

THE PANAMA CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 2 QUOTES

February 2, 2024



ISAIAH SALINDA

Q. Great round and matches the best round of the week so far. Just walk me through some of the highlights of the day.

ISAIAH SALINDA: Yeah, it was definitely the course was more gettable today. Playing in the morning today was playing a lot easier than playing in the afternoon yesterday with the wind. The conditions were pretty ideal, just had to take advantage of the birdie opportunities I gave myself. Just hit a lot of greens, made more putts than yesterday, which is nice.

Q. You didn't get a chance to play here last year. What do you make of the course as a whole and how it compares to some of the tougher tracks?

ISAIAH SALINDA: Yeah, first time here and I love it, I think it's really good. I heard good things. I think the winning score last year was only like 3 or 4 under or something. I get excited when I go to courses like this; just the harder it plays, I think the better for me. Yeah, I like the course a lot.

Q. Is there like a certain part of your game that really -- like you get excited about when it comes to playing hard courses?

ISAIAH SALINDA: I think it's just kind of just lean on my ball-striking a little bit. I know that if I could just hit fairways and greens and give myself chances, then I'll take my chances hitting a bunch of greens and hopefully making some birdie putts. Kind of had the same mindset yesterday and today and carry it into the weekend.

Q. When you look back on last year, like how would you summarize the experience going from conditional beginning of the year, then you played most of the year after Bogota. Just sort of walk me through.

ISAIAH SALINDA: Last year was good to get almost a full season under my belt. It was my first full season out here. Definitely learned a lot. It was a little disappointing at the end and didn't play well in kind of the last second half of the season. Now that I know the courses a little bit and know what I need to work on, I think it will help me this year.

Q. What would you say was like the largest sort of contributing factor of that stretch of like missed cuts at the end of the year last year?

ISAIAH SALINDA: I think it was more mental than anything. When you start stacking



missed cuts, you lose confidence and you start losing belief. You just start pressing a little bit, I think. I think I was just forcing it trying to birdie every hole when you really don't need to do that out here. I think that was kind of one of the main lessons.

Q. Was any of it too maybe you just hadn't traveled that much in your career, too?

ISAIAH SALINDA: Yeah, I had never played seven in a row like I did last year, that was a first for me. Learning how to manage that, manage your time, take care of your body, I think that was really important.

Q. And was it stressful going back to Q-School, having to go back and kind of work your way back here?

ISAIAH SALINDA: I mean, Q-School's always stressful, there's nothing more stressful in golf. You've just got to take it in stride and just, you know, take it one step at a time and if you have to go back to Q-School, then so be it. Was fortunate enough to get through and improve my status for this year.

Q. Did anything at least feel easier maybe having gone through it like a year previously?

ISAIAH SALINDA: A little bit, a little bit. I mean, like I said, Q-School's always stressful, but if you have the right attitude, just stay patient in tournaments like that, then I think you'll take your chances just having that mindset.

Q. Did you have any goals coming into this year that you set for yourself?

ISAIAH SALINDA: Yes. Main ones were, one, to win a tournament. I haven't won a tournament in a while. Definitely want to win a tournament and just put myself in contention as much as I could this year, which I didn't do too much last year. Obviously if I do that and play good golf, the rest will take care of itself.

Q. Were you in contention at all last year?

ISAIAH SALINDA: I was. Maybe like three events going into Sunday I was somewhat close, but didn't put myself in that position as much as I wanted to. That's something this year that I definitely want to do.

Q. Are you like mentally prepared to achieve a goal like that?

ISAIAH SALINDA: I don't really -- I think it's -- I think you just learn as you go. Like the more experience you can -- more experiences you have in that position, I think you learn from it. I think you just kind of learn as you go. That's kind of one thing I'm trying to do this year.



Q. Is there a particular hole out here that you guys kind of circle as --

ISAIAH SALINDA: Yes, definitely 11. I parred 11 today, I was stoked about it. On the front nine, I mean, 7 for sure, 7's tough. That fairway's just really hard to hit and you're hitting into a green that you don't know what the wind is doing. I'd say 7 and 11. I birdied 7 today, which I was really stoked about and parred 11.

Q. What's the approach on hole 7?

ISAIAH SALINDA: I laid back off the tee today. I hit (inaudible) yesterday, which was not smart, so I hit 4-wood today. Hit the fairway and give myself a good number and hit it in there pretty close. Just got to hit the fairway.

Q. Describe hole 7 to me like I'm a kindergartener, like what is tough about hole 7?

ISAIAH SALINDA: So the fairway, the fairway looks big, but it doesn't play as big as it looks because there's a ton of these mounds in the fairway, then there's water on the left. So if you bail out right, you're just going to be in the rough and you'll probably have a weird lie. Like I said, you're hitting into a green where the wind could be swirling. So it's just hard, it's just hard.

