



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: RUSS COCHRAN
Saturday, August 27, 2011

MODERATOR: Okay, Russ, 1-under today. As we were saying, four-way tie for the lead. Maybe just, how was your day today?

RUSS COCHRAN: You know, I'm sure Jeff alluded to it, the golf course is playing pretty tough. You know, I didn't take a lot of chances out there today and I think probably it hurt me a little bit because you have to hit shorter clubs into these par 4s out here and I laid up a few times and didn't drive it well a couple times, and it's hard to get the ball on the green. So I was struggling a little bit. Made a great -- made bogey on 5 and had a great 2 on number 9.

But the theme of the day for me is I'm not hitting the ball as crisply as I want to, I'm not driving as well as I want to. It's a bit of a bomber's course to the respect that if you can move it out there a long way down some of these hills, you have a chance to spin it on the greens and stop the ball near the hole, and especially on some of the par 3s down the hill. If you don't, then you have to aim well away from the pin and you're left with 50-, 60-footers, 40-, 50-, 60-footers. So I'm going to have to come out tomorrow and kind of throw caution to the wind a little bit and try to hit the ball a little more crisply and take it at the hole a little bit more if I get in the fairway. But you know, I made a birdie on 9 that we spoke of. Went to 12, I hit a good drive on 12 like I was talking about, aggressive play, hit a pitching wedge to maybe about four feet, maybe four, five feet, made that and came back with a nice birdie on 15. But scattered throughout my round was the fact that I didn't hit very many greens. Got the ball up and down well, putted fairly well, I think, but going to have to play a whole lot better tomorrow. I know you've got a couple guys in there that are used to winning that haven't won on the Champions Tour that are going to go after it, and if I don't go after it, I'll get left behind.

MODERATOR: Birdies, what was the shot sequence on 9?

RUSS COCHRAN: I hit a 5-iron to maybe 15 feet on 9.

MODERATOR: And 15?

RUSS COCHRAN: 15, I hit a driver and 3-wood on the right fringe and two-putted from maybe 75 feet.

MODERATOR: And your bogeys, 5?

RUSS COCHRAN: 5, I hit a bad drive to the left, you know, hit it -- 6-iron to the left bunker and then didn't get it up and down. And number 17, I three-putted from the front fringe. Or no, actually I was on the green and I three-putted from about 30 feet.

MODERATOR: Okay. Questions?

Q. (Inaudible) advantage to a left hander?

RUSS COCHRAN: No, I wouldn't say so. I think you have to score on the holes that you can step up and bomb it on, and right now -- today I didn't drive it very well. Yesterday I drove it okay. I hit a couple of key drives today on 12 and 15 that resulted in birdies, but other than that I didn't drive it well, not particularly well all day. That's going to have to change for tomorrow, for sure.

Q. Kentucky's got half of the final four here.

RUSS COCHRAN: Well, you know, Kenny's a heck of a player. Ted Shulz, I'm not sure how he did today but he was up there yesterday. And, you know, we're good friends and we're -- we pull for each other and I think you're going to see a lot more of those guys up at the top, for sure. And hopefully myself, you know.

Q. (Inaudible.)

RUSS COCHRAN: In the final? You know what, a lot, but I'm not sure which one it was. Well, I guess it was the British Senior Open, yeah.

Q. How was that battle with Calcavecchia?

RUSS COCHRAN: Calc was in front of me. I played with David Frost. The thing with Calc is he's super aggressive and he can take it -- he can make birdie from anywhere. I'm not talking about rough or whatever but with any club. He can stake 3 irons, he can spin wedges in there, and he's a good putter. He's really been snakebitten this year a little bit. He could be looking at three or four victories already this year. He's playing very well. I know he wants to win and he wants to play well and it's a good golf course for him.

Q. In the British Open, not everybody remembered how it set up, you started behind and --

RUSS COCHRAN: No, we were actually tied, I think he and I -- or maybe he was a

shot behind, I'm not sure, but I think we were all tied at maybe 7-under or something like that. I got off to a quick start. He got off to, I think, a quick start but he had trouble on the ninth hole, I think, and I continued on and played well through maybe 10 or 11 holes and had a pretty good-sized lead.

MODERATOR: Everyone okay? Thank you, Russ.