

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
July 23, 2026

BEN KOHLES (-9)



Q. Today was your lowest career round. How does that feel and what was special today to give you that success?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, it feels great obviously when you can get a low one out early, especially early in the tournament. Yeah, I was just in control all day. Honestly, I've played really well here the last few years, I really like this golf course. This is a wind that we kind of had most of the time, so just a comfortable wind so I feel like I'm just comfortable out here. Obviously made some nice putts. Just hit a lot close that I was able to capitalize on.

Q. And three ahead of Scottie, is that on your mind at all when you're playing?

BEN KOHLES: No, no. No, I'm just trying to worry about myself. I did see obviously his press conference he did. It's like I'm not really worried about anyone else, it's just kind of me versus the golf course and that's all we're kind of really focused on.

Q. Ben, after coming so close at the John Deere Classic, did that experience motivate you coming into this week?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, I mean, you know you're playing well so it's just about trying to get yourself back in those positions. Obviously didn't happen then. Not too worried about it. Of course you would like the outcome to be different, but you've just got to keep putting the pedal down and see where you go.

Q. Ben, four birdies on the back nine and an eagle to close out the day. Can you walk us through the eagle and what was going through your mind?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah. Had like 241 to the pin, was going to cut a little hybrid in there. The wind kind of died a little bit so I just kind of backed off and went with a stock 1 and ended up being perfect. Nice to have a three-, four-footer there to finish off the day.

Q. You said your irons have been really sharp. What have you figured out with the putting?

BEN KOHLES: I mean, really just getting the confidence there. I started working with Tim Yelverton, my putting coach, and we've just worked really well the last -- I started working with him in the fall last year, so it's been not quite a year. I feel like we've been making some really good progress. Yeah, right before I won on the Korn Ferry I switched putters to just an old one that I've used before. Yeah, ever since then it's been feeling really solid in my hands and yeah, just rolling with it.



Q. (No microphone.)

BEN KOHLES: It's like a T-9 I think Scottie Cameron.

Q. Was the Korn Ferry Tour ever an option this week or how are you handling that now --

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, yeah. Obviously after John Deere I think I talked to my team and feel like I put myself in position to play out here as much as I can. It still gives me -- if I don't make the FedExCup Playoffs in the next three weeks, there's still a chance for me to play the last six Korn Ferrys. With the start that I've gotten and how I'm sitting there, confident in myself that I can still get it done even skipping some weeks here and there. Yeah, my main focus is I'm not really worried about that at all and trying to make the top-70.

Q. Ben, 62, how do you put it behind you and is it good to be first out tomorrow?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, when you're playing well it's great to be late-early because you go eat some dinner, you chill out for a little bit, and I'm going to be going to bed pretty early tonight for a 6:45 tee time. So yeah, it's great to just keep the train rolling.

