

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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JAY HAAS

Q. Jay, thanks for joining us at now the Stifel Charity Classic. Just being back in St. Louis and coming back to Norwood Hills, give me your thoughts on the week.

JAY HAAS: Well, I've always loved coming back here, I've always loved playing golf in the St. Louis area. I grew up in Belleville and played a bunch of these courses around the city here. I tell you what, the fans of St. Louis come out, they support our events and it's been a great marriage for the PGA TOUR Champions to be here in St. Louis and we're excited to have another year.

Q. How important is it for golf in this area to have events like this in the area? There seems to be a lot of these kinds of events for golf fans to go attend.

JAY HAAS: Right. Well, I think that, again, St. Louis fans have supported golf in the past here. You know, we've had Senior U.S. Open, U.S. Opens, PGA, Senior PGAs, and the Stifel Charity Classic is just in a long line of events that we've been fortunate enough to play in and support the community, raise money for the charities. It's a win-win all around.

And I think you see here Hall of Famers, future Hall of Famers, those that are maybe just on the outside looking into the Hall of Fame, so you're going to see a lot of great golf and people who love to compete. I think that's a big part of it.

Q. Have you been on the course this week? What's it looking like?

JAY HAAS: I've been on the course. The greens are fabulous after a hot, dry summer. It's amazing how good the conditions are.

I think kudos to the superintendent and his staff, it's been an amazing job here to keep this course in tiptop shape.

Q. You alluded to it earlier that you played here when you were a junior, you grew up here.

JAY HAAS: Right.

Q. What's it like to come back to these courses how after such an illustrious career? It's got to bring back some memories for you.

JAY HAAS: Oh, it really does. I can remember standing on the first tee here and looking down at that pool and it looked like the Atlantic Ocean down there, how giant it was when I

was 13, 14 years old. So have some good memories.

Again, it's always great to come back here. The course has been rerouted a little bit, a few new holes, but the bones of it are still the same as it was when you had the PGA here years ago.

Q. Jay, speaking of these tournaments, we mentioned the BMW coming here next year back to Bellerive after the PGA. Bringing those level events to St. Louis has really got to be important for this community and just the presence of golf here in St. Louis.

JAY HAAS: Oh, I think so. It's great that we get to travel around the country and there are certain cities that hosted for years and years, and St. Louis, although we've had this tournament for the past five or six years, it's always been maybe eight, 10 years we'll get a major tournament, things like that. I think the city can support it.

And again, I've said it a few times here but the fans continue to come out and support us. It looks like we're going to have an amazing weather weekend here, which is maybe unusual for this time of the year, not so humid and hot and everything. So everybody needs to come out, check it out and see some of the greats of the game.

Q. Jay, as someone who has won a Schwab Cup, this event becoming a playoff event starting next year, what do you think that means for the impact, further impact of this tournament?

JAY HAAS: Well, I think generally speaking we get 24, 5, 6 of the top players, top-30 players on the Champions Tour, so that's just going to bring all 30 of them probably, and then -- and beyond, you know, 72, 54. I think it's important for our tour to move that around, and so it's exciting I think for this tournament to have that type of prestige.

Go Cards. You know, I see a Cardinal hat when I'm traveling, hey, yeah, Cardinals. Now around here you see a lot of them, although we're maybe to the side a little bit.