

**Nissan Open  
Riviera Country Club  
Pacific Palisades, CA  
February 17, 2006**

**Second-round tournament quotes**

**AN INTERVIEW WITH ERNIE ELS**

(Interview by tape.)

ERNIE ELS: I had no energy this morning. It was the early start I guess. I fought back. I tried to obviously get into the weekend. That was my goal after the first three holes. Not getting on the leaderboard, but just making the cut.

So my iron play is really not very good. I'm driving it really nice. My misses aren't too way out there. But my iron play will get me down a little bit. Other than that, I don't have much else to say.

Q. Do you know the active cut streak thing here, are you aware of that here that you have the longest one in the U.S. as well as Europe, at the moment, is that something in the back of your head, something to play for?

ERNIE ELS: Yes, they reminded me of that two weeks ago at Dubai. Yes, I'm aware of that. I'm not trying to keep my cut streak alive, I'm trying to get back into the tournament, you know. I'm trying to obviously make it to the weekend. If you make it to the weekend, you get half a chance. That's what I was trying to do. But this morning, it was ugly, early.

Q. No luck either?

ERNIE ELS: Yes, crazy. You don't have too many breaks.

Q. Was there a shot on the back 9 that you might have gotten you past that?

ERNIE ELS: Well, yes, on the tenth hole. I drove it left. I didn't think I was going to get that far. I really blind-sided myself. I hit a beautiful pitch over the bunker and made birdie. So that changed the thing around, because I was 4-over par at that phase. So making birdie there was a good spot.

Q. What's the status with your knee, in terms of playing, are you icing, are you passed that, what are you doing?

ERNIE ELS: I ice it now and then. I got a nice routine going. I don't do too much during the tournament. But the weeks off. I go at it pretty hard. I ice it every second day.

Q. **Climbing that hill is kind of a work out?**

ERNIE ELS: It's a good one. I'm actually going to ask Vern (personal trainer) to work on my (butt), my left cheek this afternoon, there is a bit of a spasm in me. Coming from the left knee, what do they call this spot?

Q. Most people have a 100 mile drive to LaCosta, yours is going to be like 5,000?

ERNIE ELS: Yes, I'm doing (designing) a golf course in Hawaii, in Honolulu. Fly out Sunday night and I will be back Monday night in San Diego.

Q. A little spot inspection?

ERNIE ELS: Just an in-and-out thing. You get there Sunday night – sleep. Probably get up at 6 in the morning, I want to be in the plane 3 o'clock coming back. That will get me back about 11 o'clock or so.

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