

FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW: DAVID FROST
Sunday, July 12, 2015



DAVID FROST: I heard a roar when I was playing when I walked up 18 and I just, I didn't know what to think. But I hadn't watched the leaderboard all day and then obviously realized it was Jerry when I walked up 18.

Q. You had been going along and getting a few birdies. Was there one point in the round where you thought possibly (inaudible)?

DAVID FROST: Well, you know, I just kept thinking about those tennis players today, Djokovic and Federer, how they're so focused out there. I thought if I can just stay focused and not trying to get ahead of myself but just play this shot that I have at hand, especially the putts, you know. And I rolled some great putts out there and jeez, three of them just went right by the hole. It could have gone both ways.

Q. Do you remember which holes that was?

DAVID FROST: Yeah. 12 I had a good birdie putt from about 12 feet 13 I rimmed the hole from 30 feet, 14 right on the edge, 15 left to right in the hole, and 18 right in the hole. But it was a good day. I'm happy for Jerry. He's quite a journeyman, so there's room for everybody out here.

Q. Your play overall in this tournament, this is much better than you've been playing?

DAVID FROST: Yes, yes, but there's been -- I just changed shots this week, I went to something a little softer and my game just fell into place.

FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW: JERRY SMITH
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BILLY RAY BROWN: Jerry, I've got to ask you, the road that you've traveled to get to this point right now, can you put into words the emotion that's going through your head right now?

JERRY SMITH: No, I really can't. There were a couple occasions out there today playing that just stuff's going on, you know, just keeping my emotions in check, especially when I made eagle on 16. I didn't even look at the board, I wasn't sure where I stood. But 17 and 18, both times I just had to kind of decide and make sure that you get done what you need to do. So I really can't put into words what it all means to me and how I've gotten here. It's

obviously a journey, I've always said that. My wife and I have always preached that in our marriage and our lives. Today it's just unbelievable.

BILLY RAY BROWN: You spoke of the shot at 16. You went for the green in two, you walked up there and you saw the lie, the uphill slope. What were your thoughts there?

JERRY SMITH: Well, I was glad was on the uphill slope. Bunker play's not my forte but I've worked a lot on it and I did like what I saw when I walked up to it. I didn't think it was a real difficult shot, so I felt like I could make 4. Making 3 was obviously a bonus and probably helped me to get to the house the last two holes.

BILLY RAY BROWN: Was it indicative of the way you felt coming into the final round with a three-shot lead, your start bogeying the first two holes?

JERRY SMITH: Well, I really didn't know what today would hold. I just know I had two great days. I putted well. My driver's been letting me down a little bit, but just seemed like every time I got into trouble, I had a chance to get out of it. I hit two perfect drives on 1 and 2, so those butterflies were kind of taken away. But I just hit two very poor iron shots and, who knows, maybe it was a good thing in hindsight but it wasn't the start I was looking for.

BILLY RAY BROWN: I was watching you, we picked up coverage at the 7th and I was watching you and you can put this to rest right now. I was watching to see if you were looking at the scoreboards coming down the stretch. I didn't see any sign of you glancing over there. Were you paying attention?

JERRY SMITH: I looked a little bit early on the front nine but I really didn't look too much on the back nine, and I would probably rather have it that way. I just tried to get back into doing what I needed to do, hit better shots. And so you're right, I didn't look too much there at the last few holes.

BILLY RAY BROWN: When you go through the night tonight and you wake up tomorrow morning, at what point in time do you think it will sink in that I am a champion on the Champions Tour? The journey, tell me when you think that thought will come through.

JERRY SMITH: I'm really not sure. It's just so surreal. This week's been a great week. There's been a lot of people that have had really good thoughts and wishes and my pro-am partner, just everything, you know, you hope something like this will happen. Everyone but there's so many good things. I'm just very fortunate. I'm sure it's going to take a couple days.

BILLY RAY BROWN: You have your family there. How important was having that support there all the way?

JERRY SMITH: Well, it's always important. I've always enjoyed having my family out with me. Summertime is special to have that. I know they're kind of -- my girls are getting old

enough where they kind of understand, and they were into it today and I could see them over there on the sidelines. It's great looking over there all the time, they're always giving me fist pumps. It's just all very special.

BILLY RAY BROWN: Your performance today, do you put this behind you quickly and do you start refocusing your goals and try to get win two?

JERRY SMITH: Well, yeah, I feel like I need to work on some things in my game. I've worked on some areas that have gotten better. Putting was better this week, my bunker play's gotten better. I would like to drive it a little better off the tee and not have those sloppy iron shots like 1 and 2 today. So yeah, I'm excited to go over to British Senior in a couple weeks. I'm going over early. It's going to be nice going over there as a champion.

Q. Jerry, did you ever in your career think you would see this day here? Did you ever get to a point in your career where you thought, I don't know if it's ever going to happen?

JERRY SMITH: Well, obviously in your career you don't really think about winnings and so forth, at least a guy like myself who's kind of been a so-called journeyman player all these years. But it's a place I need to get to. I need to get the feeling I can do this more often, to compete out here and to play and to keep my job in the years to come. I'm just very happy that I've been able to do it early in my senior career and I definitely look forward to being in the situation much more often.

Q. How much does this change your life?

JERRY SMITH: Oh, you know, I don't know. I mean, for me it's year to year. This tour, it's very tough, tough to stay out here for longevity. I have to stay focused and I have to play well every year. I'll definitely start -- it's going to get me in a couple other tournaments, so that's a good thing.

Q. How much are you hoping this tournament finds a title sponsor and comes back?

JERRY SMITH: Yeah, Chicago's a great area, I'm not far from here growing up in Iowa, but I think Chicago should have a tournament. It's just like Phoenix all the time. I always marvel how it's very hard for us to get a sponsor out in one of the bigger cities in the country. But yeah, I really hope that they do and would love it come back and be their defending champion.

Q. Where did you grow up in Iowa?

JERRY SMITH: Oskaloosa.

Q. How far is that from here?

JERRY SMITH: Probably five hours.

Q. You lived there how long?

JERRY SMITH: Really most of my life. I moved there probably when I was two or three. My father was a superintendent and he spent his whole career there, so nice place. I was born in Council Bluffs but I only lived there for a year and a half, two years.

Q. You get to go to Hawaii for a couple years now.

JERRY SMITH: Yeah, my girls are going to be excited about that. We talked about it for a long time. We went over when they were very little when I played on the regular tour, so yeah, it's going to be a good trip.

Q. Today the moment never seemed to get too big for you, even right down to the end, looked like you weren't shaking in your boots at any point.

JERRY SMITH: Well, I think fortunately I had a big lead I guess to start the day. And the guys I played with, Bart and Mike, were great, didn't put a lot of pressure as far as they didn't get maybe making a lot of birdies. I was always in the lead or tied for the lead, so I think it helped. And obviously maybe had I looked at the leaderboard on 16, who knows, maybe I don't go for it in two, maybe I don't make the eagle. So I'm glad I didn't and that definitely changed everything and got me there.

Q. Frosty pulled within a shot of you there right before you hit the eagle. You were unaware of that?

JERRY SMITH: I was unaware.