

**PRE-TOURNAMENT  
INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: KENNY PERRY  
Tuesday, October 29, 2013**



**DAVE SENKO:** Well, Kenny, thanks for joining us. You come in the final event of the year after a great win Sunday in a playoff over Bernhard in San Antonio and leading the Charles Schwab Cup. Maybe just take us back to Sunday. I know you mentioned what a great putt that was to save par at 18 and then to go on and win, and now coming in here with a chance to win the Charles Schwab Cup.

**KENNY PERRY:** Well, you know, it's been a great summer to win the two majors, finally break through on that deal. To all of a sudden not be anywhere in the Charles Schwab Cup picture and all of a sudden after Omaha when I won the second major I had a huge lead, all of a sudden it was like thrusting upon me. Since Omaha it's every week, we're all talking about Charles Schwab Cup every week, every week. Actually I'm tired of listening, I'm trying to win this thing. So I knew last week was a pivotal week. I finished 11th and 18th the two weeks before, I didn't make any putts. Bernhard had chances to win each week, he was in the lead at some point. I think in the last seven or eight tournaments he's had a chance to win.

So I knew I needed to play well last week and I got off to a great start, I shoot 65 on Friday, played beautifully, kind of stumbled a little on Saturday. But then my daughter came in on Saturday night. She said, Dad, Jason and I want to come watch you play and we want to watch you win. So she kind of motivated me, pumped me up. We had a great evening. I went out that day and played beautiful golf, shoot 67 to win the tournament, made just an incredible putt on the 72nd hole just to extend it to get into the playoff, and then I hit a great iron shot on the playoff and had about a 10-footer on the exact same line and poured that in there to win. It's funny, I kept crunching the numbers. My son called me afterwards. He said, you know, you've still got to finish -- if Bernhard wins this week, you've still got to finish Top 5 in the tournament to win the cup. So my job's not even over.

I flew in here yesterday afternoon. I'm at my locker and the locker attendant says, Bernhard got out here, he's already teed off Monday morning. I'm like can't that guy just take a vacation, just relax a little? So he's very motivated, I'm very motivated. It's a great competition. It's really, you know, when you've got two guys trying to receive the ultimate prize out here and it's both within each of your grasp, it's very compelling and it's very fun to watch. To me it would be the ultimate accomplishment for me to win the Charles Schwab Cup, you know, the season-ending trophy that we all shoot for come in January. So it's been a long year, 26 events, and I've got to figure out a way to do it again. I need to figure out a way to finish in the Top 5 this week. If I finish in the Top 5 I win the trophy, so that's kind of my ultimate goal.

**Q. You know the math of the Top 5. What mode are you in? Are you in attack**

**mode, are you in protect mode, or are you in wait-and-see-what-happens-by-Sunday mode? What exactly is the approach?**

**KENNY PERRY:** Well, I've been in that wait-and-see mode because I've always been playing -- first round I keep looking at the scoreboard and I always see Bernhard's name up there every week. The wait-and-see mode has put me in the attack mode. I was wanting to try to play the blocker and play defense, but that doesn't work out here. If you're not on the offense and on the go, you're going to get lapped by everyone.

I do have the luxury of having 28 more guys to be my blockers. If I can get one -- if Bernhard doesn't win this week, if he finishes 2nd or worse, I win the Cup. So he has to win. I've got a lot of things going my way. If I get another player to get hot and win the tournament, then they win it for me also as well. I'll be looking and playing attention, but I also need to know I need to step my game up too and I need to figure out a way to Top 5 it this week.

I played a lot of golf here. I played the Presidents Cup here, I played a World Golf event here, I played the Schwab finals here a couple years ago. At least I'm at a venue I understand, I know, I've played a lot of golf on. And thank goodness the weather this week looks like it's going to be okay. When we played the Presidents Cup here it was freezing. I was in toboggan rain gear, it was freezing out there. As I get older, cold weather is not good for me, I really have trouble in cold weather. If it will stay mid 60s, I'm very happy with that. Then I struggle a little bit on poa annua greens. I've never been a great poa annua player, but I was never a great Bermuda player and ended up putting beautifully last week on those Bermudagrass greens. So maybe things are changing a little bit for me, so we'll see. It's a four-day tournament, it's a long tournament. I just need to get off to a good start on Thursday and just kind of, you know, just keep it going, figure out a way to hang in there, stay close, not shoot myself out of it on Thursday.

**Q. I have good news for you, the greens are bent here, there's a little bit of poa in them.**

**KENNY PERRY:** Oh, they're bentgrass, that's even better. I haven't been out yet. I thought they were poa annua. See, I always think of California mostly poa, but if they're bent, I love bentgrass, that's my favorite surface.

**Q. There's been a lot of chemical problems with the poa here so they have a new surface. I thought it was very exciting that your daughter had never seen you win and I don't know if that had a different perspective for you and it was cool on TV, she came running out like she was one of the 9-year olds in the Mickelson family or something, so that was pretty cool seeing her jumping into her arms there?**

**KENNY PERRY:** I almost started crying because I did not realize, she told me on the green there, she said, this is the first time I've ever seen you win in person. I'm like, have I been gone that much? Am I that bad a dad? Oh, my goodness, it really shook me up a little bit. I was thinking, thank goodness me and her had a special moment, it was great. I was proud of her, she's a great gal. And to see her run on that green with just pure emotion and jump in my arms, you're right, I felt like she was 9 year old again when she was a little girl and it brought back a lot of memories, a lot of flashbacks. She's always been a great kid.

I stayed with her when I played the Byron Nelson this year. They live in Colleyville and I drove, it's only about 15, 20 minutes to the Byron Nelson so she cooked for me every morning. She's really grown up. To know she's happy, she's got a great husband that's going to take real good care of her, that's a good feeling for a pop to know that she's in good hands.

**Q. You mentioned finishing Top 5. You obviously come into this with a big cushion. If you were Bernhard, it would be a much bigger mountain to climb here.**

**KENNY PERRY:** I don't think you can really relax. I mean, I cannot get -- I can't get passive. I've got to get in the mode, I've got to still try to win the golf tournament, I really do.

To me, I have another goal I would like to win the Arnold Palmer Award, which is the leading money winner. If I win the golf tournament, I'll win that, too, so I've got a great opportunity. I sat and talked to a buddy of my mine last night and we talked about that last night, about you need to still set your goals high and set your sites high, you've got a great opportunity to win it all and I need to kind of look at it like that and I need to prepare myself. I know I'm playing well, I'm hitting the ball fine from tee to green. My putter woke up last week, I putted beautifully and I was able to win. So hopefully it will carry over into this week and keep the good ball striking going and keep my thoughts in check and hopefully make this thing happen. This might be a once-in-a-lifetime deal for me. I might never get in this position again and I need to try to take advantage of it while it's here.

**Q. You mentioned playing at Harding Park before. What have you learned about the course in those three tournaments and how does it suit your game do you think?**

**KENNY PERRY:** Well it's a very difficult golf course. For being a public golf course owner as myself, I really love this place being a public facility, I just think that's too cool.

But it's a big golf course. The rough, you cannot play out of the rough here, it's very penal. And it's a very long golf course and it's got a good test of long holes and short

holes and it's got some disastrous holes along the water over there that you can really make some big numbers on. It's a great test.

To me, I always enjoy the ball striking, I think it's more of a ball strikers golf course. I think you can't get away with only hitting 10 greens a round, you need to hit 12 to 14 greens out here in regulation and give yourself some opportunities. That's what I enjoy about it. It's a mix, it's a great mix of holes and it's a very stern test. You don't have to shoot that low. I always like tournaments where it's not a putting contest where 20-something under wins the golf tournament, you're not going to see that this week. To me, I think it kind of bodes well for me if it's a ball striker's kind of test, that's going to be more in my favor.

**Q. Do you have any one particular memory that stands out of those golf tournaments?**

**KENNY PERRY:** I got kicked by Ryo in the singles in the Presidents Cup, that wasn't a lot of fun. My memory's not very good to tell the truth. I played okay here, nothing great, I just played okay. Hopefully this will be my best memory. I need to figure out a way to make it happen this week and be a better memory. I've got a lot of knowledge of the golf course, I understand how to play the golf course, I know my course management before I even get here and I know how I'm going to set up the holes and play the holes. It's just a matter of can I execute.

**Q. You were riding last week, the issue with the foot?**

**KENNY PERRY:** That's why I rode last week, I knew I was going to be walking five days this week so I tried to keep as much pressure off the foot last week and I think I'm okay. We'll see. I mean, I'm taking -- what is it, the drug that I've got, it's a pretty powerful -- no, I don't think it's Vicodin. I forget the name of it. It makes me feel -- my head feels funny when I'm on this drug, but it allows me to walk, my knees don't hurt too bad, my hip doesn't hurt too bad. I changed my gait a little bit and kind of threw my back out in Montreal. That's what hurt me more than anything. I had that planter deal, I had a bad pair of shoes and I couldn't walk and then I changed my gait when I was walking the first round to where I threw my back out so I rode Saturday and Sunday there and I haven't really recovered. I'm still slowly trying to get to -- actually I feel better now. I lost 20 pounds, there I was 240, now I'm like 218, so that's helped alleviate some of the pressure off my feet and knees. We'll see. Hopefully I won't get out there and if I have a problem, I may not finish, so I may have to open the door wide open if I can't finish, so we'll see.

**Q. How close are you to finding a driver to replace the one that was broken?**

**KENNY PERRY:** Not very close. That was a special club, it really was. I won with that driver okay but it doesn't have the pop in it. You can look at my driving statistics after Omaha to where I am now, I kind of look at the totals of the driving, I've already

lost three yards average in distance already, meaning this driver's not as good, I don't hit it as far. I hit it straight, which was a bonus last week, I kept it in play and was able to survive with it. But still it's been very frustrating, I shouldn't have had to deal with this problem. I won both my majors with it and I lost the Senior PGA with it, but I hadn't really had a Top 10 since Omaha until I almost won in Montreal and I won last week, those are the two really good events I've had since Omaha.

**Q. What's the difference?**

**KENNY PERRY:** They broke the head and the shaft. They snapped it. Adams has a slot in it, the slot technology, and it's a thinner face and all that, it crumpled it and it broke the shaft and the hosel so it just was totally destroyed. I still got the same head but I've got a totally different shaft. I tried the other shaft in this head, same shaft -- it's a different shaft, same model. I just haven't found the right combination yet, I really haven't. It's still a work in progress and Adams is coming out with a new driver, the XTD, which I've got in the bag which I may use this week. It may be different than the one I won with last week. I'll get out there today in the practice round, hit them around and see where I'm at.

**Q. What's the quick story on what happened to your driver?**

**KENNY PERRY:** I represent Southwest and I got a southwest Club Glove and I flew Delta from New York to Seattle so there wasn't really a Southwest flight, and when I opened up the bag in Seattle my driver was snapped, it was busted, so I don't know.

**Q. This summer?**

**KENNY PERRY:** Yeah, right after Dick's Sporting Goods. We played Dick's and went to Seattle, the Boeing, the next week, and when I showed up there it was broke. I don't know if the handlers got mad at my Southwest Club Glove or whatever because it's got a big airplane on it and all this nice and blue, it's pretty. I didn't think nothing of it at the time, but now I changed my Club Glove, I've just got a black one now.

Dummy me, these drivers, you can just spin out the screw and take the head off, if I would have just thought and removed the head before I shoved it. Now I take my clubs apart and put them in the bag and send them down the way. Live and learn, very frustrating.

**Q. Have you had that for a while?**

**KENNY PERRY:** Yeah, that driver was second year with it. It was terrific, I loved it.

**Q. You mentioned winning the two majors. How big a deal was that for you? Obviously you had chances on the PGA TOUR and came close at Augusta one**

**time. How significant a breakthrough was that in your mind?**

**KENNY PERRY:** Well, it's still not the PGA TOUR, but to me it was probably my biggest accomplishment. I lost the '96 PGA in a playoff at Valhalla and then I lose the Masters in '09 in a playoff as well. So to be so close and to have chances to win majors on the PGA and not get it done, and then I had a three-shot lead at the Senior PGA and I was just thinking, you know what, maybe I'm never going to win one of these things, just thinking it's not going to happen for me. Then I played flawlessly in Pittsburgh at the PLAYERS, and then to go to Omaha and back to back it and shooting 63s and 4s on the weekend in a USGA event to me was one of the proudest accomplishments I've ever achieved. Means a lot to me to have my name next to a national Open, so great event.

**Q. If I recall, you had a string of like six straight rounds during those two majors with 63 and 64?**

**KENNY PERRY:** Correct.

**Q. 64, 64, 63, 63. When you think back on something like that, do you wonder like who is this guy?**

**KENNY PERRY:** Exactly, magical. But that's been kind of the story of my career. I'm very streaky. And like I won three times in '03 close together, I won three times in '08 on the PGA TOUR pretty close together to finally get on Paul Azinger's Ryder Cup team. I'll go, I'll get streaky, I'll win some events quick and fast and then I'll disappear for four months. I'm like what happened? All I did was go to sleep and get up, I've got the same stuff going. Why can't I compete at that level? I guess you can just say it's just golf.

**Q. You had difficult circumstances I remember at Fox Chapel, the weather was awful.**

**KENNY PERRY:** Lot of rain, very difficult, yeah. We played ball in hand all week that week, that's the reason I think the scores were so good there.

**Q. Maybe you can help me with Southwest find my luggage. I arrived from Detroit and my stuff didn't.**

**KENNY PERRY:** (Inaudible).

**Q. You mentioned Augusta '09. How did that affect you?**

**KENNY PERRY:** I think it's something that will be with you for the rest of your life. I mean, to me the Masters was the ultimate tournament of the four majors. Always thought if I could win a Masters, I've done it all. To have one arm in the sleeve, I had

a two-shot lead with two to play and give it up, go bogey-bogey and lose in a playoff. The PGA and the Masters were almost identical. I had one-shot leads going into the last hole, I bogeyed the 72nd hole in both of them and lost both of them in a playoff. They're just so parallel, so gut wrenching, so disappointing.

But then I look at it, I tell people if that's the worst thing that's ever going to happen in my life, my life's pretty good. Golf's blessed me, I've had a great career, 30-some years and now playing out here on the Champions Tour. I'm still fully exempt on the PGA. I'm fully exempt '14 and then I've got a Top 25 and a Top 50 money I can still use. I've just chosen not to play the PGA the last couple years, just basically tired of it. All my friends are out here, I enjoy the companionship out here, the camaraderie, the competition, it's fun, it's low key.

I think we don't get enough respect out here on the Champions Tour, I really do. I think the golf out here's tremendous, love it. I just enjoy it, so I ended up stepping off the PGA TOUR even though I'm still fully exempt. I could go to McGladrey next week if I wanted to. I don't want to. I'm going to play a little on the west coast next year. I'm going to play Phoenix and I'll probably play LA and I'm going to play the Hawaiian Open and then go to Hualalai the next week I think. Very blessed, I've got options. A lot of guys at my age have no options, they're going to Qualifying School just to even get on the Champions Tour. I don't have to worry about ever having to qualify for the Champions Tour with my all-time money, and I'm still exempt on the PGA TOUR so I can hang out there with the young guys and see my buddies out there. There's not many of them out here, most of my friends are out here.

**Q. You said you're going to play some on the west coast. I'm curious the value of power in your driving abilities, is that enhanced on the Champions Tour? How is it different?**

**KENNY PERRY:** I don't think so, I don't think so. My power has been advantageous on a few of the tournaments out here but I notice I hit a lot of 3-woods, 5-woods and irons off the tee. We play a lot of 6900-yard courses, so I end up -- I'm still hitting it in the same places the other guys are hitting their driver. We're all pretty much playing from the same spots. I know at Omaha I had a huge advantage because I could carry some of the cross bunkering and stuff where they couldn't and they were trying to fit it around it, so I was just going straight over the top and it gave me a huge advantage. A couple tournaments give me great advantages. But on the PGA TOUR I'm behind. I probably would be 50th or 60th in distance. I'm averaging, what, 280-something and a lot of those guys are averaging 305, so I'm 20 yards behind them.

**Q. In your prime on the PGA TOUR was power --**

**KENNY PERRY:** Always, yes, power's always going to help you if you can control it, if you've got accuracy. It's always going to be a bonus. Like I said, I just feel like

some tournaments I have more advantage. Most of the time it's a pretty equal playing field.

**DAVE SENKO:** Thank you, Kenny.