

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW: JAMES HAHN
May 7, 2016



Q. James, fantastic back nine, talk about those three birdies in a row culminating with the one on 16 where you made that putt from about 10 feet away.

JAMES HAHN: 16 was a good hole. Tugged the second shot a little bit but I hit a good drive off the tee. Hit a good putt, what can I say? I hit a lot of good putts out there. My speed was really good and it was good to see it go in the hole.

Q. What was it about your play today that allowed you to go low, to shoot 68 like this and get in the fight for championship Sunday?

JAMES HAHN: I was just hitting the ball well, played smart, gave myself as many opportunities as I could. The tee boxes were moved up on a couple holes, so I think 8 was moved up, was reachable, got it up and down for birdie. Didn't birdie any of the par 5s on the front nine, which kind of stalled the momentum but made a couple on the back side.

Q. James, a lot of players struggling today but you had a fantastic round. Tell us a little bit what was working for you.

JAMES HAHN: It was driving the ball really well today. Hit a lot of good iron shots. Basically just told myself to hit as many greens as I could. Started off well, made some clutch putts starting off on the front nine. Didn't birdie any of the par 5s so I kind of had that feeling of being a little more aggressive on the back side considering that I didn't birdie the two easiest holes on the course. All in all it was a good day, hit a lot of good shots and made some putts.

Q. Did that 30-footer I think on 3 kind of get you started for the rest of the day?

JAMES HAHN: Yeah, that was good. Anytime you're in red figures early in the round hitting -- I hit the first three greens in regulation. It was blowing probably 20 miles per hour, so just to hit the greens and make two, a two-putt for par was good. It basically keeps the momentum going. The putt on 3 was just luck. Hit a really good putt, it was about 30 feet down the hill and it was motoring. It was one of the fastest putts I ever had on the course until hole 4 where I had an even faster putt. All in all, it kept the momentum going and made some really good par saves just to kind of keep the ride going throughout the front nine.

Q. How does your round today play into your confidence going into tomorrow?

JAMES HAHN: It does. I'm hitting the ball well, putting well, my speed's great. Tomorrow's a new day though. Just try to take it one shot at a time and show up, and hopefully both my shoes are on left and right, and yeah.

Q. Greens seemed to firm up there as the day went on but you seemed to get even better on the greens, including those three straight birdies. Did that kind of play into how you like to putt the ball?

JAMES HAHN: Kind of. You really can't be aggressive on the greens, you just have to hit your line, hit your speed and hopefully the wind pushes it in. It was windy out there. I had a really good putt on 12, made bogey on 12. It was a perfectly straight putt, wind was blowing right and it missed right. You just have to make good strokes out there and hopefully the ball rolls end over end and goes in the hole. But overall my speed was really good out there and seeing the line very well.

Q. How is this golf course right now compared to how it was on Thursday?

JAMES HAHN: I would say it plays -- well, they did move the tee boxes up on 8 and one other hole, the par 3s were moved up. So 17 and the other par 3, No. 2 was moved up, so it definitely plays tougher. You have to think about different club choices off the tee box because they're rolling out 30 yards. But again, it makes the par 5s more reachable with shorter irons in there. But I would say with the firmness of the greens, it plays about par if not over par.

Q. What about when you hit the spectators and you still made par?

JAMES HAHN: Yeah, that was fun, wasn't it? Yeah, that was tough. Hard left-to-right wind, had about 205 to the flag, hit a really good 5-iron. The wind just didn't touch it and ended up having a really good lie to get up and down. Hit a good chip shot to about five feet for par. Kind of kept the momentum going on 10. Reached the green in two and then two-putted for birdie. Definitely feels good to make some good par saves like that and keep riding the momentum.