

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
June 3, 2021



JERRY KELLY (-7)

Q. Jerry, you open with 7 under today. What was the key today? What was going well for you?

JERRY KELLY: Putting. I definitely struck it better than I have, at least more consistent getting it towards the hole rather than kind of veering off to the right or the left. But the putter was the key. I got to give a shout-out, I had a really good friend give me a putting lesson yesterday afternoon and that worked out really well.

Q. What did Steve show you?

JERRY KELLY: He wasn't even going to ask.

Q. Because he doesn't get out on the course, that's why.

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, Steve Stricker gave me the lesson that he's been giving me ever since we played in the Shark Shootout together. I don't know, for some reason that setup clicked for the way that I'm right now putting. That setup that he's always wanted me in just felt awesome and I could line it up. I've never been able to line it up before. I could line it up, I could stroke it down the line and it had such a great roll, so much better. It's the way I used to putt. I know I'm a great putter, but I haven't been putting well. If I can put that side of my game together, I'll be really happy.

Q. Warming up just in time to defend, are we?

JERRY KELLY: He's a nice guy, isn't he? (Laughs.) If he's going to -- he wants me at my best, he doesn't want me down back in there, so he's going to do everything he can. And I would do everything I can to help him, too. It's just the people we are and I really appreciate it.

Q. But that's different with this tour compared to the younger tour, isn't it?

JERRY KELLY: I mean, you could say it's different, but I've always been there for him and he's always been there for me even back then. I'm pretty sure Steve's always been there for just about everybody who wanted. I mean, he's helping Tiger putt. I mean, come on. He doesn't need any help.

But there's always been guys who have been there. There were some of the older guys that were mentors to me and I'll never forget it. They just don't ask us anymore.

Q. You said yesterday, the night before you got here you haven't touched a club in three days. Might not be a bad thing?

JERRY KELLY: Yeah. My wife and son, Cooper, we went apartment hunting for him in Chicago and had a great time. And they're going to say "I told you so" once I see them because it's something that they've always wanted me to do is show up on Wednesday afternoon, play the pro-am on Thursday and get in the tournament. Showing up on Tuesday is just like showing up on a Monday on a regular tournament and it's just too long, you're into it too much. I'm going to try and be a little Joey Sindelar-like and show up nice and late. Not that late, no.

Q. What do you think about the course?

JERRY KELLY: The course is in fantastic shape. I don't know what they did over the winter, I heard they didn't cover them this year, but there's a lot less poa. It's really great putting surfaces right now, they're beautiful. Barring rain, they can do whatever they want to them.

Q. Have you gotten to look around Des Moines at all, do anything fun?

JERRY KELLY: I always do. You guys have great you restaurants here. Went to Proof last night. I've got to go to Harbinger, and then what's my -- good little Italian place in the house downtown, Arroyo? Sorry, guys. I'll be there tonight, though.