

ALEX URBAN: We'd like to welcome John Daly to our interview room. John, welcome to the Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS Championship. This is your first start in the event. Obviously you recently made your debut out here on PGA TOUR Champions. Talk about the first few events and what it means for you to be here at the Philadelphia Cricket Club.

JOHN DALY: The first two were pretty good. Just kind of getting my feet wet, you know. Didn't play real bad. Didn't play good at all at the PGA Seniors, but my game is, you know, like I've said it before, I need I have, six, seven, eight weeks in a row to just get everything going again. This will be my eighth tournament since last August so I haven't played a lot of golf. But last week was some good signs and Birmingham was really great because somebody told me I think I made like 17 birdies, three eagles. So I'm making plenty of birdies, I'm just making too many -- getting too many bad holes.

Last week I don't think I had a double bogey, which is the first time since I've been out here so that was nice. It's coming around. Anytime you don't play a lot of competitive golf the -- I'm hitting the ball great, I'm just not scoring because my short game hasn't been there. Everything's just starting to come around. But I'm enjoying it. The guys have been great. It's great to have a schedule and play week to week, it's really nice.

Q. What do you think you bring to this tour because people have been looking forward to you being out here for a while, what do you think you can bring and what can it bring to you?

JOHN DALY: For me selfishly, it's a schedule. It's a lot of golf, which in my career, the more I played, the better I seem to play. For bringing attention to the Champions Tour, that's -- I think my fan base has stuck with me through thick and thin and I think I got a lot of my fans to come out and watch. You know, it was cool for Greg last week, the tournament director, came up and was almost crying and he said, You've pushed the bar to 600,000 more dollars, we're going to hit the \$2 million mark this year in charities, and that really makes me feel good.

Personally, I don't know what I can bring to the Champions Tour, but it seems like I'm bringing something. But it doesn't do any good if I don't play decent golf. I mean I want to play great golf out here. I want to, you know, get the game in shape. That's what we're trying to do and hopefully contend.

Q. What is it about you that you said people stuck with you for 20-some years now, what is it about you? Is it the way you play? What is it, I mean, that makes people want to watch you and appreciate what you do?

JOHN DALY: I don't know, I don't know. I think, you know, like I've told the media a hundred times, there's no skeletons in my closet. Everybody's knows what John Daly's been through because I've been honest about it, I've told them about it whether it's good or bad. I think the fans trust me in that aspect.

And I think maybe because of the long swing and I do still hit it out there a little bit, I think they love to see that. But I think nowadays I think more importantly the fans want to see me play and they want to see me win and they want to see me play good.

Q. John, a couple weeks ago you said that your short game was still giving you problems. Any progress there, have you seen a little improvement here and there?

JOHN DALY: Yeah, I've been working with Vokey and getting the wedges straight, just testing the waters a little bit. I had a 64 in the first two events and I moved -- my 60 was a 58, just moved it to a 60, got rid of the 64 and put a 56 in. It's just trial and error with everything right now. Hopefully, last week was some good signs. I mean I went out the last round, I knew I didn't play the first two very good, I said all I want to do is just break 70, that's the goal of the day, and I was fortunate to do that. I putted better and got some up-and-downs, made some putts that I haven't been making, so that was a good sign. Sometimes when you're not playing really good and that last round comes around and you get something going, hopefully it can feed into the next week.

Q. Do you think that momentum could shift 1,200 miles east?

JOHN DALY: I hope so. Everything's confidence out here. Everything for me is feel and confidence, and when that's on I feel like I can play pretty decent golf.

Q. And how was the drive in?

JOHN DALY: You know, it was great in the Midwest. You get out here a little bit, the roads aren't quite as smooth, if you know what I mean. I know the Ohio Turnpike, they're working on that, and then we took 80, which was pretty good. But no, it was good. It was a nice trip.

Q. Have you experienced the Schuylkill Expressway yet?

JOHN DALY: Sounds like I don't want to.

Q. John, what kind of a place are you in now? You know, obviously you said you've taken a lot of different turns. Where are you at in your life now? Do you feel good about where you're at?

JOHN DALY: Oh, I feel great. I've actually got a really tight family and I've got all my kids, Shynah and Sierra both live at my house in Dardanelle. My son, he just got out of school. He was in Core Golf down in Orlando and he just loves golf to death, that's all he wants to

do is play golf. And I've got a great woman in Anna. Just things outside the ropes couldn't be any better.

Q. Have you heard anything about whether you're going to be able to play this afternoon? Is it still on?

JOHN DALY: We haven't heard anything. I was scheduled to go at 12:12 so from what guys have told me, it could be a nine-holer but we just don't know yet.

Q. And you were not here yesterday, correct?

JOHN DALY: No.

Q. So if you only get to play nine holes, what's that going to do like to try to prepare for a course that you haven't seen?

JOHN DALY: I've been asking some of the players, just straightforward, you're fine. There's no blind shots, there's nothing, it's all straightforward. So go out and see what happens.

Q. Does it seem like you're 50 years old? For those of us who already are, you know, like Colin Montgomerie yesterday, we were talking to him and he was saying how great it is and he was looking forward to this, now he's here and he's really enjoying it. Does it feel like you're 50?

JOHN DALY: I don't know, it just kind of went by pretty quick. I'm glad I'm 50, I'm glad I made it to 50. But no, you know, it's a new life. For me, not having a schedule for so long, thriving on exemptions and waiting on calls and having to go there kind of late, can you make it to the pro-am on Wednesday, if you get an exemption can you play both pro-ams and stuff like that. Granted, I love taking the exemptions and probably got maybe too many more than I should have because I hadn't played well. But it does tire you out a little bit, especially on the tour when you're walking most of them. Champions Tour, you get to ride in carts in most of the pro-ams, your legs stay fresh. For me, it's all about schedule and having a place to play, and the Champions Tour is now kind of my home.

Q. Is it cool to know that like when you're out here, a lot of people are going to come to see you, you're kind of like the Pied Piper still, and do you still get the same thing out of that as you did 20 years ago that the fans -- everybody wants a piece of you it seems like?

JOHN DALY: I love it. It's like home field advantage tends to be the best. I mean, you know, and I feel like I have that everywhere I go, which is a great thing. Last week was great, Birmingham was awesome, Houston was awesome, the PGA was great. The fans are coming out and it's great. It's great for me. It makes you just kind of feel really good that they are coming out to watch me play and they're coming out -- when they come watch me

play, if I'm not playing good, they're going to watch a bunch of other guys play really good. And I think the thing that people forgot is how good these guys really are. They're still great, great golfers.

Q. Chris DeMarco on the Golf Channel today was saying he thinks you're going to win this year. Do you try to set a game plan or do you say hey, I'm going to go out there and play a lot and do as well as I can and see where it falls?

JOHN DALY: That's really all you can do out here. I mean for me, I felt a little contention there the first week in Houston. I was right up there, I was like around eighth or ninth and the 17th hole got everybody, it got me pretty good, took me out of that. But it's like any tour, if you get in contention a few times, hopefully you can knock off some and that's pretty much the goal. But no goal like I'm going to plan, okay, three weeks down the road I should win, I'm never going to say that. But it's not easy to win out here, it's not easy to win anywhere. What Bernhard's done is amazing. What Hale Irwin did on this tour is amazing. But for me it's just week to week, day to day and just see what happens.

Q. What do you think that will be like to lift a trophy again if you're in the winner's circle, and obviously you would be a popular winner, I would think?

JOHN DALY: It would be great. Like I said, it's hard to win anywhere and it would be great to hoist the trophy again, hoist hopefully a few of them out here would be nice.

ALEX URBAN: Thanks, John. Good luck this week.

JOHN DALY: Thank you.