



ROUND 2
INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: TOM JENKINS
Saturday, August 25, 2012

MODERATOR: Okay, Tom. You shoot a bogey free 7-under 65 today, one off your age, and you appear like you will have the lead heading into tomorrow's final round. A very nice day obviously highlighted by the eagle at the 3rd hole. There's only been one other eagle on that hole in tournament history.

TOM JENKINS: Really?

MODERATOR: Congrats on that, but just talk about the day overall.

TOM JENKINS: Well, let's see. You know, I played a good round yesterday, but I missed quite a few -- I missed probably five or six putts inside 10 feet and I left the golf course not feeling real excited about it.

Kind of came out this morning and worked on it a little bit and still kind of struggling with it. I've been striking the ball very well the last couple of weeks and driving the ball well, hitting iron shots solid, and it just happened to kind of gel this week and I've been putting the ball in most of the fairways and not missing too many greens.

I parred the 1st hole, which was kind of disappointing. I had it right in front of the green, didn't get up and down. Then parred No. 2 and hit a good drive at 3 and a little soft 8-iron into 3 and took a -- it hit on the fringe, took a big old bounce about 10 feet up in the air, went in the hole. Stuff like that happens, kind of gets you jazzed up and kind of gets you through the start of the round.

The start of this golf course is pretty difficult. You've got a fairly easy par 5 starting out, but you've got pretty tough drives at 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, the par 3, is pretty tough. It kind of got me going.

MODERATOR: What was the yardage?

TOM JENKINS: I think 148. 148, I think, to 3. And then let's see. 6, parred 5 and --

MODERATOR: You birdied 4.

TOM JENKINS: 4, yeah. 4 is an extremely tough driving hole. Happened to hit a good drive and kind of hit a kind of soft cut 6-iron into the middle of the green. It caught the back shelf and went down about 10 feet and made that for birdie.

Parred 5, 6. And then 7, hit 3-wood and a middle sand wedge about 15 feet and made that for birdie.

And then hit a great drive at 8 and had 6-iron at 8 and kind of bailed out and hit it right of the bunker and had no shot and had to pitch it to the other side of the green and had a good two-putt from about 80 feet.

And then solid par at 9. 3-wood at 10 and 9-iron to about two and a half feet, made that. Parred 11, parred 12. You know, normal fairway, green, two putts. 13, 14, I hit 5-wood, 5-wood down the right side, and then had about a 54-yard shot and hit it about six feet and made that for birdie.

And then had it right in front of the green at 15, hit a good little pitch up about six feet short and misread it and missed that.

And then parred 16 and made about, I don't know, a 25-footer at 17 for birdie. I hit a 5-iron at 17.

And then 18, a drive and a 5-wood about 45 yards short. Hit a good little wedge in about 10, 12 feet and if my -- I hit a great putt, but if my caddie would have reminded me that if I had made that putt I would have shot my age for the first time, I might have focused a little bit clearer on that.

MODERATOR: Questions?

Q. I was going to ask you, have you ever done that?

TOM JENKINS: I have.

Q. Would that be a cool thing to do?

TOM JENKINS: Yeah.

Q. Would it encourage you to get old?

TOM JENKINS: You know, the first time I ever thought about it was right here five years ago, believe it or not. I was 59, 59, and the last round I shot 61 here and I happened to miss a couple of putts on the front nine coming in. But that was the first time I've ever thought about shooting my age. So when I turned 60 and 61 and 62, you start thinking more and more about it. But I've come close. In Pittsburgh this year I made nine birdies on Saturday and shot 65. I had four bogeys. You know, one of these days.

Q. Players 60 or older, do you guys feel bad about getting beaten up by the young guys?

TOM JENKINS: No.

Q. To what do you attribute that?

TOM JENKINS: 64, yeah. You mean how can I play as well at 64?

Q. Just how three of you guys (inaudible).

TOM JENKINS: Who is that? Is that Kite and Morgan, and I think Irwin? Is Irwin up there?

Q. Yeah.

TOM JENKINS: Well, there's -- the only way to explain it is that we're still in some kind of decent shape and still have maintained our flexibility and there's no major joint issues and back issues.

I've been pretty fortunate not to be in a lot of pain at this age and take care of myself somewhat. The whole key is flexibility, being able to have some kind of flexibility that you can still turn, you still have some core speed. As long as you can kind of maintain that. Some people can longer than others and I certainly am fortunate that I can play like this sometimes.

Q. 2006, was that your last win out here?

TOM JENKINS: Yes, at SAS in Raleigh.

Q. So it's been a few years. What would it mean to you if you can pull it off?

TOM JENKINS: It would be wonderful. It would be a thrill. I'm not saying I'm going to win, it's going to be difficult. I've been in a couple of situations this year after the first round and didn't handle it very well, certainly not having been there, and at this age, it's tough. The nerves are not as good as they used to be and

it's tough. Like I was telling people out there, I'm not really going to talk much about how I'm going to do tomorrow because there's a lot of golf yet, but if I can get on that 18th tee with a five-shot lead, I'll guarantee I'll win tomorrow.

Q. You're giving up a lot of years to some of these guys and I'm wondering how much do you give up like in terms of distance or other things?

TOM JENKINS: There's a lot of distance. This guy Calc and these guys hit it a mile. Kenny Perry hits it a mile. I still hit it far enough to compete. You give up a lot on the par 5s. I hit a 6-iron to 8 today. 64 years old, that's not bad. I had a little 5-wood into 15 that I miss-hit. I could have knocked it on that pretty easily.

As long as you are long enough that you're not hitting 3-irons at every hole at these hard greens, it's all about scoring. It's not about controlling the other guy, it's about getting your ball in the hole and scoring, and it doesn't matter if you can keep your mind on what you're doing. That's what it's all about. You know, it's great that these guys can hit it far. It's great for our Tour, it's great that they're playing and it's great to be able to compete against them. These are guys that, a lot of these guys I never really competed against because I was off the Tour back in '85 and some of them were just starting the Tour at that age, you know. So it's nice to be out here with them.

Q. (Inaudible)

TOM JENKINS: Right.

Q. Anything extra special?

TOM JENKINS: You know, I mean, Kite thinks about that, Gil Morgan thinks about that, Hale Irwin thinks about that, yeah. Like I said, I won't think about it until I'm on the 18th tee with a five-shot lead.

Q. It's been a long time since you've been in this spot. Do you ever have questions of, hey, can I still win again?

TOM JENKINS: Oh, certainly. There's a lot of anxiety about it, but all you can do is put yourself in the spotlight and see how you do.

Q. Are you surprised at your lead?

TOM JENKINS: No, no, I've got some good feelings about Snoqualmie and I've had my lowest round in my life here. It's a matter of if you can -- if I can stay in the moment for four and a half hours, great. If I can't, then it's tough, it's tough. It's a lot of stuff going on out there and in here. It's a lot of stuff involved. It's not

easy, but all you can do is tee off, get to that first tee and tee off and try to get into the round and get into it, you know. Making two on the 3rd hole's a great way to get into it.

Q. A lot of the guys your age aren't out here anymore. What keeps you out here?

TOM JENKINS: Well, I like doing it and that's really all I know how to do. This is what I've done. I have two small children, two great boys that are 12 and 9, and it's hard now to be out here. I like being out here playing, I like competing and it's nice that we don't have so many events that I can go back and be a dad and be with my boys and stuff. But it's fun. To me, it keeps you young, it keeps you motivated to stay in shape. If I didn't do this, I would go home and sit on that sofa and probably become a walrus or something, I don't know.

Q. (Inaudible). You knew you were putting for your age?

TOM JENKINS: No, I did not, I did not.

Q. (Question about caddie.)

TOM JENKINS: Probably not. I'd probably have three-putted if he had told me. It shocked me when I added up my card, I wrote in 65. There's two putts, 15 and 18 right there that are, you know...

Q. Will your attitude tomorrow be me against the course, or will it be against --

TOM JENKINS: No, it's me against me. It's me against me. Me playing, trying to play like I know how to play even at this age and try to keep the same swing thought going and try to stay focused on what you're doing one shot at a time, stay in the moment.

Q. And not worry about all those guys?

TOM JENKINS: Yeah. Talk to anybody and that's what they all say, that's the key. There's a lot of distractions out there and it's difficult to deal with if you lose that.

Q. Best finish since you won in 2006??

TOM JENKINS: I've had 9th place somewhere, I remember. It's hard to remember too far back.

MODERATOR: Tom, thanks a lot.