

## DICK'S SPORTING GOODS OPEN

### ROUND 1 INTERVIEW

June 23, 2023



### ERNIE ELS ( -5)

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**Q. Bogey-free round today, Ernie. Got to like where you stand going into the weekend.**

**ERNIE ELS:** Thank you. Yeah, I had a nice little run on the front nine. I had quite a few opportunities on the back but I didn't quite take those opportunities, but 67's a good start. We're just hoping for the weather.

**Q. Where do you build from here? Any adjustments you make, especially on that back nine? Like you said, you missed a couple birdies.**

**ERNIE ELS:** Well, you know, you've just got to -- I hit the ball quite well. I took some good time off, a good 10 days off, I needed that. I feel fresh with my swing and physically. I've just got to -- it's just one of those things, you hit good putts and they miss and that's kind of what happened on the back. Hopefully tomorrow they'll go in.

**Q. You're obviously runner-up two years ago, you were in the last group last year. What about this course suits your game so well do you think?**

**ERNIE ELS:** It's just an old traditional type of golf course that we used to play on the Tour back in the day. They haven't made too many changes out here. With technology, you know, we stay current the way we used to play it back in the '90s. It's just a nice, fun golf course. You can get on a run, as I say, but there's some holes that are sneaky. You've got to move the ball right to left and left to right. I've always kind of liked that, I can move it both ways. I've just got to get the putter warmed up and hopefully we'll go one better than two years ago.

