

THE BAHAMAS GREAT ABACO CLASSIC

ROUND 4 QUOTES

January 24, 2024



ALDRICH POTGIETER (-10)

Q. Aldrich, youngest winner in Korn Ferry Tour history. How does that sound to you?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, it's awesome. I guess this tournament, I was just trying to make the cut, trying to get that status, improve on the status. I didn't expect this today. I was looking at the leaderboard a couple times and just trying to move up, move up slowly and give myself some chances on the putting green. I was striking it really good this week, not like last week, we won't talk about that. Yeah, today I felt really comfortable, gave myself those opportunities and holed some of them.

Q. Windy conditions throughout the week, challenged all the guys. How much of a challenge was it for you and how proud are you of being able to come out?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, I wouldn't say I'm used to the wind, but I guess I've played a lot in the wind and I've got some experience down. I think just a bit conservative, but you have to be aggressive. It's a bit of both combination. You kind of have to take all of that in and take the best option you've got and still be aggressive because you still need birdies to be able to win the event. I guess we did that well, me and my caddie, Pablo. I'm so grateful for him and what he's done this week. Just really happy we can share this moment together.

Q. When you turned pro last year, was it ever like a thought of yours that you could win this quickly professionally?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: No, no, it wasn't. It was kind of like turn pro, take a year or two just to figure some stuff out, find my place first and go from there.

But really happy right now. Just looking forward going to the next week with the same mindset, just trying to do good, trying to give myself birdie opportunities and birdie looks and stuff.

I guess it doesn't change much, I've still got to figure a lot of stuff out and try and hold onto this victory as long as I can and celebrate with my dad here. Got a good team and we'll work to improve every day.

Q. Having your dad, I know he was there with you at Q-School and everything, what's it like kind of having him by your side as you go through this journey?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: It's great. It's great to have someone to talk to so I don't have to



call every night back home, just once or twice a week to my mum and to my sister. It's great, we have a lot of fun on Tour. It's been working out so far, so hopefully we'll continue on that path for the next couple weeks. It's awesome to have him, a team here with me to keep my head up and keep it down at certain times as well. I think it's awesome, I've really enjoyed it.

Q. I know Preston asked about the journey, but last year coming to the States, you started playing, coming to the States, getting used to how everything works, but what's that whole process been like as you acclimate to kind of a new country, new conditions?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, well, for starters, the players out here, they're all good. They're all nice guys. I've met most of them now so it's been nice to have a couple of friendly faces to look at when you're waking up, taking the bus to the course. That's been nice.

The golf courses we've played have been amazing for the last six months now. It's really a step up, the United States have been so great in that form.

Yeah, I feel like the different grasses and the conditions, I've kind of adapted to that now. Now it's just adapting to playing every week. I think that's going to be a big one. This whole schedule is so tight for this year. I guess just keeping the mind straight and moving forward every week and just forgetting the bad stuff and trying to move forward every day.

Q. We just had a chance to talk to Darren Clarke, obviously a legend in the game and he's sitting here raving about your play, kind of your journey. Did you see him at all kind of sitting there on 18 and what's it like having him here to celebrate with?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: I did not see him on 18, but I was just trying to focus on making that putt.

Yeah, when he greeted me it was kind of like I knew he was here so obviously I thought of running into him. Yeah, he's awesome, super nice guy and I really looked up to him and a lot of other guys from playing on the Korn Ferry Tour as well that came through this. It's been great meeting a lot of these top, top players as well. Just hoping one day that I'll be up there soon.

Q. How big was that par on 11? After that you were 4 under and saved par on 11. You were left, right and then crazy right.

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, that putt, it was left to right with wind coming off the left, downhill about six foot in, I was probably aiming more than a foot left of the hole. It was kind of like just touch it and let it break. To make that putt from three-putting the hole before just gave us a little bit more confidence going into the next couple holes.

Q. The cool perk about this course, you're a lifetime member now. I didn't know if you knew that. You're now a member of the Abaco Club.



ALDRICH POTGIETER: Wow, that is awesome. I would definitely like to come back and play this course a couple of times. It's such an awesome environment around the golf course as well, some beautiful houses and the beach and the restaurant as well. It's been amazing. The hospitality, everything has been on point. Definitely the practice facilities make it really nice as well. I've been really happy this week and to prepare for -- to win this event was there. I think I put in the work the couple of days playing practice rounds making sure I see everything, do everything right. So I'm really happy with this place. To be a member now, that's really awesome.

Q. You seem like someone that definitely appreciates the history of the game. I'm going to read a stat for you, just want to hear your reaction. You're now the youngest winner of a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event since 1931.

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah. Well, we saw Nick Dunlap won last week and that was kind of just a reminder that it can be done. I'm just happy to be playing here and to get the opportunity to play here. And to make history, that's just another bonus on top of the win, so I guess I'll take it.

Q. Going back to last year, can you talk us through I guess your decision making as far as turning pro, not, you know, the college route, all of that? I guess how did you make that decision?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Well, to me, when I grew up I kind of -- I was playing really good golf from a young age, so I kind of thought from my view that college was like an extra four years of preparing to become professional in my eyes. I kind of saw that like I didn't want to waste four years. I know they have great opportunities, great teams behind them and you can see a lot of the players are coming from college teams that are doing really good.

That was an option, but I wanted to get the experience done and just make sure that my game is good enough and just grind it out on the Tour and learn stuff that these guys are going to have to learn now coming out of college. So I kind of saw it that way and we decided to do that. And after winning the British Am, I kind of had to make that decision and I thought turning pro was a good one.

Q. This week, the Abaco Club, like walking up 18 to be able to look out at these views, kind of what's the whole experience been like here?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: It's been awesome. I guess the weather didn't make it that crispy nice, but yeah, we'll be celebrating tomorrow, we're not going anywhere soon. Going to next week's event a bit later in the week, obviously it's changing to a Thursday start now, so we've got a couple of days.

Yeah, we've been enjoying this place. Like I said, I'd like to be back soon and enjoy the Bahamas more than the golf side of it. Yeah, we're looking forward to that.

