting any sleep, if you can't get comfortable sitting down, laying down, standing up, you know, I don't know how you get quality sleep.

It's just good to be back playing. I still get some -- I call them zingers every now and then, you kind of get a feeling like hey, whoa, is that coming back? It may be something you live with for the rest of your life, but the main problem has been taken care of. It's a quality of life thing is really ultimately what it boils down to.

**Q. Looking at that leaderboard, what's your mindset knowing there's so many good golfers --**

**STEVE FLESCH:** I haven't even looked.

**JACKIE SERVAIS:** Eleven within three shots.

**STEVE FLESCH:** There's a good chance I won't be leading by the time I get to the first tee, which, you know, that's exciting for you all, it's not great for me, but that's okay. That's why I said you've got to play aggressively. I'm in the last group, so I'm seeing everything that's going on in front of me, and when you're in the last group, you have the most time to do anything to make up any deficits. I'm just going to keep playing aggressively.

I've had a lot of fun this year since I've been healthy. It's been a lot -- I've been happier on the golf course and not so weighed down. Had a good group today with Michael Bradley and Tom Byrum and we had a good time. That's kind of what this tour's all about. Yes, the golf's cutthroat and it's good golf, but you're playing with a bunch of your friends that you've been out here with for years and they all seem to be rooting each other on. It's a great tour to play and hopefully I can play great tomorrow.

**Q. Is it true the grizzly bears were (inaudible)?**

**STEVE FLESCH:** Well, I'm a little upset really. I don't see the guy -- I met a guy the other day in here whose dad's the COO and I said I really just wanted to see the grizzly bear and he was MIA.

But we saw a lot of cool animals, it was fun. I actually went on the wives' outing over there. I was the only guy, but I brought a little levity to the situation. It was fun. I actually decided I was going to come out and practice Thursday. I didn't have a pro-am that day and I was going to come out early, practice and then go to the zoo just to kind of chill for the day. I got up and had a coffee and I was just sitting there on the couch watching some tennis. I'm like, I'm not going to forget how to play golf. Why not go out there and hit 50 balls and putt for 30 minutes and then leave? We had a good time at the zoo and I had a great round yesterday, so maybe I ought to head back to the zoo before it closes tonight.

**JACKIE SERVAIS:** Thank you, Steve. Good luck tomorrow.

**STEVE FLESCH:** Thanks, Jackie.