

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
May 4, 2018



SCOTT DUNLAP (-6)

JACKIE SERVAIS: We have Scott Dunlap here. He is currently in second place right now. Scott, in 2015 you shot 65 here and then you went on to finish T-9. Can you just talk about the round today and how that maybe compared to shooting 66 today?

SCOTT DUNLAP: So today wasn't even my low round around here. I didn't remember that one.

You know, at this stage of your career, you just enjoy the good days when they come, wherever they come. But coming back to Houston, a golf course we've played a bunch of times, without knowing that I had shot 65 today, I know I've had some success around here. So when you come back here, you hope your game's in some sort of order and you find those familiar feelings and something good happens, and today it did.

JACKIE SERVAIS: You're looking for a win here this weekend; your highest so far has been T-2. How do you get to that point come Sunday?

SCOTT DUNLAP: Just always be a little better with the putter. You know, that's ultimately it. I'll be as efficient tee to green probably as anybody, but when you're right up there, the difference between finishing 5th and 1st is holing maybe one more good putt and missing one less short putt.

So at the end of the week, hopefully it boils down to that. I've had two more nice tidy rounds and if I didn't miss the short one, made one more putt, then maybe we'll talk about a win.

Q. Starting off with an eagle, how good was that for your confidence right out of the gates?

SCOTT DUNLAP: Yeah, for sure. My rescue club hadn't been feeling very good. I didn't think I had it gripped properly and I changed the grip on there. I hit two par 5s with it, one for 12 feet and the other one to about 20 feet today, so I was like okay, that club's working better now.

And then right out of the box, to read a nice putt and get it in, be happy with a birdie to get started, much less eagle. So when you do something like that, it usually spurs you on for something okay for the day.

Q. How many opening eagles have you had in your career?

SCOTT DUNLAP: Probably not very many, you know. I always talked about how, like,

making birdie on the first hole stinks. Usually the players start a round with bogey. You don't want to bogey this hole ever, but usually great rounds develop late. It's hard to maintain momentum for four and a half to five hours. But today the 11th hole was the only hole I kind of chopped it around and the rest of the day it was looking like what I shot.

Q. Your sister was NCAA women's champion the same year you guys graduated together, but she's not a twin sister?

SCOTT DUNLAP: No, she's two years younger. She was either sophomore or junior, so I was out of school when she won.

Q. Is she still playing?

SCOTT DUNLAP: Just for fun.

Q. Can you beat her?

SCOTT DUNLAP: I hope so, yeah.

Q. That's a pretty cool fact.

SCOTT DUNLAP: Yeah, for sure.

Q. What was the inspir -- your family, obviously your mother, your dad were serious golfers?

SCOTT DUNLAP: Both played well. Luckily, we moved right across the street from a 36-hole public facility in Sarasota, Florida. As long as I didn't get run over by a car crossing the street with the clubs on my shoulder, get to the golf course and go round and round, the perfect upbringing for someone who's going to eventually do this for a living.

Q. For a guy like yourself, you made some money on the Tour and you had a career, but to see yourself on the leaderboard with Bernhard Langer and Sandy Lyle, can you reflect on that at all?

SCOTT DUNLAP: Well, this has been a great bonus. I mean, this awaiting someone that would keep their game in order. Like you said, my Tour career wasn't gangbusters, it was okay. But what I did do for the next 10 years, at least stay viable on the Web.com Tour, keep my card. I won a couple times, stayed out there. I did get my card back in 2012 when I was 48 kind of out of nowhere, but I still had my same game, which was, you know, good enough to stay on the Tour most years or not, not quite but I didn't slip much. So when I turned 50, at least I was still viable and got through the Tour school and luckily played well since then. So it's been a great deal.

Q. You were working full time away from golf?

SCOTT DUNLAP: No, no.

Q. Never did?

SCOTT DUNLAP: No. Like I said, when I fell off the Tour in 2002, and 2003 to 2013 I was on the Web.com Tour every one of those years except 2012 and I was back on the PGA TOUR. And at least, you know, had those years, if you do okay on the Web.com you're at least going to make a little bit of money and not spend and come out of pocket. It's all right.

Q. Jerry Kelly said yesterday that at the end of his PGA TOUR career he was right around 200th in driving length, and then all of a sudden first year out here at one point he said he was even first. Obviously you get a little bit of an -- and you did win fairly quickly on this tour.

SCOTT DUNLAP: Yeah, you go from kind of second percentile to 90th percentile. The good thing about this tour, even if you're, say, 40th percent, no one's driving it 60 by you. Okay, maybe Daly might get it out there. But still, it's almost like the old days. If someone's 20 yards by you, oh, he's long. If I'm going to play with Justin Thomas these days, those guys are literally, they're going to be 60 yards past me. Kenny Perry gets it out there, but it's 20, maybe 30, not 60, so you feel like you can still compete. You can't compete with someone who's hitting it 60 yards by you, there's no way.

Q. You had the good start, you've had success here in the past and when you're getting -- piling up some birdies today, did you ever think too far ahead, like maybe 64 could be in the works or anything like that?

SCOTT DUNLAP: Nope, didn't get ahead of myself. Had a crappy three-putt at No. 15 after knocking it on in 2, that would have gotten it to 7 under. Then I had a good chance on the next hole. So no, I've learned not to do that. I mean, that's an affliction of a younger man. Nowadays, you just keep plodding.