

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**July 1, 2021**

**JIM FURYK**



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**Q. Jim, this is your fourth tournament at En-Joie Golf Course. Did you have any memories coming in or playing on the course today of years past?**

**JIM FURYK:** Surprisingly, less than usual. When was the last time? Probably in the late 90s somewhere?

**Q. Yeah, I think it was '93, '94.**

**JIM FURYK:** Well, '94 would have been my rookie year, so it would have been after that. If I played three times, it would have been maybe '94, '95, '96, or maybe '7 or '8 would have been the last year. I guess I'm getting older. My recollections weren't that good.

I remembered 18 very, very well, a few shots here and there, but the golf course looks good. We got here Tuesday, it was firm, fast, great shape. Better condition probably than it was back in the '90s, to be honest with you. A lot better than it was in the '90 for a PGA TOUR event.

I think it's a good golf course. You've got to drive it straight. It's a bummer with the weather that we're getting with the rain, but the golf course today still had a little bounce to it and it's holding up pretty good. The greens are soft, so I would imagine scoring would be pretty good because of that. It looks great out there.

**Q. I see you're in the pro-am today and there's a lot of tips going on from you. You don't get paid extra giving tips, but what is it when you do these pro-ams? You do a lot of them, I'm sure after a while they kind of run into each other, but to interact with the people in the community that helped out this course, what was it like out there today?**

**JIM FURYK:** Yeah, it's always fun. The pro-ams are a big part of all PGA TOUR events, but it's very significant on the Champions Tour level. My wife and I have a foundation, we have an event in Jacksonville that we run. I've seen the balance sheet, I've seen how much it means to the event. And really the Champions Tour, we don't exist without those pro-ams. It's unique that we do it on both Wednesday and Thursday.

I don't know if it's as much tips or to help them with their game. I could probably screw them up a lot more than I could help them, but it's really about having a good time. They came out to play and enjoy the golf course and have a good time with the pro they get paired with, so our goal is to make sure that they go out, enjoy themselves, have fun and want to come back in the future.

**Q. You talk about that give and take. Obviously you've played on the best golf courses in the world, historical courses, beautiful courses. This course is more of a quaint course that has a 50-year reputation and it's still going strong even though it's had a little toehold. How important is it to this tour comes here and still makes this thing work?**

**JIM FURYK:** I think it's great. It's important for the area, the charity dollars that are raised. The local companies, Dick's and IBM and folks like that that kind of make that possible. Obviously this community's important to them. I think that tradition is great and rich, and now on the Champions Tour, everyone that's out here has played events here at the old B.C. Open and now the Dick's event. So it's fun to come back.

I remember, I guess we play a number of PGA TOUR events in the New York markets, Boston, L.A., but we always have a number of small markets as well and the communities always support those events very well and it's always fun to play in front of those fans.

**Q. Last thing. Of the courses that you play with the younger guys and they're bombing 340-yard drives, you come to a course like this, is it more forgiving for a guy our age? I don't want to pick on you.**

**JIM FURYK:** The course, I don't think it's forgiving from the fact that you really have to drive the ball straight here. It's tree-lined fairways. Obviously the trees have grown up quite a bit in the last 25 years since I've been here, kind of pinched in a little bit in areas, so you can get out there and overpower this golf course. And the ball was chasing and running firm and fast on Tuesday, it played a lot shorter, but with that, that ball is also chasing and running into trouble areas as well, behind trees. So you can get out there and bomb it and get the better of it, you still have to hit the ball in the fairway.

**Q. You've been playing some excellent golf, including I believe it was a sixth place finish at THE SENIOR PLAYERS last week. What's been going right for you lately that you take into this tournament?**

**JIM FURYK:** I feel like my -- I've worked hard on my game this year and wasn't real happy with where I was at in the spring, I guess. So summer seems to be turning into a positive. I got a little bit of funk with my swing, maybe wasn't hitting the ball quite as solid or straight as I wanted to, and I worked real hard on that at home with my father.

I would say my -- I probably turned my short game around a little bit. I've been putting -- in the last couple of months, I've been putting pretty solid and knocking in putts here and there and that always -- you do that, it takes a little pressure off the rest of your game, one, but also pretty good effect on the scorecard at the end of the day as well.

**Q. So how does a good performance this weekend help you get ready for the U.S. Senior PGA next week?**

**JIM FURYK:** Yeah, I'm -- you know, I'm always excited to play in major championships. We have five opportunities out here on the Champions Tour, and so this event's sandwiched right in between THE SENIOR PLAYERS in Akron and the Senior U.S. Open next week in Omaha. Being kind of my first -- still kind of my first full year playing the Champions Tour, first time I'm getting to see a lot of these events.

Always excited about playing major championships, and then this event's kind of sandwiched right in between two big events. It's a chance for us to polish our games and get ready for next week. In saying that, you're also kind of selling this place short. It's got a good tradition and history, and anytime you show up you're trying to win golf tournaments.

**Q. Looking at the forecast for this weekend with the anticipated effect on the golf course, how does that kind of alter your approach?**

**JIM FURYK:** Yeah, I'm hoping with the rain, we just don't get a ton of rain. Right now, as I said, the fairways look great, the ball still has a little bounce to it, the greens were very receptive playing in the pro-am this morning, so guys can get real aggressive, can fire at pins. Almost have to go in there with maybe some three-quarter shots so the ball's not spinning back. That wasn't the case two days ago, but rain's going to affect it. What that does is it makes the golf course play a little longer.

On the other side, we can be a little more aggressive because the greens are receptive. It will help scoring, and I would expect if there's no wind and maybe not -- if we're playing obviously in a downpour, the scores won't be great, but no wind and soft golf course, I can see the scoring being pretty good.

**Q. Not far from Westchester, less than 200 miles, a lot of Ukrainians, a lot of people from the heart of Europe here.**

**JIM FURYK:** So there's got to be a lot of good food around.

**Q. How comfortable are you coming back here to play?**

**JIM FURYK:** You know, I enjoy it. This was probably, from where I grew up, I'd say the old Kemper Open at Avenel and then this were probably the two closest. Westchester actually was -- so those kind of three kind of circled the area where I grew up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

This has got a lot of similar feel. I fished the Susquehanna with my dad a lot as a kid, small mouth fishing and also some large mouth fishing. I know when we came to that event back here in the '90s, my dad would always slip off and go fishing with Brad Bryant and a couple folks. It's got some similar feel.

If you've got any good ethnic restaurants you want to tell me about, let me know because I

miss that food. I can't cook it very well.

**Q. Quick follow-up. Eight years since the 59, five since the 58. I heard you lit it up out there, seven, eight birdies, you almost holed out on 9. Do you think there's a 57 out there?**

**JIM FURYK:** No, I don't, I don't. I never thought there was a 59 or a 58 in my career, either. Just things happen at times. Fun to kind of notch a little feather in your cap and enjoy those two days.

But really, I had a good solid day today. I knocked in some putts, I did hit some good short iron shots and gave myself some opportunities. I had a fun group to play with. But I'm kind of thinking about what I want to do to get myself prepared -- I think I have a late tee time tomorrow, 2:00, so really the idea will be how can I get myself prepared for the round. Friday, Saturday you're going out there and jockeying for position, trying to put yourself in a nice spot where you can go out there and have a shootout on Sunday.