

**ROUND 2 INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT:
FRED FUNK & JEFF SLUMAN
Saturday, June 7, 2014**



DAVE SENKO: We would like to welcome Fred Funk and Jeff Sluman, currently I believe tied for the lead at 14-under. Fred, if you want to just get us started, give us a little rundown on your day. It looks like five birdies and a bogey, 4-under.

FRED FUNK: Well, the highlight of our round was our bogey. It really was. We were, what hole was that, four in the alternate shot and I was up -- first time I didn't go to the tee with Sluey and I was down by the green talking to Calc watching him and actually I didn't see the ball. I went to the gallery and I said where did it go. It went in the water. I said oh, crap. So I had to walk all the way back to the drop area and take a 9-iron and I hit it in the back bunker. And Sluey, you know, we thought making five, maybe six, and he holes it so we make four. That was by far the most excited I've been and I've been pretty excited about some of the things we've done already, yesterday some long putts and today. So that four was huge. So it's pretty funny and ironic that our bogey was actually a highlight.

JEFF SLUMAN: An inspiration.

FRED FUNK: It was. So we walked to the next tee, felt like we pretty much just kept the momentum going and I think we birdied the next two holes. I think we made three birdies in the alternate shot. And then in the afternoon in the best ball our goal was just to try to always have two shots, have 18 shots at birdie. That's always your goal in best ball format, keep both guys in the hole. I don't think we were ever both of us really in the hole until the eighth hole and -- eight and nine. We make one birdie and then I made the birdie on nine and it felt good, which was our 18th, but it felt really good to finish that way.

Again, I was really surprisingly relaxed in the alternate shot. I just feel like Sluey's playing so well, he's hitting his lines, he's a great chipper, a great bunker player, and I just feel really relaxed with him this week. Probably the most relaxed I've been in a few weeks. When I've been playing on my own, I've been a little more uptight. So obviously in this format you don't want to let your partner down and that's the pressure of having a team event and more pressure when you're playing an alternate shot format, but it just felt good today even with all that wind. We knew the scores were going to be pretty tough out there to shoot a low number, so I felt really good about it once we got some momentum going.

Slu made a great chip on one right out of the gate. I left it 10 yards short of the green and he hit a great chip up to a couple inches, almost made it. I was like, okay, that was good, because we could have started off with bogey pretty easy there. Just went from there, so now it's your turn.

JEFF SLUMAN: Did you take a breath?

FRED FUNK: I don't know.

JEFF SLUMAN: What do you think?

FRED FUNK: I can talk well, I learned that.

JEFF SLUMAN: I think Fred and I being friends from mini tour days back in the early '80s, rooming together, you know, trying to honestly find a way to make a living at the game, 30-something years of competitive events and friendship. It's great to be his partner. He's the all-time bulldog. If I'm in a foxhole, I want this guy next to me because he's going to fight and fight and fight and that's what you want in your partner.

I think both of us not only embrace the golf course and the concept of a par 3, but we embrace the format change from last year. You know, it's fun, it's exciting, it's vibrant and we're jazzed to be here and to be playing Johnny's dream and that. That helps when times get a little rough out there and you're not making anything and struggling a little, to have such a, I would say, really great attitude, both of us, about being here and all that.

DAVE SENKO: Before we get some questions, birdies, No. 2?

FRED FUNK: First round?

DAVE SENKO: Yeah.

FRED FUNK: Yeah, Sluey hit it in there about 12 feet.

JEFF SLUMAN: Yeah, 12 feet, I made it there. Then the bogey.

FRED FUNK: Hit maybe 23 inches behind a 7-iron and dribbled it in the water it seemed. It was terrible. Sluey hit it in pretty close on the next hole on No. 5.

JEFF SLUMAN: No, you did.

FRED FUNK: No, you were on.

JEFF SLUMAN: Then I hit it in close on 6. I kept it out of the water this time. So that was it for that. On the best ball side, Fred birdied No. 2 and birdied No. 9. As he mentioned before, we just didn't -- just didn't hit enough quality golf shots in the wind in the best ball to really make a whole lot of birdies. So making two birdies, obviously not happy, but you can look in the mirror and say we really didn't have a whole lot of

great chances.

DAVE SENKO: How far was the putt on No. 11 that you made?

JEFF SLUMAN: Fred hit it about four feet.

FRED FUNK: No, I was about eight feet.

JEFF SLUMAN: Looked like four to me, though. 18 was probably about a five- or six-footer. I have to tell you that was an unbelievable shot. The wind was howling, it was kind of coming in and abating, and we had just seen Steve Lowery hit what looked like a good-looking shot short of the green and Calc pulled it left and I kind of punched it in there a little long and that's the worst thing you can see. You can't get any read off the first three guys. And Fred stepped up and hit really the shot of the day to get us to 14. That was a beautiful shot.

DAVE SENKO: What was the club?

FRED FUNK: 7-iron.

JEFF SLUMAN: We met Johnny for the first time on the tee, too.

FRED FUNK: I told him he misplaced a couple rocks.

DAVE SENKO: Questions?

Q. After you played the par 3 course once, any strategy changes that you can talk about for tomorrow that maybe things have changed from when you were strategizing for today?

JEFF SLUMAN: No, no changes, just try to play the best we can and I was just trying to go at every flag and trying to get as close as I could. I was probably a little nervous on 3, the pin was back in that -- they've got some really tough pins for alternate shot. Three was back in the back left corner, and 10 yards left of that green or less is just hay and hazard. So I'm going for it anyway. I hit a great shot in there and that one turned out really good. So I just tried to do really this format, just try to set up your partner as much as you can. The problem is you just don't get any rhythm. You're out there driver, driver, a wedge and hitting enough shots that you kind of know what you're doing. There's long pauses in between, sometime 15 and 20 minutes between hitting a full shot and we're not used to that. You just have to manage that and hopefully we'll be as good as we were today.

FRED FUNK: One of the hardest shots was the short shot on No. 2. The wind is just ripping and you're only hitting an 80- to 90-yard shot but it's so elevated. And the wind, you just don't know when the ball's coming down or where it's coming down.

Just very difficult to judge it.

And then the other part of what Sluey was I think inferring, not only we don't have any rhythm, but we're not even hitting full shots of whatever club. We're always trying to work it down or it's less than a full shot like it is on two or a couple of the other ones in the middle of that front nine or nine holes. Because there's so much wind, you know, you're always trying to create a shot, you're not just launching it.

JEFF SLUMAN: And most of the shots are from an elevated tee. And the wind, you're trying to kind of buzz these shots in and take a little spin off of them. So all these little things are happening and I think you can see that in all the scores.

FRED FUNK: It is the first course I ever felt I could totally overpower, though, if I really wanted to.

JEFF SLUMAN: You felt so good you didn't carry a driver.

Q. Talk a little bit about Top of the Rock and where this course compares to maybe some of the other courses.

FRED FUNK: There are no comparisons, there's nothing like this anywhere in the world. The amount of money that was spent to build this thing, nobody's going to do that. It's unbelievable what Johnny's passion is for his community and just the will to want to do something like this and create something like this. It's over the top. Everything's over the top from the time you drive in and see the driving range to the unbelievable clubhouse to this chapel we're sitting in, and then the par 3 with -- I mean, how's he think, I want to put another rock over here? You look at it and just go, wow.

JEFF SLUMAN: As Fred said, I don't think you'll ever see anything like this anywhere else. He's such a great ambassador for the Branson area and what he's done obviously for the community and then bringing us here. Hopefully there will be large charitable donations going into the community. And how many people does Johnny, through all his buildings and stuff, employ? You can tell he loves this area and wants people to see it. I can't wait to come back.

FRED FUNK: This concept was not that long ago when it all started to come together, within months really, and it's still a work in progress, and I know next year's going to be a lot different picture than we have this year. Everything's going to be done more than likely. It's amazing what's happened this week with things that weren't there the night before and they're all of a sudden there the next day. So it's an event I think is really taken a pretty good hold in the community early and I think we can really grow this thing into something really special and I guess market the idea of a par 3 and go out there and have an unbelievable experience in a nine hole setting. If you want to play 18, great, but you can play nine holes and have a great

experience in an hour and fifteen or hour and a half.

JEFF SLUMAN: It's a great way to get people involved in golf. We all know the issue of time now for everybody. It's tough to dedicate five, six hours on the weekend for a lot of people. I mean, to me it's amazing he recognized that and put something in that was so great that capitalized on all of the issues that golf's facing right now.

FRED FUNK: Buffalo Ridge is beautiful, too. It's a beautiful golf course. Unfortunately it's just under water right now pretty much but it's still playable. We got the miracle of having yesterday's round finished was a blessing and then having a break in the weather today to get our two rounds in, so that was really important to get that done. Sometimes we look back and think how did we get this tournament in, but they managed to do it. It's a lot of work for a lot of people.

JEFF SLUMAN: My last thought, to a man, I think every professional says how unbelievable the whole Top of the Rock is and everything and they say we can't wait to come back next year after a year of maturity and see what happens in 365 days, so we're excited to be here.

FRED FUNK: I think it's in April next year.

Q. I know that you visited C of O and I was wondering kind of what you saw of the campus and everything out there because I know you did some PR work out there.

FRED FUNK: That was amazing. What a great idea to have a setting where the students can work their way through with their tuition and work on campus and learn other trades.

The one girl I remember that had an impact on me was she started in the culinary part back in the kitchen and then she worked waiting tables and cooking and preparing all that, so she learned that aspect of it.

Then the next semester of it she volunteered for the dairy farm and she said she absolutely loved that. Now she's doing all the gardening where she's growing all the fresh vegetables that they actually use in the kitchen. They learn that part, and while they're working, it pays for their tuition. It was great. We went there and actually had lunch the other day. It was great, we had a great time. From what I understand there are seven of those schools.

JEFF SLUMAN: They had a great article by the way in the Journal three weeks ago that I read and showed my wife and she was amazed at the college and what goes on there. It's spectacular.

