

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**August 18, 2020**



**ERNIE ELS**

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**Q. First trip to the Ozarks?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Yes, it is, first trip to the Ozarks. Watched the TV show obviously, but first time, yeah. It's nice to see some bison, animals and outdoor life. It's beautiful.

**Q. What's just your initial sort of take on when you got here?**

**ERNIE ELS:** It's just great to fly in here. It's obviously a great destination, outdoor activities and lakes. You know, great family spot it seems like.

Liesl, my wife, is here with us and we're just taking it all in. Beautiful view from on top of the clubhouse here. They've done an amazing job building this golf course through the valleys here. It's just a fun place to come, so I'm happy I could come.

**Q. Are you doing both weeks?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Yeah, I'm going to play next week. I'm going to play this week and next week, so we're here for 10 days. Kind of a nice vacation with a bit of golf involved. Really, really, really special place. I'm seeing they're building even more golf courses here, so it's really going to become a destination for future years.

**Q. What are your thoughts on sort of six rounds in nine days? It's kind of a unique things you guys got.**

**ERNIE ELS:** I love it. I think the guys, you know, to have the opportunity to play up here, we're very thankful to be able to play. And to play two events in such a short period of time is really right up our alley. We like doing that, we like to stay busy and really nice to have two tournaments right after each other, within nine days. They've done really well.

**Q. Your thoughts of the course just being out there, how's it play?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Yeah, I was just busy now on the front nine. I played a bit of the back nine yesterday and yeah, a lot of elevation changes. I'm really glad we're driving a cart, it would be one heck of a walk around here. I actually lasered from here to the third tee and that's a thousand yards just to the third tee. The caddie would have had a really tough time walking.

But really nice, a lot of elevation changes, a bit of breeze, which is good, keeps things cool, and the golf course is in really good shape, so looking forward to it.

**Q. Your 2020, how has your debut on the Champions Tour gone for you?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Yeah, it's been a strange year. Obviously I looked so forward to playing. I turned 50 last October already and I couldn't play any of the Playoff events, so I had to wait until January, got a spot in the Mitsubishi and had a good one there. Then obviously winning my first one and my third event was great and then the whole thing came to a standstill. Now we're just starting it back up again and I'm playing my third event again, so this will be my sixth event. Very much a rookie still, getting my feet wet, so to speak. I've never seen most of the golf courses, so I'm really learning as I'm going along. Really enjoying the guys on tour and having a really good time. Really nice to see everybody.

**Q. It helped at Newport, you were fresh to that course, never played it. Never played this course, either, right?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Yeah, I know. Hopefully that's some kind of an omen, who knows. I'm just trying to get prepared and hopefully my game's there. I feel like I'm playing okay. Got some nice new irons for this week, the guys from Srixon helped me. So happy to be out there and hopefully the game's there. It's going to be a long season. I mean, there's no Playoffs this year, there's no getting into next year, so there's a lot of golf to be played.