

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
October 13, 2024



JERRY KELLY (-13)

Q. In very much Jerry Kelly fashion, in my opinion, with a little bit of a grind on Saturday, but you gave yourself a chance. Then you come into Sunday, you open up three back of Pdraig Harrington. What's the strategy there?

JERRY KELLY: Well, I played when Freddie won a few years ago and he absolutely blitzed us all, I think he shot 60. I was trying to channel that a little bit. Really, we just had a memorial service for John Trasamar, Trazzy, last Saturday. That, I can't tell you, he was playing through me today. I don't know even know what to say. He came to me last night and I'll never forget it, it's a gift from God. I just played for him as much as I could today, that is it. That's why it happened.

Q. Jerry, you played through some health issues as well. I guess the pain's a little less when you're holding trophies and getting it done. Tell us a little bit about the health battle.

JERRY KELLY: So I was diagnosed with lyme and rheumatoid arthritis. All of a sudden I went on a drug that was really not great for my body. I got so weak that I herniated two disks, and one of them's hooked pretty good at L4 and 5.

So I've had guys going, "You've got to take the rest of the year off, you have to have surgery, we can clean that up, no problem, you can come back next year and be strong."

And I met Dr. Skaggs in St. Louis when I couldn't bend over even to putt, hold my arms out in front of me. He's done a fantastic job of -- you know, I'd like to call it holistically, but with him doing less is a little bit more. We got a pop out of my S1 probably, well, it was a week ago Friday. All of a sudden all of my spasms back there went away, just there's so many exercises I was doing. It was a big shift. And it was so low that nobody could ever feel it up there.

So I've gotten relief from all the spasms that were going on for five months. Hopefully I don't have to have surgery at all and we can just have that jelly go back in the doughnut somehow.

Q. Let's do that. Win No. 12 was worth the wait this year, so what does this mean now moving forward for you? It's got to be a tremendous boost.

JERRY KELLY: Yeah. I mean, this all started after I won three out of five and then picked up an electric surfboard, about 80 pounds, and that's when I think things started to go south for me with the back.

So you start questioning whether you're ever going to win again. I certainly didn't think it would be this quick after what I've been through the last five months, but yeah, I can't believe it. It wasn't me, that was Jon playing through.

Q. Love your perspective on health, friends and winning now, jerry. Congratulations.

Q. Talk to me about last night and all that.

JERRY KELLY: I mean, I was going to keep this one to me. I had a dream last night and I was hitting balls with my coach, Jim Schuman. We couldn't figure out, the ball was going nowhere, I couldn't do anything, I couldn't swing.

Jon showed up last night, said, "Hey, mind if I say something?" I mean, biggest smile on his face. He had a little southern accent in there, too. I mean, I was just shocked.

All he said was, "You know, the last time this happened, you and Coop played and all you tried to do was keep your feet calm for a week and you played great."

Over every shot today I was like, "Johnny, I'm keeping my feet calm." I mean, it was the most incredible gift. I thank God for that gift, letting him come in. I can't -- I can't believe it happened. And this has happened. It's crazy.

Q. For those who don't know, who is Trazzy?

JERRY KELLY: Trazzy, (Jon Trasamar) married to my niece, Allie. They were married for just over a year and he developed melanoma and we lost him within a year.

So it's been a tough go. We all miss him so much, but we're all here living to support Allie now. We love her like a daughter. We had her in South Dakota, we had her in Pebble and went to Napa. I mean, this is for her, this is for the two of 'em. Yeah, love is strong.

Q. What's this win mean to you?

JERRY KELLY: Because of that, this is my -- this is definitely my favorite win. I mean, there's no question. It just means so much more. It's pretty incredible.