

Justin Timberlake Shriners
Hospital for Children Open
TPC Summerlin
Las Vegas, NE

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INTERVIEW OF GEORGE MCNEILL

Final-round quotes

THE MODERATOR: George McNeill, thank for you taking the time to come in. If you would just talk a little bit about that last hole, and we will go ahead and take some questions?

GEORGE MCNEILL: The last hole, I wasn't really swinging great all day, so left is not good obviously. So I was going right. In the regulation round I hit it a little right, but I still had a shot. The first playoff hole I had a shot. I had a squirrely lie over by the trees. It happens. And the third shot I was lucky for it just to stay up to have a chance. I actually hit a pretty decent chip and a good putt. It just didn't go in.

Q. George, can you talk about your birdie putt at 18 that got you into this thing? It may have one be one of the best putts of the year?

GEORGE MCNEILL: Sure, yes. I guess you could probably almost go that far and say that. It was almost straight down hill because it was running to toward the sea (phn), and everything else. It turned from right-to-left and straightened out in the end. As soon as I hit it I knew it was going to be pretty good, and I hit it a perfect speed to follow.

Q. Why do you think you struggled with your swings, you said you were swinging it good yesterday?

GEORGE MCNEILL: Between it's new. I mean the hole trust issue and everything. Everybody has bad days. You could swing at it perfect. Look at Tiger, he could go out one day and shoot 63 and the next day shoot 73. It's golf. That's what happens.

Q. Was the wind a factor on back 9 for you?

GEORGE MCNEILL: It did pick up quit a bit actually. On 14, the par-5 -- I'm sorry, 13, the par-5, it's been a driver and an iron almost every day. Today I hit a really good driver up the left side and hit 3-wood and still didn't get there. So it was a big factor. On 14, the par-3, it was straight into the wind. That was a tough hole and a tough shot. It made a big difference.

Q. It was reminiscent of a couple of years ago with the wind?

GEORGE MCNEILL: Yes. But it was blowing in a different direction. It was blowing in on those holes. A couple of years ago it was blowing down.

Q. Did you get a sense though that the way things were going out there that you could be in the playoff or win it outright?

GEORGE MCNEILL: Yes, my caddy just kept saying, look, stay comfortable, don't give up. You are still in it. You still got a few holes left. And obviously with the wind nobody was really blown away. There was some really low scores early before the wind started picking up. So it was out there, but then the wind picked up, so that changes everything

Q. Did you have any shots left out in the water during your career?

GEORGE MCNEILL: I'm sure. If you play golf for 20 some years, yes.

Q. There is no way you can avoid that?

GEORGE MCNEILL: To put my foot in the water? It was basically have an awkward stance if I didn't get in the water. I wasn't sure if I was going to have to put both feet in or just one. But it was, I'm sure, I have had that once before and I guarantee you will have it again.

Q. You didn't think about hitting it backwards left handed?

GEORGE MCNEILL: No, that's not me. I know how to hit it left handed. But I would rather hit it right-handed.

Q. It's a better stance anyway, right?

GEORGE MCNEILL: Yes, downhill ball below my feet, plus there was a big bunch of rough behind the ball. That was the whole key.

Q. If you are faced with that same shot in Florida, your foot still go in the water?

GEORGE MCNEILL: Sure, why not.

Q. Something called an alligator?

GEORGE MCNEILL: That's not a problem.

Q. Talk about 17.

GEORGE MCNEILL: Yes, we both hit 7-irons. I hit a 7-iron in the regulation round and it went over the green exactly the same spot they did. But it was just an odd club. 200 yards, or playing 200

yards downhill and everything else. I hit an 8-iron. There is no way I ever hit an 8-iron 200 yards. I thought 195. There is no way I could ever do that. But the way the wind was, I was fortunate to hit last because I could see how both of their balls hit.

Q. The putt at 18, were you disappointed with that putt?

GEORGE MCNEILL: No, I knew exactly what it was going to do. I knew I left it short. It wasn't an option, so I just kind of hit it harder.

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