



Ernie Els
Round 2 Interview Transcript
67-66 (-11)

May 9, 2026

Ernie Els Interview.

Question: Ernie, bogey-free 66, including a four-birdies-in-a-row-streak on the back nine. Tell us about your round.

Ernie Els Answer:

Yeah. I mean, I just thought I'd keep it in front of me. And I worked on quite a few things in my swing, you know, leading up to this morning's round. And I started feeling a bit more comfortable. So I felt like I hit the ball solidly. I didn't get off to the greatest start. You know, and I made pars all the way. But my first birdie came on number 6 number 7. And I hit it really close on 8; so that kind of got a little bit of momentum. And then the back nine was quite nice. So, 17, 18 gets your attention, you know? So I'm glad I finished with two pars and have a good chance tomorrow.

Question: What were those adjustments with your swing that you made?

Ernie Els Answer:

It's a long story. It's kind of ball position and setup, all the normal stuff that gets out of whack with me. So those are the most uncomfortable things to work on. So, today was a good day.

Question: Ernie, what does it mean for you guys when they have the Greats of Golf out here and all these incredible players?

Ernie Els Answer:

I want to go watch them now.

Question: So we won't take up too much of your time, then.

Ernie Els Answer:

Please.

Question: Did you get a chance to talk to them before today a little bit?

Ernie Els Answer:

I have not. You know, I spoke to Gary. I speak to Gary maybe once a week. I see Jack Nicklaus once a week, at least once a week when I'm home. Probably more than that. We have lunch together a lot. So just to have them around...these guys showed us how to do it. They're still showing us how to do it now, how they interact with people, what they do for charity, what they do for their families. So they've been an unbelievable example for us, for this generation. And hopefully we can show the next lot how to do it. You know? So that's how golf used to work, but it's all so screwed up now. But hopefully we can come back to what it's all about. It's all about playing proper golf and being a proper person and being nice to other people.

Question: One last question for me, and I'll let you get out there. I would think you don't need the money, you don't play for the money, but well, to a degree. But why do you just enjoy coming out here to play with the guys, the competition?

Ernie Els Answer:

Yeah. You know, when I was younger I downplayed the Champions Tour. And here I got to 50. You know, I didn't have a good time when I was in my late 40s on the regular Tour. So to be out here, be able to compete, to play, to have almost a tournament a week at our age, come on, you know? It's gravy. And to have the guys that I've competed against all my life and still trying to win a tournament is – there's no other sport like this. So what the guys have done – Miller Brady, the PGA Tour and everybody who have us, and you have the sponsors that we have is unbelievable.
