

HomeTown Lenders Championship

FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW

April 30, 2023

BEN KOHLES (-13, won 2nd playoff hole)



Q. Ben, a win earlier this month, but 11 years between your second win and your third and now you have two in one month. How are you feeling?

BEN KOHLES: I'm feeling great. That was quite the finish there, you know. Played so good all day and just couldn't quite -- it was really tough out there, so I mean, I stayed really steady. Obviously going bogey free, it's something I kind of pride myself on, and definitely not making any bogeys today was huge.

Had a couple great saves earlier in the day and then none was bigger than 17. Yeah, it's pretty awesome. You know, didn't really -- I knew Ben was leading kind of the whole day. After No. 10 I think I was two or three down and yeah, kind of battled great and played the last few holes well. I just thought it wasn't quite enough.

Obviously Ben kind of gave me a little gift there on the last. He played great all week as well, but fortunate to be able to close it out in the playoff.

Q. Can you walk us through the final in regulation? Like you said 17, and then on 18 you hit a good ball and then you ended up helping Ben look for his ball, too.

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, yeah. I mean, I was, you know -- I knew I was up close and Ben was obviously leading. You're just trying to obviously finish second or whatever behind Ben.

Yeah, 17 I pull it left, thought it went off the mountain. We found it down there, kind of fortunate I was able to hit it. Just was trying to give myself a putt. Hit it about 15 feet, made that for par.

Here on the last, Ben hits it left, we're looking for it for a while and I was trying -- honestly, you know, I kind of knew once he lagged it up there, I was trying to make that chip. I figured that was good enough for the win. Hit a little past, but to make those putts and that first putt in the playoff and then obviously the second playoff hole was pretty awesome.

Q. You came in No. 1 in the points list this week, obviously your second win of the year, a very, very good look at getting back to the Tour. How good does that feel?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, it feels great. I think I'm good. we got a long season left. Now obviously getting two, they have that three-win promotion, so been playing so great, why not try to get another one coming up and get a little quick trip back to the Tour.



Q. Ben, it was 10 years for you. You won back to back in your first two (inaudible), then you win a couple weeks ago. Here you are again. Did you ever think you would be getting that three-win promotion this season?

BEN KOHLES: You know, honestly, coming in after Q-School, the way I've been playing and even the way I played those first four events, I knew I was playing well. You win those first two right out of the gate and you know you can do it. I won a bunch in college and basically won at every level. But yeah, obviously a 10-year gap puts some doubts in your mind. Just to be able to capitalize and get that win again in Chile just really gave me a ton of confidence.

Obviously coming in here, a course that I liked and put myself in great position with that second round. Only being a 54-hole event, you kind of knew that you had to get after it because there's just not enough holes to catch up. I was able to put a great round in the second round and put myself in contention, and like I said, just played really solid all day.

Q. You had your tournament course record broken this morning. Does this win make it feel a little bit better?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, yeah, yeah, I much prefer the win over the course record obviously. But yeah, like I told you yesterday, I wouldn't be surprised if someone was going to break it. Yeah, I didn't even know until I was about to tee off, the group in front of us, the guy said it when he announced Wilson, I think. Yeah, I guess I had it for 12 hours or so. Yeah, getting the win, that's what we all come here to do, so that's pretty big.

Q. The playoff, the shot, first how far and were you shocked at how close it landed?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, what did we have? I had -- so I was six yards further in the second playoff hole than I was the first. I think I had 156 adjusted in the first and 162 in the second playoff hole. That's downhill. It was a little in, a little off the right and it was just a perfect flight 7. The wind kind of died in the first playoff hole and that's why I kind of -- I kind of quit on it a little bit and tugged it into the bunker.

Then being six yards further back was actually great because I knew I could just go ahead and swing at a smooth 7 and it was going to be right. Obviously it came off and it was right at it. Yeah, I mean, getting off and seeing, I could see that pitch mark right there, it was about one inch short of the hole, which was pretty cool, right online. I don't know how it didn't hit the pin, honestly, which I'm glad it didn't because it probably would have been further away. Yeah, to be able to get one in there close and to be able to make it for the win's pretty sweet.

Q. You mentioned that no save was bigger than the one you had on 17. Did you have some fear that that actually might have been out of bounds?



BEN KOHLES: Yeah, it's a hazard, but yeah, I mean, I totally thought it was in the hazard. I figured I'd be dropping. I just basically tried to get up and down for bogey. When we saw it down there, I was like wow, I was super pumped because I knew if I could get a club on it, there's a chance to save par. Yeah, that was pretty sweet.

Q. How difficult was the club selection today with the wind gusting?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, it was such a tough day compared to yesterday when we played that 27 holes, there was barely any wind all day. It was quite gusty out there. I hit it pretty low, which is great, and I'm really good at kind of fighting my irons, it's kind of a strength of my game. Yeah, the windier, the better honestly. That kind of helps me out compared to the rest of the field. It was great to just capitalize today and get the win.

Q. You told us yesterday after the round you were going to play some Xbox, maybe some NHL. Is that a new tradition now?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, we've been doing it, we've been doing it for the last couple months. Yeah, I mean, that's kind of what we do. Got nothing else to do. Get a little place with a couple guys in an Airbnb and play Xbox to kill the time. It's been fun.

Q. Two-week break before the next event. Any plans?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, my daughter's birthday is actually in a month, so we're going to have her first birthday party in like two weeks, so the week before we leave to go to Kansas City. Yeah, it's going to be pretty awesome, I'm pretty excited for that. I just can't wait to get back and see them.

