

**ERNIE ELS**

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**Q. How's your experience on the PGA TOUR Champions so far?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Well, wonderful. Wonderful week in Hawaii. I mean, it couldn't have been nicer. It could have been nicer if it went my way, but second place was fine. And the week we had, I had my wife there, it was just a wonderful week, really great week.

**Q. Those who embrace this tour sometimes view it as like a second chapter in their career. Are you looking at it that way?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Yes, I am, I am. I'm looking forward to this. My last year or so on the PGA TOUR wasn't that great, I didn't play all that good and had a couple of injuries, and with the Presidents Cup, I had a lot of things on my mind last year.

So to come out here and to come and play and see the guys that I really competed with for so many years, you know, it was just great. The welcome I've received has been good. They're very, very competitive. These guys are as competitive as when we were young, so you've got to bring your game, but it's good to play with them.

**Q. How would you describe the state of your game right now?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Well, since Hawaii, went to Saudi, played there, I played four rounds. I went to South Africa for a little holiday. So it's a little rusty right now, but I'm looking forward to playing this week. I've never played the course, so I've got to really check it out today, because tomorrow we start and I've never played the course. So I've got to do some homework today and see where I need to be.

**Q. How big of a challenge is that if you don't have course experience?**

**ERNIE ELS:** It's quite a challenge because, you know, we also play at altitude, a little bit of altitude, so I've got to figure all those things out and fine lines off the tees and just hope my eye likes the golf course.

**Q. Can you accomplish that during your pro-am round?**

**ERNIE ELS:** I think I can. I've done it before. I came here yesterday afternoon, hit some balls. My swing feels good, been in physio, both feels good. It's just getting the lines off the tees and get going.

**Q. Is there any sort of different mentality that you have to have on this tour compared**

**to the PGA TOUR?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Yeah, it's a little different. It's a lot more relaxed, which is great, but you've got to have your game. Every aspect of your game's got to be there because the guys shoot low, the guys know how to score. So conditions are good, golf course is good, you're going to have to shoot low.

**Q. What's your biggest kind of takeaway from being a Presidents Cup captain and what did you learn from that experience?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Well, I was involved with so many, and to captain it eventually was a real joy. I just, unfortunately we didn't get the win, but my relationship with the players will be there forever. We have a bond that will hold us forever.

**Q. Last question for you, what advice would you have for Steve Stricker, who is playing here this week? He's obviously the U.S. Ryder Cup captain this year. How to sort of multitask and deal with all the responsibilities that one has while also trying to be a competitive player?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Well, Steve's been in maybe four, he's been in the Ryder Cups, he's been a player, he's been an assistant captain, so he knows what it's all about. I think he's -- he knows what he wants already, I think he's got a game plan. It's just systematically getting the team together and getting the guys to buy into whatever his philosophy is. I think he'll be fine.