
Q. So you're out here, you're later than planned. I know you came out here for the skins game. How is it to be out here and playing this time?

ERNIE ELS: Yeah, the last couple years coming as a Boeing ambassador, I played the pro-am I think twice and then we played that skins game a couple years ago, Freddie and Bernhard and Retief. So I know the course, but I've never actually come here to officially play until now. I'm officially now at the right age to play. Loving it.

Q. How much are you enjoying this tour compared to the PGA TOUR?

ERNIE ELS: I really enjoy it here obviously. We're playing a lot of courses that are a little bit different, the courses that we kind of played back in my day, my prime on the PGA TOUR. With length now on the regular tour, you know, golf courses are a little bit different. It's nice to go back to things that I remember and playing with the guys that I've always competed against for so many years. I really feel comfortable and I really like it out here.

Q. Have you met your expectations on what you thought you'd do out here?

ERNIE ELS: You know what, this year I haven't played really to my own expectation, to be honest with you, so I'm looking forward to having a nice kind of end-of-the-year stretch here. You've got 10 or 11 events left, so I'd love to really get into the mix. I have had a lot of top-10s this year, but I haven't had a win yet, so I'm looking forward to getting into contention and competing properly.

Q. Do you see Phil (indiscernible) 50th PGA. Does that mean you can do another British Open?

ERNIE ELS: Absolutely. I mean, Phil, he's really changed the game for us guys at 50 and so forth. We get the right conditions, right golf courses, if you're on your game, I think you've got a chance against any field. Phil's really proven that. I love links golf. I didn't have a great British Open, but I feel on those type of courses I can still compete against those guys.

Q. How's this course set up for your game?

ERNIE ELS: It's a great layout, lot of elevation change, the greens are running really smooth. You can take on the par 5s. Par 3s are very strong on the golf course, and there's a lot of left-to-rights and right-to-lefts so you've got to shape the ball a little bit, so I really like that type of golf.

Q. Were you expecting that Bernhard would still be one of the top players when he got out here?

ERNIE ELS: Yeah, to be honest with you, yes. I've seen him play and I expected him obviously to still keep going, but at 62, 63, whatever he is now, he's just amazing, amazing, one of the best ever Champions Tour players I think the Tour's ever seen. Obviously there's been Hale Irwin and Gary Player, Lee Trevino, those type players, but his record can stand the test of time against anybody. To compete against him, you know, he's one of my idols from early on, so it's great to play with him.

Q. Do you have those kind of aspirations, to play this long and keep your game at that level for that many years?

ERNIE ELS: Yeah, I mean, why not? I think if you keep yourself in good shape, you have a hunger for the game, a love for the game, why not? You can go whenever. We've always said golf is a game for life. You start playing at 4 or 5, whenever you started playing, I'm 51 now, I still enjoy playing and I love competing. Why not? When you still like it, go as long as you can. Bernhard's proving that, a lot of players are proving that. I'll keep going.