John Daly | Regions Tradition | Day 1

Opening Statement

The second hole I missed a good opportunity for birdie, and then the third hole I hit a good sand wedge it just wasn't long enough and I made bogey. Other than that it was pretty solid, I gave myself a lot of chances, I left a lot out there, got a couple of good breaks too. It was a good day for me.

Q: It has to be weird, given all that happened yesterday playing with (Charles) Barkley and (Bo) Jackson, and all of the high fiving, to turn around today and have to win a golf tournament. What's that like?

A: You get used to it. Yesterday was a great day, it was a great day for this town and the whole state to have the celebrities and athletes all come here. Most of them we know, we don't get to see them that often, but it's really good. I couldn't be more proud to be apart of it, Charles is fun to be around, he's hilarious. I got to know Dale Murphy a little bit, he's a legend, Bo is always great, and Taylor Hicks is one of my good friends. To play with them and not really worry about golf as much as you're used to, it's a little different. Then you have to turn your mind around and get ready to play the first round, it's different but we're used to it.

Q: Tied for second with a 68, things will change, but what is it about this course that makes it tough to score in the 60s for four days?

A: If you just mis-hit any shots into any of the par-5s and some of the par-4s you can make big numbers. The par-5s you have to hit it really straight and maneuver the ball where you can give yourself a chip into the green, if you mis-hit it just a little bit you're in trouble. Some of these holes out-of-bounds come into play a little closer than you think, but it's just a matter of hitting it straight and hitting a lot of greens. Opportunities, when you have them, most weeks the beset putter wins.

Q: What do you think about Steve Stricker? He's been out for five months and he comes back and does this.

A: My family prayed really hard. When I got I diagnosed he was one of the first ones to call so I'm just glad he's healthy. Stricker is going to kill it out here, he's one of the best putter and wedge players on the planet, so I'm just glad he's healthy.