



**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT:
Sean O'Hair & Kenny Perry
Wednesday, December 11, 2013**

DAVE SENKO: Guys, thanks for joining us, Sean O'Hair and Kenny Perry, the 2012 Franklin Templeton Shootout champions. Sean, maybe get us started, talk a little bit about this event. You guys won last year. The fun of playing in this event with Kenny.

SEAN O'HAIR: Obviously it was a great memory last year. I think it was probably my best memory of last year. We ham and egged it pretty good. Kenny was just rock solid and I was hitting it pretty long at the time and we just kind of, like I said, just ham and egged it pretty good. This is a fun tournament just playing with somebody that you enjoy hanging out with. I think we both enjoy each other's company, which I think is important. It would be a long week if we didn't like each other. I just think our games compliment each other pretty well, too, so it's just fun to come out and play some golf with a friend and hopefully we have a good week.

KENNY PERRY: Yeah, I think the same way. Sean hits it 50 by me. My goal is to hit it in the fairway and turn him loose.

You're still hitting it long, aren't you?

Anyway, I hit 5 iron into 13, dogleg right par 5 on Sunday, I remember I hit a good drive. We'd have to hit 3-wood from my ball, we hit 5 iron from his ball. So to me it's awesome because I'm a pretty straight driver and if I can just get it in the fairway and turn him loose, we're going to have a great week no matter what. Win, lose, whatever, it doesn't matter. We both like old cars, we talk hot rods and we just have a great time. We compliment each other very well and it's just fun, whatever. We're going to stick the needle in all these other young teams and smile at them and hopefully we can beat them.

DAVE SENKO: Sean, how are you playing right now? I know you played four events this '13-'14 schedule. Maybe just state of your game right now.

SEAN O'HAIR: Sure. I felt like I played pretty decent the first two tournaments, the Fry's and Vegas event. The last two events, my ball striking was okay but my putter kind of got a little cold on me. But right now I've been working on my game pretty hard as best I can up in Philadelphia with the cold and snow and all that, but I feel like I've got a pretty good handle on things and the last couple days I've put some time in. My game feels good, my swing feels good and I'm rolling it pretty nicely, so look forward to a good week.

DAVE SENKO: Kenny, Player of the Year, Charles Schwab Cup winner, maybe just

reflect on that. You've had some time since you were announced, what that's meant.

KENNY PERRY: Well, you know, anytime you're voted on by your peers, Player of the Year, it was a tremendous honor. To me it was one of the greatest honors that's ever been bestowed upon me in playing golf. I led the FedEx Cup a few years going into the fourth tournament playoff and I fell back to 14th or 10th or whatever in the playoffs. Then finally to get in the Charles Schwab Cup, I had the lead and I had it for so long after I won the two majors. And that's kind of nice also to finally have a major attached to your name -- I know it's a Champions Tour major but in my opinion it's a major -- and get that monkey off your back.

You know that Tour, when you have Hale Irwin and Fuzzy and you have Crenshaw or Curtis Strange or Hal Sutton, you've just got all these great players, when they come up and they vote for you and tell you what a great year, these are the guys I looked up to my whole career, these are the guys I played against, I tried to beat, I tried to emulate and it was just an honor, it really is an honor for me to be able to -- I knew I could do it. I always failed on the regular Tour, so I assumed I was going to fail on the Champions Tour. I knew I was going to have a decent career out there, I knew I was going to win some tournaments, but to finally win some majors and to win Player of the Year, just a tremendous honor for me.

DAVE SENKO: What was the reaction at your club in your hometown?

KENNY PERRY: Oh, it's been great. We had parties. What was more special than all that, that was great, they've always recognized all that and they put signs up and everything, but I had my three kids -- all three of my kids are married, their better halves were there, my two grandkids. When I won the cup at Harding Park in San Francisco, they were all on the green with me when I had the Cup. To me that was probably -- that was a snapshot in time for me to have that. I think that's going to be our Christmas photo we're going to send out to everybody. That was way too cool.

When I won in San Antonio, the AT&T the week before the Cup, Charles Schwab Cup, my youngest daughter, she had just gotten married, they live in Dallas, she said I'm coming Saturday and Sunday to watch you play. I was doing okay and it really motivated me and it helped me, and she came running on the green on Sunday after I made the putt to win and she hugged me. She said, Dad, that's the first time I've ever seen you win. I almost started crying because I was like, Have I been gone that much, was I always away from you? It was such a moment in my life. I was like oh, my goodness, I can't believe, she's 25 and grown up and married and our lives have already passed us by almost. That was pretty special, too.

DAVE SENKO: Questions?

Q. Kenny, a little over a year ago you had a procedure done. When did it start feeling good? It must have been pretty quickly because --

KENNY PERRY: I had the surgery in February. When I had this done in 2006, I was on crutches for three days. When I had this one done in February, I walked out of the surgery, I walked right to the car. I was like, you know, this is not too bad, it feels pretty good. He told me not to play for six weeks or whatever, stay off of it, but I was not immobile. I was mobile immediately and he did a great job. Dr. Pinata (ph), he's the head physician for the Titans and the Predators back in Nashville, so he's a specialist in knees and elbows. He did a great job.

Q. You also talked about winning that major. You were in situations where you had the lead and lost it. When you win this major, I think you were eight shots down, so did that just add to the fulfillment of winning that first major?

KENNY PERRY: I think it relaxed me. When you're eight shots down, you're not thinking about winning, you're just playing golf. I shoot 71 the first round at Fox Chapel. I thought I love this place, this is my area. I've always played pretty good there. Then I shoot 63 the second round. I still wasn't very close, but then when I shoot 63 on Saturday it got me into the last group with Fred Couples and actually I could see what he was doing. I was two behind going into Sunday, then it was game on and I shoot 64 on Sunday to beat him by a couple and win my first major. It's up in his neck of the woods, so it's pretty special. Fox Chapel is a tremendous golf course.

Q. To win that second major, is it really true with what you were saying that it's easier?

KENNY PERRY: That's what I said, maybe the floodgates will open a little bit now now that I won one. That's a USGA event. To me that's pretty special, to hold your national open, that trophy. It's a traveling trophy I got, which is pretty cool to show everybody at the club and everything, and it was such an honor. We had 40,000 a day out there. To me it felt like a TOUR event. Omaha did a fantastic job with running the tournament and it was amazing, you know, to now have a USGA win, which got me -- now I get to play at Pinehurst. It gets me in Pinehurst next year, I get to play the regular Open. Then the Fox Chapel win got me in TPC, so I get to play the PLAYERS next year. So that's pretty special. It may not be very special when I show up at Pinehurst Thursday and they lengthened it like 900 miles and go, I don't need to be here. Anyway, it will be fun, so that was pretty special.

Q. Sean, can you talk about coming back here to a place you've won? Is it good when you're scuffling a bit to come back to a place where you've won and have a good feeling and hope that you can pick up on that?

SEAN O'HAIR: Yeah, you know, last year here was a great tournament for me. It's just a great week. I bring my wife, no kids, get away from the kids for a little bit, and I get to play with --

KENNY PERRY: Have more kids.

SEAN O'HAIR: Don't say that, man. We do not need another kid.

KENNY PERRY: You've got four as it is.

SEAN O'HAIR: But I get to play with a dear friend of mine, Greg Johnson, who's obviously pretty involved with this tournament, been for years. And then get to play with Kenny. I don't get to see Kenny much anymore. When he was playing on our TOUR he was one of my favorites to see. I would always stop and say hello and talk to him a little bit. I always enjoyed playing with him. It's just a very relaxed week, but too you can compete. This year, I mean, this field is probably the best -- one of the best fields here --

KENNY PERRY: I agree.

SEAN O'HAIR: -- I think. So this year's going to be really fun, I think, playing against some great players. I'm going to ride the stallion here. He's obviously playing pretty well and just see how it goes. I'm just looking forward to having a fun week.

Q. Kenny, have you been playing up home in the snow?

KENNY PERRY: Well, I got in Vero Beach last month -- last week. I lived in Vero Beach for five years, I worked at a club, Bent Pine. I got on TOUR in '86. I worked at a club there. So I came in last Monday and I was playing 36 a day with all the boys and put a lot of rounds in and lost a lot of money. I had to give way too many shots down there. But I played a lot of competition so I liked it. I was hoping to put the pressure on me to try to see if it will carry over and get me better and sharper for this week. Yeah, I've been practicing pretty hard.

Q. You do that every year, don't you?

KENNY PERRY: I do, yes, I always go to Vero.

Q. Then before the Champions Tour starts again?

KENNY PERRY: I do. We have a Kenny Perry Day at Bent Pine where we raise money for the Boys and Girls Club there and we also raise money -- that club is very unique because it raises money for kids trying to make the PGA TOUR. We've got Tommy Gibson and Brett Stegmaier. Stegmaier is on the Web.com, he has full status out there. This tournament, they raise \$50,000, \$60,000, \$70,000. Part of it goes to those two boys to help them financially on the TOUR. You don't hear of clubs raising money for kids who are trying to make it on the PGA TOUR, which I thought was a very awesome, great idea. A lot of these kids don't have money, they don't have money to travel. They're great players and to try to take a little financial burden off of

them and let them relax and play I think is a tremendous idea, so I love going there and doing that.

Q. One last question, Tiger won multiple tournaments and Stenson (inaudible) and the Fed Ex, but when it came to the Player of the Year, is it a thing the Player of the Year has to win a major or what's your opinion on that?

KENNY PERRY: Bernhard Langer, he beat me on money and he didn't win a major this year. I don't know how close the voting was, if he would have won a couple more tournaments. You know, he had the lead in five of the last six tournaments on Sunday and he didn't win any them going into Sunday. If he would have won two or three of those, it would have been very interesting to see who the Player of the Year would be because money total probably would have been probably a million more than I would have made even though I won the two majors. He won twice. If he would have gotten five wins, it would have been interesting. I don't think -- if you're asking the question, I don't think you have to win a major to become player of the Tour.

Q. On the regular TOUR?

KENNY PERRY: Are you talking about the regular TOUR?

Q. Both. On the regular TOUR it was Tiger and then it was Stenson.

KENNY PERRY: Winning a major or on the PGA TOUR is the ultimate in my opinion. That carries triple, quadruple higher than a regular Tour event. Yeah, I think you almost have to probably win a major on the regular TOUR to get Player of the Year.

SEAN O'HAIR: You know, it's a difficult question because when you look at a guy that won once, you know, and won a major, obviously a major's a major, we all -- I would rather win one major than 10 PGA TOUR events, but you look at a guy like Tiger who's won -- what did he win, five?

KENNY PERRY: Five times. He got Player of the Year. He didn't win a major.

SEAN O'HAIR: It's kind of hard to argue that he got Player of the Year. My opinion is I don't really think you have to, but you look at what Stenson did worldwide after winning the Fed Ex and then winning the European Race to Dubai, that's incredible and that is extremely hard to do. I think as far as world Tours is concerned, I think Stenson was well deserving of the Player of the Year for all tours. The year that he had is just incredible, very similar to Luke Donald winning both Orders of Merit and the money list. That's my opinion.

Q. This is for both of you. Along those same lines, with what Zach Johnson did Sunday, you may have already experienced this in the last year, but do you

have a dream shot or do you have -- or is that still yet to come do you think as far as what you would consider a dream shot or have you already achieved that?

KENNY PERRY: If my ball would have stayed in the hole on 16 today to win that Mercedes, that would have been my dream shot. It hit the stick, it didn't go in.

SEAN O'HAIR: That's a good dream shot. You know, I don't know if I've hit my dream shot yet. I think, you know, I hope at some point I'm fortunate enough to win a major and I think that last putt on the last hole will probably be my dream shot when I realize that one of my long-time dreams came true. But that hasn't happened yet, so I don't feel that that's been the case for me.

Q. Have either of you ever done what Zach Johnson did last Sunday, hole out a shot on the final hole to win a tournament or go to a playoff like he did?

SEAN O'HAIR: No.

KENNY PERRY: If I would have shanked my first ball into the water like he did, that next one would have definitely not gone in the hole like he did. Mine would have missed left of the green because I would make sure I didn't shank that next one.

DAVE SENKO: Are you guys okay? Thanks, guys.