



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: KENNY PERRY

Saturday, August 27, 2011

MODERATOR: Okay. Kenny Perry, 4-under 68 today, 7-under for the tournament including an eagle at number 18, a good way to finish. Just a little bit talk about your day.

KENNY PERRY: Well, it was going smooth until 14. I hit the prettiest second shot I can ever remember, telling it to go in the hole from the fairway and it ends up unplayable in the hazard over the green and I have to go back and hit the shot again, so that was pretty interesting when you're posing and make double bogey. The course took it away from me but then it gave it back. I made an unbelievable eagle on the last hole, holed a bunker shot, which is a one-in-a-million shot. You've got a 30-foot face bunker, green sloping away from you and it takes two hops and Michael Jordan -- it just dunks. I didn't see it but they said it just jumped right in the hole. But all in all it was a great day. I drove it nice. You've just got to kind of be patient out here, I guess patience is the word, you just plod along.

This course doesn't give up much. It's hard to hit the ball close to the hole as firm as the greens are. It's like a mini U.S. Open in my opinion. It's a very severe test out there, you can't get away with any poor shots. You've got to get it in the fairway to be able to put enough spin on the ball to keep it around the hole, and then to keep it around the hole's pretty tough. So I was definitely pleased with my round to shoot 4-under.

MODERATOR: Birdied number 1, do you remember that shot sequence?

KENNY PERRY: Driver, 4-iron, two putt, knocked it on in two and had about a 30-footer and two-putted.

MODERATOR: And 5?

KENNY PERRY: I hit a 3-wood and 8-iron to about three feet.

MODERATOR: Number 8, par 5.

KENNY PERRY: I hit a driver and 9-iron to about 10 feet left of the hole and missed it for eagle and made a birdie, two-putted. 13 I hit a pretty 8-iron probably to 15 feet. Then 15, I hit driver, 5-iron into the front bunker, blasted it up to about three feet. And then 18, driver, 5-iron, sand wedge.

MODERATOR: How far was the bunker, did you say?

KENNY PERRY: The bunker shot? It was probably a 30-yarder, I would say, 20-yarder up the bunker. I was in the very front of the bunker, I had to go over the whole, whole bunker. It was just a swing and hope when it went in.

MODERATOR: How about 17?

KENNY PERRY: I hit a 5-iron, landed in the middle of the green, rolled long into the fringe and then I hit a poor chip out of the fringe and two-putted.

MODERATOR: Questions?

Q. On 14, you asked a rules official to come back?

KENNY PERRY: Well, because when I dropped the ball it rolled toward the hole and I didn't know -- since -- it's been a long time since I had to go and replay a shot and make a drop like that. He told me I could -- if it went closer to the hole I had to re-drop it. So I dropped it twice and then placed it.

Q. How do you know exactly where you were?

KENNY PERRY: My divot from the previous -- I saw my divot from the previous shot.

Q. Kenny, your second shot on 14, where did it land and how far did it roll?

KENNY PERRY: I had 142 yards, I hit a beautiful 9-iron just right of the flag and they said it landed, I don't know, 10 feet short of the hole. I just think it's perfect. I'm saying go in the hole back there watching it, and when it hit, the ball looked like it jumped higher than the flagstick. When it hit the green, it went higher than the flagstick. It was just right in the hazard or whatever that cliff -- that's not even a hazard, they don't have it marked.

Q. And how much green was there?

KENNY PERRY: There was probably 20 feet past the hole. I'm counting the green and there's a little bit of fringe there and then the cliff. It's pretty interesting, that's an interesting hole. I mean, I don't see anybody -- if anybody went for it, there's no way you could make that ball stay on the green if you went for it off the tee as firm as that green is.

Q. You saw the ball -- you didn't have any decision to make, you just knew it was unplayable?

KENNY PERRY: Yeah, because it's a straight cliff back there. You couldn't hit it if you wanted to and it's thick, it's real heavy trees and vines and brush. If anybody hits it there, you're going back to where you hit your first shot.

Q. So you didn't even try to find it?

KENNY PERRY: Uh-uh. Well, that guy, he saw it go in there. There was a guy sitting in a chair, as soon as it went in there, he jumped out of his chair and he was right on top of if and he still couldn't find it.

Q. Somebody said they saw a ball?

KENNY PERRY: I bet there's a million balls down there.

Q. How well do you know Russ and what's your history with him?

KENNY PERRY: Russ was always the man in Paducah. I went to Lone Oak, he went to St. Mary's and I want to say he's either two or three years older than me. When I was a freshman, he was always the man at Packson Park where we grew up and I learned how to play golf. It was always fun for me to tag around and watch him play and watch -- everybody was always -- in the clubhouse, everybody was always talking about Russ, Russ, Russ is going to be this or that, so it was always pretty neat to go out and watch him play golf. He was that much better than all of us.

Q. And then he had not a great career but now he seems to be blooming?

KENNY PERRY: Good for him. Well, he got hurt. He's had hand injuries and elbow -- I don't know what it is, something that's really plagued him the last, you know -- and now it's finally gotten healed. He's probably playing better golf now than he did when he was playing on the regular TOUR. So it's a shame, if you get hurt, it's hard to play. It's hard enough to play healthy, but if you've got any type of problems, it makes it tough.

Q. (Inaudible.)

KENNY PERRY: No, I just -- I just wore what I felt like wearing today. I guess I'll wear it tomorrow, too. I went to Western Kentucky, I didn't go to UK. I'm a Hilltopper. That's red. They're probably all mad at me today if they watched the TV.

MODERATOR: You guys okay? Thanks, Kenny.