

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
June 12, 2021



SKIP KENDALL (E)

Q. Skip Kendall, we'll just start, tell us a little bit about your round today.

SKIP KENDALL: A tale of two sides. Got off to a really good start. I on own the back side, made a bunch of birdies, probably 4 under through my 16th hole, 7, today and cruising along nicely. Kind of a hiccup on 18, hit it in the back of the green. Hit a pretty good shot in, but rolled all the way to the back of the green, had about 70 feet, three-putted.

Then starting the back side, hit a really good iron shot into 3 but ended up coming back in the bunker and in kind of a bad place, barely got on the green, three-putted again.

Next hole, chipped out, bogey. Actually, the first one was a double bogey and then made two bogeys in a row. Those holes were playing into the wind, so they were pretty difficult today. You know, hit some good shots, just didn't end up in the right places.

Fortunate to make a birdie coming in on 7 and get it back to even par, but kind of a so-so deal.

Q. On the first nine, echos of the '87 state am? You were climbing the leaderboard. I don't know if you look at leaderboards, you were T-4 at one point. What did that little run feel like there? And you talked to us yesterday that you were playing well and that kind of elevated --

SKIP KENDALL: I am playing well. I'm just disappointed I'm even par. At the same time, I'm happy. You know, I really came here to do a lot better than how I'm doing. Hopefully tomorrow get it rolling again like I did early today and keep it going. We'll see.

Q. At the same time the course isn't playing excessively easy. For a long time the top of that leaderboard kind of held still. Was it pin placements? What's going on?

SKIP KENDALL: Well, I think the back side is gettable. You have 11 through 16, those are a bunch of birdie holes. Execute well, you can have some nice opportunities and hopefully sneak in some there.

But front side, I mean, it's kind of the tale of two sides, too. One side you're in the forest so you don't get affected by the wind as much. I made the turn and it was -- it's windy, it's exposed, it's windy. Makes a difference. Then especially when you kind of turn the corner when you get to 3 and then 4 and 5 back into the wind, they're tough, they're tough holes. You've just got to execute through there.

Q. I apologize if you've been asked this before this week, but was it just a no-brainer for you to come up from Florida for this event?

SKIP KENDALL: For sure. Anytime they'd like me to be here, I will absolutely be here. This is home for me. This tournament is a very special tournament. It does a lot of great things for the community, and certainly American Family, so we all want to support it and do our best to do that.

Q. What's the week been like for you?

SKIP KENDALL: It's been great. Great to be home. This is more like Florida weather though for me. I'm right at home right now.

Q. What have you been doing in the off hours?

SKIP KENDALL: You know what, I haven't played out here in a while, so had a nice -- bunch of nice dinners with some guys I haven't seen in a while, just saying hi to everyone. It's been nice.

Q. Skip, Jay Haas is hanging around (inaudible.) He's 67 years old. Any reason why a guy that old can't win on this tour?

SKIP KENDALL: Well, Phil won the PGA, so I don't know. I don't think there's any reason. You keep yourself in good shape and age is just a number, right? Like fine wine, get better with age. I don't know. I don't think there's any reason why he can't play well. Jay's Jay Haas, you know, he's a great player already. It's how he manages it, I guess. Great to see. I didn't even see that.

Q. After a long layoff, how's it just getting mentally back into tournament form and keeping that focus for 36 holes so far?

SKIP KENDALL: I wish I could say it's like riding a bike, but in a way it kind of is. I feel comfortable. I'm playing a lot better than I did a couple years ago, so that makes it a little easier. I really, truly came here to try to do some damage. Like I said, hopefully tomorrow. I've got one more day left, so hopefully tomorrow I can get it rolling.

Q. You played in the state Open last year. Do you have any other plans to come up here anytime soon?

SKIP KENDALL: It's a good question. I don't know. It's a little more difficult this year because it's at two different places. I don't know if I'm going to. Kind of depends what happens out here as well with the coaching that I'm doing now, see what the schedule looks like for a lot of my players that I'm coaching and what their needs are. Have to kind of play everything by ear right now. I am in the U.S. Senior Open, so I'm looking forward to that. That's in -- that's in about another month.

Q. You talked about your coaching yesterday. How gratifying is it now to kind of get back to the game in that way given the coaching you've gotten, the mentorship you've gotten in your career?

SKIP KENDALL: Yeah, it's really special. I didn't even know if I was going to do something like that. I probably started coaching about five years ago and I really found it not only rewarding, but vicariously kind of living through them now.

Seeing the progression that they're making, hopefully I have a little bit to do with their successes. Some of them are playing really well, so I'm just absolutely excited for them. If I can have a hand in it as a guide, I'm thrilled.

I mean, I'm a tough coach, I don't sugarcoat anything, I let them know exactly where they are, but I think trust is a big issue being a player. They've been -- a lot of them have been told their whole lives that they're the best thing since sliced bread. They're not, and I think that you can get that across to them. There's thousands of kids out there in their position. You know, first thing I ask them is how are you going to separate yourself, what's going to make you different. There's probably 200 guys in the world that play the PGA TOUR, how are you going to be one of them. Not a very big percentage of the population there.

And the girls, too, same boat. I mean, I'm tough, but I'm fair. I just want to see the best for them and practice schedules, setting up everything. I'm brutal. If I just see them putting around on the putting green with a couple balls down there, I mean, I'll start yelling at them because I'm like, what are you doing? You're not accomplishing anything just doing that. It's fun, though. It's great. Like I said, just seeing the progress that they're making is pretty special.

Q. Are you still working with Hunter Eichhorn from Marquette?

SKIP KENDALL: You know, not really. We worked together a little bit last year. Haven't talked to him too much recently. I know he finished up his college this year. He played well, but I haven't really talked to him recently, no.

Q. Do you think you're playing better at least partly because you had a break (inaudible)?

SKIP KENDALL: Absolutely, no question. I needed a break. I needed that -- I didn't touch a club for probably six months. I think I told you that yesterday. I needed a break after playing for a long period of time. It was really refreshing and I think, like I said yesterday, I think the coaching has helped my game. Just kind of reaffirms what you have to do and that's been nice.