

## DICK'S SPORTING GOODS OPEN

### ROUND 2 INTERVIEW

June 24, 2023



### ERNIE ELS (-12)

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**Q. Ernie, beautiful round out there today, 7 under par, yet it almost seems like it could have been much better. What are your takeaways from this round today?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Thank you. Yeah, I scrambled around a bit on the front nine, I didn't quite have my swing going there, but up and downed the ball and made some birdies.

Then I found it, made some birdies early on on the back nine, but then I kind of was around the hole. You weren't out there, but I just couldn't quite get the right speed and get the right line going, but it's hard to complain with a 65 on the card.

**Q. When you say you found it, did you find something, a feel key or something?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Exactly. I'm kind of a feel player and I've been working on something that I've been working with David Leadbetter on. I had it really on yesterday, I was really tight, the ball was nice, but on the front nine I was a little bit inside and was flipping it. Then I kind of got it going on the back nine.

Wasn't a very good shot on 17, but other than that I hit it OK. The back nine plays a bit harder than the front.

**Q. Tremendous up-and-down on the 17th, that was fabulous. If I could tell you tomorrow that you could have one aspect of your game that would be spot on, driving, wedges or putting, what would you pick?**

**ERNIE ELS:** I'll pick two, driving and putting, and always the putter. I think you're going to have to make some putts tomorrow, I think the scores are going to be quite low. The course is in fabulous condition.

Depends on the weather tomorrow, but I think the guys are going to score low, so you're going to have to have the putter working and you've got to put it in play to attack the flags.

**Q. You've had such a consistent year, your putting's been better this year than it's been in a long time, your whole game has. How much confidence does that give you going into tomorrow's round?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Yeah, always nice to see putts going in. We all would love to putt like Steve Stricker every week, but I'm working on it. I'm trying different methods, you've seen that. I'm



standing up on it a little bit, hang my arms a little bit softer and releasing the putter now at the moment. The ball feels good off the blade and the roll is good, I've just got to get a bit more courage. On 18 and 16 I didn't quite make the strokes I needed to, but hopefully I can do that tomorrow.

