

# Myrtle Beach Classic

Saturday, May 11, 2024

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, USA

Dunes Golf and Beach Club

## Erik Van Rooyen

### Quick Quotes

**Q. Can you assess your round and talk about the 60-foot putt.**

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Obviously a little cherry on top, especially I feel like I gave myself a lot of chances on the back and didn't quite capitalize. That was a nice way to finish.

**Q. Even before you made that putt, your putting stats this week were pretty strong. Thought you maybe left a few out there --**

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Yeah, putting has been great all week. You look at the back nine, you've got 13 which is a beautiful opportunity, you've got 15, and you walk away with a bit of a sour taste in your mouth. But that's golf; it's a stupid game we play, and you make a 60-footer on 18. I'm playing great. That's all I can do.

**Q. This is your first start since the Heritage. What went into the decision playing this week, leading right into the PGA?**

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Yeah, it's so tricky with the category I'm in. I've got to play my way into these elevated events, and I've been lucky enough to do so. I've played a lot of golf leading up to the elevated events, and then all of a sudden you get in and it's like you've got to continue playing and then you've got the majors coming.

I was sort of on the cusp of getting into Wells Fargo, and the decision was do I play Byron Nelson or rest and catch up on some sleep. So I took it off and obviously didn't sneak into Wells, but what a place this is. It's a fantastic golf course.

Yeah, the decision was to play golf heading into the PGA.

**Q. Looking at the leaderboard right now, it's really you and I think Pat and maybe the first 13 guys on the board are the only ones with wins on TOUR. Going into tomorrow do you think that makes a difference knowing that you've been there, done that in a sense?**



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ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Yeah, that's definitely a comforting thought. As we're all aware, the Korn Ferry guys are hungry, as well, and I'm sure a few of them have won on the Korn Ferry, looking to get their first win on TOUR. I definitely wouldn't write any of them off. But there's 18 holes to go, and I've done it before, so I'll be okay.

**Q. The finish last year in Cabo where you went 8-under, do you feel like that's always in your bag, that you're capable of doing that? You don't know when it's coming, but in a tournament like this, what kind of confidence does that give you?**

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Yeah, that's huge. I think every player feels like it's somewhere in the back pocket, but having done that before and having made the putts I did down the stretch knows that if I'm right thereabouts with six holes to play, it could get interesting if I make a few putts. Yeah, it gives me a lot of confidence.

**Q. This is your first time on this golf course; you said you really like it. How does it fit your game?**

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: I think ball-striking has always been the strongest part of my game, and in the last year or two, putting has tagged along nicely. It's a golf course with undulating greens. Unfortunately we had some rain last night, so they're on the softer side, so you can kind of attack everything.

I told one of the members yesterday, if this course gets firm and fast with the greens being sort of upside down bowls - everything runs away on all sides - if you start tucking pins with rough and firm greens, it could play sort of like Bay Hill. It could be really, really tough.

I absolutely love this golf course. Like I said, I think it fits my eye from a ball-striking perspective.

**Q. You had the two top-10 finishes back in February. Not quite as successful since then. Is there any particular reason or just the whims of golf?**

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Just the whims of golf.

**Q. You feel like you've been playing as well as you were playing then?**

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ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Yeah, probably not -- Augusta, I feel like leading into Augusta I was playing quite well, and look, it's the first time I've made the cut there in the three times that I've been there. It's a tricky place to figure out, and I'm proud of that. But I was hoping to play a bit better. It's just the whims of golf.

I think if we look at someone like Scottie, there's a reason he's No. 1 in the world. Hats off to him. He's so consistent. We all want that. But golf is not that easy. He's making it look very easy.

**Q. Does having two wins under your belt make a bigger difference on a course like this where there isn't the familiarity from having played here before?**

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Yeah, probably, but that said, by now everybody knows the golf course. Everybody knows where to hit it. I think that's part of the job being a pro golfer is figuring out come Thursday what to do.

Yeah, I think by now everybody is kind of on the same playing field.

**Q. You've got a different caddie on the bag this week. Is that just related to the qualifying or is that going to be different moving forward?**

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Yeah, Feeley has got one or two things going on at home, so he couldn't make it this week. Obviously I saw he got through locals. It's interesting because I still have to qualify for the U.S. Open as of now, so we probably need to have a chat about how that's going to work out. But yeah, Ben Hulka is just on the bag for this week.

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