

FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW
August 2, 2020



JIM FURYK (-14)

STEWART MOORE: Jim Furyk, 2020 Ally Challenge presented by McLaren champion, how does that sound?

JIM FURYK: It feels good. That sounds really good. So just excited to be able to come out here first week and play so well and get a win. It's an honor. A lot of good players in the field. I enjoy coming back to Warwick Hills, a place that I had a lot of success in my career, a golf course that I really enjoy. Feel like I know it really well.

Hardly anything has changed down to the fact that I still hit the ball about the same distance I did in '09 not due to anything I did, it's really mostly equipment, but hit the ball about the same distance. It was the same clubs, same shots. Just really enjoy the golf course.

I guess thanks to Ally, thanks to McLaren. Couldn't do it without great sponsors. I guess the one thing I did miss all week was the fans. I remember this place would -- it's a tight, small piece of property and they would pack a lot of fans in here from the Flint, Grand Blanc area. Miss the rowdiness at 17, but we'll see it in the future and I'm anxious to be back and see that firsthand.

Q. Five years since you last won. Does it still feel the same as winning on the regular tour?

JIM FURYK: It does. I said it earlier, I played some practice rounds at Colonial, played nine holes with Olin Browne and Scott McCarron and Scott was helping me -- he was telling me how much he likes playing out here. He said, "I get more opportunities to win and let me tell you, you get just as nervous when you have the opportunity to win out on the Champions Tour." So that's what makes it fun. To kind of get back in the mix, kind of get the juices flowing a little bit and have some nerves was a lot of fun.

I settled in today, to be honest with you. I probably felt better today than I did any day of the week. I put a lot of pressure on myself early and Friday I was kind of a wreck on the golf course and was able to kind of chip and putt and scrap my way around for a 68. It was an ugly, ugly 68. So that's the one round that kind of saved my week and I think gave me the opportunity to get in position to win.

Q. Obviously you won in 2003. There's no fans here, but did you kind of have flashes back to 2003 today as you were coming down 18 and whatnot?

JIM FURYK: I did, except I think I was ahead. I was kind of thinking back. I think I was ahead going down 16. I had a one-shot lead. Brett made a great birdie. I did have

flashbacks. But really I think I played 15 events here, I had eight top-10 finishes, so I had a lot to draw upon and a lot of good shots that I've hit around this golf course and it's just a place that makes me feel really comfortable.

Q. On 18 you could have kind of played it more safe, but you went for it and you hit an incredible approach shot. Was that the plan or was that --

JIM FURYK: If I wasn't, I would still lie now right anyway. I wouldn't tell you. (Laughs.)

I had a little bit of a right-to-left lie out there in the fairway being on the left side, there's an overhanging tree. I aimed at one of the signs kind of we'll say the left center of the green and figured if it turned off that hill, go ahead and give it a good hit.

The last couple days everything -- usually with my irons I like to hit just a little bit of a baby fade and everything's been wanting to get up and kind of turn over on me. I kind of felt like I was going to give it a little room to do so. I was trying to knock it in there 15 feet or so and last thing I wanted to do is play it safe, have Brett knock it in there tight, go into a playoff.

So I had the greens where they were receptive, they were soft and I had a perfect club. If I got trapped in between clubs, I probably would have hung that one out a little farther right, but it was just a good firm 6-iron on the way in. When you get a perfect club like that, you can get a little more aggressive.

Q. Jim, your schedule coming up over the next couple of months, I think I heard you say you're not sure when your next event's going to be. Are you still in flux how you're going to put everything together?

JIM FURYK: I know my next two events, I just don't know my next event on the PGA TOUR Champions. I've got the PGA. Fluff and I are heading out to San Fran for the PGA and Wyndham the next two weeks, then I don't know. I have to kind of regroup and make a decision. I'll have to do that pretty quickly after probably Wyndham unless I play really well at PGA and Wyndham and get myself in the Playoffs. I'll probably have to make a decision which tour I want to play predominantly. But I'll be back out on the Champions Tour this fall and there's a couple events I kind of have earmarked I would like to play.

Q. You're obviously really successful on the PGA TOUR still and still playing well, but in this early part of your Champions Tour career, what does it mean to get a win in one of your first -- in your first tournament out here?

JIM FURYK: I was a little stunned. Billy Ray said that there's 19 folks, I'm the 19th person to come out and win their first event on the PGA TOUR Champions. It sounds so ordinary when you say it that way. Wow, I'm amazed. It felt pretty darn hard to do.

It really -- I forget what the question was, but it's a huge boost of confidence for me. I really feel like I've been playing pretty well this year and I really haven't been getting that much out

of it. I think kind of my mindset, as much pressure as I put in, I put a lot of work in last week at home, hit a lot of wedges, a lot of short irons probably getting ready for a 12, 13, 14 stretch. if you look at the way I hit it this week, my iron game really wasn't that sharp in spots, but my wedge game was incredible. The back nine today I was kind of 0-3 on the back nine with wedge in my hand making birdie, but the rest of the week I was 50 percent or so. That's what kind of saved me and that work I put in last week really did a lot of damage.

Q. What does this do for you moving forward when you go back to the PGA TOUR the next couple of events?

JIM FURYK: I hope it gives me some confidence. Anytime you get yourself in the hunt, in contention and you hit some good shots down the stretch, knock in some putts, it's a confidence builder. I haven't been there for a while, I haven't been in the hunt like that since PLAYERS of '19, so March of '19. To kind of get in there and feel comfortable and settle in and hit some good shots, it's a big boost, so hopefully I can take some of that confidence back out to the PGA TOUR.

Q. How special is this do you think for Fluff having one of his first wins with Peter here --

JIM FURYK: It was his very first.

Q. Yeah, Peter's first for sure 40 years ago at the course at the Buick Open. How special do you think this is for him?

JIM FURYK: He's right back there, I think he could tell you.

Q. Was he talking about it?

JIM FURYK: He told me a month ago his first win was here, so it was Peter's first, it was Fluff's first. If you look at our golf bag, we always have one of those Warwick Hills purple towels on the bag. he reminded me a month before he came here it was his first win and it would be sure nice to have his first Champions Tour win at the same golf course. Glad we were able to do it. We won here in '03 as well, so it's a special place for both of us.

Q. One real quick comment. I'm standing next to Peter Jacobsen, I didn't realize it.

JIM FURYK: Really? He's usually yapping.

Q. Yeah, you're right, but he was looking at Fluff and he was looking at you. I could tell it was a real proud moment looking at your win out there.

JIM FURYK: Yeah, it was nice to see. I kind of walked up and did a double-take, saw him and he kind of said, "Good shot." It was before Brett had really hit his bunker shot and that. It was nice to see him stick around. I know he means a lot to Fluff and vice versa, they're tight.

To have him here was pretty cool.

STEWART MOORE: Congratulations.