

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
January 25, 2022



ERIK BARNES (-13)

Q. Erik, round of the tournament so far. Why don't you walk us through some of the highlights, big moments of the round today.

ERIK BARNES: I don't know, there was like one highlight. I played really steady. I've been driving it really good since my first nine on I guess it was Sunday. Been driving it really good, so like just had a lot of chances. Got my irons kind of figured out today, a little bit better yesterday, so I hit a lot of really good shots into like the correct spots on the greens and holed some putts, which is nice.

Q. Were you just kind of throwing it close all day or were there some stand-out --

ERIK BARNES: Yeah, no, I hit a lot of shots to 10, 12 feet between -- I mean, some closer, some four, some 15. Yeah, I hit a lot of really good shots and I kind of kept myself out of trouble, just kind of kept the ball out in front of me, never really short-sided myself and that was kind of the story of the day really.

Q. Traditionally you kind of started slower to a year. Does this kind of surprise you that you got off to a good top-25 last week and then coming in here this week?

ERIK BARNES: I think three years ago I finished second in Bogota, so I got off to a good start that year. No, I've played -- I'm in a good situation. We moved from Florida to Birmingham, got me into I think a little better situation as far as golf courses and the group that I can associate myself with, guys that are on very similar paths or trying to do the same thing. I've got a terrific coach and started working with a new mental guy. Everything's good at home. It's just kind of everything seems like it's rounding into form. I mean, I've been playing well, so I kind of -- I expect to play well.

Q. And you've been close out here to winning quite a bit. What's the difference that you have to sort of go into tomorrow with that you haven't had in the past?

ERIK BARNES: I mean, look, last year in Springfield I could have won that golf tournament, Taylor Moore just played really well. What are you going to do? I'm just going to try to do the same things I did today, yesterday and I think maybe I'll be in a little bit -- hopefully I'll be in a little bit better mental space than I've been in years past in the situation because I've been here, so hopefully I can handle myself well and just kind of keep the same game plan and hit good shots and see what happens.

Q. And you've also been close through the years to kind of graduating, getting a Tour card. How did you come into this year? Did you come in feeling like it's sort of -- it's

your time to do this, or are you just not really worrying about that until the end?

ERIK BARNES: No, I think it's definitely my time. I think last year -- I don't know the exact numbers, but I'm pretty sure last year if it was one season I would have got it done pretty easily. I played well last year and unfortunately it was a two-year season and being a conditional member actually the last two years not getting into four or five events early in the season may have made a difference.

But I played really well after COVID and I've kind of continued to play well. I think if I just keep doing the same thing I've been doing, I know that sounds cliché, but I don't really think I need to do anything different and I can compete here.

Q. Are you going to do anything, beach, water, anything tonight?

ERIK BARNES: No, we're staying like 30 minutes away. Same crap we've been doing every day, go back, make dinner, watch some Netflix or some sports and just kind of chill out.

Q. What's been on the Netflix queue?

ERIK BARNES: Making a Murderer, pretty awesome first season. We finished that up. We watched The Last Dance, the Michael Jordan thing. There's some motivation there, I guess. And we watched football all day a couple days ago. That was pretty awesome games the other night.

Q. Are you staying with anybody else in contention?

ERIK BARNES: Nope. Staying with my caddie and another caddie from my hometown that's caddying for Brandon Crick, so just guys I've known a long time and pretty comfortable around.