

Roy Vucinich Claims 2022 PGA Half Century Division Victory



MOON TOWNSHIP, PA (January 7, 2022) - We spoke with long-time Tri-State PGA Professional Roy Vucinich on his recent victory in the Half Century Division at the 2022 PGA Quarter Century Championship. Vucinich has been a PGA Professional for over 51 years, serving as the Head Golf Professional Allegheny Country Club from 1971-1999. Roy then competed on the PGA Tour for the next ten years and is currently a Life Member of the PGA of America. If you've been around any Tri-State Section event in the last fifty years, it's certain you've seen Roy competing and playing the game he loves. Just one day after his division victory at the PGA Quarter Century Championship, Roy was back on the course perfecting his game and was courteous enough to answer some questions on his recent achievement.

Q: First of all, congratulations on your victory Roy. What did this win mean to you?

A: This win meant a lot, considering it was my first time claiming the Half Century Division title. It meant even more that I could claim this title because the very first time I competed in this Championship at 48 years old, I was able to win outright. Following up that win with the Half Century Division title makes it much more satisfying.

Q: How does competing in Florida compare to playing in Tri-State Section events here in Pennsylvania and West Virginia?

A: There are far more obstacles to navigate here in Florida, whether it be rivers, bunkers, rocks, or oceans. The bermuda grass is certainly the biggest difference. With bermuda you must take a different approach to your play around the greens than you do in Western PA and West Virginia. I tend to use a lot more rescue clubs and putters around the greens in Florida, rather than mostly using some sort of wedge back home. The club selection process is extremely important for Florida golf, but it's something I think I've adapted to well.

Q: What are your best tips for golfers in contention at high-pressure tournaments such as this one?

A: It may sound cliché, but all I try to do is focus on one shot at a time. I try to approach every shot the same way by keeping my routine, finding the fairway, and leaving myself in a good position relative to the hole location on the green. It's also very important to try and not think too far ahead. This is especially true when you are in contention. All you can control is your next shot, and that's what I try to do each round I play.

Q: How do you keep up such an impressive level of play at this point in your competitive golf career?

A: Stretching is what keeps me playing at such a high level. I stretch six times a week in order to keep my body prepared for the amount of competitive golf that I play. The advancement in new technology with my golf equipment certainly helps as well. It allows to me still get distance out of my driver, woods, and hybrids, which helps a lot to keep up with the younger competition.

74-year-old Vucinich beat his age twice during the event, firing rounds of 71 and 70, finishing atop of the Half Century Division by three shots next-best finisher Tom Joyce. TSPGA Professionals Joe Boros (T-9), John Kerins (T-14) and Bernie Hough (93) also competed alongside Vucinich at PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie, FL.

Thank you to Roy for taking time to conduct this interview. Be sure to follow the Tri-State PGA social media channels throughout the winter for more updates on the PGA Winter Championships.

- *Jeremy Gregory, PGA*