

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
February 19, 2023

MAX HOMA (-15)



Q. More proud of the fight or disappointed with the loss?

MAX HOMA: Yes.

Sorry. I'm very proud. I did not have it off the tee today, but man, I fought. I really just wanted to push him.

I don't know why this is happening now, I've been fine for 15 minutes.

I wanted to push him. He is a spectacular golfer. I would say other than Tiger and I don't even know, he's the most consistent player I've seen. I've known him since college and he's been like this since then, No. 1 amateur in the world, No. 1 player in the world, all the accolades.

I wanted to make him beat me and I think I did that. I let him off the hook on 13, but man, it was cool to see myself push him and not feel like I had 100 percent of my game. I played great everywhere but off the tee on that back nine, but it is what it is. I was going to have to put up a pretty remarkable score. I think it's pretty amazing going against someone like Jon. You know he's going to play well so it's almost comforting knowing you're just going to have to play better, he's not going to fold.

So I am -- I'm not disappointed in my golf, I'm just disappointed in the ending.

Q. How do you describe the environment between a series of two-shot swings, a loud crowd, a lot of them backing you. How do you describe what that environment was like, especially on the final few holes?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, it's for me. I wish they'd be a bit nicer to Jon. It wasn't exactly -- I like cheering, I'm not a huge fan of booing unless it's at Waste Management.

But it's amazing how the support -- it hurts me not to -- when I won in '21, nobody was here and it hurts me not to be able to do that with everyone here, my family and friends. But I tried, man.

Sorry, this tournament just means a lot to me. It's like an emotional release.

But yeah, the support I get here is so cool. I'm going to win it again and be able to do it in front of all these people. Yeah, that's that.



Q. I wish DJ was here for a good joke.

MAX HOMA: Oh, man, he's got a squirrel stuck in his attic right now, so he's in a whole other world. Didn't even watch any golf today.

Q. Max, what was that chip shot like on 18? How good was the shot you hit and what was the feeling like just watching it almost go in?

MAX HOMA: It was cool. I mean, I wanted to make him have to two-putt. I went with the shot that goes in. Probably wouldn't have played that shot if it was Saturday. I pulled it off. It was going to need a miracle, I mean greens are so firm and it wasn't the best lie in the world. But I landed exactly where I thought I needed to, I just needed it to rock the pin. At least I gave my -- I gave myself the same putt I missed in '21 to go to a playoff, so it's nice to get it done on that little four-footer.

Q. Jon obviously elevates himself at this point above kind of the rest of the world. Does it feel like he's above the rest of the world? Does he feel inevitable?

MAX HOMA: Is that like an Avengers quote?

Q. No, not at all.

MAX HOMA: Yes, he's probably Thanos, he has a lot of the stones in his toolbox. He's a tremendous golfer, he has zero weaknesses. He's been this dude for a long time. I think he's got the highest win percentage in the last X amount of years, he's got the highest top-10s by a mile. The guy's incredible. I think Rory, Jon and Scottie are kind of in a league of their own at times and it's just our job to go catch them.

But yeah, I look forward to trying my hand at this again.

Q. What do you tell yourself throughout the day when you're fighting your swing, you're also fighting the No. 1 player in the world? How do you keep pressing when you may know it's not quite there?

MAX HOMA: Well, my irons were so good, it was really just with my driver. So I didn't really feel like I was fighting, I just felt like if I could have a second shot, I'd hit a really good one. The course is hard. I hit a beautiful shot on 16 and it's like a yard and a half too far right, and Jon hit a better one and his goes close and I'm fighting to make par.

Everything felt so good, I just needed to give myself a couple more opportunities from the fairway to show that off. I felt like I was playing defense out of the rough, and when I get on the par 3 tees or when I was in the fairway, I felt like all right, I'm going to knock down the flagstick.

And I thought I did that, so I feel really good about my game, it's just hard when you're



battling him. When he made that putt on 14, it put us in a pretty tough spot just because 15, at times you're not really -- you're trying to hit the fairway, but when I did that yesterday, it goes in the bunker and you're dead. So it just feels like you're kind of behind the eight-ball.

The only thing that really hurt, I hit a good 3-wood on 17, I finally hit a fairway. I hit a beautiful 3-wood, obviously overcut, but that bunker's not that bad and two days in a row I got stuck with a funky on the downslope. I tried to hit the shot, which I'm proud of, but if I was a little shorter than where it was, it would have been a bit easier of a shot.

I never really felt I was fighting myself, I just felt like I was just trying to stay in the fight as long as possible, and I did. I wanted to go to 18 with a chance and I did that. Unfortunately, Jon's just really good at golf.

Q. Was 13 just that cut off the tree just didn't cut?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, I did it three days in a row. I've been just trying to trust my swing. I've been playing in high flary cut off the trees and it's worked. I played that hole 3 under the first three days. Then today I actually cut out the middle and it just never really got high enough. I had to struggle with the left miss today, which is rare for me. But yeah, that was none too fun, I had like 300 some yards in. Yeah, that was just an unfortunate thing.

But again, I was proud of how I committed to the shot, I didn't try to guide it t I tried to hit it and sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't.

Q. Did your heart get racing a little bit with the chip on 18?

MAX HOMA: Oh, yeah, that one -- it's amazing what willing something to happen can do to both the ball and to your body. All I saw was the hole. I knew I was going to have to crush the flagstick, but I really -- you see Tiger do it so often and I felt like I got in a little bit of a mini zone where all I saw that ball doing was landing where it did, bouncing, breaking right and just crushing the flag.

It was cool to pull it off in a way, but I shouldn't have been in a position where I needed to pitch in from the kikuyu left of 18. It's a shame. But it did make my heart rate. I just wanted to keep pushing him and I didn't want it to be over, and when that missed, it was over.

