

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
July 17, 2021

JOE MUSCHONG
Caddie for James Hahn



Q. Where did you go to high school?

JOE MUSCHONG: Lafayette, just down the road, yes, sir.

Q. Have you caddied much before?

JOE MUSCHONG: I've done a little bit of caddying for some of my buddies that play golf. Not really around here until a couple weeks ago I caddied out at Keene Run during the Junior Barbasol. No, I've caddied plenty for my buddies and stuff like that.

Q. This is the first time in a professional event?

JOE MUSCHONG: Yes, sir, yes, sir, first time.

Q. Were you nervous?

JOE MUSCHONG: I was a little bit nervous. Then he just started doing his thing today and, like I said, I just had to keep up.

Q. Can you go through again how you ended up on the bag?

JOE MUSCHONG: Yeah, so James' normal caddie is out of Canada and COVID protocol kept him from getting here on time because he was a late sign-up. He just called the golf shop over at Keene Run and said that he needed a caddie and I guess I drew the straw and lucked into it.

Q. What was he doing so well today, and did you know early on, hey, this guy's locked in?

JOE MUSCHONG: He putted really well today. He had tons of opportunities yesterday and they just started falling today early, and he took over and got in the zone and I just had to go from there and keep up with him.

Q. So you played this course a lot? How well have you played it?

JOE MUSCHONG: I've played it well, but man, I haven't seen it that low. That was pretty impressive.

Q. What were your conversations like with James down the stretch?

JOE MUSCHONG: Wasn't too much. I just told him to really get committed to what he was doing, especially the last three holes. He was kind of in between 3-wood and driver on 18, but he said driver first and I said get committed to that. He hit that and that was the one.

Q. Describe what happened on -- when he eagled, I guess, 15?

JOE MUSCHONG: Yeah, I think we would like 193 to the front or something and he hit a really good shot and it hit the hill kind of right in front of the flag, just rolled over the back a little bit. But he hit that chip and it had a really good line, hit the flag. Looked like it was going to lip out, but came back in. I told him he's been paying his dues in full.

Q. What year did you graduate?

JOE MUSCHONG: I graduated in 2017.

Q. Where did the confidence come from? You seem like you're just taking over out there and you're telling him things.

JOE MUSCHONG: I didn't have to tell him much aside from just reaffirming. I didn't really have to do much. Like I said, he'd go through his stuff and I'd just kind of say, yeah, that's that and let him hit the shots, and he did a hell of a job doing it today.

Q. During the tournament did your course knowledge come into play a little bit?

JOE MUSCHONG: A little bit. I'd say Monday and Tuesday in the practice round more. Then he got a really good feel for the golf course, really fought on Thursday and played a really solid round yesterday, and then just took the chances and they finally came today.

Q. You've got one more year at college?

JOE MUSCHONG: I do, yes, sir.

Q. So what does this do for you to be out here going forward?

JOE MUSCHONG: Oh, it's a heck of an experience. You learn so much being out here and stuff like that. It's priceless right now.

Q. Does it make you want to be a caddie instead of a player?

JOE MUSCHONG: I don't know. I haven't even got that far. Who knows, though.

Q. Long way to go this afternoon, but how excited are you now for tomorrow?

JOE MUSCHONG: I'm pumped up. I looked -- actually, we ended up catching a really big break with the weather and the weather looks good tomorrow, so we'll just take it tomorrow and go from there.

Q. Did you know if he knew that he was close to a 59?

JOE MUSCHONG: He knew, he knew what that putt was for on 18. It was impressive to have a 30-footer made on top of him, then to get the next putt to the hole and it still scared it. He knew and he gave it a hell of a run.