

ROUND 2 QUOTES
June 8, 2024



JERRY KELLY (-6)

Q. Three birdies, a couple bogeys and then there was that little dunkaroo on 15. Tell us about that.

JERRY KELLY: I'm glad I said "sit" because if it would have gone one more inch up the pin, it would have knocked out. I'm glad it didn't stick in that ball mark, too, on the side of the hole. That was good. To get a birdie finally and then dunk that one, I thought I'd get rolling, but I hit the roadblock again.

Q. Kind of got you back in the game anyway, you're within shouting distance.

JERRY KELLY: Absolutely. We know we can go low out here on this golf course, so getting myself back, what am I, within three? That's totally doable, so I'm happy.

Q. How's the body feeling?

JERRY KELLY: I'm as tired as I've ever been. It's just wearing me, it's just wearing me slowly. I'm just trying to breathe, trying to drum it up for every swing. That's about all I can do.

Q. Well, you're a tough guy, you're a Madison guy, you can handle this tomorrow, can't you?

JERRY KELLY: Absolutely. I'm just looking forward to getting working out again so I actually have some strength back. Just go through what you've got to go through. I'm going to dig deep tomorrow, I know that.

Q. We know that. You're a two-time champion here, we know what you can do around this place.

JERRY KELLY: Hockey starts tonight, too. I'm excited.

Q. Jerry, let's start first with that eagle, the slam dunk.

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, that was key to say the least. Glad I got the birdie right before it, but that was definitely the best swing I made all day. So I thought it was going long, so I said "sit" and I'm glad I did because one more inch up that pin and it would have bounced out. I loved seeing it disappear and not being in the back bunker.

Q. What kind of wedge was it and how far?

JERRY KELLY: That was a 52, I had 98 a little into the wind. It's my 110 club, so I thought I hit it a little bit too hard, but I'm not hitting it very hard so it was just right.

Q. Yesterday when we talked a little bit you said it was smoke and mirrors to a degree, but you backed it up today and you're in -- I mean, do you look at tomorrow or is it just like, hey, I maybe have found something here, or it's not smoke and mirrors, it's more existential?

JERRY KELLY: I didn't find much swinging. You know, I got the job -- I had two three-putts, that's not like me, either. Without those two three-putts and actually making a couple of makeable putts, I'm right there. For the way that I felt the last couple days, being three shots back heading into the last round, I'm happy, I'm all right. I know there's a low one in me, I just hope it's tomorrow.

Q. You talked earlier this week about getting that adrenaline and feeling that. Do you feel that now that you're in contention?

JERRY KELLY: No, I just couldn't drum anything up energy-wise. It's a weird feeling for me. You know, as soon as I can just get back to working out and getting stronger, when I start getting tired and being weak, that's not a good combination. I'll drum it up tomorrow, though, I guarantee I'll find something.

Q. I think you're in the second-to-last group with maybe Tim O'Neal and I understand he's pretty long.

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, he's really long. I don't believe his birth certificate, he looks too good.

Q. So the fans that follow you, what will they see out of him?

JERRY KELLY: They're going to see some serious speed. I mean, I think he's a great player. The second he starts believing in himself, the floodgates will open for him, I would think. It's tough when you haven't beaten yourself against these guys as much as we have, there's those questions until you break through. I know he's good enough to win out here, but he's got to know it. I'll be rooting for him, but I'll be -- I hope he has his best day and I have just a little bit better.

Q. You're only three back, but on the other hand you're chasing a couple guys, especially Els who's been really hot.

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, absolutely, it's got to be -- I mean, it's got to be at least 7, probably 9, which it's doable on this. But the other thing is it might be gusting, you know, 25, 30 gusts in different directions. Once that happens, all bets are off. If I can just bump my ball up there onto the greens and get hot with the putter, then anything can happen.

Q. You had a ton of success here, obviously the tournament's going to be moving. What's this course done to kind of grow as this tournament's come back here year after year in your opinion?

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, it wasn't my favorite coming in, but the more -- I never really played it much. I was a volunteer assistant coach here at UW and took the NCAA rules quiz. I tried to put practicality to it and I pretty much failed that one. Didn't have to pass it luckily, that's good.

But the more I play it, the more it grows on me. I really like the way you have to move it around this golf course. But really it's the area that does it for me. I'll be happy to move over to Steve's course. That's a tough one, it's a really good golf course, I think he did a fantastic job with the routing. People are going to see some -- have to see some really good golf with the scores out there, but this was really fun to play.