

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
July 3, 2021

ERNIE ELS (-11)



Q. Ernie, great day today. Can you just talk about it a little bit?

ERNIE ELS: Well, I hit a lot of greens and when I hit the greens, I made some putts, so that was a good key for me. The conditions were quite tough. Rain and wind kind of came and went so you kind of had to keep the ball in front of you. Finishing on 16 making a good par save and making a birdie on 18 was big.

Q. You had a good round yesterday. How did you keep the momentum going into today even with the conditions that were out there?

ERNIE ELS: Yeah, I felt like I needed to kind of get a good round going and I had a nice start. I played the front nine really well and I just tried to keep it going. I parred every hole on the back nine except for 18. It wasn't all clean sailing, I had to make some good par saves and so forth, but to make the putt on 18 was big.

Q. Any adjustments going into tomorrow, final round?

ERNIE ELS: Well, it depends on conditions. We had it all today, a bit of rain, a bit of wind, a bit of everything, so hopefully it gets a little better tomorrow. But I've got to score well tomorrow. The guys are going to come out of the pack, there's going to be guys shooting low, so just kind of got to do what I can do.

Q. How did you feel with the crowd cheer at the end there?

ERNIE ELS: It was good. A nice crowd out there. First time in this area for me, so I've been here all week. I had to play some practice round to get familiar with the golf course, but I'm enjoying it. Why not? It's pretty nice.

Q. (Inaudible) got yourself in trouble and even the second shot --

ERNIE ELS: Yeah, on the second shot I actually had a shot to the green, but just lying on a piece of wood, twig or something and the ball was like right on it. I couldn't move that, otherwise the golf ball would move, so I had to play it. I don't practice those shots. I thought the ball was going to come out quick and it came out very soft. Fortunate to make 4 there.

Q. The lead has changed a handful of times the last couple of days. What does it sort of say to you about this field?

ERNIE ELS: It just shows you, anybody that gets hot you've got to watch out for. It's the

type of golf course where guys can get going. This thing's -- there's a lot of holes to be played. I've got to get going again tomorrow and have the same mindset as I had today, try to make birdies.