ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTE
November 12, 2026

ERIK VAN ROOYEN (-8)

Q. Erik, nice to have you in here, 8-under 64 to start. Just how would you assess that round? I noticed a couple eagles.

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Yeah, eagle's a nice bonus, especially the one -- gosh, I can't remember the hole, midway through my back nine. Kind of off the fringe there, that's a bit of a bonus. 18 I played perfectly, driver, 5-iron right at it so that was great. All around, just really good golf.

Q. General thoughts on the course? Must be pretty good.

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Honestly, I love the golf course. It's not the longest in the world. I think if we had a bit of breeze it would be a different story, and if it was firm. I mean, today was an absolute peach of a day. It's gettable.

Q. Just wondering where you are just overall state of the game. Made a few cuts in a row here, contended over on the DP World Tour a couple weeks ago.

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Yeah.

Q. Just wonder how it feels overall.

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: It's been feeling great for about three months now. A little late for the season unfortunately, but you can't always plan that kind of thing. I've been back with my coach from South Africa for I think 18 months now, maybe a bit more. It's taken a while to get things back on track to where I feel I can play my best. I'm starting to touch it, which is lovely.

Q. I think it was maybe nine missed cuts in a row to start the year.

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Yep.

Q. When you start like that, just like mentally, emotionally, where were you at Valspar and it's just like you're trying to claw yourself out.

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Yeah, it's hard, mate. I think at that stage you're really trying to grab hold of the small wins because it's not happening on the golf course, right? So you're trying to do your process really well, trying to stick with the drills you're doing, trying to have a really good attitude because when you miss nine cuts in a row, it's not great, it's brutal.

So I've said it since the start of the year, I really love what I'm working on. It's taken a while for it to kind of come through. I don't necessarily have control over when that's going to happen, right? This is the last event, hopefully it pulls through.

Q. To piggyback off that, it's actually been like four mini seasons.

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Yeah.

Q. You started to struggle, had a really good stretch, struggled a little bit again. Do you think as a guy with some veteran legs now that you can --

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Sorry, a guy with what?

Q. Veteran legs, does that help you kind of weather those storms? As a young player I can't imagine what that must be like. I'm sure it's difficult for you, but now you've seen a little bit, now you say look, I'm going to ride the waves.

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: I've seen it all, mate. Yeah, when you miss nine in a row, it sucks because this is where I want to play, this is where I believe I can compete, and when that doesn't come to fruition, it sucks.

But at the same time, all I can do is work what I'm working on as well as I can with the belief that it's going to turn around. And it's turning around.

I don't know, like I said, I don't know where I'm going to play next year. I'd love to get a win here and just be settled, right? But if that means Korn Ferry next year, that means Korn Ferry and I'll claw my way back to where I know I belong. I know I'm doing the right stuff and you just keep telling yourself that.

Q. A tournament like this, is that an advantage for you? I'm assuming most of the field hasn't seen the course this week. Does that help anybody?

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Oh, wow, I don't know. I think the guys out here are so good at learning a golf course in a short space of time. I just shot 8 under, I've never seen the golf course, right? So it's out there. There's going to be a bunch of really good scores today. There's no wind, it's kind of gettable.

But what is nice is we're all kind of on the same playing field.

Q. I don't want to get into the comments, but I believe you made a couple comments about LIV golf folks. Have you gotten any blowback or response from folks since you made those comments?

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: What kind of folks? No, no one that I hang around with. It might be people I don't know on social media.

I made a comment about saying guys should go back to Q-School. I think it's completely status dependent, right? Like Jon Rahm has no reason to go back to Q-School, you know what I mean? But if a player in my position went and played Sunshine Tour for two years, I'd lose my rights to play here so I would have to go to Q-School and find my way back, right? So isn't that fair?

I have nothing against players that went to LIV, nothing personal at all, but that's just how things work, right? So shouldn't we just follow the rules?

Q. Wondering, you hit all but one fairway.

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: OK. Which one? I can't remember where I missed.

Q. I can't find it.

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: I don't know.

Q. How important is that here --

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Yeah.

Q. -- because you can get off course pretty quickly.

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Yeah, there's not a ton of room especially like compared to the last two weeks in Mexico, it felt like you could land planes on those fairways. So to come here, I played nine holes on Tuesday and I was like this feels really tight but it's kind of just because we're coming from Mexico, right? But if you can get it in play, like I said, it's fairly soft out there so you can attack the pins.

Q. Doug Ghim yesterday was saying already this season he's thought about '28 with the new kind of two-tier schedule and trying to put himself in the best position next year to be in the best position to get on the Championship Series in 2028. Can you sense that guys are already looking that far ahead trying to maximize themselves?

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: I'm sure they are. I'm not. Like I'd love to play there, but man, I'm kind of right here, yeah.

Q. It's three years since your good friend John Trasamar passed away pretty much to the day. Does that sort of give you special inspiration this time of year knowing (inaudible)?

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Yeah, I think like a day like yesterday, we all just talk about it, all our mates. It's sad memories but it's good memories. Something like that's always going to be inspirational.

Q. How's the little one?

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: She's so good. I miss them so much, but they're good. Thank you.