

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES

October 6, 2023

JIM FURYK (-1(



Q. Just start with how was the round today? How did you feel out there?

JIM FURYK: Well, one, I had a great time playing with two good friends in Davis and Strick. Davis has got a lot of family down, which is pretty cool. We spent the week last week in Rome with the Ryder Cup team, that's a lot of fun. They're probably two of my favorite guys to play golf with in the whole world, so that was a lot of fun.

You know, my game's not where it needs to be, not 100 percent. It was a good fight today. Started off pretty solid with a 3-wood down the middle, 8-iron to 20 feet, then missed the putt. And I doubled 2 and kind of put myself in a hole. Just kind of fought all day.

Was able to birdie 3 and just make a bunch of pars. I scraped it around there at the end of the front nine, made some good pars. Then played some decently solid golf on the back nine.

I'm just struggling with kind of my long game. The longer the club gets, the more difficulty I'm having. Hit some good drives today, but just too many that were wild, like the one off 18. So I've got to figure some things out and get straightened out. But I really did fight hard today. I know 1 under's not a good score on the leaderboard, but from where I started and where I hit it a few times, it was a good score for me.

Q. Sure. And then I think something that just makes this tournament so special is not only is it a great display of golf and athleticism, but it's a vehicle for good here in northeast Florida and it has such a great catalyzing effect on the community here.

What does it mean to have all these people out here supporting you?

JIM FURYK: We're very fortunate to have the support not only from Constellation, from Circle K, but there's a lot of other -- we have a bunch of founding friends going on on 18 and corporate sponsors. But this community, and we've had folks fly in from all over the country as well to volunteer, to play in our pro-ams.

All that love and support makes us feel amazing. And really, as you said, the vehicle or the idea is to raise as much money as we can for charity. So being able to step up three years ago and become a PGA TOUR Champions event was huge. We were able in the old days to generate \$400,000, \$500,000 for charity. In the last two years, \$2.5 million. There's a lot of work to be done in the city and an amazing community that kind of rallies behind events like this and we're appreciative for the support.

Q. How's the back holding up?

JIM FURYK: It's OK. I'm not very strong and my right side's pretty weak right now. I'm not in a lot of pain or anything, but I'm not myself. I'm not sure how much I'll play the rest of the year after this. This is my --

Q. Once you got out there --

JIM FURYK: Swan song: What's that?

Q. Once you got out there and played it under tournament conditions, especially the greens that had to be repaired, how did they look, and overall how's the course look?

JIM FURYK: The greens that they repaired, it's pretty amazing. From 6:00 yesterday morning to noon yesterday, it was a transformation. I honestly, they were using tools to fix the green I've never seen before. I've been a golf professional for 30 years. So it was pretty cool to see everyone rally and support our super here, Allen Brown. He led a team, did an amazing job.

The rest of the golf course, it's a different golf course than last year. So last year being brand new, it was extremely firm, fast, crispy, the ball could get away from you really quickly last year.

Right now, probably because of the rain that we had last week, we've got kind of a cloud cover, it's overcast, it's held some moisture, so the greens are receptive. I think that's why you're seeing some low scoring, but it's still there. You've got to be patient. If you get a little ahead of yourself or you try to force one in there too close and you catch one of those Donald Ross roll-offs, it's a quick bogey as well.

It's a test of patience, but if a guy hits the ball in the right spots and the greens are perfect, you can knock in some putts and shoot a low score.

Q. Jim, let's go back to what you said about swan song. Why?

JIM FURYK: Oh, he just asked about my health. I'm just not myself and I'm not 100 percent. Trying to play against Steve Stricker and Davis Love and Scott Parel and Bernhard Langer and Colin Montgomerie and Retief Goosen and Ernie Els, you go down the list, it's hard to do if you're not 100 percent. I really haven't been for the greater percentage of this year. I need to figure out my health and get my back straightened out, get a little stronger and get back to playing golf the way I would like to.

Q. Were you close in any way to not playing this week?

JIM FURYK: No, not at all. Unless I have to crawl, I'm going to play. It's not that bad, Gary, I just can't play the way I want to play.

Q. Can you tell us about your birdies?

JIM FURYK: Well, 3 was a big one, to be honest, coming off the double at 2. I drove the ball in the middle of the fairway at 2 in a divot, sand in the divot and fatted it and then made a mess of the hole. Turn a 4 into a 5 into a 6m so I was a little frustrated.

Then going to 3, I didn't hit a very good drive. I kind of hooked it a little bit, put it in the fairway bunker and had to lay way back. So par 5 I'm hitting I think a full -- maybe a chippy 9 or a full pitching wedge into. I was able to put it about 15 feet. To see that one go in just kind of felt good. You kind of, you know, kind of put a bandage on it.

Then on the back nine I got on a pretty good run where I birdied 12, actually a great wedge from the rough which you wouldn't expect. Knocked it in there about six feet, made birdie.

Drove it bad off of 13 -- that's a broken record -- to the right. I had to lay up. Hit a nice pitching wedge in there about 15 feet and made it.

And then I laid up on 15 as well and hit a beautiful gap wedge to about 10 feet to a very -- that pin on 15 today was dicey. It's fair, but it's a tough pin. Hit it in there about 10 feet, made that for birdie.

I hit some awful wedges today, that was the double. Hit an awful one at 6 as well, then I hit some beautiful wedges and made some birdies off them.

Q. Sounds like your wedge game hasn't left you entirely?

JIM FURYK: No. That's the one thing I've done well all year. Today was a little -- today made me mad for a little bit there.

Q. Jim, you're in good company today with Stricker and Davis Love. You've got a strong field out here. How would you invite folks to come out tomorrow?

JIM FURYK: Well, we do have a strong field, a lot of Hall of Famers. I think really it's -- I mean, you're going to have the best players over the age of 50 playing at one of the best golf courses we play all year at Timuquana Country Club. So the golf itself is easy to draw crowds.

I think what Tabitha has really tried to create is really a destination. We're going to have college football on the big screens over there in Tailgate Village over there to the left of 17. Circle K's having a blast at their party porch, two-dollar beers on No. 7. When a 2 is made on 7, you've got two-dollar beers for seven minutes. So they do a good job. We've got Club 58.

It's just a great place to watch golf because if you're at Tailgate Village or Club 58 or say the

party porch, there's these little two- and three-hole loops where you can kind of go watch your favorite player, go out, come back, come hang with your buddies again in the same spot.

It's just -- really what she's tried to create is a place where everyone wants to come, have fun, enjoy some food, have a cocktail, watch their favorite players. We've got college football on Saturday, we've got the Jags watch party on Sunday morning. There's just a lot going on.

Even if you're not the biggest golf fan, I still think there's a lot of fun here and a lot of things you can do.