

JAY JURECIC POST-ROUND 2 PRESS CONFERENCE

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Jay, 65 today punctuated by a nice birdie on the last hole, just how good did that feel to finish that way?

That was probably the best feeling in golf I've had with the grandstands and to make that putt and finish strong like that was just a dream come true.

You Monday-qualified into this week and yesterday, obviously, there was the wind delay and everything – can you just talk us through your week and this experience?

Yes, I just tried to stay patient during the delays and qualifying on Monday at Baker's – did well there. It was the first event I got in this year – I've been trying to Monday qualify all year and it's been a struggle and just waiting for this good week.

I played here in 2021, five years ago, so my game's a lot better now. I just wanted to get in and play again.

What clicked on Monday and this week?

I didn't play the best the week before and my sister gave me an idea, she's like 'why don't you just focus for one second?' And so, I've been trying to do this one-second focus and that's what I'm trying to do – just one shot at a time and really just believe for that one second.

Jay, have you let yourself go to think about how tomorrow could be life-changing?

Yeah *laughs* I know, that's why I've got to step back and stay in that one shot mentality and just do the best I can and accept whatever the Good Lord has for me. And I'll continue on and learn from it.

What is it about this golf course that fits your game?

I've played the Dakotas for 20 years, so I'm used to the area and Sioux Falls, I've stayed here a bunch of summers and when I was teaching school and I'm just comfortable here. It reminds me of Upper Michigan where I'm from and it's a great golf course, it's in fantastic shape, and the people are so nice – the volunteers and the staff are amazing.

You're not still teaching, are you?

No, I resigned in 2021. So I've been fortunate and blessed to chase this dream for the last 5-6 years.

What have you been doing – just chasing this?

Just chasing this and playing as many tour events as I can find and stayed open, senior opens, and just been working on my game full-time and just trying to get better and trying to get out here.

Why is this so important for you to get out here?

I just want, especially all the people, like all the students I've taught and the people at home just to realize to go after their dreams and just keep fighting. Even though it doesn't feel the best, just keep going.

This means a lot for you, doesn't it?

Yeah it does. Today was one of the best rounds that I was able to play in a long time, especially with all the cameras. It's a big stage and I'm glad to be here.

And you proved you could handle it today – that's got to give you something going into tomorrow?

Yes, like I said, I'm just blessed and grateful for the opportunity tomorrow and doing the best I can. And hopefully, like I said, stay in that one-shot mentality.