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**LEGENDS AT SPARKS MARINA RENO-TAHOE OPEN  
PRE-TOURNAMENT QUOTES  
JULY 30, 2008**

**AN INTERVIEW WITH SCOTT McCARRON**

**THE MODERATOR:** We would like to welcome Scott McCarron into the interview room coming off your Pro-Am round and you are coming off a real nice week up in Toronto.

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Yes, a great week up at the Canadian Open. I had a good tournament. I started off really well with a 66 the first day. We had some tough weather conditions all week, it seemed like. We had rain. We had 10 inches of rain. We were able to get it in. I ran off 11 birdies one day and shot a nice little 8-under with 3 bogeys and I had a chance to win with nine holes to play. That's one of the things, the reason why we play is to have a chance to win with nine holes to play, and I certainly did. Unfortunately, I just made a couple of bogeys and didn't quite have the A-game but it was nice to be back in the hunt again.

**THE MODERATOR** Now you are back in a familiar situation here, a course you know well, and the city you know well. Your thoughts coming into the week?

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Right. Obviously playing well the last month it gives me more confidence coming into this week.

A golf course I'm very familiar with. I love playing it. It's my home course. The course is in great shape. I think it's the best shape I've ever seen it for the Reno-Tahoe Open. It's just fantastic. It looks like we are going to have great weather.

So it should be a lot of fun. I can hardly wait to make some birdies on the par 3 and get the Mariachi band fired up.

**THE MODERATOR:** Questions?

Q. At the risk of putting pressure on you, you played well today, you know the course, are you putting any pressure on yourself at all to have maybe more than just a strong finish?

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Not so much. Pressure is stuff that you put on yourself. My goal tomorrow is on the 10th tee to hit the fairway. That's the only thing I'm thinking about right now. 10th tee, drive. I got to hit the fairway. Then after I do that, what do I have to do? I have to hit the green. So you really just try to break it down into -- we say this all the time -- one shot at a time. That's my whole goal and my focus is, how am I going to hit the fairway on the 10th tee?

That's the only thing I'm thinking about right this second. Honestly.

If you start thinking about winning, getting ahead of yourself -- I've always been a guy as soon as I birdied the first hole, I'm already writing the victory speech. So I get ahead of myself pretty quickly. So I have to work very hard to stay in the moment. So that's basically my goal this week is to stay in the moment.

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SCOTT MCCARRON TRANSCRIPT-7.30.08

Q. You talked about some of the conditions with the course, what do you see that's different or what's better?

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Well what's happened about a month ago, we got root rot in the greens, and it was really killing a lot of greens. The staff had a tough time getting rid of it.

When I left a month ago the course was not in the best shape it's been in. We had a tough winter. And for a superintendent to keep this golf course nice all the time it's very difficult just because of the weather we have. We have snow sitting on the ground here for five months a year. So when the snow melts you never know what you are going to have underneath.

But they've got this golf course in fantastic shape. The greens are very smooth. They are starting to get a little firmer. They're very fast right now. I like the rough cut. They cut the rough down just a little bit so you get some slider rough instead of chip-out rough, which I think is great. It brings more excitement to the tournament. They had to add a lot of sand to the bunkers. And they've got that compacted down and the bunkers are playing nice.

So overall, the whole golf-course condition, is -- I think -- the best I've ever seen.

Q. Scott, can you go back and talk about the injury when it happened? What sort of things you had to go through with your rehab and how tough it was to miss an entire season?

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Yes, it was January 6th of '06. January 4th of '06. I woke up in the morning, I banged my elbow on the wall like you hit your funny bone. It was just hurting at that point. I thought I had tennis elbow.

I came up and got a cortisone shot to take the pain away and I went down and played the Bob Hope and it was still hurting a lot. We just kept thinking it was tennis elbow and kept treating it itself with ice and cortisone shots. I tried acupuncture. And another therapy called Soner X.

I played for about seven months that way. I don't know if it was torn right from the start in January or I tore it over the series of the next seven months with me trying to play with one arm basically. I had the MRI done, and then it was completely torn off the bone and it was called the radial brevis tendon. And it attaches from your middle finger, it goes up your forearm and attaches on the outside of your elbow. That was torn off the bone so they had to go in and re-attach it with a bone anchor. A successful surgery. I was in a sling for about month or two and then started rehabbing after that. Rehabbing, just squeezing anything: putty, tennis ball. I couldn't do much with it. It was a very long extensive rehab with the elbow.

Q. (Inaudible)?

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Sitting out whole year, it was difficult at first. For the first five or six months I could not swing a golf club or do anything. So I really got away from golf. I didn't watch golf much. I didn't practice my putting. I didn't practice my chipping. I couldn't do anything. So I kind of delved into the kids' school and helped them with their soccer teams and go on field trips, all of the things I haven't been able to do over the years because I had been traveling so much. Being at home, and making breakfast every morning for the kids, I really got into that routine and really enjoyed it. It was a lot of fun.

As soon as I started getting back and swinging and playing again, it became more difficult for me because I wanted to get out there and play and I couldn't yet.

Even though I started playing in January this year, I still was not really ready to play. The elbow was still bothering me a little bit. I had to test it out. I wanted to start and have a whole year. It's taken me three or four months to get back into kind of playing mode.

Q. Did you ever consider during those first few months with the injury that this could be a career- altering, career-ending kind of thing?

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Yes.

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Q. What were your thoughts?

**SCOTT McCARRON:** I might not be able to play professional golf again. I have no idea what type of pain I'm going to come back to. I thought if I came back, and I still had a lot of pain, I would probably hang it up. So even though those three or four months, when I was trying to come back, and I was still having a lot of pain, there were a lot of doubts that I was not going to be able to do this. I have always been very determined in anything that I do. I kept fighting through it, kept working the elbow, working out, rehabbing it and it just took time. It was really almost a year and a half until I can swing without pain.

Q. Going back to the conditions situation, the course is in great shape, the weather is looking good. It looks like the wind will be 15 to 18. How do you think that might affect scoring?

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Well, the wind could be a factor here at Montreux because you will get some swirling winds in the trees. And I understand we might even get a little north wind which is unusual for Reno. Normally it's kind of blowing from southwest. If we get a north wind, the golf course will play a lot tougher I think.

You know, 15, 18, I think will be good. The course needs a little bit of wind. If there is no wind at all the guys here will probably tear it up pretty good because you can reach some of the par-5's and have shorter irons into some of the par-4's.

So with this golf course, we need a little bit of wind, especially with the rough down a little bit, so we are not out there shooting 30-under par.

Q. Scott, do you like the fact you have played this course probably 50 times more than anybody else in the field. Do you care?

**SCOTT McCARRON:** I probably played it 300 times more than anyone else in the field. Any time you play a golf course more than anybody else, you certainly have an advantage.

Again, this golf course right now is playing a lot different than when I normally play it. When I normally play it, it's a lot softer, the greens are slower, the rough is different. So it plays a lot different right now than when I'm normally playing it.

Some of the breaks on the greens are different because the speeds are so much faster now. It still is an advantage. I know a lot of these greens pretty well. The more you can play a golf course, the more you can learn, I think the more advantage you have. No question.

Q. How nice is it to be home?

**SCOTT McCARRON:** It's fantastic. The kids have a lot of friends and family come out. There are a lot more distractions when you are playing at home, so you have to manage your time better when you do play at home. So I've learned over the years not to have a party every single night at the house and just try to keep it at a minimum and concentrate on golf.

Q. What are your thoughts about the changes this year that the new tournament director has put in, especially on the 16th, the Mariachi band and everything out there?

**SCOTT McCARRON:** I think it's great. We are trying to ramp up the tournament, and get some new blood in here. We've got a great sponsor with LEGENDS coming in and trying to make it fun, more of a party atmosphere. I think it's great. The Mariachi band, I just asked if I make a birdie do I get to come back out and get a half price Margarita. That was one of the questions I asked. So I think it's fantastic. He has invited Michelle Wie, which has created a lot of buzz. They're going to try to get a lot of bang for their buck with that. I think it's something that they are trying to make some changes to and I think it's great.

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SCOTT MCCARRON TRANSCRIPT-7.30.08

Q. Scott, Michelle, what are your thoughts on it? People are being critical because she hasn't had success on the Women's Tour yet, she is getting a free spot here, would it be more acceptable had she had some success and won on the LPGA?

**SCOTT McCARRON:** When you look at Annika Sorenstam, when she got invited to Colonial, that was the best women's golfer in the world, and I think guys were OK with that.

When Michelle first came out she was an unbelievable phenom at 14. She almost made the cut a couple of times. I wouldn't be surprised -- she is going to make a cut on the Men's Tour eventually. So, obviously, you would like to see whoever is getting an exemption playing well coming in; whether it's Rob Grube, Michelle Wie or whoever they give it to, so they can be competitive.

Michelle, obviously her game is coming around. She played well a couple of weeks ago. An unfortunate incident where she didn't sign her scorecard, but she did play well. Hopefully her game is coming around. She has had a lot of injuries. I myself know it's difficult to play when you are having injuries. She has been injured for a couple of years. Just because she hasn't played well, I think it probably has a lot to do with the injuries.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

**SCOTT McCARRON:** Thanks, guys.

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