



SCOTT McCARRON (-8)

Q. Scott, great start today, 8 under. Just your thoughts on how it went?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, it was a pretty solid round all day long. I drove it pretty well, I hit a couple real close shots like a couple inches on a couple holes. It's always nice to have birdies where you're just tapping in. Played the par 5s very well. Just one hiccup, a three-putt. Other than that, it was a pretty solid day.

Q. You've had a lot of close finishes here over the years, all top-10s, a T-3 last year. What is it about the course do you think that suits you?

SCOTT McCARRON: It's a good golf course. The par 5s I can get home in two. A couple of par 4s like No. 1 I can drive it up there close. If I play aggressive and I'm driving it straight, I'll have a lot of opportunities for birdies, and just the golf course fits my eye. It's a lot of fun. You know, I went to school down here at UCLA, it's kind of nice being back in SoCal and seeing a bunch of friends and family. Always seem to have a good time here.

Q. Scott, the last two years you had chances.

SCOTT McCARRON: On the last hole.

Q. Last year, if you two-putt for a birdie, you're in a playoff, I believe.

SCOTT McCARRON: Yeah, but if I make it, I win.

Q. That's correct.

SCOTT McCARRON: That's what I was thinking at the time. I got a little aggressive and knocked it about three feet by and had a tricky three-footer down the hill breaking left. Sometimes late in the day on these greens with a little poa annua they get a little bumpy and I didn't make it, unfortunately. But being in that spot again, I'm still trying to win the golf tournament.

Q. And one of those things where you just keep knocking on the door?

SCOTT McCARRON: Yeah, I think so. I've had success here, just haven't quite sealed the deal. I've had a third, a second and I don't know, fourth, fifth, but I've played well here. I like the golf course. Again, just put yourself in position with nine holes to play and see what happens.

Q. Sort of like chasing the Schwab Cup over the last two years, which you finally --

SCOTT McCARRON: Yeah, you know, fourth, third, second and finally won it. Yeah, I would say that the Schwab Cup, I was certainly trending in the right direction and hopefully this week I'm trending in the right direction.

Q. Can you just speak a little bit more to just the environment, how fun it is down here for you and also being a local? I know you touched on it, but maybe just what the course is like and also what the tournament is like?

SCOTT McCARRON: Well, the tournament's great. Jeff Purser puts on a great tournament and my sponsor ActivePDF hosts the Monday pro-am. I actually fly in Sunday night and play the Monday pro-am, which I don't do that in any other tournament except this one. I get to play with Tim Sullivan, president and CEO of ActivePDF and he's got a couple groups out here. So it's a lot of fun for me to come out here and be with those guys and hang out because we don't get to hang out a lot during the season. I get to do that. I've got some other friends that we do dinners and we get to stay at the Balboa Beach Club, which is a beautiful hotel. So everything just seems to work out pretty well when I come down here. I'm always in a good mood, the weather's usually pretty good and I get to see a lot of friends and family. The crowds are usually pretty good here.

And it's a golf course that you've got to plot your way around. It's not an easy golf course. You've got to put the ball on the green in the right spots to have opportunities to make birdies out here.

Q. Where from California are you?

SCOTT McCARRON: I grew up in Napa Valley and then I lived in southern California for about eight years. I live in Mooresville, North Carolina, now, so it's always nice to come back here.

Q. Some of the guys are saying this is the best shape they've seen the course in recent years. What are your thoughts on it?

SCOTT McCARRON: I would say so. The fairways are always perfect here with this grass, always sits up real nice, but it's been a little bit dry here so we like to have dry conditions. The greens are fast and firm right now. Just later in the day with everybody playing they get a little bit bumpier and that's just the way west coast greens are. You've got to make a bunch of birdies early on and hopefully you can adjust and make some more coming down the stretch on those par 5s.

Q. You had some good rounds at Riviera, too.

SCOTT McCARRON: Yeah, I love Riv, I love playing Riv. I had a bunch of top-10s in San Diego, Palm Springs, so I like playing the west coast obviously.