

JERRY KELLY

JACKIE SERVAIS: Please welcome Jerry Kelly to the Cologuard Classic. Jerry, before we begin, I'd like to give you the opportunity to give your thoughts and remarks on Tiger.

JERRY KELLY: Thoughts on Tiger. I mean, he deserves our thoughts, he deserves our prayers. What he's meant to my career, I don't think anybody's had a larger impact than Tiger has had on me. I'd take the time to thank him, and I do thank him.

I wish him -- it's funny, I wish him the strength to be him through this recovery process because it's going to be long, it's going to be tough, maybe more surgeries, things like that. You know, we've looked up to him as this rock who's just powered and come back through everything that's been handed to him and it's just another one handed to him that he's just going to overcome and come back. He'll never stop surprising me or impressing me, so I wish him all the best and my prayers are with him.

JACKIE SERVAIS: Well said. As a Cologuard ambassador this week, how much does this tournament mean to you? We hear you talk about it all week, but can you kind of put into words what it feels like to be here?

JERRY KELLY: Hey, I'd love to play well here. I played well the first year of this one, but it was still fun that we were back in Tucson. I've taken this tournament as much more of a platform. If I didn't play well here and we got the word out across the nation for people to get screened, 45 and older, family history issues, talk to your doctor, that's what I want out of this tournament. I want people like Scott, who emailed us on Monday and wouldn't have had a colonoscopy if he hadn't come to the Cologuard Classic, had a positive Cologuard test, and because of that screening, then he went in, got the colonoscopy and had a large growth taken out that saved his life.

You know, the early screening saves people. If this awareness of this tournament can save more people like that, then we're doing our job at this tournament.

Taking the time also to thank the players. They've embraced what this tournament means and who this tournament is for. We play for ourselves an awful lot and it's just, as I've got Carol's ribbon on my hat, we're playing for others, we're playing for survivors and caregivers. We just need to get the word out. This is something to talk about. As breast cancer became on awareness and something to talk about, colorectal cancer is something to be aware of and be talked about because it's so prevalent and it doesn't have to be with early screening. It means a lot to be here as a Cologuard ambassador, I take that very personally and it's a strong job.

Q. Jerry, can you just talk about Mike, who you played with today? You had a chance to spend a lot of time with him. What was that like for you?

JERRY KELLY: When you see a guy who's so strong, you know, prime of his life and get taken down by something like this, get a stage 4 diagnosis and then come back as strong as he has, it's a tough disease. If you can catch it before the stage 4, you've got even better chances.

But look at what he's come out and done. He's out here for everybody else, he's not taking his diagnosis laying down, number one, but he's also helping other people because of his diagnosis and what he's going through. That just says a lot to me about the kind of person he is, and his wife Carol is so great, who I'm playing for. Their banter back and forth, they're keeping themselves young and fun and happy and they're just going to get through this the best they can.

It's never stop fighting. It's the strong-arm CRC, that's what we're up against, but we're going to be strong, get through it.

Q. You guys wear blue on Saturday to help raise awareness. There's been talk that the guys are all going to try to wear red on Sunday to honor Tiger. Have you heard about that? Do you think that's going to be a thing?

JERRY KELLY: I would love it. I don't have any red. I mean, seriously, I don't have any red. I always thought that Tiger took all the red, all the good that red can come out of. It's the reason I like the number 13, because everybody else thinks it's bad. I don't think Tiger leaves anything for us with that red.

But if that was the case, I would go buy one and I think my sponsors would understand that. I haven't heard that, but I would totally wear red in honor of him.

Q. Whether he is able to make another amazing comeback or never plays a competitive round as a pro again, what has he meant to the game?

JERRY KELLY: He has been the game for so long. For him to have the comeback that he's made as well. I mean, I think it was really impressive as a lot of us didn't think he was going to be able to come out as the youngster and impress the way he did and then dominate the way he did, a lot of people wrote him off. I mean, no more majors, no more wins. Thankfully, he tied Snead for the most wins ever. I think that's a huge feather in the cap that I know he wanted.

You can only hope that he's going to be able to come back and actually play the game. If he can come back and play the game, I wouldn't put another major past him. That's the Tiger, the surprising guy that he has been his whole life. I wouldn't put anything past him.

Q. We were remarking a bit ago that the 18th green looks a lot different without the

grandstands, stuff around it. What is the visual like as you're coming up the fairway?

JERRY KELLY: It's much harder because you can't see the pin distance as easily against a backdrop. That happens a lot. I'm sure San Diego was strange for the guys on the regular tour because it's like they're at the edge of the cliff all the time. But it's definitely different. There have been a few grandstands on par-5 finishing holes that they've been backstops as well and you don't realize how much you miss those, too. The freedom to just blast it over, bounce back on the green every once in a while, that's a nice feeling.

You know, hey, if the grandstands never came back, that wouldn't bother me, but we want the fans back really bad, that's who we want back.

Q. Mickelson's here this week, Furyk's here for the first time in this event and there's guys coming up that are going to be turning 50 this year. What's this influx of stars coming to this tour?

JERRY KELLY: I think we're seeing a level of play, I think we're seeing the camaraderie, I think there's a lot of courses that the guys used to play on the regular tour, a lot of them that they liked, and to be able to come back in this atmosphere, it's enjoyable.

Now, you've still got to play. With Strick coming back after the Ryder Cup and Furyk and Ernie and Goose and Mickelson. I mean, it's only going to get harder and harder to win out here. And it's always been hard, but there's some good play. I'm telling you, these guys don't hit it that short, we don't play that short of courses. It's some good play.