



ROUND 2 INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: JAY HAAS

Friday, October 31, 2014

PHIL STAMBAUGH: All right, Jay. Two years ago on Friday you shot 60 and today at age 60 you shoot 62. Bogey-free, birdied four of the last six holes, just talk about the round.

JAY HAAS: Well, as I was saying when we were walking over here, I wish I hadn't come in here yesterday because all I was thinking about was having not shot over par since May 24 or whatever, and it was a tough day. I thought much harder today than yesterday. The wind was difficult, the greens are still very firm. I honestly said if somebody was giving me even par before I played, I would have said okay, that sounds pretty good, I'll take that.

But I played extremely well. I missed one green and that was No. 12 and I hit a 7-iron just through the green on the fringe, almost made the putt. It was a pretty error-free round. Disappointed that I didn't birdie at least the last hole or at least get kind of an opportunity to shoot my age today, but it was a special round. Hit a lot of good shots and didn't make a lot of long putts. They were all, you know, 15 feet and in probably for birdie. So it was solid golf today. I don't know what got into me, but it was a lot of fun.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Obviously congratulations on the par or better straight 38 in a row now, beating Loren Roberts' record in '06, '07. Can you compare the two Fridays, 2012 and today?

JAY HAAS: I actually think I played better today. I think it was a much harder day today. The greens were not holding at all. I think I had closer putts today maybe than I did two years ago. I chipped in at No. 10 two years ago. I think probably tee to green it was probably a better round today ball-striking wise. But it was just nice to -- gosh, I kept saying, "Well, that was the best shot I hit today, that was the best shot I hit today," but probably the best shot I hit was the fairway bunker shot at 15. I don't remember that bunker being so tough to carry for me two years ago. I was trying to go right of it and I cooked it a little bit, but I hit a 7-iron probably as far as I could have hit a 7-iron from that lie and everything and hit an 8-iron to about 15 feet but didn't make the putt. I was trying to think if I don't get this out very far, I'll lay up and maybe get a putt at a par. I'm already a couple shots ahead of myself, and then I hit, like I said, probably the best shot of the day was that second shot from the fairway bunker to give myself an opportunity there. And then I turned around at 17 to hit the prettiest 6-iron just left of the flag about six or seven feet and I hit a ton of shots like that today. It was a fun day, without question.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Can you run through the birdies?

JAY HAAS: No. 1 I hit a 9-iron to about 10 feet. No. 5 I hit a 6-iron to about a foot. No. 6 I hit a lob wedge to about eight feet. No. 8 I hit a 6-iron 30 feet, 35 feet and I two-putted, second putt was a tap-in, six inches. No. 13 I hit a pitching wedge to about seven feet. NO. 14, a 6-iron to about eight feet. No. 16, I hit a lob wedge to about five feet. And 17, a 6-iron to about six or seven feet there. Actually, the first hole, the 10-footer, that was really kind of my longest birdie putt. It was solid.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Questions?

Q. Congratulations.

JAY HAAS: Thank you.

Q. Well played. You've talked about this all year and you've been asked this all year, but you finished last year I know you've said maybe not knowing at age 60 how close you were to the end. I'm not talking about wins or Top 10, I'm talking about quality of play. How surprised are you about your level of play from beginning to the end of the game this year to the end?

JAY HAAS: It's been superb. I think the surprising part is week in and week out I've been very solid. A couple events right after I came back from missing a week or two from a back issue, I didn't play great at Minnesota and the following week, maybe Dick's Sporting Goods, but one of the weeks, one of my best ball-striking weeks was at Newport Beach. I didn't make a bogey the whole week and I finished 12th. So tee to green that was as good as I played all year and didn't get a Top 10.

But I'm surprised it's been this good from start to finish, yes. Not surprised occasionally doing that, but as many weeks as I've played and kind of been in the hunt and a good round from winning or being right there, yes, I'm pretty -- I'm surprised at just the amount of times that I've done it.

Q. Because the record aside, I mean, it's conceivable, without taking a real close look at it, nobody's ever played better -- consistently better, let me put it that way -- for a six-month stretch on this tour.

JAY HAAS: Right, right. It's nice to even consider that or be in that conversation, I guess. Sure would have like to have won three or four more times, but it would be pretty hard to say that Bernhard's year was not, you know, on par with my stretch here, whatever. And I can't even, where did he not shoot under par or par or better? How many times has he shot over par this year?

PHIL STAMBAUGH: I think it's four or five.

JAY HAAS: Wow, shocker. No, I think that for me personally, this is as consistent as I've ever been for any length of time, yes.

Q. I was really surprised to hear you say how hard it was because I watched every shot and it looked easy. I mean, it just, everything was right on the button, you were flinging the ball right. So in the moment, how much harder did you have to work at it to get it to look that easy?

JAY HAAS: Well, I won't say I had to work any harder, but like we've said or like I've said, I played extremely well all year long, kind of the same idea. I was going out there today just trying to, you know, to put the ball in the fairway on the first hole, hit the green on my second shot on the first hole and go forward from there, try not to get too far ahead of myself.

Honestly, was coming to the course thinking I wish I hadn't known that I was -- I mean, as records go, this is a nice record to have, for sure. And Loren sure played well and in many stretches so I'm not making light of that, but I'm thinking to myself at the same time, you've still got a tournament here, you're in great shape in this tournament so let's just keep being aggressive when you can.

But you're right, I hit many solid shots. I miss-hit an iron at No. 3, kind of hit it a little heavy but it worked out okay, came up 20 feet short. And then No. 4, my hybrid club off of kind of a hanging lie, kind of necked it a little bit but it was the shot I kind of had to play, and it hit in the upslope there and came on the green to keep it on that green. But other than that, I hit pretty much everything right in the mouth today. That's just fun when it is a difficult day like this. You know, Kenny shot 2-under and he played awfully well, too, but the wind got him a couple times.

Q. I was going to say the measure of how great you played is the difference between your two rounds. He looked like he was working at it and you just hit every shot right on the button.

JAY HAAS: It was nice. Every time I kind of got over the ball and looked up, it seemed like I was looking at the flag. I felt comfortable, I felt like I was going to hit a good shot. But I kept waiting for this 25-mile an hour wind. I saw on my phone it was going to be gusting to 20, 25 today. I don't think it ever got to that point. I thought it was a little gusty at times, but thankfully it didn't get too bad.

Q. So on that tee shot on 15 that led to the glorious 7-iron out of the bunker, did you pull the trigger early on that? Did the swing feel okay?

JAY HAAS: Yeah, the swing felt pretty good. I was aiming up the right side of the fairway and trying not to leak it to the right. There's more room over to the right and I think Tommy says it's 258 or something to carry the bunker or something like that. I would think comfortably I could probably do that, but my flight was a little bit low there,

a little pull. I was trying to kind of hit just a draw off the right side of the fairway there up that gap, and if I didn't hit it great, I thought it was still going to be okay. But just pulled a little bit and just didn't have enough air under it to carry it.

I did notice there were some rake marks in there, so I wasn't the only one that hit it in that bunker today. I just don't remember that being such a difficult carry last time. I remember hitting hybrid club in there a couple times and maybe having an opportunity another time to go for it. So that would have had to have been 210 or 215 to the hole or to the front there and I think Tommy in the bunker -- Kenny knocked it on. He smashed a drive and hit some kind of hybrid club right on the middle of the green there.

Q. It was into you.

JAY HAAS: Oh, yeah, it was blowing pretty good. And then I said maybe I should lay up to that bunker in the heavy wind, but it looks very narrow short of the bunker so I don't need to be thinking of that. I think I just need to stick it up in the air a little bit more and get some more carry on it, I'll be okay. Hopefully it won't be too bad tomorrow.

Q. Jay, I think you led by five after Friday's round two years ago if I remember correctly. What's it going to take to keep this going? I think Tom Lehman shot like 22-under that year. What will it take, do you think, to keep this going?

JAY HAAS: I would sure love to hit it tee to green like I did today for the next two days, but I don't know that I can anticipate that that will happen. I'll need to continue to shoot under par, I feel like. I don't know. The weather, I think, is going to be a little bit cooler, and if they don't put water on the greens or if it remains the same, the ball's still not going to be holding like the last couple days.

Tom's had a great year, he's a tough competitor for sure, right behind me. Freddie had a great round today, he'll shoot 64 or 5 tomorrow and he's right back in it, too. One shot at a time, hopefully I can think in those terms. I feel very comfortable. It's been a wonderful year for me, and to be here and third on the points and third on the money list, you know, after last year is pretty satisfying. So I'm not relaxing -- relaxed by any means or saying don't worry about it, but I don't feel the pressure of having to prove again, and winning a couple weeks ago was very nice and getting that done. I think if I had not won, I might feel a little more urgency to do that, but just going to have to be solid next couple days.

Q. Are you staying with Freddie this week?

JAY HAAS: No. Staying with my sister-in-law and her husband. They live right down the road.

Q. He had a pretty good day today as well. Were you aware of what he was doing?

JAY HAAS: Oh, yeah, they show hot rounds and I saw him -- I guess he had 64?

Q. Yeah, 29.

JAY HAAS: No shock there, you know? It's a shock when he does the other, shoots over par. I would expect him to do more of the same the next couple days.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Anything else? Thanks, Jay.

JAY HAAS: It you guys.