

**PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE**  
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**ERNIE ELS**

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**Q. What's this like?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Well, not many times you play with royalty, you know, an actual sovereign family of the country, so it's pretty special. A lot of pressure really because he's -- His Highness is making putts and beautiful shots. He's like 5 under par as a team and I've got to get going. It's nice.

**Q. You've won here. What's it like to go back to a course like this?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Yeah, it's coming back to me now. I haven't played here since 2008. I remember a lot of the tee shots. Greens are quite different. It's great bunkering. It reminds me a bit of Australian golf a little bit, the high edges of the bunkers, big bunkers, doglegs, the vegetation. But yeah, it's nice to be back. I mean, the course is in great shape.

**Q. This is one of the coolest trophies you could win, isn't it?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Yeah, I actually received the trophy from His Highness in '08 and we were both -- we were much younger back then. Now he's 55 like me. It's been a while. But it's great to win this tournament. Some really great names on this trophy.

**Q. You've taken a couple weeks off since your win in Hawaii, started the season off right. What's it take to keep that momentum going?**

**ERNIE ELS:** You know, I had two weeks off, I went back to South Africa to see the family and played some golf. It's summer down there. We're just taking it in. Any win you have on the Champions Tour is special, and to win the first week's great obviously, but so much to do. It's already a little bit forgotten, you just move on. I'm probably going to play another 20, 22 events this year so there's plenty to play, but it was a perfect start obviously.

