Against the Grain? Maybe Not

By Joel Jackson

Johnny Miller walked into the room with something to prove, and he did. According to Miller and his stats, his game began going sour as he turned 40. His emotions began to erupt again as he detailed how he struggled to balance PGA Tour demands against being a good father to six kids. When his oldest approached graduation and college life, his game disintegrated and he hung up his cleats for good at 41.

Miller also earned several rounds of applause for his comments about family life and how important it was to be a good spouse and parent. He said, "No matter how hard your day has been, it's important when you go home to hit your best shot of the day when you step through that door. Some of the best work you will ever do will be within those four walls."

Before the Opening Session, I wondered how Miller would ever win approval from this crowd, which basically thought he was insulting their expertise on a regular basis. His confident demeanor, bordering on cocky, can be off-putting to the casual observer. But Miller revealed that he was human after all, and the post-session crowd that stayed to shake his hand was one of the largest ever.

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