

**ROUND 3 INTERVIEW**  
**January 26, 2019**



**ADAM SCOTT ( -15)**

**Q. Terrific day out there at Torrey Pines. Let's start with the start first, I guess from that moment on you thought it could really be something pretty special?**

**ADAM SCOTT:** Yeah, the start was incredible, and you don't want to get too far ahead of yourself after that, but you also want to take advantage of a start like that. It's a really tough course and I just hit a lot of good shots on the front nine and made a couple putts, had a couple two-putt birdies and a hole fell into place. But again, it's back to reality on the back nine and a bit of a grind. It was nice to birdie the last, but still as good as I'm playing, I feel like I'm a long way behind.

**Q. It's tough when you see the way Justin's playing. A good friend of yours, I know. Having a look at that leaderboard, what is the approach tomorrow to try and go out there and make inroads into that lead?**

**ADAM SCOTT:** I would like to start 3-2-3 again tomorrow. Look, I don't know. If he plays like this, he's going to be very hard to catch because I thought shooting 7 under, maybe I could make up more than two today. I might not even make that many up. He seems to be in total control, so a lot of it's on his golf club at the moment. If I can just play another solid round, that would be good for me anyway; good for the confidence, get this season going and look forward to all the big events coming up.

**Q. Today the ball-striking, especially the first nine, was pretty special.**

**ADAM SCOTT:** Yeah, the ball-striking on the front was pretty awesome. It was pretty good on the back, too, but you miss -- it's easy to miss a couple fairways and then you're scrambling a little bit. I did a pretty good job of it all today. Obviously 65 around the South course, I don't care what the conditions are, it's a good score, you've got to be very happy.

I just didn't make up enough ground on the leader. I'm still lagging way behind. It's going to be a tough one to know what to do tomorrow because if you attack and make mistakes out here, you pay a big price. So I just have to kind of hope the momentum gets going and I can chip away tomorrow at Justin.

**Q. I thought your putting was really good. Leaving the flagstick in, how does that help you?**

**ADAM SCOTT:** I don't know really, yeah. They've been going in. I've done it for five rounds now and I like how I've been putting. I mean, I really, I haven't sat back and fully analyzed it yet, but just felt like when I heard the rule would be changed to that, that that

would seem the obvious thing to do. It's almost like giving you a bit of a backboard to hit at or another reference point or something to just know exactly where the middle of the hole is. I've kind of been going with it and we'll see after a little while. While it's going good, I'm not going to mess with it.

**Q. How do you square the notion of playing a round like that, shooting 65, and still having this gap with Justin?**

**ADAM SCOTT:** Yeah, he's just playing too good. He's done that right from Thursday. He's the No. 1 player in the world, he's played well for over two years. I mean, more probably. He's feeling it. He wants to take advantage of all of his good golf and that's why he's running away with this thing.

I don't know. It's almost all up to him tomorrow, so that's no pressure on me. But this is not a course I can go out and just fire at pins, it's too easy to make big errors. I'll just have to chip away and we'll see if he can do the same.

**Q. To be in that final group with him, that will make it a little easier to at least know what you need?**

**ADAM SCOTT:** Yeah, sure. Yeah, but like I said, I'm not thinking about winning sleeping tonight, that's for sure. I've got a long way to make up. But the good news is it's only one person out in front, so it all sits on his golf club tomorrow. If he plays a good first 12 holes, it's going to be very, very hard to catch him.

**Q. Adam, you were in contention at last year's PGA Championship, now you're in contention here. How much confidence does it give you that you can still compete with the best golfers in the world and play at such a high level?**

**ADAM SCOTT:** Yeah, I think -- well, it was a bit of a grind leading up to that PGA Championship last year, and to get back in contention was definitely good for the confidence. And the other thing I took from it was it felt like that's where I'm meant to be. I felt like I was in the right place and I wasn't worried about being in contention. I've done it a lot. It's just been a bit of a grind to get my game back up to this level, but now I'm starting to see it a bit more frequent and that's good for the confidence, too. No matter what tomorrow, I would like a solid round and look forward to all the great golf that's coming in the next two and a half months.

**Q. Can you just comment on that bunker shot on 16? I think Jordan mentioned something about the same bunker, it might have been a little firm underneath?**

**ADAM SCOTT:** Yeah, I didn't have a great lie, slightly on the down slope on the back side -- well, on the side slope down slope. It was sitting down a little bit and I just tried to be really cute and put the hosel on it. There's nothing more to say. There's not a lot of sand, so then when it's sitting down there's nothing really to work with. I could only see myself

hitting it out and running it straight across the green unless I kind of did something Mickelson like.