

FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW
June 24, 2018



JERRY KELLY (-14)

Q. How do you celebrate this experience today knowing that for a while there you had to do a lot to get in contention and then you got there and it just didn't work out?

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, I really thought it was going to happen, you know? Unfortunately, you know, I wasn't as aggressive as I should have been on 16, 17, 18. 16, 17 I wasn't, then I had a -- I had a hook lie and tried to hit a cut and I just didn't release it, so that's going to happen. Then a tough kick, good chip, but good putt for finish it off.

You know, those were two-putts, usually I hit it a little bit far when you're coming off the fringe with stuff behind because you lift up the putter a little bit, but I didn't realize just how much uphill that was. And then 17, I'm standing on a straight downslope and it's actually three-quarters of a way uphill.

You know, if I had wanton abandon and knew I would make all my four-, five-footers on the way back, I'd hit them, but that's the way I putt. I die putt, so if I get caught thinking it's a downslope and it's actually an up-slope, it's going to come up short, so that was just my mistake.

Q. And as you went up the leaderboard, what was the vibe like out there from the spectators, and then did you have to watch yourself get out of your comfort zone?

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, no, it was cool. We were in a great frame all day. You know, I had a ton of family out, a bunch of Cooper's friends. That's like family, too. My maturity level's more in line with them than most of the adults out there, so it was really fun.

It was fun chasing Strick again. You know, what a great round for him to post to bring us all along. You know, overall I'm happy with the tournament, but I learned some things coming down the stretch once again that hopefully I can apply to next week.

Q. How disappointed are you at --

JERRY KELLY: Really disappointed, Jocko! (Laughs.)

No, I'm disappointed, there's no doubt. You know, I want those putts back, I want to just go ahead and hit them hard, who cares what happens. Again, it's not the way I putt. I'm like, I thought that was downhill. He goes, "Dude, that was like three-quarters of the way uphill." I go, "Why didn't you tell me before I hit the putt?"

Q. Your chip on 18, on a 1 to 10 scale, how tough was it?

JERRY KELLY: It was a really tough chip and I hit it so good and it took a check and went dead left. Because I'm up on this sidehill, I would have had to play it well right and have it check like that. There was no way. I was just trying to slide it under it and have it come out dead and roll and it went hook and check. But it was in the air for that brief second, I was like ohhhhh...uh. It was a good effort.

Q. (No microphone.)

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, yeah. I was going down, not up. I can definitely go up higher than Phil, there's no doubt.

Q. Curious, when you looked at the leaderboard and saw different names at the top, I think there was seven or eight --

JERRY KELLY: Yeah.

Q. -- did you have any reaction of anybody up until Scott McCarron, and when McCarron's went up to the top with the par 5s to go and with his length, is that something that kind of put the nail in the coffin?

JERRY KELLY: I knew it, I knew he was going to at least have an eagle look and definitely make birdie on 16. So once he got to tied with me, I was like, all right, I have to birdie here at 17 and that's -- you know, that's when I left it short. And then 18 I knew that he had made it, so then I knew I needed birdie. So I'm trying to hold a shot to the right off of a hook lie and that's how it came off so far to the right. It wasn't an aggressive attempt, but it was an aggressive shot to go after, so I'm happy with that. I'm not happy with how I executed the shot. You know, hook lie in a cut's not exactly in my wheelhouse, but I just didn't pull it off.

Q. What's tougher to take, the GMO that one year or this?

JERRY KELLY: I mean, they're probably both in the same boat. I feel like I let the GMO slip a little bit more not getting things done in the playoff, but that was rookie year in a playoff, hometown, I was really nervous.

This one, you know, my wits were about me, I was totally fine. I just miss-played a few putts. Like I said, I'm happy with the whole body of work that I did today. I did a good job of finding out what my miss-hits were the last two days and doing much better today to give myself those chances.

Q. That leaderboard all afternoon was a pretty impressive crew.

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, yeah.

Q. Cream of the crop on this tour?

JERRY KELLY: Yeah.

Q. What do you think made that happen, the cream of the crop rose to the top?

JERRY KELLY: You know, it's not an easy golf course, but it is definitely really solid scoring today. So, you know, the all-around consistent game will make birdies on a day like today. I don't know how it happens, but it tends to happen that way. We knew it was going to be a horse race today. It wasn't going to be like yesterday. Yesterday I think was a product of the mud more than anything.

Q. Jerry, you go from a personal major back to a real major at the U.S. Senior Open. Jim Schuman will be there, get to hang out with him, and how do you regroup with him?

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, I'm looking forward to two practice rounds with Jimmy Tuesday and Wednesday, no doubt. I try not to get in his way when he's playing, but I'm definitely going to be in his ear to find out what the heck's going on. He's hitting the ball so well, it's only a matter of time before he has a great tournament out there, too. So we'll look for it, we'll just see what we can do next week and apply what I learned this week.