



PGA News

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The 88th PGA CHAMPIONSHIP FIRST-ROUND NOTES & QUOTES

RON PHILO JR. - 10-over-par 82 Westchester, N.Y.

Starting on 10, I got off to a decent start, and was 1-under after six holes. I hit a good shot on 15, and it went through the fairway and made bogey. I wasn't really concerned, because I didn't think I was going to play a tournament without making any bogeys.

I hit a good shot and pushed it on 17, and hit the rail, and went over. I hit my third shot through the green, and knocked it down to 10 feet and couldn't make the putt. It was quickly from 1-under to 3-over.

I hit a good shot on 1, and was shocked to find it in the bunker. I made bogey. The front nine, I felt I could make some birdies.

But, I hit it a little fat on 2, and ended up in the water. Then, I hit it fat again from the drop zone and into the water again. So, on two par-3s, I'm 7-over.

It's tough to get any momentum after that. It was three bad swings. You can't afford to make those "others" out here.

Everybody has rounds like that, but it's hard to have it here when you're trying so hard. But, that's golf. You go out and try again tomorrow, and see if you can make something miraculous happen.

KELLY MITCHUM - 1-under-par 71 Southern Pines, N.C.

It seems like I was right on top of my game. I figured a way to get it into the hole today. At 17, I hit a good shot to the back of the green. It was in the first cut, and I got it on the green, on line and it kept rolling and fortunately it hit the flagstick and dropped in the hole. The greens were receptive, and you just drive it in the fairway and make a few putts. One-under is a very good score for me. Last year, I felt a 75 was a good score for me in the Championship. Length is not a big issue here. You just have to drive it in the right side of the fairway. It's nice to be able to go home tonight, sleep and know that I'm not totally out of it.