

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
June 12, 2021



JAY HAAS (-7)

Q. We'll get started with Jay Haas here. Just some overall thoughts on the round?

JAY HAAS: Well, it was a good day for me obviously, good score. I played very well tee to green. Had a lot of chances, didn't make too many mistakes and that's what you have to do any round of golf.

But yesterday I kind of felt like I played almost the same until we got -- caught the rain delay late there and I never really recovered from that. Old body seized up on me a little bit. But I felt pretty good going out today. Made a couple nice birdies early and I think that just got me off on the right foot and didn't do much wrong, so it was a fun day.

Q. Jay, 40 years since you won in Milwaukee. What do you remember about that week? Made a lot of trips here over the years.

JAY HAAS: Yeah, I've loved playing up this way, I love playing here just in the short time that we've been here. I don't know what it is. Milwaukee, always had some pretty good luck there as well.

I remember thankfully winning by 3 coming down the last hole, maybe even bogeyed the last hole to win by 3. Made a couple birdies late and somebody backed up for me, so it was not a real tense moment, I guess, coming down there.

I just remember I hadn't won in a while when I played there in '81. I won in '78 and then hadn't won again. Just everything came together, so it was nice to get back to winning again. I won later that year and then a couple times in '82, so it kind of spurred me on to a little bit of a boost there. I'll never forget it.

Q. Phil Mickelson obviously won at 50 at the PGA Championship. Is that inspiring in any way to you?

JAY HAAS: I think I've inspired him. (Laughs.) I would have never anticipated that at 67 I'd still be playing competitive golf and still be playing out here. The way I've played the last year, most of the time has been saying you need to leave, maybe it's time to quit, then I do things like today. I still want to play, I still want to compete, but my scores haven't indicated that I could.

I don't think I'm doing anything outrageous this week. It's not like I'm making putts from left to right. I've hit the ball nicely. I think more and more you will see older players contend. More players are staying in better shape, they're excited about the prospects of playing into their

50s and 60s, so they're thinking more long term. I think when I first started I thought if I could play 20 years until my early 40s, you know, nobody else did other than Sam Snead. So the handwriting's on the wall that I would be done. Now 20-plus years later is pretty incredible that we're still getting this opportunity.

Q. Are you as long as you were eight or 10 or 12 years ago?

JAY HAAS: No, I don't think so. Maybe I've lost in my prime say out here 50 to 55 or 56, I'm probably 10 yards shorter, maybe a half a club to a club with the irons, but I'm not so short. I love the fact that the course is playing pretty fast this week, it's kind of helped keep me in it a little bit. My drives are going a little bit farther than I remember them here in the past. I love the ball running in the fairways, but the greens are firm, too, which doesn't play into my hands because I don't flight the ball high like a lot of the younger guys.

Q. Is it cool having Jay Jr. with you?

JAY HAAS: Yeah, very cool. He's got three kids and he's teaching at home. I want him out here every week, but I know how it was when I had young children, how I felt like I had to be out here, I had to play on the PGA TOUR and try to establish myself. So I missed a lot of that time with my family. I don't want him to miss that. You know, I said about a month ago, would you like to go up to Madison with me, he goes, I'm in. He's still teaching and hopefully he'll have a better payday than he would at home.

Q. Tomorrow, do you just kind of but blinders on?

JAY HAAS: Yeah, you know, I know what I'm supposed to do. I'll be nervous, which is great. I love the fact -- teeing off No. 10 with -- in the second-to-last group off of No. 10, I'm not nervous, so what do I want to do, would I rather play off the 1 late or 10 late? I know which one I want.