

## PRINCIPAL CHARITY CLASSIC

### ROUND 3 QUOTES

June 2, 2024



### ERNIE ELS (-21)

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**Q. All right, Ernie, congratulations on a great victory here at the Principal Charity Classic. How special is this one for you?**

**ERNIE ELS:** It's very special. You know, I haven't won for a while. I've had quite a few chances, but it gets tougher when you don't get it over the line. So today was very, very competitive. A lot of players, a lot of great players. I just took my chance when it came. I made a nice little run on the back nine on 11, 12 and 13. You know, got to the lead and birdied 15 and then just kind of hung in there to the end. Very competitive.

Stephen Ames, you know, the champion for two years finishing second. Everybody pushed everybody, so it was a good Sunday.

**Q. (Inaudible). Did you feel that, too?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Absolutely. I was lucky enough to make birdie on 11. I didn't hit a very good approach, I hit a good putt. And then 12, but 13 was big. To make eagle late on the back nine, that was key. It got me into a two-shot lead.

**Q. Where are you going to celebrate this win?**

**ERNIE ELS:** You know what, we're flying down to Oklahoma City and we're going to play in a fundraising event for Scott Verplank, so I'm sure the boys on the plane with some champagne or something, see how it goes.

**Q. How good does it feel after coming so close the last two tournaments and finally getting it done?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Yeah, yeah, I mean, I've been close before. I really felt the work we put in, myself and my caddie, Rich, put a lot of work in the last couple weeks. I just felt more comfortable with my whole game. When you feel comfortable, you can enjoy the pressure, you can enjoy the battle, so that's kind of how I felt today.

**Q. What did you think of the changes to the course?**

**ERNIE ELS:** I think it's brilliant. Obviously I'm going to say that. It was a bit narrow for me on a couple of holes back in the day, but I think they opened up No. 8 and No. 10 and some other holes. I think it's very playable even for the members.



I drove it well today, the whole week, and I putted well. So the course, I mean, taking the course back to original design, I think that's what it's all about.

**Q. You didn't (inaudible) this one other than (inaudible.) What was kind of working for you?**

**ERNIE ELS:** I had a good plan, a good game plan and I stuck with it. We had a bit of a wind change yesterday out of the north, but as I said, I just felt like I put the work in. When you feel a bit more confident in every aspect of the game, it's kind of there, then you can just go out there and compete. It was a hell of a week. Everybody played well. That one hole maybe got it for me on 13.

