

LEGENDS Reno-Tahoe Open
Montreux Golf and Country Club
Reno, NV
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Final-round quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH PARKER McLACHLIN

THE MODERATOR: For the third straight day we are welcoming Parker McLachlin into the media center into the interview room.

You are the 2008 LEGENDS Reno-Tahoe Open Champion, how does it feel?

PARKER McLACHLIN: It feels incredible. It was a hard fought day today, and I was fortunate enough to have that big cushion because I needed it. But, God, it just feels great to have accomplished this. It means the world to me.

THE MODERATOR: A lot of questions, let's start it out.

Q. As a very competitive volleyball player I would imagine you've had the feeling of getting the volleyball right in the face, I'm just wondering if today felt like that at all?

PARKER McLACHLIN: Every hole. I was swinging it so well the first three days. I didn't sleep great last night. I just woke up. It just felt a little weird. I don't know how many greens I hit, maybe 4 greens, 5 greens. But it was not a good ball striking day. But it really brought out my short game and just my heart. I just had to gut it out. Sometimes that's what you got to do to get the job done.

Q. Parker, I've been here every year, we all have been here every year, we haven't somebody gut out so many par putts, and you may have gone for a birdie 9 on 9 yesterday, I believe, down the hill, you hit it long and chipped it up there a little short, and you seemed to be really in a zone, you were just really relaxed, it seemed to me at that point that you were home free. I know today was a little rough, but even today I don't remember a guy making -- taking fewer putts down the stretch even at 17.

What do you attribute that to if it's a good putting week?

PARKER McLACHLIN: I've always putted well. You know, you ask some of my buddies, it's like they expect me to make every putt. I didn't make a whole lot of putts earlier in the week. You know, not a lot of long ones. I think when I really put my mind to it, it's like it has to go in. When everything

else fails I have 100% confidence that I am going to make putts. And today everything else failed, and I made putts. I wedged it pretty good and made putts. You know, that's how I've gutted it out through my professional career. That is how I did it today.

Q. You talked yesterday that you like to play three weeks, take a break and come back. It couldn't have been too fun out there today with some of the struggles you were having, fatigue, nerves; can you pinpoint anything?

PARKER McLACHLIN: Yes, probably both. You know, like I said six weeks in a row, this is way more than I normally go. Like I said, I didn't sleep very good last night. I was just sort of tossing and turning. I didn't feel like I got hardly any sleep and it definitely showed up. I wasn't very sharp today at all off the tee, or into the green. And a lot of that has to do with being a little bit uncomfortable too. You know, this is the new thing for me being in the lead on Friday, Saturday and on Sunday in a TOUR event. So it was all new experiences for me. I thought I was going to do okay. After yesterday, I was really nervous the first three holes and really settled down and found a nice groove. I felt like I had it under control. And I thought today was going to be about the same, and I just never felt comfortable out there for one second. I thought I would calm down, and I thought I would find a good rhythm. I just never did, and I had to rely on my heart and making putts.

Q. Brian Davis mentioned that the pin positions were real brutal, the greens were like concrete, do you think that helped you having that lead?

PARKER McLACHLIN: Definitely. I think that if it's an easy golf course guys can go out and shoot 8- or 9-under, and they can make up a lot of shots.

But when it's playing as tough as it was today, you know, I knew that par was going to be a great number. And it made it tougher for people to catch me. If I was going to keep making pars it would be tough for people to catch me. I started the day trying to shoot 4-under so we sort of readjusted that after that front 9 display.

I think that definitely worked to my advantage that the course was playing so hard today because par was a premium. It was tough to make birdies.

Q. If you could talk a little bit about the two-year exemption, moving up on the FedExCup points, where that putts you for the playoffs?

PARKER McLACHLIN: Yes, I think the two-year exemption, it's incredible. I think out here you got to earn your keep every year. And to have a 2-year exemption is pretty special.

Other perks, you know, I get to play in the Mercedes next year. I used to go there and work that golf tournament picking the range, spending the week over there when I was 13, 14 years old, being a standard bear. I can vividly remember being a standard bearer for Fred Couples. I just idolize these guys and to be part of that fraternity I just can't express it.

Q. Travis, a local guy, was your caddy today. Was it tough not having your usual caddy, and is he going to get the usual cut?

PARKER McLACHLIN: Oh, yes, he earned it for sure. Yes, he is definitely going to get the normal cut. Yes, he is going to make a pretty good check upwards of 50,000. That's pretty awesome for five days of work. That's a great day. He may need to rethink his commercial real estate job and come on the road with me. He was great.

The good thing was he and I had worked together in tough situations before, Q-School and two years during Q-School he got me through the first stage at Dayton Valley. So we've known each other in tough situations. He was the stud out there. He chose the right club. He had great reads on greens, and he just kept it light out there. He didn't say too much. It was exactly how I needed it and kept me loose.

Q. (Inaudible)?

PARKER McLACHLIN: I actually just fired him on Tuesday so I'm unattached. So Travis may want to come on the road.

Q. Tell us a little bit on 17, what's going through your head when you hit in the water. Then you go and get onto the green. Kind of a high and a low I would assume?

PARKER McLACHLIN: Yes, the 17th hole it was actually the most solid drive I hit all day. I just started it a little left and it didn't have quite enough carry to get over the tree. It was just one of those things where it just kind of happened, so I went with it, took my drop. I wasn't panicking or anything. I knew I was still okay. The 7-iron I hit into the green from 200 yards was probably the best shot I hit all day. I think it landed about four inches from the cup, went to the back edge. If I missed that shot, if it comes up short of the bunker, I'm looking at making double bogey or more. And with Brian right there in front of the green that could be a 3 shot swing real quick. I was fortunate to come out with only a one shot swing.

Q. I was just curious if you heard from Michelle Wie before your round or any text message?

PARKER McLACHLIN: Yes, we texted back and forth on Friday. She texted me, "Great playing." And I texted back to her I thought she played well for 27 holes. That one of these days she is going to get it done and make the cut out on TOUR, and that I believed in her. And then I wrote a funny one back to her, because I beat her by 18 shots that day, I wrote a funny one back to her. I said, "Does this mean I have to give you a shot a hole the next time we play"? She thought that was pretty funny. She said the last time we played she beat me. It was a head-to-head match. I think she was maybe 14 or 15 and I was just out of college and we played a 9 hole made for local TV match in Hawaii and she beat me 1-up, so she still has bragging rights. So I said, should I give you a shot a hole the next time we play and she didn't think that was too funny. I thought that was pretty funny.

Q. Can you give us an idea of your immediate future, what your plans are? Are you looking forward to the next few weeks?

PARKER McLACHLIN: I don't know, Vegas tonight? I've got a lot of friends and family, people that are really close to me that are here. Probably celebrate with them immediately. I don't know if I'll play next week, as great as it is to be in the PGA Championship. I left it all on the golf course today. So we'll see.

That golf course at Oakland Hills, I played there and it is an absolute beast, and I don't know if I want to go back there and get beaten up. I would like to really enjoy this moment. There is a lot of people that have helped me get to where I am right now. Don Green, my sports psychologist and mentor, he has been with me every step of the way. My wife, people like that, that are just so special that I couldn't be here without those people, and I'm going to enjoy celebrating that with them for right now and maybe for the next week or two.

Q. I see that your dad was out there with you and a very special moment for him, he was so proud of you, and what it was like for him to be here for your first win?

PARKER McLACHLIN: Yes, I mean he had a scare with having a stroke at the beginning of the year at the Bob Hope. During that week he had a stroke. He could have passed away easily. And for him to make it through that, and he is totally 100% recovered, for him to be here, for it all to work out, for my parents to have been, you know, on the West Coast, and not in Hawaii, and for them to make a quick trip up is pretty cool. It just blows me away how it all came full circle and how everybody was able to make it. A lot of my close family and friends. Yes, if this tournament was on the East Coast I would be celebrating by myself right now. I've got a lot of special people that are going to get to celebrate with me tonight.

THE MODERATOR: Parker, congratulations. Thanks for coming in.
