

**Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf
Savannah Harbor Golf Resort
Savannah, GA
April 23, 2006**

Final-round tournament quotes:

AN INTERVIEW WITH JAY HAAS

THE MODERATOR: Well, Jay, congratulations, on your third Champions Tour win, \$395,000, and 395 points in the Schwab Cup race which moves you into second place behind Loren now.

But with that, maybe just share your sentiments on today.

JAY HAAS: Well, as it turned out it sure wasn't as easy as it might appear in the final score with a 5-shot difference between first and second.

Obviously with Craig playing pretty well early on, and then Peter getting into the hunt, I had a 1-shot lead. I was never out of lead, but I certainly felt the pressure from Peter and Craig.

I wasn't doing anything on the front 9. I hit a lot of good shots, I just didn't make any putts.

A couple of keys, but the big boost was the 3-wood to 12, 14 feet at No. 11, and making that for an eagle and restoring a 2-shot advantage there. That just made me feel like it was my tournament and it was mine to lose, to win or lose.

I'm thrilled as I can be to make birdies at 16 and 17, some really nice shots and some really good putts. But it certainly was not that easy. I never felt comfortable until I laid that first putt up about six inches from the hole on 18.

But it's a great day, obviously, this is an unbelievable turn around from last year at this time when the wind chill was in the 30's. I think one guy broke par the last round. It's just a huge thrill for me to be here. Winning at any time is great. It never gets old. It never gets easy.

I was thinking that I've done this, got in the hunt there, a couple of times last year and won some tournaments at the end of the year, but it was not like falling off the log by any means.

There was a lot of tense moments out there. Actually 15, I made a nice putt there, a 2 putt there, about a 6 or 7-footer and the putts at 16 and 17 were huge.

Q. Did you say it was a 3-wood?

JAY HAAS: I hit one of my best drives of the day on No. 11, the eagle. One of my best drives of the day. I don't know how long it was, pretty long for me. I just had this picture of a shot in my head, just trying to put it in the middle of the green, if it drew a little bit, great, but I was just trying to make sure that I made a 4 there. I hit 237 to the front and I felt like a good solid 3-wood would carry me that far and then run on back.

But this thing started drifting right toward the flag, and got up there and it was just behind the hole. It was kind of a ball outside right putt, a pretty simple putt from 12 or 14 feet, if you can get those. I looked up, it was on line, and it went in the hole.

At 17 or 18 it would have been even more fun to do that. At that time it was needed. I hit some really good shots.

I bogeyed No. 8 with a beautiful 6-iron, just left of the flag that went over the green, I tried to putt it up there and left it ten feet short and missed.

So I was struggling on the greens and I just wasn't making any thing, but that was big.

Q. Why did you go to the putter there on 8?

JAY HAAS: The green is right into me there. I didn't feel like I could lob it all the way to the green. Bumping it into the green, I felt like the ball would pop straight up in the air, and I just didn't hit it hard enough.

I was over there last year, probably three times I hit it over that green last year, with what I thought was pretty good shots. One time farther than I was today. One time about where I was today. And one time just on the fringe. I don't know how to play that hole. I birdied it the first round when the pin was back there, and I landed short and it got over.

It felt like the wind was into us there. So I felt like I could carry on top and it would still stop and it didn't check at all.

We hardly saw any ball marks today, which I love, I think that's great that the ball can take a nice bounce.

That shot, when the pin is back, you either have to be short of the hump. It doesn't look like you are supposed to be short of the hump, but it's a much better, easier putt than from putting out of that back fringe. I'm going to learn my lessons one of these days.

Q. Craig made a bomb there late on the back 9, how did that kind of change the psychology at that point?

JAY HAAS: Well, it certainly woke me up. I was just outside of him maybe eight or ten feet longer than him there, and I just kind of fell asleep on that first putt. I knew it was slow going up the hill. I've been putting my long putts really well. I just didn't hit it hard enough. I hit it solidly, and everything, but I just didn't swing hard enough at it.

And when that putt goes in, I said, well, it looks like you're going to be walking off here tied, maybe.

Somehow with that putt, I didn't hit a very solid putt on my second one, but it stayed just on the left side in the hole and made a nice catch.

And I hit two good shots at 16. I had a putt underneath the hole from about 18 feet.

Again, the putts don't break a lot on these greens. You have to trust it and hit solid putts and I did there, and it went in.

And probably one of the best shots that I hit all week was on 17 there a 4 -iron to about 12 feet and made that putt. I really wanted that one. I wanted that extra cushion coming down 18 regardless of whether Craig made a par on the hole or not.

Q. Back to 15, it looked like you were a little bit out of your routine on that second putt, you took a little bit of extra time, what was your self taught right there?

JAY HAAS: I was trying to slow down. You know what, just slow down, just take a little extra time. I think I was getting a little bit too much in a hurry, getting ahead of myself, thinking about what's going to happen, and all of that, shots ahead, what am I going to do on 16, and all of that stuff.

And I said just, you know what, just take it one shot at a time. I tried to collect myself there a little bit, slow things down, and I realized that I'm going to get home tonight, whether I rush this putt or not.

Actually, I'm going to get home later just because I worked out, and I made the putt, and I am staying around doing all of this. But I tried not to rush anything.

I did that well this week. I realized, you know, in the first or second round, I got going a couple of rounds really well. And I said, just take your time. I've been rushing a little bit, just hitting shots without thinking, so I tried to think that one through a little bit more, see it going in.

Q. After kind of a slow month or so what was the key overall to this whole week?

JAY HAAS: You know, to be honest with you, I changed drivers last week. I didn't drive it perfectly. I wasn't the longest driver by any means but I just really feel comfortable with this new driver, it's one of these big headed R, Titleist R driver.

And every time I got up on the tee I felt like I was going to hit a good one. And I really hit some nice drives, almost all week, every round. I hit a couple of squirrely ones, but overall that set me up here, especially with the rough being high. You can never shoot 15-under without putting well. That was a huge key.

On the backside, it seemed like I did a lot of my damage on the back. I don't know why. I don't think it's easier, harder, whatever. I just seemed to make a few extra putt on the back 9 this week. Again, you can't shoot those scores without holing some 15, 20 25-foot putts and that's what I was able to do.

Q. Are you still seeing Stan?

JAY HAAS: I'm still seeing Stan. We talk a little bit on the phone. He basically has told me that my stroke really looks good, and it's just up to me. I don't have the guts to make the putts is basically what he said anymore. He said, you are stroking it great. You just need to trust it. And I just haven't been trusting it. I don't know. Things went well for me this week. I love the speed of the greens. I made some putts in the Pro-Am, and in the first day, and I just kind of kept that up.

Q. After these past three days you have to be a happy camper to hear that this thing is coming back for a few more years?

JAY HAAS: Yes, that was a real thrill. I know it was iffy that that was going to happen. I won a tournament at Pinehurst and it was the last time that we ever went back there to play, and I always regretted that. I would have hate to see this one move. I think they've done an outstanding job here.

It's such a piece of cake for us to stay right here at the Westin. I love the golf course. I think it gets better and better every year. I love what they did with the rough to make it a little bit thicker and longer this year. That's a good thing. I'm ready to come back. I'm excited that they are.

Liberty Mutual, to be the sponsor, Jeff you said second longest running sponsor?

Q. In all of golf.

JAY HAAS: That's pretty impressive to stick with us this long. I was telling somebody out there on the green that I can remember watching Art Wall, Tommy Bolt, Julius Boros, Sam Snead, and all of these guys, and Gene Littler.

In the hotel they run the old tournaments, the videos of them making putts. This is the legends of golf. That started it all. This is the granddaddy and to be this champion is pretty neat for me.

Q. And uncle Bob?

JAY HAAS: Yes, uncle Bob. As I go into the clubhouse every time from the putting green I see names on the bricks, so hopefully I will get my name on one of those bricks now. I will be looking for it next year.

Q. Jay, can we get your shots?

JAY HAAS: No. 1, I hit a lob wedge to about four feet. Made that putt.

8, I hit a 6-iron just over the green and putted from the fringe. I had to go about 15 feet of fringe and just didn't like the putt, didn't like the shot, didn't like it the all. It ended up coming six or seven feet short, missed that one, made bogey.

Then I hit a driver, 3-wood on 11 to about 14 feet, made that for eagle.

A really nice lob wedge to two feet at No. 13 for birdie.

And 16, an 8-iron from the short right rough, the first cut of rough to about 18 feet. Made that.

And then 4-iron to about 12 feet at 17. Made that one.

Q. I know you alluded to your back 9, just as a note for people, you had 12 birdies and an eagle on the back 9 this week and was accumulative 13-under, just one bogey on the back 9?

JAY HAAS: How about that? Again, I don't know what it is. I don't think that's easier. You know like the fourth hole here, the par-5 I feel like I should make birdie there, and I didn't birdie it one time this week. I did, I chipped in one time there. It's just the way it played out this week that putts went in on the back 9 and I am sure glad they did.

Q. You talked yesterday about playing last week and this week, does it or does it not give you an advantage, it turns out the Top-3 guys on the leaderboard, and four to the Top-10 played last week, how about that? Do you think it's because this course didn't get harder, meaning more similar to what you thought?

JAY HAAS: You know, it could have been. None of the other guys, the Champions Tour was off last week, so maybe we had a leg up there just being in competition. After my first round last week I would have thought that that wouldn't have mattered at all. Then I watched Bill play on the weekend, and I didn't touch a club until Monday afternoon. I was pretty rusty and pretty discouraged actually. I actually played pretty well on Friday to shoot even par and just didn't make many putts. So that excited me a little bit coming here. But at the same time, nothing has been going in the hole. I haven't been scoring. I haven't been playing awful, but just haven't been getting the job done. But that's a good coincidence, and maybe it's not just a coincidence.

Q. I think you also told us earlier in the week about the last shot that you hit at Harbortown, it clicked right?

JAY HAAS: Yes, it was a 9-iron shot. I needed to get it up in the air. I needed to get a high 9-iron, to get it up in the air, and I tried to open up my swing, the club face, to try to get a little bit lift on it. Something that I've done -- I have had a thousand different keys in 30 years. That one just seemed to click right there, I hit a pretty shot. So I said, you know what, maybe there is something to that, I need to get some more height on my ball, I need to hit higher and softer shots. So that is what I worked on all week, and it paid off.

I came here to the range here on Wednesday afternoon, and had a really good warm-up session after getting here, and played well in the Pro-Am, and hit a lot of good shots and that carried me through.

The two 4-irons I hit on 17, I birdied the 17th hole the last two rounds. I hadn't been hitting those types of shots. That's been holding me back.

When I've had a chance to make a little move, I haven't been able to pull the shot off. This week I did.

Q. That was on No. 9?

JAY HAAS: It was downwind. The pin is in front there. If you guys have ever played that, you can't stop nothing on that green. But I did, I stopped it short of the hole. I was amazed at how good of a shot I hit

there. It was one of those, I hit it down the right side, I was 5 over par, so I took it down the right a little bit farther than normal.

Q. Thanks, Jay.

JAY HAAS: Thank you very much.
