

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
November 29, 2017



ADAM SCOTT

MODERATOR: Well, Adam, welcome back to the Australian PGA Championship. It's great to have you here.

ADAM SCOTT: Thank you.

MODERATOR: Can you start by talking us through the year?

ADAM SCOTT: Well, yeah. A lot to go over, I guess. Yeah, it's been a fantastic year for me. I guess very exciting last few months with my family and having a new baby and all the good things that come with that. I guess that's been the focus of the year for me really. It was a lot of planning around that.

I'm very happy to be back here on the Gold Coast playing this week in front of a bit of a home crowd. A very exciting event I think having Sergio come down coming off his Masters win, a fantastic year, and he's just one of those guys who brings so much to a tournament and I think golf fans down here will really appreciate that. And also Leishman as well, who's had a cracker of a year, and now with Cameron Davis and Wade Ormsby winning last week, lots of good stories.

So this is an exciting event and one that I've played well at the last few times around here at Royal Pines and I'm looking forward to this week.

MODERATOR: With Sergio here, you're friends and obviously your hometown, do you feel like you're playing a little bit of tour guide this week?

ADAM SCOTT: I tried to get all that out of the way, I tried to give him all the tips for the area before he came down. He's been excited about coming back to Australia and especially with his wife Angela, her first trip here I believe. So I was trying to point him in the right direction so they have some fun evenings and dinners and good coffee spots, breakfast spots, take advantage of all of that. I think I'll let him be now and get on with the tournament.

MODERATOR: Questions from the floor?

Q. Adam, you've seen this golf course progress over the last few years since the changes, you've had a chance to play today. What are your thoughts as to how it's maturing and settling in?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, I think that's exactly what I would talk about this golf course. I mean,

it was probably for a local and someone who has known this place for a long time, the changes were quite drastic and a bit shocking almost, but now three, four years after it's all been changed, it's maturing a little bit. You can see the greens are starting to receive some shots and it's probably playing more and more like the designer would have hoped. But it's obviously taken some time so it's settling in.

There's a lot of grass out there this week, which is very nice, we get really good lies, but it's playing long. It's not firm and fiery at all, so it's going to play very long this week. That's certainly going to suit some of the guys in the field and not others but it's settling in. So I think it's hard for us to all be patient. We're all very spoilt and we all expect perfection straightaway. But it's really settling in nicely and I think it's going to play a little better each year as we keep going. So I'm very happy with the shape of the course this year.

Q. Adam, lots of fun things obviously for you off the course but that's meant less golf. I think you've played the least amount of tournaments since you've been a pro. What are some of the particular challenges you found in your game?

ADAM SCOTT: It wasn't so much the playing less. I'm kind of known as a bit of a part-time golfer anyway out there. It was probably just the less practice this year. You know, the priorities just had to shift a little bit. I traveled a lot more and practiced a bit less and they were the challenges.

You know, the first half of the year I played okay but didn't get much out of it, and then since the U.S. PGA, I mean really the focus hasn't been on the golf at all and that shows up when you're going to play in world-class fields, there's no doubt.

It's good for me to see that because it's very clear for me going back next year exactly what I need to do to remind myself what I've done for the past five or six years to play at the level that these guys at the top are playing at, and I really look forward to getting back into those kind of routines that I've been in over the past few years that have produced great golf.

But of course it's difficult not to be frustrated. If I'm going out to play, I want to play really well. But I also have taken a bit of a realistic attitude that back half of the year that I haven't prepared as well as I normally would like, and I do, I pride myself on being really prepared to play, but I'm learning as my career and life evolves and changes that I have to kind of temper that. I think I'm going to have to learn to switch on and off a little bit more in the future. Little notes about different things like that to think about for the future.

Q. There was some talk around the region about (inaudible) disrespected and things like that. Can you clarify last week and what you think?

ADAM SCOTT: It was more on the lines of the back half of this year just not really being about the golf. And I know it's the Aussie Open and it's a very dear tournament to any Australian, but sometimes you just can't play them all. I've been away I think too much from my family and I had to decide not to play last week purely for that reason and try and get my

commitments elsewhere all taken care of so I get the most time with my family.

I'm sure I'll play a lot of Australian Opens in the future and I've played a lot in the past, too, so there's nothing really more than that.

Q. Adam, you've been out on the course. What are some holes that you really like at the moment that are setting up really well for you that may not have set up well in other years?

ADAM SCOTT: Well, they haven't changed the course that much for me. It has matured but it's not necessarily playing any easier when I say it's matured at all. I think because it is playing a little longer and it's looking like maybe a damp week, we could be in for a real long test. So if the wind does blow like it did out of the east, the 18th plays into the wind a bit and that's extremely difficult.

But those kind of holes, if I'm striking it well, play to my advantage. If you can get it on the green in regulation a lot around here you're going to be okay. Some of the greens are tricky, but it's tricky chipping from around these greens when the grass is a little grainy and a little long. You don't have that option of bumping it up the green, so that's going to challenge everyone this week. For me when I'm playing my best golf, I take advantage of the par 5s and I'm solid everywhere else and I would like to do that this week.

Q. Adam, there's been a lot of chat lately about the golf ball and (inaudible) made some comments last week (inaudible) it seems the courses are getting stretched to kind of compensate for the golf ball. Do you have any thoughts on that, about the bifurcation, a different ball for pros and one for amateurs or do you support these courses stretching out to 8,000 yards?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, I mean, it's a big debate. I don't know if you want to sit here and listen to me waffle about technology and stuff, but I think we don't want courses to get longer than they are today. I don't necessarily think it does anything really positive for the game.

I think there's two things. Either the governing bodies can change the specifications and the rules of the golf ball and therefore make it fly shorter, it's up to them to do that, or we just get used to the way it is and we'll get used to seeing 61 rounds around St. Andrews. Scores, the number will just be a bit different in the future. It doesn't mean it's always going to be like that because if the wind blows, it's just as hard as it always is.

So I don't think there's a very simple answer. Really it all lies up to the governing bodies. If that stirred up last week because Mike Davis made a comment about the golf ball but really it's all in his hands. He's the one who's made the rules and the equipment manufacturers have only ever abided by them and we're at this point, so it's up to him to change it.

Q. Adam, obviously next season is up and running. Have you given any thought as to where you would like to put your focus for the year? And secondly, just with

regards to your game itself, commentators always talk about what they think are issues for individual players and weaknesses. How do you assess those in your own game?

ADAM SCOTT: Where I put my focus as far as?

Q. As tournament schedules.

ADAM SCOTT: Sure. I think I'll probably go back to playing a more similar schedule to what I've played in the past. This year I had to change up for reasons because I wasn't in my normal base and position to practice the way I normally do. So I played the weeks before majors this year, which I actually think worked quite nicely to play my way into a bit of shape.

But given that the circumstances will be different again next year, I think I'll go back to what I used to do and probably get back more into my practice and preparation plans to focus obviously on playing great those four weeks of the year.

But that's the big plan. There's lots of little bits of preparation that go into it to get to that point to where you've got the ability to peak at that event.

So my schedule starts somewhere in February on the U.S. Tour on the west coast like it usually does, play a few events and try and play myself into form quickly. So I plan to have a bit of a preseason back over the other side of the pond before those events and really get focused for what I need to do next year because, you know, although those guys played a lot of great golf this year, I think with so many different guys up there, there's a real opportunity to be one of them. There isn't dominance at the moment and that door's definitely open, so I just need to put myself back in that position to take advantage when it comes.

Q. With regards to just the second part, where you are with game itself?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, I think my ball striking really suffered this year through the lack of practice. When your strength weakens, it doesn't have great results. But I say that I played okay all year, that doesn't get you very far. I think someone told me I had nine top-15s through the PGA Championship, but that doesn't get you very high up on FedExCup points and all the things that are good measures. So my scoring average at that point was 12th on Tour with 69-point something. There was a lot of consistent play but it just doesn't add up to a lot if you're not throwing in the low rounds and doing it at the right time.

For me this year I just didn't really get any momentum going my way but I found that difficult, too, because I wasn't hitting it quite as good as I normally do, so that's important for me to do next year.

Q. With a 6:00 a.m tee time tomorrow, what time do you set the alarm for, and having

two kids under three, is that helpful?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, it's probably a 3:30 get up tomorrow, and fortunately my kids don't wake at 3:30. I'm used to getting up at 5:00. 3:30's very early but that's the time you need to really be alert by 6:10 and switched on and ready to go. So I'll just do my normal routine that I do and then have a nap in the afternoon.

Q. Adam, after today's pro-am, how do you feel, how's the body feel physically?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, good. I mean, I'm a little bit tired I must admit after last night and then an early one this morning. But yeah, I should be ready to go. I didn't have my usual warmup this morning so it took me the whole front nine to kind of loosen up a little bit. But yeah, I'm in good shape. I really don't have any physical problems, just mental ones (laughs.)

Q. You're obviously moving your back a little bit, just wanted to double check.

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, no, that's because I didn't really stretch this morning.

Q. Is the long putter making a return?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, I think I might give it a run this week. I haven't done that much work with it but it feels pretty good out there. Yeah, I think it might make the grade this week, definitely feel very comfortable with it.

I've just noticed like everybody else that Bernhard Langer and Scott McCarron make everything they look at and have done since the anchoring ban and moving it away from the body. So it was actually pointed out to me that this year they both recorded the best ever putting stats since stats have been kept. Both of them beat the old best. You know, I don't know if it's just a coincidence or if they had just a really good year, but maybe they've found the best way to putt.

Q. Adam, just quickly, there's been a lot of (inaudible) about Jason and Australian golf. Marc Leishman, he's put his hand up this year, he's been a real contender, two wins this year. I know you're very good mates, it must be pleasing to you to see that there's been an Aussie really starting to put his hand up and contend not only in the majors but in individual tournaments?

ADAM SCOTT: Sure, yeah. Marc's such a good bloke and it is nice to see him start to fulfill his potential. He's a super talented guy. He had a couple close calls at majors, and to have a two-win season and play consistently all year on the PGA TOUR is a step up. Not just to have one good week at a major and get a bit unlucky, but to do it over a season is definitely a step up and hopefully Marc can carry on with that and get all he wants out of the game.

It is fantastic to see, but Australian golf has always been deep. It just runs in cycles

sometimes and you've just got to wait and the next guy will come through. And I think we all motivate each other, whether it's up the chain, down the chain, whatever it is. So it's been wonderful to watch Leish this year and he does make it look so easy because he's a pretty crazy guy so it's fun to watch.

Q. Getting back up the top, to be No. 1, winning majors, can you put in perspective how difficult that is when you've got two young children?

ADAM SCOTT: Hopefully not too much more difficult. You know, I think it's just some adjustments. I can only speak for myself but 2015 my daughter was born and it wasn't one of my better years. Routines got better and everything settled down and made the adjustments and 2016 was one of my better years.

You know, it's just -- it's very hard to see exactly how you'll respond to kind of big changes. I mean, if we had a crystal ball it would be great, but we don't and sometimes it takes some time to settle down.

For me the challenge is just the demands on your time and that's not external, that's from myself. I want to be with my family as much as I possibly can and spend time with the kids, but I also know what it takes for me to play really good golf. So it's going to be finding the peace between that battle of where I put my priorities.

And I think earlier I said it's going to -- rather than me being switched on all the time, golf golf golf, thinking about golf, I think probably I'm going to have to learn to switch on and off and really kind of compartmentalize those two parts of my life. But physically and everything else, I think there's nothing stopping me getting back from the top, it's just about finding that nice balance in life that when you have that, everyone's in that nice happy place.

Q. Adam, just with Steve and his retiring, regarding the caddying situation going forward in majors, do you have any thoughts on that? And also the Olympics in 2020, (inaudible) changed at all?

ADAM SCOTT: Well, yeah, with Steve, I guess he's not retired just yet but we've ended our relationship because he's not -- I felt I wanted a full-time guy going forward. We're just at different points in our careers and that's fine. Steve's contributed so much to my game. So David, who's been doing the other part of the job for the last two years while I've been job sharing with the caddie, he's going to take over and he's got the gig at the moment so he's on full time. As long as he behaves, I'm sure he'll be around for a while. He knows my game very well. He's been on the bag with me for two wins last year on the PGA TOUR, so he knows the drill. He's caddied for a lot of other great players as well. He caddied for Vijay Singh for three years to name one of them. So I think we're getting along really well and obviously he's very excited to be working full time next year. And the other part?

Q. 2020 Olympics?

ADAM SCOTT: I really haven't thought that far ahead. As far as my thoughts on golf in the Olympics, my views haven't really changed at all.

Q. Adam, when golfers get older they change their game, get a few more tweaks. As a golfer gets older, do you have to change your game to stay at the level you want to be, or is that 37-year-old putts exactly the same way as a 30-year-old?

ADAM SCOTT: At the moment, I can. I don't know. I mean, to generalize as golfers get older they lose distance but that hasn't started happening for me fortunately. So if you do lose distance and you're giving up some yardage, maybe you have to come up with a few tricks, but at the moment I don't have that at all. I just think really if I'm at 100 percent, I should be in a better place than some of these younger guys through experience and being in the position to make a good decision more often than they have.

However, at the rate they're playing, they're learning all that very quickly, so I need to get up there and put a stop to that.

Q. Adam, the new putter this week, you mentioned going back to the long putter, have you tried that sort of technique of off the chest, have you done a lot of prep work with that?

ADAM SCOTT: I tried it a little bit a few years ago but I was just frustrated with the long putter that last year that I putted with it, so I was looking for a change at that point and the shorter putter felt good.

But I haven't really. It just doesn't feel much different at all than whether it's anchored to the body or not. I mean, it's doing the same thing it feels like to me. It feels very solid. I don't see it to be much work needed. It feels good. It's just like when you pick up a new putter and you just hole putts, that's what it feels like.

Q. When the kids want to you play next year and you know you've got to practice, what's going to be the motivation to go to work, what's driving you to save your career now?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, I just can't handle -- it's very hard, I try not to get frustrated, so I just can't handle the average stuff. So it will either be one or the other, so I'll go to work and hit balls.

But also, you know, the last five or six years I've -- you have to be honest with yourself and know yourself. I put myself in an environment over there that makes me want to practice. The facility is amazing. You get to the range, you would want to stand out there and hit balls off pure turf all day and not come in. The chipping greens and short game areas have all the shots, 70 yards of any shot you can imagine. All these kinds of things make the work so much fun that you could stand out there and do it all day.

So when I put myself in that environment, it's very productive for me so that wouldn't be a problem at all. And it's all very close proximity to home, so travel times aren't too bad. I'm sure I can manage to do both, a lot of great players have; it's just about making those small adjustments in your head and getting very organized. That's the big thing. Seems like whether you've got kids or not, time for everyone seems to just go quickly these days. No one's got enough time to do anything and you've just got to get very organised.

MODERATOR: Excellent. Adam, thank you so much for joining us and best of luck this week.

ADAM SCOTT: Thank you.