

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
August 8, 2025

PAUL GOYDOS (-6)



Q. Paul, bogey-free 66, front nine, you go out in 31. Tell us what was going right --

PAUL GOYDOS: Sounds like you already know what I did.

I got off to a good start, made a nice up-and-down on 1 for birdie. Hit two really good shots, a tee shot and iron shot on No. 2 and made a nice little 5-footer, so it's a nice comfortable start. Made a nice par on 3, and then 5 I hit a good shot, another really good shot in there and a nice 20-footer or so. And then 8 I didn't drive it real good and had to lay back and hit pitching wedge to about 15 feet and hit another putt that, you know, no doubter. And then I hit a nice tee shot on 9, I really couldn't have gotten it much closer, got about 20 feet past and again couldn't have hit a better putt than I did.

I really couldn't have hit -- for nine holes I really couldn't have done much better. Everything was exactly what I was trying to do for the most part.

Back nine I played solid, I didn't hit the putter quite as well. I hit it to two inches on 12 for my only birdie on the back. I had looks coming in but nothing -- like maybe a 10-footer was the shortest one and a 15-footer was the longest one the last five or six holes. Hit good putts, they just didn't go in. If expectations are going to be like the front nine, then I would be Tiger Woods and I'm obviously not that.

Q. What was the club and yardage on 12?

PAUL GOYDOS: Hit an 8-iron from like 155 I would think, downwind. Again, it literally was rolling right -- it stopped right dead center about two inches short.

I mean, the thing about the Champions Tour is I don't know that until I get on the green, I couldn't see it. So you're walking up, you're not even sure what you have until you're 10 yards off the green.

Q. Did you see the golf course giving up that kind of scores today?

PAUL GOYDOS: The golf course is softer than I've ever seen it. That doesn't mean that's going to be the case tomorrow, this place can dry out quite quickly. It's the lowest score I've ever shot on this course by a decent amount, I think. I think I've broken 70 a few times here. No, I think 6 under -- I played with Kevin today, Kevin shot 60 here a few years back, which I don't see quite frankly.

You know, I think the thing about this tour now, there's 78 guys out here now all capable of

shooting a low score so the scores are getting lower.

Q. Are you surprised where you're at right now?

PAUL GOYDOS: I'm always surprised when I play well. I always like it here. I will say that they had the tee up on 9, they had the tee up on 17, they had the tee up on the other par 3, 13. That helps me a bit. No. 9's -- Kevin's hitting 5-iron, I'm hitting hybrid. It's a different hole. When I'm hitting 6-iron, he's hitting 7-iron, it's not as big a difference. That's true on all of those par 3s.

No. 4 they had the tee up because of the conditions. The golf course is a little bit soft so that helped a bit. I don't think we're going to see that on the weekend. The hole locations, 17 you have to put the tee up for that pin. Pin's going to be on the right side of the green and playing its full yardage coming up on the weekend.

Hey I'm a believer that if you're playing well, all the courses fit you and if you're playing bad, none of them do. And today I played well and I would have played well pretty much anywhere.

Q. It's been eight years since you won. Do you feel like you can do it again?

PAUL GOYDOS: Yeah, I wouldn't be out here if I didn't think I could do it again. We were kind of discussing it, I can do all the things, I just haven't been able to do them. My game really hasn't changed in my opinion that much from being 50, my results have. So you have to figure out what that is. But today was a good day, but the big thing is having three good days. One good day's nice, but you need three.

Q. When you see Miguel winning four times at 61, does that give you -- inspire you at all?

PAUL GOYDOS: I don't know if it inspires me, but Miguel's always been a better player than me, his results have always been better than mine. We're -- it's not a game of equals. Ernie Els is a better player than me. You have to accept that.

Now, that means -- what that personally means is that over time he's going to beat me. On a given day or a given tournament, that's not necessarily true, but if you look out over 20 or 30 tournaments who's going to have a better record, Ernie and Miguel are probably going to have a better record than me based on past experiences, but on a given day I don't think it really matters.

Q. Can you explain the hat, the visor?

PAUL GOYDOS: Is it a happy face? That's my default position.

Q. When did that change?

PAUL GOYDOS: It's always been there. It's just something, I think it's kind of hilar -- again, I think that for some reason, I don't agree with it, the hat comes off as ironic but that's for everybody else's thing. I don't feel that way.