

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
January 27, 2019



ADAM SCOTT (-19)

DOUG MILNE: Adam Scott, thanks for joining us after your runner-up finish here in your first start at the Farmers Insurance Open. 4-under 68 in your final round today. Not to put you on the spot, but on the way in you kind of joked saying, "This is a piece of cake. I can't believe I've been missing it all that's years." So congratulations on the runner-up. With that said, just a few comments about the week.

ADAM SCOTT: Overall my game is most improved from two weeks ago at Sony where it looked like I had spent a year not playing golf. It was very rusty. So I'm glad that got shook off and did some good work in the week in between. It was a little scratchy on Thursday, but birdieing the last two holes set me up for what turned out to be a great week and got that momentum going into Friday, and then yesterday was a great start.

Today was -- I just didn't quite have the game on the front nine, and it's a shame because Justin was a little shaky early with some bogeys and I just wasn't solid tee to green on the front. I played really good on the back, but just wasn't quite where it was yesterday. And I couldn't really close the gap, so he kind of never was really under much pressure because when he made a bogey, so would I, and Jon wasn't charging. He didn't play good the front nine, either. By the time I got it sorted out, it was a bit too late.

But it was really nice to see me play some solid golf. Generally everything was in pretty good shape this week, so a lot to build on for me as we get into some big tournaments up coming.

Q. Adam, as you said, you weren't able to capitalize very much on the front here with three bogeys, but he did make five birdies after that and you finished with four straight one-putts to have 28 putts for four straight rounds. Maybe 19 under's probably going to win here a lot of years, you just happened to get it going.

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, I mean, Justin was 20 under par through 13 holes of the third round. I mean, I don't know if that's ever happened, but that's two courses, if it has, it hasn't when the North's been fixed up. He's playing great. He's the No. 1 player in the world. He's showing why right now. Even when he was a little bit off today, he kept it together and then closed with five birdies in the last 12 holes. It's hard to beat when you're 3 back around this golf course.

Q. How much belief do you take out of this week, particularly having made that putter change and having it pay off immediately?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, well, that felt good. Putting wasn't the problem anyway of late for me, it was my driving and that was getting better. I like seeing that because that's really the strength of my game, and if you take that away, it makes the game pretty hard for you when your strength is not happening.

I like the way I swung the club this week generally. Making the putter change was a pretty good experiment this week, it worked nicely. Definitely something to build on. See what happened the next time I come out, see if it feels just as good.

Yeah, I learned a lot with that style of putting this week and it was quite a big adjustment, I have to say, and I made some errors out there with it, but hopefully -- it's looking all positive and I like that. Twenty-eight putts four straight days is probably the best I've ever done.

Q. Adam, compared to yesterday, did you feel like the golf course was a bit tougher or was it mainly on the front nine, just the tee-to-green issue for you, or was the golf course --

ADAM SCOTT: There's no doubt the pins were tougher today. They were more in the corners of the greens and less under any slope, certainly on the front nine. Coupled with that, I drove it in the rough probably more often than not on the front nine, so I was really not in a spot to attack.

I thought on the back nine there was some more gettable pins, but on the front nine definitely they were tucked away a little bit. Like I said, I mean, if I was really on, maybe I could have tightened it up over the first five holes because Justin made some errors, but I wasn't in position to do that. I thought I did well just to hang on to pars really from the spots I was in.

Q. Adam, you've been in position where you've been the guy holding onto the lead and you've had situations like today where you've been trying to chase a guy down. Can you speak to the difficulty of trying to protect a lead like Justin was out there this afternoon?

ADAM SCOTT: It's very difficult because we see it all the time, someone gets hot from behind without any pressure. It's hard to play with the lead because you can make not that bad of an error and it leads to a double bogey. And two shots is not a lot, a double bogey to a birdie on a good swing and a bad swing is three shots even.

You know, I think he performed like the No. 1 player should today. When he was shaky, he got it back together quickly, and then he didn't do anything wrong on the back. He holed great putts at 15 and 16. If he misses those, you never know, the door's a little bit ajar, but he closed well, I think.

Q. You said there were some mistakes you made with the flagstick in. What would you call mistakes?

ADAM SCOTT: Not really with the flagstick in, it was more with, I mean, just the severity of angles on that putter I used this week. All of a sudden six degrees of loft and the grip is three inches in front of the blade, a little fiddley getting into position. And when I didn't put it in the right position, it was in a more natural position, I didn't start putts where I was intending. So I missed a couple really short putts throughout the week, which was carelessness, but it's interesting, different feeling certainly setting up with this putter.

Q. Have any other players talked to you or asked you about what you were doing this week? Tiger was watching you a lot when he was playing behind you, but has that been anything, did anybody say anything to you about?

ADAM SCOTT: Most people I played with asked why I'm leaving the pin in and I don't really have any better answer for them. I think we've heard all the science from Bryson and Dave Pelz even.

I just feel like it looks like it's easy to aim at the middle of the hole and there's something sitting in the middle of the hole.

Q. Two things for you. The bunkers here this week, were they not necessarily up to standards that you guys see in other places?

ADAM SCOTT: They just were a little thin of sand. They were good if you were in the fairway bunker, it was no problem, it was actually nice. But they're so deep around the greens that it's an interesting thing on golf courses these days that deepen the bunkers to get more severe, but sometimes I guess pros are critiqued on we get perfect sand all the time, but when the bunker's nine feet deep, you better have a good lie, otherwise you're never getting it out.

This week they were just a little bit thin on sand, which made it very hard to elevate the ball at all. So just kind of getting it out and letting it run 10 feet, I'm sure you probably saw lots of that, was all you could do.

It was incredibly important in management not to short-side yourself in a bunker. The one time I did today, I got away with it on 9 and made a long putt coming back. But then I did it last night on 16 and tried to play some fancy shot and shanked it up on the back of the green because I would have just hit it straight across the green anyway. Yeah, you've got to -- I'm not going to say it was unfair, but they were a real penalty this week, so they're to be avoided.

Q. I know your schedule didn't allow you to come here as much as maybe you would have liked before.

ADAM SCOTT: Um-hmm.

Q. When you now have played this, what did you enjoy so much about it? What got your eye?

ADAM SCOTT: Look, I've been coming to this area for a long, long time. It's one of my favorite spots in the States, I've got a lot of friends down here, I've enjoyed surfing here for like 15 years, so it's kind of my spot where I've always come to surf in the States. And Torrey is a great course. I guess the weather was incredible this week, but what I was really pleased to see is how the North course was. I had never played it until this week. The greens are absolutely pure and it was just a joy to play golf here this week in this kind of weather on a great venue.

Q. 15th in the FedExCup, 30th in the world, over 50 million earnings now. Can Adam Scott get back to where Justin Rose is now?

ADAM SCOTT: I would like to think so. I mean, that's kind of what I'm out here trying to do. You know, time's not on my side, so I don't know how patient I can be to do that because the big 4-0 is coming in a couple years and apparently golf gets harder after 40. This is what I keep hearing.

I feel like I'm doing all the right things to stay in good shape and I would like to -- really my goal is to win major championships and I would like to be a multiple major winner and I'll start with one more, but I believe I can win more than one more. If that leads me to No. 1 in the world again, that would be amazing, too. It was fun to be there, but it's a hell of a process to get there. It seems like, yeah, there are a lot of people flick flacking, but these guys have played consistently well for a long period of time to get there. So if I'm to do that, I've got a long 12 months in front of me. There are some other things that are more urgent than that right now.

DOUG MILNE: Adam, as always, thank you.