



**JOHN DALY COMMITS TO INSPERITY INVITATIONAL
MEDIA CALL WITH JOHN DALY
March 1, 2016**

Lee Patterson John, this is Lee.

JOHN DALY: Hey, Lee. What's up, buddy?

Lee Patterson: Obviously, there's a lot of excitement at the Insperity Invitational, and you are getting started in the Houston area, which is rich in history of golf and you have been there before. Share your thoughts off the top as you begin a new chapter in your career and going back to golf courses that you are familiar with.

JOHN DALY: Well, I'm excited about it. I mean, look, personally, for me, it's been seven years since I had a good schedule. My golf game hasn't been that great, but I have been working really hard lately and I'm excited to really just get a schedule and to -- like you said, it is a new chapter and learning and all. Some of the golf courses I probably played before. Some are going to be kind of new to me, so it's going to be kind of a year of testing the waters and finding places that I'm best at shooting my game and stuff, and like I said, I'm looking forward to it, and seeing some of my old buddies out there.

Lee Patterson: A lot of guys have said that going back and playing, once you get over 50, you kind of miss those guys through the years and you get to go back and hang out in the locker room with them again. Have you talked to any of the guys on the PGA Tour Champions?

JOHN DALY: Yes. I was in West Palm two or three weeks ago and did an outing and saw Crenshaw. Of course, me and Fred Funk, we go way back. Nick Price was there. It's always great talking to Lee Trevino. I've seen Fuzzy here and there. So it's just going to be great to get out and see those guys and, you know, the guys are excited themselves. It is more laid-back, that's what everybody says, and I'm looking forward to it, and really most of the time, with them not having a cut, you can get really aggressive.

Lee Patterson: I'll open it up for questions now.

Q. John, you touched on it a second ago. A lot of the guys that go to the Champions Tour talk about going from 72 holes to 54 with no cut and they've kind of adapted their mentality to be more aggressive, but you're not going to have that, have to make that change in your mentality because you have been naturally aggressive in tournaments your whole life, haven't you?

JOHN DALY: Yes, pretty much. I would rather finish fifth or sixth and avoid being conservative for second place. I was always a guy that I would try and win, and I would give up two or three extra spots to try to do that. Yes, I mean pretty much my whole career I have been aggressive, but being aggressive doesn't mean it's driver off every hole. You can be never aggressive with a 1- or 2-iron off the tee box. I have always been a guy that goes at the pins. The coolest thing is, you know, meeting all these great legends. When I came out here and grew up, you know, I look at a guy like Lanny Watkins, I mean, me and him have similar golf games. He fires at the flag, and that's kind of the way I've been all my career, and I don't know really if I can change. That's the problem.

Q. And John, there is an expectation that you're going to be drawing some pretty good galleries wherever you go and I know a lot of tournament directors are excited about this, including Brian. Are you looking forward to maybe getting back in that thing where you've got those galleries and how much do they energize you when you are playing well?

JOHN DALY: Well, I always feed off the fans. I mean, it's something I have been very fortunate. When I'm playing good, they are backing me. When I'm not doing so good they are still -- they are still for me, and, you know, it helps. It helps having the home field advantage, and that's -- you know, there is nothing greater than getting it going and having the fans getting loud and crazy. That's just the way I like them. And I'm hoping I will be able to see some of that and get my golf game in order. I have been working really hard, looking forward to getting on the PGA Tour Champions and working really, really hard to getting my game in shape, and hopefully don't embarrass myself out there.

Q. Thank you.

Q. Yes. I have a question for John. John, what do you remember most about playing at The Woodlands?

JOHN DALY: I just remember it was -- there was a golf cart that you could, if you are driving the ball really, really well you can get aggressive off the tee. It is not the tightest golf course in the world but it does have its spots where it kind of narrows up on certain holes and it's just a matter of -- if you're hitting your driver really, really good it's a golf course you did score on. If I remember my length back then, the course, I think it was 15 -- 13 and 15 I think were the two par fives, if I remember right. 13 has the water. 12 -- it's been so long since I played --

Q. You're right, John.

JOHN DALY: It had the island green. Back in the '90s, you know, still, I was hitting the driver, 3-iron, 4-iron, sometimes 5-iron, as best 6-ironing that hole. It wasn't a hole that a lot of the guys could get to. 15's the same way. Dogleg right, water on the right, it's tight; if you're driving the ball really, really well it's a hole you can take advantage of. It's a great golf course from what I remember. I played it every year that I could when the tour was there because I loved it so much.

Q. How about the fans? What do you remember about the Houston fans?

JOHN DALY: It's a beautiful setting, the whole golf course, but 18 was just a beautiful setting. 18 was always a -- the hole and that pin kind of back, but front right, you know, on Sunday, or back right on Sunday; you know, the fans in the bleachers, it's always packed, 20, 30,000 people, and I remember that stuff. I can't remember the best I ever finished there, but I know it was probably third or fourth one year. Might not have been that good, but I always seem to have played decent there, had some really great rounds there, and like I said, the greens were always perfect. It was definitely a stop that all the guys looked forward to because we always knew that the greens were really, really good. It's just a great golf course. No hole's the same. They are all a little different. It's a great design, and the par 3s are -- you know, you don't have to hit 2- and 3-irons into a lot of them, you have to hit decent 7, 6-irons and 8-irons into them. I remember number eight, eight was a very long par three. I remember the last time I played there I hit a 3-iron about an inch and made birdie, and it was like probably a skin that day.

Q. John, I have a question for you. A moment ago you said, you talked about finding places that suit your game. I'm wondering how carefully you looked at the schedule, the PGA Tour Champions schedule and maybe highlighted some of the courses that will fit your style and your game.

JOHN DALY: Well, I mean like, you know, I'm still trying to play a few tournaments. Take Dick's Sporting Goods up at Endicott, New York. I think that's the same week as Greenbriar, and Endicott was a great golf course for me, it was tree lined, and Junior will back me on this, we were doing an outing, Boys and Girls Club back in '92 on that Monday, and he says, "What in the hell are you going to Endicott for. That course is way too tight for you." I ended up shooting 18 under and beating Mikelson by two four shots. He was the first to congratulate me. He said there's just no way I you did what I thought you did. Tom Watson might be right. You're the straightest, longest hitter in the world. That was back in the early 90s. But that's a great golf course. I remember it. I've had great success there. But, you know, I still want to play a few PGA TOUR events if I can. I will play the British Open, the PGA. There is not a lot of golf courses on the Champions Tour I played before. There's a certain few of them, but I will have to play just as many as I possibly can and get used to it and find the ones hopefully that I play really, really well on and work harder on the ones I don't.

Q. John how comparable is your length to what it was at your best, your longest?

JOHN DALY: What's that?

Q. How comparable is your length, your length off the tee, your driving distance, compared to what it was at your best?

JOHN DALY: Well, I think -- it's really weird. My driving is probably not far from being almost the same, maybe six or seven yards shorter, but the really thing that I'm dealing with right now is my 3-iron doesn't go 235, 240. It goes 226 to 230 now, so I'm having to adjust. I'm pretty much seven or eight yards short on everything than I was back then, and it's really -- it's really hit the last two or three years, so it's -- you know, I'm losing a yard or two every year it seems like. But the driving, it's weird, the driver's not -- the biggest difference is the longer irons more. They are more like probably eight to ten to twelve yard difference and the driver's probably six to eight yard difference. And the short irons, you know, the short irons, 7-iron's still 170, 8-iron's 160, 9-iron's 150, they haven't changed, but those upper clubs have changed a lot.

Q. Thanks. John, I have a question for you. The first year on the tour was pretty high. You mentioned Lanny Watkins. What are your expectations for coming out on the tour? I don't know when in your first year, if you're doing well, what are your expectations on coming out and having some early success on the champions tour?

JOHN DALY: Well, I mean, like The Woodlands was always a course I looked forward to playing but I had already played 15 to 20 events almost before that, so my game was, you know, pretty sharp. I'm going to try for Valspar next Monday and hopefully get in at Puerto Rico and play there. I don't know about Hilton Head right now, but I'm going to be -- I'm not going to be really that -- I want to play a lot of competitive rounds of golf going into The Woodlands, so I'm a little nervous about it. This is the first year I didn't go on the west coast since probably '92, and so it's been a little weird. I'll be fresh, but I don't know how great my golf game will be. I can sit here and hit all the balls and chip and putt all day long, but if you're not playing competitive golf -- there's nothing better than competitive golf. You go week to week to week and you seem to get better as it goes. I'm coming in fresh. I don't really have any expectations, just to go play and try and do the best I can.

Q. John, where are you mainly practicing at these days?

JOHN DALY: What's that?

Q. Where are you practicing, working mainly these days?

JOHN DALY: I have been going to places, I'm down in Florida right now. My golf course isn't quite ready in Dardenelle. We're cutting this week. I have been at the Biltmore golf course here in Clearwater. I've been going to Concessions, which is an unbelievable place to practice. I go to Dunedin Country Club. Countryside Country Club, a few courses around here in Clearwater and just play, they all let me play here. They have been great to me.

They let me kind of just practice and do my own thing. It's been really nice. The weather's been perfect down here the last couple weeks.

Q. John, the senior majors seem to be at courses where you might not have played before, but the senior British is at Carnoustie. Is that a venue you look forward to, whether it is the senior open or the regular open, Carnoustie is always going to be a grind.

JOHN DALY: Well, they are always a grind. I don't care how far they pull the tees up. Carnoustie is one of my favorite places to play, and it's really weird, because I don't think I ever broke par on it. They have the best greens in Scotland. I mean, the greens are always perfect. It's a great golf course, a great layout. There's about six or seven holes there where it's very, very, very tough for me to my eye, because they are so straight away that I have a hard time pinpointing my fade off the tee. It's just a great golf course but it's a great golf course I never played really well, but I'm looking forward to it. I always look forward to playing there. That's a monster in itself. But the cool thing for me is I will be playing in the British Open before the Senior, so I'll have that week under my belt, playing kind of two British Opens in a row, which is kind of cool.

Q. John, you are known to be one of the biggest hitters. I know you played at the Colonial and you played at the Byron Nelson. What does it mean to you the way it works out to open your Champions Tour career in Texas? You have so many ties and memories there.

JOHN DALY: It's great. I mean, yeah, I love my Cowboys. I called Jerry Jones "dad" and everything. I know that it's going to be in Houston. I always loved the Texas tournament, I love the Colonial, the Byron Nelson. I've always loved the Shell. I haven't been fortunate to get into Shell the last few years, but I always supported it when I could and played. Every golf course, you know, the golf courses in those tournaments are so good. The players love them. The weather is usually decent in May. It's just a great time to play golf. The coolest thing about Texas, the fans are just awesome. They probably have one of the best fan bases in the state of Texas. I can say it's pretty -- it's really, really up there at the top of pretty much the fans all over the world. They are just great, great fans. They love their sports. They love their golf. And, you know, hopefully I can sell some tickets, the players and I, we can sell a bunch of tickets and everybody has a good time.

MODERATOR: If you don't mind, Bryan, just maybe a couple thoughts from you, the executive director of the Insuperity Invitational, having John come back and start.

BRYAN NAUGLE: Sure, Lee. I'm thrilled that John is making his debut here at the Insuperity Invitational, May 2nd through 8th. I think John is going to bring a lot to our tour, a needed spark, and you know, John has been known to bring, you know, a lot of fans out on the regular tour and I think it will be the same thing here. And we're really looking forward to having him, you know, make his debut here.

MODERATOR: Do we have any more questions?

Q. John, I have a quick one. Has little John ever caddied for you? Do you have any plans for him to help you out in this regard? Is he old enough to caddie yet?

JOHN DALY: He is 12, but he don't want to caddie for me. He wants me to caddie for him. He is doing great, though. He is doing really well. I have him in a golf school in Orlando, Core Golf Academy, and he's just loving it and he's getting really, really good at golf. He's got some great coaches, great teachers, and he's doing really well in school. This is the first year I had him in school. The first six years of my home schooling, at least I taught him something, because his grades are really good.

Q. What's the golf scouting report on little John? What does he do well.

JOHN DALY: Well, he hits it very straight. His swing is absolutely perfect. It's not ugly like mine. It doesn't go past parallel. He hasn't hit like the Grossberg yet, but he's hitting his driver probably around 245 to 260. He is chipping and putting every day. He just loves to chip and putt, like I do. I always told him when he was young that's the key to golf. Doesn't matter how straight or long you hit it, you don't chip and putt, you will never be any good, and I think that's he taken it to heart. That's all he wants to do, is chip and putt. I love it.

MODERATOR: Do we have any more questions

Q. John, I wanted to thank you for taking time out to do this call with us. Appreciate it.

JOHN DALY: You got it. Looking forward to seeing you guys, Brian.

MODERATOR: Thank you so much, John. We appreciate you joining us.

JOHN DALY: You got it, Lee. See you soon, buddy.

MODERATOR: Thank you.

JOHN DALY: Take care.