

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
June 13, 2021



JERRY KELLY (-14)

MAUREEN RADZAVICZ: Jerry Kelly, now a two-time winner here at the American Family Insurance Championship. Can you just put into words how you're feeling right now and everything in the last hour or so?

JERRY KELLY: I mean, to be able to celebrate with everybody from Madison, everybody from Wisconsin, the great companies that we have here, Exact Sciences and American Family, and my family, it means so much to share this stuff.

It doesn't -- I won right after COVID and it was a major and nobody was there. It was kind of like, woo-hoo, but to really get the feelings up and do it in front of somebody and with people just means so much more.

So I'm so happy to have all the fans back and playing like regular again. It's nice.

MAUREEN RADZAVICZ: The guys didn't make it easy for you today. Obviously Couples, Miguel all putting the pressure on. Can you just talk a little about the rollercoaster that was today?

JERRY KELLY: Well, you saw my rollercoaster last night. I double-bogeyed the last hole and then I bogeyed the first hole today. I was kind of like, wow, what just happened?

Then I hit a good shot on the second hole and it's all the way in the back and I leave it 20 feet short. But all of a sudden, making that putt, that kind of righted my ship.

Then I hit a good shot and putt on the next hole. Then I'm like, okay, I'm 1 under through three, I'm kind of back to even par basically, so let's just chip away now, chip away, chip away. I think I was still three shots back at that point, so I knew how many birdies I had to make. I knew the back side could play easy with birdies, yet it's so tricky, they're not automatic.

I'm glad I got a few of them. Left a few out there, but pretty happy with the 6-under round out there.

Q. The par putt at the end though (inaudible)?

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, yeah, the 17th hole wasn't really huge, but I made it look huge after it did a little ring-around-the-rosie. That one on the last hole, that felt like the putt I made at Hualalai, I just really enjoyed that. That would have been better than just kind of tapping it down there and tapping it in. That would have been less stressful, but that was really fun to

do. It lets you know you can do it in those pressure situations. You know, I mean, hats off. I played with a 67-year-old, and Freddie Couples is over 60, these guys are so good, it's unbelievable. Mr. Langer gave me a congratulations afterwards. I mean, if anybody's a "mister," that's a Mr. Langer.

I feel honored, blessed to be out here playing with these guys, and they're the ones who really push me to try to get better. Still working out constantly because I see these guys just working their butts off. It's not a retirement tour, it's great players over 50.

Q. Jerry, with the sizeable family contingent you have here, what's the celebration going to be like tonight? What kind of wine is going to be flowing?

JERRY KELLY: I think it's going to be pretty good. Somewhere where I don't have to drive home, I know that.

Q. Jerry, you played great on the back nine, but you got a break off 16 tee. How scared were you that that was going to wind up in a bad spot, the drive?

JERRY KELLY: I can't believe it ended up where it did. That was an extremely lucky break. Yeah, thanks for reminding me of that one, I need to look back at that one.

I mean, that could have hit the first tree and been back in the hay a long ways, so that was -- thanks, Dad. That was definitely my dad intervening on that one. How that got through everything I have absolutely no idea. Two bad drives in a row on that hole, but to come out 1 under for the two times, that was very lucky.

Q. Jerry, when we talked to Andy afterwards, (no audio) he'll ever play a competitive round on the tour again. If you won his last (no audio) in a tournament that Steve hosted, how would that be for symmetry?

JERRY KELLY: That's pretty awesome. I did just get a little bit of chills on that one. That's how much he means to me. He's such a great guy, he's been such a great help, great ambassador for Wisconsin, the state and for the university. I mean, can't say enough about him. I mean, I hate the fact that he thinks he's hanging it up. I understand it. He's been through so many surgeries that you can't even count them anymore. I hurt at 54, I can't imagine what he feels like, so I fully understand. And he deserves to be able to with the dignity that he has because he's a great champion.

Q. Jerry, coming down the last few holes, did you know what Fred was doing behind you? And especially here on this 18th green, did you kind of know if I don't make this putt, I've got a pretty tough chance to win this tournament?

JERRY KELLY: Absolutely, 1,000 percent. After I hit my drive, I looked over and watched him stuff it close. I just had to know if that was -- I didn't know if he birdied the hole before or eagled. I didn't hear the roar for eagle, but I knew he hit a good second shot. I knew he was

at least tied, if not one ahead of me.

I was thinking making birdie on this hole the entire way. Hit probably my best shot of the day, didn't realize it was kicking like it was up here. But hats off to the grounds crew. I mean, this is the way you play a golf course right here. It was fantastic. It was firm, it was fast, the rough was just gnarly enough to make hitting greens even difficult with wedges. I think they did a fantastic job, and it was fun to make that one on 18.

Q. Jerry, I don't think people appreciate how tough that little chip was from the fringe here because you could leave it in the fringe or you could hit it 40 feet by. Did you hit that exactly the way you wanted?

JERRY KELLY: No, I probably hit it a little firmer. I think I hit it as hard as I would have hit a putt and the putt would have sucked it back, but I could have left the putt short very easily. So I had to get something that was going to get it on top of the grass and rolling, and funny thing is, I practiced that not long ago. But I was playing a little right-to-left coming off of that mound and it shot to the right and that's what made it go so much further, because it was going downhill that way. I mean, those are the kind of putts that you can dream about, that was pretty fun.

Q. And you're watching Freddie finish up there, are you thinking -- preparing for a playoff there?

JERRY KELLY: Yeah. I knew the chip was tough and I know the putt is tough. I mean, it was difficult out there. It's so firm, so fast and things are just snapping quicker. My putt on 17, that went left very quickly. I'd like to say it wasn't me, but it might have been. Yeah, that was close.

Q. Jerry, when you won in 2019, you were the first Wisconsin golfer to win an in-state PGA TOUR-sanctioned event. This year you're the first to win back-to-back, because I looked it up and nobody ever won two in a row in Milwaukee.

JERRY KELLY: I mean, back-to-back just anytime, absolutely. I've never been able to do it. I remember asking Mr. Nicklaus one time when I had won -- I don't know what it was, might have been the Western and then going to Milwaukee and I didn't play very well at Milwaukee. I asked him, "What's the secret to back-to-back titles," and he said, "Take it easy at the beginning of the week and then come in and win." I tried to do that my entire career and it never worked until now. It was such a strange time not having it last year. It was nice having people recognize me as defending champion. It felt kind of weird, but I feel like it now.