

JIM FURYK

Q. Last event of the season in a part of the country you know very well going to school here. Just your thoughts on being here at Phoenix Country Club?

JIM FURYK: Yeah, it's always good to be back in Arizona. I went kind of down the road, I went to college in Tucson at the University of Arizona, so this is probably pretty much split Wildcat and Sun Devil country. We're much closer to ASU. It's good to be back in Arizona, dry climate, wonderful weather. Have to get used to -- I think we're about 1,100 feet above sea level here, so you get used to the ball going just a touch farther, that always takes me a few days. But good to be back. I know if there were fans, there'd be some good Wildcat support here.

Q. Did you play this course much when you --

JIM FURYK: Never. Played yesterday for the first time. There was no events either played here or Arizona State didn't have their event here. Never seen it. Heard a lot good about it before getting here. I heard tight, I heard kind of -- I expected it maybe not to be -- it's not long, I'm not going to say it's this giant long golf course, but I expected it's longer than I kind of imagined. I just kept hearing it was on a small piece of property, kind of tight, but they used the property just amazing. I mean, we've got tee boxes back in the corners of the property. Really don't feel like any hole is on top of the other. Even though it's on kind of a smaller parcel of land, I think they did a wonderful job of fitting a very good golf course on the property.

Q. I'm hearing the greens are pretty spectacular here.

JIM FURYK: They are, they are. They're quick, and definitely downhill, down grain, they are really quick. They're fast anyway, but there's a couple that got away from me yesterday in the practice round and kind of caught my attention -- oh, wow, these are quite fast. But they're in really good shape, they're pure. You get the ball on track, you can make some putts out here.

Q. How's the transition been to this tour for you?

JIM FURYK: I've enjoyed it, I've enjoyed it. I started on golf courses I knew very well, so Warwick Hills in Flint where I won a PGA TOUR event, Pebble Beach where I've played, I don't know, 25 events in my career. I got to start at golf courses that I knew very, very well. I think that helped me kind of get a foot in the door here, comfortable.

Now the last four events including this one are on golf courses I've never seen before, so

now I'm starting to feel a little bit more like that rookie having to punch into the GPS where am I going, where's the locker room, where's the driving range. Just trying to figure everything out.

But I've enjoyed it. It's good to see some old friends. I've enjoyed again playing golf courses that are 7,000 yards long instead of 7,400 yards or 7,500 yards. At 74 I'm hoping for firm, fast conditions. At 7,000, doesn't matter, it can rain all it wants, I'm good. I'm still going to hit some short irons, I'm still going to have the opportunity to attack the hole a bit. I went from being one of the five oldest guys and one of the 10 shortest on the PGA TOUR to now I'm one of the five youngest and like in the top-20 percent in length. So it's nice to be young and long. I haven't been able to say that for so long. It's nice to be young and long and hit some short irons and be able to attack some golf courses.

Q. You're part of a crop of guys that are transitioning to this tour, a lot of big names bringing some new energy.

JIM FURYK: I think this tour had a great group of guys already there, then you start adding -- the last year, Retief, Ernie, Phil, Mike Weir, KJ Choi, Rich Beem, just kind of keep going down the list. Seems like every month someone else is turning 50 and some young guys, you've got Dicky Pride playing great, Cameron Beckman playing great, Shane Bertsch, all young guys for the Champions Tour that just recently came out. It's a good group. I think it's been a good buzz for our fans, for the media to see the Champions Tour. Seems like the tour's in a pretty good spot.

Q. Question about next week, are you going to Augusta?

JIM FURYK: I'm not in, I'm not in, so I won't be there. I'll watch from home like everyone else.

Q. From that vantage point, what are your thoughts on a November Masters?

JIM FURYK: I'm really curious to see what it looks like. It's going to be Augusta, so it's going to be beautiful, right? It's going to be in great shape. But I imagine they had to oversee that golf course very early, right, to get the growth, to get the grass the way they wanted to, which would mean they'd have to water pretty heavily to do so. Can the golf course dry out for a month, is it going to play firm and fast like we all want to see Augusta or is it going to be a little slower, a little longer, maybe even favor the bomber. Augusta always favors the bomber, but maybe even favor the bomber a little more this year. That will be -- we'll see. They can always control the firmness of the greens, but it's the fairways and the roll of the drives that is difficult to control, so we'll see. I don't know what to expect and I'm anxious. I hope they can get it firm and fast.

Q. Jim, did you expect to enjoy your time on this tour as much as maybe you have?

JIM FURYK: I guess in some respects I didn't know, I didn't really know what to expect. I

kind of wanted to come out and get my feet wet and play a couple events. Once the PGA TOUR season was over for me at Wyndham, I kind of committed I'm going to go play the rest of the schedule on the Champions Tour, see what it looks like, see how I feel. I think pretty shortly after that, within a couple weeks, I was like this is pretty much my home. After playing SAS, Dominion, this is pretty much my home, this is kind of where I'm going in the future. I'll still go out and play some events on the PGA TOUR, but this is going to be predominantly where I play most of my golf.

Q. What will you do this offseason?

JIM FURYK: I may still go play RSM, a golf course I like a lot and Davis is a good friend, it's his event so I may play there. Scheduled to play Father-Son with my son Tanner. Then I'm looking forward to -- it's kind of a short offseason, I'm looking forward to probably Sony and Hualalai. If I can just get into Kapalua again, I can get into the grand slam of Hawaii. But two events in Hawaii and then there's going to be some time off again, a little bit of a second offseason getting ready for maybe like a March push.

Q. Do you have a first Masters memory that you can share with us, maybe your first Masters?

JIM FURYK: I think I hit -- it was kind of a chilly, I don't know if it was rainy, chilly, wet, like maybe sprinkling a little bit. Just excited. I never really saw the golf course other than being on television, so I played my first Masters and never played a practice round. So I went in early, I was there the weekend before the event and I wanted to kind of -- I just wanted to see the golf course. So I went out to the driving range. I don't think I hit 10 balls before I was loose and I just couldn't wait to get to the first tee. Just exciting to drive down Magnolia Lane.

I feel like at that time the telecast came on basically at No. 8. You rarely saw a hole before No. 8, so 1 through 7 for me, literally I had no idea if they were par 3s, par 4s, par 5s. Then I of course knew -- felt like I knew 8 through 18 like the back of my hand because I watched it for so long on television and then you realize that TV just doesn't do it justice. You can't see the elevation changes and the amount of slope in the greens and how severe they are. Just a place I was really excited to go to.