



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: Russ Cochran
Sunday, August 28, 2011

MODERATOR: Okay, Russ, exciting day here in Seattle at the Boeing Classic. You and Calc both shoot 65. You eagled the final hole to send it to overtime and then fell a little short, but just maybe summarize the whole day and then take us down the stretch with the clubs and distances, what you hit in and everything.

RUSS COCHRAN: Well, you know, the golf course played similar to what it has been playing. The greens were firm. You know, I didn't strike it well yesterday. My whole objective today was try to get the ball in play and see what the irons looked like. You know, I worked a couple things out on the range this morning and really had a great day striking the ball. I knew it was going to be a shootout if Calc got it going because he's just -- you know, he has just a powerful game, number one, and he had that look in his eye. He knows he could have won several times probably by now and it hadn't worked out for him, and you know, you know a guy like that, he's going to keep coming to the very end. You know, I felt like I played a good round as well, so it was just a great battle. I was proud to be a part of it, especially with such a, you know, a great player. We live about 30 seconds from each other down in Tequesta, Florida, so I'm expecting him to throw at least a little party, get in there and have a drink on him or something to get even.

I started off on the first hole, I hit a driver and a 4-iron in there about eight feet and missed it, missed it for eagle and made birdie. Missed it pretty close, actually on 3, I hit it in there and made a good putt from about 15 feet, hit a driver and 8-iron. Good drive on that hole, tough hole. Fourth hole I hit a 3-wood off the tee and hit a 9-iron to about maybe seven feet and missed it. Number -- that was number four. Number five, I probably -- made a good par on five from about 20 feet. Six, I probably hit the wrong club. I was trying to cut a 5-iron in there, I think if I executed it right it could have been all right. Pin was in the back left. You can't miss long. I pulled a 5-iron. It missed it long right. Just hit a bunker shot back on the middle part of the green, two-putted from 25 feet. Missed a putt probably 10 feet on -- maybe 10 or 11 feet on number seven. Came back on eight and made a nice putt from about 15 feet behind the hole. I laid up and hit a sand wedge in there. Number nine, I hit a good shot, 7-iron to about 25 feet and made that. Made a nice up-and-down for par on 10. Went over to 14, I guess it is, and hit sand wedge -- 3-iron off the tee and sand wedge to maybe, oh, 14 feet and made that.

MODERATOR: You made a good par save at 13, too, didn't you, from the bunker?

RUSS COCHRAN: 13? Oh, I was in the front bunker on 13, right, and made about, I would say about an eight- or nine-footer for par there. Birdied 14. 15, I think was a big swing hole for me. I was in good position, I had a hybrid. I caught it one groove thin. I thought I might have carried that bunker and scooted up on the green. You know, if it would have maybe carried I think maybe four yards or five yards farther, I would have had a putt for eagle. Came away, you know, hit a good bunker shot, ended up in the bunker, hit a good bunker shot probably missed it from 14 feet there.

Went on to 16. 16 was a big swing hole, too. Calc -- I hit it in there maybe 15 feet, had a good look at it, and Calc spun his off the front of the green. Of course, he chipped in. I had a good feeling about that putt, but after a guy makes it like that on you, it's just a little tough and I tried a little bit too hard on it and came up short from 15, 17 feet. On 17, I got right back in there and hit a great 6-iron exactly where I wanted to hit it. You know, you've got to get a little bit lucky to get real close but you hit it along that ridge line and it drips down there to the left and you're going to have to kind of putt. Happened to roll in there a foot so very proud of that shot. 18, I hit a good drive, a hybrid, cut a hybrid in there to about, I don't know what was that, 10 feet maybe on the last hole and made that.

I just -- you know, Calc didn't have any let-up on him and I was hoping to do something really good on the -- you know, have a lead before 18 because I feel like 18, with that high, soft left-to-right iron shot that he hits in there has a distinct advantage. Mine's going low and right to left. Even though I hit a great shot with my hybrid, the 3-iron shot was out of my comfort level and I didn't really have a shot I wanted to hit, so you know, that was -- it played out about the way it's going to play out nine out of 10 times if I have to play him on 18 over and over again.

MODERATOR: Russ, your distances with the hybrid on 18 and the 3-iron in the playoff.

RUSS COCHRAN: On 18, I had I think it was about 235 and you know, which -- to carry it was not a full hybrid. I hit it at the bunker and barely cut it, cut it a little bit. It hit right there, I think either just on the green or just on the fringe, and rolled up there close. The 3-iron I hit, I think I had about 200 to the front and probably 218 to the hole, something like that.

Q. You were down 3 after 10 today, you didn't have any let-up in you either. What were you thinking?

RUSS COCHRAN: You know, you've got to make birdies with Calc, like I said. But, you know, he stumbled a little bit on the par-5 15 and he walked away with par and so did I. I felt like I maybe played the hole a little bit better than he did so give him credit

there.

The big thing is the way the golf course plays, we talked about it yesterday, with the firmness of the greens and just the way the golf course itself plays. What you're doing, you're hitting your shot and you're trying to hit the fairway and then you're trying to wait until you get a really good club in your hand that you can really be aggressive with. If you go in there with half clubs, half shots, you know, you can't stop it. If it's sloped the wrong way and you can't spin it the right way or whatever, you're looking at having a long approach shot and maybe missing the green. So you're looking to get that right yardage and that right angle to -- so you can clip it in there and try to make birdie.

Made a good birdie on 14 to have the little mini comeback there. Laid up just right of the bunker but had a perfect sand wedge in there. Thought I hit it closer than I did but made a nice putt.

So I did a lot of good things out there. To be honest with you, I have no complaints other than maybe the sixth hole where I could have hit one less club. Other than that, I hit the ball on the button today, I rolled it. I missed some putts early, but that's just part of it. I adjusted there, came back and putted well the rest of the day. So no complaints and I'm happy for Calc. Nobody wants to finish second, but that's just the way it is, you know. I've played worse and won, I can tell you that.

Q. It was so much fun to watch. In the heat of battle, was fun part of it?

RUSS COCHRAN: Yeah, I was real relaxed out there today for whatever reason. You know, you hope you are, but you can't strive for that. I think the lesson there is whether -- I was pretty nervous on Sunday of the Senior British and performed very well. Today I happened to be fairly relaxed and hit the ball pretty well, too. You just -- you go out there and you kind of -- you feel what you have and when you're standing over the shot, it becomes pretty clear whether or not you can hit that shot because if you start trying a bunch of shots that you don't believe you can hit, then they don't turn out very well. That's probably evident on the 18th hole. I'm trying to hit a high 3-iron and I don't really have a high 3-iron.

Q. You said Mark had that look in his eye. Describe that look for me.

RUSS COCHRAN: Well, I'll say probably at times Calc, you know, could come to a situation that may irritate him or bother him just a little bit or throw him off just a little bit. He never had that today. Today he looked like no matter what was going to happen, that he was going to just keep coming and keep making birdies and keep doing good things. You know, that's a big difference. That's what we all kind of strive for. You take -- some guys are great at it and some guys, you know, don't. I would say that's probably what I'm most proud of in this tournament was yesterday I really didn't play very well and I hung in there all day long, shot under par, one under par

with basically not hitting the club -- not hitting the ball very solid and just trying to score and move it around, get it in the right position. So when you're hitting it great -- you know, I hit it better today anyway, say that. When you're hitting it on the button, golf's a lot easier. It's rounds like yesterday you've got to hang in there with.

Q. After all the rounds you've played, after all the times you've been in contention on Sunday, is it still (inaudible) how you're going to show up --

RUSS COCHRAN: Yeah, you never quite know how things are going to work out, but I think you kind of just skip over that and you say, you know what, make sure your patience is there, make sure your effort's there and I think that's kind of hard for some people to kind of figure out. I can play a round of golf and come in and have a chance to win it and maybe finish second, and you know, know that I've overachieved to get to that spot and I've played -- know that I've had all the game in the world on a course that I love and finished second and be more disappointed than I've ever been in my life, so there's that factor in there of what you have and how you perform and how you keep it together.

MODERATOR: Anything else for Russ? I'm going to ask one last question, Russ. A special day with military appreciation and you had a special guy in your group, a Medal of Honor winner. I know you were in the heat of battle, but did you have any conversations with Leroy out there at all?

RUSS COCHRAN: You know, I talked to him early. He's going down to San Antonio. I helped out with the Wounded Warriors down in San Antonio and Feherty and Tim Simpson got me to go down there and it was one of the most rewarding things I've ever done and it's really, really, really interesting. I would recommend it to anyone. When you go down there, they asked us to go down there and we thought, oh, sure we'll help out, and what happens when you get down there, you realize that they're the ones helping you out. So it's just a fantastic situation.

Feherty, if you ever get a chance to talk to David Feherty and Tim Simpson, some of these guys who put in tons and tons of time, it will open your eyes like nothing else. It's just absolutely incredible.

I'll tell you one funny story about it. It was great. One of the guys, a little bit older, he was a pretty good player and they were walking down the line hitting with all the apparatus and stuff. His joint on his leg just worked -- it just bent like this and they -- for golfers now, for the military, they invented this ball bearing and you're able to swivel. So he was mad because when he turned into the shot, he couldn't -- his knee just went this way and he couldn't turn. So he was going up and down the line to some of the young guys who had the swivel going, Where'd you get that knee? I need one of those knees, I can't get on my left side. So it's just a fantastic group of guys and fantastic character and just to be a part of it is really, really good.

MODERATOR: Thank you very much.

RUSS COCHRAN: Thank you all.