

ALBERTSONS BOISE OPEN
Presented by Chevron

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
August 25, 2023

BEN KOHLES (-14)



Q. Walk us through the ace and club, yardage, just everything.

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, it was No. 8 for my eighth hole-in-one, which is pretty sweet. Had 222 yards and I hit a 4-iron in there. I had out 5, I was just going to land it, probably take my 20-footer up the hill. I was like, it's not really going to get there. Talked to my caddie, Brian, and we were like, I think, you know, maybe just take a little bit off the 4.

And yeah, I was aiming just a little right of it, pulled it a couple yards. It was tracking the whole way. Yeah, rolled in like a putt, so it was pretty sweet. We were able to see it from the tee, so yeah, those are always a bonus.

I had another eagle on No. 2, made like a 40-footer or so. Those are always nice to go down, give you a little extra momentum.

Yeah, we had a little delay, came out. It was kind of nice, I made a bogey, so made a bogey and came back in here and just kind of regrouped a little bit and kind of got off to the races.

The course is just pretty receptive right now with a lot of rain we had earlier in the week. Yeah, scores are out there. I've been here many, many years, since 2013 or so, so I've played this course a ton. I feel like I have definitely a little bit of an advantage.

Q. And talk a little bit, it seems like you have a thing for hole-in-ones with long irons?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, I don't know. Yeah, I think I made -- my first one was 3-iron that I ever made. Yeah, I think my second or third with a 4-iron. Yeah, I mean, like I said, those are pretty nice little bonus balls to go in there like that.

Yeah, obviously put myself in a great position and, you know, first kind of playoff event and right where I want to be. So it's nice to get off to a good start.

Q. You mentioned like long history playing here. Do you play this place like significantly different than you did kind of when you first came out here, or is it still the same?

BEN KOHLES: I mean, a little bit. I've basically hit every club off every tee it seems like, just kind of go with whatever I'm feeling grooved in with now. Like I said, the course is soft



with some rain early in the week. The fairways aren't quite bouncing out and getting firm.

But you could tell, I think yesterday afternoon and this morning even, usually it's pretty soft more in the morning than afternoons, it was definitely a little bit of bounce in there. I think over this weekend with good weather like we're supposed to have it definitely can get a little bit firmer and definitely play a little bit tougher. Yeah, just see what happens.

Q. And is there anything in particular that you're like practicing a lot on, working a lot on, any subtle tweaks, just anything like that?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah. I found a little something in my putting. My putting's usually pretty good most of the time. It wasn't bad, I just kind of was, you know, seeing a lot of putts kind of burn the edge and just not really making a whole lot.

I just kind of went back to an old-school drill Tiger used to do, just kind of a tee drill and get that thing hitting out of the center of the face, and yeah, I've been rolling it really well. Last week had a few nice last rounds to finish it off, then it's kind of rolled into this week, so feeling good.

Q. When was the last time you had to sort of do something like that with your putting stroke?

BEN KOHLES: No, not really. It's one of those things. I'm always working on -- you're working on your stroke, do my little drills most of the day, yeah, some things you do over and over again. Little things can get off and you don't really notice it. It's just kind of, yeah, kind of figuring out what you're doing and going back to some old drills that I have in kind of my book that I know I can do and rely on when things aren't quite going well.

Q. So it's more or less something you've worked like back into your routine as opposed to a change?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, exactly.

. It's not a change at all, it's really just, yeah, it kind of gets my stroke in a really good spot. Like I said, it wasn't bad before, it just needed a little bit of -- a little bit more direction, I should say.

Q. I know Denny McCarthy said some very complimentary things about you last week. Were you following everything at BMW going on with him and everything?

BEN KOHLES: Oh, yeah, sure was. That was tough. He's doing just fine, but he had such an incredible year. He's basically gotten better every year he's been out there, so it's been cool to watch, being a really good friend of mine and being able to talk to him, you know.

I know big things are ahead for him. He was close to winning a couple times this year, and I



know that he's going to knock that off the table here soon. It was cool to see. Obviously wish he could have made East Lake this week, but I'm going to see him in a couple weeks for his bachelor party, so looking forward to that.

Q. Aside from his putting, since I think everybody knows that, what impresses you the most about Denny?

BEN KOHLES: I mean, he's just rock solid through the bag. There's nothing -- he's gotten I think a lot better with his iron game, he's much sharper. He's always been a pretty good driver of the ball and I think -- you know, I'm not going to put words in his mouth, but if anything, his irons could have just been a little sharper in my opinion. I think that's really what he's dialed in on.

Yeah, putting basically the best, like everyone knows, and his short game's really good, so he doesn't really have many weaknesses, and that's why you see him right there a lot of the weeks.

