

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
November 10, 2019



SCOTT McCARRON
Schwab Cup Winner

CHRIS RICHARDS: Welcome, Scott McCarron, winner of the 2019 Charles Schwab Cup. How does that sound?

SCOTT McCARRON: Oh, my God, that sounds so good, Chris. It's been an incredible year and it's really been an incredible like four and a half years, since I turned 50, to get to this point.

I finished fourth, third, second. I had a chance last year going into the final day. If it was only a three-day event, I would have won the Schwab Cup last year, but I didn't play well in the final round and Vijay played a great round. Again, I had a nice big lead and I just didn't play well in the Playoffs, especially the last nine holes at Sherwood and then this week, just couldn't get it going.

This meant a lot to me. It's no secret, I've told everyone this is what I wanted, I wanted to win the Schwab Cup. I have worked, just like everyone works, extremely hard this year to get in that position. Once I got in the position, I have to admit it was a lot harder than I thought it was going to be.

Thinking about winning the Schwab Cup and thinking about what that would mean, it was my year-long goal and it was tough. I had to lean on Langer. He's been there so many times and he's won the Schwab Cup five times but never won here. How hard it is to play well when you're trying to win the Schwab Cup.

Tom Lehman and I had a lot of long conversations and texts over the last couple weeks talking about him when he went through it and how difficult it is. The only guys that really know how difficult it is is the guys that have been there. Nobody knows what it's like when you're trying to win these things.

Having said that, I can't believe what Tiger Woods has done all these years to be in this position to winning FedExCups and winning majors and stuff like that when you're winning the year-long trophies. It's just amazing the mindset that goes into it and the mental fortitude you have to have to play well.

It's so funny, it came all the way down to completely out of my control with Jeff Maggert, Retief Goosen going into a playoff. I couldn't do anything. And Retief is such a great champion and such a great player. You know, Jeff Maggert coming up and holing a shot in the playoff, I just can't believe that happened, which ultimately led to me winning the season-long Charles Schwab Cup 2019. It's amazing.

Q. Would you have been less or more nervous if you were out there in the playoff?

SCOTT McCARRON: It's interesting, I think I would have been less nervous, to be honest. When you're in a playoff, that means you're playing well, so you're playing with confidence, you're not as nervous. You're just going through your process and hitting the shots. When I'm playing well, I'm not as nervous.

Sitting there watching the playoff and watching Jeff Maggert and Retief go at it when I had no control was very difficult. I had to take a lot of deep breaths and just sit back and to know whatever happened between those two guys in their playoff, you know, I couldn't do anything about. I had to be happy with -- and I really came to the realization that no matter what happened, I still had a good year. It still was a lot of fun and the journey is way more important than the destination. And today, this journey of going all year and leading the Schwab Cup for 21 or 22 weeks, whatever it was, it was an incredible journey. This is the destination, to win, but it really came down to Jeff Maggert holing a shot, it was amazing, with a wedge. I still can't believe he did that.

He's an incredible golfer, incredible guy. He hits it so straight. I've always admired his game, and to come out the way he did and made a clutch putt to get in the playoff, clutch up and down out of the bunker and then to hole that shot, it's just incredible.

Everyone was watching that, I'm sure, and it does so much for our tour to see it come down to the wire with Jeff winning and then coming down to the wire for me winning the Schwab Cup.

Q. Because you were on the verandah, was there like a few second delay between what had happened and then you turned around and saw it on TV?

SCOTT McCARRON: Yeah, yeah. I heard the roar, that's amazing, I heard the roar. I knew Retief was in the bunker and he hit it on the green. Also, I heard this huge roar and I'm like, he made it. And then everyone was just coming up to me and I saw it on TV, he hit that shot and went right in the hole. I can't believe it. That's one of the most incredible shots I've ever seen and one of the most incredible shots that's ever affected me I guess that I didn't hit.

Q. Was that the first time you won a million dollars sipping red wine?

SCOTT McCARRON: Yes, it is. You know, I lost -- Jeff Maggert chipped in with Andrew Magee in the match play years ago to win a million bucks. It came down to me in the finals with Kevin Sutherland one year and I had a chance, about a 10-footer to put in extra holes, 36 holes. I missed it, but I hit a great putt. But that was the only chance I really had for a million bucks and I was not sipping wine at that time, so this is pretty special.

Q. What does it say to the format now? They had a different format a couple years ago, but now last couple years it seemed like it's provided the excitement that they've wanted?

SCOTT McCARRON: I think it's good to recognize the players that have played well all year long. I think that this thing came right down to the end. We had Langer could have won it, Retief could have won it, Jerry Kelly could have won it, Colin Montgomerie could have won it. So I think this playoff system that we've got going right now is working really well. I like this playoff system. I thought it worked great and I thought it was great for TV, just an incredible finish.

Q. And your battle with Jerry Kelly in the Playoffs, how did that keep you mentally sharp, always trying even when the game maybe wasn't there?

SCOTT McCARRON: You know, Jerry and I are good friends and do dinners together and we play a lot together. You know, it was a battle. Jerry wanted to beat me, I wanted to beat him. I wanted to hold onto the lead. I think having the lead for so long coming into the Playoffs was wearing me down a little bit mentally. Everyone's coming up to me going, oh, you're going to win it. You're getting all these sides and all of a sudden Jerry wins two out of four weeks and plays well the last nine holes at Sherwood to move up and get it closer. So it was tough coming into this week knowing that I needed to play well and I didn't, unfortunately. But still, things worked out in my favor.

Q. When Retief was standing over a three-footer on the first playoff hole to win it all, what were you thinking?

SCOTT McCARRON: At that point I'm like, it's been a good year, Retief's going to make this putt to win the tournament and win the Schwab Cup. That's what we decided to have the Schwab Cup be. He would be the rightful winner and he won a major this year and he's a great player, a Hall of Famer, and he would have deserved it. Then he missed.

Q. When you're trying so hard to win something that you've stated is your goal, I'm sure people are telling you, "Well, just relax."

SCOTT McCARRON: Oh, yeah, everyone was. That makes it worse, I think.

Q. Is that the toughest part?

SCOTT McCARRON: It was.

Q. You're thinking, "Of course, I know I need to relax."

SCOTT McCARRON: I think it was. To be honest, all year I played with a lot of confidence and I played well, and every time I played well I was in the hunt. I really wasn't thinking about my golf game or my golf swing. When I would be off the golf course, I never really

thought about it, I just put it to bed.

These last three weeks, it has been stressful. I go to bed thinking about my golf swing, I go to bed thinking about my putting stroke, I go to bed thinking about my chipping, I'm going out and practicing a lot more, I'm hitting more balls, I'm trying to figure out -- I flew my teacher in to Sherwood because I wasn't hitting it good in Richmond.

Yeah, there was a lot more pressure that I put on myself, and I'll learn from it. But again, I was leaning on the guys that have been there and I was talking to them. Larry Moody, our tour pastor, was giving me all kinds of good inspirational quotes and Tom Lehman was sending me texts and Langer and I were talking. There was so much going on, and all those guys had all said, Langer's won the Schwab Cup five times but never won this tournament. Everyone has told me how difficult it is to try to close out the Schwab Cup.

To be honest, I really didn't think it was going to be that difficult, but it sure enough was and it was because guys behind me played great. Jerry Kelly, Langer, Colin, Retief, and I was not playing as well.

So I've got to go back to the drawing board and learn to somehow learn to relax a little bit better when I get in that situation. I'm fine in a tournament because you're playing well and you're playing with confidence. All of a sudden when you're not playing with confidence and you want something so badly, it can be very difficult.

Q. This tour's going to get a lot of mileage out of Jeff's shot I'm sure in the next couple months and there's a lot of great players filtering out of this tour next year and the year after. Can you from a big picture perspective put into words what that day means for this tour?

SCOTT McCARRON: To have Jeff Maggert do what he did today means so much for this tour. Everyone was watching the tournament to see who was going to win and the second was who was going to win the Schwab Cup. It all came down to those two guys, so it means a lot for our Tour.

This tour is incredible. These guys, they're legends, Hall of Famers, they're the best players in the world. If there was a tour event here playing with the regular guys, the winning score today would not have been much different than what it was today and it just shows you how good these players are, how good Jeff Maggert is, how good Retief Goosen is and Bernhard Langer, amazing at 62. It's going to mean a lot for our tour.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Thank you very much, Scott, and congratulations on a great season.

SCOTT McCARRON: Thanks, Chris.