

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**June 20, 2019**



**JERRY KELLY**

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**CHRIS RICHARDS:** Good afternoon, everyone. I would like to welcome Jerry Kelly to the media center for the American Family Insurance Championship.

Jerry, it's not often in golf you get to play a home game; that is what we've got this week for you. What's it like playing in front of friends, family and your hometown?

**JERRY KELLY:** Well, I mean, we always kind of dreamed about this. We loved having the GMO, but actually to be able to sleep in our own bed and have a professional tournament, it's so cool.

Very proud of what Steve and Jack and American Family have done for the community, for Wisconsin. It's just another check mark in a long list of Wisconsin golf right now. We're definitely on the map.

**CHRIS RICHARDS:** Jerry, you've been playing very steady all season. What's been the key to your steadiness and then what do you need to do to get back in the winner's circle?

**JERRY KELLY:** I've just started to trend upward. I've just -- I haven't been healthy since last year U.S. Open, U.S. Senior Open. That was the last time I felt good.

It's really starting to come back and that brings the mental side back. Strength is there and now it's just putting the pieces together and just working on the good play. There's still some misses that come in that I'm not used to because of what goes on, and I've just got to clean those up and get better.

**Q. Jerry, you've come close. You were second by a shot last year. You were second in a couple GMOs. What's the biggest challenge when you're playing in front of so many of the people that you know and follow you?**

**JERRY KELLY:** It's getting off to a good start, because I'm pretty jacked up. I really enjoy the atmosphere, I enjoy all the energy that people give me. They're so fantastic to me. I've just got to -- it's not chill because I'm not very good at chill. It's just kind of match the intensity with a little more focus instead of being so wide open, and then I get behind the eight-ball and fight my way back to almost there, but I'd like to actually have a really good start so I can stay in that position.

**Q. I'll dovetail on that. Why is it so hard to point to a particular tournament and have your game peak, which you absolutely want it to do in Wisconsin, and come close a few times but haven't gotten it done?**

**JERRY KELLY:** Yeah, I've been pretty happy with the way that I have played in the Wisconsin tournaments. I've always kind of been there, I've always had a chance except for the majors here. That just wasn't my -- I never really figured out Whistling Straits until I couldn't play it anymore, unfortunately. Now I have. There's actually room out there, it's just visually intimidating. It's kind of like St. Andrews that way. But I'm a slow learner, what can I say?

I'm proud of the record that I've had in these tournaments because -- and it's all because of the fans and the people. If I get down, they lift me up. I mean, I know I can be hard on myself. When I've got this many people feeding me energy, it helps so much. It's fantastic. So I think I've come close, which is pretty good for, you know, I'm just a little old journeyman, you know.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**JERRY KELLY:** We can hear you.

**Q. Falling short specifically at this tournament last year, (inaudible) being in front of the home crowd?**

**JERRY KELLY:** Not as much because I closed well. Even on the last hole, I hit a great shot. It should have kicked off that hill, and then I noticed, oh, yeah, they shaved that hill down a little bit. So if that would have been last year, I might have had a tap-in.

You know, you know you've come close, you know the course suits you, and now you just try to go out and play your game and you try to play it the best you can. You've got to be clean out here. You can't make easy mistakes because guys will pass you really quick. They shoot very low out here every single week, meaning on this tour. So there's really no room for errors. It kind of gets you in that mode that you've got to go from square one, and sometimes that's good and sometimes that's bad.

So I tend to be overly aggressive early and I just need to sit back and let my game kind of melt into place, it should work out.

**Q. Just going back to the GMO, going back to '06, I don't think anyone was going to beat Corey that week. You finished second. But what do you remember about that runner-up finish that week and also the playoff with Loren?**

**JERRY KELLY:** Yeah, just same kind of thing. I was right there, right there with Carlos Franco. He knocks it in for a two on No. 8. Loren, he knocks it up there -- or was that Corey who made the two on 8? I don't know, it doesn't matter. They all did that kind of stuff to me.

Loren's coming out of the rough on 18 in the playoff and he lands short of the green in the high stuff and it kicks to the right and goes over there with a tap-in for him. You know, it's

like they give you that much and then it's like, okay, that's enough. I just want one more, one more. I've got this.

**Q. So they don't stick with you at all?**

**JERRY KELLY:** No. (Laughs.)

Yeah, but that's what brought me back year after year on tour is because I use every single one of them. Solidly place a chip on my shoulder and go back and go after it the best I can. That's the mentality that's actually kept me out here.

For a guy that doesn't have a great swing, moves a lot on his shots and his putts and gives announcers a lot to talk about, but I'm becoming a little more -- I like my career more than I ever have just knowing how long I've been doing it consistently. I've started to accept that I actually did a pretty good job, but it took a while.

**CHRIS RICHARDS:** With all that said about your near miss at the GMO, can you put into words what a win here would mean to you?

**JERRY KELLY:** Yeah, it would be everything. I would probably cry like Steve. That's probably what would happen.

**CHRIS RICHARDS:** Anything else for Jerry? Thank you very much and good luck this week.

**JERRY KELLY:** Thanks.