ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTE
November 12, 2026

ERNIE ELS (-7)

Q. Ernie, great round out there today, 7 under. What was working so well for you?

ERNIE ELS: Everything. I needed every shot that I've ever played in my life because I didn't play a perfect round of golf. I'm trying a new driver again this week, so it's not quite there yet. I was lucky enough, fortunate enough to be hitting balls out of the trees, out of the rough and keep my score together, and when I did hit the fairways, I took advantage. So it was a full array. Enjoyable round at the end.

Q. And how is the course playing out there?

ERNIE ELS: It's playing great. Obviously the overseed, it's going to take maybe another week and it's going to be perfect. It's good, the greens are beautiful. We just love coming here, it's always great to finish our year here.

Q. Do you feel like you've gotten your second wind in recent years, almost like you're 40 again, you're 30 again?

ERNIE ELS: Yeah, definitely. When you come out here if you have an opportunity to play, you've got to grab it. I'm busy with other stuff also, but I keep saying everything that I do, golf is still my first love, you know? Other things are quite important, but I still love playing. I'm 57 now so I'm becoming middle aged on this tour now. I'm even running out of time here.

You know, this is a great tour. The camaraderie is there, everybody wants to try and win. I've played with Retief Goosen since we were 13 years of age and still going at it. It's a good tour to be on.

Q. When you're out and about practicing in Palm Beach in the area, do you have any interactions with Tiger, and do you give him this spiel when you speak with him?

ERNIE ELS: I have, yeah. I haven't spoken to him in a couple of months. You know, but we did speak last year. Yeah, we all are looking forward to seeing him out here. It seems like I'm just reading from reports that he seems like he's doing really good physically and so forth.

So wish him the best, he's our guy. And I think he'll enjoy it. Yeah, we have spoken, we have spoken about this tour and he did ask some questions. I'm sure he's interested.

Q. Questions that did make you feel as if it's exploratory, he is considering it?

ERNIE ELS: Yeah, yeah. You know, we spoke at Seminole last year at the pro-member and when I left for lunch, I kiddingly gave him a schedule on a napkin. I said, "Play these events." I think there's way too many. He chuckled and he said he would look at it.

Q. It would be kind of full circle since he had asked your opinion on whether he should stay in college or go pro.

ERNIE ELS: Yeah. And foolishly for me I said you should give up college. I should have probably told him to stay in college and become a billion from Stanford University instead of golf. I'm kidding obviously, I'm kidding.