ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
October 29, 2026

VIDANTAWORLD
MEXICO OPEN

BEN GRIFFIN (-7)

Q. Shoot 7 under, Ben Griffin, means a lot of things are going well for you. What would you say was the best part of your game on this Thursday?

BEN GRIFFIN: Yeah, the putter was really nice outside of 20 feet I would say. I made a lot of long-range putts, which is something I worked hard on this offseason so I was really excited to see it pay off in the first round back. You never know, and you don't expect a lot of those to go it, and I felt like it was a hot putter from long range for sure. So hit it really solid, kept it in play for the most part. Hit it in the rough a few times with the drive out to the right, so try to clean that up a little bit tomorrow. But other than that, a couple bogeys but a lot of birdies and the eagle on No, what is it, new number, I think it's No. 3. So it was a good day.

Q. You mentioned the work with the putter. What did that look like for you? How did you kind of come across those numbers that told you that was a part of your game that you needed to dive into?

BEN GRIFFIN: Yeah, fortunately, being a PGA Tour golfer I have access to all the Shotlink data, all the statistics to compare myself against the best players in the world, so I was able to look at a lot from the previous season.

So I was using a blade putter for quite a while, pretty much my entire career on Tour up until last year. Especially over the Spider, I was putting incredible last year from inside of 10 feet but I wasn't making as many putts outside of 10 feet, the 20-footers that you need to make out to win out here on Tour.

So I worked hard with my Spider from longer range to where I felt I was really solid this past year from short range, making a lot of important putts for par, and when I'm hitting it close, making those important birdies.

Yeah, just worked hard with the Spider on making them from long range. I tinkered with even the blade and tried to feel better from that from short change, but the Spider's just felt really good and just kind of kept rolling with it, Yeah, came in here with some confidence with the putter, which is nice. It's nice to have a two-month break for me to really practice on with the putter, it's been great.

Q. First tournament with a new caddie.

BEN GRIFFIN: Yeah.

Q. Jon Yarbrough, who's a veteran out here. What went into the decision to bring him

on the bag?

BEN GRIFFIN: Yeah, so incredible run with Alex, previous caddie. Four and a half years, we changed each other's lives. So it was a really tough decision honestly. All respect to Alex. We had a great run and we had so much fun together really. Still friendly.

It's just tough out here. Four and a half years and I just felt like the time was right for me to make a switch, and yeah, it's worked out really well. Jon's really good on the greens. He's known as one of the best green readers out here, so having him today from close range was nice to help me kind of reaffirm some of my reads. And then yeah, he's one of the chillest dudes out here, super calm and it's been fun so far having him one day in.

Q. Last thing from me, you haven't played since the BMW I believe. What was the decision to make this your first start of the fall?

BEN GRIFFIN: Yeah. So actually I got knee injections in my left knee, I got PRP and hyaluronic acid put in my left knee. I battled tendonitis in my left knee for two years and I got an MRI kind of end of the season, noticed there was a fissure in the cartilage kind of in the middle. So got a couple injections just to help with that.

So I was kind of not playing golf for about a month, was just relaxing and slowly kind of eased my way back in. This is like week seven since and they say it's supposed to kick in between six and eight weeks, so even here was pushing it a little bit, but I felt good.

I'm not too worried about it really. I don't think about it on the golf course, it's really -- it was bothering me more for walking upstairs and putting a lot of pressure on it if I ever got in an awkward lie. So it really wasn't affecting me, the knee was never affecting me that much with golf, it was more outside of golf.

So got that done, still feel good right now. This is my first time walking 18 since the BMW so I'm just glad I made it through. It's a flat golf course and I feel great.