

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
September 18, 2019



ERNIE ELS (-7)

Q. Ernie, terrific first round here at Pebble Beach at the PURE Insurance Championship, bogey-free 65. Can we just get your thoughts on the day?

ERNIE ELS: Yeah, so I was obviously very pleased with the round. Anytime you score a 65 around Pebble Beach is always a good day. I really enjoyed my time with my partner, Jerry Yang, and also with Mike Weir and George Roberts. We seem to play together a lot when I come to Pebble Beach, so that was nice.

You know, conditions got a little bit tougher on our back nine. There was quite a bit of a breeze that was blowing, but obviously the key to the round was the hole-in-one on No. 12, you know, 6-iron, and I backed it up with another couple of birdies, with another birdie on 17 also. Really pleased with the round.

Q. You've got three aces so far this season. That's pretty unusual, isn't it?

ERNIE ELS: Yeah, that's very unusual. Normally you make a hole-in-one every three years. I've made one every two, three weeks, so it's ridiculous. I should go to the casino because maybe there's a bit of luck involved, I'm not sure.

Q. And you've just been having a fantastic year out here. Six out of eight top-10s, you must just have a level of comfort out here it seems. Can you speak to that a little bit?

ERNIE ELS: Yes, I'm trying to be ready to play. I've been working to get the back and the body to be able to move and I've got a lot of help from the physio guys and the physio units. So I'm just enjoying playing. It's nice playing three rounds. And obviously I am a rookie, a lot of the places I play I haven't seen before, but I just love it out here. I love the camaraderie of the guys. These are the guys I played with most of my career and I like the -- what's the word? They work on their games, the guys are ready to play and I just follow their example. I just want to be ready to play and enjoying it.