ROUND 1 INTERVIEW February 28, 2020



JOHN DALY (-6)

Q. How would you sum things up for today?

JOHN DALY: Made a lot of putts today. I made some -- I think three in a row that were probably over 150 feet, so a lot of luck today. I just put a new set of irons in, I like the way they feel, and I just rolled the putter really good today.

Q. So you really kind of got things going on I guess your back nine today. Once you make one or two of those, do you sort of feel a little bit of momentum or confidence?

JOHN DALY: You do at a normal course, but this course, you know, the greens are really good and you've got to hit some good shots into them because they're pretty firm. It's hard to get a ball real close. That's the way we always like it here. I just made so many- 20 and 30-footers today that, you know, that's about all I could sum it up with. I didn't hit it bad, I just didn't hit it close. I just made some putts. It's hard to do, it's hard to keep doing that, so hopefully I can maybe hit a few more greens and get a little closer.

Q. Statistically, I think you drove the ball pretty well today.

JOHN DALY: Drove the ball well, yeah, except for 17. But even if you hit a good drive there, it ends up bad.

Q. Where did you go on 17?

JOHN DALY: I actually hit it out of bounds. Then my third one after the tee, I killed it, caught the tree, went right behind it, chipped out, got up and down for bogey, so that kind of saved the round. Then I make a good birdie on one -- or I missed the one on one, but I made a good birdie on two, three, four and five, just kind of kept going, started hitting the ball real solid.

Q. You have not played particularly well at this tournament the last couple years. What do you think it will take to sustain this type of play over the course of the weekend?

JOHN DALY: The greens are really good so you've got to putt good here, that's what these guys are best at. I'm probably just an average putter. I'm not one of those guys that can do that every day; some of these guys can. And I rely on my ball-striking more than anything. If I can hit a couple greens and hopefully make a couple, you know, get some confidence, I'm just a "feel confident" player. When I roll a couple in, I got a little confidence. The greens, they're real consistent, they're a great speed today and that's -- you feel like you can

always putt good here because the greens are really good.

Q. Did the wind affect you much early in the day?

JOHN DALY: We had about three or four holes that it was blowing pretty good. Other than that, it kind of died down, so it wasn't too bad.

Q. How would you describe the state of your game coming into this week?

JOHN DALY: Well, in Naples I really hit the ball good, just didn't score well. Here I hit it pretty good and scored pretty good besides making a few putts. But I like the way I'm hitting the ball. If you can hit fairways and wedge up some pretty close, and getting a few gimmees here and there always helps, too.

Q. Would you expect the final score at the end of the day to be around like minus 20 based on how the course is playing and where the leaders are at right now?

JOHN DALY: I don't know. What's leading?

Q. Minus 7.

JOHN DALY: It's amazing. I come here because I love the golf course and love coming here. I can't see myself shooting 20 under par for three days. Four even, don't think I could in four. You know, it's just amazing how good these guys are. These guys can putt so good and I just don't see 20 under. I would be happy with 15 and see what happens, you know.