



ROUND 1 INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: JAY HAAS

Thursday, October 30, 2014

DAVE SENKO: Well, Jay, thanks for joining us, 4-under 66 today, bogey at 4 and five birdies. Maybe just a quick rundown on your day and then we'll get some questions.

JAY HAAS: You know, I think it's a pretty hard day out there, certainly not like it was a couple years ago. I believe two years ago the course was playing faster, so shorter, but the greens I thought were softer a couple years ago. We had a hard time stopping the ball around the hole today, for me anyway. Played with Kenny and he's 20 and 30 by me on every hole, so he's hitting 9 or wedge and I'm hitting 5 or 6, so it's a little bit of a mismatch there.

I did play well, I got off to a good start with birdie at 1 and I did bogey 4, but I made about a 12-footer at 9 for par and that seemed to kind of spur me on a little bit. I birdied 10, 14, 16, I guess, and then 18.

But that putt at 9 kind of kept me from going 1-over par. I really wasn't aware -- I was aware that I haven't had many round over par this year, but I didn't know it was any kind of record or anything like that. So I just didn't want to get too far away from the leaders. I played very well on the back nine.

DAVE SENKO: As I mentioned, Jay, coming in, this is 37 in a row par or better, which ties Loren Roberts' record.

JAY HAAS: How does Bernhard not have that record? Come on. Are we just not counting him? The rest of us get a chance at some?

DAVE SENKO: Your birdies, do you remember --

JAY HAAS: No. 1, probably about six feet at No. 1. No. 4, I missed the green, chipped to about 10 feet and missed. No. 10, I hit a 9-iron to about two feet. No. 14, a 9-iron to about 18 feet. No. 16, a wedge to about 15 feet. No. 18, I got up and down from the greenside bunker, made about a six-foot putt there for birdie.

Q. Jay, what does 37 straight rounds say to you about your game?

JAY HAAS: Well, I played very well, I've been very consistent, a little lucky in places. Just I think good play, obviously you have to do -- you have to play well to shoot good scores and keep it around par or better, but also you have to get some breaks. Over the course of the year I've gotten my share of good bounces and make a putt here or

there, things like that.

Like I said today on No. 9, making that putt, it kind of just changed my whole attitude toward the back nine or something. Hit a real good shot at 10 and all of a sudden I'm 1-under par on the 11th tee and it seemed like 15 minutes before that I was ready to go 1-over. Little things like that. When I've kind of had chances to play a good round, I have this year. Like I said, very consistent, driven the ball well. Most every facet of my game has been pretty good. To do something like that, you know, I couldn't have foreseen that happening.

DAVE SENKO: Was there much difference weather-wise, wind-wise between the front and back nine at all?

JAY HAAS: I thought so. I thought the wind picked up pretty good right after we teed off maybe starting at No. 4, 5, 6, right in there it was blowing pretty good. On the back nine I thought it slowed down a little bit. So for about a couple hours in there, maybe from -- we teed off at noon, so maybe from 1:00 to 3:00 or so it was pretty steady.

Like I said, the greens, they're quite firm, so you've got to land short. Take, for example, the seventh hole, par 3, I think Tommy said it was 196 to the front edge, left-right over the water and the pin's right back, 220 back to the pin. I watched Jeff Sluman -- we were slow there, they were stacking up a little bit and I saw Jeff Sluman hit a 6-iron to the back edge 225 yards. It's hard to compute that but you have to land so far short, that's what makes it kind of tough. Most of the time when you hear guys say we were just throwing darts out there, it's 152, you carry it 152 or thereabouts and it just stops. It happened very few times today with that situation.

Q. The second shot at 9, was that a miss-hit, miss-gauge in distance?

JAY HAAS: I was trying to stretch a pitching wedge, I needed to get it all to get it there and I was trying to really hit it high and take advantage of the wind behind me and I just kind of came off it a little bit. I actually thought it was going to carry almost to the green and I was kind of surprised that it came up as short as it did.

Probably that was a hole to not shoot at the pin, just put it 30 feet by the hole, two-putt and get out of there because there was no room to go at the pin there. A little bit left of the pin, I'm sure there were a ton of guys to the left down in the fringe there, which wasn't terrible. But yeah, that was a miss-hit.

Q. How long was the pitch and the putt?

JAY HAAS: You know, I was probably -- it was probably a 15-yard, 18-yard pitch shot up the hill and then about 12 feet, left it short, my pitch shot, and then about 12 feet on the putt.

Q. Do you have any strong opinion one way or another about the tournament staying here now for a three-year stretch rather than alternating between here and Harding Park?

JAY HAAS: Yeah, I think both places are wonderful, but two different ends of the spectrum certainly weather-wise, topography. Everything about each tournament is quite different. The city, you know, we're up here in the mountains and things like that. I don't. I had some decent tournaments at Harding Park, I played well here a couple years ago, so it's kind of nice here. Seemingly you can kind of predict what the weather's going to be here, where at Harding Park 10 minutes later you might be in a full rain suit. But I think just being here, for me personally just being in this field and have a late tee time in this tournament means you've had a good year, so it's pretty satisfying wherever we are.

DAVE SENKO: Thanks, Jay.

JAY HAAS: Thanks, guys.