

PLAYER OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCEMENT
December 15, 2025



SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER

HALEY PETERSON: All right, everyone, we're going to get started now that Scottie set aside some time to talk to us. Here we are, we're joined with the 2025 Jack Nicklaus Award Player of the Year winner, Scottie Scheffler.

Scottie's, your fourth consecutive time winning this award. We just want to hear about the season. You started off with a minor injury, but then you came back, and highlighted by two major wins What are you most proud of of this 2025 season?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah, I definitely didn't start off the way I intended to start off. I missed the first couple weeks of the season, but did a good job of bouncing back from that. I hit -- started to play some pretty good golf in May, had that really nice start at the Byron here in Dallas, then kind of my home event. Then started playing some really nice golf after that.

Q. Scottie, congrats on winning the award. Heard you just now on Pat McAfee talking about the offseason and kind of having kind of a central priority being your strength and your body. Just wondering if you can kind of expand on why that was of particular importance to you and if there were any moments throughout the year that you really realized you were lacking or that you needed to make up for that.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I think it was more about just getting back to where I needed to be. I think taking that --

HALEY PETERSON: Scottie, I think you were accidentally muted.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Am I back?

HALEY PETERSON: Yeah. So if you don't mind starting over with your answer to Paul.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah. I guess looking back at last year, Paul, the hand injury at Christmas, I made some really nice progress in the offseason, and it was -- this year was really just about kind of getting back to almost where I was just because throughout the year I can't really do the same things that I would normally do at home in an offseason. So a lot of that was just continuing to do my recovery stuff.

And I say build up strength. It wasn't really a ton of strength. It's not like I'm trying to gain a bunch of speed or doing anything. I'm just trying to get my body in a position where I can feel healthy for most of the year and not have to deal with little aches and pains and stuff like that.



Strength can be something that can be very helpful in especially major championships and stuff like that hitting out of heavy rough, that kind of stuff.

Q. Hey, Scottie, appreciate your time. Congrats. I sort of want to follow on that a little bit. You've had this great run of success. How do you balance trying to improve, which golfers are always trying to do, with not messing with success? Like not messing with the good stuff that you've already accomplished and maybe making it worse. Is that a balance for you? Is there any challenge in that?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I would say there's a definite balance there. Just because my body's been a certain way for my whole career, I'm not going to all of a sudden try and put on 30 pounds and do all this crazy stuff.

Most of that is just getting my strength back to a position where it was in 2024 and then making sure my body feels good for me to be able to perform throughout the course of the season and not have to kind of battle in certain events maybe if my body's not feeling 100 percent.

So using this time throughout the offseason where I'm not playing as much golf to flush out some inflammation and get some good recovery here at home just so I'm prepared to go out and play another long season.

Q. Scottie, I'm a little lost on this body strength stuff. Were you like -- it's not like you were limping around this year. Where were you hurting?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I wouldn't say I was necessarily hurting, but I think throughout the year I think everybody deals with little stuff within their body just from playing golf.

When I talk about strength, it's basically getting my body back to where it was in 2024. So that's something that would be basically unnoticeable to anybody but myself just based upon how I feel.

Then using the time that I have here at home to get my body into a good place to where I could go out and compete another 20, 22 weeks out on Tour because the season now is more of a sprint. You don't really have the time throughout the year to be doing tons of strength stuff or anything like that. Basically I just wanted to kind of maximize this offseason in terms of getting my body in a good place to where I could go out and compete and have good energy, have a good mind and just overall being a bit healthier in a sense.

Q. OK. And then along those lines, do you need to look at statistics to see what you've done well and what you've done poorly or do you know that on your own, and what did you do better this year than the previous year?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah, I think -- I don't necessarily need to look at statistics. I think a lot of how I've felt over the years typically aligns with what the statistics say.



So when I look back at this season, I definitely saw an improvement in my putting inside of 15 feet. That was something that we were hoping to see from using that claw grip and it was really nice to be able to get some results from that. It really helped me contend in some events where my ball-striking wasn't in the same spot where it was in 2024. I'd say that's probably the area where I made the most improvement when you look at last year.

You look at a tournament like The Open Championship where I think I led the field in putting that week, and so if you look at a year like 2023, if I had putted the same way at The Open Championship, I would have lost by a few strokes instead of winning by a few strokes. So little things like that I think are making a huge difference.

Q. Scottie, listening to you, it sounds like you like the 2024 season better than the 2025 season in regards to your game. Is that true?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: No.

Q. OK. Let's put it another way. Which season of these record-setting seasons you've had, the last four in a row, which one do you feel like is basically the best Scottie Scheffler season?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I mean, I think it's really -- I think it's really hard to compare the years because I mean golf's such a funny game. So there may have been some weeks in 2024 where my ball-striking was better than 2025 and I was able to win some tournaments that way.

Then when you look at 2025, there was probably some weeks where my putting was better than it was in 2024 and I was able to win some tournaments that way.

But I think overall the thing that I'm most proud of when I look at the last couple years is just consistency. It's not very easy to just show up and finish in the top-10 each week. I think that's something that's very difficult to do and something I'm very proud of, bringing the intensity that I need to in these tournaments and being prepared as I need to in order to perform well week in and week out. I think that's something that's very difficult, something I'm very proud of is giving myself so many opportunities to win tournaments and then being able to capitalize on them as well.

Q. Scottie, following up on the questions about your physical work during the offseason, what kind of mental work do you do during the offseason to get yourself ready for the mental grind of a 20-event season?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah, I think a lot of that is just getting the proper time that I need away from the course. Just throughout the season it just takes a lot of time and effort in order to play well each week. I try not to ever take weeks off, especially when I'm playing. There's never been a week the last couple years where I didn't really give it my all. I think



that's a lot easier said than done when you look at the amount of tournaments we play and the amount of time that we play them. Is that going to answer it?

Q. Yeah. I had a followup if you don't mind. You led all four --

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah.

Q. -- obviously the scoring average. Do you approach each day of a tournament in a different way? Obviously Sunday's a different one, but do you have a different strategy or even a subtly different strategy for Thursday versus Saturday, that type of thing?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: No, I just try and give it my all each day. I felt like that was something early on in my career when I wasn't winning as much, when you look at kind of the first few years of my career, I felt like I didn't put myself in position enough and I never really -- I didn't feel like I ever struggled under the pressure, it was just I was always on the outside looking in. I didn't really have many 54-hole leads or anything like that.

When you look at the last few years, I've been able to have a lot of 54-hole leads and then hold those leads as well. I felt like early in my career I wasn't bringing the proper intensity to the first few rounds of the tournament. It was almost like when the lights came on on the weekend I was better than I was earlier in the week when there almost was lower stakes.

A lot of that has just been trying to bring that same intensity to each round and every shot, which is a lot easier said than done.

And then a lot of -- when you look at the mental drain that it takes every year, a lot of that has to do, when I look at the offseason, I'm really trying to make sure that I take the proper amount of time that I need to take away from the course in order to be ready to go back out and compete.

I may have been a little bit rustier this year, for instance, in The Bahamas than I had been in years past just because this year was kind of another really long grind, so I took a few extra weeks off especially with the season now starting a few weeks later as well for myself.

Q. Scottie, what are some of your favorite shots of the year? Just a couple of them would be fine. I'm sure there's one or two in there.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Favorite shots of the year?

Well, I think the chip-in at BMW is something that really comes to mind. That was a shot that was very difficult to get up and down. To be able to hole that one at the end of the tournament, basically seal that tournament up on the 71st hole was really nice. That was a ton of fun.



I would say one of the weeks I was most proud of, I mean The Open Championship and the PGA I think just with the way those tournaments were going. I think anytime you're able to win a major championship, you have to do some stuff that's very special.

When I look at the PGA Championship, I think of that back nine on Sunday where on the front I had lost maybe a three-shot lead and I'm tied at the turn. I just shot 3 or 4 under on the back nine, maybe bogey free until I think the 18th hole. Back nine of a major championship to win is always very special.

I just felt like the intensity I brought to each round at The Open Championship under those challenging conditions with rain coming in and out. I just remember making a good amount of par putts from like eight to 15 feet that really kept the momentum in the round going.

Just I guess really being excited about them, like holing the putts early in the tournament and getting fired up about it and just being really in it over the course of 72 holes, I was very proud of that week as well.

Q. And do you ever wonder how much fun it would be to come to the 18th hole of a major either tied for the lead or one shot ahead instead of up by a billion?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I'm not really picky. If I'm holding the trophy at the end, it doesn't really matter.

Q. One of these days. Merry Christmas. Thanks, Scottie.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Thanks, Doug.

HALEY PETERSON: Any other questions from the group?

Scottie, again congrats on the award, thank you so much for this time. I'm sure you're trying to get away to the course right now, but have a good holiday season and we look forward to seeing you next year.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Thanks, Haley.

