

VERITEX BANK CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW

April 14, 2023

BEN KOHLES (-11)



Q. All right, Ben, so a nice 65 here as the wind was gusting. How would you describe the day and your play?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, I mean, super solid, just keeping the ball right in front of me, not really making any mistakes. Yeah, I had a nice little four-hole stretch there to get it kind of rolling at the turn. That was nice to just get some birdies on the board, then pretty smooth sailing coming in.

Q. As the wind picks up, does the expectation or anything about kind of your process and plan change?

BEN KOHLES: Not really. I mean, you know this course is very easy, there's just a ton of birdie opportunities. Obviously the wind is going to make it a lot more difficult to get it close, but it's so firm out here, like if you -- if you're in good position off the tee, which it's hard to really be out of position on a lot of the holes, you can kind of be aggressive. You know, it's really playing more like a linksy kind of golf. I play pretty well in the wind with a little lower ball flight, so I like when it's windy like this, it makes it a little more challenging.

Q. What was it like mentally just that breakthrough as you look back on your win and getting that win after 11 years and just all the reaction?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, it's been a whirlwind. Obviously it was kind of nice to go home and spend the week with the family, yeah. But I'm hungry and ready for more. Game feels great, been playing awesome since Q-School. Yeah, I'm just looking forward to keep playing every day. I'm ready to go tomorrow right now if we needed to. Obviously get some nice rest and probably get off a little later tomorrow, yeah, get back at it.

Q. What was it like just seeing your wife and daughter once you got home?

BEN KOHLES: Oh, it was awesome. I mean obviously we kind of shed some tears on the FaceTime call, which was great, it was great. I was home that next -- early afternoon the next day. Yeah, it was nice to just relax for a couple days and not do much and just hang out with them. It's been great.

Q. And how did you spend last week?

BEN KOHLES: Watching the Masters. Played one round of 18 and practiced a little bit, but



for the most part just kept it pretty light. Yeah, ready obviously, translated into some more good play this week.

Q. Was there any sort of like burden lifted of the win after plenty of close calls out here?

BEN KOHLES: I don't know if it was a burden, but when you get a win after that long, it's really -- that self belief is only going out from here. Obviously over time, 10 years having won the first two and then not having won in so long, that wanes a little bit. Golf's got so much of the highs and lows. Obviously getting that win and just proving to yourself that the first two weren't a fluke or you just didn't come out with a bang like that, to be able to do it again and just really have consistent play over the course of the last six months, coming off kind of a bad year from last year. I just feel like I really regrouped and really just got after it. It's been pretty cool to see the start.

Q. How fun is it just being in contention and in the mix and knowing you'll be in one of the final couple groups?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, that's what I'm saying, I hadn't really been in a spot like that in almost 10 years. I've had, I don't know, a few seconds and a couple thirds. Really Springfield I know I was really close on the last hole. Yeah, it was pretty cool knowing I was right there all day and being able to play through that and play great off of it, which just gives you a lot of confidence going forward.

Q. Do you feel like you're playing more freed up this week as opposed to weeks past?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, a little bit. Obviously I'm playing great, so I feel like I've been freewheeling it for the last few weeks. Even though Savannah, for whatever reason I haven't played well there, I wasn't too mad about -- I hit it fine, didn't putt great. I knew it wasn't a big deal, wasn't too worried about it. Yeah, I'm just ready to get back in it these next two days and it will be fun to kind of be right there.

