

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW**  
**June 11, 2021**



**SKIP KENDALL ( E)**

---

**SKIP KENDALL:** Just made a mess out of No. 11 today and, you know, kind of had some -- a little momentum going anyway into that hole. 11 through 16 I really feel like that's where you need to make up some ground out here and just went the opposite way. I mean, I made a birdie in there somewhere, too. Then birdied 16 and birdied I think 13. Had birdie opportunities on 14 and 15, just didn't convert.

Listen, overall I'm playing well and, you know, can't be upset with 72 really. I haven't played in a long time, but at the same time I really wanted to come here and just light it up.

**Q. Was the state Open the last time you played?**

**SKIP KENDALL:** Yeah. I played in some qualifiers recently, but no tournaments. Done nothing.

**Q. Nothing on this tour since the '19 SAS?**

**SKIP KENDALL:** Yeah, October, I think it's exactly 20 months because I looked at my phone, I got a text from somebody, it was October 11th and today's June 11th, right? It's exactly 20 months last time I played.

**Q. A bit of rust out there?**

**SKIP KENDALL:** I mean, can I say yes? But honestly, I felt good, everything was good. I'm playing so much better than I did two years ago.

**Q. Why?**

**SKIP KENDALL:** I don't know. I think a lot of it has to do with coaching. Just it reaffirms what you have to do, I think. And I started coaching -- I started coaching a guy that just turned 50, his name was Eddie Fernandes. he's a world long drive guy and he's won it before. Kind of learning some of the stuff that I'm hitting it longer because of what he's doing. We have a trade going, I'm helping him with all the wedge play because he still carries it 350 and he wants to play, so he's trying to get out here. He hasn't really tried too much, and hopefully he will. I'm learning a lot from him, and it's actually helped my coaching and helped me. I've kind of been my own guinea pig in that respect. That's really helped me. Him along with another guy who's coaching him, his name is Lucas Wald, and between the three of us and the two of them, we're always chatting back and forth, learning a lot.

**Q. So Lucas is or was his coach?**

**SKIP KENDALL:** Yes, yes. And so just talking with those guys and of course my long-time coach, Brian Mogg, I'm just playing a lot better than I did. No real rhyme or reason other than it's just a lot better.

**Q. A lot of guys have kind of figured it out at certain times when something else comes around and kind of takes a little bit of the, you know, the attention away from grinding, that kind of thing?**

**SKIP KENDALL:** Yeah, I needed a break, I'll be the first to admit. I got done after the SAS Championship and I don't think I touched a club for about six months, I needed a break. It was 33 years. Other than having some surgery on my thumb, which put me out for, I don't know, four or five months, I didn't -- I mean, it was straight through. That was first and foremost. Then I think the coaching and everything that you take for granted, I think. Then when you actually say it to other people, like I need to be doing that as well. Just everything. I think just being home. You know, just playing better.

**Q. You played alongside Mario. After a little bit of a rough start, did you see good things out of him, too?**

**SKIP KENDALL:** Absolutely. Mario can play. It was really nice playing with him today. It's been a long time obviously, but he's got game, he really does. For that matter, I know John didn't show anything today, but you can tell he's got game, too. It was nice playing with them and chatting it up a little bit.