



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: JOE DALEY
Sunday, July 1, 2012

MODERATOR: All right. We'll go ahead and get started. We would like to welcome our 2012 Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS champion Joe Daley to the interview room here.

Joe, congratulations. If you could just maybe start us off talking a little bit about the day and then we'll go to questions after that. If you can use the mic, that would be great.

JOE DALEY: Minor details.

MODERATOR: Exactly.

JOE DALEY: Wow, I was so focused on what I had going on next, I really -- jeez, I can't -- I stop and analyze my rounds after I get done and I go back to the hotel and I sit down and do my all stats. All I was keying on was what I had next with the best possible attitude and kept my emotions under control. Had a little adrenaline going later in the round and I dealt with it pretty good, so here I am.

MODERATOR: Obviously your first victory on the Champions Tour. Just talk a little bit about what this victory means to you. I know you were a little emotional down on the green for good reason. Just talk about that and then we'll open it up for questions.

JOE DALEY: Well, like I said when you asked me the first day, the other day, it gets me in next week, which I'm playing next week, so that's big for me instead of going to Monday qualifying. And it just opens other opportunities to go out and play and prove how good I can be and compete against these guys because these guys can play. It just will be a continuation of the process of more competition and playing great golf.

MODERATOR: Thanks. We'll go ahead and go to questions. If you could use the microphone, that would be great.

Q. Joe, first of all, congratulations. The birdie putt on 18, describe your approach on that putt and what were your emotions when the ball sank in the cup?

JOE DALEY: Wow. Well, I brought my caddie, Patrick Keefer in, and I owe my thanks to him, especially for helping me read these greens here. I said, Are you looking at that

two and a half feet? Yeah, okay. I picked my spot above the hole because I knew it was going to break to the fall line hard right and I had it with the right speed and it went in, so wow. What else could I say? It's a downhill bender. I mean, it picked up a little speed and then fell in the right side of the hole, so it doesn't get any better than that for me.

Q. How far was that putt?

JOE DALEY: That putt was 41 feet.

Q. Yeah, Joe, I was wondering if you could talk about your birdies on 9 and 10, go through them, and how critical was that to sort of taking control there and holding on to winning?

JOE DALEY: I'm trying to remember 9. 9, hit a good tee shot, hit it just left of the hole, had about a 12-footer there. Patrick and I read the putt right and I had good speed on it and made it.

And then 10, drove it in the left and I had 111 pin, but the tree was in my way and I just knew it was still sand wedge out of the rough and I hit sand wedge out of the right fringe, hit it 14 feet, putting right down the hill and we read it and there wasn't much break to it and I made that one. I actually hit a very good putt on the next hole down the hill, but the greens are getting super crusty and they were quick and I left that one short. The next one I left short, but I left the next one short on 13, too, but it's what it is.

I mean, these greens, the ball can get away from you. You saw what it did on the last hole. Although I had a lot of fringe on the last hole, I was like get this thing to the hole. The greens are tough. I remember the memories here of playing Oakmont across the river and the Field Club across the street and man, that was back in the early '80s and those places beat me up and slapped me down hard. Drove all the way back to Philly thinking, man, what the heck, what was that all about. But I learned and it helped me this week, too.

Q. (Inaudible.)

JOE DALEY: On No. 9, No. 9 I hit gap wedge, my 53-degree.

Q. Joe, you talked about staying focused. Did you look at any of the leader boards? Were you aware of what your partners were doing as you were going on, and also after the birdie putt at 18 what did Freddy say to you and Calc?

JOE DALEY: Oh, he congratulated me on my win. I did not know -- I asked my caddie and he told me that all I need to do is make par and that's when I figured, well, I'm getting this putt right here from the front fringe to the hole and I had, you know, a 20-footer coming back, but it is what it is, I went for it, so it paid off. Oh, Freddy congratulated me.

Q. What did he say?

JOE DALEY: Oh, man, I can't remember, I can't remember exactly what he said to me, but it was a good, kind, positive thought and it meant a lot.

Q. (Inaudible.)

JOE DALEY: No, not with my competition, not them. I'm my own competition, have been for years.

Q. Congratulations. From a different perspective, Philly guy, you're waving a Terrible Towel. Take me through that, but Philly Pittsburgh (inaudible.)

JOE DALEY: Oh, no, it was all good karma for me, man. Everybody here has been great. I root for the Pittsburgh teams when the Eagles and the Flyers aren't doing so good, so yeah, it's all good. I'm a fellow Pennsylvanian.

Q. Joe, you mentioned the greens were getting baked. On the back nine, did you feel you had an advantage playing for par where the other guys maybe had to take some chances?

JOE DALEY: No, I was actually trying to make birdies, I was trying to make more birdies, but jeez, the conditions were such that you know that you can't be so bold because we all did it, you might have 6, 8, 10, 12 feet coming back if you do get bold and it's just a testament to the golf course and how well they prepared the golf course and how demanding it was to play.

Q. This does mean you get in next week, but does it mean much more to you just because of how big this win is and how much you sort of strive for this kind of result throughout your career?

JOE DALEY: Oh, absolutely, I always strived to get better and improve, whether it's working out or a certain degree of practice and play and eating better and making sure you get enough sleep and just all the elements it takes. Once you get to that point, then you've got to do more mental training and know that you're going to be up against tougher competition and you get beat and you have to keep a good attitude so you keep improving incrementally and then move on to the next competition and that's what I've done over a period of time and actually devoted my time to getting better and identifying my own personal weaknesses and then trying to get better at them and I'm making progress.

Q. Along those lines, what has gotten you to this point? What have you improved to be able to play as coolly as you did today?

JOE DALEY: The keys for me, it preparation and my preparation is a couple elements. I play, I practice, I modified my practice a lot, I work out every day, and one of the

tougher things to do on the road is to eat well so I feel better and I have more energy. I had my protein drinks, I had two of them out on the course today and six pieces of fruit and that keeps my blood sugar relatively level for me because I'm expending a lot of energy out there. But those are just the elements that help me. When I do that, it's no guarantee, but at least I'm on the right track. I know there are certain things that I can control and those things I can control and in turn that leads to better performance.

Q. Would you mind just briefly running over your background. You're from Philly. Did you live there your whole life, did you relocate, go to school there?

JOE DALEY: I graduated high school in '78, I went to a community college for a couple years, and then I moved to Virginia, went to Old Dominion, played on the golf team as a walk-on, and then after I got out of school, I worked there, I worked in the lending business. And then I got another lending job up in Annapolis, Maryland, and they moved me to South Carolina. And then I quit that job in '91, turned -- no, '92, and then turned pro -- I turned pro in '91 before that and then moved to Florida, played, played the mini tours, got better. Went broke a couple times, worked waiter jobs and whatever I had to do to get it done and I got better, got my Tour card in '95 and I've had status ever since.

Q. (Inaudible.)

JOE DALEY: No doubt about it, man. I thought I moved to a different country when I moved to Virginia. How y'all doing. Oh, my gosh what did I do. And then the food turned out being good, the people were really nice, so it all worked out.

Q. Two questions here. First of all, when you did decide to turn pro, what was the (inaudible) that made you do it, and also you mentioned Oakmont and the Field Club. When were you here playing those two courses?

JOE DALEY: I'll answer the second question first. I played the Pennsylvania Amateur in 1980 at Oakmont and I played the '82 Amateur at the Field Club.

And the first question, it's ironic because I went on a skiing trip up in Vermont. There were all these people there, they were skiing and I was working in an office, and these people, all they wanted to do was ski and they worked at this resort and I thought to myself, I'm doing the wrong thing. It took me a while to figure out how to do it, but I just saw that these people were doing what I wanted to do and they loved it, so I thought to myself that's what I need to do, so that's what I did.

Q. It's obviously the biggest prize of your career. Can you talk about if you at least in your head spent some of it already and what on and how it will change -- have you at least thought about something you want to buy maybe as a celebration for this and how will it change your lifestyle as far as how you travel on the Tour?

JOE DALEY: No, my lifestyle's not going to change at all. Really what I want to do is pay off my mortgage.

Q. (Inaudible.)

JOE DALEY: New waders, too. My wife, we both need new waders.

Q. Joe, excuse me. The guys chasing you were two former British Open champs and a former Masters champ. Were you conscious at all of their stature?

JOE DALEY: Oh, absolutely, I've known what they've done. These guys are Hall of Famers and major tournament winners and I've been watching them, I've been studying them, too, to see what they do relative to how I can improve my own game. Fred is super laid back. Calc, man, Calc's laid back, too, but he's intense, he wants to make birdies. It's actually pretty cool.

But they're competitors and they're both very good competitors and gentlemen, and I very much enjoyed being with them. You know I couldn't have asked for a better day than today and have a round playing with them.

Q. Joe, can you talk a little bit about Fox Chapel, the course. I know you talked the course got a little crustier as the day went on, but as the week went on, did the course get tougher? And comments about Fox Chapel in general and the fans and such.

JOE DALEY: Oh, no doubt about it, the fans are great, everybody was great. Good, positive vibes from everybody, which helped me as I went along. I had my friends come in, my sister was here. It was all good karma in the right direction.

As to the golf course, yes, the golf course did get more demanding, plus the wind started blowing a little harder this afternoon, too, so that brings everything else into play when the wind blows harder. Plus the fairways were a little firmer, which equated to rolling out in places or taking a different line to hedge on the wind. And this rough is tough, especially right off the fairway because that's where the sprinklers get to so it's the thickest.

But the key was just for me was go out and pick a good line and make a good swing at it and move on to the next one and that's what I kept doing.

Q. How many times in your career have you been fully exempt?

JOE DALEY: Well, on the Nationwide Tour I was exempt numerous years because I won a couple tournaments out there. I was never exempt on the PGA TOUR, which was the difficult thing because you never knew when you were going to get in and then you start chasing the Mondays and it is what it is. That's just the way that system is set up. But on the Nationwide Tour I would have to say I was exempt probably six, seven years, fully exempt. But even when I wasn't exempt I still went to Monday qualifying

events, I still pursued it. It didn't matter, I went over to Australia and New Zealand whenever I could, Mexico, Panama, I always was willing to play, get a hotel, caddie and let's go play. I kept doing that throughout my whole career regardless of my status.

Q. (Inaudible.)

JOE DALEY: I don't know, I haven't thought about it yet. Well, yeah, I could see me playing out the year, throughout the end of the year, a full schedule based on the tournaments on the Champions Tour, yes, no doubt about it.

Q. You had a very good weekend at the Senior PGA Championship. Were you inspired though by Roger Chapman, sort of an unknown guy over here anyway winning?

JOE DALEY: Oh, no doubt about it, Roger can flat out play. I played with Roger a bunch of times last year in qualifiers and tournaments and that guy, he can flat out play. He's won a bunch of tournaments. Actually I played a tournament with him in Morocco years ago that he ended up winning in Rabhat and I didn't know he won until I met and played with him and he said, yeah, I won that. I said, you won that year? He's like yeah. It was one of the coolest tournaments I ever played in. Roger may not be known that much here, but he can flat out play.

Q. (Inaudible.)

JOE DALEY: For me personally, no. I wanted to get to that point, but then you throw in some injuries and some just mediocre performances which affects confidence and then it's a lot tougher. Then when you just put things in a better perspective that I learned from my friends like Andy and Cindy Stotco and Chuck Brittan, they're my friends that actually put me on a better page from a different perspective, reminding me of things to think about in a little different way and when I do that I was like, wow, I've got it pretty good. Even if I do have to go Monday qualify, that's okay.

MODERATOR: Anything else? Joe, congratulations again. Thanks so much for your time.

JOE DALEY: Thank you.