

**ROUND 2 INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT:
JAY HAAS & PETER JACOBSEN
Saturday, June 7, 2014**



DAVE SENKO: We'd like to welcome Jay Haas and Peter Jacobsen, 15-under, our current leaders in the Champions Division, including 6-under 48 today.

Jay or Peter, would you like to get us started, just talk a little bit about your day. It looked like you were 1-over after four and then finished with looks like seven birdies the rest of the way.

JAY HAAS: Well, we were talking about it just a minute ago upstairs how difficult the alternate shot format is and how much pressure, added pressure that it puts on us. We're already thinking about our partner and trying not to mess up for him, but we're kind of on an island out there when we're hitting these shots into greens and knowing if we hit a poor shot, it's letting our partner down big time.

It was almost a relaxing nine the second nine just because I never felt real pressure the entire time. It was just -- it was huge for us, though, to come back in the morning. When I say the morning, the first nine, to shoot 1-under on the front nine alternate shot. That was huge. Peter made two of the prettiest chip shots in some pretty tough conditions. I left him some hard shots and that was huge. We had some momentum going into the second nine.

PETER JACOBSEN: We talked about it walking down the first hole, the morning format, the alternate shot. I turned to Jay and said, I'm nervous. I haven't been this nervous in a long time. It takes us back to Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup days when the alternate shot is the most difficult. You feel like you're on an island. You're playing for yourself and also you're playing for your partner, so you don't want to leave your partner in a bad position. Once we got through the alternate shot, we did have a couple good saves on seven and nine in the morning to stay 1-under in that format. Then my partner turned it on and made five birdies on that last nine holes. Just beautiful, beautiful play. Something we've all come to expect from Jay Haas and I'm there to support him. I'm doing the best I can and having a lot of fun.

DAVE SENKO: Birdies, what happened on No. 3, the bogey?

JAY HAAS: What did happen?

PETER JACOBSEN: Well, that was --

JAY HAAS: That was your fault.

PETER JACOBSEN: That was my fault definitely. Jay hit a 7-iron on the green and I

had about a 30-footer. Very tough pin that third green on the left side and I just misjudged the speed a little bit, knocked it about eight feet by and Jay missed the putt coming -- so that was your fault.

JAY HAAS: I hit my putt seven and a half feet.

PETER JACOBSEN: Yeah, it was not my fault. I retract my earlier statement, it was Jay's fault. So we had a three-putt bogey. We wanted to put the ball on the green nine times in the alternate shot, have birdie putts, make your pars and get out of there.

JAY HAAS: The next three holes, though, are key. He missed the green on the very next hole and I hit a very poor chip 10 feet probably and he made that putt. Now instead of going 2-over we were 1-over. We each made a birdie putt on the next two holes. So that three-hole stretch was real key.

DAVE SENKO: Who made the birdie on five?

JAY HAAS: Peter.

PETER JACOBSEN: I made the putt on five. I made about an eight-footer.

JAY HAAS: I hit it three feet.

PETER JACOBSEN: That was almost a hole-in-one. And then the next hole I hit a wedge down there about the same distance, about six, eight feet, and my partner drained it.

JAY HAAS: Yeah, that was our only birdies on the front. Seven, I missed the green, Peter chipped it down about four feet, five feet and I made it. And then I missed the green again on nine and that was a really hard chip and I was prepared -- there was a shelf there and I was prepared for Peter's ball to go up the shelf and come back down, have a 25-footer for par.

PETER JACOBSEN: Because he's seen me chip.

JAY HAAS: It was just that hard of a shot and he pitched it in there about two and a half feet and I somehow shook that one in.

PETER JACOBSEN: That's the thing, all seriousness. It's been momentum. It's an ebb and flow. You're going to hit bad shots. The key is to hit a good pitch or hit a good recovery, and if you don't do that, to make a good putt. You can't get down. Tomorrow we might make a bogey or two, but the key is to not let it get you down and keep moving forward and be aggressive and be positive.

JAY HAAS: On 11 I guess you would say I hit a lob wedge. From the start when it landed it looked like it was going in the hole, it hit about eight feet behind the hole started sucking back. All of us I think thought it was going in.

PETER JACOBSEN: Went right over the edge of the hole.

JAY HAAS: And I made that one. To lead the tournament you have to make putts and all that, and two holes later --

PETER JACOBSEN: Front of the green.

JAY HAAS: -- we both hit semi poor iron shots and I was about a yard off the front of the green, probably 45 feet or so begging for a two-putt and this thing went in the middle of the hole, made a deuce there. That was big.

PETER JACOBSEN: I had already made bogey. I left it in the bunker and I was going to make a bogey. So my partner, instead of just snuggling it up for par, boom, knocked it in.

DAVE SENKO: 14?

PETER JACOBSEN: The next hole, the little one over the bunkers, I hit a wedge, landed on the fringe and I had about a 15-footer coming down. Jay had about a 20-footer and he just bled that one in beautifully for a birdie. And then the next birdie was on eight.

JAY HAAS: 17.

PETER JACOBSEN: Both hit good shots in there, 5-irons.

JAY HAAS: And I was probably 10 feet maybe and made that. Here's where the order of play -- Peter sacrificed himself and went first all day. We both thought it was an 8-iron shot and he hit an 8-iron and you could have almost run out there and caught it after a while because of the wind. So I switched to a 7-iron, thank goodness I saw his shot, and hit it to about six or seven feet and made that one.

That finish was big, but we did a lot of good things. As we look back on it, if we shot 2-under we would say, man, we played pretty good.

PETER JACOBSEN: I think you've got to play your percentages. Jay is one of the best players that we've ever seen in the game, certainly out here on the Champions Tour, and I'm a consistent player. We both have similar games, so I'm going to go first and try to set the table and show Jay the club. I'm hopefully hitting a good shot myself. But when you reassure, especially on a windy day, that you have the right club, you can be more aggressive and you can be freewheeling a little bit more.

JAY HAAS: As you all know Peter, he's never down and I think I feed off of that personally. Even if I hit poor shots, he never changes. He's on fire, on go all the time, so I think that helps me. I never feel like if I hit a poor shot that he's looking at me like what the hell are you doing there. If he hits a bad one, he doesn't get down on himself. So it's easy to feed off him, he's a great leader, and hopefully we can be sitting here tomorrow afternoon yucking it up.

PETER JACOBSEN: Wouldn't that be nice?

Q. You guys seem totally at ease with each other. Is that just the good relationship you guys have?

JAY HAAS: We've known each other since college days. And if you know Peter, you're a friend of Peter's. We've played on Ryder Cup teams before and just know each other. Our wives know each other and --

PETER JACOBSEN: Our wives have the same name.

JAY HAAS: Yes. We changed them, too.

PETER JACOBSEN: We actually came out of the same tour school in 1976, Brownsville, Texas, in the fall. So yeah, we've been together a lot. We've done a lot of things together. We know each other well, our families know each other.

JAY HAAS: Peter's run tournaments all over the country and I'm one of his first calls, he lets me play in them all the time, so he's just been a great friend. Like I said, if you know him, you're his friend.

PETER JACOBSEN: The reason we're together, too, as you know is Fred withdrew and my partner, D.A. Weibring, who we both played with our partners in the past and it was very fortunate. Neither of us wanted to sit at home and not play, so when the Champions Tour official said, hey, would you guys want to play together, I jumped at the chance. Jay was a little more hesitant about that, but I called him up and threatened him and said, you've got to play with me because I know where you live, so he relented.

Q. Are you kind of surprised there hasn't been any aces as of yet in the tournament given the number of holes you're playing?

JAY HAAS: Yeah, I heard someone say early in the week they thought five was the over-under. I remember thinking I don't see that. I don't see that. On a par 72 course obviously we only have four opportunities, but you just don't see them every week. So there's only, what, one lob wedge shot or sand wedge or gap wedge shot. The rest of them -- no, it's just not a bunch of miniature golf. This is serious par 3s

here.

PETER JACOBSEN: These are nine legitimately difficult golf holes. We think about Augusta National. We played in the par 3 many times. We both made holes-in-one in the par 3, but those are 70, 80-yard shots. The shortest shot we have here is going to play a hundred yards, that's the second hole, and maybe on six depending on the wind. But we're hitting 7-irons and 5-irons and 6-irons to greens that you would find on a regulation par 72 hole golf course. So I'm not surprised. Maybe we might see one or two, but five of them? I don't see it.

JAY HAAS: When you look at it, what, the best score on Buffalo Ridge is minus 10. Out here, minus 6. So I think people were expecting us to shoot 15-under for 18 holes. It's not going to happen.

PETER JACOBSEN: Plus, our tour staff has set the golf course up the way they normally do. They've got a good mixture of difficult hole locations, medium hole locations and easy hole locations for the two runs through the nine holes. So this is set up just the way that our field staff always does. They do a great job and they make it very competitive.

Q. As a followup to his question, what's the normal over-under in the Augusta par 3 game?

JAY HAAS: I don't know that there's been much talk about that, but you almost expect -- I think they've kind of gone back and forth. At times they've set up really difficult there and other times they set it up where the ball just funnels in and they want people to make holes-in-one. But I think there's maybe an 8-iron shot on one hole and the rest of them are 9-iron, pitching wedge, sand wedge, lob wedge holes.

PETER JACOBSEN: The ninth hole at Augusta National, they put it below the ridge so you've got a backstop so a lot of balls can go in. But they can put it in the corners to where you can hardly hit it within 10 feet much less make a hole-in-one.

Q. (Inaudible)

JAY HAAS: On the back left? Yeah, with the wind blowing left to right, that was probably the hardest pin.

PETER JACOBSEN: We talked about it. I said, Jay, wind's left to right, this is a sucker pin. Just take a 7-iron and put it in the middle of the green.

JAY HAAS: And we'll three-putt.

PETER JACOBSEN: I hit a beautiful putt down there a little strong. What are you going to do?

Q. When y'all think about this type format, do you think this could get some traction? Obviously it's going to be hard to duplicate this type with this kind of money, but as far as for Senior Tour events, could this help speed up the game, maybe a few more par 3s like this?

JAY HAAS: Obviously we're having a great time, we think it's great. But that being said, you have, I don't know, 15, 10 percent of the land needed for this course for nine holes? You don't need many acres to do something like this.

I, for one, grew up playing on a par 3 course from the time I was eight or nine years old until I got to be 14 or 15, I played most of my golf on par three courses. I don't think there's a better place for a beginner, whether it be a young boy or girl, a woman, any beginner to me. If you look down there and see I could knock it on that green, but you put a 10-year old kid on a par 5 and he can't see the green, he's going to just lose interest. So I, for one, am all for a par 3.

Q. I was going to ask you your impression when you first saw Top of the Rock like all of us?

PETER JACOBSEN: I was blown away when I first got here Tuesday, drove the winding road, got up on top. The minute I got on top and I looked to my left, I went, oh, my gosh. The clubhouse, the range, the Himalaya putting green, I was blown away. The chapel where we are. I got inside the clubhouse, speechless. Got on the range, that driving range is something out of a calendar. It's something you might see in a fantasy calendar where somebody's drawing a golf course on the moon.

We went and played nine with Billy Andrade and Tom Pernice and we were blown away by how cool everything is. We've seen Johnny Morris just about every day and I think he's probably getting tired of having people thank him and congratulate him and commend him on the job that he's done. This place, it's incredible. I can't wait to come back and I can't to tell family and friends that they need to come here.

JAY HAAS: I was talking to my son Bill this morning. He said that place really looks cool. Definitely a guys' weekend, he said. When you're fishing and hunting -- well, anybody can come obviously. It's great family fun with the boating and fishing.

PETER JACOBSEN: There's eating, too. My wife loves to eat. I like to eat. Nothing wrong with liking to eat, is there?

JAY HAAS: Not in my book.

Q. Talk about the greens out there. You obviously sank some pretty impressive putts. What did you notice about the greens?

JAY HAAS: Again, I won't say they're normal greens but they're just what we putt on all the time only they're in beautiful condition, there's not a mark on them. From what I understand, not many people have been playing this golf course prior to our getting here, so they're just immaculate. The pace is really nice. I felt very, very comfortable.

But I will say that in the morning -- I keep saying the morning, it was 1:50 when we teed off, but in the first nine holes that we played I wasn't as aggressive, I didn't feel like I could run at them. When you're playing with a partner, again I don't want to run it by and leave Peter with a six-footer, you know? But then I don't want to leave it short either because I can at least give it an opportunity to go in. So the second nine I felt much more relaxed on the greens. My pace was good and I hit some good shots.

PETER JACOBSEN: You would be hard pressed to find anything wrong with that golf course. I'm not blowing smoke here, but the conditions of the teeing ground, the walks to the green, the greens, the bunkers, the surrounds, it's perfect. It's such a pleasure to play. Greens are true, they roll nicely. If you get the right read, it goes in. It's just been a fun week.

DAVE SENKO: Okay, thank you, guys.