

SIMMONS BANK OPEN FOR THE SNEDEKER FOUNDATION

ROUND 1 QUOTES
September 14, 2023



SCOTT STEVENS (-6)

Q. All right, Scott, 6 under, hold a share of the lead heading into Round 2. Just walk me through your day and how it felt.

SCOTT STEVENS: Yeah, it was a great day. And honestly, I mean, God is so good, just even for me to be here. I thought my season was over and a lot did have to happen for me to get in, so just the opportunity to play this week has been awesome. A course that I've played before and a course that I love.

It was an awesome day. It wasn't the prettiest at times. I made a ton of putts, my putter bailed me out quite a bit, and I got some good breaks. But I had my buddy on the bag from South Carolina and it was just a lot of fun out there.

Q. Yeah, going from thinking your season's over to getting -- getting close, when did you find out that you were officially going to be in the field?

SCOTT STEVENS: I found out Sunday night, so I did know going into this week that I was going to get in. I wasn't even looking at the list for the longest because I think I was like 12 or 13 people out, so I thought there was no chance with this being a Finals event. Like I said, a lot had to happen, and people WD'd and then here we are.

Q. How do you get your mind right? I mean, for a week like this, you said your caddie, you were kind of talking out there. How do you keep it even keel and not let any pressures get to you?

SCOTT STEVENS: I think it was a good thing, honestly. I kind of went into this week saying I'm just glad to be here, happy for the opportunity. I put so much pressure on myself pretty much this whole year and it hasn't gone very well. I just tried to really just use it as a learning opportunity because I feel like that's when I play my best when I'm just trying to learn. No matter what happens, if I play good or play bad, just try to learn from it.

It definitely helped having my buddy out there. He kept me loose and today was a good day, worked out.

Q. You seem to be comfortable with the state of Tennessee, having been from here, you played a couple events out here. Just walk us through this course and then what this state means for you.



SCOTT STEVENS: Yeah, it means a lot. I love playing in Tennessee. Growing up in Chattanooga, there's a ton of great golf around Tennessee. But just played in the Tennessee Junior Cup here back in 2014, so it's been a while. I was telling everybody this place looks completely different. There were no houses or anything, so it's changed a lot.

Just playing that event here helped a lot, playing this course, having some experience. Had my parents out here today and some friends and family, so that was nice to have, always good to have them.

Q. So do you always use that yardage book cover or was that just pulled out for the specific event this week?

SCOTT STEVENS: I've used it all year this year. It still looks pretty good just because I've used it for one year. It was in the shelf for a long time. I have used it all year and it did work out well that I got it here at The Grove and we're here this week.

Q. Scott, you kind of mentioned that you thought your season was done. You posted on Instagram your end-of-season post and just about the struggles. I mean, talk about that and just, you know, like you said, God is good and you're here and you didn't see that coming. Just those feelings and literally being on the bathroom floor to here.

SCOTT STEVENS: Yeah, I posted it to my Instagram and you know it's real if you do that. Yeah, I posted on Instagram because, like I said, I thought my season was over. I decided to -- I had food poisoning in Wichita and had to WD. I took a picture when I was just sitting on the bathroom floor, so it was a rough time.

But I decided to post that because it really has been a tough year. I wasn't going to try to fake it. I have had a lot of good times out here and it's been a lot of fun, maybe too much fun because I haven't been playing on the weekends.

I just decided to post that because sometimes with Instagram you kind of show that things are going well even if you are struggling. Yeah, just it was a really hard year. I feel like I've been on the cut line a lot and been on the opposite side of the cut line, missed a ton of cuts. It's been exhausting and tough. Like I said, like God is so good. I thought there was a zero percent chance I'd be here this week. Everything happens for a reason. I don't know how the rest of the week's going to turn out, but just thankful for the opportunity and thankful to be here.

Q. I was going to say, there's a lot of golf left, but for you to come out here under the circumstances and play a great round under that, I mean, are you like proud of yourself? Is it like, hey, I came out -- I've shown myself, despite how this season has felt, you can contend and compete against these guys?

SCOTT STEVENS: Yeah, definitely. And I feel like, this is going to sound weird, but



sometimes -- I guess with Idaho I was one of the last players in as well. Sometimes I feel like there's always a story of the last man in, and then it's like I want to be that guy, so I would put extra pressure on myself to try to be that guy and it would never work out. So I feel like I did a good job of just going into this week and using it as a learning opportunity. Whatever happens, happens.

I feel like I put in some good work during the couple weeks I had off, changed some things in my swing that I saw had kind of gotten off. I feel like I did a good job of just staying calm and trying to have fun out there, which is a lot easier said than done sometimes. I got off to a good start, which helped a ton, and I was putting good, so that definitely helped.

Like getting off to a good start was huge because I kind of feed off the momentum and kind of forgot about everything else once I started playing well and I was just back out there playing golf again, which felt good.

Q. Where were you during those two weeks?

SCOTT STEVENS: So, I was back home in Columbia a little bit, and then I actually was up at Diamond Creek playing in the pro-member up there. Just something fun to do, kind of take my mind off golf. I was playing golf, but take my mind off competitive golf.

