

**PODS Championship  
Innisbrook Golf Resort  
Copperhead Course  
Tampa Bay, Fl**

**March 6, 2008**

**First-round tournament quotes**

**AN INTERVIEW WITH KENNY PERRY**

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Kenny 34, 32, 66, and a very nice start to the 2008 PODS Championship.

A couple of thoughts about your round today.

**KENNY PERRY:** It was nice to play in very benign conditions. I mean last week we played in 30 mile an hour wind. Now it was nice. It was warm out there. That rain two days ago really changed the complexion of this golf course. It made it really receptive to your iron shots.

All in all I drove it great and I hit my irons really exceptional today, and I putted good. I hit a couple of loose drives here and there that cost me bogeys.

All in all I'm very pleased as to how I started. I'm very pleased on how I started. I made a bunch of birdies. I guess I made seven birdies, two bogeys. And normally the Copperhead doesn't give up those kind of numbers, those kind of birdies.

My iron game was really good today. I kept it right in there ten feet in there all day putting at birdies, and I got a few of them in.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Just run through the card if you could.

**KENNY PERRY:** First hole driver, 6-iron sand wedge to about 3 feet. 4, I 3-putted for bogey from about 15, 20 feet. That green was fast down that hill.

7, I get away with one, I pull hooked a 3-wood in the left trees but it was far enough back that I hit a 7-iron right over the top of the trees, hit it eight or ten feet and made it.

8, I hit a beautiful 4-iron from 222, kind of drew it in there to 10 feet right of the hole and got that one in.

Then on 10, I almost hit it in the 9th fairway over there, off the 10th tee, but it's in the woods, so I had to chip out, wedged it out and 2-putted bogey.

I hit probably the greatest shot of the week, that I remember in a long time, I hit a driver, 5-wood that almost went in the hole on 11. The pitch mark ball had to lip out, or just miss going in. It went 4 feet by, and I missed it. I had a three and a half, four-footer for eagle and I missed it. I made birdie. Normally you are not disappointed over a birdie. I enjoyed that.

13, I hit a beautiful 5-iron. The pitch mark was about six inches right in line with the flag stick in front. I don't know how it missed the flag stick, it went about 6 feet passed and I made that.

14, par-5 I hit a driver, 4-iron, laid it up, sand wedge to about 15 feet and made that.

17, hit a beautiful 3-iron to about 15 feet and made that.

All in all, it was pretty much a stress free day. I wasn't to stressed out out there. I had a lot of three wheels, kind of in my doghouse there, where I felt if I could hit it close. And I made some good shots.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: We noticed you tied for the third at The Hope, maybe talk about your game coming into this week.

**KENNY PERRY:** Well, I guess I've made 5 cuts in a row or whatever. The only cut I missed was Hawaii. That was my opening tournament of the year, made the next 5. I've just been real steady. Nothing great. Third place at The Hope. Actually I was tied with D.J., the same number at 19-under, starting out on Sunday and he shoots 7 or 8-under to win the golf tournament. I shot 2- or 3-under to finish third.

I had a couple, I guess 15th, 18 place finishes, and then your 50th or 60th place, or whatever, I can't read that. All in all, it's good. My game is okay. Putter is really good. If I can just figure out the driving rows, I look forward to the rest of the week.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Questions?

Q. You said that the course was playing, I won't say easy, the weather the way it was?

**KENNY PERRY:** It really changed it. It was breathless out there. No wind. You just don't see this golf course play like this. Normally it's howling out there 15 to 20 and you got very firm, very fast conditions to where it's hard to fit the ball in these fairways.

Well, now you can send it left side, right side of the fairway, the ball will take a pitch mark and it then it's just going to settle down, it's not going to roll out to the rough. It made the fairways wider.

Q. When it is like that, do you think, I can go low today?

**KENNY PERRY:** Definitely. You think you can. You feel comfortable about doing it. It's definitely a lot easier than playing in the firm, fast conditions.

Q. The turn around, do you still attribute it to Tommy Armour, that gave you a tip?

**KENNY PERRY:** He helped me at the Memorial.

Q. It was like the light came back on for you since then. You are back up there where you ought to be.

**KENNY PERRY:** I don't think I'm back up there yet. I'm keeping up on it more and more, just motivated more. Just practicing more, staying with it longer. I'm just trying to get on that Ryder Cup team. I'm trying to stay with it to somehow get to Valhalla. That's my last goal. It's in my hometown.

I told Sandy I'm going to play Nissan Open. And then take a couple of weeks off and play about 7 in a row. So that's going to kind of be my run to it. Hopefully the game will hang in there. I need to get a win. This is a great start, somehow I need to keep this going this week. I know the conditions are going to change drastically on Saturday. I think I saw a high of 60 or 62 and high winds. So this golf course is really going to wake up on the weekend. It's really going to be difficult.

But, you know, I need to shoot another good round tomorrow, and put myself in position, and hopefully, you know, I can play one of those hot rounds under tough conditions where I can separate myself from the field.

Q. Everybody wants to do as well as they can in their careers or whatever, sometimes do you just sort of need a kick in the pants for motivation and the Ryder Cup?

**KENNY PERRY:** Definitely. What is this my 22nd year out here? It's easy to kind of get lapsed, lazy, just, you know, here I am again. It's just another golf tournament. The Ryder Cup has really motivated me and really kind of woke me up a little bit for this year; to want to do the best I can do, whatever that is. It's got me very focussed and got me working at it again.

Q. Just how far is Valhalla from you?

**KENNY PERRY:** Two hours from us 120 miles. I live just north of Nashville, Tennessee around the Kentucky line there. Louisville is 2 hours due north of me. I played there a lot. I was with H & B back in the early '80's. The power built company. I would always go up there and work on my clubs, and we would go to Valhalla and play and practice and mess around. I've been going there a long time.

Q. Did you communicate all of this to Paul?

**KENNY PERRY:** Oh, yes, I'm brown-nosing big time. I played a practice round with him in Phoenix. Every time I see him I just keep kind of keeping my face in front of him a little bit.

Q. Did you play with Retief today?

**KENNY PERRY:** I did.

Q. What did you see out of him? He has been having some problems lately?

**KENNY PERRY:** He drove it beautifully. The only thing I saw right when he hit the putt, he took off after the ball. You know how you hit a putt and, you know, you missed it you are off after it. He did that three or four times today but he drove it beautifully. I don't know if he missed a fairway. His irons were fine. It looked like he was uncomfortable with his putter today for whatever reason. His speed was off, or whatever. I think he shot 1-under or even.

Q. It was even the last time I looked?

**KENNY PERRY:** So I mean, you know, it's hard to put a finger on Retief because we didn't say one word from the first tee to the 18th green. We didn't say one word to each other. I'd say good shot when he hit a good drive but I never heard anything out of him.

Q. He is not a big conversationist?

**KENNY PERRY:** No. You can't tell if he is really upset, content with what he is doing. I can't figure it out.

Q. 65 or 75, he looks like the same guy?

**KENNY PERRY:** Exactly. His golf swing looks great. I don't see any problem with that at all.

Q. Kenny, do you assess that you do have to win somewhere to be on the Ryder Cup?

**KENNY PERRY:** It will help.

Q. You get double points in the Majors?

**KENNY PERRY:** Yes. This year being a double point year and everything else, they are multiplying, I probably need to get at least one.

JEFF MAGGERT: I think they should put all 40-year-olds on there.

KENNY PERRY: Yes, I agree.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Are we done?

Q. A quick follow up on that. The way you look at it, you got to pick your spots. 47, now, when you are in contention I guess maybe you expect it every week, but it gets harder now?

**KENNY PERRY:** I think that's true for anybody unless you are Tiger. I definitely don't get in there in the hunt like I used to. You are right, I have to figure out a way when I get there I kind of figure out how to make it happen during that week. You know, there is still a lot of golf this week and there's going to be a lot of changing going on out there.

It's a good way to start on this golf course. You know, at The Hope, I had a great shot at winning there, and I didn't get it done. Hopefully I can get it in there more times. If you put yourself in those situations, sometimes the door may open for you.

I haven't been getting there that often here in the past two years.  
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