



Ben Crane
Round 1 Interview Transcript
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May 7, 2026

Ben Crane Interview.

Question: We're with Ben Crane, our solo leader, after the first round, 7-under 65. Tell us about your round today.

Ben Crane Answer:

Just played nice, really played nice. Extremely nice on the front nine and really all day and just, you know, did everything well. So didn't have a lot of stress early. Had to work a little harder there at the end; but, all in all, just played really nice golf. Was a fun day. Super fun day.

Question: What's it like to play carefree?

Ben Crane Answer:

Yeah. I mean, I just do my best to trust in the Lord and not in my own, you know, thoughts and ideas and all that. And so it produces joy, you know? So I'm doing what I love to do. Like, I love being out here. I love the Champions Tour. This is the greatest place I've ever been to play golf. It's more fun. The guys are more relaxed. But everyone's grinding. You get to practice as much as you want. Tee times are civil, middle of the day. You got to pack a lunch. Miss lunch every day. I lose a little bit of weight. But it's pretty awesome. I love playing out here. Thankful for the opportunity. Yeah. This is a great golf tournament. Insperity does a great job. This is as good as it gets. From, you know, Pro-Am all the way through to hospitality, they get behind this golf tournament. So, yeah. Thankful for their involvement.

Question: You being a rookie so you didn't play out here last year. But what did you think about the golf course? Because I know they did things differently with the greens?

Ben Crane Answer:

Yeah. I heard they put many millions of dollars into the golf course. I don't know if it was ten or 30 or what. I heard some crazy numbers. But they have done a great job. This is a fair, really good test of golf. The greens are still firm because they're new. Understandable, but that produces, you gotta hit quality shots to stop the ball. You have room to drive it, but you've got to play great golf. I think this is a great golf course, one of the best we play. So couldn't be happier with – Tom Lehman told me before we came here, "This is the best event of the year."

I'm like, "What?" So I was fortunate enough, by the tournament director, Bryan, to give me a sponsor exemption and be here. So I am thankful to be here.

Question: I didn't realize that you were on a sponsor's exemption.

Ben Crane Answer:

Yeah. Yeah. Just trying to earn my keep.

Question: Yeah. Yeah. Did you play this course any at all in the regular PGA Tour?

Ben Crane Answer:

I did. I overlapped here I think like one or two years. So don't really remember it at all; but, yeah, I was here. Can't really draw on any of those memories.

Question: Yeah, that's what I was thinking. If you had played it, it was so long ago?

Ben Crane Answer:

Yeah. Yeah.

Question: So I guess when the wind picks up, if the wind picks up tomorrow, the scores will change?

Ben Crane Answer:

Oh, yeah.

Question: Drastically?

Ben Crane Answer:

Remember, wind is the hardest element. Rain's tough, but not that tough. Cold is tough because it makes the ball go shorter. But wind is the law of diminishing returns, because whatever you gain, whatever you lose into the wind, you do not gain back all of that downwind. And it's variable. So wind is by far the most difficult thing that we play in, for sure.
