

**ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES**  
**October 17, 2025**

**ERNIE ELS (-6)**



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**Q. Birthday boy Ernie Els, happy birthday. What a nice birthday present, six birdies, no bogeys, 11th bogey-free round this year. Assess the day on your birthday.**

**ERNIE ELS:** Well, there was a lot of pressure. You don't want to screw up your birthday with a bad round of golf.

Yeah, 56 now, I'm becoming a middle aged guy out on this tour. I had a great day, thank you. The weather was perfect, I had a great pairing with Padraig and Thomas. Yeah, I don't know how I kept bogeys off my card but we did. It was a nice day for scoring.

**Q. Well, you looked really comfortable out there and you've been looking comfortable the last few weeks. It's a good time of year to kind of get into that zone and finish this year out strong.**

**ERNIE ELS:** Yeah, John. I mean, I haven't done that in the past so I've really tried to get prepared for this week and next week.

I love this golf course. The conditioning of this course is just unbelievable. It's such a classic layout. So if you keep it in front of you, there's opportunities there. So keep that going and whatever happens next comes next. I'll just try to put one foot in front of the other.

**Q. Ernie, 66 on your 56th birthday, congratulations on that. If we can get you to comment on your round.**

**ERNIE ELS:** Thank you, John. Very nice round, nice clean card. Felt good on the range this morning and took it to the golf course. Had a really good front nine, hit a lot of greens, a lot of fairways. Back nine, couple of stray shots here and there, but the birdie on 18 was really nice to get me in the final group tomorrow.

**Q. You mentioned it to John earlier, talk a little bit about how much you love this place.**

**ERNIE ELS:** We're going to miss this place. Hopefully in the future we can come back here. This is really one of the favorites of the players. The course is always in great condition, the way they look after us, the practice facilities, everything. We're really going to miss it here. I've always liked it here. I never won here, but I've had some good events here so feel comfortable around here.

**Q. This kind of round coming out of you has been building for some time, hasn't it?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Yeah, I've been playing overall quite good this year. The last couple of weeks also. Sioux Falls, I had the lead there and a terrible last round in that wind. I've been playing good, solid golf. I like the driver I'm using, my irons, everything's kind of there, and I like the golf course. It's going to be a bit of a shootout I think this weekend. The weather looks good, the golf course is in great shape, so you're going to have to shoot low.