

THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson

Saturday, May 3, 2025

McKinney, Texas, USA

TPC Craig Ranch

Erik van Rooyen

Quick Quotes

Q. Erik, started with a bogey, finished with a bogey, but a lot of good stuff in the middle. How would you assess that day?

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Really good. I think I'm really proud of Thursday and Friday as well. I felt like Thursday and Friday I didn't quite hit it the way I wanted to, and I put two really good scores together, which is great when you can do that.

Today I hit it much better, a lot of good putts that just kind of snuck past the hole, a lot of really good stuff. Overall -- obviously disappointed after that blemish on 18, but really good golf.

Q. Was the shot on 18 in there -- like left is not the place to hit it obviously?

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: No, left's not. I pulled it. I tried to hit it between the pin and the 18 tower back there, which if I split the middle, it would have given me 30 feet. So I pulled it.

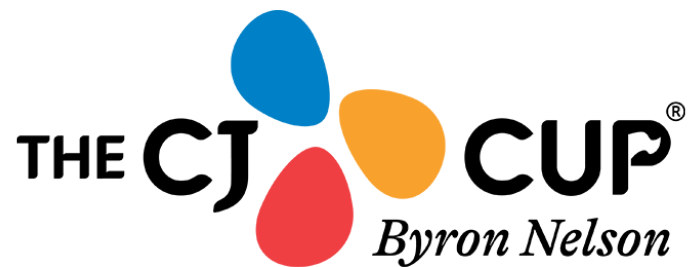
The rough was quite thin, so I thought I could scoot the ball through it. I didn't the first time. Then it came out dead the second time as well. So I just got it wrong.

Q. Was there a highlight during the day in the several birdies that you made?

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: I don't know. The back nine, I just got in a nice run. If I think of sort of up the hill on 13, that 6-iron was phenomenal, getting it to, I don't know what it was, six or seven feet.

14, nice, fun par-4 for us. A lot can happen there. So nice to come up with a birdie there. Then stuffed it on the next par-3 too, didn't convert. It was a nice run.

Then the putt on 17 was a bit lucky. I think, if it missed the hole, I might have had some trouble and was running off the green.



Then I got punished on 18. So golf gives and it takes at the same time.

Q. You're playing great, 15-under. Does it just feel kind of weird when you're -- you know, like Scottie's just doing what he's doing?

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Yeah --

Q. How does that sit with you? How do you process that and get ready for tomorrow?

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: I'm so competitive. I'm always going to back myself and give myself a chance. I know that I'm going up against, well, definitely the best player in the world, but there's a lot of players behind me as well. It's a mountain to climb, but I'm ready for it.

Q. Looking forward to the challenge?

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Yes.

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