

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
September 9, 2021



JAY DELSING

Q. Well, just talk about excitement going into this weekend.

JAY DELSING: Oh, my gosh, this is like a dream come true for me. This is a course I grew up on. To be able to play a real home event after, I don't know, almost 40 years of playing professional golf, it's just a dream come true. Ascension, I can't say enough about them, they have done everything you could possibly imagine; the sky boxes, the community involvement, just everything. You see billboards on highways, you see banners at the airport. The golf course is just beautiful. It's just going to be a great event. I can't wait to see what happens. I hope to play well, I'm ready to play well. I don't know if I play well, but I can't wait to do it.

Q. Do you kind of have to reel in some of those emotions?

JAY DELSING: Yeah, definitely. I've never experienced this sort of stuff before, and I don't really play anymore. I think prior to -- I played at Shaw, which was a couple weeks ago, but prior to that I don't think I played an event in six years. I've just had some body aches and surgeries and things like that. But this is -- none of it's going to matter tomorrow, I can't wait to start. To get to hit the first shot in the inaugural event is a real treat. Yeah, just ready. I think I'm ready. Let's go and see what happens.

Q. Is there anybody that you're kind of like starstruck seeing or looking forward to playing with?

JAY DELSING: No, not really. I mean, I know all these guys. One of the things about this kind of life, we played junior golf, so I've been knowing these guys forever. Not really. I just love the fact that so many of them came out to support the North County. This is the area I grew up in, so the monies that we raise, it's going to stay here. Yeah, it's going to be a lot of money, too. Hopefully really make a difference. It's great to see all the great players. The course is perfect. Can't wait.

Q. Do you remember the first time you played here?

JAY DELSING: Man, I think I was 13, so no. I started caddying over here like 1973 and we never got to play the West Course much. On caddie day we got to play the East. I think we had to tee off like 6:30 on a Friday, but it didn't matter. I mean, we just did what we did. Then I started working here and then I got to play both courses and stuff. Yeah, it's special, it's really special for me.

Q. So caddying here in '73, how old were you?

JAY DELSING: Thirteen, yeah, yeah.

Q. Were you at that event that year then?

JAY DELSING: No, I would have started towards the end of that year, so I would have missed that. You know, my dad was a professional baseball player. I came from a sports background, but golf was just kind of -- I wound up playing golf because it was way too hard to round up a bunch of kids to get a baseball game together, then right in the middle of the game the shortstop on the other team would get called home and have to go to dinner and the game got trashed. So I wound up doing this because I could carry my own bag, walk 36 or 54 holes every day and I thought it was fun somehow. It's been a fantastic life for me, too. Golf has just provided and keeps providing. So fortunate, so grateful.

Q. Would you even venture to guess how many rounds you've played here?

JAY DELSING: No. I mean, thousands really, because there's no place on the West Course that I haven't been, both good and bad. I've said that several times. I don't know, but it's a lot. So I hope to be able to play well enough where I can use some of that local knowledge to make a difference because the greens are tricky, the greens are tough. They're fast, they're beautiful, but they're fast and they're challenging, and if we get a little wind mixed in there. I thought the winning score would be somewhere around 14, 15, 16 under. I think it will be 10, 11, 12, something like that. The course is really playing tough and it's playing long as well.

Q. Do you have anyone asking you for --

JAY DELSING: I've had a few people, some I can't remember. Brandt Jobe was a UCLA fellow Bruin and he asked a few things. Yeah, no, everybody pretty much knows already what to do. It's can we do it, how can we execute. Then whoever gets that execution down the best is going to win.

Q. Most of these guys have never been here once. You've been here thousands of times.

JAY DELSING: Right.

Q. You've got all the secrets?

JAY DELSING: I've got some secrets, yeah. No, I tell them. There are certain things, if they played here often enough, they would get it, but I haven't been asked that much. I really don't play that much anymore, so I don't see these guys as often as I once did.

Q. St. Louis being on a national stage once again, especially for golf and the fan support, we're already seeing a lot of fans out here for the pro-am, I'm sure we're

going to see even more this weekend.

JAY DELSING: So that's the cool thing because my friends have said, "We know St. Louis is a great sports town," and then what happened at Bellerive in 2018, the 100th anniversary of the PGA Championship, we knocked it out of the park. So everybody knew the people would show up. I don't know what the ticket sales have been like, but it will be in the upper echelon of the Champions Tour, for sure. We have a great community, they'll support it.