

ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES
March 29, 2025



TAG RIDINGS

Q. You tied the course record, 9-under. Just take me through your round. You clearly battled the elements and didn't seem to be a factor.

TAG RIDINGS: Yeah, we had some serious elements out there for several hours, but it was great when it calmed down a little bit, too. Playing with a couple of Hall-of-Famers was fun, and they both were playing solid and kind of leading me around just a little bit. That was a good part of that, as well. Ernie holing a bunker shot on the first kind of got things going. I was like, all right, let's go ahead and make this putt.

So I made birdie on 1 and did the right thing and birdied 2, which was a very short par-5, and I can't remember the rest of it all. But I made some nice bombs like around middle of the front nine, 7 and 8 I think I made some 25-foot putts that were just bonuses and birdied 9. Kind of ran through the front nine with not too much drama and a couple of tap-ins from a foot and just kept it rolling.

I missed a short one on 11 but birdied the next hole, so got rid of that feeling real quick and just played solid the rest of the way and made a couple more putts. It was nice to be out there. When the wind died I felt like a whole new person out there.

Q. You've been such a journeyman in this sport. For this to be your second Champions Tour start, what does this do for your confidence?

TAG RIDINGS: It helps a lot. Even just playing Tucson where conditions weren't easy, either, I played okay and finished 30th. That helped give me some confidence, as well. It's a big boost of confidence, but more than confidence out here, you need status. I'm here to do something good tomorrow and work that out.

Q. Did the good momentum from Tuesday help you coming in here?

TAG RIDINGS: Quite a bit. Really a lot. That golf course was in great shape, good pin placements. I hit it really solid. But I got the hot putter, and that's really where things are in golf. I haven't had one for a while, but it's nice to have one now.

Q. You talk about status; obviously you did play in the qualifier, played well, got through. A top 10 here would be a big deal for you. I'm not saying that you're not going to win, but you do have to think about those kinds of things, as well?

TAG RIDINGS: All that is a big deal, yes. Every step of the ladder is a big deal. That comes into your game plan. So you're right.



Q. You mentioned playing with a couple Hall-of-Famers. Those were pretty high-powered names you were out there with. You're going to run into a few more of those out here. Is that something that you have to step back and go, wait a minute, that's Ernie Els --

TAG RIDINGS: It's quite the opposite. I think you've got to let go of those walls you build up on your own and realize that they're not really there. You're still hitting a golf ball in the hole, same thing I did on Tuesday, despite who you're playing with.

Q. And the same thing you need to do tomorrow, same approach?

TAG RIDINGS: Yes, correct.

Q. The guys you're playing with, those are the guys in the marketing materials, the guys on the big board, part of what makes the Tour great is 50 year olds like yourself. I'm sure you're still hungry and competitive. How do you see yourself on this tour going into a Sunday like that that you still have a lot to prove in your career?

TAG RIDINGS: I've got everything to prove. I played the TOUR for many years and played with these guys for many years. Most of them remember me and know it's and it's fun to talk to them and see them again. But I've been trying to scrape by, and it's time to make hay when I get a chance.

But I'm just happy to be here, as well. This is an amazing event. The Tour itself is just a fun show. That helps lighten the attitude, as well. It's all good.

