
**Nissan Open
Riviera Country Club
Pacific Palisades, California
February 20, 2004**

Second-round leader quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH SCOTT McCARRON

THE MODERATOR: We have Scott McCarron at 11-under par, 131

SCOTT MCCARRON: Yes, I think so. There wasn't a lot of wind out there today. We had a little bit of rain off and on, but the course was soft enough. The greens softened up a little bit. The greens are just perfect this year. I think this is the best condition that I have ever seen Riviera in the last 25 years.

Q. (Inaudible)?

SCOTT MCCARRON: 21 years.

Q. (Inaudible)?

SCOTT MCCARRON: How do you know I wasn't here before that playing, Art? I'm 38. Don't all ask at once.

Q. Scott, obviously two years ago you had a great tournament here, and could have won, and then you sort of slumped off. You had a good week the next week at the Match Play, and I noticed you hadn't really done a lot the last year and a half. Then at Pebble you started playing well again.

SCOTT MCCARRON: I don't know about that. I finished second three times. (Inaudible). Vegas. I had a few top tens. But certainly, you know, when you finish second two weeks in a row I would have liked to continue that and keep playing. But I still have been playing pretty good golf. And, you know, had a good play finish at AT&T two weeks ago, took last week off. I'm still playing well. I didn't quite fall off the face of the earth yet, Art. (Laughter.)

Q. Scott, whether it's 21 years or 25 years here, is your comfort zone here, is it based on how well you are playing, or is it based on how long you have known this course and how long have you been around will?

SCOTT MCCARRON: Well, I think it's a little of both. I had some really good tournaments here, and I have missed cuts here, too. So it really depends on how you are playing. I think this is one of the best golf courses that we play on the PGA Tour. I absolutely love it. And I think the superintendents at this course, and it's the best

conditions, shape, that I ever seen Riviera. The crew staff did a great job of setting up the course. Even though they built some new tee boxes, that doesn't mean we have to use them. And I thought they did a great job the last couple of days of setting up this course.

Q. If scoring continues to go this low is that to your advantage or not?

SCOTT MCCARRON: As long as I'm the one going low it's to my advantage. I'm surprised how low the scores are. This golf course is very difficult. Again, we have had not much wind, a little bit of rain to soften up the greens and these greens are rolling better than I ever seen them.

So when you get guys of this caliber on greens that roll well, they are going to shoot low.

Q. Give us the state of the Scott McCarron address, how is your game, anything new, different, dramatic, not dramatic?

SCOTT MCCARRON: A lot of things new. I changed everything in my bag except my putter. So Top Flite, I'm playing the Hogan irons. I got new Top Flite. (Inaudible.) A Callaway driver. Everything in my bag is new.

So starting this year I wasn't quite sure how things were going to go, and I needed a little time period to get used to it. I didn't play much in the off season.

And to my surprise, the clubs are working great, the ball is working great, so I'm very happy with the way the things are going equipment-wise.

So is my swing. I seen Jim Hardy quite a bit. He was out this week. Jim Hardy is one of the best teachers, if not the best in the country. He is going to come out, six or seven times this year. He has been a tremendous help to me over the last three of four years. So things are pretty good.

Q. (Inaudible)?

SCOTT MCCARRON: Most guys would say the money. I changed everything because I felt it was time for change. I was looking for a new ball and I was looking for some new irons. I had been playing -- I had the same irons for a long time for nothing. So I was looking to, you know, see if I can search a deal out and asked Callaway, Top Flite, they approached me and got me the Hogan irons, and I just absolutely love them. As soon as I hit them I felt these were the best irons I ever hit.

Q. (Inaudible)?

SCOTT MCCARRON: No, I never played with irons before. I played with Hogan Apec (phn.) It's kind of a progressive set. They are absolutely fantastic.

Q. Going into this weekend with the scores being this low, are you one to look at a score board, or are you one just to look at your ball and what you are doing?

SCOTT MCCARRON: You know, I don't look too much at the score board. But certainly, you will take a peek at them just to see how things are going. I have a feeling the weather is going to get tough here on the weekend it looks like. So you never know what the scoring is going to be like. I don't think it will probably as low as it's been the last couple of days. Again, you will take a little peek every now and then, but I'm not

worried about too much what everybody else is doing. I'm just trying to focus on that next shot.

Q. Have you ever hung out with John Daly, what do you guys do?

SCOTT MCCARRON: I will tell you what, wasn't that amazing what John did last week? John has had some many ups and down in his life and golf career and to comeback and win last week is absolutely fantastic. I was actually supposed to go skiing that day, and I canceled my ski trip to stay and watch the golf tournament. I think John Daly means a lot to golf, and I just hope that he keeps going the way he is going right now because he is playing some great golf.

Q. (Inaudible)?

SCOTT MCCARRON: Not yet, I got to get in the Top-50 on those world rankings.

Q. (Inaudible)?

SCOTT MCCARRON: Or Top-10 money list by Augusta, yes.

Q. (Inaudible)?

SCOTT MCCARRON: Without a doubt. One of my favorite tournaments as far as the Majors are concerned. And certainly my goal now until then is to play a lot, and see if I can get in the Top-10 in the money list, or the Top-50 world rankings. The Top-10 money on the list is easier because I know how to do that.

Q. (Inaudible)?

SCOTT MCCARRON: I am 68th in the world rankings. So I am now the first alternate going into the Match Play right now because I guess Ernie just withdrew.

Q. When you get out to the West Coast, tomorrow morning early tee times, is it better for the leaders because you don't have to sit around all day getting bored?

SCOTT MCCARRON: Well, I think it's good for the leaders in that we are all playing pretty much under the same conditions. It will be about a 2 hour time period instead of the other guys go out in the morning, and having perfect conditions, and we might go out in the afternoon and get totally rained on or vice versa. So I don't mind going split tees. Everybody is playing under the same conditions. I think it's good for the whole field.

Q. Maybe you are not all that enamored with the World Ranking system?

SCOTT MCCARRON: Well, I don't think there is many guys that like the way the ranking systems are. Between one and 10 on the world rankings doesn't mean anything. It's between 40 and 60 when we put all the emphasis on our Major events and World TOUR events getting in. And it's very difficult when you don't know exactly how those rankings work, what you need to do to climb in the rankings.

We had a guy Rich Beem went from 60 to 54 in one week. That's amazing. I went from 65 to 68 and got passed by a guy who missed the cut, and I didn't play. And I didn't play San Diego. So those kinds of things are a little disconcerting when you are

sitting at home wondering what's going to happen, or if you decide to play and play well, but you are dropping so much on that 13 tournament segment thing. No one knows how they really figure it out. I think we really need to take a really good look at it. I know The Federation is looking to going to 50 tournaments and penalize a guy for playing a lot. I think that's certainly a start in the right direction. But if they do decide to do that, then they are admitting the World Rankings aren't right. Let's make that change now. Let's not wait two years like we did last time. It seems like they set precedence by waiting two years. If it's wrong, let's fix it now, let's not wait two years.

Q. Scott, you're what, just to straighten it out, you are one away from getting in next week?

SCOTT MCCARRON: Yes. Jim Furyk, Kirk Triplett, and Ernie Els has now withdrawn, so I am now the next guy.

Q. You would think you will probably make it?

SCOTT MCCARRON: I would think I probably won't make it.

Q. Really?

SCOTT MCCARRON: Yes, I don't see anybody else is going to withdraw. So I'm going to go down there Monday and play a practice round and hopefully to my benefit, unfortunately not to someone else's, they might have to withdraw.

Q. A little disappointing to a guy in the finals two years ago?

SCOTT MCCARRON: I think it's very disappointing. It's something I wanted to play in. I thought after my 10th place finish at AT&T would get me in, but I moved up from 7th to 65th, only five spots after finishing Top-10. And then the next week getting passed 3 guys. So we don't understand how they work. I'd like to play obviously.

Q. Scott, if you got in you would get Tiger, does that make it more interesting for you?

SCOTT MCCARRON: Well, yes, you have to beat Tiger then you got an easy round in the Match Play, right? I don't know, I think it would be a lot of fun just to play in the Match Play again. I really enjoyed that type of golf and played well there one year so I would like to get back there. If I got to play Tiger the first round that's the way it goes.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

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