

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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JERRY KELLY



MODERATOR: Jerry, welcome back to the Kaulig Companies Championship, two-time winner here. Just your thoughts on being back.

JERRY KELLY: Just one of my favorite places on the planet, I love it. It's just as straightforward of a golf course as you can get, it's right there in front of you. Just hit the ball in the fairway, otherwise you're not going to be able to reach these pins. If you get in the rough and you can't reach these pins, it's going to be tough two-putts and tough up-and-downs. So it's just, it's the cliche, it's fairways and greens is the key for this golf course.

Q. You just said something to me that you only win on hard golf courses. Why is that?

JERRY KELLY: Because I'm not long enough to be a birdie machine, but I can birdie any hole whether it's with a 3-wood -- driver 3-wood, driver 4-iron, I feel confident enough that I can make birdie on any hole, but you're not going to make a consistent amount of birdies with the longer clubs coming in.

So it's probably not going to be, you know, 25, 27 under and me winning, it's going to be 12 to 14 and playing really well to get to those numbers.

Q. Does this rain that we had today and may get more on Sunday, does that eliminate a lot of people because of the distance on this course?

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, it was incredibly long today. The wind, the humidity, the backspin on the drives, how far I'm hitting it, it would be very hard for me to compete right now. But I know this golf course. This golf course, it opens up from 240 in. (Laughs.)

Q. Do you believe in horses for courses?

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, absolutely. I mean, my PGA career was pretty much based on it. I mean, I was a top-5 machine on a whole bunch of courses and I was a missed cut machine on a whole bunch of courses and it was just kind of consistent all the way through. I should be hitting my peak of the season pretty soon here. I'm a little late, but yeah.

MODERATOR: The way you've been playing, though, considering how you've been feeling, does that give you confidence going into this week that you are getting closer?

JERRY KELLY: No.



MODERATOR: OK.

JERRY KELLY: No. I'm feeling about as bad as I can feel. Golf swing is following right with it, so it's just a new normal right now until we get on top of things and figure out. I mean, I just spent a hole and a half with my rheumatologist on the golf course because I couldn't -- I couldn't extend the appointment. Yeah, changed drugs. It's just trying to figure it out. We'll get through it, but it kind of sucks.

Q. Frustrating, isn't it?

JERRY KELLY: Yeah. I mean, I want to play, I want to compete. It's either go through this and have it be difficult right now or just have it be difficult sitting at home. I'd much rather come out here, just slap the ball around on a course like this that it's just beautiful and you just love being out there, love competing. I never really love it when I don't compete as well as I'd like, but maybe this will teach me a little bit more about why I'm playing the game rather than just to win. But maybe to better myself a little bit from the inside out, I could start taking that tack a little bit, see what happens.

Q. Patience?

JERRY KELLY: I mean, it would be beautiful if I can drum up some patience. I haven't seen it yet, but no.

Q. Can you just talk about the community support here in Northeast Ohio for this event every year?

JERRY KELLY: Yeah. I mean, every year they bring the people out. Coming in, I know the people in the houses driving up don't actually get to pay for their mortgage with their parking anymore, but the people still come out, they still support it. Still have some great restaurant spots that we love to come to. It's just an enjoyable place to come. People make that happen, too, so I really love it here.

Q. Are there any specific restaurants that every time you come here you're definitely going there?

JERRY KELLY: Diamond Grille. See you tonight.

MODERATOR: Peyton Manning is receiving the Ambassador of Golf Award this year.

JERRY KELLY: Cool.

MODERATOR: Do you know him? Overall thoughts on his contribution to the game? I know you're friends with a different quarterback.



JERRY KELLY: No, I've met him at the AT&T a couple times, just spoken with him. I think he's a really nice guy, really funny. He is just the way he comes off on TV, he's a great personality and seems like a really great human. So yeah, we're lucky to have him in our game if that's the case and we hope he shows up a whole lot more because I think he's good for the world much less good for golf. I like the guy.