

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
August 23, 2018



JERRY KELLY

JACKIE SERVAIS: Welcome defending champion Jerry Kelly to the media center. Thanks for joining us today. How does it feel to be back?

JERRY KELLY: Awesome. It's my first defense since 2010, so yeah, it's been a long time, long time. It's really fun. The feelings came back, was just playing and thinking of all the shots on Sunday. It was really cool. It's been a while.

JACKIE SERVAIS: Do you feel pressure to defend as this is your first one?

JERRY KELLY: I haven't. I've felt pretty good. Three weeks off and I played 18 holes in that three weeks. So I have low expectations at the moment, but I always have high expectations, so my low ones are still pretty --

I just want to kind of rework myself a little bit, which is what I did here last year and I couldn't really -- I haven't been able to find what I did here last year as well as this week was and that's what I've been in search of ever since then. I think I was strong this week and I've been hurt quite a bit at the end of last year and this year. So three weeks off to get strong, get healthy and try and recapture some of the things that I was doing, which I have no clue.

JACKIE SERVAIS: So last year you set the tournament record. What is it about this course that allowed you to do that?

JERRY KELLY: You have to hit it in the fairway and then you have to be precise with the irons. I would say speed on the putts is paramount here. They're difficult, fast greens, and if they're going down the mountain and downhill, they are extremely quick. So it's just understanding the terrain a little bit and I felt very comfortable.

JACKIE SERVAIS: You're leading the Schwab Cup right now and Miguel is right on your heels. How do you keep him away from that and keep it this week?

JERRY KELLY: You've just got to play to your full potential every single week and let things lie where they lie. I never change my game being in any type of position or anything like that, it's let's just go play. That's been the fun part about this tour is it's back to just kind of playing golf and you're playing against a bunch of guys who are just playing golf instead of mashing that thing out there. It's been fun.

JACKIE SERVAIS: Last year here you were talking about your Cologuard partnership. What have you done since that time?

JERRY KELLY: Well, Tucson last year we signed the Player Pledge, and then, oh, boy, I'm not sure which tournament it was after that we rolled it out -- we tried to roll it out to the nation. We tried to roll it out to everybody in the United States is what we tried to do, to get that message out. I mean, we're talking tens of millions of people have not been screened who need to be screened. It's one of those things that's -- it's just crazy. I was talking with Kevin today, the CFO of Boeing, and he knows some people who are 55 and haven't been screened. Even he was going, "What are these people thinking?" It's playing Russian Roulette, it's rolling the dice.

Let me get my facts straight. Nine out of 10 people are curable with early detection. One out of 10 are curable with late detection. You do the math, tell me if you want to take a test. I think you should.

Q. Obviously you found the course easier this year than last year, right? Didn't you get bad directions?

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, I totally found it this year, but I also had my -- I had Harry Sese with me. He wasn't letting me -- I was like, "Is it this exit?" He's like, "No, no, no, keep going." So I think I tried to go to exit 22, but he kept me up to 25 there.

Q. You played high school hockey?

JERRY KELLY: Yep, but I played everything.

Q. Played all sports?

JERRY KELLY: Yep, everything. That was just the closest I came -- you know, I got some decent offers, college, for hockey. I could have gone that route, but I was a much better golfer than I was a hockey player. I played with guys who ended up winning Stanley Cups and they were better than me. I knew that.

Q. In high school in Madison?

JERRY KELLY: In high school in Madison. And really, two of the best guys who were younger than me at the time, Barry Richter, Kevin Dean, these guys didn't even end up going to our high school. They go to Culver Military Academy, which is like -- another one of my buddies went to Avon Old Farms. I mean, these are hockey farms that then they will go into Major Junior A and then they'll go into the professional ranks, and then to college after that. Well, it's Junior A, then college, then pro. Maybe, yeah.

I was all right. I was fast and I had a good shot and I went into the corners, but I skated with my head down way too much, where these guys were up and they could see the entire ice, you know? It was like playing a symphony in there. That's the way --

Q. What position?

JERRY KELLY: I was a center man.

Q. You were a center man?

JERRY KELLY: Yeah. But that's the way I was with golf. I could just see it. I could see the break, I knew exactly the distance, you know? We didn't need lasers back then, I could hit that number that the flag was within a yard or two. No, I mean, that's my first love because I love to hit and be hit, but other than that, I kind of like golf a lot.

Q. You like to be hit?

JERRY KELLY: Love to be hit.

Q. Defending a title, because you want to take the past experiences, but is that sometimes -- is it a detriment because you're like, oh, I birdied this last year, and then you start fighting that, or do you just kind of forget last year?

JERRY KELLY: I really haven't defended enough to have a concise way. I know I've done well in my defenses. I usually only win if I enjoy playing the course and I enjoy the area. I get the same feelings when I come out here. I think the course is really fun. I love the area, I love Bellevue, hitting some great restaurants, and it gives you a great feeling that you can take to the golf course.

Now, you can't compare what's going on. I don't remember enough, anyway. I was lying before. (Laughs.)