
84 LUMBER CLASSIC
Nemacolin Woodlands Resort
Mystic Rock Golf Course
Farmington, Pa

September 24, 2004
Second-round leader quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH KENT JONES

THE MODERATOR: We thank Kent Jones for coming in after his 4-under 68 today has him at 7-under for the tournament.

Kent, a great round today, again off to a start of 32 on the front nine with four birdies. Talk about the start.

KENT JONES: Yes, it was a really good start. It was a beautiful morning, the breeze wasn't up yet. The first group out, so the greens were perfect. I just played really solid, I hit it maybe 12 or 15 feet on the first hole and made birdie.

And then 3, I hit a 5-iron, and actually I think it caught part of the hole and it went by about five feet and made that for birdie.

Let's see, 5, drove it in the left hazard, dropped out and wedged it on and made about an eight-footer for par. That was nice to kind of keep some momentum.

And then wedged it to ten feet maybe on 6, made birdie.

8, knocked it on the front of the green in two and 2-putted. I had a nice little up and down on the. I hit it close on 10, like three feet for birdie.

I hit five for the rest of the day. Then the breeze kind of got up and it got a little tougher coming in.

Q. Does it look like it's going to get tougher for the guys this afternoon?

KENT JONES: I think it would be. The greens are already fairly firm. I thought they were a little softer this morning early. So with that breeze going, they can only firm up and speed up I would think. It's blowing hard enough to, you know, make it just tricky on club selection and especially some of the par-3s, blowing left-to-right on 17, is a tough shot.

Q. You got off to a good start this year with 2 Top-10's in your first three events, and then have somewhat struggled the rest of the year. You are 130th on the list, so the next few events are very big for you, you must be happy to get off to a good start.

KENT JONES: Right.

KENT JONES: Yes, it's nice to get off to a good start, and actually just play the first two days without worrying about the cut too much is kind of nice.

I got off to a great start this year, and this summer have been struggling especially with my putting more than anything. The last couple of weeks I have been hitting it a lot better playing solid and not making any putts. I got a new Never Compromise putter last week, putted with it, and just had a hard time reading the greens, but felt like I was putting good and this week I've putted great for two days. So it's been a big change. I probably putt as good as I putted all year, and definitely as good as I putted since early in the year, these first two rounds.

Q. I was going to ask you about the greens today, what did you thin of them today, they were softer, but do you think that's because you had another day of use on them?

KENT JONES: Maybe. There was a lot of dew out there this morning. I don't know if that had an affect. It seemed like they were just pretty much just firm yesterday, and today maybe a little more inconsistent where one would hit, and be really firm. And the next one would hit and be a little bit softer, especially with the fringes. Some of the fringes have softened up a little bit. So there is a couple of shots that would hit short of the green and stop, as opposed to hitting on the green and then release them sometimes 20 yards or whatever. But it just seemed like maybe just the dew or playing early, it just seemed to be playing just a little bit softer.

Q. Everyone kept saying earlier when the tournament began maybe 8 or 12-under would win this thing, it doesn't look like that will be the case now?

KENT JONES: Right. I played Tuesday and the fairways were so wet. They just played really long. It seemed like you are hitting a lot of mid-irons into green and you couldn't hold any of the greens, and it just seemed like it was going to play tough. And as the week went, the fairways have dried out so it's playing shorter. I think with the dryer fairways, you get a little more spin on the ball, so you are maybe able to hold the greens a little better. And I think maybe just everyone got more used to knowing that they had to play, let's say to the middle of the greens, or play away from some pins, and use some of the knobs on the greens, and take the 20-footers, if they have to, or whatever. So I think they got just a little bit more playable and the scores were pretty good. I'm a little surprised that the scores were as good as they were yesterday.

Q. How long does it take, they are talking about the new greens, they haven't been able to build up the layer of thatch yet. How long does it take the course, the greens, where the consistency is not going to be where it was yesterday rolling it 30 feet passed the hole?

KENT JONES: Right. It seems like the first year is always tough, they are always really firm. It probably takes a couple of years. The second year back, they are usually better. A couple of years after that, they're probably fine. Just that first year seems to always be, with new greens, really, really firm.

Q. How long does it take a golfer to get used to a putter. You said last week you were inconsistent with it and this week you are putting the best ever?

KENT JONES: I don't think that long. I mean you hear stories guys put in a new putter and putt great right away. I think a lot of it is if you find a new putter, and it looks good to you, for whatever reason it looks good, and you get more confidence and you make a couple of putts, your confidence goes up and it seems to be lot easier. I think it's probably a little bet more confidence. Maybe being able to read the green than really the putter.

Q. How many putters do you have? Why I am asking, there are different weights for putters, right?

KENT JONES: Right.

Q. Some greens you take a putter you maybe think will be easier or better suited for that type of course?

KENT JONES: Right. Yes, usually if I get a putter that I like, I usually stick with that one and don't change because of the -- generally because of the grass or because of the speed of the greens. I got a handful of putters with me anyway.

Q. Not so much the greens, but where they placed the pins today, how did that compare to yesterday? Is it pretty fair?

KENT JONES: I think they are probably similar. They are usually -- Thursdays and Fridays has gotten where the pins are pretty tough and they are pretty tough both days. I wouldn't think much difference.

It seemed like maybe there was few more front pins today. I don't know if that is true or not, which can be a little tougher. If the greens really get firmed up, the front pins are the toughest.

Q. Just to finish up going through your card, the birdie on No. 1, what did you hit in there?

KENT JONES: A lob-wedge.

Q. The bogey on 13 and 14?

KENT JONES: 13, hit a 3-wood, probably too much club, hit the cart path and went kind of way out. Had sort of a squirrely lie, left it in the bunker, and misjudged the bunker and came out short, just on the fringe and putted by about six or seven feet, and I made that so that was a good putt.

14, I drove it in the fairway but not a very good drive, so I had a long way in. I tried to hit a 5-iron to the back pin there. It went left-to-right. It wasn't just a good spot. I hit it left, down by the bunker, and not a good lie, and it went over the green and putted up two feet, behind it, bogey.

16, I hit my drive a little right. It got over the bunkers and stopped on the down slope in the heavy rough, and I could only advance it maybe 60 yards. And then hit a sand wedge and just hit it short of the green and actually spun back down the hill and chipped in with a wedge. It was kind of a scrambling birdie.

Q. The putt on 18 was about seven feet, was that a downhiller or close?

KENT JONES: Yes, about that downhill. I don't know, the pin was in a funny spot, Cameron Beckman was pretty much on the same line as me. I was trying to hit it straight and I probably pulled it a little bit and it went left. So that was probably about the only bad putt I hit in two days.

Q. Thank you, Kent.

KENT JONES: Thanks.