

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
May 8, 2022

MAX HOMA (-8)



JACK RYAN: We would like to welcome the champion of the 2022 Wells Fargo Championship, Max Homa, into the interview room.

Max, this is your fourth win on the PGA Tour, second at the Wells Fargo Championship albeit at a different venue. How does it feel to hear "four-time PGA Tour winner?"

MAX HOMA: It's crazy, it feels really good. Obviously seen some low spots on this tour and for the last three years now kind of finding my stride and racking up four wins is crazy. I think I was at TPC Scottsdale practicing in the back of the range a random day, Notah Begay happened to be back there so we were chatting. He said he was doing some Champions Tour stuff coming up and he had just mentioned that you qualified by having four wins. I was like, man, that's crazy, that feels like a lot of wins. Then I realized I was one away. So oddly, in the back of my head, I said I could really use a fourth win. It just feels good. Career's kind of settling down and I'm settling into myself as a golfer.

JACK RYAN: You mentioned walking to sign your scorecard to Joe you're going back to Maui for the Sentry Tournament of Champions. He mentioned the TOUR Championship and obviously you're going to make a big leap here in the Presidents Cup standings on the United States side. What does this do for your goals moving forward for the rest of the season?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, I care about nothing more than making that Presidents Cup team. So I'm really hoping Captain Davis Love III was watching today or at least somebody messaged him about it, but that's all I've really cared about. I'm not a big goal setter, but TOUR Championship and Presidents Cup, that's about all my focus has been ever since I missed that Ryder Cup last year and the TOUR Championship. This goes a long way.

JACK RYAN: And last one for me, you and Lacey recently announced you guys are expecting, you win on Mother's Day, how does that feel?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, sometimes my life feels too good to be true and this is one of those cases.

It was cool. We joke about it, but the perspective of knowing whether I won or didn't win, I'm going to have a little boy coming with my beautiful wife. It's cool we won, but end of the day that's going to be the biggest trophy.

Q. Max, can you take us through the thought process of standing on 18 and that drive and did it feel as good coming off the club as it ended up?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, it's one of those things, I've been driving the ball so well this season. Tee shot favors my ball flight, a little cut, wind off the right. I just wanted to give myself a look at birdie and I knew I had to be in the fairway to do that. I just tried to have some confidence in myself and know that that's kind of been the weapon I've been using best for the duration of the season. Got up there, kind of found my slot and just kind of let it go.

Q. When you packed for this tournament, were you expecting the conditions that you got, and how did you sort of pull through it, the second and third day specifically, which were really tough?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, I fortunately always pack my rain stuff. I very fortunately packed a good attitude because I think that was almost more important than what I was wearing.

Today fortunately my wife texted my agent, Matt, that I'm a terrible packer and he sent me a little care package of a beanie and some gloves and some hand warmers, which I didn't end up using too much, but it was nice to know I had that in my back pocket.

When I looked at the forecast, it looked rainy, it didn't look like this. But those two days in a row, Friday and Saturday, we don't get two days in a row like that often, especially without getting pulled off the golf course.

I will say today was a little warmer than I thought it was going to be. I don't know if it was the adrenaline or what, but it felt all right.

Q. Max, you've been so open about the battle with belief, self belief, all that over the years. Where are you now after winning again? Is that going to be a continuing journey or do you think you're finally settling into I believe I should be out here?

MAX HOMA: It's a continuing journey. I know I should be out here, but every level you get to in this game, there's always something coming next. So like for Jon Rahm and Scottie Scheffler, the last couple world No. 1s, it's like you get there and now you have the entire world chasing you down. You still have I'm sure some minor insecurities about that or thoughts of it.

Yeah, as I started to establish myself on this tour when I won this event in 2019, I definitely knew I was capable of being a regular PGA Tour player, but all of a sudden last year I get in the top-50 in the world and you start looking around and it's a new crop of people and you start thinking to myself, Am I as good as these guys? And then I want to be top-10 in the world, play Presidents Cup, play Ryder Cups. Am I good enough to do that?

So I've always struggled with it, but I have great people around me who bash me over the head telling me that I am that guy. I tried to walk around this week believing that and faking it a little bit until I made it.

I will say I was with my coach, Mark Blackburn, last weekend in Alabama and that was a big focus we had. I would say that the faking it worked because I showed up today and I felt very tall.

Q. Max, bogey on 13, par, maybe left one out there on 14, just the conversation with you and Joe feeling that golf tournament was yours on 15, how important was 15 towards this result today?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, ebbs and flows, these golf tournaments. I've watched enough golf fortunately to know it's not going to be linear, it's not going to be easy.

Obviously make a terrible swing off the tee on 13, make a very good bogey, then hit three good shots on 14, don't make birdie. I just think that I knew that that -- I wasn't going to let that be a big burden. It's going to happen. Keegan hit an amazing drive on the green, made birdie. I hit good shots and made a par. It's a little different. I felt good about it. I made one bad swing in two holes and I lost two strokes or gave him two strokes back, but I felt good. On that 15th tee, Joe gave me just a little pep talk and I went out there and just kind of got back to it.

Q. Max, you and Joe were out on the practice putting green on Wednesday using a level. That's either a sign of someone who's onto something or someone who's maybe a little off. How important was putting this week and was it the difference between winning and just a top-10?

MAX HOMA: I think we're onto something. Yeah, I putted awesome. Every putt I hit, it felt it looked like it had a chance. It allowed me to free myself up to just read it and putt, I didn't think about a whole lot. There's not a single stroke thought all week and I mean, you have to putt it decent to win. When you putt it like I did this week, it's, you know, you almost have to mess up to at least not contend, so that was a humongous part of the week, for sure.

Q. What's next coming up for you? Obviously a lot of big tournaments coming up. What's your schedule look like?

MAX HOMA: I've got the PGA Championship, Colonial and then Memorial. So I get a week at home and then I'll go play a major.

Q. Do you think it speaks to your versatility that you've won this tournament on two pretty different golf courses?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, it does. They're a little similar in the sense it's a lot of mid to long irons. I would say this golf course off the tee favors me more than Quail Hollow did, but it's nice to see that I can do both. I don't know, I'm very proud of the four courses I've won on because they're different and I like that. I'm going to take four anywhere, but I like that they're four different ones.

Q. Your resume is always going to say you've won at least four PGA Tour events, but is it important that you got to the Tour and went back and got to the Tour and went back? Is that as important part of the story?

MAX HOMA: For my story, yeah. It would be cool if I was Rory McIlroy and didn't do that, but yeah, for me it's something I carry with me that I think is such a -- it's powerful. I feel like other guys don't have that and that's good for them, I'm glad they don't. But I saw \$18,000 in a year out here. I saw feeling very, very small, having literally no hope as to making -- getting a top-10 let alone making a cut that season. I carry that because I've seen it and I don't -- you come out in the lead and I'm three strokes up and I'm one stroke up, I mean, it just doesn't -- doesn't phase me as much as I feel like it could because I know what bad is and my bad today was going to be making a boatload of money and moving along to the PGA Championship in two weeks with a good chance to win if I keep playing like this. I think that's something I carry close to my chest because I think it's something that as much as nobody will want to have it, it's nice to have if you get through that tough time.

Q. Max, we talked the last couple days about AimPoint, we talked about it today as well. Just having that result, now having this positive result, what does it say about the staff you have around you, the team you have around you just instilling decisions and belief in yourself and you trusting them to go under the gun and pull through with those?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, I would say I make very few decisions as it comes to my team. I let everybody be the smart ones, I'm not the smart one. And I fortunately have a lot of brilliant people around me, thoughtful people around me. Yeah, Mark Blackburn and Phil Kenyon have done a great job teaching me how to do this. I've put in a bunch of work in the short time we've been practicing it, but it's amazing how little things here or there can click. Whether I came out and putted great this week or not, it didn't matter as long as it started to look like I was getting better at it. It's been my kind of bugaboo is my putting just goes in waves. It could go in another wave, but I do feel like we're in the right direction.

Q. You had plenty of support this week and golf fans are getting to know you fairly well. Are you thinking at all about what it would mean to contend in a major and be much more well known?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, I mean, it's crazy what social media and podcasts can do for popularity, but everywhere I've been going lately has been wild. The support I've gotten on the golf course, it is kind of hard to believe, but I very much enjoy it. Yeah, I'm just going to keep being me. If people want to cheer for it, that's great, and if not, that's fine, too. I've really enjoyed my time with the fans and hearing the cheers, it really boosts me.

JACK RYAN: Max, congratulations on the victory and hopefully we see you at Quail Hollow not only next year at the Wells Fargo Championship, but in September.

MAX HOMA: I'll be there, thank you.