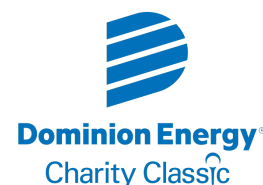


PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
October 18, 2018

JERRY KELLY



LAURA VESCOVI: Jerry, thanks for joining us in the media center for the Dominion Energy Charity Classic. It's been an exciting year for you, you started out the year with a win at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai. So did you think that this is where you would be looking back to that tournament?

JERRY KELLY: I didn't think I would be stuck on one win, it's a little disappointing. You know, it's been a tough year getting through a lot of different things. I've got to cut myself a little slack, which I usually don't do, but it's been a very tough year. So to be in position going to the last three, I'm happy.

LAURA VESCOVI: Usually the conversation is about chasing Bernhard Langer, but he's only had two wins this year as well and I think this year going into the Playoffs, the field, the top 12, 13, 14 guys, it's deeper. So do you feel the same way, that there's just a lot of competition out here now?

JERRY KELLY: No question, no question. So many guys are playing such great golf that, you know, it will get tougher and tougher to win out here every year, I think. You've got the Big Easy and Goose coming out. It's just a lot of great play going on.

Q. Jerry, you had to withdraw from this event last year. Does that make you excited to play the course this year?

JERRY KELLY: Yes. You know, I had an injury last year and I've got an injury this year, so still I'm disappointed in my body, the way it's held up, although it was a little more self inflicted this year. I've got a lot to overcome.

This is one of the longer courses that we're going to play, so it's probably going to be a little bit more difficult for me. I've just got to rely on more short game. Long clubs aren't quite as precise as I normally am. I'm not going to be going after as much as I normally do and just try and plod my way along and hopefully, you know, by Sunday or the back nine on Sunday I've got a chance and then can go after some things, but I've got to hold back a little bit.

Q. Jerry, the players as a whole, as a group have raved about this course and this event. Safe to put you in that category? How do you enjoy coming here and this course? I know last year wasn't your finest hour here just with your injury, but just overall, your thoughts on kind of the course here, the event?

JERRY KELLY: Well, I think we all love coming to Richmond. It's such a great town, got some great food and wine, which always makes me happy. Great places to stay. The golf

course is fantastic, the way they treat us here is great. There's no negative to this place at all. You know, we can usually pick some things apart, but there's nothing to pick apart here. It's a fantastic event and we're all excited to play.

Q. Jerry, what part of your game have you really been focusing on at this point?

JERRY KELLY: Just trying to get healthy, trying to find a way to manufacture whatever I can to hit the ball in the center of the club. It's a struggle, but once the adrenaline kicks in, it becomes easier. Try not to get discouraged before I get that adrenaline and just try and push through everything that I can and do the best I can.

Q. Are you having fun? It comes down to a point, this is a three playoff, you've got a chance to win the Schwab Cup. Sounds like there's some issues, but are you having fun?

JERRY KELLY: That's what happened last week. That was purely a mental shift. You know, I put pressure on myself, the position I was in leading the Money List for a while and trying to get back to that spot. Once the injury happened, I went down the rabbit hole pretty bad mentally. Last week was kind of a reset. You've got to hit rock bottom sometimes and I did. It was just kind of like, What am I doing? Let's come out, have fun being in this position, having the chance to win tournaments and the chance to win a FedExCup, just try not to push things so hard. That's what I was doing.

Yeah, I can't hide that. It's there and it's still there, but last week was a huge turning point for me. I'm looking forward to bringing that mentality. I started having fun with people outside the ropes and the guys inside the ropes where I was just kind of moping around by myself for a month or so. You know, when you're hurt, it kind of affects you mentally as well and I had to make that change mentally and then the game followed right away. So I would like to keep that up, yeah.

Q. I'm sorry, I don't know your injury.

JERRY KELLY: I wasted my knee. I sprained it, tore the meniscus and blew a Baker's cyst all in 24 hours. That was right after Calgary. I was working out doing stupid stuff that old guys shouldn't do. But again, that's my mentality. I was feeling really strong and I was trying to get stronger. You know, I should have never looked up what Koepka does. I didn't actually do that, but I was feeling my oats a little bit and I did some things I shouldn't be doing and I did them at a time when I shouldn't have, too. It was after a long round and it was just me being me, that's all.

Q. Was there anyone on Tour that you went to for advice or a pick-me-up or did anybody pull you aside and say, hey, this isn't you?

JERRY KELLY: That would be my wife, yes. She knows me better than anyone. And, you know, that wasn't a pick-me-up, it was more of a talking to. Not a talking at, but a talking to

with her. You know, it's like, what are you doing, why are you doing this? There's no reason to play other than to enjoy the competition. If you're not enjoying it, why are you even playing? If you say you're hurt, well, then stop.

And I'm like, well, I'm hurt, but I can still play.

So it was a matter of changing that attitude. I might have gotten an "I told you so" out of that one. (Laughs.) I needed it, though. She knows when it's time to say, hey, you know, this is not you, you've got to pick yourself up or just go home and have surgery, either one.

Q. This is a very competitive tour. Is it also a very collegial tour for you?

JERRY KELLY: It is, it is totally. I mean, there's so many guys after the 18th green when somebody wins congratulating each player. It's really impressive to see that.

I disagree with some of the writers that talk about the young guys out there right now -- Justin Thomas, Rickie Fowler, Daniel Berger, Jordan Spieth. I mean, these guys are all friends. Let me tell you, friendship is not getting in the way of them winning golf tournaments and playing as cutthroat as possible. They want to win, but they're having so much more fun doing this than Tiger showed us on his way up. I applaud those guys for the way that they conduct that part of the game and keeping that friendship alive.

You know, a lot of the guys out here, including myself, were like that when we were coming up. We saw that road map, you have to be like Tiger and be tough. It's so much more fun out here and the guys are great. You're having fun after the rounds and guys are going to functions. It's pretty cool to be out here.

LAURA VESCOVI: Well, thank you, Jerry. We appreciate it.

JERRY KELLY: Thanks.