

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
June 11, 2021



JERRY KELLY (-5)

Q. Jerry, current leader in the clubhouse here at 5 under. Your thoughts on the day?

JERRY KELLY: I started out with a strong eagle. Kind of hit the pause button and really didn't make too many quality swings in there and just, I had a good second shot on 10 to get it in there close with a 5-iron. Then again on 11, but stuck a 4-iron there. As Kirk Triplett called it, that was a provisional 4. I had to hit a provisional off the tee and still made birdie. Those are positives.

But then I hit it really well down the stretch. I found something on 11 and I carried that through the rest of the day, so I'll save myself the range session and go home and be happy where I'm at.

Q. What did you hit into 2?

JERRY KELLY: Into 2 was utility 3-iron.

Q. You looked a little annoyed on the cart going from 9 to 10. Is that because that run of pars, you thought maybe you would build off that eagle?

JERRY KELLY: Well, I was hitting some quality putts and they were just missing, missing a short one After I missed -- after I made a decent putt for par on the par 5.

No, that was just my normal, "c'mon," you know? You're kind of stuck in neutral, let's go. I was in good spirits, I knew I was playing well enough, but I hadn't showed it yet. That was just normal me.

Q. Jerry, I called your mom. She keeps score and also she's planting feathers in the ground. Can you explain this?

JERRY KELLY: So you plant the feathers for the birdies. The birdies grow when you plant the feathers. She hasn't gotten to watering them yet, so maybe that's next.

She has kept score, and I mean I'm not talking about keeping score like writing 4 down and 5 down. She knows where every shot went, she knows if I hit the fairway or if I didn't, whether I hit the green or I didn't, whether I got up and down, what the putts were like. I mean, the cards, we save every single one of them. I look back and I can -- it's my entire round right there on a card.

She taught me how to do it and I did that as a junior, kind of keeping the stats. So when we

got out on the Nike Tour and the PGA TOUR, to actually have stats for me to follow that I didn't have to do that on the card. No, she taught me to pay attention to those and never be afraid of them, or I need to hit more greens or I need to make more putts or hit more fairways.

Q. She was Shotlink before there was Shotlink?

JERRY KELLY: She was the original Shotlink, no question about it.

Q. Do you bring your A-game here every year or do you find it here?

JERRY KELLY: I hope it's here. It's in the locker somewhere. I mean, I just love playing in front of Wisconsin crowds. I love it. I mentioned the Western Open in Illinois, there's enough Wisconsin people to call that a home game. They've done so much for me that they still constantly bring me up and are always behind me. No, I appreciate it more than they ever possibly know. That's what it does, it puts me in a happy place. As my wife says, when I'm in a happy place, I play well. Usually it takes Hawaii or something like that, but home is definitely a happy place. Just shows you how mental it is.

Q. Where did you hit the ball on 11 and how did you get out of it?

JERRY KELLY: I just hit it left. I didn't know how much room's over there, I've never really been in there. There was a lot more room than I thought. I'm just glad the tee was back. If it had been the up tee, I would have been in trouble. No, I just pitched it out with a 5-iron no problem and just had a little wedge in. It's just not knowing what's over there. Hopefully I never find out again.

Q. And the heat, how did you deal with that?

JERRY KELLY: I mean, it's tough. You definitely got to stay hydrated, a bunch of liquid IVs out there. And you can only drink so much water, you need some sustenance in there. You know Bruce Newton, we call him Fig, he starts us and gives me an Uncrustable on the first tee every day. Yeah, I had an Uncrustable out there. Brings me back to my youth, I love it.

Q. (No microphone.)

JERRY KELLY: No. In fact, I might have messed that one up.

Q. Keith, yeah.

JERRY KELLY: I do that just because of the Newton thing.