

ASTARA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP
Presented by Mastercard

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
February 10, 2023

KEVIN DOUGHERTY (-10)



Q. All right, Kevin, 10 under through two rounds, just walk us through this week and what's been feeling right for you.

KEVIN DOUGHERTY: Yeah, it was a pretty special week. Growing up, Camilo was my childhood hero, he's the reason why I play golf. To be paired with him in his home country was already special, and then on top of it, in a really good spot with our game, so it was kind of a double dip.

Q. Did you get to talk with him at all like throughout the rounds and kind of pick his brain a little bit being that he was kind of an idol in a way for you?

KEVIN DOUGHERTY: Yeah, we've become decently good friends over the last couple years, we've played together. And just as a human being, he's unbelievable, so that's kind of what I take from him the most.

Q. All right. Then for your game specifically, just what's been feeling right? What's been the best thing for you out here this week?

KEVIN DOUGHERTY: Yeah, my ball-striking the last two weeks, Panama and here, has just been kind of wherever we're looking is where we hit it. Then definitely made some putts the first two days, which is something I worked on over -- in between Panama and here. And Martin Flores actually helped me out a little bit, it's definitely paying off.

Q. So talk about yesterday because we didn't get to talk with you yesterday. So that back nine that you had, I think you made two pars on it. Just walk us through kind of that rollercoaster.

KEVIN DOUGHERTY: Yeah, that's how that course can be. If you're in perfect shape, you can almost birdie every hole. Then if you get out of position, you're just trying to figure out a way to make par. I think I made two strings of birdies that were three in a row, so that was good. Just kind of shows you how that course can play simple or extremely hard.

Q. How important was it for you to get that low score yesterday knowing you were going to play Lagos today?

KEVIN DOUGHERTY: Yeah, very important. Everyone kind of calls it the small course, so



kind of just has that sound of being easier. To have a good round out there and get off to a really good start is great.

Q. All right. And then two more days on the, quote unquote, longer course, so what's the mentality, game plan going into the weekend?

KEVIN DOUGHERTY: Yeah, just kind of focusing on the same thing. I mean, we have a very good process going on right now and that trumps performance, just going to focus on that.

Q. Last question from me, four events almost done in the season, kind of recap your game, how it's felt and, I don't know, just any changes or --

KEVIN DOUGHERTY: Yeah, no, it's felt really good. I didn't play the first one so this is my third event. Then we came off of a really nice week in Panama and not a shock I'm playing good this week just because my game feels really good and staying out of my own way.

