

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
October 22, 2026

BEN KOHLES (-8)



Q. All right, Ben, current co-leader, 8-under par 63. It was quite a ride for you out there, four pars I believe and a career-best 11 birdies. If we can get some comments on your round.

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, pretty nice start obviously. We were expecting a lot of rain pretty much the whole day and it kind of cleared up, really didn't get any rain until about the last hole and a half.

It was nice to get off to a good start. Obviously having not much wind the first nine holes and being able to take advantage was nice to see. Yeah, obviously happy with the start and excited for the next few days.

Q. Yeah, career-best six in a row there, 5 through 10. If you can take us through that stretch.

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, pretty much had about five feet on every hole give or take a foot. Yeah, just hitting it really well. 7, had a pretty sweet two-putt from about 90 feet straight up the hill. Actually hit it past the hole, which surprised myself.

Yeah, just hitting it really well. The irons were locked in and yeah, I was able to role all the putts in.

Q. Talk a little bit about this stretch that you've been on really since winning on the Korn Ferry Tour at the BMW, 10 straight top-30 finishes on Tour. Just talk a little bit about your confidence level.

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, confidence obviously is pretty high I feel like ever since BMW. Switching putters was kind of the thing that just turned everything around. I feel like I'm hitting about the same as I have the last five years, so nothing really new there, just really getting a lot of confidence with the putter. Yeah, having that switch and feeling a lot more comfortable, yeah, it's obviously been paying off so it's been good to see.

Q. I know that explains it a little bit, but you went nine years in between top-30 finishes on Tour and now you've had 10 straight. How would you explain that statistic?

BEN KOHLES: I don't know, golf's a crazy game. I kind of picked it up pretty late for today's standards. Didn't even try out for my high school team freshman year. I feel like I've just been learning the game, even obviously getting right out on Tour out of college. Yeah, just



putting years under my belt, getting a little bit better every year. Obviously had a little bit of slumps there for a few years and slowly just been kind of building myself back up ever since. Yeah, it's been a fun ride and excited to keep it going.

Q. And right now No. 80 in the FedExCup Fall, I know 51 through 60 is probably something you have your sights on. Just talk a little bit about that.

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, for sure. It's pretty nice I think to feel a lot more comfortable. Going into the fall it was funny, I obviously decided to play the fall out here and skip the last three Korn Ferrys, and as good as I played on both tours I wasn't really locked on either one. So it was really nice to get -- have those three good finishes to start the fall and pretty much secure my top-100 for next year.

Yeah, just feel like I'm just kind of freewheeling and just trying to play my best and see where it puts me. Obviously I've been in contention a decent amount and just trying to get back there and keep learning.

Q. And with being in contention like on Sundays for instance and coming up a little bit short, how does that fuel you going forward?

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, just taking everything as a learning experience, trying to -- it's obviously easy sometimes when you don't come away with a win to get down on yourself, but all you can do is take the positives and try to learn from how you felt, what you did, how you played. Just try to learn as best you can to help you the next time you get there.

Q. And finally, this is your fourth Bermuda Championship. Just comment a little bit about how you're adjusting to this golf course.

BEN KOHLES: Yeah, I love it here. I think I haven't played super well but made the cut every time. You know, I love the conditions when it gets hard, you kind of just got to be an athlete out there. It's like there's not much practicing you can do, it's really just all feel and that's kind of how I play, not very much technique. Feel like you've really got to feel the shots around here especially when the wind starts really blowing. Yeah, it's a good strong test specially when the conditions get like that.

