

**FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW: SCOTT McCARRON (-20)**  
**August 20, 2017**

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**MAUREEN RADZAVICZ:** Congratulations, Scott, our 2017 Dick's Sporting Goods Open champion. Your fifth PGA TOUR Champions win and your third this year, but Kevin didn't make it easy for you, did he?

**SCOTT McCARRON:** No, he didn't, and I knew Kevin was going to play great, he always does. We've been battling it out since high school, since probably 1980 actually. We've played a lot of golf together against each other. I never say that Kevin beat me or I beat Kevin, just one of us shot a lower score. He's such a great guy. I lost to him in 2002 at the Match Play years ago, 1 down the last hole and he hit a great bunker shot, and today I was able to get to just shoot one lower than he did. But as soon as he wins one, he's going to win a bunch out here, he's such a consistent player. He's probably our most consistent player out on the PGA TOUR Champions. He's a top-10 machine. So it feels good to finally come out on top and win one.

**Q. What should that plaque read over in the junk right at 18?**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** "Don't hit it here," that's what it should read. Again, it was amazing. I'm hitting it down the right-hand side of the fairway just trying to hit a big hard cut because I'm not going to go left in the water, that's the worst. I can make par from the trees, I can't make par from the water.

Just hit a tree and bounced 40 yards right and 60 yards backwards, but luckily it was just in a little ground under repair. That was the biggest key, that it was in ground under repair because I was able to drop it twice and it went forward. We had a rules official right there and I was able to place it. I had a decent lie because if that ball's sitting down, I can't take it up over that tree with an 8-iron. I don't know what the plaque's going to read, but yeah, they should put a plaque there after that shot.

**Q. The yardage was?**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** 164 we're guessing. I got my caddie out there, we're doing triangulating trying to figure it out, but 164.

**Q. And then watching you guys today, just talk about how well both of you guys drove the ball. It just seemed like you guys were in the middle of the fairway.**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Yeah, Kevin drives the ball really well. Kevin hits a draw and I hit a fade, so our balls aren't going to talk to each other in mid flight but they kind of end up about the same spot. Kevin hits it long, so we were kind of neck and neck all day long. We hit a lot of fairways, both of us, which you've got to do out here. The par 5s, you've got to hit the fairways to have a chance. Unfortunately, I got a couple mud balls today. I got a mud ball

on 3 and I got another mud ball on 12 and really affected the shot unfortunately. But again, you've got to play from the fairway and Kevin and I did a good job of that today.

**Q. How big was it for you to respond on 13 after he had taken the lead?**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Yeah, it's big. I've kind of had the lead all day and then Kevin dunks a sand wedge on 9 to get two shots there. Then he goes and takes the lead at 12 with a great up-and-down. If you notice anything about Kevin Sutherland, he's one of the best long bunker players out on the PGA TOUR Champions. He's been doing this for a long time, and so for me to respond on 13 with a birdie to tie him was huge.

**Q. Put in perspective your last 36 holes.**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** You know, it's a whirlwind. I shot, what, 19 under the last 36 holes? That's the lowest I've ever shot two rounds back-to-back, and to do that on a golf course that you've got to drive the ball fairly straight, tree-lined golf course, it's tough to do.

It was interesting, I never really even thought about how many under I am. I just kept going, I've got to make another birdie, I've got to make another birdie no matter what. That was kind of my mindset. When someone said you shot 19 under in two rounds, I mean I didn't even know. Honestly, I didn't even know how many under I was. I guess that's kind of when you're in that zone you don't really know.

**Q. When you signed your card on Friday and somebody suggested you're going to be in that seat on Sunday, what would you have said?**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** You know, it's interesting. My coach, DA Tischler, said this is a golf course that if you take it really deep one day, you can get right back in it. Not a lot of guys are going to go really deep, but if you have -- you know, a couple guys, Goydos has done it, Kevin Sutherland with a 59. So if I could go really deep I could get right back in this tournament. Lo and behold, I did that. So after talking with my coach on Friday, I said, you know what, you're right, if I can go really low on the weekend I still have a chance, and sure enough I did.

**Q. And the tee shot on 16 that went through the trees, first of all, did you know it ended up on the front of the green there?**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** It went around the trees, it didn't really go through the trees. I hit a great shot up the left side of that bunker and cut it right around the trees. When they started clapping I thought it was on the green, I didn't know it was just short of the green, which I was surprised because I hit that pretty good. But I had to cut it so much to get it to that right hole location so it maybe just took off a few yards there. But it was in a good spot. It was unfortunately up against the little collar a little bit so it made it a little bit more difficult. But Kevin then hit a great drive on the left-hand side of the green, had a tough two-putt and I made a good birdie.

**Q. How big was your start today going birdie-birdie?**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Yeah, birdie-birdie was big. Again, you've got to hit both fairways, I hit the fairway on 1 with a 3-iron I just put in play and hit a good pitching wedge in there and made that. On 2 I had a tough shot from 85 yards, which is normally a 60 but it's going to spin so much that I just hit a little easy 56-degree.

Then unfortunately -- I make my hay out here on the par 5s. I birdie a lot of the par 5s, I think I'm leading in birdies on par 5s and leading in eagles on par 5s out here, so I was disappointed not to make birdie on 3. But I had a mud ball and just had a 3-wood coming into the green and just squirted it off to the right, hit the trees and came way back. But again, to birdie the first two was a good start.

**Q. Can you run through your other birdies?**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Yeah, sure. I birdied 1 and 2, then birdied 5. The par 5 I hit a good drive and then hit 3-wood just left short of the bunker and hit a really nice flop shot up there to about a foot.

Then 8, another par 5, hit a really good drive down the left-hand side and then had to hit a hooking 3-wood and just got it up into the bunker so I was on the up-slope. Hit a really nice bunker shot to about four feet, five feet, made that for birdie.

Then a little drought there until I got to 13. Hit a nice drive on 13, 8-iron to a back hole location from about 169, hit it in there about maybe 18 feet. It was a putt that was kind of in a little bit of valley, moved a little left and then moved a little right, poured that in.

Then birdied 16. Good drive there just short of the green, nice two-putt from just off the fringe.

And then 17 we're tied with two holes to go and I knew I probably have to birdie the last two to win this thing. So we had I think 200 yards to the pin but I was trying to carry it maybe 189 just to get over that slope. Hit a really hard 6-iron and carried all the way down there to about, I think I had about 15 feet, something like that. It was a putt that I thought was going to break about a cup to the right, then I got to the other side and my caddie's like, no, it's going to be a lot straighter, it's actually going to try to hold on here. When I got behind the hole I could see that it was just maybe a left-edge putt. Again, you've got to look behind the hole sometimes to see what putts are going to do. I hit a good putt starting at the left edge and it just hung right in on the right. That was a big putt to take the lead on the last hole.

And then again you heard about the birdie on 18, that was probably one of the best birdies I ever made under the circumstances.

**Q. What did you have left for par on 9 because you seemed to give that quite a bit of**

**attention?**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** It was only probably two and a half, three feet. It wasn't that far but it was a putt that I had to start on the left edge. It was moving to the right, that's why I had to give it a little bit of attention. It was fast coming down the hill, and any of the those putts out there that go down the hill and moving where you've got to start left edge you've got to give it your full attention.

**Q. Talk about the (inaudible) out here. What's it say about how well you and Kevin played that the next closest person was seven shots behind you and six shots behind Kevin?**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Wow, yeah. Kevin and I really kind of put it to everybody on the weekend here. But the talent out here is so deep, there's so many good players. I still feel there's 25 guys that could still play on the PGA TOUR if they went out there full time. You're talking about the best golfers in the world during their time, during their heyday. Hale Irwin told me he played his best golf from 50 to 53. So to watch what Bernhard Langer's done, to watch what Hale Irwin's done, to be able to come out here with Hall of Fame guys, with Colin Montgomerie, Mark O'Meara, all these guys, they play so well. Bernhard Langer's kind of our leader and he plays well every single week. He's an inspiration to me and an inspiration to a lot of guys for how hard he works.

**Q. No. 3 you hit that approach shot, hit the tree and bounced back to another tree. Was that a difficult third shot?**

**SCOTT McCARRON:** It was a difficult third shot because it was kind of in the tree ruts and the whole bit, so it was tough. I had to get it up over a tree with a pitching wedge. I had 142 and had to kind of play it back in my stance with the pitching wedge to get it up over the tree, too. I hit a good shot there. To get there, I had a mud ball that just squirted like a son-of-a-gun over there. That happens, that's what happens out here. That's the way it goes.