

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
August 4, 2018

KENNY PERRY (-18)



JACKIE SERVAIS: Please welcome two-time champion of the 3M Championship, Kenny Perry, to the media center.

Kenny, you just broke every record, I think, so how do you feel about that and what was the key to finishing strong on 18?

KENNY PERRY: Well, I was thinking on 18, if I holed it, I was going to shoot 59. That was my only thought. Hit the prettiest 5-iron I could ever hit, and when I heard everybody yell really loud, I knew it was close. So it didn't go in, but was able to make the putt for eagle and tie Goydos. I think he shot 60 here last year.

Great way to finish, incredible round of golf. When I holed it on 6 today from 106 yards, I thought maybe it would be a special day because I hit a leaner on 7 for birdie and that got me to about 5 under at the start, I think.

And then, you know, it was just a -- I really don't know what to expect because this is I think my eighth tournament back from surgery. I had shoulder surgery November the 17th and I was out for six months. I've been very erratic this year coming back. I might have a good round, but then I'm liable to shoot a really high round. I haven't had any consistency. So I really didn't know what to expect today. I was very pleased with my 6 under yesterday.

It's always great to come back to a place you've had a lot of success at and you really enjoy playing the golf course. So I was really blown away by the round today. That's a confidence builder, tells me I still can do it, I'm not quite washed up yet.

Looking forward to the challenge tomorrow. I've got to figure out somehow how to shoot another good round tomorrow or they'll catch me. Just got to regroup, reload and go get them.

JACKIE SERVAIS: Looking forward to tomorrow, in 2015 you went really low in the second round as well. How did you carry that over from Sunday and what will you take from that for tomorrow?

KENNY PERRY: Well, that was different back then. I was playing some of the best golf -- back in '14 and '15, I was playing some of the best golf I could play on the Champions Tour. I was fighting, I was contending. I was like Bernhard Langer, I had a chance to win just about every week.

This year's just been so erratic and so bad that, you know, confidence breeds confidence. I

haven't had a lot of it this year, but yesterday's round was a start and today is huge. But it's always tough to back up a really low round with another good round. So I've got a challenge ahead of me tomorrow to somehow regroup, get the mindset I had today and figure out a way to go out there and shoot, you know, 4, 5, 6 under again tomorrow.

Q. Kenny, coming off the shoulder surgery, did it ever enter your mind, like am I ever going to find it again?

KENNY PERRY: Always. I think that's a golfer's -- that's always in all golfers. We all wonder, is it our last win. When was my last win? It was two years ago at the Senior U.S. Open. I was thinking, is that going to be my last win or am I going to all of a sudden break loose and win 12 or 14 more times. Who knows?

I think when you sit out for six months and you don't touch a golf club and you're hurt, you have a lot of time to think. You really, you think about what you did and what you were able to do. When you come back, are you capable of doing the stuff that you used to be able to do, are you physically handicapped. Actually, I've come back stronger. I'm actually hitting it further now than I hit it when I left to have surgery, so that's a positive.

But again, I'm still kind of loose, I'm wild, I hit some really poor golf shots. The difference is I used to practice a lot and I had a lot of repetition and I created muscle memory where I could recreate the shots. Now, I physically cannot practice with my shoulder the way it is and the way I feel. I can't put the time in on the range that I need to to really stay sharp all the time. I think that's the big difference I'm finding.

So I just kind of have to stay motivated, stay positive. I have to really stay strong mentally, and hopefully, when I come out tomorrow, that first shot's going to be a good one and we're going to be able to chase it down the fairway like we did today and make a lot of putts.

Q. Did you know you were going to come back no matter what?

KENNY PERRY: Well, it would all depend if I was hurt and I physically couldn't hit the golf ball the way I know I'm capable of hitting, there was a pretty good chance I would have hung it up.

But, you know, I don't have really any limitations right now. My back's not bothering me too bad and my shoulder's -- I'm pain free from my shoulder. But like I said, it's just tough to practice. I really can't put the time in on the range like I want to.

Q. What was the number you had on 18 to the green?

KENNY PERRY: 204 to carry the water, 212 to the hole.

Q. How far was the eagle putt?

KENNY PERRY: Probably four feet.

Q. You've been in this room several times and it seems like every time we come in here, we talk about 18. You hit it in the grandstand, you nearly holed an eagle today. What is it about that hole that suits you?

KENNY PERRY: Well, I think for one thing, I'm strong enough to hit it far enough down there where I can actually be aggressive and get after that hole a little bit.

Some of the guys, when they're having to hit hybrids and stuff, you hit 5, 6 -- like I hit 3-wood, 6-iron on it yesterday. Today I just kind of took a little off the driver, I was afraid to hit it too hard. I didn't know. The wind was crosswind today, where yesterday it was downwind. I actually took too much off of it and I had 204 to the front. Was able to hit 5-iron and knock it on.

Yeah, I loved the year I had a two-shot lead coming into 18 and I intentionally hit it in the grandstands on purpose because the drop zone was right back there by the flagstick and I knew if I dropped, I could just chip it up. The worst I was going to make was a par and I knew that was going to win the golf tournament. So I took the water completely out of play. But it's still an intimidating shot, you've got to hit it solid.

Q. How much wind was there on 18 today?

KENNY PERRY: It was probably blowing 12 -- 10 to 15 miles an hour, and it was kind of helping and a little left to right. Worked out good, held my draw in there pretty straight, I was able to fire right at it.

Q. Any other -- you didn't have any (inaudible).

KENNY PERRY: Well, I made two 20-footers on 16 and 17. I mean, they weren't 50-footer like I did on 18 yesterday, but I holed a lot of really good putts today, so that's exciting to see.

Q. Was that your lowest competitive round?

KENNY PERRY: I think that's my lowest, yeah, 12 under. I've shot 60 before, but it was 10 under on a par 70, I think. Might have been 61. I think 12, that's the lowest -- my lowest competitive round ever.

Q. (No microphone.)

KENNY PERRY: Maybe it's expectations. It's more mental, I think, than anything. You know your game's good, you know it's there; it's just a matter of trying to get some momentum on your side, I think. I think it gets easy, when you start making lots of birdies, you relax and you settle down out there. Each day's a new day and you're trying to restart

the engine on hole 1 and trying to get off on the right foot. Sometimes it's tough to do that.

Q. How much weather did you have to deal with today?

KENNY PERRY: It wasn't bad. We got rained on some, but it was not horrendous. The golf course still played firm and fast. We didn't have enough rain to really change the golf course. The greens were still firm and putted nice. We were very lucky. When I saw the forecast last night, I thought we were going to have a lot of lightning and stuff. Thank goodness we got the round in.

Q. Tom Lehman mentioned you guys had a chat over at the British and he mentioned you were really looking forward to coming over here. Just talk about that.

KENNY PERRY: Well, I mean, I've got two wins, a 2nd, a 3rd, a 4th, a 7th. I just feel very comfortable on this golf course. It would be one I would never miss. I hate to see it go away. I mean, it's taking my annuity away, it's a shame. But I understand 3M. Minnesota will love the young guys coming in here and hopefully Tiger and Jordan and Rickie and all them, they'll embrace the tournament and come show up and support it.

Q. (No microphone.)

KENNY PERRY: I've actually still got my top 50 all-time money. I could actually cash it in. I could actually play next year on the bigger tour if I wanted to. I could actually come back here if I did that.

Q. So we'll see you July 4th then?

KENNY PERRY: Yeah, after I saw where some of those tee markers are going to be. Like on hole 2, I saw it's going to be back across the roadway back there where they're going to put the tee. I don't know if I could hit my driver over the lake back through the fairway from there. That's going to be interesting.

Q. Did you come into this weekend thinking that you could (inaudible) your game was in? Just the way you played --

KENNY PERRY: I shot 79 the last round at The Open, so I played really good three rounds. I was 5 under the first three rounds and was in the top-10, and then I shoot 79 on Sunday, which, you know, I just played lousy. That's what I'm saying, I'm very inconsistent and erratic right now. But this place doesn't have pot bunkers and it's got wider fairways. I hit a 4-iron last week that went 338 yards into a pot bunker. That's incredible. I drove it on four or five par 4s that were 440, 450 yards long. It was crazy last week. I really can't judge last week.

I took 11 of my family members and I rented a big house. I took people who have never left the United States and we had a great time last week, so that was a lot of fun.

Q. You won three times at Memorial. What is it about you --

KENNY PERRY: Twice at Colonial. It's just horses for courses. You're right, you get comfortable and you get at a golf course you feel very -- your sightlines are good, you don't feel uncomfortable, you don't feel claustrophobic, you're able to swing at it and let it go. That's it.

I won the Buick twice in Flint, Michigan. There's a lot of places, if I've won it one time, I end up feeling very comfortable when I show up there, feel like I can win again.

JACKIE SERVAIS: Thank you, Kenny. Good luck tomorrow.