

HomeTown Lenders Championship

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW

April 29, 2023

BEN KOHLES (-10)



Q. Ben, 8-under 62, I don't know if you know, broke the tournament course record.

BEN KOHLES: Nice.

Q. Take us through your round.

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, it was great. I mean, it was nice to play 27, honestly. I didn't have a great start yesterday. Was hitting it great, just kind of couldn't get the speed of the greens. Then obviously having fresh greens this morning, not much wind and being able to play -- I knew if I went out there and kind of could get in a rhythm, playing more than 18 holes is always great because you can keep trying to make birdies. Got off to a great start, made a putt this morning at 6:45 for birdie and then yeah, just kept it rolling from there. Hit it really well all day and just gave myself a bunch of looks. Yeah, I was able to just really not make any mistakes, so that was nice.

Q. Six birdies in a seven-hole stretch. Was it nice to kind of come in with a fresh mind?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah. Like I said, I've been playing well. I played well last week but missed the cut, shot 4 under. Just one of those things, lot of good players out here.

Yeah, the conditions today couldn't have been any better. It was perfect weather. Jacket was pretty much off almost from the get-go, only a couple holes. Yeah, just kept it rolling, was able to make a bunch of birdies. I didn't look really at any boards. Obviously when you get Dave to start following you, you kind of know you're up there. Yeah, it's great to put myself in position again and give myself a chance for tomorrow.

Q. First time playing in this event.

BEN KOHLES: Yeah.

Q. How did the course kind of mesh with your game?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, I love the course, it's awesome. It fits my game great. I've been hitting it good off the tee, so I've just been putting the ball in the fairway almost every hole and having a lot of looks for birdie. Haven't really hit many greens the whole week so far. That's kind of the strength of my game is hitting a lot of greens. Hopefully tomorrow we can



keep it rolling.

Q. You're No. 1 on the points list and you're not backing off of that. I mean, how are you feeling right now just about your game overall and where you're at in the season?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, great. Obviously, yeah, getting off to a great start like that in the beginning of the year is huge, gives you a lot of confidence and set yourself up kind of for the rest of the year. You're not really worried about too much. I'm just out there trying to play golf and just have fun. That's what we're trying to do all the time, but there are a lot of different things that can come into your mind and kind of get you distracted and take you kind of off your A-game. Yeah, I'm playing really freed up right now and just trying to enjoy the moment.

Q. In your first two pro starts out here you win, right, and now you're just kind of on this -- it's almost like it's a renaissance for you. What's going right in life for you? You had your first daughter. Like what's up?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, no, I mean, you said it right there. Having my first kid with my wife Lindsey, it's really been awesome. It's obviously hard being away from them for these weeks, they don't really travel too much, but makes it that much more special obviously when I get to go home and really take my mind off golf, to be honest. It's been just golf all the time, 24/7, and if you start to not playing well, it can really kind of take its toll, you can get down.

But after having her and her being healthy and everything, kind of just obviously gives you a little different perspective. Yeah, it's so great. Yeah, can't wait to see them in a couple days. Hopefully can make my flight tomorrow night, but we'll see. If not, if we have to wait till Monday, it won't be a bad thing.

Q. To your knowledge, have you ever broken a course record before?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, I got the course record at Frederica in Sea Island. I shot 59 there, so that was pretty cool when I lived there. Lived there for about five years.

I think I have maybe one more, I can't remember. Yeah, that's cool to break a tournament record. I honestly wouldn't be surprised if someone tied it or even beat it today. I mean, like I said, there's not much wind, the greens are pretty soft, greens are rolling perfect. Yeah, it's a course that can really play hard when it's firm and fast and windy, but like I said, with the conditions how they were, you can definitely get after it.

Q. When you're heading to that final hole, were you aware of what it would take to set the record or it wasn't until you --

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, I had no idea. Honestly, after I made four birdies in a row on the front, probably shouldn't have thought of it but I was like, oh, if I birdie the last four, I can



shoot 59. That was kind of more in my mind.

Yeah, I barely missed the putt on 6, barely missed the putt on 7, so I was like, dang it, I guess that's kind of out. But made a nice birdie on 8 and decent par on 9.

Q. When you have a tournament like this that's cut to just three rounds, how much momentum do you think can carry you into Sunday?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, I mean, being able to play, like I said, 27 today was really good. Gave me a lot of confidence like not getting off to the best start yesterday but able to just get on a roll today. Yeah, hopefully we can just keep it going tomorrow.

