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An Interview With:

SCOTT HARVEY

Q. We're here with 2014 U.S. Mid-Amateur champion Scott Harvey. Scott, welcome to Charlotte Country Club.

SCOTT HARVEY: Thank you. Good to be here. I love this place.

Q. The U.S. Mid-Amateur is going to be here September 22nd through the 27th, both here at Charlotte Country Club and Carolina Golf Club. Tell us about having the Mid-Amateur in your home state and what you remember about Charlotte Country Club.

SCOTT HARVEY: Well, for me, home state is a pretty big deal. A lot of my family and friends will probably come down and drive and watch, which is always more fun. But Charlotte Country Club in particular is one of my favorite places. I didn't even know it was here until the Carolinas Amateur I played in about six or seven, eight years ago, somewhere in there. Showed up and just immediately fell in love with the place. It's a fantastic golf course. Everything is first-class from food and beverage to the golf course. Everything is just fantastic.

Big golf course, by memory, but yeah, suits my game well. Suits a lot of people's game well. I've already been talking to a lot of my buddies and hope they qualify and get to experience it.

Q. The U.S. Mid-Amateur now has a U.S. Open exemption attached to winning the championship. What do you think that means to the champion and to the field?

SCOTT HARVEY: I think it lifts up the championship even higher than it already was. I mean, any USGA championship is already a treat to play in, and it's the highest level of competition, but when you start saying, all right, the winner is getting a U.S. Open exemption and obviously comes to the Masters, as well, I mean, you get the

added pressure. It's in the back of everyone's mind. Everyone wants to play in the U.S. Open. It's pretty phenomenal. And having done that, even though I didn't get it through this, but having played in the U.S. Open, it's a special treat, man.

Q. Tell me about playing in the U.S. Open. You qualified through sectional play, played at Erin Hills in 2017. What's that like, and what does it mean to a mid-amateur to play in the U.S. Open?

SCOTT HARVEY: So it is the best experience from an all-inclusive standpoint, and what I mean is I got to -- family and friends and everybody, just everybody felt so special for the entire week, whereas just in comparison, just to show you what I'm talking about, the Masters was special from a me standpoint, but the U.S. Open was like everybody -- does that make sense? It was just unbelievable.

But for a mid-am to play in the U.S. Open, to give you a quick little story, if you don't mind, I'm playing a practice round with Jordan Spieth, Jim Furyk and Steve Stricker, and I'm taking pictures of them and videos, and all of a sudden I get a text from a tenant at a rental property, and there's water leaking from the second floor down to the first story. So I'm freaking out, and I'm pretty sure I'm the only one gnat U.S. Open field who had to deal with something like that.

But yeah, it's a special deal, special week, and there's just something that once you have a taste of it, you just want it again.

Q. Talk about the Mid-Amateur championship; there's two rounds of stroke play, then to win it you have to go through six matches in match play to win it. What does it take to win the championship, and how much of it is mental as well as execution?

SCOTT HARVEY: It's mental and physical, especially with mid-ams. A lot of guys -- there's a lot of them that are in shape for sure, but when you start playing two rounds a day -- well, first of all, stroke play, you have to make it through

and get to match play, which is a lot easier said than done, and then you get to match play, and you can play great and lose, you can play bad and win. It's just -- it's always a battle. It's a lot of pressure. And at the end you just want to be a little on top because when you're done, you're done. There is no more tomorrow, whatever.

It's a long week, like I said. I think the first day is a single round, and then after that it's two rounds a day. Mentally and physically tough to get through, but it's going to expose who the best players are that week for sure.

Q. You've been to the final twice, and you've experienced the elation of winning and also the disappointment of losing in dramatic fashion. What is that day like?

SCOTT HARVEY: You know, the first one, the one I won, I didn't sleep -- I don't know, I probably slept two hours before I started thinking about everything, the excitement and the nerves and everything. And then once you get going, you just kind of -- you're playing the game. But when you start getting down to that second 18 of the finals, the pressure starts kicking in. You start -- it's easy to get your mind out there, whatever.

And then the second time, having been there before, it was totally different. It was just another day. I was really wanting it and the whole thing, but it was just another day on the golf course. I guess from an experience standpoint, that's a benefit for me.

But I wasn't thinking about the U.S. Open. Now I've got the U.S. Open to think about. So I have to make it back there. I don't know, it's just something else that you want that's added pressure and excitement, and it's intense.

Q. Most people don't understand what a mid-amateur is, and most mid-amateurs have real jobs. How do you balance the work, family, find time to practice golf?

SCOTT HARVEY: So great question. I'd say nine out of ten have jobs, families, just responsibilities that come way before golf, and mid-amateurs play when you can, right, you're just not playing for a living or whatever. We just play whenever we can.

You'd better have a good home life and things in order there to you have time. And what I mean by home life is a wife that's supportive enough to let you go out and do what you want to do and play on the weekends or go hit balls in the afternoon or do whatever you can do to keep your

game sharp because you show up to a tournament like this where the USGA grows the fairways in, the rough high, the greens are firm and fast, you're going to get exposed real quick if you're not sharp. And there's plenty of guys who have careers that allow them to play a lot of golf, myself being one of them. You're fighting against people that can really play.

So yeah, it's a balancing act for sure. But it is doable. You've just got to love it.

Q. And finally, where is your game right now? And of course you recently just won the George Thomas again out at LA Country Club. How do you feel going into this championship?

SCOTT HARVEY: You know, for me, this is a year -- my wife is pregnant again. She's due in two and a half months or so, end of October, so I've played some golf this year, but I'd say not even half as much as normal. So my game when I have played has either been really good or just really bad. I'll try to tune it up a little bit more for this championship because it's the one I kind of set my sights on every year. But for me, it's hit or miss. I'm a couple over par, 5-, 6-under par, a couple over par, 5-, 6-under par. That's kind of where I am, just kind of bouncing off inconsistency, a little bit of rust, whatever. Not quite as sharp as normal, but like I said, for this championship I'll try to dial it in a little bit.

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