

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW: JOHN DALY
May 6, 2016



Q. You told me a couple weeks ago you didn't know what to expect out here.

JOHN DALY: How are you?

Q. What you did you think? Did it live up to expectations?

JOHN DALY: I was surprised how good I hit the ball. I mean, I hit a lot of fairways, and that 1-iron was a blessing today for me. I mean, even when I didn't hit it good, it was going in the fairway, and I gave myself a lot of chances, a lot of chances to hit greens and a lot of opportunities, you know, coming down the stretch. I just couldn't get the putter to make anything, but I rolled it good, and for me that's what mattered today, is just hitting the ball solid and getting it around, and I didn't shoot myself out of the tournament.

Q. What were the emotions? Did you feel like a rookie out here?

JOHN DALY: Oh, yes, I did. I mean, you know, it was like starting all over. I mean, the nerves were good, but it's cool coming out here and having positive nerves, and I just fed off Fuzzy and Jay. You know, I couldn't have asked to play with two better people. For my first round on the Champions Tour, we just had a blast.

Q. What did you think of the way he played you off?

JOHN DALY: I thought it was fair, because if I would have died, I would have been out of pain.

Q. What did you think about the way the crowds were out there? It seemed like the crowds were in your way the whole way.

JOHN DALY: Oh, it was great. I mean, the fans are great. It was great to see them all wearing "Loud Mouth" today, and, you know, the first ones that came to the gate got a bobblehead, so it's something that they can, you know, tee it up and knock my head off or whatever they want to do with it, but today was very it was a very colorful day, I should say.

Q. Did it feel good to get this first one out of the way? Maybe it will be different this weekend.

JOHN DALY: It did. I mean, hopefully I just feed off some of the good things I was doing and, you know, just thinking about some of the things that weren't so good. My threequarter shot wasn't very sharp today, but other than that, it was a really solid, solid

game of golf. I mean, it's something I really didn't expect.

Q. John, what happened on 7? It seemed like you had been talking about how you had a bit too much adrenaline and you hit it just a little bit long.

JOHN DALY: Yes. It was a 178yard 8iron, and I had the 7 out and I said, "Well, I'll just hit the 8, see if I can get it right up there in the chute," and I just flushed it right over the flag and it ended up going about 191 in the water, but I think that's just from being pumped up. Everything is solid, solid, solid and, you know, I just haven't been used to that in a while.

Q. How far was that drive on 13, the par 5? I think you were about 90 yards ahead of Jay.

JOHN DALY: I had 185 with the hole, but the one on 15 was the one I hit really good. I mean, it is a little longer, 206 to the hole, but that's one I wish I would have tried to draw the 6 iron in instead of cut the 5.

Q. Did you feel good with the putter today? How was the feeling with the putter?

JOHN DALY: The putter felt great. You know, I hit some really good putts, but, you know, you're talking Miniverde, it gets a little late in the day they grow a little bit, so they're going to get just a little bit more grainy, so they're going to be tougher to read, but I hit all my lines, which is something I'm not used to doing, you know, which you haven't played in a while. So it was a very positive day on all aspects of the game, and some of the chips I had, you know, I hit some really good chip shots that, you know, not playing in a while, you just don't know if you got that all right. You know, and today everything was kind of pretty good.

Q. How much did you look forward to this day, John?

JOHN DALY: For quite a long time. I mean, you know, for quite a long time the last few months really, you know, I wasn't playing much, and just being able to know that I've got a schedule now for at least a few years, to come out and play and pick and choose where I'm going to play, it's going to be really good for me.