

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW: ADAM SCOTT
May 4, 2016



ROYCE THOMPSON: Adam, thank you for joining us. It's your ninth appearance at the Wells Fargo Championship. Two runner-ups this year and then back-to-back wins. Your first time teeing it up since the Masters. If you could, just kind of give us your thoughts about the course and what you've been doing in your off time.

ADAM SCOTT: Well, the course is great but unfortunately a little wet at the moment. Hopefully, with the good weather forecast, it dries out. The greens are still playing well, I believe the sub-air is working and we should be in for a good week if the weather forecast stays the way it is. I had a nice break and had plenty to work on after the Masters, which was pretty disappointing for me. Would like to get back in the swing of things and try and work my way into great form this weekend and then obviously going into THE PLAYERS next week. It's a good two-week stretch.

Q. You just said you had a nice break. It's probably your last real long break for a long time. I just wondered if you could discuss the whole thing going forward how hectic it's going to be and how much golf is ahead of you the next few months?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, it's really hectic and I think, you know, I took a lot out of where I was going into the Masters. It was six out of eight events and the Masters being the sixth one. I had been in contention, I played lots of good golf and it's not just fatigue but that played a part in my poor performance at the Masters. My body just didn't swing the club the same way it was when I was much fresher earlier in that Florida swing and even in Bay Hill and the Match Play.

So a lesson learned there. That was probably a little too much to tackle. I'm going to have to monitor that really closely the next few months through the PGA and try and stay as fresh as I possibly can. So the schedule is different for everyone, week on, week off, week on, week off. It looks that way for probably a lot of guys. If you do want to not go week on, week off, then you add one in and all of a sudden you're playing a lot. So it's going to be interesting to balance that out going forward. Obviously, right now I'm pretty fresh, so looking forward to these two weeks.

Q. Can you say what you're doing after next week? Do you know between next week and the U.S. Open?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah. I'm planning on playing Colonial and Memorial, yeah. Again, it's still a pretty hectic schedule. I would like to just get through these two weeks and then reassess.

Q. With the break now, do you feel like you're close, you can get right back to where you were, the level of your game, or do you have to build back to where you were at Bay Hill?

ADAM SCOTT: I think it's close, I don't think it's far away, but I need a couple of rounds to get that momentum going again. I think sometimes you only get that from freeing up on the course and having that trust to free up and then the confidence that comes from that. So ideally that's what I'll be doing on Thursday and Friday here and then enjoying trying to win a golf tournament on the weekend. It's a good week to get things going like that because next week's obviously very important and, you know, that tournament is something that I very much would like to win again.

Q. Adam, if the powers that be in golf had carved out the schedule this year to accommodate the Olympics instead of just throwing the Olympics in with everything else, would it have changed your decision or altered your decision?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, definitely it could have. It's very hard to see how -- there would have been some carving out, I think to have happened. That wasn't the way, but it is a very tough schedule the way it is for me. You know, I just didn't get to see my family enough. I think I'm seeing them six days in seven weeks and it would have been six in nine weeks had I gone to the Olympics. Those are just the hard decisions you have to make. That's the way it is, unfortunately, and that's the event I decided to skip.

Q. Adam, can I ask a quick follow. So you come from an Olympics-mad country, it seems like you took a bit of a personal public relations hit. How do you make this decision, how tough was that?

ADAM SCOTT: Well, the tough part was to choose not to represent Australia, I guess. That's the tough part. But I feel like I do that every week. I play over here or anywhere else outside of Australia, I've lived my life representing Australia and I feel I've tried to do the best job I can of that. Of course not everyone will understand my decision or like it, but not everyone's in my position where I feel that's something I'm not will to sacrifice some family time for. It's lucky we're all different; otherwise it would be very boring and things would just go along. But I think as well as the criticism, I think there was some very fair constructive comments about the whole thing, and some of my point of view and feelings were explained well, too. I hope it hasn't had too big of a hit because I think that would be a little bit unfair. You know, we'll all just move on. I'll be back in Australia to play at the end of the year. I think I'm far from abandoning my country.

Q. Is Stevie back on the bag?

ADAM SCOTT: Yes.

Q. Is it just during the major championship season, have you guys carved out how long he's going to stay?

ADAM SCOTT: He's doing these two weeks, David's doing the next two. Steve's doing the U.S. Open, David's doing Akron. Steve's doing The Open and the PGA.

Q. So you would like to have Steve's schedule right now?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, either of their schedules are pretty good. I'm the one doing all the work. It sounds good to me.

Q. You talked about the golf course being wet at this point. As the week goes on and it dries out, how much does that change your thinking, your strategy, because it will be playing longer and slower, whereas by the weekend it could be firm and fast the way they want it.

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, I guess that really is for this course based more around the greens. I think off the tee, whether it's wet or dry, it's going to be the same strategy. You've got to get the ball in play, it's critical around here. The greens are very severe and you want to be coming in with some control. So if it's wet, it means it might be a driver instead of a 3-wood off the tee or a 3-wood instead of an iron. The strategy is still to get the ball in a position to get it on the green.

If the greens get firm and fast, then it will get very difficult and the first hit becomes even more important, but you're going to have to be very precise with your iron shots. You know, my record has gotten worse around this course, which is something I would like to change. But it seems that having a good understanding of the greens and where you leave the golf ball on the green, not completely dissimilar to Augusta, is important in kind of taking some of the stress out of playing the course because you can quite easily hit it on or just near the green but be in a very awkward spot to get it down in two. Leaving it somewhat under the hole if you can is helpful around here.

Q. Last year you spoke of playing here maybe largely because it was hosting a major next year. Is that largely why you're here again this year or is there more to it than that, and speak to it maybe future years coming here as well?

ADAM SCOTT: I mean, yeah, of course that's part of the reason. It's a great event, we're spoiled for choice on the PGA TOUR and they've done so many great things. Kym, the tournament director, is a phenomenal guy and he's done great work here. There's so much going for it. But yeah, I wanted to kind of turn my momentum around and I want to get into contention, kind of feel like I can win this tournament and have a great week for one, but also a really good feeling when the PGA Championship comes here and a good understanding of the golf course so I think it's important for me to be here anyway this week.

Q. Because of the tight schedule, does that cut into your chances of doing a recon trip to any of the upcoming three major championships, and if so, how does that change what you do once you get there?

ADAM SCOTT: I think I haven't figured out exactly what I'm doing from The Open to the PGA, but that's the one that's always a bit tighter anyway with usually Akron's in before the

PGA. This might allow me to just go in the weekend before at least for the PGA. But no, I think I'm going to do the same kind of thing. I've got my time set for Oakmont and The Open. There's just less kind of recovery time and practice time. As far as the recon and course preparation, there's enough time, but just the other stuff, it's all just kind of cramped. And a week off is a couple days, a couple days' rest maybe and straight back in it. There's not a lot of time for doing much else.

Q. Anything you've been working on in the last few weeks?

ADAM SCOTT: I've really just worked hard on the body side of things, kind of stretching things out and moving a little freer. I think playing quite a busy two months of golf kind of tightened the body up a little bit and somewhat inhibited my swing, I guess. Nothing other than just trying to get that nice sense of ease in my golf swing back through stretching and that kind of thing.

Q. Rickie Fowler won THE PLAYERS last year. I'm sure you weren't surprised that he pulled that off, obviously very exciting the way did it. Were you at all surprised it took him so long to win? It had been a while since he had won before that. I'm just curious if you guys played a lot and if that was a bit of a surprise to you?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, Rickie's talented enough that I think probably everyone sits and thinks he should win a lot. If you look at people who win a lot, and last year was the first time in a long while that there were a couple people who won a lot, it's been very difficult to win for everyone. So yeah, I feel like yes, he's got the talent, he should win a lot, but I guess it's not surprising he doesn't because not many people do. And then really I feel Jordan and Jason Day broke that trend a little bit last year and it's possible it could happen again. I mean, it's kind of cyclical everything. But Rickie's certainly talented enough to be one of those guys who could win five tournaments a year.

Q. Adam, in settings like this, in the last year you made it pretty well known kind of how you stood with the Olympics and where it was as a priority. When you officially withdrew a few weeks back, was it kind of a relief for you?

ADAM SCOTT: I don't think it was a sense of relief but I felt it was just the right thing to do to make the announcement and move on. Everyone can move on and do what they need to do and I can as well. No need for speculation. I think as I took last looks at the schedule, I just couldn't get my head around going down there and sacrificing that little bit of time that I could have had with my family. It's not really a relief, I felt it was the right thing to do.

ROYCE THOMPSON: Thanks Adam. Play well this week.

ADAM SCOTT: Okay. Thank you.