PNC Father/Son Challenge First Round Interviews Dec. 15, 2018

How did it go today?

JOHN DALY: It was a good day. We both played really well.

LITTLE JOHN DALY: He made the putts. I think I putted three times.

What were the highlights?

JOHN DALY: It was just one of those days. We hit pretty much every fairway. We didn't get ourselves in any troubles. We had good looks at it. After the third hole, Little John was putting good and he said I should go first to give him the line. I just made everything. It was a lot of fun.

Any holes standout?

JOHN DALY: We didn't really make anything long.

LITTLE JOHN DALY: I lipped out on 12.

JOHN DALY: We didn't have long, long putts. 15 was probably our longest one.

11 birdies in the last 13 holes. Did you realize you were on that run?

JOHN DALY: No. We weren't thinking about it. We were just having fun.

Wet golf course play into your game because you hit it far?

JOHN DALY: I'm not that far anymore. It was tough. Little John is really good. The way they play the game now, it's a pickers game and I'm not a picker. I come in steep so I was worried I'd hit a lot of shots fat. Fortunately, I took one club more, hit it easier. The fairways were really wet, a lot of casual water. With all the rain they got last night, I'm surprised we could even play so hats off to the crew.

Big deal for you to win this?

JOHN DALY: It would be fun. We're just enjoying it. We'd love to. Ask Little John, it would be cool to win, wouldn't it?

LITTLE JOHN DALY: Yeah.

JOHN DALY: Man of few words.

How many tournaments have you won?

LITTLE JOHN DALY: Only one this year. Harbour Town, in a five-man playoff.

JOHN DALY: They moved him out of the 14-15 bracket though. What he didn't tell you because he's pretty humble is that he's playing against the 16-18 year olds. He's been finishing top-5, top-10 every tournament against kids that are older than him.

Is this the only time of year where you two team up?

JOHN DALY: Well, if Pebble Beach would ever let me pick my partner again, I'd pick LJ. I can play at Pebble Beach, I just can't pick my partner. It would be great to play with him. We play in a little fatherson at Clearwater Country Club when he's off, but nothing like a Tour event.

How special is it to do this together?

JOHN DALY: Oh, it's great. Like a lot of these guys say, it's their favorite tournament of the year. It's one of mine. Getting to play with him. I don't get to see him as much as I would like because I'm on the road. If I haven't seen him in a few weeks, I can tell he's hitting it five, eight yards further just by the sound of it. He's 25 years longer than he was last year.

How far do you hit your driver?

LITTLE JOHN DALY: 260-270.

Any colleges sniffing around?

JOHN DALY: He's getting a lot of letters. A lot of coaches after him. He's a sophomore so next year he'll think about it I guess. His grades are good.

Can you see a path to playing with the big boys?

LITTLE JOHN DALY: Hopefully.

JOHN DALY: It'd be great with me. I'd love it. He loves to practice a lot more than I did. He's dedicated to it like all the kids are at these schools. They are wonderful. Great facility to practice out of. Great house to live in. People don't know, but he's out of school at noon and by 12:3, he's playing golf. Five straight classes with no breaks. It seems to be working.

What is his potential?

JOHN DALY: I think potential is up to you. He's at the age now where he feels things that he does right or wrong in his swing. Not a lot to work on with Little John. He's so gifted with his hands around the greens, the way he putts. If you're a great putter, you can score. Little John is a great ball striker and great putter, so time will tell. He was great last year and 10 times better this year. You can see the work he's putting in and it shows in the tournaments. He'll call me sometimes and say I'm hitting my 4-iron a little off and I always tell him it's ball position. He works at it hard. The question is always up to that person. He has all the tools and the dad to back him so it's up to him.

Are you a better team this year?

JOHN DALY: His game is way ahead of mine. This is the seventh round of golf I've played since Richmond. We mojo real well. If I hit a bad shot, I'm not worried about him hitting a bad one. That's why we can do so well here.