



**ROUND 3**  
**INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: JAY DON BLAKE**  
**Sunday, August 26, 2012**

**MODERATOR:** Okay. Jay Don Blake wins the 2012 Boeing Classic defeating Mark O'Meara in the second extra hole with a birdie. Congratulations, Jay Don. Your third career title in the fourth playoff in the eight-year history of this event. Just your general thoughts about the victory and the day and take us through the playoff if you can.

**JAY DON BLAKE:** You know, every victory is pretty special. I had a couple of them last year at the beginning of the year, and I think you kind of start adding a lot of pressure to myself trying to win again, and everybody thinks, oh, if he's won twice, he ought to win more, more, more. I add a lot of pressure to myself trying to do too much and trying to make myself win instead of just letting it happen.

Like I said earlier out there, that I was really looking forward to the stretch that we had of all the majors. We had like 12 or 15 weeks or something like that where we had tournaments. I actually like to play a lot, so I was looking forward to those weeks. I didn't perform as well as I would like and worked pretty hard, got frustrated. But coming here, I guess the hard work and the patience finally paid off and come out with a victory this week.

**MODERATOR:** Take us through the playoff if you could.

**JAY DON BLAKE:** The playoff, they moved the tees up a little bit, so I know it was a par 5, very reachable. First two days I never really could hit the fairway, finally did today and made birdie.

And then I hit two good tee shots. The first time around I hit a good tee shot and hit a 3-iron up there; thought I executed a really good shot, but it hit just short of the pin, the greens were getting really baked out, and it kicked way up on the hill and I had a really tough shot. I seen Mark knock it in there about four feet, five feet just short of the hole. I had to bump it down through the rough and I had taken a chance of either leaving it in the rough or it kicked down into the bunker and it hit in a good spot, rolled down there about six feet by and I actually lipped

mine out and I kind of thought it was over with right there. Mark didn't make his putt, so we went back to 18 again.

I think I drove it win maybe a yard of where I was at the time before. This time I took -- first time I hit 3-iron, this time I hit 4-iron and took it a little bit more left because I didn't want to hit it through the green again and have the same shot but it still hit firm and rolled to that back fringe. I had more area to chip with and hit that chip shot. I seen Mark come up about 16, 17 feet short, and I had a pretty tough chip shot and I chipped it down there pretty delicate and rolls just, you know, less than a foot away. Pretty happy to get down there that close, just waiting to see what Mark had done. So I hit four great shots in the playoff.

**Q. (Inaudible.)**

**JAY DON BLAKE:** I hit a 60-degree on the chip, yeah.

**Q. You looked really calm and poised in the playoff. Did you feel that way?**

**JAY DON BLAKE:** No, no, I wasn't calm. I was churning inside quite a bit. I think where I was fine until probably I got to 13, thought I hit a really good 7-iron into the hole. That green's always been known, if you just land it on, it rolls all the way back. They kind of have done some weird watering. Some of the greens were soft, some of them weren't quite as soft. But I didn't quite carry the lip of the bunker and it rolls down in, and I chipped it. I mean, I wasn't two feet away and I had to move my coin, and what was weird is that when I marked my ball the first time, I noticed it was in a little indentation, kind of sitting in a hole, it wasn't a ball mark or nothing. So when I moved the coin and moved it back and I put it back, I'm like, well, at least I did it right because I'm in the same indentation I was in.

(Audio disconnect.)

All of a sudden the nerves kind of started at that point. I kind of got a little bit tense, a little bit kind of fidgety inside and had to kind of calm myself down and try to execute some good, smart shots and don't get aggressive, and I end up making a couple birdies after that.

**MODERATOR:** Can you talk about birdie at 15 because you were the first to post 9, talk about birdie at 15 and 18.

**JAY DON BLAKE:** Yeah, birdie at 15, I've been leaving my drive out to the right all the time and this time I hit it really well, went down the left-hand side, but it went so far it kind of got in the rough, so then I had to lay up. I just tried to lay up with a 5-iron down there and it rolled way -- 30 yards farther than I planned on it

going. Ended up taking that 60-degree probably only 50 yards from the pin and hit it about eight feet past the hole and felt pretty good about the chip. It was stuck back in that corner. I had to actually aim right of the pin anyway. I hit a good shot in there and ended up rolling the putt it from about eight feet. That kind of calmed myself a little bit, kind of gave me not a cushion but room to breathe.

Then on 18, the first time around in regulation play, I hit a driver, probably had 228 to the hole and I hit a hybrid, hit kind of a little high cut in there and luckily it hit the back part of the green where it was kind of soft and it barely trickled into the rough. I just kind of bumped a little putter out of the rough and I thought I made the putt coming down off the hill. It kind of caught the lip and spun out and ended up making about a foot-and-a-half putt for birdie.

**MODERATOR:** How far was the first putt?

**JAY DON BLAKE:** From the fringe, I was probably maybe 18 feet from down off the back fringe.

**Q. What goes through your mind, how hard is it while you're waiting for him to make that putt?**

**JAY DON BLAKE:** I've got my hand out of my pocket waiting to shake his hand is what I was kind of doing. I didn't expect him to miss it. A lot of things go through your mind. I'm not the type of guy that I don't wish badly on anybody. He didn't hit a good second shot, but he hit a good recovery sand wedge in there about five feet and I tried the best I could to hit -- make my birdie and I didn't. If he makes his, that's just the way it is. Me and Mark go way back, we're good friends, and I was surprised that he missed it.

**Q. In your first Tour victory, it was in a playoff with him as well?**

**JAY DON BLAKE:** Yeah, yeah, I thought of that. I was like, well, he's going to be out for revenge, so I had to be kind of sharp. I didn't want him to come up and say, hey, we're one-and-one now. I didn't want that comment, so I tried to keep my record between me and him going.

**Q. (Inaudible.)**

**JAY DON BLAKE:** I've stopped doing that just to focus on the Champions Tour, kind of put my whole thoughts and efforts into this.

**Q. Jay, you've won three times. Do you feel like you're finally kind of finding a place in this Tour? How do you feel about the way you're playing?**

**JAY DON BLAKE:** Well, I feel like the work that I've put into my game even prior to playing out here, I had some issues with my back and I got it healthy to where I could play. I really worked hard on my game.

I didn't have full status my first couple years. I was doing the Monday qualifying so I didn't get to play a lot. Then I finished high enough to where I could start playing more, which last year was the first year I was actually able to play pretty much most of the tournaments except for the majors, I had to qualify for those.

Being able to play and know you're going to play every week, it's a lot easier than going Saturday to play a Sunday practice round to do a Monday qualifying, then just hope you get in that way. That was a lot of hard work and I just felt like I was -- when I did play in tournaments, I felt like my game was good enough, I was able to compete and possibly win some tournaments. Just give me a chance, let me play instead of one week and then another one another month later, two months later. Just give me a chance to kind of get out here and kind of get in the groove.

It paid off. I've still got things I work on with my game, try to improve, everybody does, so hopefully I can kind of keep it in the groove. I do feel like I belong. I feel like I can compete when I get things going well, playing well. Not in an arrogant way, but I don't really feel like I'm that intimidated by the players out here. A lot of talent out here, but I just feel like if I connect my game, play my game, I can kind of be in the hunt and make it interesting.

**Q. Are you now qualified for next year?**

**JAY DON BLAKE:** Yeah.

**Q. You had already qualified?**

**JAY DON BLAKE:** From my wins last year I was exempt this year. I had never played the U.S. Open until this year, so it was my first time in four years to play.

**Q. (Inaudible.)**

**JAY DON BLAKE:** You know, I might be on the water somewhere to fish. I actually had my son-in-law take my boat, I haven't had it out in five years probably, and he went and took it to the shop to get it ready and we're going to go to Lake Powell and just cruise up. We have a couple weeks off, take a

scenery tour. I don't think I'll get in the water, just kind of relax, just go rip around the lake.

**Q. Tell us about that day on the PGA TOUR where you missed shots (inaudible).**

**JAY DON BLAKE:** You'll get me emotional. My mother had passed away that morning going to the golf course and I wasn't really sure whether to play or not. I got out there and I just really wasn't into playing golf, I didn't want to be there. To finish the round, I told my caddie that was with me, I says, I'm going to do something here in the last few holes, so don't be shocked about it, don't be alarmed or worried or panicked. Walk over and tell my wife that I'm going to -- things that are happening are for a reason.

So I started kind of making some silly little mistakes, some bogeys and some doubles, and my thought was to honor my mother, how old she was, and I think I had to eight- or nine-putt the last hole. The first couple times I missed a couple footers. The shock of the spectators were like ooh, ahh. Then all of a sudden they started laughing and then it turned to like a "what's going on" kind of thing. I wasn't trying to be comical or be disrespectful. I know I got in the scorer's tent, the rules official came in and was pretty upset at me because I was -- thought I was being very disrespectful to professional golf.

I couldn't talk, and Dicky Pride was there in my group and he said, You know, you don't understand the story, so you had better not say much more. Until he found out, and it meant a lot to me.

**Q. Caddie's name?**

**JAY DON BLAKE:** Caddie? No, my caddie back then was -- oh, yeah, this is my wife, Marci.

**Q. (Inaudible) have you ever thought about moving or is it home?**

**JAY DON BLAKE:** If you went there, you would probably know why we stayed. It's a good spot. It's a really quiet town. There's a lot of things to do as in like around here with the mountains and stuff. We have lakes around, Lake Powell, Lake Mead. You have the Grand Canyon nearby, Zion National Park, Bryce National Park, Snow Canyon, a lot of mountains to kind of do things with.

And then it's become a very populated with golf courses and that's pretty much what people do when they come down is they're going to play golf or bike ride in the mountains or hike the mountains. It's a warmer climate, so we don't get like

the Utah high mountain snows, we can play golf year round. It's a good little retirement town.

**Q. Does this remind you of it at all?**

**JAY DON BLAKE:** Well, we've got Pine Valley Mountain. Pine Valley Mountain's just north of it. It's got all the trees like what you have around here. This is pretty phenomenal up here. Everywhere you look has got great scenery. We have that there but it's more desert-y. We have desert one direction, we have lava rocks, volcanos, red rock and sandstone and stuff. It's a little different kind of scenery. We do have some vegetation with the trees, but not as much as around here.

**MODERATOR:** Jay Don, congratulations.

**JAY DON BLAKE:** Thank you.