
MODERATOR: Keeping you out late. Sorry.

Does that look familiar?

KENNY PERRY: Yes, it does, I've got two of those, now I got three.

MODERATOR: Please welcome 2018 3M Champion Kenny Perry to the media center on Sunday for the third time? How do you feel about that?

KENNY PERRY: Ecstatic. I was very nervous today. You all witnessed -- it's hard to go out with a five-shot lead, to be the hunted instead of being the hunter. It felt kind of odd out there. I didn't want to give it away. I didn't want to play too aggressive, I didn't want to play too safe. So I was kind of in that area where I knew this golf course gives up low scores. I knew if I played too safe, somebody's going to catch me.

It was a bad spot to be, actually, but I got to be thankful for my birdie-birdie-eagle finish. That won me the tournament on Friday -- I mean Saturday.

So I bogeyed 6 and 7. I hit a shank today on 6. I cold-fatted it on the par 3, what is that, 13? Way short of the green. I hit every shot in the book today. I was everywhere out there. And I spoke yesterday how erratic I am. I think a lot of that was pressure I put on myself. But I was able to stroke through it and get it done and shoot 69, still a very quality score, shoot 21 under. My goal was to shoot 20-whatever today. I knew if I shot 2 under, Glen was going to have to shoot 7 under to catch me. And I knew all the guys at 10 under probably couldn't catch me if I shot 2 under today. And so it worked out great. I was able to shoot 69 and win by a couple. So, exciting day.

MODERATOR: Yesterday you talked about how hard it was to be able to do this. What did you do last night to be able to prepare for today?

KENNY PERRY: Well, Cindy and I went and had a little Mexican and went to the mall and killed time. We were just trying to kill time. I knew I had a late tee time today.

And so I really -- like I said, I can't practice. I would have loved to have hit a bunch of balls after the round yesterday, kind of home in what I was doing. I had a lot of good, positive vibes yesterday, positive thoughts, but I was too afraid to do that. I didn't want to come out today sore or hurting with my body. So I just stayed away and came out today flat.

I just didn't have much out there. I didn't hit it very solid. Like the first hole I have been hitting driver, sand wedge, pitching wedge. I hit a 7-iron into the green today. That's how poorly I mis-hit the drive, but it was in the middle of the fairway. I wasn't wild, I was able to hit it down the fairway, but I was mis-hitting everything. Everything was either out of the heel or out of the toe, it wasn't solid.

And when I made that putt on No. 9, that was a huge putt to get me back even par for the day, back to 18 under. And it calmed me down. And I was able to go out there and shoot a good back nine. So, great day, great day.

MODERATOR: Were you looking at the leader board? Did you know Wes Short was coming behind you, caused the birdie on 16?

KENNY PERRY: Definitely, yeah. I knew I needed to make that, somehow get that in there, give me a little bit of a cushion on 18.

16 -- I mean, 17 is still a tough shot. You have it into the wind, 180 yards, the shot. I hit a beautiful 6-iron in the middle of the green. So, quality golf shot, was able to two putt.

And then I knew I had a two-shot lead on 18, so I just laid it up left. I had 100 yards, which is a perfect 60-degree sand wedge. And I hit it in there about eight feet, able to make it for birdie. So I knew I could three-putt it. I knew I could make bogey and still win the tournament, so that's always a nice feeling.

MODERATOR: Questions?

Q. Do you have any thoughts (inaudible)?

KENNY PERRY: I did. Actually, we talked about that. I have done it, and I have fired into the grandstands. But I was thinking I could see myself doing that and hitting one of those poles dead on and come ricocheting across the green, into the water or something.

I have actually had that happen. I was in a playoff in Atlanta and I hit a tree that was over the green on 18 in a PGA event and it ricocheted all the way across the green, into the water. So I said, you know what, we're going to play it safe. I know I could hit a 7-iron over there to the left and have 100 yards and hit a 60-degree sand wedge. I knew I could make six to win the tournament, so I wasn't going to do anything stupid. Just play it and be very uneventful and don't do the Jean van de Velde thing, or whatever, and be wild and try to be the hero, so I just wanted to play smart and win the golf tournament.

Q. Is there a word you can say that's safe for newspapers that was going through your head after the back-to-back bogeys?

KENNY PERRY: No, you know, I really didn't have -- I didn't stress it out. Nothing really came into my head. I had been feeling that way for seven holes. I really hit a good putt on

7, and it hit the high side of the lip and spun it out. And it was fast. Left me about a three-footer coming back, which I pulled.

So, 6 was just a -- I drove it into a spot where I had a big clump of grass behind the ball, couldn't really hit it. And I kind of pulled it, hoseled it, shut the face down, and almost went in the hazard through the fairway.

And then I shanked the next shot with an 8-iron, but it ended up in the fairway, and wedge in, and able to two putt for bogey.

Bogeys don't kill you when you got a big lead, and I knew that. I said somehow you got to settle down, make some birdies. That putt on nine was huge, because that's a tough hole.

Q. Talk about how you handle having a five-shot lead, with seven holes in, is how you won.

KENNY PERRY: Yeah.

Q. Kind of how you push through that, because it seems like it could cause some panic.

KENNY PERRY: Oh, yeah, I mean, somebody could shoot 12-under, like I did yesterday, and pass me and win the golf tournament. And I knew that. But you just got to play it a shot at a time, hole by hole, be patient. I just kept telling myself, be patient out there. Don't try to rush, don't try to force anything. Make them come catch you. They still hadn't caught me yet. Even though they had gotten to one, they still hadn't caught me. And so I just said, you know what, let's just ride this storm out and see where we can get. And I was able to just stay ahead of them, just enough each time to creep out ahead of them to where they couldn't get by me.

Q. What's it mean to have your name next to Hale Irwin as a three-time winner of this event?

KENNY PERRY: Honored, you know, incredible. That's one of the greatest players of all time, Hall of Famer. Forty something wins on the Champions Tour. One of the best ever to play out here.

I love talking to him. I wish he'd play out here more. He's kind of semi retired now. So, honored.

Q. Feeling a little bit more comfortable this year knowing Bernhard wasn't behind you?

KENNY PERRY: Bernhard, Miguel Jimenez, Scott McCarron. I got to thank all these guys for not coming. They still would have had to shoot 22-under to beat me, though, which they

might have done. So, there's probably a few guys that sat out this week, and I think they need to sit out more often.

Q. Here one -- last time here, the last winner out here.

KENNY PERRY: Yeah, it's nice to be the last winner on that trophy. So three-time winner in 10 years. I've had a great run. I guess in 10 years, the worst I had -- one year out of 10 I was out of the top-10 finish in this event. I had a second, third, fourth, a seventh, three wins. Just an incredible journey.

This golf course fit me to a tee. I hate they're going to change it for next year. It's going to be so long next year, I probably won't even recognize it when I come back. But I do know the greens. I understand them. I love putting these greens. They are some of the best surfaces we putt on.

But I will be back there hitting long irons while those kids will be hitting wedges, so that's going to be hard to beat.

Q. Going to play --

KENNY PERRY: I will be back, I'm going to play. Going to use my top 50 all-time money, so you will see me back here.

Q. Tom said he's going to make the course suitable in case he gets a sponsor's exemption into this, or do you feel like you could put it where Tom's going to play in it?

KENNY PERRY: Well, you know what? Hollis even mentioned they may give Tom a spot too. So I guess it will probably be Tom and I on the Champions Tour playing here next year. So he's well-deserving. He's a great champion. He helped design this place, I think, didn't he, from the beginning? So he'll probably -- I don't know if he'll have comment on the redo when they --

Q. Yeah.

KENNY PERRY: Yeah, so he deserves a spot, so exciting.

Q. Said he said only be like 300 yards out (inaudible)?

KENNY PERRY: It's going to be a challenge. I saw where they're putting the second tee back this side across the road. I don't even know if I can hit it over the water from way back there, so -- I'm used to hitting 3-wood, sand wedge on that hole. I'm going to be hitting driver, 5-iron. That's going to be interesting going in that green with a midiron. That's a tough green, that's a tough hole. So it's going to be very challenging for me next year.

Q. Do you get a good feeling when you're coming to this place? It seems like --

KENNY PERRY: Always.

Q. -- every year you just -- you might not be doing so great, but you get here and things start turning around for you.

KENNY PERRY: Well, that's just the way it is. I won Colonial twice, I won Muirfield three times, I won Flint and the Buick Open twice. It just seems like when I go to a place I've won, I just feel like I could win there again. It just -- whatever. I feel like it's, you know, just -- even though I'm playing poorly coming in, I feel like I could still win the golf tournament. I don't know, it's just confidence, I guess.

MODERATOR: All right. Thank you, Kenny.

KENNY PERRY: Thank you all.