

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
November 17, 2021



ADAM SCOTT

AMANDA HERRINGTON: We would like to welcome Adam Scott to the virtual interview room here at the RSM Classic.

Adam, you're making your tournament debut here at Sea Island. Just first off, comments on adding this to your schedule and how much you've been able to practice here this week so far.

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, it fit in with the schedule this year coming over trying to get a couple of events in in the fall, and off the back of Houston, seemed to be sensible to stay over. I've heard so many great things about Sea Island, never been here before at all, my first time playing the event. Playing the Seaside course yesterday was really enjoyable, the weather was beautiful and it's a great place to be. I really liked the golf course a lot and looking forward to the challenge this week.

AMANDA HERRINGTON: Making your fourth and final start of the fall portion of the PGA TOUR season, just some comments on your game, highlighted by a T-5 at the CJ CUP earlier this season.

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, my game has been feeling generally pretty good since August, I guess. I've played some nice stuff. I lost a playoff back at the Wyndham and a T-5 in Vegas, there's some good stuff in there.

I've got to say I was a bit rusty last week coming off three weeks off and that course really demanded a lot out of everybody last week and I wasn't quite on, but hopefully it was a good warmup for this week and I'm looking to finish the year obviously with a big showing here.

Q. Adam, I just wanted to get your thoughts, are you much of a user of the green books?

ADAM SCOTT: I do take it with me; however, I sometimes use it and sometimes don't. I probably take it with me just because it's available, to be honest. I'm kind of in favor or wish they had never surfaced because now it's a tough thing to take away.

Q. Yeah. This will be the last week that it will be legal. Will you be using one this week?

ADAM SCOTT: I'll take one this week. I have no real course experience, so I may find myself in a position where it's just helpful certainly on a long putt to kind of have a general quick feel of which way the putt goes, but I do look forward to them not being part of the

game going forward.

Q. And just curious, do you feel like it negatively impacted you at the Wyndham in the playoff when you were trying to win that tournament?

ADAM SCOTT: I'd like to blame it on the green book, yeah, sure. (Laughs.) I don't think it really played a role on that putt. I think that was more a combination of things all revolving around me.

But there are moments I think everybody who used the green book has gotten frustrated with it at some point because it's very hard to plot precisely where the hole location is. You can be slightly off sometimes and then therefore a putt doesn't do what the book says, and I know from talking to a few guys, that happens once or twice a week and then the green book gets tossed aside for the rest of the week and everyone relies on their instinct and feel again.

Q. Are you much of a goal setter, and do you do that at the beginning of the new season or will you do that when the calendar turns January 1?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, I'd say I'm a goal setter, of course, but not down to very specific things. I've always kind of based my career on being a winner and that's been harder the last four or five years for me. There have been less wins even though I think some areas of my game have improved a lot.

Again, next year my goal is to win tournaments and hopefully big ones. There's small goals that go into that process, but nothing like I wanted to be ranked top-10 in bunker play or anything very specific like that; more general goal-setting with, you know, winning as the outcome.

Q. Adam, there's a lot of talk about fall schedules and all this and some guys like to play, some guys don't. Do you have a rule of thumb? Do you see it as a calendar year that you like to play or do you take the fall differently every year?

ADAM SCOTT: I think you take it differently depending what position you're in. I find myself playing a few times this fall. I wouldn't say a lot, but I'm playing four events in this fall because this will be my last event most likely in the States until Genesis next year.

The idea was to try and play a few and play well and put myself with a little cushion for the FedExCup, because no doubt I'm going to fall about 10 spots every week I don't play now and I'll come back in 150th place. I really want a good result this week so I'm not in that position.

Q. And with all the talk about what may or may not happen with other initiatives and things, do you think what's going on around professional golf right now is a good thing long term, beneficial regardless of how it shakes out?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, absolutely. I think no matter what it is, things over time need to be refined. They can't stay the same. Other things are changing, so you have to adapt a little bit. That's true for golf as well.

I mean, even just looking at the FedExCup, we've adapted that several times over the 15 years it's been going. So you always have to be aware of what's going on and make some changes. I think with all this discussion, something good will come of it for the game of golf.

Q. Adam, I've not seen you since the British Open when you cut a bit of a dejected figure when you walked away. A week is a long time in golf, but just wondering five months on from that figure walked off a bit at Royal St. George's, how have things changed and are you in a much more, you know, happy with your golf and life in general?

ADAM SCOTT: I think so, yeah. Yeah, I remember that now and I think that was kind of rock bottom of frustration for me with everything. It had been -- up to that point, it had been a challenging season of golf for me, and of course that affects my general attitude. I put so much into my career and sacrificed a lot of things, including time at home to do this, and I just wasn't getting the results, and that's what it's all about. It's a result-based kind of industry or profession that I'm in. I found that very frustrating.

And the whole major season had passed me by there on that day when you saw me and I came away empty handed and I was disappointed.

But since then, it was around that time, it was a good rest. I could see a couple of things changing. Actually, it was -- equipment-wise at the time, it was starting to feel good even though I didn't get the results that week, but everything has certainly fallen into a much more calm spot now. We're far from out of this pandemic, but it seems like we can see our way forward. There's less moving targets for me to try and hit in all this in balancing that. I feel like I'm much more calm and certainly feeling more optimistic about things than five months ago.

Q. Have you moved your base now or are you still -- you were talking about potentially moving back over and having a more permanent base in the States.

ADAM SCOTT: No, I didn't. I mean, I think if the situation was getting worse, that was certainly on the table, but I haven't and I think things are now starting to take shape where we can make some plans of how I can best manage my schedule, and that includes even starting the next year playing in the Middle East. My intention is to play in Abu Dhabi and Dubai and be part of the European Tour and that makes sense seeing as I'm living in Europe as well.

Q. One question about Min Woo Lee, who's challenging for the race to win the Race

to Dubai. Probably an outside shot, but can you talk a little bit about him and how impressed you are with him and his movement this year?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, he's a super talent. Actually, it's funny how things work. I was talking with somebody who knows him the week before the Open Championship and he was asking me why Min Woo hadn't done better. I said it could be many things, but it's probably just a matter of time, he's so talented. Then he won the Scottish Open in pretty fine style that week and obviously put himself in a great position.

You know, the talent is all there. He's got the modern game, he's got all the attributes, he's just has to find the best way to apply himself to consistently challenge at that level like the Scottish Open, and no doubt a really good week this week would do his confidence the world of good. He might win the whole thing and we see a new star of golf.

Q. How are you looking then really for 2022? Do you feel as though -- you've still got the rest of the year, but is this the last event you'll do this year, and if so, where do you go in 2022?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, this is my last event. Like I said before, I'm here to win some FedExCup points. I'd love to win the tournament. I was close a few months back and I feel like my game generally is in a pretty good spot. I think it's good enough to contend here this week and I'd like to make the most of that.

And then a slight change to my schedule, a bit like I used to do when I was a lot younger starting the year in the Middle East and then coming to America a little later in the year. I think given all things in my life, where things are at, I think that's going to be a nice way to start the year and maximize not only my family time but my golf time as well. I'm very optimistic about where things are at. Some things, although it was frustrating this year, have moved in a positive direction for me and I now look to benefit off the back of that next year.

Q. Adam, how do you stay motivated when you've been doing this for over 20 years?

ADAM SCOTT: It's ups and downs. I think in the down times, you know, like I was saying, a few months back at the British Open the frustration was there, then I come to the realization it's the only thing I know how to do, so I don't have a lot of options outside of that and I'd better get my head back on and figure it out. I love doing it. I think sometimes this break will probably be good. If you starve me of the competition and the opportunity of playing for a little bit, you come out very hungry and in a good space to play another season. I think that's important.

And I know there's been a lot of talk, but if there was -- our season is very long and as you get older, I think you have to make that time off somehow. Unfortunately, sometimes that means sacrificing playing events and falling well off the pace, but your goals might have to change, too, and the focus doesn't become the season, it becomes certain events.

Q. What does the month of December look like for Adam Scott away from golf?

ADAM SCOTT: Well, yeah, look, I have three small kids, so things at home are very busy, but it's an exciting time with it being Christmas. The kids are obviously very excited for that, and they had better be good so Santa does show up. That's what I get to bribe them with for the next few weeks.

But, you know, I've been away a lot this year, so sometimes the hard thing certainly during the year is to switch my mind off enough when I'm at home, but that's most important for me to do now in December when there's really no consequence golf-wise for me to switch my mind off and enjoy what I have at home.

Q. What specifically did you feel like you found after the British Open in your game?

ADAM SCOTT: I really -- honestly, I really struggled with my driving through to that point. One of the guys who fits me at Titleist, Liam from the U.K., suggested I change some of the technical stuff in my driver, the driver head and the shaft, and things started to feel a bit more natural to me again from that point. And the driver for me is a sensitive area because I feel like I'm a good driver of the golf ball and when I drive it well, it kind of trickles through the rest of the game, the confidence and the freedoms and all those kind of things.

It didn't happen like overnight, but it's been getting progressively better since and I think I've seen improvement then through the rest of my bag as well. It's amazing just how that calms you down, standing on a tee, and you stand on the tee more often in a confident state and I feel like golf isn't as hard as it was earlier in the year.

AMANDA HERRINGTON: Adam, that's it from us. Thank you so much for your time. Good luck this week.

ADAM SCOTT: Thank you very much.