

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
September 19, 2020



ERNIE ELS (-9)

Q. Solid day here, enough to build you a two-shot cushion here heading into Sunday. Your thoughts on the round?

ERNIE ELS: Yeah, I felt really good, my warmup was good, but it was pretty tough because we started on the back nine and the wind was really up, and playing the back nine in a north breeze, a lot of the holes were going into the wind and club selection got very tricky. So I only got through my front nine, my first nine, in 1 under.

I made some mistakes on my back nine, which is the front nine, which is actually the easier nine. I made a bogey on the very easy fourth hole and I didn't birdie the second hole, but I did birdie 5 and 6. A little scrappy today, but very happy to carve out a 70 and hang onto the lead. So I'm looking forward to playing better tomorrow.

Q. What's the number you think you're going to have to get to to have a chance tomorrow?

ERNIE ELS: Well, depends on the weather, you know. It seems like the last couple of days the wind's been blowing into the middle of the day and it slows down at the end of the day, but at least tomorrow everybody plays in the same conditions. Who knows, you can get hot here. The back nine's been playing a little bit tougher than the front. I'm going to have to break 70 at least and hopefully nobody goes too low.

Q. You've got Fred Couples and Jim Furyk chasing you. Does that put the pressure on even more?

ERNIE ELS: There's so many big names here. Obviously Freddie loves the course. There's a lot of names up there, Retief's up there, Jim Furyk's up there. There's some really quality players and a lot of other players, so I can't be looking at them, I know what I need to do. I need to play a really good, solid round of golf and if I do that, we'll see what happens. It should be exciting.