

ADVENTHEALTH CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES

May 15, 2025



BEN TAYLOR (-6)

Q. Ben, great round. Just could you walk me through a couple of the highlights of the round from your perspective today?

BEN TAYLOR: Yeah. I kind of started off really hot, I sort of just stuffed a few in the first half dozen holes so we got 4 or 5 under pretty quickly. Then we sort of steadied the ship from there. A couple of sloppy ones but spent most of the time on the fairway for the first two-thirds of the round, which is very important here. You know, nice to make that birdie on 17, that was a tough pin position and pretty happy with 66 to start.

Q. What do you make of the course, like how it plays out here? I think you've been here a couple times.

BEN TAYLOR: Yeah, I've been here once and it was 2019, the really wet year. I like seeing it firm like this, I think that's how this course is designed to be played. It's great, the greens are running quite nicely. I'm predicting they're only going to get firmer and faster as the week goes on and the weather's also cooperating so I think we're in for a pretty good week.

Q. How do you view coming back down after you had a successful 2023 on the Tour. How do you view having to come back here for another year?

BEN TAYLOR: It's certainly different than it was when I last came back because I came back after having some success. Dare I say it, the degrading feel can be a little more elevated. Still a very competitive tour and there's a bunch of great players out here so you kind of just turn the page and start a new chapter. I think my start's been decent, I've had plenty of good golf, I just haven't had any top finishes yet. We're kind of at the stage in the season now where we want to kind of progress those results and see if they can be a lot better and see if we can get ourselves in a better position on the Order of Merit.

Q. Is there something specifically like last year that you struggled with that you're trying to get out of your own way of in a sense or --

BEN TAYLOR: Yeah, I was just struggling off the tee for a long time. On the main tour you just can't live out of the rough, it's impossible. That was my biggest focus was getting the ball in play off the tee. I did a lot of work on my swing with Matt Wilson to help me do that and I'm nearly there. We're sort of to the point now where we've got control of the golf ball again and it's refreshing to shoot what is a good score on a tough test like this. I think it shows the game's starting to trend a little. It's one round in a very long tournament so hopefully we can

keep it going and see if we can keep climbing the board come the weekend.

Q. What would you say has been the most positive thing that happened in your life this year?

BEN TAYLOR: My son was born in November last year, Luke is five and a half months, so that gives you a different perspective on life. Makes you realize a bad round of golf is not the end of the world. That's been amazing. I've been married to Taryn now for two years, so life means a little different than the years I played on the Korn Ferry when I was just young and single and traveling and golf was everything. I'm not just playing for myself anymore, which I think's been a really good change in my life. Yeah, it's kind of given me a new perspective on things, makes you realize there's more to life than golf when you're playing bad, so it's been a good change.

Q. Is there something like in the five months that sort of -- you read all the books and did all the homework but you were like whoa, I wasn't ready for that to happen as a dad.

BEN TAYLOR: My wife read all the books and did all the homework, I just do what I'm told. The only biggest change is you have to obviously adapt to a new routine at home. I used to just be at the golf club all day every day, it was just where I loved to be. It certainly made me realize that your time is important, you have to kind of prioritize your practice more because you have responsibilities at home, or more so than before, which has probably been a good adjustment for me. I think we're coping as parents pretty well so far, I think.