

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
November 20, 2022

ERIK BARNES (-14)



Q. Erik, so looking like your first top-10 on the PGA TOUR. What's it mean to you to put this good result kind of on paper going into the downtime?

ERIK BARNES: Yeah, I mean, obviously I think most of the rookies probably had a goal to get over that 500,000 threshold so we can maybe earn a little bit of money come next year. I'm not going to be there. It's exciting, it's fun. I felt pretty comfortable all day. It was probably by far my worst ball-striking day off the tee, but I managed well. I had a big save on 16 for par, I had to take an unplayable. No, I played well, it was nice.

Q. In terms of the learning curve from Korn Ferry Tour to the PGA TOUR, what kind of has that been like for you? What has that learning curve looked like?

ERIK BARNES: Yeah, that actually was tough. I played a couple PGA TOUR events previous this season, but never as a member, so it's definitely there's a lot more going on you've got to get used to. There's just accessibility to way more, there's a lot more people, there's a lot more pulling you in different directions. In my opinion, it's a little harder to focus on golf. I joke that you could go -- if you played a Korn Ferry event, you could pull out of the parking lot, walk in the locker room, hit balls, walk out in an hour. Out here it's like double, everything's double the time. It's just getting used to kind of divvying up your time well and focusing on the things you need to focus on when you're there.

Q. When you think of the year as a whole, including KFT, what grade would you give yourself for the year?

ERIK BARNES: Yeah, so I played obviously really well the first two-thirds of the year on the Korn Ferry, made a bunch of cuts in a row, then qualified for the U.S. Open. Then I kind of had a lull, now I'm already Tour bound for the PGA TOUR, excited about that, kind of thinking about that, not focusing on golf as much as I probably should have been.

But obviously as a whole I actually -- I thought I played pretty well the first five or six events that I've got into on the PGA TOUR this fall. Didn't really have the results I wanted. A little nervy at times in trying, like you said, to learn the ropes. But I felt good all week. Unfortunately, I started my first round with a double on the second hole and I doubled my first hole the second round. Other than that, I played great, I'm right up there.

Q. Was there anything specific that was better this week?

ERIK BARNES: The putter, yeah. I made a putter change this week. I had been trying since probably June, I had been trying to be too perfect putting. I was trying to use lines or I was

trying to aim the putter better, I was trying to set up better. I've never putted that way. I'm a handsyier putter, I like to release the putter. I finally said I'm done with this, I'm going to just go back to the way I used to putt and it paid off.

Q. Was it like when you got Tour bound that you started tinkering a little bit?

ERIK BARNES: No, I think it was probably more toward the end of the year I started tinkering a little more than I should. I used the same putter the entire year. I probably used four different putters this fall. I went back to a very traditional blade putter, kind of something I putted with in the past and putted nicely, my speed was terrific.

Q. Had you used that putter like in competition, the one you used this week?

ERIK BARNES: I never used it before this week. It's a shout-out to Scotty Cameron.

Q. Can I ask a quick Birdies Fore Love question?

ERIK BARNES: Yeah.

Q. What's it mean to possibly finish atop that this week and where might the money go, if you have any idea.

ERIK BARNES: That's cool. I don't even -- to be honest with you, maybe I should know more about this. I didn't know anything about it until yesterday when you guys messaged me on Instagram.

Q. It wasn't me.

ERIK BARNES: If I have a chance to win Birdies Fore Love, that's great. I assume I'm donating it to a charity, is that how that works?

Q. Yes.

ERIK BARNES: So my wife and I will put some thought into a charity, probably have a lot to do with kids.

Q. And bettering your position for the reshuffle, how big is that for you going into the fall, into the spring with this result?

ERIK BARNES: Yeah, one of the caddies actually asked me about that today, like how have I played this fall and where do I think that's going to put me in relation to the reshuffle.

To be honest with you, I don't know enough about it. I'm pretty sure I'm just reshuffling kind of amongst the guys that I came here with, the Korn Ferry and the other 25.

You know, we've had some, obviously some guys have played great. Taylor Montgomery and Tyson Alexander played terrific last week as well as Ben Taylor played terrific. It's just nice those guys doing that kind of out front and saying, you know what, I can do the same thing. It just gives you a little more added confidence when rookies are having success, and it's been a fun ride so far.

Q. Last questions: What's one thing you've learned this year thinking about the year as a whole?

ERIK BARNES: I already knew this, but actually implementing it was probably hard, is that I don't need to do anything better than I already do. I just need to keep doing what I do. You don't need to look around and see what Scottie Scheffler and Justin Rose are doing, you've just got to go play the game that got you there. I did a really good job of that this week and it showed.