

ASTARA CHILE CLASSIC

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW

April 2, 2023

BEN KOHLES (-21, won 2nd playoff hole)



Q. Ben, I know we touched on this, but you are once again a Korn Ferry Tour champion. Walk me through just the emotions of getting it done today.

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, it was, you know, a pretty nice start being 4 under through five. Was playing great all week. Like I said yesterday, I just hit so many greens and like that's just so key around here, the greens are really small, a lot smaller than normal and chipping is definitely a little tough.

Yeah, I was just on with -- got a great tip from my coach, Justin Parsons, last week and just really been focusing on something simple, started hitting it great. I've for whatever reason have played great down in South America and so I like coming down here and had some local -- my caddie played a tournament here once before, so I had a little local knowledge which helped out.

Yeah, it was just great to feel the nerves again, really be in the thick of things. I've been close the last couple years with a couple seconds, but I didn't look at the board the whole time so you just know every putt matters. Yeah, it was great to come out on top.

Q. Eleven years since the last one. Walk me through that patience and the waiting and trusting that you're going to get it done again one day.

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, you know, there's definitely doubts that creep in, no doubt. Golf's a funny game, just such a mental grind. Really that's what I've kind of found is the biggest key more than anything. Yeah, that's what I've kind of worked on and was able to have it pay off today.

Q. This win compared to the first two, what's the biggest differences and how does this one feel compared to those?

BEN KOHLES: I got a lot more scar tissue now than I did then. There was just freewheeling kind of the first two events. It was I didn't really have any expectations, I just went out and played and sure enough ended up being there at the end.

It's pretty sweet to see all the hard work pay off. I know I can play out on the PGA TOUR and compete and this kind of proves to myself that I definitely can do it, especially coming down the stretch. It's great to come out on top.



Q. Getting a win six events into the season, does this alter or change anything? Takes the pressure off for the rest of the season but --

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, I had a good start those first four weeks. Missed the cut last week, but yeah, I mean, good start always helps in the beginning of the year. Obviously, I mean, a win is just huge to really bump you up and get those points. It's a great steppingstone to the rest of the year and looking to try to ideally win the points list, that's the goal. That was kind of the goal coming in this year and to be able to kind of be up there right now where I am, it's a good start.

Q. What about having also like your wife and your daughter, that you get to celebrate with? It's not just you anymore, but you have them to celebrate with.

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, it's going to be awesome. Pretty nice to have a week off next week, so that will be fun just hanging out with them. Yeah, can't wait to get back and see them.

Q. Over these years of being a pro, what's the No. 1 thing that you've learned about yourself?

BEN KOHLES: I mean, it's so cliché, but stay in the moment. It's just so hard to do. Everyone says it. I told my caddie on the first -- I think it was the third hole I was just like I'm going to try to be just a big emphasis on being super focused for every shot. Thoughts creep into your head, you think about the future, what if you win, blah, blah, blah. It happens to everyone. Really just getting back to forgetting about that and really trying to focus as hard as I could for every shot is what I really tried to do today. That definitely helped with the nerves, and was definitely nervous the whole time. It's great to play well under the pressure.

Q. I want to talk about 18, that very last playoff hole that you just played, did you feel the pressure of that last putt there? What was going through your head?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, I was really nervous on every putt that I hit on this green, yeah, especially even the first one for eagle in the playoff. Yeah, I just tried to breathe and tell myself I've done it a million times and just picture myself on the practice green with nobody here and just hit a good putt, that's all you can do. Glad it went in.

Q. And what was it about this course that you think allowed you to get the win this week?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, like I said, just hitting greens, like that's my bread and butter. When I play well, I'm going to be right on top of leading the field in the greens. It was a great week with the irons, I was just really smart, never really too aggressive and just gave myself a ton of opportunities.

