

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
May 8, 2021

SCOTT STALLINGS (-5)



Q. Scott, how would you characterize the round?

SCOTT STALLINGS: I managed pretty well. I got a horrible break on 14. Just kind of the ball hits anywhere but the curb, it's fine. It by no means was a good shot, but it wasn't as bad as it ended up.

But dialed back, gave myself some looks coming in, and to be honest, I'm kind of just happy to be in this position. I've not played well here and kind of all the group of guys that I surround myself with that help me with my game all encouraged me to play and I was dead set on taking the tournament off, just past history and everything. They kind of put together a game plan of how they thought I should approach it and here we are.

Q. What was kind of the way they thought you should approach it?

SCOTT STALLINGS: Hitting it less often. (Laughs.) No, a little bit of just some of the scoring holes I've kind of taken not necessarily -- I was aggressive when I should have been conservative and kind of vice versa and not really knowing when to push it. The eighth hole's a perfect example. I've never really been one to try to force it up by the green and I've hit it up by the green three days in a row and I had a 12-footer for birdie, and eight-footer for birdie and I chipped in for eagle today. The golf course is so difficult, trying to truly maximize your opportunities like when you do have some scoring chances. I was playing the hard holes well and the easy holes bad. Kind of flip it around a little bit and try to give myself more opportunities.

Q. When you say you weren't going to play here, how recently were you dead set on not playing?

SCOTT STALLINGS: A few weeks. Like I had some friends that came two years ago and I birdied 18 Friday and missed the cut by probably 10, it seemed like. My buddies were driving me back to Knoxville. I'm like, "Well, boys, you're going to have to figure out another tournament to come watch me play, I don't know if I'll come back."

I love the course. I just -- a new perspective, kind of a fresh set of eyes, started working with a different kind of a statistician, kind of a game management guy and he laid it out and he gave me my schedule when we first started working and this was the second course on the schedule for what he thought best suited my game. I said, "I don't know how good you are the stats, but seven missed cuts in nine tries is not very good. He just laid it out as far as I think you can play well there based on these few numbers and here we are.

Q. What was the first one?

SCOTT STALLINGS: There's a few. Kind of a tie, Torrey was definitely on there, for sure. Torrey and Tampa.

Q. Any meaning behind the hat?

SCOTT STALLINGS: It's a clothing apparel sponsor out of Boston, Massachusetts. Get a lot of questions about it, but started out big in Crossfit and they're kind of transitioning into mainstream sports, and they have a full golf line coming out in June.

Q. When you consider how hard this golf course is, is any lead safe?

SCOTT STALLINGS: I don't know. There's not saying disaster at any point. I thought they did a great job with the golf course the last couple days. If the greens had been set up like they had been the last few years, we would not have played yesterday with the wind and everything in the afternoon. They did a great job as far as keeping the greens speeds manageable. I thought 17 was a super cool setup, kind of an awkward pin, give the guy an opportunity to go. I don't know. I mean, perfect example is 14, I missed it in the spot where you have a chance to play again and anything can happen. Go out there and see what happens tomorrow.

Q. You don't want to say disaster, but bad things can happen here, right?

SCOTT STALLINGS: Yes, unfortunate things. My son's big on Dude Perfect and they have a segment called "That's Unfortunate," and that's exactly what 14 was.