

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER



MODERATOR: Morning, everybody. We would like to welcome Scottie Scheffler to the 3M Open interview room here.

Scottie, I guess welcome to Minnesota. You've had a chance to see TPC Twin Cities now, played nine yesterday, another nine this morning in the pro-am. Just first thoughts on the golf course and what it looks like to you?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah, I got to see all 18 holes, so that's good. I took the day off Monday, took a pretty light day yesterday, just came out hit a couple, played nine and left. Just trying to get some rest before the tournament starts coming after two longer weeks in the U.K.

Course seems really nice. Greens are really good. Rough is pretty healthy, so fairways are going to be at a premium this week. Yeah, golf course is in really nice shape so everything looks pretty good from my view.

MODERATOR: And everyone's excited to have the World No. 1 here at the 3m Open here in Minnesota. What kind of went into your decision to put this on your schedule this year?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah, this is a tournament that I haven't played before, so excited to be here. This might be my first time in Minnesota. I'm not sure if I've ever actually been to this state before.

For me it was good scheduling. Like I said, we had two weeks in the U.K., and three weeks off before the Playoffs didn't seem like the most ideal way to set up my schedule.

This was a tournament that I've heard a lot of good things about and so far everything seems pretty true, which is nice. So I'm excited to get the week started and yeah, play some golf.

Q. You played with Kevin O'Connell this morning. Did you talk much football, much about the Vikings and the NFL and what's your interest level?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah, I love the NFL. I wasn't going to just start hammering him with questions about football. He's about to start the season so he's going to be thinking about football for quite a long period of time, but we did a little bit.

Yeah, he seemed like a really nice guy. You can tell why he's such a good coach, seemed very smart. I got to ask him a few questions and he told me some stuff. It was definitely very



fun for me to be able to spend some time with him. Like I said, I love the NFL and I'm fascinated by what they're able to do, especially the head coach. I think in football it's easily the most important position on the team. I mean he's got to handle a lot of different personalities and the Xs and Os. He was definitely an impressive guy to be able to talk to and spend some time with.

Q. Scottie, it's never worked in your schedule before. Hollis was mentioning that he's been working on you for years to try to get you here. What kind of made the difference this year?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I think having the three weeks here before the Playoffs for me was a big part of it. I didn't really want to have three weeks off before the Playoffs.

Like I said, this was a tournament that I had heard a lot of good things about and so far everything seems true. The people have been tremendous, the fans have been really nice to me so far and the tournament seems to do a really good job just taking care of everybody. Clubhouse has been good, food's been really good.

Family's taken care of, caddie's taken care of. Those are the things at a tournament when everybody around me is getting taken care of as well, it's really easy for us to come and play, and so far this tournament's done a really good job.

Q. You didn't ask Kevin O'Connell who the starting quarterback's going to be, did you?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah, he did. That was one of the first things he said. I was like, you guys about to start getting going? He's like yeah, I think everything starts maybe on Sunday. He's like we've got a couple quarterbacks, so there'll be some competition and stuff like that. So I'm sure he'll be answering playing questions about QBs over the next few weeks as they kind of get things rolling.

Q. Scottie, they do pride themselves about the hospitality element of this and taking care of golfers and their families. I'm just curious, can you think of one or two details when you talk about like caddies taken care, families taken care of that they do here that maybe separates that you've seen thus far?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Well, I think from like the family side, this was a tournament I heard was a good one to take your family to. I feel like it's pretty common when you're in smaller communities, like we're a bit outside of Minneapolis so we're in one of the suburbs in a smaller community. The smaller communities within the Tour seem to do a really good job of getting behind the tournament, so there's a lot of activities for our families to do. That's something that's always really fun because like my days are busy most of the time and so for my family to be able to have something fun to do is really nice. So I'd say that's something that really stood out to me.



Like when you check in for the tournament they kind of give you a rundown of everything that's going on. This one seems like a very kind of family forward tournament, so for me that's a lot of fun having my family here.

Q. You say you've already got a feel for the course. What do you think your biggest challenge for this week will be after seeing the course?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: The golf course has a decent amount of length to it, there's some pretty long par 4s and a good amount of water, and so when the rough is up like that there's going to be a premium I think on hitting fairways. When you're in play, you're going to get some scorable clubs on some certain holes. And the green are fairly big, so if you're in the fairway, things are going to be a lot easier for you. Once you start hitting in the rough it could be tough to get on the greens in two. I'd say the biggest challenge would be just getting the ball in play off the tee.

Q. Scottie, coming off The Open, when the major season's done, do you ever take time to kind of reflect on the majors, what worked, what didn't and curious if you've done that already?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: No, I definitely haven't done that already.

During the year I just get pretty into the competition. So like with the cadence of the schedule, it really is kind of one week to the next. I always do my best to kind of live in the present, so I wouldn't say I reflect a whole lot or I don't really look towards the future very much.

Right now this week we're in Minnesota and I spent the last day and a half kind of getting ready for this tournament. Going to go practice a little bit and get some rest and get ready for tomorrow. I wouldn't say I've reflected too much on the season as a whole.

Q. And does the 6:40 a.m. pro-am tee time mean you're internal clock's kind of back to normal or are we still working on that?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I mean, I made it to my alarm this morning. Yesterday I was up at like 3:45, today I woke up for my 4:15 alarm so that was definitely better.

Q. Scottie, I'm from here and you talked about the 3M Open and golfing with the Vikings head coach. I'm just curious, what have you heard about Minnesota before coming here today?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: About Minnesota, not too much. But one thing that's kind of stood out so far is like -- I was actually just talking to my manager about this, is people seem to be really thankful that we're here, which is surprising for a golf tournament.

Like we went into downtown on Monday and the few people that recognized me were very



nice. They asked for photos. I was with my family so I said no, not right now. They didn't make a face, or they were kind of like, No, no, I totally understand, thanks for being here. I was kind of taken back by how nice people have been so far.

That's been really nice for us and our family. We've seen our neighbors this week, and everything so far has just been simple and easy and the people have been really nice, the fans have been really nice. There was a decent amount of people out yesterday for a practice round.

So I'm excited to get the week started, excited to get out in front of the fans this week and play some golf and see what the tournament environment will be like because like I said, the practice rounds have been exciting so far.

Q. Scottie, how would you assess Kevin's chances of a Tour card and what were your -- what's your best piece of advice to Kevin as a golfer?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: As a golfer? I mean I'm sure as a football coach you don't get too much time to be playing golf. He actually moved it pretty well and hit some really nice shots. I think from any advice I give him now will surely be wasted because he's probably not going to see the golf course for the next six months or so, and hopefully a deep postseason run for them.

Like I said, he seemed like a really nice guy, seemed very smart. It was fun to be able to talk a little bit of football with him, but like I said, I wasn't going to be hammering him with too many football questions, but he was happy to chat about some stuff, which I found pretty entertaining.

Q. Scottie, which of the four majors -- you had really good chances to win multiple. Which one of them kind of frustrates you the most?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Gosh, I don't know. All four of them. I don't really have an answer for that. I think any time you don't get to where you want to be in golf, which is pretty often, I think there's always a good amount of frustration with that. I mean, yeah, I have no idea how to rank them in order of frustration.

Q. There's no award for the cumulative score at the majors, but you and Sam tied for the best cumulative in the majors. How do you think you guys could settle that? Arm wrestle?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: How can we settle that? I feel like Sam gets the better of me in most of our practice rounds, so maybe that would be our playoff because you don't get an award for playing good in a practice round, you don't get an award for having the cumulative best score at the majors. You need the cumulative best score within four rounds of one of the majors.



Yeah, one of the things I like in this game, one of the things that I've always kind of prided myself on is the consistency. That's something that shows that I'm playing some pretty good golf. It just hasn't been quite good enough to win some tournaments. Like I said, I still feel like my game's in a good spot and I've played some nice golf. I haven't played any great golf yet, but I've played some nice golf over the course of the season.

I think if you took a blind look at some of my results, I think a lot of people would say that's a really good season. I think yeah, like I said, I wouldn't know how to describe it. I've played some nice golf, I haven't necessarily played some great golf yet.

Q. Is there anything you're doing this week to try to get the putter going again because the putter, I think you would agree with me, wasn't sharp last week?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah, yeah. I think when you look at putting specifically, there's always ebbs and flows. I think when you look at links golf and the conditions condition of the greens last week, I think you can see how the ball's rolling, there was some activity there.

My job always is just to make sure I'm starting the ball online, hitting solid putts. Statistically my putting has been very slid this year, so no, I wouldn't say there's anything extra that I would do this week in order to warm up the putter. Most of it is just making sure I'm lined up where I think I'm lined up and then make sure I'm starting it there. Outside of that, there's really not too much I can do.

Q. Scottie, it does seem like in other sports off-field drama does drive added interest sometimes. Last weekend when maybe Rory takes a couple personal jabs at Bryson, guys will go, hey, this is good for golf, rivalries are good for golf. Do you view it that way, rivalries adding interest and being good? Do you think golf should be different or how do you think about that?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I think golf's different in a sense of a lot of other sports because my biggest rival week in and week out is the golf course that we're playing. I mean, I could never stop somebody from doing anything in golf. I felt like when I played basketball there would always be rivalries in basketball because you're going to play defense against a person and that is much more personal in a sense like because I'm actively trying to stop -- like if you and I were going to go out and play one-on-one, like it would turn into a rivalry because I'm actively trying to stop what you're doing, but in golf, we're always competing against ourselves on the golf course.

I've never been a big fan of personal jabs. I don't think that rivalry is a big thing in golf just because, like I said, my biggest rivalry week in and week out is the golf course.

Q. I'm just curious about the prep coming to a course you haven't been to and the international travel. Was Ted able to get out earlier or just do the best he can from Tuesday on here?



SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Yeah, I mean, Ted will do most of the prep work in a week like this, especially with it being my third week in a row. Going over to the U.K. and coming back, time change, that part can be difficult.

For me getting ready to this week, it was important to get rest. Like I said, I took Monday off, I took a light day yesterday. I'm going to go out and do some practice now, make sure I'm used to speed of the greens, hit some shots around the greens, get used to the depth of the sand in the bunkers, the rough, stuff like that.

Teddy this week will do most of the prep work on the course and then I'll kind of go through my normal checklist in terms of getting used to the new grasses, new conditions, stuff like that.

Overall this week a lot of it was just rest. My prep work would look a little differently for a new golf course if it wasn't my third week in a row, but like I said, being the third week, rest is pretty important for me.

Q. Scottie, a lot of people are of course excited to see you this week. A lot of people were excited to see Jordan Spieth too and he is not here right now. Have you heard from him? Is he doing OK?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: (Laughs.) I haven't spoken to him since after The Open, but Jordan's played a lot of tournaments this year, a lot more I think than maybe he normally has.

Golf is tough in terms of I think mentally it's more of a grind than anything. Physically it can wear you down as well, but mentally it can be challenging just from I think just the grind it is in order to play a tournament.

He's played a lot of tournaments this year, so from my point of view it's understanding for him to maybe need a week off especially as he tries to grind and make his way into the top-50 to get back into the bigger events next year.

We play a lot of golf at home and he works super, super hard. I'm sure he's bummed not to be here this week, but like I said, he's worked really hard this season and played a lot of tournaments. So I'm sure he wishes he could be here, but rest and time at home is also important as you try and play good golf.

MODERATOR: All right. If everyone has what they need, we'll wrap it up. Thanks, Scottie. Good luck this week.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Thank you.

