

**KENNY PERRY (-8)**

---

**Q. So what did you have going today?**

**KENNY PERRY:** I birdied three in a row. I started on hole 10. Yeah, 10. I birdied 11, 12 and 13 right out of the gate. So that really got me in a good frame of mind, got me off to a good start.

I eagled 17, I made a putt off the fringe there to put me 5 under. Knocked it on 2, which was my 11th hole, in two and had a good chance to make eagle there, made a birdie. Just played steady. I drove it nice, made some good quality putts, and I think I only missed one, maybe two greens today in regulation, so I had a lot of opportunities and I hit a lot of fairways. Got a good score out of it.

**Q. How long was the putt on 17?**

**KENNY PERRY:** The eagle putt? It was probably a 20-footer.

**Q. 20-footer?**

**KENNY PERRY:** Yeah.

**Q. Were you chasing O'Meara? Did you know he was 8 under through nine?**

**KENNY PERRY:** Uh-uh. What did he shoot? I never saw a leaderboard.

**Q. Oh, you're tied with him.**

**KENNY PERRY:** Oh, okay. I didn't know what was going on. I was just playing golf.

**Q. Given the conditions out here, do you think it's going to require a really low score to win this tournament?**

**KENNY PERRY:** Oh, yeah, it always does. It always does here. Perfect weather, I mean, there's no wind. It was like, you know, chamber of commerce day out there, it was beautiful. This weather's phenomenal, considering where I came from in Kentucky. Nice to be in the warmth.

**Q. What was the weather like back home?**

**KENNY PERRY:** Lots of rain, cold and rainy. We had a lot of rain last week, but I did spend

a little bit of time in Vero Beach, Florida, to go practice a little. I went down there to Bent Pine and did some practicing before I got here, so that really helped out, paid off today.

**Q. You missed the start of last season?**

**KENNY PERRY:** Shoulder surgery.

**Q. Shoulder surgery?**

**KENNY PERRY:** I did.

**Q. And you missed this tournament. How long were you out and when did you start feeling better?**

**KENNY PERRY:** Six months. I didn't hit a ball for six months.

**Q. Oh, wow. What was the injury?**

**KENNY PERRY:** Called AC joint in my right shoulder.

**Q. That's just a wear-and-tear type deal?**

**KENNY PERRY:** Getting old.

**Q. What was it like not being able to play for six months?**

**KENNY PERRY:** Actually, very nice. I didn't feel guilty, I didn't feel guilty, and so I never done that in my 30-something years. I'd never gone any length of time not hitting a golf ball, so that was definitely --

**Q. So when you started hitting them again, did you feel rusty?**

**KENNY PERRY:** Oh, my word, it was horrible. I hit a hook. I was hitting a 40-yard slice. I was way over the top of it and the ball would start way left and slice. I had it all on camera, it was the craziest thing I've ever seen. It took me a long time. I got with my teacher, Matt Killen, and we worked a lot to get my club back dropping inside like it always does so I can swing right to left. It was a challenge. I thought, well, this is it, I'm done, I'm going to retire. A lot of hard work and I got it back, I got it back, the KP hook.

**Q. How long would you say it took you to -- from when you first started playing again until you felt like yourself?**

**KENNY PERRY:** A good two months.

**Q. A good two months?**

**KENNY PERRY:** A good two months of hitting a lot of balls. It was ugly. I was really out of whack.

**Q. So how rewarding is it then given all of that to have a pretty good year last year and then come out here and shoot what you did today?**

**KENNY PERRY:** Yeah, you know, it was neat to get to the TOUR Championship playing half a year. I thought that was a pretty good accomplishment, to get to Phoenix. Then I've been playing -- I took my top-50 all-time money, so I'm playing some on the regular Tour this year as well, and so that's been good.

I haven't made a cut yet out there. It's been pretty difficult. But yet I love the competition and I like seeing the young kids again. Been hanging out with J.B. Holmes and Justin Thomas, my Kentucky boys, a little bit. And Josh Teeter. That was good to see them again. It's all good. Heck, 58 years old, let's be realistic about this deal. It was a good day today.

**Q. You're very active with charitable work. Given that this tournament, I think all the proceeds go to charity, how does it kind of dovetail with some of the stuff that --**

**KENNY PERRY:** Well, the Tour in general is great in general, period; the PGA TOUR as well as the Champions Tour. They raised I think \$550,000 here last year, phenomenal. We need to get it to a million. We need to figure out a way to get more money and grow the purse if we can.

It's all good. Anytime we can give back and help people in need, it's a good thing.

**Q. Kenny, anything you did with -- you mentioned Justin and the Kentucky guys. Anything you did with those guys when you were playing out there?**

**KENNY PERRY:** Just played practice rounds with them and I found out how short I am. It was a phenomenal driving show, how far they hit the golf ball. It just made me say, well, you know -- what was the funniest story was in Phoenix this year I was paired with Joaquín Niemann. He's 19 years old and I'm 58. I looked at him and I said, "Realistically, I'm 40 years older than you." He got a big kick out of that, started laughing. He hit it 30 yards by me easily in the air. I mean, it was a clinic how far that kid could hit a golf ball. But that's the future of golf and it's fun to watch.

**Q. You were the longest hitter out here last year, weren't you?**

**KENNY PERRY:** No, I don't think I'm the longest out here.

**Q. Yeah, you are.**

**KENNY PERRY:** Brandt Jobe, he's probably the longest on any given day, you know, in

hitting golf balls.

**Q. Are you hitting it as long now as you were before the surgery?**

**KENNY PERRY:** Actually, came back okay from it. Yeah, I have good power still, so that was good to see.