



## ► THE RBC CANADIAN OPEN IN REVIEW

BY KELLY MURRAY

### Talking Himalayan Raspberries With

# David Feherty

For the final two days at Shaughnessy, former Tour player and long drive specialist, Kelly Murray, took on the role of 'Personal Replay Device' for renowned CBS Sports Golf broadcaster David Feherty. Here he recounts what turned out to be more of a botany lesson than a golf lesson.

I came to our National Championship hoping to catch on as a caddie... living the dream and all that. While that did not pan out, I was still able to land a job somewhere inside the ropes picking up a job with CBS TV Sports.

Having played four Canadian

It was on Saturday that all changed when I was asked to be a "PRD" - Personal Replay Device for CBS commentator, David Feherty who would commentate from the fairways for the final two days.

To the vast majority of golf fans, David Feherty is perhaps the



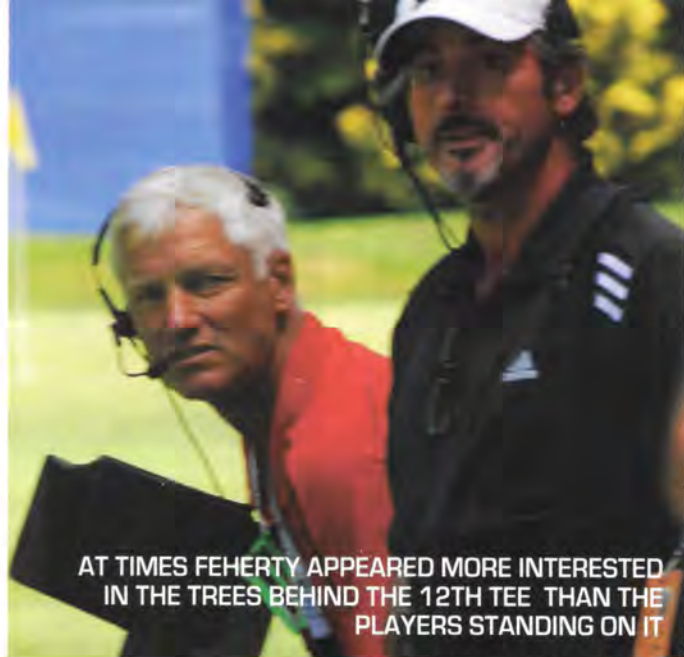
DESPITE SOME SOUR PLUMS, DAVID GAVE THE BERRY PICKINGS AN OVERALL SOLID THUMBS UP

Opens, as well as working for nine years as a young boy in virtually every job possible at Shaughnessy, I felt I might have something to offer. The first job was as a caddie during which time I carried the bag for no less than 358 rounds, amassing a grand total of \$1,684.75.

Those hundreds of rounds paid off again when for the first two days I worked as a spotter.

most competent and funniest TV personality to ever hold a mike for a golf broadcast.

My job would be to carry around a TV monitor for David Feherty while he roved - and I mean roved - the course. I was to stick with him like glue and try not to spend the day rolling around with laughter... An assignment that proved to be tougher than I thought it might.



AT TIMES FEHERTY APPEARED MORE INTERESTED IN THE TREES BEHIND THE 12TH TEE THAN THE PLAYERS STANDING ON IT

IMAGE CREDIT: JEFF SUTHERLAND

I met up with David and learned the hand signals to make sure that David knew what clubs the players were hitting. As he and I talked, he said to me deadpan, "Don't worry, it's an easy job because I'm a professional and I can call the shots from a mile away just by seeing how the guys lean". He followed that up with a deadpan after thought, "I'm good, but you should see Peter Kostis."

There's no doubt this guy has got a great eye for golf but it came as a surprise to find out he also had an eye for all the trees and berries that surrounded him.

David, it turned out, is a tree junkie spending the majority of his time looking at and studying the trees while we were on air.

But he never missed a beat with his announcing simply looking over his shoulder from the deep woods and intuitively calling the shot by watching the golfer's body language after impact.

He'd say, "That sounded great," or "That one's going left." I watched the monitor and sure enough every time it would land as he said.

The most prophetic calls he made were when he'd call the shot selection the player would use, for instance, saying that the ball would hop twice and grab or the player would hit a low shot that would skip up the hill to the top level and then grab. An intuitive genius, he is.

Immediately after that he'd get back to his real interest. "There's a hemlock, you can tell because the very tip top leans over and they have the tiniest pine cones of all." Minutes later he'd hand me a tiny pine cone the size of your baby fingernail.

Then he asked me, pointing at another tree, "What's that?" In retrospect I think he was just setting me up because I said,

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► ... wherever he goes, while golfers are hopefully keeping shots in the short grass, David is constantly wandering off into the bushes hunting down pine cones and berries.

"It's a red cedar."

He then told me that it was indeed, actually, a Western red cedar, not to be confused with an Eastern red cedar and I said, "Do they have Eastern red cedars?" and he promptly replied, "No."

This prolific gardening knowledge was learned while growing up in Northern Ireland from his grandfather, who was an arborist.

His grandfather had returned from World War I unable to speak, so he taught his young grandson about trees, berries and bushes by writing down facts and descriptions for young David.

David became fascinated by the subject so wherever he goes, while golfers are hopefully keeping shots in the short grass, David is constantly wandering off into the bushes hunting down pine cones and berries.

Getting into the spirit, I pointed out the Chinese plums that grow on the red trees, particularly



FEHERTY RECOVERED NICELY AFTER A NEAR NASTY TUMBLE

WOULD THE PHOTOGRAPHER WHO SHOT THIS PLEASE CONTACT IG FOR PAYMENT

The only time his wandering almost got us in trouble was a search for the fabled "Himalayan Raspberries".

We had come around to the 12th hole on Saturday, the first time David had ever seen the hole. His producer was trying to describe the hole to him but David was just blowing him off, saying, "Look at those Himalayan raspberries back there!" I always thought they were called gooseberries, but obviously he knew better.

He took me over, we picked a few and ate them following a group up to the green and then we went down 13. David decided to circle back to the final group and catch

some stairs and you think you're on the bottom but there's one more step to go.

I thought that David was going to die on my watch, but somehow his fanny pack full of wires, batteries and antennae grabbed on to some tree branches from all the wilderness into which he was free-falling and caught him up. He immediately righted himself, got a little bit of a footing and as a true professional without missing a beat said, "Look over here! These are Himalayan raspberries! Get a close shot!"

He picked a few and put them in his mouth on camera for the world to see and said, "This is the 12th tee and I believe these are Himalayan raspberries. If I don't make it to the 13th tee...they're probably not." With that he climbed back over the fence chewing away and walked towards the green while the cameras filmed him from behind with his whole backpack crammed with leaves and branches.

David was just randomly pulling them out and throwing them in the rough. People must have thought they were just a Regular Feherty comedic prop but really they saved him from blindly falling over the cliff. Once the cameras left, I told David that there were a few branches still stuck in there and he told me to go ahead and pull them out. After all, my job was to make him look good on air.

I pointed out that he still had a berry wedged between his belt and his underwear to which he responded rapid fire, "That's not the first time I've had a berry down my shorts." He's a funny, crazy guy, so he cracked a joke and said to take it out (the berry) because it would leave a purple stain on his white pants.

It was kind of similar to taking a cracked raw egg out of the back of his pants. I took it out gingerly without leaving a stain and then showed it to him and he said, "You can have it," so I ate it. It was good, actually.

He has so many fans, everyone that sees him seems to act as if they know him and they love to tell him how much they love his show. To which his usual responses were, "You Canadians have low standards" or "You need to get a life" but also, "You're so kind" and "You're so nice."

But my favourite exchange took place on the 17th tee when a little 9-year old boy said to him, "Mr. Feherty, I love your show," and David responded in his endearing Irish brogue, "You're only human!" That reply drew rousing laughter from the surrounding gallery.

It was a fitting way to conclude a day with David Feherty, with echoes of laughter resounding through a golf course - amongst all those beautiful trees... and tasty berries. **ig**

About the writer:

Kelly Murray is a native of Vancouver, British Columbia, his resume includes two victories on the Canadian Tour (1982, 1984) and he shares that tour's record for lowest score in one round, 60. He has won over 100 long drive competitions. On September 25, 1990, Murray set a Guinness World Record by hitting a golf ball 684.8 yards on the 30-yard wide airstrip at Fairmont Hot Springs, British Columbia, besting the previous record by 50.7 yards. While on the Canadian Tour, he studied and was coached by Moe Norman.

**"This is the 12th tee and I believe these are Himalayan raspberries. If I don't make it to the 13th tee...they're probably not."**

along the 13th fairway. Told that they wouldn't be ripe for another month or so, he still asked me to go and pick him one, which I did, and he bit into it... quickly displaying the classic, 'I-just-sucked-on-a-sour-lemon' face. Regardless, he seemed to enjoy it.

So for the next two days while I was getting hand signals letting David know the player, distance and club, he'd be in the trees. I'd be telling him, "5-iron"... and he's telling me... "Douglas Fir!"

them on the 12th tee and have the cameras come and shoot these wonderful Tibetan tidbits.

This time he decided to jump the fence right into the berry patch not knowing they were growing on a 75-degree downgrade slope - a cliff, really - all the way down to the Pacific Ocean.

When David jumped over the fence he looked like a skydiver jumping out of a plane. You know the kind of feeling you get in your stomach when you come down