

MODIFIED ALTERNATE SHOT
December 7, 2023

TEAM USA
TEAM INTERNATIONAL



WORLD CHAMPIONS CUP

MODERATOR: We have Team U.S. and Team International representatives. First day of competition today.

Ernie, I'll start with you. How was it out there?

ERNIE ELS: It was a good day. It was a little chilly this morning starting out. Yeah, I mean, I think it worked well. I think it was new for everybody on the panel. This morning might have taken a bit long maybe for the people watching. You know, we've got to get six golf balls around every hole playing medal play.

I think it was great. I think our play was pretty good. We kind of hung in there. I don't think the guys had their best stuff from our team's point of view. I think we're going to have a couple more points because I guess the scoring was a little bad this morning and I guess your grouping, also our grouping. Hopefully it will be a little bit closer. We're going to be about 52 or 53 points, so it was a good day.

MODERATOR: Jim and Billy, kind of your thoughts real quick?

JIM FURYK: I mean, we were all excited about the event coming in. I think everyone was trying to figure out the scoring process, how it was going to work for us as players, as captains. And watching my phone for scoring and seeing, I mean, just changing it every minute, I thought it was really cool.

I think Europe had a pretty good sized lead at one time, we wound up taking over, the International team made a great comeback this afternoon and scored a lot of points there in the second half of that last nine and now all of a sudden we're all bundled up. A lot of good golf out there.

I thought it was a lot of fun. I didn't have to hit a lot of putts and chips and navigate the difficulty of these greens so it was pretty good for me, I'll say that right off the bat.

BILLY ANDRADE: I had a wonderful time, so much fun playing with Steve. It was just something that was just different. You don't play sixsomes a whole lot. There's a lot of waiting around a little bit, so you've got to not jump off the tee when the other couple more guys have to hit off the tee. That happened a couple times in our group.

Overall this was such a great experience for me. Really looking forward to the rest of the week. This is a really cool event and I'm just honored to be a part of these great



golfers and a great place and looking forward to the rest of the week.

MODERATOR: I'll toss one over to Steve Stricker. Steve, we haven't seen you out here for a little bit. How was the game feeling today?

STEVE STRICKER: Not too bad. I made a mistake coming in on No. 8. I tried to bite off a little bit more than I should have there and ended up knocking it in the water from the bunker. That cost us a point or two probably, or a point probably for sure.

But it was just a great experience. Playing with Billy, we've been friends for a long time. Never really paired up in anything, but I thought we paired well together. We did a lot of good things throughout the day. We were solid pretty much all day.

And yeah, we're looking forward to tomorrow. You know, it's a cool competition. Nobody really knew what to expect coming in here. The whole point structure and how to navigate how you're playing against two teams out there is a real challenge. We've been talking about it, if you win a hole and get two points, that's a monumental task to beat two teams in one hole. So whenever you do that, it sure provides a boost to your team. But it's been a lot of fun so far. We look forward to another good day tomorrow.

MODERATOR: And last one before I open it up, Steven, last time we saw, you winning the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. How'd that momentum carry over to today?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, pretty good, I took a little bit of time, probably seven or eight days off after that so a little bit of a breather. Obviously just happy to be here. Ernie, to have the honor to be part of his team with the guys and I'm just having a blast this week. I think even more so in the team room just getting to know these guys and hanging out because I'm a guy that just hasn't had the career of these guys to be around them, get to know them a little bit better, their wives. We're just having a great time. So for me that is super special.

I had a great partner in Goosen today, Retief. Similar sort of types, type of people, which was great because I wasn't too up and down. We were just doing our thing and playing golf and that really helped me.

Yeah, it's great to be here. Fun event. As I said, we don't know what to expect points wise and what's going on, it's hard to keep track of it, we're just playing our game. As Ernie said, we've got a couple points there, hopefully we'll get back a little bit closer. It's amazing like how close the points are. That's how close the teams are. To be this close, it's cool.

MODERATOR: With that, we'll open it up to any questions.

Q. Ernie, could you talk about your bond with K.J. and playing with him today? And Steve talked about the big swing you get out of a two-point hole. You guys did that at 8, I believe.



ERNIE ELS: Yeah, we played all day together obviously, Billy and Steve and Miguel and Robert.

Yeah, I mean, I think we got I think one of those kind of swings on No. 8 today. Almost said 17, No. 8 this afternoon we got an eagle. Got back -- yeah, we made two eagles there. Actually twice there, thank you. Good par 3.

Steve and Billy played awesome. Seriously, they never made a mistake all day except for No. 8, 17, whatever you call it.

What was the second point? Oh, K.J. K.J. and I, we go back 25, 26 years. Just to be around him, I've played with him in Asia and everywhere else. He's so big in Korea, he's the godfather in Korean golf, all these youngsters look up to him. He's wonderful, he's very steady.

But yeah, you're going to see some fun and games with this format. I think all the guys are kind of looking at what can happen. I think even in the singles on the last day there's going to be even bigger swings. It's a real fun event.

Q. Do you guys look at pairings? Do you feel you'll mix things up or --

JIM FURYK: Do you want me to give all our secrets away right here? You didn't ask Ernie the same question. What's that all about here?

I'd like to -- I chatted with my team a little bit coming off 18, wanted to hear about the day, the pairings. I got to see them a lot on the par 3s, I followed a lot of the guys on 7, 8, 9. I'll touch base with my team, see how they felt, see if there is anything in their mind they think we can do better and we'll put it together pretty quickly. We had two or three really good options we felt coming in and we obviously put one of those out there today. And I'm not going to tell you, how's that? Is that defense good enough? Talked for a long time, I said absolutely nothing.

Q. For Billy and Steve, did you have any kind of strategy going into this as partners and did you kind of adjust during the day or anything in terms of how you wanted to approach things?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I mean, we talked about things. Billy's a straight driver, he would get it in play. Especially this afternoon when it's alternate shot, we're both hitting off the tee but if he gets it in play, I can get a little more aggressive and I would try to hit it on some more aggressive lines than normal.

Yeah, there's a little bit of that between us that we're talking about, but I think it's pretty much the same for everybody. You know, it's kind of do what's comfortable, make sure your partner's in a comfortable position and don't try to let him hang out there by himself I think is a big thing, especially in best ball in the morning. If you can get two balls in the fairway, two



balls on the green, that's huge. We didn't do that a lot, but I think we played well together. We held each other up when we needed to and it was a good pairing.

BILLY ANDRADE: I just think team chemistry when you're playing with a partner is huge. You feed off each other and you pick each other up and that's what this, that's what team golf is all about. We don't get to do it a whole lot, but when you do it, you like to be with people you enjoy and you have fun with and you can rally with each other. That's what this thing's all about and today was just a joy to be able to do that. I think everybody feels the same way.

MODERATOR: Thanks, guys.

