

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
August 16, 2018

JIM FURYK (-5)



Q. You have to be very pleased.

JIM FURYK: Yeah. You know, kept the ball in front of me a lot, hit a lot of fairways today, hit a lot of greens. When I did make a couple mistakes at 10 and 11 with iron shots, I was able to get the ball up and down. You know, overall, I didn't make a lot of birdies and such, I had three birdies and an eagle, but no bogeys today, so it was a good, clean card.

Q. Is it difficult to find a groove with all your responsibilities off the course? I mean, we've seen you throw out the first pitch at Yankee Stadium, The Today Show. I mean, you've done a lot of stuff and you come out today and play a good round of golf.

JIM FURYK: It is a busy week. I tried to pace myself yesterday. I felt on the weekend at the PGA I was starting to kind of hit the ball a little bit more solid, felt good about my game. I had a couple days off obviously and was -- I don't know if "off" is the right word, but talking about something I love in the Ryder Cup. Yesterday I was able to come out here and kind of started off slow in the pro-am, got my rhythm back and felt good about my swing. When we finished, hit a couple chips and putts. The greens are actually much quicker this week than what we saw last week and there's a lot of slope to these greens. Just really trying to get used to yesterday, you know, putting the line and speed together and get a feel for the ball flowing in the hole a bit more than we saw last week.

Q. I know as a FedExCup champion it's important to you to get back to the Playoffs and you need a top-3 finish or so, something like that. You're off to a good start, so you've got a shot here.

JIM FURYK: Well, yeah, and I think right now instead of focusing -- I mean, it hasn't been a solid year. Instead of focusing on where I have to finish and what I have to do, I mean, really I'm just trying to string a bunch of rounds together. One thing I really haven't done this year, I haven't played a lot of events where I've strung four rounds together. I've had two, I've had three. The U.S. Open would be real indicative of that, played the first three rounds very well and then played poorly on Sunday.

So it would be nice to -- at this point I'm in the last -- 48 years old, I'm in the last event of the year, I'm not putting a ton of pressure on myself to compete. I'm not just starting out my career at 25 or 26 with a family and feeling like, oh, my God, what's going to happen to my job. So I'm trying not to put a lot of pressure on myself.

I want to play well this week, but I'll be dead honest with you, first and foremost on my mind is I'm thinking Ryder Cup. I go to sleep thinking about it, I wake up thinking about it. I'm

able to kind of put it out of my mind most of the time out there on the golf course, but enjoying the process and I'm enjoying playing actually. Even though I'm not playing well, I'm still enjoying it. In my mind, I'm thinking about what I want to work on this offseason getting ready for '19. I really still feel like I have some good golf in me.

Q. Lastly, you're Mr. 58 and Mr. 59. As you watched Brandt Snedeker this morning, I mean, you know what he's going through, looking for a birdie to shoot 59 on the last hole. That must be pretty cool watching that?

JIM FURYK: Yeah, I didn't really quite hear. I heard he had it about six feet on 8, heard he made about a 20-footer on 9, so there was a buzz on the range, caddies looking at their phones. Really cool, really cool.

Anytime you get that opportunity, and I think the next best round I saw out there so far is maybe 6 under, so clearing the field by 5 is a pretty cool accomplishment. I know he's excited.

I guess my advice, if you could, the best way to do it's on Sunday. I did a Friday and a Sunday. Sunday's nice, you get to kind of walk off, go home, not think about it. The trick for him is he's playing great, now he's just got to rest, relax and start over tomorrow from scratch and go play three more good rounds. So it's awesome to see.