

2017 Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic

John Daly (-3, 69)

Q: They say you took a week off, how good did it feel to be back there?

It felt really good. I hit the ball really well, put myself in great positions. I made a couple of putts on my front not on my back and I could have been really good. It's just been that way the last couple of years.

I hit a lot of quality, good shots on the par 3. This is the type of course where when you walk off the par 3, you feel really good about it. They moved a lot of the tees up today because of the wind, which kind of took me at a disadvantage. I had to hit two on off 18, two on off 9. Those back tees, you know I could hit driver and maybe have somewhat more of an advantage. No, I just hit it good, I just didn't hit a lot of pots. This green is so perfect, all you gotta do is just get them online and they'll go in, but I just couldn't seem to do that today.

Q: John, you seem to be using a new vertical driver, how is that?

For me, it's the best driver out there. I just got an new 8 in and my trajectory is so good now. I've always been a 7.5 or an 8. I felt really good with the driver, I hit it really, really good today.

Q: How does the course suit your game?

It suits my game perfect from the tips. Certainly without tees up, I didn't really know what to hit. I didn't know what to hit off the 9 or the 18. I understand why they did it . . . if the wind is blowing pretty hard, you kind of have to do it.

Q: What was your biggest takeaway from round 1 here today?

I love the way I'm hitting the golf ball. I tipped it good, I rolled the putts good. I had so many opportunities, but my speed was off and I didn't make them. I made one birdie on the par 5 and hit three of them and 2, so that's just kind of a downer. But, I love the way I'm hitting the golf ball, and I gotta just keep doing that.

I don't know what the leader is, but I don't think anybody is going to shoot 2 on 9 under par here. I mean, you can't. The greens are good, but you shoot 5, 6 on the par, then you've played really good golf here.

Q: Are you enjoying your first experience on the golf course here?

Oh, yeah. I've stopped at the casinos down here and gambled, I've just never had time to come to Fallen Oak and played. I mean, everybody's talked about it. Of all the courses I've played on the Champions Tour, this is definitely in the top three. This is an awesome golf course, and an awesome facility. We keep coming back because it's one of the best courses on our Champions Tour.