

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW: ADAM SCOTT
Wednesday, December 2, 2015



JOHN BUSH: Like to welcome Adam Scott into the interview room making his first start at the Hero World Challenge since 2006l. Adam, welcome back to this event right here in your hometown.

ADAM SCOTT: My second home, yeah, it's great that the event's here. It's exciting for me. Obviously I've come back from Australia to play and I'm expecting a really fun week here this week, a lot of familiar faces will be around all week and certainly something I wanted to be a part of, so very happy to be here.

JOHN BUSH: You had excellent form Sunday with a 65, came up just short of Matt Jones, but just comment on the state of your game coming into this week.

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, I really like where my game has been going these last six or eight weeks. I've played quite a lot and I feel like I'm moving forward with my game, which has been tough at times this year. But last week it kind of got into really nice shape and it still feels good this week, so it's perfect it's the last week of the year I'm just hitting my stride.

Q. What's your best score around here?

ADAM SCOTT: My best score is 65. I think that's the lowest, yeah.

Q. The record?

ADAM SCOTT: It is, yeah.

Q. This is your last tournament of the year to get a win. Obviously there's four other guys that haven't won this year. What does that say, if anything, about the state of golf?

ADAM SCOTT: Four other guys in this event?

Q. Yeah.

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, look, winning is getting more difficult certainly when you have some dominant players and you had two really dominant players I think this year in Jordan and Jason winning five times each. And then the depth of the game of golf on the PGA TOUR and globally is stronger every year at the moment and just getting one win is tough. So when you have a couple guys taking 10 of them and then the rest is shared by a really large number of guys every week that tee up with the potential to win, winning is not easy. It's hard for me to say that I've thrown any away. I haven't put myself in great position to win tournaments this year. But it would be nice to win this event this week and jump into next

year full of confidence.

Q. How would you, one word, how would you describe your season this year?

ADAM SCOTT: Transition. Is that good?

Q. That'll work, yeah. So how's the transition into next season, short putter, the whole -- everything else?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, hopefully, I mean it's going well. As far as putting goes, I'm putting very well. I putted poorly this year with the long putter which made everything quite frustrating when you do putt poorly for a long period of time like the whole year, makes the game very difficult. So I've putted nicely since putting with the short putter and that's I think having a positive effect on the rest of my game as well. Obviously when you know you're going to hole a few putts you can loosen up a bit and your chips are just that little bit better and your shots into the greens, you're not worried about just hitting a green, you can get a little more aggressive. You feel like you can handle whatever's out there when you're putting well. So I'm starting to feel a bit of that happening. Had a couple second place finishes in my last four events. I've been there with somewhat of a chance to win and they're kind of feelings that I missed for most of the year with the exception of maybe the U.S. Open and The Open Championship, they were the other two I felt I had a chance to win at a point on Sunday. It's a spot where I want to get back to, so I'm feeling good about things at the moment.

Q. Since you live here, can you take us through this golf course? We've never seen it before. What does it compare to that you play?

ADAM SCOTT: It's quite unique really, this golf course. It is difficult; However, it's probably playing a little softer surface-wise than maybe ideal. It seems there's been a fair bit of rain and that's probably a good thing for everyone that it's not playing too hard and fast because they're very small, raised greens and they're quite tough to hit because it is normally windy here. So with the ball stopping in the fairway and on the green, that's going to save everyone a little headache because when it runs out into the big waste areas, you always think you can advance it more than you can and then find yourself getting in a lot of trouble, especially when you're up near the green in the waste area. 50 yards out it gets a little unpredictable what's going to happen. It can be very demanding, but again, the best players in the world are here and this is what they do on a weekly basis is figure out how to play golf courses, so I don't know how much of an advantage I have this week. Maybe if it was a bit more fiery, I think I do, but I think these guys can figure out how to play a golf course.

Q. Are you playing more this time of year because you're trying to find something, maybe because you didn't have as good a season as you wanted?

ADAM SCOTT: Somewhat, yeah. I got to have a break after the Barclays event finished, I had a good break and felt there was a good opportunity for me to get things right for next

year between working on my game and playing and I played in some big events. And of course I'm going to play in Australia and then this event falls in as well. You know, it sounded like fun to me and sometimes you just have to take the pressure off and just do what you feel is fun and it's not always so serious. I'm here to of course compete this week, but I was excited to do it and I could have stayed in Australia and played. But I thought this would be more fun and when you're going into a tournament with that kind of mindset, it's always a little easier.

Q. You mentioned the transition, Adam. Obviously the putter's been part of that but what else is in flux in your game and in your life?

ADAM SCOTT: Well, I think earlier in the year, just on that I changed caddie starting the year out. I did tinker a little bit with equipment wise as far as shafts and combinations and ball and driver. So there were a few things. Obviously then the putter, having to decide when to make that change this year and think about that. So that's kind of where I said transition. It took me a while to kind of get settled with all that stuff and fall back into any kind of rhythm with it all. It may or may not have been a good idea, but I feel like it's in a good spot now and starting to get some momentum going into next year, which I think is important for where I'm at.

Q. Anything off the golf course?

ADAM SCOTT: Well, nothing other than having a child. Obviously that's a change, but I'm going to draw the line at blaming any average play on having a child, that's a bit rough.

Q. When you look at say Jordan who's single, no kids, young and hungry and the intensity he brings to every tournament, could you still match that?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, absolutely, but I have to make some adjustments and I didn't know how things were going to play out, so I've been -- I've tried to be very patient with balancing being a father and having a family and playing the Tour and trying to figure out how I'm going to do that my best so that I bring that intensity like Jordan does and I feel like I have in the past as well. It's certainly a huge change to your routines and everything, but I think nine months in and tried a few things here and there, it will all settle down and work well going into next year. I mean, lots of guys have played very successfully with kids, so I don't see that holding me back.

Q. Adam, what was your reaction to what Tiger said yesterday. Kind of hit everybody as fairly dire the way he laid it out for his immediate future. Secondly to that, would evidence any influence on you coming up? He's not that much older than you. Just curious if he did if there's anything you took from him, maybe it was from Butch when you worked with him, anything along those lines?

ADAM SCOTT: I don't know exactly what Tiger said but saying that he's just uncertain about -- I guess that's, you know, it's obviously a major surgery, so if he's uncertain at this

point, it's a long road to recovery and you've got to hope that he recovers well enough to come back and play at a high level because we don't want Tiger checking out of the game any time soon. He's been a huge influence on me even though I'm only five years younger than him. He turned pro very young, so I was still in high school when he won the Masters, I was in my final year of high school and that was a huge impact on me. He inspired all of us to play golf like he did and it was kind of at that point a transition from having a wardrobe full of Shark clothes to Nike Swooshes when I played and every kid was buying the shirt he wore when he won the Masters or his hat or something like that. I was really lucky then to work with Butch when Butch was still working with Tiger. I feel so fortunate to have played practice rounds with Tiger at majors in the year 2000, 2001 and really see up close what is the best golf I've ever seen just head and shoulders above the rest. It's hard to explain to Jordan coming out now how he was just so much better than everyone at that point. We're all quick to forget that sometimes, yeah.

Q. Was pre-Pebble Beach the first practice round you had with him?

ADAM SCOTT: Yes, first time I played with him was on a Sunday before the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach in Las Vegas.

Q. You mentioned transition and schedule. What's your schedule going to be like in the early part of the year? I know you maybe made some changes there. Have you worked it out with Steve yet in terms of what he's going to work?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah. I think I've been playing a lot and I'm feeling pretty good so I don't want to take too long off, I want to kind of keep some good momentum going and obviously get a result and get the confidence up high for the major season starting in April. So at the moment I plan to go to Sony and possibly add something on the west coast as well before going and playing in Honda. But the plan is to start at Sony at the moment so I don't really -- after that's a bit of a guess, I'll just see how I'm going but I think I should play again before Honda and maybe Sony and Torrey or something like that. Yeah, Steve's going to work for me next at the Masters.

Q. Adam, what are the differences you see between, doing math in my head which is dangerous, the 25-year old Tiger who you played practice rounds with in 2000, 2001, and the nearly 40-year old Tiger who you might see here knock it around the marina with his kids?

ADAM SCOTT: What are the --

Q. How are those two people different?

ADAM SCOTT: Well, I don't know. It's the same as anyone else. You're 15 years older and his life's changed entirely from a 25-year old on a complete mission. And you think back to those times. I mean, it was like we had never seen a guy on a mission on a golf course like he was at that point in his prime. So much has changed and he's now a father

and there are priorities that change as you get older. I think it's just normal really. I mean, he can't be that 25-year old kid forever. We all kind of get older and evolve.

Q. Can you talk about some of the younger generations coming through. What did you make of Justin Thomas when you played with him in Malaysia?

ADAM SCOTT: I didn't, no. I didn't play with Justin so I don't know his game very well. But he beat me, so I'm not thinking that highly of him at the moment. (Laughs.)

JOHN BUSH: Adam Scott, thank you, sir.

ADAM SCOTT: Thanks, guys.