ROUND 2 INTERVIEW October 28, 2022

**BEN CRANE (-14)** 



### Q. Ben, how good does it feel to be in now that this weather's getting uglier and you're finished and in with 62 today?

**BEN CRANE:** I mean, couldn't be more encouraged. Obviously played the best golf I've played in a long time and to be in this tournament is super encouraging, get to play four rounds. You know, I don't get in a lot and then to get in and the weather starts getting bad right when I finished. So really cool to shoot 62. That 29 on the back, I didn't see it coming, but it adds up to 29, super fun day.

#### Q. I noticed that you were an alternate in the field list on Sunday and then I think on Monday you became a sponsor exemption. How did that come about? How did you find out? Where were you when that happened?

**BEN CRANE:** Yeah, Javon, a friend of mine works here at the tournament, called me and said -- I said, I think I'm going to get in, I'm going to come, but I don't know. He said, hey, we got you, we took you as a sponsor exempt into the field. So that was super encouraging.

Yeah, I love this tournament, it's a great, incredible place and love this golf course. You know, generally you get four different rounds of golf with the wind going all sorts of ways. But Bermuda is one of the prettiest places in the world, so it's a sweet place.

### **Q.** You had an exceptional round. What did you do exceptionally out there to shoot that score?

**BEN CRANE:** I mean, it sounds crazy, but I scored is what I did exceptional. By that, on holes I made a long putt, I did not hit it well off the tee on the first nine. On the second nine, started to get my swing going so I was hitting quality shots, hit a few balls close to the hole. And, you know, making those 10-footers, made a couple 30-footers, holed a shot from the fairway.

So often in golf you get beat up. You don't have a teammate to fall back on, it's an individual game and it's just one little slipped shot here or there and you lose your confidence. It's just a really, really hard game. I said it to my son who's 14 and learning to play the game, it's a really hard game, golf's hard. Today was one of those special days, one of a hundred whatever it is where it just kind of all comes together.

# Q. You did make a couple of twos on the par 3s, which are always good to score on around here, but talk about the other two where you holed the shot, which club, how long?

**BEN CRANE:** Yeah, No. 6, par 4, in the fairway, have about 115 yards, playing a little more than that. I think I was playing about a 118 shot. Hit a really quality distance wedge, it's four over my 9:00 swing with my 51-degree wedge, a really quality shot. Sometimes you kind of picture them, you look up and it's, man, that's just like I pictured it, lined up with the pin, landed a few paces passed the hole, spun back and went in. I was having an incredible day and then that happened. I was like, wow, this is all going my way. Really, really fun.

And, you know, my group, I played with two of my closest friends. I literally was talking to Shannon because Shannon's Chesson's caddie and he's really fun and funny and I always talk to him in an Australian accent and he talks to me, what's up buddy, in an American accent. He and Chesson together are just spectacular. And then playing with one of my closest friends, Aaron Baddeley. We just had so much fun out there. His caddie Pete's great, so we just literally had a ball out there. I knew we were going to just because we're all such good friends.

## Q. Do you think that helped you playing, particularly with Aaron? Given that he's won four times and you've won five times and this is a field full of guys that haven't won, do you think that was a bonus for you guys to play together in that situation or no?

**BEN CRANE:** Well, Aaron and I communicate a lot outside of golf and so we're just very good friends. We've been doing an online (indiscernible) together for a number of years and it's just, we're just very good friends. And then Chesson is one of the greatest pairings on the PGA TOUR. He's hilarious, he's fun, he's easy to play with, you're going to laugh. So just the group altogether just made it really a light-hearted between-the-shots group, which is hard to find on the PGA TOUR. We get locked in, we get too serious sometimes, we try too hard and when you try too hard in this game, it's almost like the hole shrinks a little bit on you.

### Q. Looks like it will be sort of an indoor afternoon for you given the weather outside, but what's your plan?

**BEN CRANE:** Yeah, I'll go back and do a workout, do some stretching, have a good couple meals before tomorrow. Yeah, excited to go put my feet up.