

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
November 13, 2025

JERRY KELLY (-6)



Q. Jerry, 6-under 65 to start. Tell us about your round and what was going well.

JERRY KELLY: I birdied the first hole for the first time in about six years, I think. It put me in a good frame of mind right off the bat.

I had some good thoughts coming into the week, and my body's responded this week, which has been fantastic. I don't care if it's the last event of the year, at least it's starting to respond. That's what kind of made me comfortable to go out and play. I wasn't flinching away from anything. It was a really fun round of golf.

Q. How would you evaluate the way this year has gone, and as you get to the end of it, what are you happiest about and what are you still looking to scrape out of this week?

JERRY KELLY: I mean, a win, but I'm happiest most about that it's the end of it. I'm looking forward to starting fresh. I've finally gotten back to some weights, working out intelligently. And it's not by my direction, so that's why you know it's intelligently. And I feel pretty good.

I just want a year where I don't miss five, six weeks twice. Done that the last two years. It's been hard, but maybe it will teach me to enjoy it more, too.

Q. Jerry, are we past the light at the end of the tunnel then?

JERRY KELLY: I mean, I don't -- you've got to pay attention to the back. It's not like I can go back to wake surfing because just pulling me out of the water right away, I'm afraid of that. Can't go back to snow skiing. We talked about this last night.

Maybe I can't do all the things I really want to do, but right now I'm building myself up stronger. I was hitting the ball decently far today for me, which I really enjoyed that. I had some clubhead speed. If I can build on that, I'll be happy.

I know I'm 59 this month, which other than Bernie, I know I'm sunsetting a little bit. Yeah, like I said, I felt great this week and I just hope it continues even this week.

Q. How is approaching 59 different than 10 years ago when you were approaching 49 and then this tour? How much longer do you see yourself playing and what do birthdays mean at this age?

JERRY KELLY: I don't know. I'm not going to -- I'm not going to play to play, I know that. I



want to play to win, I want to have a chance to win. If I don't feel like I have a chance to win, I'm not going to show up. That's why I stopped playing the regular tour because even Sony, which was built for me, I was around the cutline. That's like, that's not where I want to be. So I enjoyed coming out here and had that to look forward to.

Again, I've got something to look forward to hanging out with my wife for the rest of our lives and doing more what she wants to do than what I've made her do for all these years. I know we're going to have a great time after this golf thing ends. You know, she's like, "I know you said 60, but I don't see you stopping at 60." I don't either.

Q. Jerry, you've always been a favorite of mine because we're built the same way. The competitive juices, you just mentioned it --

JERRY KELLY: Work out a little bit. (Laughs.)

Q. -- but with the good round, does the competitive juices, especially at this stage in your life, does it kind of rekindle the competitive fire with you?

JERRY KELLY: If I didn't still have the fire, I would not be out here. I get nervous, I get the adrenaline every single first hole, every time I'm in trouble, every time I make a whole bunch of birdies in a row. I could still drum up the adrenaline every day. So no, I've been in (inaudible) a bunch of times this year even though it hasn't looked like it because I haven't finished them off. I've been close.

Q. Maybe this weekend you will.

JERRY KELLY: Yeah.

Q. As you look back from now going back towards 50, is what you've accomplished what you thought you would when you came out here? Have you exceeded what you thought this would be like?

JERRY KELLY: Rob, that's a good one.

You know, it's what I wanted, and I've always shot for something more. I mean, on the PGA TOUR I wanted to win multiple majors and I wanted to become No. 1 in the world. A little hard with the rookie that I came out with.

Q. What was his name again?

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, exactly. I mean, I didn't accomplish the things I wanted to there.

I think I accomplished a bunch of the things that I wanted to here. We all want a national championship, you know? We all want the mini Claret Jug, things like that. There's still more to do, but I'm happy with what I've done. But I'm not done.

