

JOHN DALY

Q. Ready for event No. 2 of the year, give us your thoughts.

JOHN DALY: You know, it's been a tough break because I got sick in Hawaii and I don't know how I played that first round, then it carried over another week. This is really the second time I've played golf since Saturday at Hawaii. Felt better last week, but the weather was so bad in Clearwater we couldn't play. I'm rusty, so I'm not expecting too much this week.

Q. What did you think of the golf course, out there for 18?

JOHN DALY: This course is always in great shape. The greens are always good. Guys make so many putts here as they do every week on this tour. But the Florida swing's great because it's good bermudagrass, it's usually overseeded with rye. The greens are probably the best we play on all year, you know, here and Naples and Houston. I'm a bermuda guy, so they're always -- those type of courses are always, I feel are always a good chance because I feel like I can putt bermuda pretty good. I'm just a streaky putter, you never know with me.

Q. I know you played up in Jake's event up in Vero Beach. Just talk about your offseason a little bit, just how much did you play?

JOHN DALY: I did, I got away from it quite a bit. But doing Jake's thing, it's such a great cause. Jake doing the concert raising more money for his kids and what he's doing there, it's just great to be a part of it. You know, Jake's just such a great guy, the whole family.

No, Vero Beach is one of the nicest towns. It's real quiet unless you want to get loud. No, I love that guy. He's a dear friend of mine. We've known each other when he had the long hair and I had the mullet, so that's how far me and Jake go back. He did a great job, his whole staff did for raising all that money. Especially the concert, it was awesome.

Q. How aggressive can you play this golf course?

JOHN DALY: It's tough for me. I have to hit a lot of hybrids off the tees. I think I only hit driver like five or six times today. It's a tough course for me, but I love the condition of the golf course. And for me, if things don't go well I just try and work on the long irons and just try and get ready for next week, just trying to get something out of it. It's more of a drawer's golf course and I'm a fader.

Q. Talk about how tough it is to play out here. You've got a guy like Retief Goosen,

every week it seems like you get tougher fields and more competition.

JOHN DALY: Yeah, with Stricker coming out a couple years ago, this tour's getting stronger and stronger every year. With Retief here, Ken Duke. I mean, Ken, got bless him, he's not the longest hitter in the world but he's one of the straightest. He's going to kill this tour the way he putts.

It's great to see some of my buddies that I played the tour so long with being out here long, got some dinners to go to. Some of the guys that are out here now that are in their 60s, I didn't really get to know them as well. They played the tour kind of before I did. So it's kind of seeing some of my buddies get out here and being able to hang out and have some more fun.

Q. This course, this tournament was in jeopardy a little while ago as to whether or not it was going to stay. They've been good to you, you've been good to them. Just how important was it to keep this on the schedule?

JOHN DALY: It's always important. Here and Naples are the two hardest tournaments to get in besides Hawaii because I think just about every Hall of Fame guy plays, which is great for the tournament. It's a tough one to get into. I think I got a sponsor's exemption this week and I think for next week, too.

I love the Florida swing, I always did on the regular Tour. I love the golf courses in Florida. Like I said, put me on bermuda every week, there's always a chance that I might do something decent because I'm a bermuda guy. But the golf courses are always in great shape, so we all love it.

Q. John, do you like hole 7, kind of a fun hole like that where you can kind of get up there and grip and rip and see what happens?

JOHN DALY: Yeah, it's more -- I mean, even for us old guys, some of us can hit long irons on that green. It's probably kind of a regular par-3 for the PGA TOUR now, but it's a risk-reward hole. If you can get it going -- if you're not playing good, that hole you can get it going on. If you are playing good, you want to keep it going. It's just a matter of the tee ball. You get something around that green, you can get it up and down and keep going.

Q. I know you talked about Hawaii, your health coming in here, but any sort of big picture goals when you think about 2019?

JOHN DALY: No, I gave up on goals. I'm not going to be a ranked player ever again or anything like that. I just want to come out, enjoy it. Just even for us, we want to try and get better every week. If we can get a rhythm where we can get some confidence, this game, especially out here, I mean, putting and chipping is the ultimate out here. We don't play the long courses the tour does, but we play golf courses that these guys from 125 yards in are just, they're incredible and they're tough to beat. That's why, besides Bernhard, you don't

see a lot of guys just winning a ton of tournaments every year. So it's very challenging, it's very competitive and it's a lot of fun.