

# U.S. Senior Open Championship

Thursday, June 29, 2023  
Stevens Point, Wisconsin, USA  
SentryWorld

## Ernie Els

### Quick Quotes

**Q. You finished strong. What did you find in your game as the round went on?**

ERNIE ELS: Well, I just started getting a bit more comfortable. You know -- well, I've got a swing thought. I was trying to get something going in practice, but I didn't want to spend too much energy at practice. So I didn't quite do what I normally do.

Anyway, I found the swing thought like on the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th hole, and I went with that; started hitting it better. I'm sure you saw that in the stats. Yeah, that was kind of that.

It's really playing like a U.S. Open. It's really playing where you've got to kind of hit shots where you're going for the perfect miss -- get your wedge out of the way there. You're going for the perfect shot, but you've got to miss yourself where you get it up and down.

**Q. As you said the other day, stay out of that juicy rough.**

ERNIE ELS: I was in the rough a lot. I hit a lot of squirrely shots, especially at the start. Did get a couple of lies in there to advance the ball just trying to make par. Just kind of a survival test for me, the front nine. I had a really nice birdie on number one, the 10th hole.

Unfortunately, I bogeyed 6. As I say, the course is so tough. Take even par after the start and move on.

**Q. You took a birdie on 5. What was your thought process? Did you go for it? Did you lay up? Did you go for the green?**

ERNIE ELS: Yeah, 5 was playing pretty short. The wind was off to the right a little down. Hit a nice tee shot just short of the bunker. Had 208 to the flag, downwind, so I hit 6-iron.

Did that out of the back bunker and then two-putted for



birdie. This was the easiest hole I played the way it turned out.

Yeah, you've got to take the par-5s on, but then again, No. 14 is so long, there's water on the right. You have to be cautious there too.

**Q. For sure.**

ERNIE ELS: We'll always take 71, and we'll get going tomorrow hopefully.

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