

**ASTARA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**Presented by Mastercard**

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW**  
**February 9, 2023**

**DAVID KOCHER (-8)**



**Q. David, opening with an 8 under the first round. Kind of walk me through your day and what was going right.**

**DAVID KOCHER:** Yeah, I hit a lot of really good shots, hit a lot of really good chips. Honestly, I played the shorter course today, so you're driving it right up next to the greens. Had some short-sided chips, hit a few tight and tapped in a few times. Just an overall really good day. Changed putters yesterday, so rolled it a lot better today than I did last week and earlier this week.

**Q. What did you change to?**

**DAVID KOCHER:** Changed to a different Odyssey putter. It's a different style mallet and everything. A little bit more toe hang so I can release the ball, or release the putter a little bit better.

**Q. A lot of great shots out there. If you had to pick like one hole, kind of walk us through your favorite, what was a good shot that you had today?**

**DAVID KOCHER:** Well, I hit it over the green on 4, which is in a terrible spot, and kind of bumped it into the hill and popped straight up and rolled in a seven-footer. But other than that, just a lot of really quality shots, lot of really good chips.

**Q. All right. Other course tomorrow, what's the game plan for attacking that course?**

**DAVID KOCHER:** Just putt really well again. Speed control's a big thing out here, the greens are really fast. Just try to hopefully hit a lot of greens and have a lot of good looks at birdie. Putting really well right now and hitting the ball really nicely, so hopefully I can continue that.

**Q. Is there one course that you feel like you like better or fits you better or are they both kind of similar for you?**

**DAVID KOCHER:** The short course is definitely a lot easier in my opinion just because you're right around the green a lot of times, but the long course is a great course as well. You have to hit a lot of really good shots on both courses, so I'm just looking forward to it tomorrow.



**Q. Did you know coming out today like this is the easier course, I kind of need to go and attack it and do what I can to get a low score starting off?**

**DAVID KOCHER:** There wasn't really much attack, I guess. I just tried to leave it in the right spots around the greens and everything, kind of give myself a lot of easier chips. So it wasn't really an attack mode for me, just tried to hit a lot of really good quality golf shots and luckily a few putts went in.

**Q. Fourth event of the season so far in 2023, how would you assess your game?**

**DAVID KOCHER:** I played very poorly the first two events and then the third event I played really solid, finished I think 14th. Kind of trending into this week and hopefully we can keep it rolling.

**Q. Was there any difference for you? Was it that putter or what was it that kind of the big difference?**

**DAVID KOCHER:** No, just kind of a different game plan, just I really like Panama and I really like this week. So yeah, I like these two courses a little -- they suit my game a little bit better than Exuma and Abaco.

**Q. What is it that suits your game here?**

**DAVID KOCHER:** Just a little tighter tee shots. I guess Exuma you have a lot of really tight tee shots, but fair. You know, I think the harder courses suit me a little bit better. With it being firm and at altitude this week, it's its own challenge so I like that.

**Q. Yeah, being at altitude, is there any changes that you made to your bag, things you're not going to touch, that you brought in or anything like that?**

**DAVID KOCHER:** Not really, I kind of kept it all the same. I experimented with changing a few things earlier in the week, but they didn't go too well, so I'm going to keep it all the same the rest of the week.

