

3rd ROUND INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: KENNY PERRY
Saturday, May 17, 2014



DAVE SENKO: Kenny, 69 today, 7-under going into tomorrow. Maybe just some quick thoughts on your day and we'll get your four birdies and one bogey.

KENNY PERRY: It was a nice day. It was a very enjoyable day. I was thankful for the sunshine to kind of warm me up out there. I like playing when it's hot. I don't much care for that northwest wind. That southerly wind today was a lot nicer. Hit the ball beautifully today, was in very control of the driver, irons were nice, putted okay. So it was just a similar round as yesterday, kept it in play, made a couple putts here or there when I needed to. Nothing outstanding, but I just played very consistent, very steady golf today.

DAVE SENKO: Birdies, start at No. 3.

KENNY PERRY: I hit a driver and a 5-wood in the left bunker and hit a bunker shot to about two feet.

DAVE SENKO: And then par 3, No. 8.

KENNY PERRY: I hit a beautiful 7-iron to probably 10 feet behind the hole, made that.

DAVE SENKO: Then 12 and 13 back to back.

KENNY PERRY: 12, I hit a beautiful 7-iron to probably 12 feet straight up the hill, and then I hit a 5-iron on the next hole very similar to about 12, 15 feet right at the hole straight uphill. Two identical putts.

DAVE SENKO: And then 16 you had the bogey.

KENNY PERRY: I pulled a 5-iron in the left bunker and blasted long and missed the putt.

DAVE SENKO: Any critical saves on any holes?

KENNY PERRY: Well, I think the save on 17 was pretty good. I knocked my first putt about eight feet by and made about an eight-footer for par. I bogeyed 16, ran my birdie putt by and I made a beautiful putt coming back to kind of keep the momentum with the round going.

DAVE SENKO: Questions?

Q. Seems like the leaderboard was all over the place and some of the guys that you were playing with were struggling, too. What was your kind of take on that? Do you pay attention to that?

KENNY PERRY: Well, it's just a hard golf course. I think this golf course kind of dictates -- it doesn't let you get away with any poor golf shots. You get a loose shot here or there and it's easy to make a quick double just in the blink of an eye. There's a lot of trouble out there. With the swirling winds, we had northwest winds the first two rounds, we had a southerly wind today, and it was a lot more comfortable to me playing with the southerly wind than a northwest wind. Just seemed like the course played better for me. With ball in hand, mud balls, if you're not driving it in the fairway out there, you're playing mud balls out of the rough and they'll go anywhere. It's very dicey. So to me it's a premium that you get that ball in the fairway off the tee this week. If you can get it in the fairway. You'll have a chance at being aggressive and you can get ball in hand, clean it, set it down on a good piece of grass and be aggressive with your iron shot. So it's very important that you drive it well this week, and I drove it beautifully the last two rounds. I just hope I can drive it like that again tomorrow.

Q. As you just said about the course and everything, how hard it is? What does that kind of set up for tomorrow? You had 66 today.

KENNY PERRY: Well, exactly. You can shoot that number. It's very possible to shoot a 66 out there, but then it's very easy to go in the other direction, too. It's a great golf course, it really is. It tests every part of your game. There's a lot of different looks out there, there's a lot of water, a lot of hazards, trouble. It's a mental game. So yeah, I mean, I would be happy with another round I shot today. I might not win, but it would be nice to shoot in the 60s again tomorrow somehow.

DAVE SENKO: Kenny, have you gotten more comfortable now with the driver?

KENNY PERRY: Well, I'll tell you what I did this week. I've been playing one driver on Thursday and I put a brand new driver in play on Friday and drove it good. Then I drove it good again today, so this driver kind of reminds me a little bit of the driver that was destroyed by Delta Airlines, so this one seems okay. It seems like my misses are more in play. My other driver's actually longer, I hit it a long ways, the other one than this one, yet it's lose. It can go 40 yards right or left. It was very scary to play with that driver. So very happy with this driver and we'll see. Hopefully under the gun tomorrow I'll drive it as good as I did today.

Q. Just as a cautionary tale, you had a driver destroyed on a flight?

KENNY PERRY: Um-hmm, sure did. I just won my two majors and I flew from New York to Seattle to play the Boeing and pulled my driver out and the driver was destroyed. It was snapped at the neck and the head was destroyed as well. They

must have jumped on it. I don't know what they did to it. They killed it. I've struggled ever since. I did win the AT&T at the end of last year to kind of hang on and win the cup, the Charles Schwab Cup. And I haven't played very well this year, either. So I've been fighting driver woes. Hopefully this is a turn in the right direction and this driver's going to solve my problems.

Q. How are you going to get this driver home?

KENNY PERRY: Well, I went and bought two two-and-a-half inch dowel rods and they're taller than my driver so they're in my bag now everywhere I travel. So if they turn it upside down and slam them on the ground, they're going to hit the dowel rods first and save the driver.

Q. You referred to Saturday when you spoke yesterday as rocking chair day. Where did you get that term?

KENNY PERRY: The moving day.

Q. You said rocking chair day, did you not?

KENNY PERRY: I don't know. I just heard people call it the moving day. I heard them say rocking chair, whatever. I've just heard that terminology used. I like it. It's definitely a day I went from third to I'm in the lead now, so I need to kind of do the same thing again tomorrow.

Q. Obviously you kind of rocked the course in terms of making your ascent. How do you continue your steady play?

KENNY PERRY: Well, you just got to approach it one shot at a time. That old cliché, you know. I've done this for 30-something years, hopefully I've figured something out in 30 years and I can be patient. You've got to be patient. Some days you wake up and, you know, I just woke up, I didn't do anything different and I can't play a lick the next day. It's just golf. It's a game you can only control for a short period of time. You've just got to go out there and fight, dig and scratch and just try to make as many pars as you can make and sneak a birdie in here and there.