

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW

April 26, 2019

GENE SAUERS
KEN TANIGAWA (-8 TR)



Q. Is this your first time teaming up together?

GENE SAUERS: First time.

Q. What did you guys think? Pretty strong first round.

GENE SAUERS: Pretty strong. A lot of people came up to me and said, "Who's your partner," and I said, "Kenny." They said, "Y'all are going to be strong, you're going to be tough to beat." But we pretty much ham-and-egged it. I putted good earlier in the round and (inaudible).

Q. Ken, your first round at the Legends of Golf tournament. To play this well and have the first round lead so far, what did you think of this afternoon?

KEN TANIGAWA: Oh, boy, it's just a lot of fun to be here. I mean, it's a blessing, it really is. The facility that Johnny Morris has created.

Q. Gene had a couple good tee shots, you had a couple nice putts, back-to-back birdies. Just how fun is the team concept in this event and kind of helping each other out?

KEN TANIGAWA: It's a lot of fun for me. It's something we don't play, so to have the opportunity to have a partner like Gene, it sure makes it a lot easier.

Q. Gene, you've been around this tournament quite a bit, you know the scores are 24, 26 under to win this thing. So how important are those 12-, 14-foot putts that go in?

GENE SAUERS: They're awesome. Today I made a great putt on 9, our first nine, from about 15, 20-foot for par. I think that kept us going, kept our momentum going. Yeah, we have to shoot another low one tomorrow. The golf course over there is still pretty wet, it's going to be a long golf course tomorrow, so we just have to stay patient and just get it (inaudible).

Q. How difficult of a mindset is it going from the par-3 course here to the big course there?

GENE SAUERS: It's a little different. Like I say, I'm just going to try to get back into my own game. I think both of us are trying to play our own game on the big course tomorrow, hit a

lot of fairways, hit a lot of greens and just have opportunities.

Q. What about you, Ken?

KEN TANIGAWA: Oh, it's very different. It's best ball, you've got all 18 holes, so you just go about playing your own game and try to post a good score.

GENE SAUERS: Just try to feed off of each other.

Q. Knowing that you have a partner, does it make you maybe try to yank one a little bit farther for tomorrow?

KEN TANIGAWA: Well, the par 3s, if you hit some good shots, it sure makes it a little easier, takes the pressure off.

Q. Is this your first time in the area?

KEN TANIGAWA: It's my first time in Branson, it is. It's beautiful. It's great to be here.

Q. Does the courses and the scenery live up to its billing?

KEN TANIGAWA: (Inaudible). Like I said, it's just beautiful here.

GENE SAUERS: I agree, it's awesome, especially when the sun's out.

Q. What have you noticed in the last maybe five, six years, just about all the development going on out here trying to make Branson a destination for golf?

GENE SAUERS: Like I said, (inaudible) how special this place is. Johnny's been doing this since he was a little kid, I think. He's been in this business and he's grown it to something really awesome.

Q. How neat is the aspect of this tournament where it seems like every year there's a new course that's being introduced? Do you guys look forward to that or does that make it more challenging?

GENE SAUERS: Sometimes we do. The Buffalo Ridge course last year when we played, it was freezing cold. I think everybody was buying all the hand warmers in the pro shop. I think it's going to be a little different this year. Crenshaw-Coore, they did a great job. It's kind of wide open (inaudible).

Q. Are you excited to play on the new Tiger Woods course that's going to be opening next to Ozark National?

GENE SAUERS: Yeah, it's just right to the right of it.

Q. What do you think about Branson makes it so unique of a place to play golf in, especially the (inaudible) makes it so unique?

KEN TANIGAWA: Well, a par-3 course, first of all, and just to have a little bit of a resort feel where you can come and you've got different golf courses and it's all top class, so it's a lot of fun. It's just beautiful. You've got the different outdoor activities as well outside of golf, so it's a destination where people could come and enjoy all facets.

GENE SAUERS: All the hunting and fishing.

Q. How much like talking shop goes on, like I hit an 8, I hit a 9, how much of that? Is that kind of fun for you?

GENE SAUERS: Yeah, it is. We did it pretty much every hole. I think you've got to as a team feed off of each other. Ken's about a club longer than I am, so I know what I'm going to hit after he hits.

Q. We talked with Tom Watson and Andy North earlier and they kind of feel like this tournament has a reunion feel; they get to see people they don't often see. Do you kind of feel the same way?

GENE SAUERS: I do. Seeing the older guys come and play that I grew up watching and them coming back, and I see them hugging each other when they see each other on the range, so I could see that, yes.