



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: KENNY PERRY & SCOTT HOCH
April 20, 2011

MODERATOR: We're here with Kenny Perry and Scott Hoch. Scott, welcome back to the Champions Tour. You played your first event in a while last week and you're going to play with a good friend of yours making his first appearance at the Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf. Opening comment from each of you about playing in this event.

SCOTT HOCH: Well, it's the same as all the other team events we played together, I'm always the one hurt and he's the one in good shape. He's always had to hold me up. I hope he doesn't this time, but I felt pretty good last week. It held up. Funny thing about last week is I didn't notice that the Legends was this week, I thought it was next week, so I thought I had a week off in between. I was really surprised on the range last week when I found out I had to play two back-to-back weeks. I was counting on an off week.

But I feel pretty good, didn't feel any worse after last week, but the thing is, Kenny and I played a lot and we won the Shark Shootout when all I did was keep score and that's the way I liked it. But I think I can do better. I'm not in as bad of shape as I was then but he doesn't need much help.

MODERATOR: Kenny?

KENNY PERRY: I always look forward to playing with Scott. We've got a good friendship, our wives are good friends, Sally and Sandy. I'm very comfortable with Scott Hoch.

SCOTT HOCH: He's laughing.

KENNY PERRY: We just mix and match. I think you've got to have a little chemistry out there and we've always had that. We've played team events in California, I forget the name of that deal was when we played in California, but we did well there. We won the Shark Shootout.

We've played a long time together and we've been great friends and I always looked up to Scott because my career always paralleled his career. We had a chance to win majors, couldn't get it done. We've had good careers, lot of longevity and I always looked up to Scott for that, how he always worked, how he always made lots of money and he was always very consistent. I always admired him for how consistent he was week in and week out. If he wasn't winning, he was always top 15 in a tournament top 20. He's just a very consistent, steady player.

SCOTT HOCH: I think you're going to make me cry.

KENNY PERRY: It was easy for me and I've always just enjoyed playing with him.

MODERATOR: Can you maybe detail how your friendship got started?

SCOTT HOCH: That's a good question, I don't think anyone else would play a practice round with me. I think that's how it started.

KENNY PERRY: We started playing practice rounds together.

SCOTT HOCH: We just had the right timing. We'd either come in later, we'd get in just in time for a practice round later or we played early; not like Tiger early, but we just set up and enjoyed playing and good practicing together, because part of practicing, getting ready for the tournament I think is what works best for me is not really going and playing some money games like a lot of guys do, because to me, that's more like tournament competition was good, but I like to practice the course, hit chip shots, putt, and it's kind of hard to do that.

We pretty much had the same outlook as far as practice rounds and we'd just go out there and learn the course and just have a good time. I mean, it's hard enough for the four rounds that you're playing competitively to be grinding even in a practice round. So we lined it up a little bit and we just played a lot of practice rounds together, that's how it started. How our first practice round started together, I don't remember that. I don't remember when we started playing, but for a long time we played a lot of practice rounds together.

MODERATOR: Okay. We'll open it up for questions. Jodie, do you want to start?

Q. Kenny, can you just talk about the state of your game right now and where kind of you are?

KENNY PERRY: It's not very good. I really got into some swing problems, I don't know how I got there. I mean, I played great in '08, '09. '10 was just a decent year, I only missed like one cut all year, I made 24 out of 25 cuts or

whatever, but only had one top 10. It was like a gradual decline. It hit me right when I turned 50. It was like my lower body completely shut down for whatever reason. I just quit swinging at the golf ball like I used to swing at it.

So I hired Ron Green, the guy who helped me in 2002, '03, and '04 to get me going again, and 2006, and all we did was put up my swing the last seven years and he has a big teleprompter deal and split-screened me and he showed me what I was doing this year as opposed to what I used to do the last seven years I did so well, and I saw some major problems, major issues in my golf swing.

So I'm working on it. I'm actually hitting the ball a lot better. I'm still not quite where I need to be. It's going to take me some time to get comfortable. It's funny what I used to do and what was so natural that now I'm having to do and it feel very uncomfortable. It doesn't make sense to me, but that's where I am with my golf game. I'm chipping okay, he's helped me a lot on my chipping and putting.

So my game's not very good, to tell you the truth. I played okay last week. In Tampa I shot 67, which was the best round of the year for me so it was very encouraging, but then I had two mediocre rounds Saturday and Sunday. I'm hitting bad shots at the wrong time. When I was playing well, it just seemed like you needed to hit -- to execute that good shot you needed to execute. Well, right now I'm not executing very well, but I am hitting better shots. I'm seeing the ball come out the part of my eye, I'm starting to pick it up where I used to pick it up when I was playing good golf. Hopefully I still keep working on the same problems I have and hopefully it will become natural and instinctive and I won't think about it anymore and I can start playing golf again.

Q. I think I saw somewhere early in the year where you said you had a new grandbaby. Is that the first?

KENNY PERRY: My first, yes. He's two months old now. He was born February 21st to my oldest daughter, she's 26. A little boy, they named him Rowdy James Harris and I call him RJ. It's a treat for Sandy and I. It's hard to believe we're old enough to be grandparents. I always kid her, I'm sleeping with a granny now. She gets mad when I start teasing her about that.

SCOTT HOCH: She just got in today because it's Tuesday's play day, I found out.

KENNY PERRY: Yeah, my daughter started to go back to work part-time, go back to her job, so now it's Sandy and my son-in-law's mom are keeping Rowdy. It's been a blessing. He is such a cute kid. And they're lucky, he sleeps from 12 to 8 every night. I was like Lesslye, the one, she was terrible. We would get up -- I'll never forget one tournament I came out the door 6:30 or so and the people next to me stuck their head out the door and told me You kept me up all night with your child, and it was Lesslye. She didn't sleep much. She was colicky, crying a lot, and I didn't get much sleep with her. I said, Look at that, you treated

me like that and now you've got a kid that sleeps all night? It's just not fair. He's awesome. I look forward to spending lots of time with him.

Q. Nathan Dornitz from Savannah Morning News. Welcome back, welcome back and welcome. Kenny, can you talk about the transition from the PGA Tour to the Champions Tour? Does 2009 seem like a long time ago for you?

KENNY PERRY: Not really. It's hard for me to believe I'm out here, I'm old enough to even be on the Champions Tour.

My deal's been, I played my best golf in my 40s. From 2000 to 2010, those are my best years on the Tour. And it's like I've had trouble adjusting because I've been at the top for so long and now all of a sudden I'm over here and I'm like I feel a little out of place.

I feel a little -- a lot of these guys when they turned 46, 47, they have a couple years that they're not playing full time on the PGA and they have a few years to get their game ready for the Champions Tour, but I just went straight into it. I love the guys out here, though. I love the stories. Hale Irwin last week, it was so funny, in the locker room they had the tee times up for this week's pro-am and they had the Wednesday one up first and then they had what I thought was Tuesday written down. I looked at Hale and I said, Hale, do we play the pro-am on Tuesday and Wednesday next week?

He's looking and scratching his head and he's trying to figure it out. He goes, You dummy, they left the H out of Thursday, they spelled it T-U-R-S-D-A-Y, whatever. He said, They just spelled it for you to be able to read it and you can't even read it right, so he was giving me a hard way to go.

That's what I've enjoyed about this tour, getting to hang out with the guys I really looked up to, admired, they kind of made me who I am. Getting to compete against them again and listen to all those stories, that's been neat, so I'm really enjoying it.

It's a lot more relaxed. I played poorly at Houston last year, I'll never forget, John Cook came over to me and he said, Well, you know what they say on the Champions Tour, and I had just shot 75, a million. He says, Good luck on the weekend. Well, that's true.

So anyway, it's been a treat for me. I like it. I think it's going to give me a lot of chance to kind of put my swing under competitive mode and see if it's going to hang up to where you'll see me back and forth. I've still got three more years exemptions on the regular tour, so I may not be full time over here. I'll be committed over here probably than the regular tour. I always still play Colonial and Memorial and I love the Hartford, or the Travelers it's called now, and

Phoenix. You know, just certain places I've always gone and I just enjoy the people and the tournament. But I'm just thankful for the opportunity to play out here, it's been a treat.

Q. Scott, have you given him advice at all because you've taken the Tour, so to speak, a couple of times?

SCOTT HOCH: Yeah, I've been out here so much this year -- no, I really haven't talked to him. I had to convince him to come play out here. I checked with him earlier, probably end of last year, about playing. He says, No, I don't think so, I don't think I'm going to be playing -- he didn't even know what the tournament was.

Then I saw him at Bay Hill and I had already been through a couple partners, I think, that are you going to be able to play for sure? I said no, I don't know for sure that I am, but when it looked like I was going to be able to start playing and I asked Kenny around Bay Hill time and he wasn't playing very well and wasn't enjoying himself on the regular tour, I just said, Look, let's just go out there and have fun. You're missing having fun playing. It's no fun unless you're having fun. I said, Let's just go out, not worry about how we're playing and just like we did at the other tournaments that didn't have any pressure, like Shark Shootout. Let's just go out and have fun. He said, Let me go check, got to check with the boss, and got a call back in a couple days and lucky for me, he decided to come out here, and probably since he did that, he probably played Tampa because of that, too. They've got the advantage of getting him there and I'm lucky to have him as a partner. It was coming down to the wire and I had checked, there were some partners there, and I didn't go with the express intent to check and see if he wanted to play because he already told me he wasn't interested in playing. But when I kind of put the thought in his mind again, the way he's playing, let's just have a fun week instead of the grinding and not playing well like he had been.

So lucky I have him and we've been successful, and most of the time he has me, I've been hurt. I mean, in December, that's after the Tour ended and I'm probably in my worst shape when I've had difficulty, I've been hurt, but I'm not hurting right now, I'm just kind of -- this week at least as of right now. So I think I'm going to help him more than I did probably for the other tournaments where we finished higher and I didn't help him very much.

The competition is strong. I think he found out two things different when people come out here, I know I did. The competition's a lot more than you think it is when you come out here and the courses are longer than you think. He doesn't need to worry about length, that's one thing. He's always been long so that's why he can still compete on the regular tour.

People say, Oh, yeah, you're going to go play those 6,700, 6,800 yard courses. I said, yeah, we don't play many of those. They're pretty long and some of the

courses aren't easy and the Tour staff that set it up very easy, and when they do that, you get some of the older guys that complain, they set up too hard now. So that's the one thing that our staff has the problem with is how do you set it up to be competitive for the say 50-, 52-year old, but then for the 65-year olds that are still playing so you don't get them barking too much.

You know, it's one thing about it, he said, You come out here, you just have a better time. One thing I noticed on the regular tour, make a double bogey, almost feel like you're out of the tournament and you're upset or whatever. You come out here, make a double bogey, oh, well. It's not -- you make your bones on the regular tour, but out here you just enjoy what you've accomplished and just continue to try to have fun and play some winning golf if possible.

Q. You just mentioned the kind of numbers you need to put up out here, right?

SCOTT HOCH: Well, yeah, the competition, that's what I'm saying.

KENNY PERRY: That shocked me.

SCOTT HOCH: The competition is much better than you think it is. When you're 48, 49, you see these guys and some of them you know you've beaten pretty good on the regular tour and then they beat you out here. They beat you to the senior tour and then all of a sudden they're winning and doing some stuff, so when you come out, oh, this can't be that hard.

It's different. You come out here, because you're playing courses a little shorter and there's not as much pressure involved, so some of the people that didn't -- that you beat before on the regular tour, all of a sudden you come out here, wow, they seem to be playing better than they did on the regular tour. So the competition is fierce,

And one thing about in an individual tournament, you have to start early. You can't go out there and just try to keep your pace and then get it going and get hot. You have to start going from the beginning. I didn't learn that until about the 8th or 10th week I was out here. Finally I said, man, I've got to go out there and try to start strong at the first hole, go through pins from there on, and you do because three rounds people can play without too many mistakes so you've got to go low.

Q. Kenny, you just said you were shocked?

KENNY PERRY: Yeah, the two I played at Houston and San -- you know, Freddie shot like 19 under at Houston. That's the Woodlands. We played a Tour event there forever and now it's a Champions event.

I was tripping. I was like, whoa, 19 under, and then San Antonio the next week was the same kind of deal and that was the only two I played. Then I finally played last week and got on a golf course that was very severe. It had a lot of tough angles and a lot of roll-offs and it was a golf course you had to be very calculated on and you had to really play percentage golf and not be too aggressive, and it showed only nine under plays off to win the golf tournament. I like more of those kind of events. These 19-under putting contests have always been kind of hard on me on the PGA Tour. Seems like I always played well when it was 8 to 12 under won the golf tournament. I was always kind of hanging around in those tournaments. I have to change my mental process a little bit. I've got to get into the mode a lot quicker, a lot faster. It's definitely more of a track meet out here. You've got to really be ready to go come Friday morning.

SCOTT HOCH: I called him after the first two weeks and he was like, I've got to get back on the regular tour where I can play well.

KENNY PERRY: Yeah, they ran me off in a hurry.

Q. Kenny, can you talk about obviously with the Senior PGA coming up in a month or so, what do the majors -- a major's still a major. Talk about your drive, and then Scott for you after he finishes, the drive to win one on the Champions Tour.

KENNY PERRY: Definitely it's huge for me. I've come so close and I've been able to seal the deal on my majors, and it's at Valhalla, it's at home. I had a great Ryder Cup experience there and I lost the 96th PGA in a playoff there to Mark Brooks, so I've kind of got a love-hate relationship with that golf course. The fans are great. Kentucky's starved for golf. The guys are really going to be enjoying it. We'll have huge galleries, which is going to be neat. My dad is going to come again. We've already got it set up to have a golf cart for my dad to follow me around.

SCOTT HOCH: New overalls.

KENNY PERRY: Yeah, he'll be in his bib overalls. The Ryder Cup deal, I went in a week early and prepared, practiced and played the golf course over and over and really got ready. So come Ryder Cup week, I kind of went in the gallery while all my buddies I was playing with, I let them stay focused on getting ready for the tournament, where I was always signing autographs, throwing these pins, Zinger gave me a bunch of pins to throw to them. I didn't really do a lot. I hit a few balls, but I was ready to go.

I played beautiful that week under all that pressure, which told me I could do it. I made more birdies that week than I ever made in my life and it was an incredible fun week. It was one of the funnest experiences I ever had playing golf. I don't know what to expect when I go back there. My game is in such disarray right

now, that's frustrating for me. I'd like to go in there and feel confident about my golf game.

I love Jack Nicklaus golf courses. I always seem to play well on them, but when you're not hitting the golf ball where you think you can hit it and where you're looking, it gets pretty difficult because my game's always been based on tee to green, I've never been great putting and chipping. I always hit a lot of fairways, a lot of greens, but I'm working on it. That's why I hired this golf instructor and I've got a month still to get ready for it and so hopefully I'm going to be firing on all cylinders when I get there. If not, it's still going to be a great experience. I'll probably have to get 200 tickets and I'll have a lot of family and friends there, and to me, it's just great being able to play in front of the hometown crowd.

Q. On trying to win a major out here, it's no different than on a regular tour, just the drive to win one?

SCOTT HOCH: I think, well, I might be alone on this, but to win a major, once you go off the regular tour, it's not quite the same. Obviously you've won a major, you're playing against the same guys, but as far as how people look at it, it's not the same as winning a major on the regular tour. That's the top of the hill right there. It's a big tournament, I mean, our biggest, and since this is our tour, I mean, these are our biggest tournaments, so I look at it that way as a bigger tournament, but it's not -- to me it's not the same as far as getting up for a major like we did on the regular tour.

I mean, I would love to win one and it would feel great, but it would not -- it would not count -- to me, it would not count the same to have won a major on the regular tour.

But like I said, it's -- you know, a guy playing baseball or whatever, you have little league, pony league, you have different levels and if you win the top tournaments at the level you're at, that's all you can do. I just consider, you know, a really big tournament and sure I would love to -- you've got the U.S. Opens and stuff like that, but on the Senior Tour or Champions Tour, I found out that Birmingham, that's a major. I just found that out this week. I didn't know whether I was going to go or not because that was a long kind of open course before that we played. I didn't know that we changed courses.

I've been out of the loop for so long and when I'm out of the loop -- as a matter of fact, I stopped getting my golf publications because I didn't read them read or stuff like that because the more I read or whatever, watched TV, the more I missed playing. So I kind of not shielded myself, but I watched tournaments when my friends, whether the Senior Tour or regular tour, were doing well, I'd would watch them, but just to watch, I didn't. I didn't read really much about it, but man, I don't know -- if I look at it, I watched a tournament this past week. I didn't even know who they were on the regular tour. The guy who won it, in the

last group, what? Is this the European or is this the Nationwide? I didn't know these guys. That's not because them or the Tour not promoting them, it's just I haven't paid -- it's just been my personal choice not to pay that much attention because the more I did, the more I missed the game.

Q. When you were out of the loop, he was talking about his Ryder Cup week, did you watch that?

SCOTT HOCH: Oh, yeah.

Q. What did you think about what he was -- everything that was going on?

SCOTT HOCH: I knew this was huge for him. Family, friends and everything, his faith, that's what he's all about. I mean, that's what he is and I knew close to home that was big, it's always been big.

And just like if I played tournaments close to my home, it would be. If they have a tournament, whether it be the Ryder Cup or the PGA, a big tournament there, sure, that would fire you up and it was great watching him play that well.

But I tell you, as hurt as I've ever been and watching golf or being part of golf was obviously me losing Augusta and then the second one was watching him not win Augusta, what was it, two years ago?

KENNY PERRY: Yeah.

SCOTT HOCH: Right there --

KENNY PERRY: I told you, we have similar paths.

SCOTT HOCH: I thought he definitely had it. That's about as hurt as I've been. After watching that I just felt, you know, empty. Not like Van de Velde, watching that and just oh, my God, what did he just do, but to have such a close friend be right there at the pinnacle and then it just didn't happen.

Q. Scott, you mentioned all the body parts came back okay through playing last week. Wondering just your assessment of how your game went after three rounds?

SCOTT HOCH: Well, I think I probably had six 3-putts, which I don't do, but I wasn't really able to putt any because I was supposed to come back two weeks before and I wrenched my back.

I've been having problems because I've been putting and stuff, and when you haven't done anything in the shape I'm in, things tend to go wrong and it did and my back locked up so I couldn't really putt any.

Then I get there on Saturday and I made four bogeys on Saturday when the wind was blowing and all of them were with wedges. I feel I'm a very good wedge player and to do that was ridiculous. Three of the four bogeys I hit on the green and 3-putted. I didn't even get them close enough to 2-putt, the other one I missed the green.

So I had -- the problems that I had, that's something I don't normally do. So the rest of the time I actually played pretty decent and my fourth day is when I did very poorly, but that's from not playing

Also, I found out today, I kept coming up short and it was windy and everything else and I didn't know if it was the ball or what but I was playing a new type of ball. But I checked my wedge and actually for some reason it's about two degrees more loft than it should have been, I mean than I thought it was, and the rest of my -- all my wedges have been in the past and I don't know why because all I did was take my clubs out after about a year's hiatus. They're still in my bag, I played with the same ones I was playing with. The things I usually do well, I didn't. Everything else was okay. I hit a lot of good shots, made some birdies, I got going the first day and then I promptly, after being 3-under after 9, I go to 10 and my thumb gave away on me and I fanned it right, just landed in the water and I made double bogey from there. Other than that it seemed to be wedges or 3-putts that cost me the bogeys from there on out and I finished 24th or 25th.

So not playing for 14 months, only playing two rounds in 14 months before I got there, I guess that's pretty good. I mean, I was more pleased that my hand -- it felt weak but it didn't feel much worse than how it started. That was going to be a problem if by the time I got through after the three rounds, actually four rounds, four rounds in five days, if my hand was worse, then that wouldn't have been a good sign. I'm still going to have to take time. I mean, I don't know if I'm going to be able to play a full schedule or play two weeks might be my max, I don't know. I'll just have to see. I'll have to find out later. It's nice how they rearranged the schedule to work for me this year, some open weeks in there.

Q. You kind of mentioned at the very top, with the game, I'm curious how many times you were mistaken for Calcavecchia.

SCOTT HOCH: I've been kidding people, it's been in the news and the magazine because I told somebody that, that Tiger came to the range the other day at Isleworth and called me Calc; how ya hitting it, Calc? Haven't seen you in a while.

it just kind of spread and there was some articles written this last week that said I'm a junior Calc or something like that, a mini Calc. Anyway, I guess it's time, since I have a reason to start getting back into shape, I will. Every time I was getting into shape, I hurt myself or I broke my collarbone or something like that. I finally said the heck with it and just enjoy drinking good wine and eating. It's an expensive gut that I've got. I'm going to have to get rid of it, I need to, but it was fun putting it on, I'll tell you that. But it has been funny. I've kind of been the cause of that because I told people in interviews that Tiger was kidding me and other people, and Calc came up there -- I am a mini Calc still.

Q. You say they're paired together on Friday? Is there going to be any confusion among the partners?

SCOTT HOCH: No, no. Calc might have been like this size in high school. It's big for me now, but I'm still a small Calc right now. He does his so he can hit it farther, his was planned, he did it on purpose.

Q. Like one of those Russian weightlifters back in the '70s.

Q. Scott, can you itemize your injuries, both golf-related and not golf-related, for us as briefly as possible?

SCOTT HOCH: Well, let me see. I've lost four tendons. I don't have -- I'm minus four tendons in my hand. They replaced one in my left hand. All my surgeries are fine. Gosh, as far as the order, I was ready to come back -- well, let's just go back from about 22 months ago, U.S. Open, I mean Senior -- Champions Tour U.S. Open. I was playing really well and I had to withdraw because I tore the last little bit of cartilage that I had in my wrist, I found out, and it was bone on bone. So then they went in there and shortened the ulna, the bone here, they shortened the bone. It wasn't beating right against the other bone. That was it. I was coming back from that, coming back from that and then I ruptured a tendon in my thumb helping my parents move.

Then I played in Naples last year and I hit a shot fat the last day, maybe seven holes to go. I finished third. I had only played one round of golf then until I got down there in seven months, finished third in the tournament and I was just holding on at the end. When I hit the shot fat I hurt my hand and that's what I mean by just holding on, it was really hurting. I couldn't play the next week, found out I ruptured another tendon. So that bothered me for a while and it didn't get any better. I ruptured it enough and it's still hurting so they had to go in there and get rid of a tendon.

Then I was getting in shape to come back last year maybe end of August, September, getting in shape and I got forced off the road on my bicycle and broke my collarbone in a couple spots. So that's why I decided to -- my wife had told me about depression eating many years ago because of hormones with her,

but now I understood what it was. I said, Why even bother? I keep trying to get ready, get in shape, break my collarbone. So I couldn't do anything, so that's when I started putting all the weight on.

Then I should have been able to come back at the end of this year but the inactivity from the year and a half with my thumb, got arthritis in my left thumb and that's what's causing me the problems now. What I had surgery on seems to be holding up. The little bit I'm playing, seems to be holding up all right. That's just what's happened in the last two years. In the last 22 months, ruptured two tendons, had an ulna shortening. Oh, and about two months ago, got stung by a stingray, too. What else -- that wasn't fun. That was some pain involved there, but luckily that didn't last too long.

Q. (Inaudible.)

KENNY PERRY: I'm going to stay away from him.

SCOTT HOCH: I have enough injuries for the both of us, so it's all right. Hopefully I've turned the tide and my hand's just going to get stronger and my thumb's not -- hopefully it's going to get a little stronger. But the surgical, all that that I had done, seems to be holding up okay. That's not hurting me so much as really my thumb that's giving me the issue and I haven't had surgery on that, so hopefully that will just dissipate just by activity rather than before it's inactivity, arthritis or whatever got in there and was causing a lot of pain right at the base of the thumb.

One thing, I can make do with a lot of different stuff, but if I have pain in my thumb or my hand, you can't do much at the top of your swing because it just makes you flinch and everything else. I'm still doing a little bit of that every now and then. If I get rid of that, then I might be able to play and be fairly competitive out here again.

MODERATOR: Good luck to both of you.