

ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES
August 7, 2026

BEN JAMES (-11)



Q. Sixty-two yesterday, 67 today, those scores look a little different on the card but how would you compare the two of them and the way you played?

BEN JAMES: Yeah, it's hard to shoot back-to-back 62s, so 67's a nice round. Couldn't really get the putter rolling, struggled with the speed of the greens. You know, made a lot of pars, which is always good. Played the par 5s great, which you need to do. Sprinkled in a couple birdies. Made a nice hole-out to start, that always helps. Made a good bogey on 4. Yeah, just a kind of pretty chill 67.

Q. When you shoot 62 yesterday and then you start with an eagle on the first like you mentioned, does that lift the sort of expectation or excitement level a little bit knowing that you've got the rest of the day ahead of you?

BEN JAMES: Of course it does. To shoot 8 under and you're 10 under after 19 holes, of course. But it's golf. Everyone out here's going to go through some adversity throughout the week. I kind of had mine today a little bit on the front nine, my back nine. But held it together nicely and put myself in a nice position for the weekend.

Q. I believe as a junior you played in this area or maybe here a number of times, so probably familiar with the golf course. Were you licking your chops coming in to this event? It's your first start in this event. Were you pretty excited to come to this place knowing that you've been here before?

BEN JAMES: Yeah, it's cool. I know a couple members. Sedgefield does an amazing job. I played here three times in the AJGA Wyndham Junior Championship. This is a pretty cool spot, got all my family and friends. I just knew it was going to be a pretty chill, fun week and I'm happy to be playing some good golf the first two days.

Q. You're in the mix obviously through 36, you were leading in Canada in your first event as a pro, you played well in Punta Cana, were in the mix there. What sort of things have you learned from those experiences that maybe you can take into the weekend?

BEN JAMES: Yeah, sometimes you just make golf bigger than it is. It's not that big. I'm going to do the best I can, play as smart as I can and keep doing the right things. I'm doing a lot of things really well and just going to keep going for the weekend.

Q. Jackson Koivun in a press conference earlier in the week said you're pretty good buds and you've known each other for a long time. What sort of inspiration did it give



you when saw him have a victory so quickly out here?

BEN JAMES: Yeah, I don't think it surprised anyone. It didn't surprise me, he's an unbelievable player, a great friend. Couldn't be more happy.

No, us young guys are fired up and we're ready to play good, Michael obviously winning last week. I'm not them, so I'm just focusing on myself and trying to have the best weekend I can.

Q. How do you compare yours and Jackson's games and personalities?

BEN JAMES: Personalities, I would say we're pretty similar. He's on the quieter side I think, so am I. But I think once we kind of get -- once you kind of warm up to someone, you come out of your shell a little bit. That's at least my personality. I don't want to speak too much on his, but I think he's a little similar to that.

He's super nice and super competitive. So, I love playing with him as much as I can, learning from him. Just again, like friendship is more important than golf, so great friend and great family, too.

Q. Do you have anything planned for the next month or were you kind of keeping your calendar open in hopes of making the Playoffs?

BEN JAMES: You know, I planned on moving so I didn't -- I didn't know. Now I'm happy to be in the position I am and I don't really think about finishing in certain spots before the week, I just try to do the best I can and have the most fun.

Q. Where are you planning to move to?

BEN JAMES: I'll be in Jupiter with every professional golfer in the world, so yeah.

Q. Can you talk to us about that second shot on 10? What club did you hit? Were you kind of in between? How far did you have?

BEN JAMES: I think I was around like 115. Hit a little 50, I knew I had a backstop. I tried to hit it 115, I hit it a little too far and it worked out perfectly. I guess it landed about seven steps past but spun right in the hole.

Q. You've played a lot of golf. Have you done that before on the first hole, holed out from the fairway?

BEN JAMES: I think I have in a junior tournament but not at this level, so nice start for sure.

