
HP CLASSIC OF NEW ORLEANS
English Turn Golf and Country Club
New Orleans, Louisiana
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Second-round leader quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH DANNY ELLIS

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Thank you, Danny, for joining us for a few minutes. You finished the first round this morning and fired a 63 tying your career low that you had at the Bob Hope this year. You shot a 63 there.

DANNY ELLIS: Yes.

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: And then you followed it up with a nice 66 for a total of 129. Just talk about the day. I know it's been long, yesterday was long, and then we will go into questions.

DANNY ELLIS: Okay, well, I started out -- well, this morning on one fairway. I made my first birdie -- where did I make my first birdie? I played so many holes, I don't remember.

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: How many under when you started today?

DANNY ELLIS: 5. I was 5-under through 9.

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: You had four birdies on that front side?

DANNY ELLIS: Yes.

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Then you came out and started on 10?

DANNY ELLIS: Yes, on 10, I started my second round, and I birdied the first hole actually. I birdied 10. I don't know, I just made some putts all day, and I drove it well, and I made a nice chip in on No. 18, so that was good.

Q. How long was the chip?

DANNY ELLIS: It was about a 40-foot chip, I imagine. I think that's about the right range.

Q. It went just the way you planned it?

DANNY ELLIS: It was perfect actually, because I knew it was five feet from the hole. It was perfect.

Q. 10-under for 27 holes today, it must have been kind of fun even though it was a long day?

DANNY ELLIS: Yes, I played well all day, and I didn't really have any expectations coming in here because I didn't play for about three and a half weeks, and I

think I broke my left pinky toe about three and a half weeks ago, I haven't played. Now my heel hurts me, so maybe I think that's a good thing. Maybe I should break the other one, I might shoot a little lower.

Q. Danny, is that what kept you off the TOUR, the injury?

DANNY ELLIS: My back.

Q. Three weeks ago?

DANNY ELLIS: Yes, my toe it's been bad about three weeks.

Q. How has your little toe affected your back?

DANNY ELLIS: Actually not very good, I don't think, because I had to change my gate.

Q. You had back surgery --

DANNY ELLIS: I've had three of them.

Q. When was that?

DANNY ELLIS: I had my first one in '89. Then in '97 and then 2000.

Q. How did you break your toe?

DANNY ELLIS: Well, I hit it on the oven.

Q. The oven?

DANNY ELLIS: I was making my wife tea, so I hurt it. That was bad news.

Q. How do you make tea?

DANNY ELLIS: Obviously, I don't because I was like boil water on the stove and it was like whistling, and I ran over there to get it and it ran into my toe.

Q. Like one of the legs?

DANNY ELLIS: No, it was like a drawer. It was about that far out, just enough to hit my left toe.

Q. It's great to recount this sort of stuff?

DANNY ELLIS: Yes.

Q. Well, is the toe healed now?

DANNY ELLIS: Yes, the toe is better. Now my heel hurts me because I think I had like to change my weight. Now the guys in the truck told me that I have a bone spur in my heel now.

Q. But the back is okay now?

DANNY ELLIS: The back feels pretty good.

Q. Are you considering withdrawing?

DANNY ELLIS: No, not a chance.
JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Danny, we started to go over the birdies and bogeys. You started on 10, you birdied 11. Just on the second round.
DANNY ELLIS: I started on one actually my second round and I birdied No. 1. I birdied one. I birdied --
JOAN vT ALEXANDER: You hit driver, pitching wedge.
DANNY ELLIS: I hit a driver, pitching wedge.
JOAN vT ALEXANDER: To how far?
DANNY ELLIS: About 15, 18 feet and I am in.
JOAN vT ALEXANDER: 5.
DANNY ELLIS: 5, I made about a 20-footer.
6, I made about a four-footer.
JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Did you have to chip up?
DANNY ELLIS: I laid it up. I hit a sand wedge up there about four feet.
JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Another par-5, number 11.
DANNY ELLIS: 11, let me see here, I played so many holes. Obviously, 11 goes --

Q. Par-5, dogleg left, 11?
DANNY ELLIS: Okay, yes, I made about a 10-footer.
JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Par-3, No. 12.
DANNY ELLIS: I hit it -- actually, no, on No. 11 I two putted from about 40 feet.
On No. 12, I made about a four-footer for birdie.
18, I chipped it in.

Q. So for a guy, I think, one career Top-10, is that right?
DANNY ELLIS: 2.

Q. Excuse me, what does it feel like?
DANNY ELLIS: It feels great. It feels great. It feels like a tour event, this is fun. It's fun now to be in the lead.

Q. What did you do in between the years that you weren't out here, Nationwide?
DANNY ELLIS: Yes, and I played the Nationwide Tour, I played Asia. I played up in Canada. I pretty much done it all.

Q. You said your expectations weren't great coming in because of the layoff?
DANNY ELLIS: Yes.

Q. Are you just trying to make the cut?
DANNY ELLIS: Yes, sure, because I haven't played in about three and a half weeks. I just have been hitting wedges because of my toe and I couldn't make it on my left side until Wednesday of this week. Yes, it's fun. It's good.

Q. Now is it your right?

DANNY ELLIS: My left pinky toe.

Q. That's got to affect the swing?

DANNY ELLIS: Yes, it's getting better. I will get some rest, it will be all right.

Q. Is it taped?

DANNY ELLIS: No, not taped.

Q. You are a tough guy?

DANNY ELLIS: Yes, I am real tough.

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Thanks, Danny, for joining us.

DANNY ELLIS: Thank you.