

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**August 18, 2020**



**SCOTT PAREL**

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**Q. Scott, a new Charles Schwab Cup event. Can you just give us your thoughts coming in here this week?**

**SCOTT PAREL:** I'm really looking forward to it. We're very fortunate to be able to play these two events. We were going to have nothing to do with the cancelations and Mr. Morris stepped up and gave us a place to play. I got to play here a couple times with Larry Mize as my partner and it's a place I enjoy coming.

**Q. What are your thoughts on sort of the 10-day, two-event, six rounds in I guess 10 days?**

**SCOTT PAREL:** I mean, I'm looking forward to it. I think before the grind of last week, I was really looking forward to it. I'm a little more tired and spent today than I thought I would be with a normal event, but being four days at Firestone, it took a pretty good bit out of me, so I didn't have much out there today. Hopefully, I'll get some rest today and be able to play tomorrow. I like not having a lot of downtime in between there.

**Q. What did you take away from last week? Obviously I know you wanted to be the one on top, but what did you take away?**

**SCOTT PAREL:** You know, I played well. I've played two tournaments there, I've played well. I think it fits my eye. I think there's a lot to that with golf courses. If you go to places where -- I'm not saying I'm super comfortable on every shot out there, but there were a lot of places where I feel like I know where I need to be hitting it and that makes a big difference. And I played solid. I didn't drive the ball probably as well as I would like to, didn't hit quite as many fairways. Only hitting about half the fairways, I played pretty well.

**Q. What's it like out there playing these courses?**

**SCOTT PAREL:** Which ones, like here?

**Q. Yes.**

**SCOTT PAREL:** Well, I think for a place that didn't know it was going to have a golf tournament up until a few weeks ago, I think it's in pretty darn good shape. It's tournament ready. I think the scores are going to be probably pretty normal for our event. I think guys are going to be happy with the condition of it after playing it today. Depending on -- I know it can get a little breezy up here. I think it will be fun. Guys I think are going to be happy to be able to not be trudging down every hill, like last week was a pretty good grind. Yeah, I think

guys are looking forward to it.

**Q. We kind of hit upon it at the beginning, but 2020 almost was a washout for everybody and now just to have the season that you are having, that second chance of being out here, just making the most of the opportunity, right?**

**SCOTT PAREL:** Yeah, for sure. After the first five events of the year, I was, I don't know, fifth maybe on the list and had already had a pretty good year up to that point. It was obviously a possibility that that could have been the end of the year. Then for us -- for the Tour to do what they've done, and what a great job they've done making sure we've got places to play, that people are being safe, yeah, it's a big, big bonus. Then to have these two events on top of that, which nobody really had any idea about, I'm very, very, very happy to be able to do that.

**Q. I'm sure you've talked about it many times, but for us here in the Ozarks, your career is very unique being able to have I guess say a late start. What has your career been like as you're kind of reflecting right now, what you've seen and what you've been able to accomplish?**

**SCOTT PAREL:** Yeah, well, the first five years of being a professional golfer were very, very difficult for me. No status anywhere, playing mini tours, traveling in my car, living check to check, going into quite a few thousand dollars worth of debt just to get to play golf. Yeah, it doesn't even seem like it's real to where -- you know, that compared to now.

The middle part was a little bit of a grind early, it was tough. Then as I got a little more comfortable playing on what's now the Korn Ferry Tour, I was at least able to, you know, get out of that debt some and take care of my family. My wife kind of supported us for a long, long time, which I've talked about, and to be able to let her kind of relax and just work more for -- because she wants to work, not because she has to make sure we can pay the mortgage, it's been a blessing.

But from a golf standpoint, I've loved every minute that I've been doing it. Are there times when I was, early on, thinking maybe I shouldn't be doing this? Yes. I think a lot of guys are that way, maybe not to the point that I got, but I think a lot of guys consider like, because it's a grind and if things aren't going well, it's tough to be away from your family and to justify all that time away to barely scrape out a living on mini tours and smaller tours.

So to come where I've come now in the last four or five years, it's just really a blessing. I can't really -- it doesn't seem real sometimes when I look at guys that I'm playing with and how I'm doing some weeks. I've definitely gotten better as a golfer as I've gotten older. Woody Austin said to me last week, "Where were you when I was out on the Tour?" He was like, "How were you not out there with us?"

I just wasn't the golfer. I mean, if I was, I would have been out there. I matured. As I got older, I matured probably more mentally than anything. It's one of those things that you want

it so bad that you can't really get out of your way. It wasn't that I didn't work hard. I worked hard, I felt like I did all the things that I should have been doing.

And I came close a few times, but I think it's one of those things where you just try so hard that it turns out to be something that you just can't achieve because you wanted it too badly. I got out here, I did, I wanted it badly, but pretty early on I figured out that I was good enough when I got in the qualifiers and I got through the first six qualifiers in a row, that really gave me a lot of confidence, like okay, my game is good enough to be out here. I don't know that I'm necessarily going to win out here, but I know that I have a good enough game that I can sustain myself out here.

**Q. And my final question, you mentioned the Korn Ferry Tour, do you remember ever playing up in Springfield at the Price Cutter Championship?**

**SCOTT PAREL:** All the time. I have really, really good friends that I had met, a family that I stay here with and then friends that I've made through them who have followed me my whole career since then. They're some of my biggest fans and some really, some really, really good friends that I really cherish.

Korn Ferry Tour, it was difficult because when we played it was just so hot, really hot, and this course over at Highland, you had to shoot -- I think one year I shot maybe 17 under or something and finished 15th or something. Always said mid 20s or something to win. But I like coming here to Springfield because I've made some really good friends and I'm comfortable in this part of the country.

**Q. Scott, you probably got used to the bigger pairings, but I think this week you're with Freddie and Vijay; Fred Couples, Vijay Singh and Scott Parel.**

**SCOTT PAREL:** It's a pretty good question, like which one of these things doesn't fit, right? That's one of the easier ones to make out.

Yeah, I mean, you've got Masters winners, major winners, guys who were No. 1 in the world and then you've got a guy who didn't ever play out there. Yeah, it doesn't -- it doesn't seem real sometimes.

But then again when you get on the first tee, it's just golf, right? We're all trying to do the same thing, we're all trying to get the ball in the hole as fast as we can. The ball doesn't know how old you are or what your name is, right, and the golf course doesn't either. You know, you just play the game.

And early on I probably would have -- you know, was a little more intimidated than I would be now just because I feel like I'm good enough to play with these guys. Am I going to beat them every time? No, but I'm not going to embarrass myself hopefully.

**Q. Also, could I ask you, last week you told us about your dad looking at PGA**

**TOUR.com. Can you just tell us about how much he's following and watching and kind of that whole story?**

**SCOTT PAREL:** Yeah. I think my dad is up there in age now. He still plays a fair amount of golf. He doesn't get around as good as he'd like to so he can't really come out to any of the tournaments. He would come to Birmingham and Atlanta being that it's close to home some, but Atlanta's an impossible course to walk for the fans almost. It's just something he can't do. So he is constantly on that internet looking at everything. He's been very encouraging.

And my dad introduced me to the game, so I think it means a lot to him. I know he's proud and I know that he enjoys seeing me play against these guys. For him to read that Fred Couples thinks he wants to drive the ball like me, I'm sure at first he thought that had to be a mistake somewhere, but yeah, he's -- I don't want to say he's living vicariously through me, but I think he really -- he looks forward to these tournaments. I think that he likes to see good, bad or otherwise. When I do well, obviously he's very proud and happy, and when I struggle, he wants to give advice, just like all dads do. It's been a blessing to be able to be out here and for him to enjoy it. I think he enjoys it as much as I do.

**Q. And last one, can you give us like a first memory of him introducing you to the game of golf?**

**SCOTT PAREL:** Oh, gosh, I think probably at Forest Hills and Augusta, a course that he played pretty regularly when we moved to Augusta. He took me out there and I can just remember -- actually, probably the first memory is actually the Fort Gordon course, which is the Army base there, which is a smaller nine-hole course, taking me out there and just beating it around.

I was a good athlete as a kid. I played football, basketball, baseball, I did all the sports, so my hand-eye was pretty good. I don't remember him saying like grip the club like this or giving me any fundamentals. He just said, "Watch what I do and then grab the club and try it."

So I didn't really do it when I was really little. I had already played like football and basketball. I don't think I started swinging a golf club until I was like 8 or 9 years old. So it wasn't like I was a toddler, not like Tiger at 2 years old. But I remember enjoying it. And I've said this before, and not now anymore, but for a long time golf was not anywhere near my favorite sport. I enjoyed playing football and baseball way more than golf. It wasn't like when I got on the golf course I was like, man, this is what I want to do; when I'm 10 years old thinking that's what I want to do with my life, but it was something that I could do with my dad and enjoyed it.