

JERRY KELLY

Q. Jerry, thank you for joining us at the Cologuard Classic by Exact Sciences media availability. You are the host of this tournament. You have said this is more than a tournament; this is a movement, this is not a golf tournament. What does that mean to you this week?

JERRY KELLY: It means honoring those that we've lost, it means celebrating the survivors that are here with us, and it's spreading the word to every single person that we possibly can. We always say that first one is a drop in the pond and I want those ripples to get wider and wider so everybody understands early detection of this disease, we can cure it. The later the detection, the less of a chance that you have of surviving.

We've got a bunch of stage 4 survivors out here who are working their butts off every single day, every single week to try and get healthy and stay healthy. It's an inspiration.

But there's 60 million Americans who are behind on their screenings and it's like what are you waiting for? Are you afraid to find out that you do have it? By the time that you find out that you have it without testing, I'm sorry, you're not going to have a chance because it does not show symptoms. That's why we have to test.

Q. What does it mean to have the players buy in to this week? You hear that they've formed these relationships and they've lasted years and they're playing in honor of people and building relationships with those families. What does that mean to you to have that kind of support?

JERRY KELLY: I mean, the tournament couldn't turn into a movement rather than just a golf tournament without every single one of these players buying in. I appreciate it from the bottom of my heart how they take this tournament, how they accept the people that they're playing for on their hats. I know that's an emotional play, that's very difficult for them to do. I appreciate it very much.

I've got my buddy Rob Andringa, Ringo, and Mike Mancini, and we've lost both of them, and unnecessarily. If there wasn't an arbitrary number sitting on this, which luckily has gone down to 45 from 50, but my buddy Rob would be here if it would have been 45 when he was diagnosed at 47 years old.

So I'm here to keep on pushing out the word even to, you know, the national powers that be, the FDA, whoever, the National Cancer Society, I don't know who sets these guidelines at 45, but come on, there's too many 20-year-olds, 30-year-olds and 40-year-olds having stage 4 colon cancer. Why wait for a number. Don't bow to the insurance company, don't bow to

the pharmaceutical companies. Bow to the people, let's save people's lives.

Q. What does it mean for you when you're out there -- switching to the golf side of things -- but knowing the impact that you're having? How do you compartmentalize both of those things leading into this week knowing you still are going to play in a tournament?

JERRY KELLY: Do I switch to the golf side? I tend not to at this tournament and that's totally fine with me. I am much more happy spending -- I've got a lot of emotion when I play and I love spending all of my emotion on the people around me this week. They deserve it and that's what I want to give to them.

If I play well, great. But I want to do well more than I want to play well. I thank Exact Sciences and Cologuard for giving me the chance to do well.

Q. Beyond this event, what do you personally do and some of the other players do to kind of raise awareness about colon cancer beyond this weekend that we're here for?

JERRY KELLY: Oh, I'm doing interviews pretty consistently and I'm trying to get the word out every chance I can. Wearing the hat every week on TV definitely helps, but I don't like just being a billboard, I like being a talking billboard.

I see people every single week who said, hey, I got screened, I wouldn't have if I didn't see the golf tournament and know what was going on and hear about it.

The more we talk about it, the more people don't mind talking about colorectal cancer. It's the No. 2 killer for men and women in the United States. You don't hear about it. You hear breast, you hear lung, you hear everything except for colorectal because nobody wants to talk about it. I'm here to talk about it, I'm fine.

Q. The fans are out here this week, they see the tents where you would sign up to get screened. Games around it, too, but also just a lot of different things that bring awareness. How do you see that affect the galleries around this tournament both in previous years at Omni and now here?

JERRY KELLY: I mean, it really is that ripple effect. I mean, we are making it so people can actually come out and get screened, which we didn't have that possibility before. I applaud them for bringing that thing in here and being able to have people get it done right away.

This is a fantastic venue. I mean, La Paloma, the Westin, they've done a fantastic job. It's a huge property and we can really spread out and put a huge stamp on Tucson with this place. So we're really excited to be here and they've been great hosts.

Q. You are the host of this event, you have fans here in southern Arizona. How nice is it to be able to come out here and play in front of these fans and really connect to a

city where you have done a lot of good work as well as played a lot of good golf?

JERRY KELLY: I always touted Tucson and I never missed a Tucson event. I like a little bit of cowboy, so I'm a very big fan of Tucson.

My brother-in-law and my coach, who was living in Phoenix, that's what put me to Phoenix and it was hard for me to not actually come to Tucson instead of Phoenix. I didn't want to drive to see him every day, so I had to go into Phoenix.

And I've just loved it in Arizona. I mean, I can't believe we're getting this weather, but normally I tell everybody just rinse and repeat, we're just going to get perfect weather day after day. The people are great, they're fantastic. I do like the cowboys of Tucson.

Q. These are from your buddy.

JERRY KELLY: Rob?

Q. Yeah. OK. Cologuard and Galleri coming up in a few weeks are two companies that provide products for cancer screening and awareness for health cancer awareness. At this stage in your life, how much more aware are you of your own health and how much appreciation do you have for companies like Cologuard and Galleri that are trying to help people navigate their potential health challenges? That was a lot.

JERRY KELLY: I'm going to talk about Cologuard because it's FDA approved and it's also covered by Medicaid and Medicare, so people can get it easily and it's actually been tested.

I really am proud of what Cologuard has done. They are absolutely not putting anything out that doesn't have the right specificity.

That's a terrible question, I'm not going to answer that. Tell Rob he's out.

Q. OK.

JERRY KELLY: I mean, it's not even a test. Come on, Cologuard is -- Cologuard's real.

Q. The next one from Rob, your buddy Stricker gets to tee it up next week in THE PLAYERS. Now that you hold the record for oldest player to make the cut there, do you share the secret sauce for playing well there after the age of 50 or is that a closely guarded secret for you?

JERRY KELLY: I really don't think that he needs any advice or any secret sauce. I've told everybody, I'm happy I held the record for a year, that's fine, but I think Steve is going to contend in this tournament. I don't think he's there just to make the cut.

The way he's playing and the style of game that he has, I mean, I swear to you, you could win that tournament. There is no way I'm looking with bated breath whether to see if he makes the cut or not. I want him to actually contend and I think he can.

Q. Because of every phase of his game or is there something specific --

JERRY KELLY: No, there is no weakness there, no weakness. It comes down to weathering breaks sometimes, but he's got the game to do fantastic there.

Q. Back to Cologuard, you mentioned it right there, a lot of people, you've been talking about 40, 45, 50. How many people in your experience in your time in their 20s have kind of changed and say, oh, crap, maybe I need to go get tested, too? How often do you see that happen?

JERRY KELLY: It's tough. Usually -- I mean, the FDA has set guidelines for 45 and over, so it really hamstring the company from giving it to the people who really need it. So there's 20s, 30s, and early 40-year-olds that are finding out that they have stage 4 colorectal cancer where if they would have gotten screened, if this would be a standard of care from your young adult life, say by the time you can drive a car, why wouldn't this be a standard of care? It is in other countries, so why can't it be here?

They're ruled by the almighty dollar from above my pay grade, so I don't know that one. But I am going to still keep singing it from the mountaintop and say we're just -- we're wasting lives because there's an arbitrary number on getting screened for the noninvasive test that is not going to put someone possibly in a hospital like a colonoscopy could.

There's really no sense to it, but that's kind of the way it is. You obviously have to play by the rules.

I just, I'm so proud of the test and it's doing such great work, but yes, we just have to keep getting the word out. If somebody's got family history, they can find out the family history, too, with Exact Science's just put out a test called Risk Guard and it looks at all the gene mutations that actually are familial from your family and those mutations lead to certain types of cancers. They know of a whole lot of them, so it's not like they're just looking for colon cancer with this Risk Guard, they're looking for a plethora of cancers and that we can at least tell if you have the mutation, then you can take that to your doctor and say, listen, let's catch this early and do it. But if you don't have that tool, they're just going to say, no, you're not qualified yet.

Do your homework, find out how you can get it, and that's one way to get it is know that you have that gene mutation and then it's open for you.

Q. It's Dress in Blue day on Saturday. How important is it for the fans to come out, support, wear their blue? Just what would your message be to them?

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, I mean, what we like seeing is walking up 18, all the cancer coalition, all the advocacy groups and everybody wear blue every single day. So we have a sea of blue walking up the 18th hole on Sunday, but to have everybody show up with blue on Saturday would show those people, would show the survivors, would show the advocacy groups, would show the caregivers that you do care. I think that's the coolest thing. You can do it for your -- you know, going into a stadium for your sports team, let's do it for these people who really deserve it.