

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
August 24, 2022

JERRY KELLY



JERRY KELLY: Played here on the regular PGA TOUR, always had a ton of fun. I loved the amphitheater on 8, 17. Anytime we can make a birdie and help people have a couple extra beers, I'm all for that. It's always a fun environment.

Q. And last seven starts you virtually won half of them, just playing so incredibly well right now. What do you attribute the good play to?

JERRY KELLY: You know, I'll still go back to my wife getting great news, her six-month scans and thinking that we're through the rough patch. And she's still going through treatments, but we get past the end of this year and just into next year and be able to settle that down and get back to some normal life will be kind of fun. Yeah, we're just grateful to be out here and grateful to be together.

Q. You mentioned obviously playing here on the regular Tour, but also being a place where you've won before, it's got to feel like there's a certain comfort level in places like that you've had success at?

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, this is a "get the ball in the fairway" golf course. It's not short, the same distance that we played the regular tournament at on the Tour. I'm glad it's running out there. I hope we don't get too much rain Wednesday night, but it makes it tougher for those longer hitters to keep it in the fairway as well when it runs out. I'll have some shorter shots from the fairway hopefully than I normally have and be able to take advantage of this golf course.

Q. Jerry, I think there's like nine events left. Have you thought at all about the push, the final push for the Schwab Cup?

JERRY KELLY: There's never been a final push for me. There's never been a ramp-up for the majors for me. There's never been anything except for the tournament in front of me. I try as hard as I can every golf tournament. I don't play shots during one tournament preparing for the next one, things like that. It is -- it's the most important thing for me to play well at the tournament that I'm at and I do that every single year all year my entire career.

Now, have I played too much and it's been tiring towards the end of the year? Yes. It's a little easier schedule out here. I used to play 30 to 34 events on the regular Tour and that was too much. You know, it put me in a position where I can actually be out here for a long time. For me, I think I did it right. There's something in the back of my head saying could I have won majors and done better if I had played less? Maybe, but I kind of like where I'm at.

Q. They do a great job of selling out this place. Do you feed off the crowd when you're out there? Do you pay attention to it at all or do you just block out everything?

JERRY KELLY: I have a really hard time playing where there's not crowds. My wife calls me a little bit of a show-off and I really enjoy that aspect of it, you know, "watch this." It definitely gets the adrenaline up and I live on adrenaline. I'm a pretty good 2-handicap on pro-am days as my pro-am guys will see, but when the puck drops, I'm ready to get hit, I'm ready to go.

Q. How important are these pro-ams even for someone who has played here before, being able to identify maybe this was a hole that I should have played differently?

JERRY KELLY: The big thing is conditions, you want to play the golf course as close to the tournament conditions as you're going to find. We slow it up for the pro-am guys, we know it's always sped up by the time we get to tournament day, but they can't do much different with the fairways, the bunkers, the type of grass that you're hitting off of. It's different every single week and those are the adjustments that pro-ams are invaluable.

But I always like to say the pro-ams are for the pro-am guys. If I haven't got my work done by today, those are the guys I want to play against if they feel like they have to work during a pro-am. I was talking with a friend of mine, I love having fun with the guys and you're just paying attention to the grass and the conditions and that's about it.