

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW: JERRY KELLY (- 7)
August 25, 2017



DAVE SENKO: Well, Jerry, great start, 7-under 65. Looks like you had that one blemish at No. 11 and then eight birdies.

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, it's good. I can't even remember what I did on 11, too. I made about a 60-footer on 10. Then went to 11 and I was in a divot in the fairway and just kind of tried to hit on top of an 8 and draw it and I left it out. It was a tough up-and-down. I hit a good chip. First green was really wet, second green back there was fairly firm, and then just barely missed the putt. And then getting a birdie back the next one right away was nice.

DAVE SENKO: How far was your putt on No. 12?

JERRY KELLY: It was probably about 18 feet. After the first 10 and then 11 being opposite greens, then all of a sudden 12 is usually one of the firmest out here and they watered that one and it spun back almost to the front edge and then made the putt, so that was justice.

Q. And then 14?

JERRY KELLY: No clue. I can't think back that far.

DAVE SENKO: On No. 11 you missed the putt. How long was the putt you missed for bogey?

JERRY KELLY: It was probably eight feet.

DAVE SENKO: And how about those three in a row, what was the shot sequence on 1, 2 and 3 for birdie?

JERRY KELLY: I hit driver. Was going to hit a little cut 3-wood and ended up hitting it straight. I was in the bunker left, knocked it up about eight feet and made it.

The next hole I hit driver, 8-iron to about -- a lot of eights -- 18 feet I'd say and made that one.

And then the next hole I almost hit a provisional because I felt like I hit it too far right but I was actually still in the fairway. Knocked a 6-iron up about five feet and made it.

DAVE SENKO: And then the last one, No. 8, the par 5?

JERRY KELLY: Driver, 3-iron just short of the back bunker. I didn't hit a particularly good second shot trying to hit a high cut to land it soft there and just cleared the water and it bounced all the way just in the rough in the back bunker. Knocked it to about three inches

and left it.

Then my ball went backwards up the hill on the last putt. That last little move was actually backwards going downhill, but I'm not going to complain about that, I'm just putting it out there.

DAVE SENKO: How tough is it first time you play a course like this? I know you played the pro-am and everything, but once --

JERRY KELLY: I haven't given that enough credit. My wife reminded me of that last week. We talked quite a bit the last couple weeks because she finally came out to Michigan and watched how miserable I was the first day. It was the last tournament my son was at, too. We just took him to Boulder for college and we really -- I really got a good talking to in those days.

I didn't realize how tough it was to play without experience on a golf course again. I figured, hey, I do that at majors all the time, but the way we played week in and week out at a golf course, it makes a huge difference that you know exactly where you need to be and where you don't need to be. I've hit great shots in terrible spots this year and I've hit bad shots that turned out pretty good. It's one of those things that I'm going to try and let up on myself this year and just try to have some fun.

Q. Jerry, you mentioned taking your son to college, I saw your Instagram post. Is it a big transition, there's a big change in your life joining this tour, the son going out and all of that. Maybe this is the start of what's next, for you to be done with that part?

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, there's no question. I've been fully exempt on the PGA TOUR this year and decided to come out here. I've still got a top-50 exemption. I just asked my wife, you know, what do you think, next year, year after? She's like, eh, I kind of like it out here. You know, so do I. I don't know if I'll ever take it. I want to play some tournaments out there still, the Sony and New Orleans with Strick and Harbour Town and Hartford if they would move Madison away from Hartford. Those four are kind of places that I would really like to play but my heart's out here.

Q. (No microphone.)

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, I was also a high school soccer player, too. I played everything. Played baseball until I was 12. Let's see, what else do I have? Ultimate Frisbee, a little rugby, a little lacrosse, ping pong. Great at ping pong. Pool, I'm all right. Don't tell anybody that, though, because I start out left-handed until we start playing for money and then I switch to right and I get my butt kicked for doing that. Is that too much information?

Q. How's your colon?

JERRY KELLY: My colon? My colon is good. I know my colon is good because I'm

representing the best company in the world right now.

Q. How did you pick them or did they pick you?

JERRY KELLY: I became friends with Kevin Conroy, who's the CEO, and we've both had our brushes with people living and dying through cancer. He could tell that the passion was in my voice to make a difference somewhere and I told him, these guys are over 50 and these are the guys that need to get tested. It's a noninvasive, easy, do-it-at-home. It's the second leading killer of cancer in the country and nobody talks about it. I mean, it doesn't matter where it is in your body, it's important to find out if it's there and if you can be helped. First step is testing.

Q. Have you been a first-round leader before or second-round leader before?

JERRY KELLY: Not here, not here, but I mean, yeah.

Q. I mean on this tour.

JERRY KELLY: No, I think this is the first time on this tour. I haven't gotten out to a good start yet. I haven't had a good tournament yet. I'm hoping this is the first one. This is just the first day, it's nothing that I'm really...

DAVE SENKO: Okay. Thanks, Jerry.