

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**June 9, 2022**



**JERRY KELLY**

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**JULIE NELSON:** We've got Jerry Kelly here.

Jerry, just talk about the week, the preparation and just excited to be back in Madison.

**JERRY KELLY:** It was nice coming off of last week where I was actually in Chicago with the family Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, traveled on Wednesday, didn't do anything on Wednesday either up there, so I felt pretty comfortable resting up these three days. I had probably a little too much fun, so it wasn't as much rest as it was last week.

I feel comfortable after one practice round out here. I love this golf course and it's in great shape. A little soft right now. It will play long for a short hitter like me, so I have to run off the tee playing with Goosen and Freddie tomorrow because I'll be hitting first every single time.

It's fun coming off of a win and seeing everybody. I get so much emotion from everybody all the time anyway and now they're coming at me with congratulations. It's really fun.

**Q. Do you feel there's a target on your back this week after winning this thing a couple times around?**

**JERRY KELLY:** Absolutely. I had one after last year, I know that, and even more so this year.

As I was telling Phil Hurley, who was playing with me, he was like, so how do you take this one? You know, do you feel like you're going for a three-peat? It's like we start at zero every single week. You can either look at it like you're tied for first or you're tied for last, right, when you start the tournament. Just because you won last year or you won last week, when we tee it up on Friday, it means nothing. That's why we play it.

**Q. If it's harder to win two weeks in a row, does it make it easier because of where you are?**

**JERRY KELLY:** Yeah, I'm not going to be worried about getting the adrenaline up, it will be there. I was racing around today, forgot my hat, got the wrong shirt on. I did a lot of things wrong today, so hopefully I got that out of my system. Show up tomorrow, I'll be needing to breathe tomorrow because I always get as jacked as I do at any tournament at this first tee.

I'm always like, yeah, pretty comfortable, this will be no problem, but when I get on that first tee, I'm pretty jacked. It will be a settling thing and it may take a few holes or it may put my focus right on. I just feel good about where I'm at and hopefully just let it come to me.

**Q. Jerry, Steve, he talked about just the challenge of handling emotions of this week and the expectations of this week and how he wants to be better at it, but how have you been able to do that so well in the past?**

**JERRY KELLY:** Well, I tell him, he won my Tucson event for Exact Sciences, Cologuard, and I haven't played that well there. Came close this last year and the first year when he was playing well, but it takes a lot out of you. You're giving so much of yourself all week. And it's an honor to be able to give that to a tournament. I don't look at it as work, I look at it as I'm blessed to be able to be a face of something like that, but I know how hard it is. And then put it on top that it's in your hometown, yeah, there's a lot riding on it.

And obviously he has done fantastic in the tournament. I know you guys are all going to ask when are you going to win, but it's just like Milwaukee. We had a couple of seconds, had a playoff, and I think we did great in Milwaukee. Yes, we didn't win, but the odds are actually fairly slim. But he's been up there every single time and he'll be up there again, I know that. I just hope I can be with him.

**Q. Jerry, as someone who's spent so much of his life on the PGA Tour, was just wondering what your thoughts were on the number of golfers continuing to elect to play on the LIV tour and the PGA Tour's subsequent decision this morning to suspend those players.**

**JERRY KELLY:** Yeah, the PGA Tour has to protect their business, there's no question. Players are also a business, they have to look to their families and look to see if, okay, what they're offering is good enough for me to disregard everything that they've done and everything they could do out here.

I talked about it with my wife and she's like, you wouldn't go, would you? I'm like, I don't think I would. I mean, they've also asked me would you welcome the guys back. Absolutely, I would. As a player, I want to play against the best and if some of those guys want to come back, but I understand the PGA Tour's decision 1,000 percent that it's a membership organization and the bylaws are in there and that's kind of why the guys had to resign, otherwise they would have faced disciplinary action. And the guys who don't resign are going to face disciplinary action and I don't know what they're going to do about that.

But I'm glad I'm where I'm at, I didn't have to make that decision anyway. I don't think that decision would have been hard for me, but you don't know what they throw at you. It's just incredible sums of money. Some people might blow through it faster than others and have to take that.

I am very proud of what I've accomplished on the PGA Tour. I mean, I'm beyond ecstatic what the PGA Tour gave me and my family and I'm looking forward to continue on the PGA Tour Champions. That's a luxury, that's a gift that they've given us to be able to play this far into our careers. I would be blessed if I could play as far as Bernhard, but that's another

whole question right there. Yeah, it's a personal decision, you have to respect the decision, but you also have to respect the PGA Tour's position and it is their position to be able to do that.

**Q. The legacy conundrum has gotten brought up a bunch in this. Do you think the players who are leaving for that tour are hurting their legacy?**

**JERRY KELLY:** I would say yeah. I mean, we play for our living and you're getting a whole lot of upfront money. I don't know how I'd react to getting that. I've never had the contracts that make me comfortable. Those guys, most of the guys that got that kind of money had the contracts to make them comfortable as well. So I don't know. It's just a really strange time right now, it's crazy.

**Q. Jerry, you talked about Bernhard and trying to chase longevity. Have you had to do anything in terms of physical preparation and taking care of your body to make sure that -- are you even at that age yet where that becomes a factor and what do you do to kind of make sure that -- and does the win last week, does that remind you that you've still got it?**

**JERRY KELLY:** Am I at that age? Are you kidding me? I'm way past that age that it matters.

The biggest problem that I have is once I feel healthy, I'm like now I've got to get on my working out and I've got to work out hard, I've got to get strong so I can carry it through the season because you can't work out during the season as hard as we used to, and every time I get hurt it's from working out. I hurt myself doing that more than I do playing golf, but you have to work out in order to continue this.

I've seen the way Bernhard has changed his workouts over the years. Used to be running, then he went just walking on the treadmill, now he's not even on the treadmill as much and he's really doing a lot of ground work and things like that. I don't get to see his workouts off the golf course, which I'm sure they're pretty extensive, but you have to keep up.

And injuries always happen, which give you setbacks. I haven't been able to work out for a solid eight weeks, almost 10 weeks because of my back. I just got a big pop out of it last week amazingly. It was on Thursday morning and I felt very good going into the tournament for the first time in a long time. So what do I want to do? I want to come home and I want to work out, but I had to hold myself off, make sure I strengthen it naturally before I put a lot of weight on top of it. It's a constant cycle, circle of building up, breaking down, having to stop, building back up, you know, then getting into peak condition. I don't know if I can get into peak condition again, but I'm going to give it a shot, I know that.

**Q. Jerry, you talked about how much energy the crowd gives you. The flip side of that is there's pressure, there's maybe trying too hard. Did you ever experience that, whether it was in Milwaukee or the early years here, just going out there, you wanted**

**this thing so badly that it went the other way?**

**JERRY KELLY:** They gave me so much emotion and energy on the positive side that I didn't really dwell on the negative side as much.

Now, you look at my record in majors, that's where you can look at over-trying, over-emotion. Really destroyed my chances at majors. And I didn't change my game. I went after pins and you do that at majors and you're in deep trouble. I didn't have the discipline to be able to do that. But the courses that you're talking about, Brown Deer and here and some of the other places, we can be more aggressive so we can use that emotion, that high and go after things. But yeah, that still gets to me about my major record. You know, what can you do? Hot tub time machine, give it to me.

**Q. Jerry, you looked at your career, your consistency, the fact that you never lost your card, the fact that you won on all three levels of the PGA Tour, certainly you're beloved in this market, but do you feel sometimes that you've been underappreciated or underrated?**

**JERRY KELLY:** The funny thing is the first Sports Illustrated article that came out, I was in the top 3 most overrated and the top 3 most underrated. I mean, it doesn't get any better than that right there.

Nobody knows. I didn't know how to think of myself and my career over the years. I always thought I could do a whole lot more, but people would look at me and go, "How has he even done that?" That's been a good chip all the way through where it's like, hey, I'm unexpected. You guys at this point are expecting me, but then I go through the stretch that I just had and I'm looking at the power rankings before the tournaments and I'm not even on there. It's like, all right, get that chip going again and get yourself back up there to where are you being talked about. As long as you're being talked about, you're doing something right. As long as people are still asking for an autograph, I'll sign them because it's going to end sooner or later and I don't want it to.