

FREDDIE JACOBSON (April 2)

(This is your fifth start of the year, coming off a runner-up finish a couple starts ago. How do you feel about your game?)

“It was touch and go because it was a few years since I played 3 in a row. Played in Morocco and Naples.

Not quite used to all that torquing. It held up OK. I’m pushing for a third week in a row.”

(Why did you stop playing?)

Right about the time (2019), we traveled to Sweden. I was at the stage where I felt like I’ve had a long, good run, a good chapter. I was struggling a little bit with lower back and hand injuries. OK, we have some more time off than we usually have.

We relocated to give the kids a chance to get some roots over in Sweden for when they get older. We put them in school over there so they can learn to read and write in Swedish. That was cool. It went well. I commuted from Sweden to the U.S. in ’19 and I found it really tough.

I was over for 6-8 weeks. I had full status but it was a stretch to play against the young guys not being over here practicing in the same conditions and being away from family that much.

I just decided after that year, when I didn’t play well, to just lay low, do a lot of (other) things for a while. Just try to physically be ready to play golf when I turned 50.

The first few years, I think I played 9 holes on a par-3 course. I also wanted to take the edge off competing.

I played other sports. Table tennis, skied 12 week a year. Worked out. Did all that stuff. Whenever I grabbed a golf club, I felt like I would go back into that mood. I was looking to put that aside for a bit to take that edge off.

(Did that inactivity help you?)

I like to see it as different chapters. The young tour, courses are getting longer and you’re getting older. Some guys can do it, but I was really happy hanging until 46. I never expected it to last that long. I was fortunate with that.

Then COVID came as well, so it was a natural stop. I wasn’t really too keen on what I was feeling with the travel. We kind of took a little break from it. Started to play a little more the last 3 years.

(The competitive edge) is still in there. When I finished second, without having done the job correctly. I like the feeling of thinking you can do it, but then you put too much pressure, and it becomes too important. I truly enjoyed it (runner-up finish) even though I didn’t win it. I walked off feeling better than ever with the second place. Celebrated with Miguel afterward. He finished very

well. It was nice to take it in while you're still in the moment and not put too much pressure on you than you're pushing when you're on the golf course.

(Have you surpassed your expectations?)

I think so. I've had a lot of good runs since coming back. I'm a little more worried about the short game. When you haven't played for a few years, it's tricky. Different lies and grass over here. I've been surprised most of the weeks how I've been playing well around the greens.

(Said he sold his home at the Medalist in 2020 and does not plan on getting another U.S. home currently)