

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
September 10, 2021



JIM FURYK (-4)

Q. Talk a little bit about your round today.

JIM FURYK: I got off to a fast start, that's for sure, birdieing four of the first six. You know, did a good job of really hitting a lot of fairways, I drove the ball really well today, excited about that. These greens are severe so there's times where it's tough to get the ball close or it's tough to put the ball in a position where you can be aggressive with the putter. So felt like I hit some good iron shots, but you're really still playing defense a lot. Hit a bunch of good putts on the back side, really did convert on a short one on 11. But, you know, didn't really -- I guess I didn't hit any spectacular iron shots on the back and didn't convert on any of the putts, but I did hit some really good ones. And a little flustered about the bogey at 17, but honestly, it was two of my best shots of the day. Hit a 3-wood and split the fairway and hit a 9-iron that I thought was covering the pin, but whether I got fooled by the wind or what happened, ended up just over and wasn't able to get it up and down. Overall, though, I made I guess six birdies today and a fast start, but solid the rest of the way.

Q. Guys have said the course has played different throughout the week based on the wind. Did you experience that?

JIM FURYK: Yeah. You know, most of the guys have seen the golf course more than me. Due to our event, we have a Champions event, PGA TOUR Champions event in Jacksonville that my wife and I are hosting, so I was doing some work for that early in the week. I played it yesterday in the morning. It was breezy yesterday, but it was definitely the opposite direction. So today there were a couple holes, like 13 where I was hitting long iron into 13 yesterday and today I'm hitting 9-iron on the back of the green, so totally flipped.

You know, Fluff did a good job kind of preparing me early in the week when I wasn't here and we worked really hard in the pro-am yesterday to kind of get some angles and yardages. A couple blind shots like 8 and 9 that are maybe a little difficult. But the golf course I heard was very wet earlier in the week on Tuesday and playing very long, and then I didn't really see it until Thursday, so pretty similar conditions other than the wind turned around.

Q. St. Louis has had some big golf events, but they haven't had a regular stop. The Boone Valley Classic was like 20 years ago, the LPGA came here. Do you see this potentially being a staple on the calendar?

JIM FURYK: I hope so, yeah, I hope so. Great sports fans. When we have -- I guess from when I have been here for World Golf Championship, I guess that one we didn't get an opportunity to see so much of, unfortunately. I guess we'll be commemorating that tomorrow

from what I hear out here on the golf course. And then I guess played the BMW and the PGA.

St. Louis fans are great, coming out in droves. We had a really nice crowd out there today. It's a nice build-out, there's a bunch of hospitality tents, so it's kind of a thriving sports community and we're really pleased that they came out to support us, very happy.

Q. Doug said it was almost loud, he said he almost had to focus, he said I'm not used to it being that loud.

JIM FURYK: You know, we have our moments. We have some events in areas -- coming out of COVID, I don't think anyone's -- we really haven't -- we're just picking up with our crowds now. This is one of the bigger build-outs as far as the hospitality areas and the amount of fans that I've seen at the course in a while. I'm still trying to get a feel for the crowds and how things look at a Champions Tour event. I started a year ago, but my first Champions Tour event was right -- was the first event after COVID. No fans, ghost town, so we're kind of picking up and I'm anxious to get back to, as everyone is, to a little bit more normalcy not only out here at the golf tournament, but everywhere in life.

Q. And Bernhard was talking about 9/11, remembered it being at Bellerive and we all kind of wondered are we going to play. I remember Tiger got in his car, just drove 20 hours. Do you remember leaving, because there were no planes, how that all played out for you?

JIM FURYK: We weren't sure what we were going to do, but the tournament was nice enough to -- you know, they realized the airlines were shut down, all the rental cars were pretty much taken by that time and the courtesy cars that they had on site, whoever was running it at the time, they allowed us -- I remember it was a -- I remember it was a Chevy dealer I believe in town. So I drove to Jacksonville, Florida, with my wife and we just returned that car at the Chevy dealer there. So it was nice that they allowed us to get home, and I don't know how many of those moments you have where you remember where you were at, what were doing when that happened.