



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: RUSS COCHRAN

Friday, August 26, 2011

MODERATOR: Okay, Russ. A nice 6-under par 66. You birdied four of your last five holes. This is your third appearance in the event, tied for sixth last year and you come here as the Senior British Open champion. A few thoughts about your round today?

RUSS COCHRAN: Well, you know, this golf course played differently than I ever played it before. We had played it not too soft, but quite a -- the greens were quite a bit more receptive than they were today. With such great weather, I think the greens firmed up, the fairways firmed up, and you would think immediately that it's a great thing when the fairways get firm, for instance, but a lot of times we were running out through the fairway into the rough. So you had to be very careful out there, plot your strategy a little bit off the tee, and the greens were very firm.

To be honest with you, my round just consisted of probably the best scoring that I've done since I've been out here on Tour.

17, I hit a poor chip, but other than that I made great par saves, I got the ball in the right spot and I made great par putts and lag putts and bunker shots and the whole works. So, you know, just scored really, really well. Got an opportunity on 8, made eagle and that kind of opened up the round for me on the back side.

MODERATOR: Do you just want to take us through the good saves, the eagle, the birdies?

RUSS COCHRAN: Okay. Well, I guess starting at 1, you know, we had no idea how firm it was getting because yesterday it was starting to get firm but it was still a little bit receptive. For instance, on 1 I hit a driver and I hit a 3-wood left, and I had probably 40 yards to the pin and it was impossible for me to hit the green. So I just blew it through the green on the top side, chipped in, made a five-footer for par. So those are kind of where -- the type of things we were looking at.

Hit it over the green on 3, hit a great 5-iron, one-hopped back in the fringe, chipped it down to about four, five feet, made that. Went on I guess I made a great putt on -- I

made a great 2-putt through the fringe on 7 from about 60 feet, ended up for my second putt, probably made a seven- or eight-footer. Then made a 25-footer for eagle, hit driver and 8-iron on number 8, just bombed a drive down there for me, hit 8-iron in there about 25 feet, made that. Went on 9, hit it out of the bunker, made about a 10-footer for par.

MODERATOR: (Inaudible.)

RUSS COCHRAN: That's what I was thinking. It's the best scoring round I've had out there since I've been on Tour probably.

On 11, hit a driver and a 9-iron in there probably about five feet, made that. Good 2-putt on 12. 13, I hit it in the front bunker, chipped it out about eight feet and made that. Number 14, I hit -- played it safe down to the right, hit a pitching wedge from about 125 yards to maybe about four, five feet. 15, I hit driver and a hybrid in front of the green, chipped up to about maybe four feet. On 16, I hit a 3-wood and a sand wedge from 95 yards to about a foot and a half. And then 17 I hit it just short of the green, chipped by about eight feet and missed. 18, I hit it in the bunker off the tee, played that hole kind of poorly, then hit a good second shot out of the bunker. Hit a full pitching wedge out there and just happened to have the right yardage and chipped it to maybe three and a half feet on the last hole and made that for birdie.

MODERATOR: We'll just go to questions.

Q. How far did you have left on 8 after the drive?

RUSS COCHRAN: Number 8, 164 yards, right. Actually -- yeah. Actually, I probably had 170-something to the pin, but to the spot we were trying to land it, it was 164 yards.

Q. So making all the saves early on, that was almost as important as the eagle, right?

RUSS COCHRAN: Absolutely. And the thing was, it was kind of cool for me because I hadn't been playing very well, I hadn't been striking it very well. I've been driving it okay but not striking the ball very well, so I didn't really expect anything. Hit some so-so shots, made the pars, then it gave me a little room to get my round started, so I actually played a real good solid back side.

This golf course is playing so much farther than I have ever seen it that I think, you know, it's -- you've got to hit great shots, you're going to have to make par putts and it's just a very tough golf course.

Q. So this looks like it will be the worst scoring first round ever --

RUSS COCHRAN: No, absolutely not. There were so many -- right from the 1st hole, if you hit -- let's just say normally you hit -- and you were in front of the green and you hit a little wedge in there, you could spin it, check it maybe three, four feet to the hole. It was one-hopping in the back rough so it shocked us right from the start. Like I said, it took a while to play in the round and that's when I started making a bunch of putts and started playing a little bit better as well.

Mr. Sluman, do you have anything to add?

JEFF SLUMAN: The greens were hard.

RUSS COCHRAN: They're the hardest I've seen out here.