

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: KENNY PERRY
Saturday, June 28, 2014

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Just sort of take us through your day if you could.

KENNY PERRY: Great day. I was all go, I was ready. I went birdie, eagle first two holes and I'm thinking man, we've got to go. You know, I end up making an eagle, six birdies and I made three bogeys. I made two really bad bogeys, one was a three-putt and another one was a poor drive. But all in all it was a great day, I thoroughly had fun. I was looking forward to getting out there and trying to see if I could back up another 63. I shot well enough to get it to where I can at least be in the group with Bernhard tomorrow to kind of see what he's shooting out there. So everything's playing out just like last year. I was behind Freddie Couples going into Sunday last year, so hopefully the results are going to end up being the same.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Do you just want to sort of take us through the round a little bit. You got off to a fast start with a birdie and an eagle.

KENNY PERRY: Made about an eight-footer, driver, sand wedge on one, and then driver 6-iron to about 10 feet on two. Then I bogeyed three, I hit it in the front bunker and then I didn't get up and down. Then I birdied five, I hit a 4-iron and a pitching wedge to about three feet. Then I birdied seven, I drove it in the left greenside bunker and blasted out to about 10 feet. I made a bad bogey on eight, hit a beautiful drive, hit a 6-iron about 20 feet from the hole and I run it about two feet, three feet by and I missed a little short one coming back on eight.

Let's see, then I birdied 10, I hit a driver and a 9-iron to about 15 feet. Then I birdied 11, I hit a pitching wedge to about 10 feet. Then I birdied 14, I hit a good drive and a pitching wedge to about four feet, five feet. Then I bogeyed 16, I hit it up against the tree down the left side which I didn't even think there was even trees over there, I don't know how it got where it did, and had to chip out and didn't get up and down. Then I parred the last two holes.

Just need to make that a little bit better tomorrow, clean that up a little bit and put some pressure on him. But I don't know, he's liable to get too big a lead today, I don't know.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Just go to questions.

Q. Kenny, you're in a very similar position, as you said, to last year. Does that help you going into this final round at all?

KENNY PERRY: Well, it's kind of running like last year, I just hope the results are the same. It's very similar, it's deja vu, it's like Groundhog Day. We don't know, I don't

know. Bernhard's a different character. He's tough. He's gritty, he's tough, he's got a lot of heart. He's a good friend. I enjoy competing against him, so looking forward to the challenge tomorrow.

Q. Kenny, you've kind of got yourself a second home here. What are your thoughts going into tomorrow knowing that at least for a while you guys might not be back here?

KENNY PERRY: Yeah, it's pretty sad. This is a golf course that's one of my favorites to play. I enjoy coming to Pittsburgh. Like I said, I went to the game last night, had a blast getting on the field, meeting the ball players, Neil Walker and Jody Mercer. I loved talking to them. You know, it's just a great sports town and it's a great golf course. It's going to be sad if we don't come back at least to the Pittsburgh area if we don't come back to Fox Chapel. Hopefully we can come back someday eventually to somewhere else. But this golf course will always be number one on my list. It was my first major accomplishment last year and it kind of opened up the floodgates for me a little bit where I was able to win two more. So this place is always very special to me. I'm going to hate -- it's going to be a sad day tomorrow when that last putt goes in. Hopefully I'll be smiling with the trophy but yet be sad knowing that we're not coming back.

Q. With the way Bernhard played, when you look at the number, he may have three or four on you tomorrow and he's probably not a guy that's going to really give a lot back. Do you have to sort of just --

KENNY PERRY: Well, I need to shoot probably 63 tomorrow. I need to shoot 7-under probably and he's going to shoot 3- or 4-under, and if he's going to have a three-shot lead, that's going to get me to a playoff. Yesterday his driver broke and normally our tour staff is not here, the trailer's usually gone. He would have been in trouble. But the trailer is here and they had the part needed to fix his driver. The tip had broke. It's one of those adjustable deals. The tip broke, so they had another tip they put on the shaft. I told him he was lucky on the range today.

Q. Kenny, you can definitely talk about how difficult it is to win a major and now again today it seemed like the conditions got more difficult, some of the -- Bernhard keeps playing well. How difficult is it to win a major?

KENNY PERRY: Well, everything's usually amped up a little bit, rough's usually higher, fairways are a little tighter, greens are a little faster. You've got to have a whole lot more patience than you normally have. One thing on this golf course, my length is a huge advantage. If I drive it like I know I can drive the golf ball like I did most of the time today, all but that one tee shot, I'm hitting short irons into these holes and I can be very aggressive and I've got very good opportunities to make birdies. So I'm going to be in attack mode tomorrow because I know I'm going to be probably two or three, maybe four down starting today.

And tomorrow's a big day because if he wins tomorrow being double points, his lead is going to be almost insurmountable to catch for the Charles Schwab Cup. So it's going to be very important for me to somehow slow his train down a little bit and get in there to where if I can hold him off tomorrow and somehow get by him, you know, the Charles Schwab Cup's going to be very exciting. But if he wins tomorrow, he's going to have -- like I did last year, I won this event and then I won the Senior Open, and next thing you know I've got a 2,500 point lead and it's almost insurmountable to catch.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: 810 points to the winner tomorrow.

KENNY PERRY: So to me I'm thinking more about that. I'm looking at the big picture here at the end of the day. It will be exciting. We're good buddies. If he kicks my butt, I'll shake his hand, give him a hug, so whatever. I mean, we're going to go out and compete and see where the chips fall.

Q. Kenny, the eighth hole's been the most difficult and obviously you had a bogey on it today. Just what makes it so difficult?

KENNY PERRY: Long, long and longer. It's probably got the toughest rough on the golf course down the right side and it's got the two bunkers. So I hit a -- I killed a drive and I still had 185 to the hole and I hit a beautiful 6-iron in there. Where like Mark McNulty, he was probably hitting 3-wood, and Peter Fowler had hit it in the rough so he had to lay up. To me it's probably the best hole on the golf course. I love how pretty it is off the tee, but it's to my advantage if I can hit a good drive. I can carry those left bunkers down the left side if I hit a good one and the fairway opens up for me.

Q. Watching you and Langer on the back nine is like watching a boxing match, guys punching and punching. You make a birdie, he would make a birdie. You hit a good approach shot, he throws one on top of it, but you're in different groups. When you're in the final pairing together for an opportunity to come back like that, is it good to have him with you, do you like to see?

KENNY PERRY: Always, I agree. It's definitely you need to see what your opponent's doing, and if he's making birdies he's going to put a lot of pressure on me. I'm going to have to counter him, I'm going to have to make birdies with him. But he shows no emotion, he shows no nerves. He's the ice man out there and he's just Steady Eddie. He just plods along, never misses many fairways, great iron player, and then he's probably the best lag putter on our tour. You get him outside 20 feet with that broom handle or whatever that thing is he putts with, he lags it up there to tap-in range every time. And anything inside of 10 feet's almost a gimme for that guy, so I see why that thing's illegal. No, in '16. It's not illegal now.

Q. Kenny was there a significant difference in conditions today from yesterday?

KENNY PERRY: No, very similar. Hot, wind was coming out of the same way. 18 was dead into the wind today, so the golf course played almost identical to yesterday.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: We'll let you go. Good luck tomorrow.