

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
May 2, 2018

JOHN DALY

Q. We have defending champion, John Daly, here. Thanks for being with us. So you made your debut in 2016 and then took the title last year. Can you just talk about what that looks like going into this year, how that felt and what you're looking forward to?

JOHN DALY: Oh, it felt great. I mean, somebody's telling me last night I'm like one of like four or five guys that have won on every continent. I didn't even know that. That was kind of cool. And on every Tour.

But this has always been a special place, even when the Shell Houston Open was here. I seem to feel I'm going to play good. Whether I did or not, it's a golf course that's suits my game. The greens are always perfect. The fans are awesome, like everywhere we go, but there's just something special about the TPC Woodlands that I just feel like it's a golf course that just gives me confidence. The greens are always so good, everybody thinks it should putt pretty good. It's a matter that your lines are pretty good, but the speed's all that's important because it's so good.

But it was just a great win. You got yourself so much -- we all do when you haven't won in so long or haven't really played great. I had a few top-10s on the senior tour my first year but nothing like, you know, the adrenaline that I'm going to win a golf tournament not in the final group or anything like that. So it felt really good.

Q. How has your game changed since you've won?

JOHN DALY: It's about the same. You never know what's going to happen with me. I've been very consistent with the driver, I've been hitting a lot more fairways. Everything about us on any tour is putting. If you're making a few extra putts here or there, one or two putts a round is big on any tour. That's kind of the most important thing. If you're putting good on any tour, you have a chance to do really well and that's -- that's the day in and day out adversity we all go through it seems like. Sometimes you can have 22 putts and the next day you can have 30 and you probably hit it better than you did when you had the 22 putts but just nothing went in.

Q. Do you find that the (inaudible) of your putting game are different at this age than they were when you were younger. Has it pretty much always been, as you said, an everyday battle?

JOHN DALY: Well, it's always been an everyday -- putting, I don't care if you're the best putter in the world, it's always a battle. We change grasses week to week. If the greens feel

good one day, they may not feel the -- the same green may not feel good the next day, it just depends. But for me I've always been one of those guys that's -- it hasn't changed. My lines have always been pretty good, it's just the speed. When you're a feel putter, that's the one thing that you really have to take into consideration is the speed. I'm not mechanical about it, so that's why I'm kind of a streaky putter.

It's the Crenshaw -- but Crenshaw made a lot more putts than I did. Nobody's ever going to putt like Tiger did those 10 years that he played really, really well.

No, I kind of look at my game kind of like Lanny Wadkins. He was a streaky putter, Fuzzy was a streaky putter. Nicklaus and Tiger and Crenshaw seemed to be the ones that stand out the most, and to win a golf tournament, Nicklaus seemed to always make that putt, tiger seemed to always make the putt. But I'm not -- I feel like I'm just kind of an average to above average putter. That's not good, but that's what I've always been and I've just got to live with it.

Q. Obviously I remember one of the last things you told us last year, you haven't had a win since, you've had some good tournaments. How do you feel? Are you disappointed or do you feel like you enjoyed yourself since winning here? You checked a box, right?

JOHN DALY: Yeah. I mean, like I said, I don't set goals on this tour. I feel like it's tough, I've always said we shouldn't be governed by any rules. We should be governed by some, but we should be governed by our own rules. If we were getting world ranking points on this tour, I would understand that anchoring might be a problem. Or when you hit a ball in a divot in the fairway, we should be able to drop it. We've kind of earned that right.

I know a lot of people are down on guys riding in carts in tournaments, but it's like Fuzzy always telling me, you earned it. As banged up as a lot of us is, I don't feel bad at all riding in a cart this week or any chance I get.

But I just, I don't know. Just this tour needs -- to me, it could have a lot more fun if we just kind of were a little more edgy. Like not in a bad way, but you know, like more viewers would watch it if we had 17 clubs in our bag, or like I said, let us anchor. Who cares? Our tour got killed on this anchoring thing. I don't care if Scott McCarron or whoever they say is anchoring. I don't care if he anchors, he earned it. We're 50 years and older, we should have more fun than most tours. And I've always believed that. I just wish it would change in that way. If we get world ranking points, then yeah, we should be governed by the USGA or R&A, but we're not getting any ranking points so let's have some fun.

Q. Any other ideas besides those?

JOHN DALY: No, I just -- you know, the guys are so cool, they're all great, but I think we could change the game in a way that the amateur watching us play on TV could go, you know, that's pretty cool. It would be cool to go out and -- country clubs with club

championships, you know, if the senior tour is hitting the ball on the fairway, guy hits in the fairway in a divot, then he should be able to drop it. One, we're older, we get hurt. It's just simple things that would kind of make the tour a little bit more fun. And that's just my personal opinion. I know it probably won't change much, but that's just kind of the way I feel.

Q. Why do you think it won't change, because that's the way golf is?

JOHN DALY: I think that's just the way it is, that's just the way it's going to be. But we play for pride and we play to win, but that's as far as it goes out here. If you win our PGA Championship, you're fortunate to play in the regular PGA Championship. I don't know, the U.S. Senior Open, I don't know if a guy wins that, if he gets in. He might. That's kind of cool. But that's just something we could change, like we should be wearing shorts in pro-ams and stuff like that. We should be having a little bit more fun.

Q. Have you ever broached these topics with people in authority?

JOHN DALY: Yeah, I've tried, but I get shut down pretty quick.

Q. Thanks for your input, John?

JOHN DALY: Yeah, that's what they say. At least they're nice enough to say thank for your input.

Q. But you're not going to back off of it, you're going to keep saying it?

JOHN DALY: Yeah. I feel like if we're not world ranking points, we should be able to do -- I'm not saying change everything, I'm just saying change it a little bit.

Q. Speaking of getting banged up, how's the knee after the mishap?

JOHN DALY: It's coming along. The swelling took about two weeks to get down, but it's sore right in that bone where I twisted it.

Q. I know what happened, in the process of getting out of the way of this guy, you tweaked it?

JOHN DALY: Yeah. I pushed real hard on it going right to go back. I pushed my guy out of the way because most people would have just drove into our tables, but unfortunately she just kept going straight and ran up the fence right on top of my window in my bus.

Q. You had to be just standing there shaking your head?

JOHN DALY: Yeah. I mean, you just can't make it up, it's just crazy. And 15 minutes later the Budweiser truck swipes a car coming to deliver beer at Hooters. Same cops have to go do that police report and cops say, well, there's another wreck down here half a mile, we've

got to go do that one now, too. At least it all happened in threes because that's kind of what it usually does.

Q. You laugh about it now, but it actually could have been quite serious?

JOHN DALY: It could have been, yeah. It was scary because she was doing about 40 coming through there.

Q. How did it resolve itself?

JOHN DALY: We're working it out. They're still over here fixing things on it.

Q. On the bus?

JOHN DALY: Yeah. She did a lot of damage to the front of it.

Q. But it was able to roll out of Augusta okay?

JOHN DALY: Yeah. Some good friends had a driver go to Nashville and the guys tried to put the window in on Saturday. Yeah, Saturday morning. Put it in, they cracked it and they found another one in Atlanta. I had some good friends that did me some favors to get it done so I could drive it down the road.

Q. You might want to move off Washington Road.

JOHN DALY: Usually when you're parked you're okay with three barricades going through there.

Q. I'm sure you saw a doctor, but nothing other than just some therapy?

JOHN DALY: Yeah, there's nothing much. I do have also whatever you call it, osteoarthritis or something in it. The stem cell I had from Dr. Rutledge in October, it was going great, I was doing so good, and then he says because of the cartilage and the osteoarthritis, whatever he says it is.

Q. All the damage you could have done with what happened, this is probably the worst that could have happened because you were already having problems with it anyway?

JOHN DALY: Yeah, but MRI, nothing was tore. A lot of inflammation and swelling.

Q. How have you played since, how much has it impacted your swing?

JOHN DALY: Just walking when I played last week in New Orleans I was decent for the first day and the second day it was hurting quite a bit, so I wear this knee brace on it.

Q. Carts are welcome then?

JOHN DALY: Yeah.

Q. John, what do you think the key was to your win last year? This is kind of a tight course but everything's certainly there to -- you played it a lot in years past. What was the outstanding thing that really helped you do that that you could do it again this year?

JOHN DALY: I think it's just the putting. I think I played the par 5s really, really well here last year. I think I had two or three eagles. I know I had at least one and I played the par 3s really good. But I think all in all I just putted really, really well. I putted really, really good. Way above my average.

Q. You had a hole-in-one in a tournament in February. How many competitive holes-in-one have you had?

JOHN DALY: I think every one of my holes-in-one except for a par 4 I did in Knoxville, I played a scramble and I made a hole-in-one on a par 4, but all my holes-in-one I've ever had have been in tournaments. Arizona Open, State Open, '16 here, Naples. I can't remember.

Q. When was the last -- you said that last year, right?

JOHN DALY: Naples I had this year.

Q. You had the hole-in-one here?

JOHN DALY: No, '16 is one of years I was playing the Shell.

Q. Okay. But it was Naples this year in February, right?

JOHN DALY: Yeah. I think I had one in South Africa, I had an albatross in South Africa on their tour. Somewhere, the State Open had another one. Seems like all of my holes-in-one have always been in tournaments.

Q. But you have not had a hole-in-one on every continent, too?

JOHN DALY: No, no, no.