

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
June 30, 2021

ERNIE ELS



Q. Very first start here at En-Joie Golf Club. Just your thoughts so far on the week?

ERNIE ELS: Yeah, thank you. Yeah, it's good to be here. Obviously this golf course got a lot of history on both tours now. One of our rules guys I just spoke to, he won here in 1994. A lot of guys have played golf here. I never played here. I'm not sure what the reasoning was, I think it was maybe just scheduling. But I played 18 yesterday and I'm going to play the pro-am today, just taking it in.

Q. A lot of guys have said really great things about the course and the condition of it. Just what was your take on it?

ERNIE ELS: Yeah, the course is in good shape. We played at Firestone last week, so it's really similar type of grass. The greens are running beautifully. It's pretty firm at the moment. Maybe a bit of a heat wave here, which I think it's going to break tomorrow. The course is playing quite fast, but conditions is excellent. I think guys can go low with good conditions like this.

Q. Is this your first trip to this part of the world?

ERNIE ELS: Yeah, I've never been up, kind of upstate New York. I'm not quite sure where we are exactly. Near Pennsylvania?

Q. Yeah.

ERNIE ELS: Yeah, I've got to check the map. After Ohio, I went down to Texas for a day and then flew up here kind of in the middle of the night, so I'm still getting my bearings. Yeah, I've never been up here. I've been up to where we play the U.S. Open and PGA.

Q. Rochester?

ERNIE ELS: Rochester. That's New York. Rochester, New York, near Buffalo, but never been up here, so you're never too old to learn.

Q. What have you heard from your fellow players about this event? It's usually a favorite.

ERNIE ELS: Yeah, I saw Joey Sindelar's been a real great ambassador to the event. He spoke to me even last year, what a great place this is and how proud he is of the whole area and how much Dick's does for the area and the tournament. Yeah, the guys are very excited

about this event. I think it's the 50th year anniversary or something like that for the tournament, so it's been hosted here for many, many years. People in the community know the tournament and it seems like it's an event where people really get together and enjoy not only the golf but also the social part of the event. Looking forward to some good golf and then also some, you know, I think there's a concert here this week. Listen to some concert and have some beers with the guys.

Q. You're an Old Dominion fan?

ERNIE ELS: Sure. If I'm not, I will be. I've heard them. We're looking forward to the week. It's really excellent. From here you kind of get serious. I've got three majors coming up. I've got the U.S. Senior and then going over to the British Open and British Senior, so a lot of traveling. I want to get my game back in shape and I want to use this event to get my game in shape and also compete.