

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**January 15, 2020**



**ERNIE ELS**

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**Q. You're here making your PGA TOUR Champions debut.**

**ERNIE ELS:** Yes, ma'am.

**Q. You played your first round out there. Have you played this golf course before?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Never have. We just came through here by chance one time 18 years ago and I never played the course. No, first time around and loving it.

**Q. Good. And how are your feelings about joining this tour? You played at Boeing in the pro-am a couple times so we've gotten some notes from you, but now that you're here, what are your thoughts?**

**ERNIE ELS:** I'm excited. Obviously I grew up with these guys, you know. Spent a lot of time with these guys on this tour and these are my guys kind of a thing. Really happy to join them. It's really a privilege really if you think about it. You're playing on the regular tour for so long, and then they call this the Champions Tour for a reason, because if you're a champion there, they reward you on this side. So it's really rewarding and it's a privilege to be out here. Hopefully I can be of some benefit out there.

**Q. So how is your game right now? I know you've just come off of Presidents Cup where you were captain and you were really mentoring everybody, so now you're back focusing on your game. Where is it right now?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Well, for one thing, being captain of the Presidents Cup, you're around very good players, so I saw a lot of good swings and I saw a lot of good golf so I want to feed off that. But the guys out here, they score very well, I understand that, so I'm going to have to be on my game. But we'll take it as it comes. If a golf course really suits me, hopefully I'll be comfortable and I can score. But I just want to be out here, have fun, play with the guys and hopefully put some good numbers up.

**Q. So plans for 2020 are just to kind of piece the schedule together as you go on with the year and maybe dabble between both?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Yeah, I think there's going to be a lot of golf through the summer. I'm not going to play too much at the start here. I'm going to the Middle East and then I'm going to go to South Africa in February just for a holiday, and then I'll come back and probably start late February, early March and start really playing a lot more golf.