ERNIE ELS (-5)



Q. Ernie, so you shot 3 under, currently 5 under, two back from the leader right now, but you've got to like the move you made today heading into the weekend.

ERNIE ELS: Yeah, thank you. I played quite solidly the last two days. I had a nice back nine, played nicely. Always nice to finish with a birdie on No. 9.

I'm just trying to stay in touch. Who knows what Steve's doing. He's been the form player, I see Stewart Cink's playing well, there's a lot of guys up there, but I'm in a good position.

Q. What is it about this course that suits your game so well?

ERNIE ELS: Well, thanks for saying that. I've played here since 1992. Do you know how many times I've won? Zero. I've had some top-10s. Lately on the Champions Tour I've been playing the course better.

I enjoy it. The course is in great shape, the greens staff has done a wonderful job. It just tests your whole game.

Q. Ernie, when you left Dick's you were not a happy person. What did you learn from that?

ERNIE ELS: Well, I mean, Dick's, I played a good event but I went quiet for stretches. Dick's was a different golf course than Firestone and going quiet and playing kind of safe, you know, that put me on the back side because Padraig came out and shot a 28.

I feel when I'm in position, I think you've got to put your foot down. This course is a little different, but let's see what conditions are like. Today you could go after it. Yeah, you've got to just get -- if you have a chance to win, go ahead and win a tournament.