

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**May 5, 2021**

**CORY SCHNEIDER**



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**Q. Just a quick little background on where you're from and what you're doing these days.**

**CORY SCHNEIDER:** Sure. So originally from northeast Ohio and then went to school at Methodist College, now Methodist University. Graduated from there and went full time where I'm at now. I've been there now for, this is my 16th season.

**Q. Is that in the Outer Banks?**

**CORY SCHNEIDER:** Outer Banks, The Pointe Golf Club right there in Powells Point right before you get on the Outer Banks. I've been there, like I said, this is my 16th season. I love the area. I like to golf and fish, so it's perfect for me. It's also nice that the tournament gave an exemption for us to get in here. We're used to being behind the desk and checking people in and now you're the one that's playing golf. It's kind of a great week, for sure.

**Q. And I know you've had a couple of other Tour starts.**

**CORY SCHNEIDER:** I have.

**Q. Just how big of a step -- I know you've --**

**CORY SCHNEIDER:** Sure.

**Q. It was obviously a big experience.**

**CORY SCHNEIDER:** Yep. So '09 I played in the Heritage and then I played in the PGA Championship in 2019 up at Bethpage, which that was a very difficult golf course. And now playing here, love the golf course. It's great being in the Carolinas, so it kind of feels like a home event for me. I've got a great friend and member on the bag. I've got one of my good buddies is an instructor here. My members and family are coming out. This one, of all the ones, might be my favorite at least so far just because it's in the Carolinas. North Carolina, I should say. Kind of feels like a home event.

**Q. Who's caddying for you? What's his name?**

**CORY SCHNEIDER:** Bob Natole, N-A-T-O-L-E. He's, like I said, a member at the club, a good friend of mine. He's caddied in Tour events before, so it's nice having someone out here that has had some experience. Then I've got Eric Dugas, he played in the Sony this year and I played college golf with him, so he kind of knows my game as well. It definitely

makes it comfortable out here because I didn't get much practice coming into this week. I kind of feel like I have a public speaking event in Spanish right now.

**Q. That's a great way to put it.**

**CORY SCHNEIDER:** But I'm just going to soak up the week. And I had a couple members text me, like hey man, you're like 10,000 to 1. I'm like, hey, I know, I'm out here just to have some fun. Looking forward to just a good week. I was hoping the golf course was going to stay firm and fast because I don't hit it real long. If it gets wet, it gets like Bethpage. That was such a hard golf course, but an experience as well.

**Q. Well, you seem like -- and you just did come out with the fact that you're nice and relaxed, going to have fun. Are you the type that has ever been a victim of nerves?**

**CORY SCHNEIDER:** Oh, 100 percent. The biggest thing is, I always tell people I call it the oven out here. You know, it's one thing -- the golf course -- people don't realize how good the guys are out here. Not only are the staff here, they know where to put pins to make it difficult. On the first tee, everyone's nervous. The more you're out here, you learn to handle it. You're never not going to have nerves.

Playing in a few events and done okay and not so well, you kind of learn what works for you on handling those nerves and the excitement and all those things. The first tee, 100 percent I'll be excited and nervous, but I'm just going to go out and have fun. No expectations, just going to try to soak it all in. I had a practice round yesterday with Robert Streb and Troy Merritt and Russell Knox. I ran into Patrick Reed a few holes. It was cool just to kind of get out there and see how those guys do practice rounds and play, compare games.

**Q. Who are you with the first two rounds?**

**CORY SCHNEIDER:** I am playing with --

**Q. I can look and see if you don't have it.**

**CORY SCHNEIDER:** I'm playing with, hold on. I don't remember off the top of my head now.

**Q. That's all right, I've got the sheet back in the media center. Last two questions. Having friends and family here, will that help relax you more or will that make you more anxious?**

**CORY SCHNEIDER:** 100 percent, it's way more helpful. No matter what, they're going to clap. They're excited to be here, soak it in. Some of them are driving out early Thursday morning, leaving at 4:00 and coming out and kind of going to catch me on the back nine. It's always nice, if you hit a good shot you've got a friendly face there. If you hit a couple squirrely ones, you've got a friendly face there.

Still like, hey, come on. The more I've been out here, like this is my third PGA Tour event and I've been in five Web.com events, you just learn that, hey, it's still golf at the end of the day and just got to let it go. But it's a tremendous golf course, I'm looking forward to playing. I can't get out there today and play due to the pro-am, but I'm just looking forward to getting out there in that oven again tomorrow.

**Q. I like the oven reference. Last question, what are you feeling most confident about with your game right now or something that you're able to rely on?**

**CORY SCHNEIDER:** Believe it or not, I made kind of a swing change right before getting here. I did a little bit of practicing. I drove it a little bit better, which is normally not one of my strong points.

I think mental side is probably the best thing. The whole game's not super solid right now, but I'm kind of going to just free it up and have fun. I think that will allow me to hopefully play well. If it doesn't work out, I know that I'm just going to enjoy the experience. I've got nothing to lose, which is the best thing.

A lot of not only friends and family but members of the Carolinas PGA, a lot have reached out, a lot of support. I'm representing them and I'm grateful for the tournament for giving us the sponsor's exemption because I know they can give it to other people. But I know like myself and other people in the Carolinas PGA, we really appreciate it. It's kind of a highlight check mark on your career to say you played at Quail, you played at Bethpage. Even if it doesn't go well, you're still like, hey, it was a great experience not only for myself, but the rest of my crew that's here.