

**ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES**  
**APRIL 24, 2026**



**BEN CRANE (+14)**

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**Q. Now joined by Ben Crane, who scored 14 points today here in the opening round. Just some thoughts on your round today?**

**BEN CRANE:** Yeah, just didn't play as great as I scored, but that's the way it works in this format. Actually, Retief and I both shot 66 and I had 14 points and he had 12. Had some bogeys in there that don't cost you as much. All in all, just thankful. I really putted well coming down the stretch there, gave myself some opportunities, so just a fun day. I love this golf course. I feel like this golf course lends to you've got to hit quality shots, but when you do and you drive it well, you're going to have some opportunities.

**Q. Did you think your way through before the start where you could be aggressive and where you couldn't be?**

**BEN CRANE:** Yeah, I played two pro-ams. I asked if I could play two pro-ams so I could get an extra look at it since last time I was here it was bentgrass and bermuda's a big difference.

Yeah, I definitely knew there was some spots. You know, 18 was borderline 3-wood or driver. I hit 3-wood and laid back a little bit just to get a little wider fairway. For the most part was hitting driver off the tee. I like having the opportunity to do that and was able to push it up a little bit.

Yeah, there's some long holes. There's some you have to be really thoughtful holes where you don't want to take too much risk. There's also, when you get out of position -- I got out of position twice today and I actually played for bogey because double's so penal, but bogey's not that bad. So sometimes when you're kind of going for it to try to get it up and down, you can leave it short of the green and it can roll back down to you or you can, you know, pitch it over the green.

This format lends to like being really aggressive at times and then also being super conservative at times.

**Q. (Inaudible) on the front nine. What was working there?**

**BEN CRANE:** Just getting the ball in position. Hit it close a couple times within like eight feet, so that was fun to -- I made three pars to start and then all of a sudden played the par 5 well and yeah, so a few balls inside of eight feet.

**Q. Ben, I noticed ed on hole 11, that long carry over the pond, a lot of guys were playing to the back quadrant rather than going for the pin. Is that one of those where**



**you're trying to strategically play?**

**BEN CRANE:** 100 percent. In a normal scoring system, maybe you would be a little more aggressive there actually. In this situation I feel like just getting the ball towards the back of the green, even if it goes in the bunker, is a much more conservative play because it's going to be hard to make birdie there, but it's going to be very easy to make bigger numbers there.

**Q. When you see the scoreboard, does it take a second to register?**

**BEN CRANE:** I don't look at the scoreboard, but yeah, certainly on my little three-person leaderboard for our group, you see the pluses and minuses and it does look different, for sure.

**Q. You make this rookie thing look pretty easy.**

**BEN CRANE:** I've been working hard the last five years, but the last two weeks have been really, just played some really good golf. Thankful to have really just about everything firing on all cylinders.

