

59TH ANNUAL BANK OF AMERICA COLONIAL
Colonial Country Club
Fort Worth, Texas
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Final-round interviews

AN INTERVIEW WITH KENNY PERRY

THE MODERATOR: All right. We welcome the 2005 Bank of America Colonial champion Kenny Perry.

KENNY PERRY: Thank you. That's good to hear.

THE MODERATOR: The 10th player in tournament history to win this event multiple times. Congratulations, Kenny. Let's talk about the fact, I mean, basically a runaway for you the second time. Let's talk about the win.

KENNY PERRY: I slept good last night I was uneasy about this round today. I knew my game was here. I was playing well and I warmed up well on the range. And my hole, if I could play that first hole well, I knew I would be okay. I hit a beautiful drive on the first hole and I hit a 6 iron, and hit it too far, 206 to the hole and it hit right by the hole and went over. And I chipped it close and made a nice birdie to start my round. That settled me down and was able to shoot a 2-under, which is a nice front 9. And then when I got to 21, I was thinking that Frank, and Lester, and Jeff, and Steve in the locker room, I sit with them everyday. We would sit and talk. And Frank said, come on, were going to shoot 21 that is our number for today. I got it to 21. That is all I could think in my head. I said, we have to keep it to 21. I hit a beautiful 3 iron. I was pumped up, and probably went 20 yards further than I normally hit it. I'm on the right side of the fairway, the trees got me blocked. Normally I'm far enough back where I can go over the trees. I tried to punch but went over and made a double I had a bad lie over there. I wanted finish 20 under. I wanted keep it in the 20's somehow.

That's okay. I just wanted win again. I wanted to get my name on the wall. It was a fun round of golf. I played smart, and played to the middle of the green, and hit my driver beautifully, and kept hitting the fairways. The golf course firmed up. It got really firm and fast. I kept looking at the board and I knew it was to my advantage. Once I saw that par was a good score, I knew nobody was running and going to shoot low scores. I kept

playing percentages and kept making pars, and was able to win by 7 or 8 strokes. So that was a nice way to win a golf tournament.

THE MODERATOR: Kenny, there are not many people that either hold out right or share the 18, 36, 54, 72-hole lead of the tournament. Talk about the significance of that?

Player: Well you know what, I'm such in love with this place I played hard for the men in the plaid jackets. They have really gone hand over foot to just really support me here.

I can't say enough about the men and women that work this tournament. The golf course was in immaculate shape. It's easy when you are playing for somebody else, and you're not playing for yourself. It's easy to get motivated and push yourself to try to do better.

That's what I did. I got out there. I was hoping to shoot 21-under, just came up short, to win by 7 or whatever it was. I'm ecstatic. It was a great week. I'm flawless. I made one bogey on Thursday and made a double today. And out of 72 holes to have one bogey and one double bogey, and the rest pars and birdies is incredible. Fantastic week.

Q What is it about courses like this, Kenny? You've won here twice, Memorial twice, Buick Open, Milwaukee they are all very similar?

KENNY PERRY: You know, they are power hitters. They are power hitters, and you have to be accurate off the tee. If 12-under wins the golf tournament, I'm going to be close. If it's 28-under or 26-under, you won't find me. If it's a ball hitter's golf course. They fit right into my hand, and my strength, and, you know, I'm comfortable hitting the driver and my irons. My putter showed up. I putted beautifully.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. We'll open up to questions.

Q (Inaudible)?

KENNY PERRY: Oh, man a lot. 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, the only ones I hit irons are 9, 10 and 17 and 16 that is four holes. The rest I hit drivers.

Q We were joking a little bit, with the heat today and the plaid jacket having to put that on out there. Talk a little bit about the heat and how that impacts.

I know in a lot of sports heat sometimes affects concentration, did you do the same thing you did yesterday, just stay in the shade?

KENNY PERRY: I hunted the shade as much as I could. I'm drinking a lot of the Amino Vital. It's amino acids when your muscles are burning. It replenishes your muscles. You mix it in with water. It tastes like lime Gatorade. I felt really crummy on Friday the heat really got to me. And I felt a little better yesterday and I felt a whole lot better today.

My body was getting accustomed to the heat out there.

You know, I try to eat a lot of carbs at night, and try to get a lot of energy for the next day that you are going to burn a lot. You know, what, I hung in there. At 44 I'm no spring chicken, but I felt great out there walking those fairways today. So, we'll go to Memphis next week. I will be ready to play Memphis in all of that heat next week.

Q Kenny you mentioned your age. You have one 6 of your 9 victories since turning 40. Vijay has had a similar thing since he turned 40. What is the significance there?

KENNY PERRY: I think it's just relaxed. Playing pressure-free golf. It's fun. I enjoy it. I'm not putting a lot of emphasis on, you know, I'm just not trying to kill myself out there like I did in my 30's. It seems like I became such a better player, I hit the ball better when I was younger. But my course management, and my thinking, and how relaxed and comfortable I am on the golf course is so much different now. If I win, it's great. If I don't, that's fine. I try not to put too much pressure on myself. And I try to have fun out there. I'm trying to enjoy the moment. And sometimes it gets a little nerve racking out there, but today was a nice stroll down the park, the last few holes, I really enjoyed it.

Q What is it like to have such a big lead? Everybody is thinking, okay, it's over. But I'm sure you had a few stressful minutes before or maybe during the round?

KENNY PERRY: Definitely. Very uncomfortable last night and very uncomfortable this morning. I went to church. I went to the University Church of the Christ this morning. They had service at 10:30. And that got my mind focused and off golf, and that was nice. When you have a big lead you just really worry. If you blow that lead everyone is going to call you a choker or a dog, or whatever else. And you get stuck with that name, and it's not fair. I knew the first hole was never important to me today. It was the most important hole on the golf course. And when I hit a driver and a 6-iron just over and chipped up close, and made an easy birdie, I thought, we're all right. We've got it going. That settled me down and got me back into the golf tournament and ready to go make some more birdies.

Q Kenny, you talked about the way people have treated you. Can you give us some examples and when did that start?

KENNY PERRY: At the Champions dinner two years ago. When I finally won the tournament and I came back to the kick off dinner and then to the championship, I finally got to meet these guys I got to sit down and talk with them, and spend time with them. You know, they are bringing me cookies, and their mom is making cookies. It's just whatever. They come up, and sit down, and they talk to me. How is everything going? What can we do to make this place better? You know, what do we need to make this tournament? And this year we had food out on the golf course. They are trying hard to make this a top-notch golf tournament. They have a lot of passion and love for this tournament. You can tell. Scotty is funny. You get talking bad about this place, he will hit you. That is how much he loves it. I think it's neat when people care that much about a place.

Q Do you feel like they owed you one in a way because the first time you won here you weren't the big story for the at least the first couple of days?

KENNY PERRY: No.

Q At least the first couple of days?

KENNY PERRY: No. Never. That was Annika's week.
The first time. This week it was my week, so we're 50/50 now.

Q Kenny, yesterday you were asked to walk on water, was there any abuse happening before the round?

Player: I felt like the guy who was pitching a no hitter. Nobody wanted to talk to me. They wanted stay as far away from me as they could. It was so funny. They would look at me and walk away.
Which I understood they didn't want to jinx me or whatever. I felt they were showing me respect. They wanted me to go out and do my deal. You know what they will congratulate me next week.

Q (Inaudible)?

KENNY PERRY: We talked a little bit, but I'm not a big talker. When I'm in the lead or close to the lead. You know, I'm just trying to get my job done, and get out there and hit fairways and greens and make it happen.

Q You were talking a few minutes ago about the stressful feeling of you having a big lead. It seems like all you can do is lose or, you know, be labeled a choker. I wonder do you have thoughts running through of what have happened to people before, like Sergio two weeks ago had a big lead. When you are sitting in that position, do all of these thoughts run through your head? I don't dwell on them. I have thought about it. I don't sit there and dwell on it. What I have got going here is I understand this golf course. I feel very comfortable playing this golf course. If I was at another venue, and I didn't feel as good playing and if my golf swing was a little iffy. My golf swing was on the money this week; my swing was good, and my rhythm was good, and my pace was good, and my putter was good. That right there took a lot of anxiety away from me. And I felt very comfortable out there. And I didn't think I was going to choke this week, let me put it to you that way.

Q Kenny, a lot of water on the back 9, on 13 and 16, and a couple of other places, any thoughts of jumping in to take a little dip to cool off?

KENNY PERRY: No. They were spraying that water on the green and it didn't smell very good. I wouldn't get near that stuff.

Q Was everything the same as 2003 swing-wise?

KENNY PERRY: A lot of similarities. It's scary how close the two weeks were. I had a lot going my way both weeks. Everywhere I was looking the ball was going. I was hammering the driver, and I was putting beautifully as well.
They are so similar it's scary.

Q (Inaudible's)? I had 80 yards. That was the worst putt of the tournament right there. That was a bummer I pulled it and just let it run out of gas. It was not a very good putt. I kind of had that mind-set. I wanted to hit it them, you know, but I didn't want to race them by either. That was why it was hard for me today. I just kept lagging 'em up. Lagging 'em up, and hitting the green.
And so.

Q (Inaudible)?
KENNY PERRY: What is that, the putt? No, it's probably a 6-footer, I would say. Yeah. It spun back pretty hard. Almost went in, but it spun back down pretty far.

Q Earlier this week you talked about getting glasses, are you still maybe going to do that or are you going to mess with a good thing?
KENNY PERRY: My doctor called me last night, what is this all I have been hearing on the news? So, I've actually got an appointment with him at 8:30 in the morning. I will sneak in there in the morning, and we'll have a little eye test and see what is up.

Q Kenny, if you can win another one of these, in the future, do you want to hear Perry's Alley or Kenny's Alley?
KENNY PERRY: Perry's Place. Like Payton Place. Perry's Place.

Q Kenny, I'm just wondering with the feelings that you got playing here is there anything you learn from here that you can take elsewhere or is this just always going to be a special place? Special vibes?

KENNY PERRY: It's tough because it's a different golf course. You know, optically, when I'm on these tee boxes I feel very comfortable and relaxed. I know where I want to start the golf ball, the lines I want to hit it on. These other venues we play like at major championships, you rotate except for Augusta. They are tough the venues are tough. I'm going to Pinehurst I have never played there. That is going to be hard on me trying to get ready for a golf tournament I have never played in. It's probably my 16th year here. It's hard, you know, to play against a guy that knows the golf course as well as I do.

Q You talked a little bit about what history means to you and you've put your name on that wall a second time now. If you can expound on that a little bit. You've won here twice, Jack's place twice And Arnie's place once. Just kind of where your career is taking you?

KENNY PERRY: Courses for horses.
I'm mean I'm very -- Milwaukee, I feel like I have only one there once, but I top 5'd there for six years. I just come to these venues and I think I'm going to win when I get here. Most of the time I am worried about making the cut. At some of these other places they don't fit my golf game or my golf swing. I'm just out of sync and out of rhythm, for whatever reason it's harder. But when I play these other courses like Muirfield and here, I'm very comfortable and very relaxed. And somehow I have to take these feelings to these other places and make them work.

Q Kenny, all of these years leading up to your 40's when you were having a lot of solid years, but not winning very often, did you always think this kind of player was inside of you, and you were wondering when it was going to come out? Or have you surprised yourself in any way at the level you have played?

KENNY PERRY: Well not really. I have always been a good ball striker. I can't emphasize enough. I love to look at my stats over the 19 years where I compare to the rest of the players that have been on the PGA tour, from total driving and greens and regs. I have always been weak in my flat stick. That has always been my weakest area. And now through all of the years of just pushing and pushing and pushing, I finally figured it out. Maybe I'm slow, I don't know. But it just took me a lot longer to figure out how to do it than other guys did. They probably figured it out when they were a little younger. I had family, and I had a lot of things on my mind that were more important to me than my golf. Here lately, when I turned 40, I realized, you know, how many years do I have left? I don't know. If I keep playing like this, I will have a lot of years left. I'm physically good, and I'm strong. And I can hit it a long ways. I have a big advantage over a lot of players.

And so now I'm more relax and confident. So that all adds up to a guy that has a good shot at winning a golf tournament.

Q What is it that you think you did figure out?

KENNY PERRY: Just I'm enjoying it. I'm very comfortable. It's years of hard work. A lot of patience and perseverance has paid off. It's finally showing up.

Q You talked several times this week and a little while ago about having your name on there twice on the wall. What is the significance of that? Does that put you in a different classification?

KENNY PERRY: No. You know what, I play hard for these guys here. I love the tournament. I get fired up every time I get over there on that first tee and see my name on the wall with that 261 total. I was trying like crazy to beat that total today. I couldn't do it, but tying it is not bad.

It's just a neat feeling. It's a great -- you know 59 years, the oldest tournament to be on one golf course on the PGA tour, I think that is neat. I think that is a special place.

(Scorecard)

THE MODERATOR: Any further questions? Congratulations.

KENNY PERRY: Thank you.

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