

Utah Championship
Presented by Zions Bank

ROUND 4 PRESS CONFERENCE
August 6, 2023



ROGER SLOAN (-24)

Q. All right, Roger, Korn Ferry Tour winner once again. Been nine years since the last. How does it feel?

ROGER SLOAN: Yeah, it feels great. I was actually joking earlier this week with my caddie, it's been a long time since I won. To do it here is special just because this place reminds me so much of being back home. I love Salt Lake City, it's a great place.

Q. How does this one compare to your win in 2014?

ROGER SLOAN: Oh, the one in 2014 was special. Being Canadian and winning on home soil and hearing the national anthem, that was a really special moment.

I think anytime you win, though, is very special. This one, my family was here. To see my kids run onto the green and hug them, that's a moment I'll never forget.

Q. I was going to ask, how special is it just to have your wife and three kids here and being able to witness in a place that's special to you?

ROGER SLOAN: Yeah, it's great. My family this year, they're not traveling as much. One, you can't afford it, and it's tough with three kids. So we picked a couple that were kind of special to us, this being one of them. They're here, so just makes for just a really, really special week. Really looking forward to enjoying it with them tonight.

Q. I've been dying to ask about that shot here on 18, incredible iron in. Walk us through playing 18 knowing that you were tied for the lead, or did you know?

ROGER SLOAN: Yeah, no, I knew I was tied for the lead. I actually knew once I had that putt on 17, I know the way I'm playing I could go birdie-birdie and kind of maybe steal this one.

When I hit a really good putt on 17, I kind of had a feeling we might be able to do something on 18. I hit a great drive and I just had a perfect number. I hit a 56-degree wedge, my 95 is my bread and butter and I hit it 95. You just couldn't ask for anything better. Then just to be able to tap it out for the win was really special.

Q. Seeing you hit that shot, seeing how close it got walking up to it, was there any



emotion there of knowing like, hey, this is actually going to happen?

ROGER SLOAN: You know, it's tough because it's still like whatever it was, two and a half, three feet, so you're still like you know you're probably going to make it, but you're going to have to resettle because if you go in there nonchalantly, you could just as easily miss it. It was just long enough to still had to play attention, still had to do a little bit of breathing and reset. We hit a good putt and we were able to win.

Q. With just a couple events left, how big is this win for you here at the tail end of the season?

ROGER SLOAN: Yeah, from that perspective, you know, I haven't had the greatest of years results-wise, but it's because I've been having to work on my game more than I have lately. Kind of describe this year as a work in progress.

Yeah, while this win is great, I really just got to keep chipping away at what I've been doing all year, staying committed to that. The goal is for me to be the best player I could be, hopefully go back to the PGA TOUR soon, but I'm just taking it one day at a time. While this is great and we're going to enjoy it, it's kind of back to the grindstone next week and just keep committed to that.

Q. If you could pinpoint one thing this week that kind of came together for you, is there one thing, or what was it that allowed you to get to that point?

ROGER SLOAN: I would say that I actually drove the ball really well. Maybe statistically it wasn't great, but I stayed fairly aggressive off the tee this week and I was really hitting my driver well. A lot of the holes that I needed to hit it very well, I hit the driver very well. Case in point, a lot of the par 5s, so I was really pleased with where the driving was at.

Honestly, I don't really look back at this week, I didn't really do anything special, I just did a lot of things really well. Hit a lot of good quality wedge shots, hit a lot of greens in regulation, rolled in a couple mid-length putts. Nothing crazy. Just one those weeks that was solid.

Q. You weren't in the final group today, I think you were one back, but what was the mentality like stepping on the tee this morning? Any goals you wanted to hit? Anything you had in mind for the day?

ROGER SLOAN: Well, I've had dismal displays on Sundays this year on this tour. I've played quite well and Sundays have just kind of left me scratching my head.

I would say actually going into this week, I've played Thursdays and Fridays very well, very good game plan. So my strategy this week was just continue to play the same way. It wasn't to play any different because of where I was in the tournament, it was just to plot my way around, hit the middle of the greens on the par 3s, give myself a few chances, maybe roll in a few putts. Stay committed to that.



Just funny how that just, that helped me play 17 and 18 because it wasn't about trying to win the golf tournament, it wasn't about trying to hit it close, it was just, hey, we've got 77 yards, how do I hit a 77-yard shot, and I was able to execute that.

A lot of validation in that process, so I'm excited to continue that.

Q. Is that something that you think you implemented on the weekend for the first time this weekend? Like if you can take this going forward in tournaments coming up, just keep that same mentality?

ROGER SLOAN: Yeah. Again, it's been a long time since I've played really well. So this year there's been a lot of times where on the weekend I've gotten myself inside the top-10 at some point and then I just kind of fall apart because now I try to force it. I want it so bad that I just, you know, I force it.

So this week I was just like it doesn't matter where you are in the tournament, it doesn't matter how many birdies or where the pins are, we're just going to play how I play. At the end of the day you might win, at the end of the day you might finish eighth, but it gives you your best chance to be the best golfer that you can be and we were able to execute that.

Q. You and your caddie appear to have a great relationship, have a little inside joke almost after you birdie. After you birdie a hole, what's the move that you do?

ROGER SLOAN: So we were at the Canadian Open. I don't know what had happened, but I looked at him and I did the pinch, hold and release. This has now become a little thing where we both do it to each other after a birdie. It's great fun.

Todd, we started working together there probably end of May, I think Raleigh or Knoxville was our first event together. He's a good Canadian guy, I'm a Canadian guy, we get along so well.

When it comes down to it, that's what I need most out of a caddie is just somebody I can get along with, somebody that we can talk about obscure random things walking up 18 trying to win a golf tournament to just kind of lighten the load a little bit. He does a wonderful job. It's been a great partnership and I'm very thankful that he was on the bag this week.

Q. We talked about it a little bit yesterday, but big year for the Canadians. Can you kind of touch on that a little bit again?

ROGER SLOAN: Yeah, I mean, great time to be a Canadian golfer. Here we are in Salt Lake City where Weirys is. A lot of the Canadians that are on the PGA TOUR right now can tell you exactly where they were when Weirys won in 2003 at the Masters. I know personally it validated that Canadians can play golf.



So a lot of appreciation for what Mike Weir did for us. You're seeing a lot of guys now playing really good golf. What Nick did at Canadian Open was huge. You can just see what that's going to do for Canadian golf down the pipeline.

Yeah, it's great to be a Canadian, great time to be a part of Canadian golf. It's a beauty, eh?

Q. Where were you when Weir won the Masters?

ROGER SLOAN: I was at Penticton Golf & Country Club playing a junior golf tournament. The entire -- it was -- the awards ceremony had actually been paused and there was like 60 juniors and we were all like glued to the TV.

I still remember, I think it was Len Mattiace, I think he hit the tree on the chip shot on 10 and the whole place just erupts, goes crazy. You never want to see somebody lose it, but in that moment you're just so proud because Mike Weir's about to be the Masters champion. That's where we were.

Q. Have you been able to kind of develop a mentorship with Mike or friendship of any kind?

ROGER SLOAN: Yeah, no, I've known Mike for a long time, I think since 2014. When I won out here in '14 and I came to this event, he reached out, hey, come on over. So I've known Mike for a long time. He's great. Anytime you want to pick his brain, he's a great, great guy. Good role model. He handles himself so well, he's got a lot of knowledge. Anytime I see him it's a great time.

Q. When your family gathered when you had the short putt, it looked like you didn't look over at them. Was that on purpose?

ROGER SLOAN: Oh, no, I saw them. My wife was smiling at me. My kids had no idea what was going on. I just kind of chuckled, like I hope I make this putt.

Q. What are the ages of your kids?

ROGER SLOAN: We've got 5, 3 and 7 months.

Q. How are you guys going to celebrate tonight?

ROGER SLOAN: I have no idea. We had a reservation -- we're staying up at Park City this week and we had a reservation at 8:30. I don't think we're making that. The kids probably are going to go to bed soon, but maybe we'll have a Shirley Temple somewhere. I don't know, we'll figure it out.

Q. Is there a little extra motivation on the course this week just having them here?



ROGER SLOAN: Not really. I think just, I think it's a combination of like being at Park City, just getting away, like being in the mountains. Like mountains for me, that's like my zen. I feel rooted to the earth when I'm up there.

Having the family and getting away from the golf, that helps. Especially with a 3:00 tee time, it's nice to be up there, we're hanging out in the pool, we're enjoying the nice cool mountain air.

Yeah, I wouldn't say extra motivation, but it's just really nice to hang out with them because I don't get that opportunity as much as I would like to on this tour anymore.

Q. I want to touch on the hat. Can you explain what you wear Thursday, Friday and then what you change into Saturday and Sunday and why?

ROGER SLOAN: OK. So we've got Dad Water. So I wear Mom Water on Thursday, Friday, but the weekends are for the boys, so it switches to Dad Water. I got a great sponsorship with Mom Water and Dad Water, they're under the same umbrella. Yeah, it's been a cool thing where we just wear Dad Water on the weekends.

Q. Maybe can enjoy a Dad Water this evening?

ROGER SLOAN: I'm sure we'll enjoy plenty.

Q. You'll play in Omaha?

ROGER SLOAN: I will, yeah. Omaha's actually one of my favorite golf courses on this tour. Yeah, really looking forward to playing next week.

Q. How many times have you played here in Utah in this event?

ROGER SLOAN: I believe I played five times, I believe this is the sixth year. I had to skip one year, I got into the Canadian Open.

