

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
May 17, 2018

JERRY PATE (-5)



Q. What did it mean to have -- she said she's helped before, but just to have her on the bag?

JERRY PATE: Well, I tell her she's the best caddie I've ever had. And first time she caddied for me was last December at the Father-Son and I had my son Jamie, who caddied for Wesley, who's out here today. He and I play in the Father-Son together. But she's a good caddie. She knows what to do. Her uncle, Bruce Lietzke, got bless him, he suffered glioblastoma cancer, Bruce tells caddies to show up, keep up, shut up.

Q. Did she do that?

JERRY PATE: And the last one I heard today was suck up. But no, she said, Dad, short backstroke, do this, do that.

Q. Did she give you a calmness out there, just you have an enjoyment because when you get to hang with a daughter like that --

JERRY PATE: I'm pretty calm most of the time now. I don't do this for a living anymore, I do it because I enjoy to come out and see my friends. I enjoy coming to Birmingham because I lived here and have a lot of friends here. Enjoy seeing the guys on Tour. Just, I'm getting old. I'll be 65 here in a few more months. I don't have many more rounds to play on the Champions Tour.

Q. So to shoot -- to open up with this type of round, what does it mean to you and stuff like that?

JERRY PATE: Play one shot at a time, that's all you can do. I just went out there, hit the first shot, found it, hit the second one. Gary Hallberg, I was playing with, talked about how great I was playing. I said, I'm not even thinking about it, like I'm on the range or on the putting green, just one shot at a time. When I played my best, that's what I did. I held a little more court back then because I had a little more game back then in the '70s and '80s, but my game I would say is on the downhill slide of my career. I'm seeing the train station's not too far away.

Q. I'll take your train station any day. You had two sand saves to finish up and Jenni was saying you're the best sand player that she knows. You proved it by getting up and down twice.

JERRY PATE: You know, I changed wedges. Bob Volkey sent me a 58-degree wedge, and I played a 56 my entire career. That was old school. He gave it to me about five years ago at the British Open at Sunningdale and I love it. It seems like every time I get in a bunker, I feel like I can hole it, not just get it up and down. To be honest, the one on the last hole, I was very disappointed with that sand shot. I usually am pretty good from there.