

THE PANAMA CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 4 QUOTES

February 4, 2024



ISAIAH SALINDA (-12)

Q. What does winning here in Panama represent to you? Tell us about these four days playing here.

ISAIAH SALINDA: Yeah, it means a lot. This is my first time in Panama. From day one I've been -- fell in love with this country. The people are incredible. It's just a beautiful country, great food. The golf course is amazing. Yeah, I'm very excited to win here in Panama.

Q. You've been leading, sharing the lead for the last couple of days. At what point today did you feel that this was yours?

ISAIAH SALINDA: Holes 11 and 12 were obviously big swings for me. Going birdie-eagle there was huge and I knew that I had a pretty big cushion after that point, so I was just trying to get it in the house and make pars.

Q. What was the game plan entering today?

ISAIAH SALINDA: Same at it was all week, just try and hit as many greens as I could. My iron game was definitely the strength this week and just hit a ton of greens. Was just trying to give myself as many chances as I could for birdie and it turned out good.

Q. What's next for you?

ISAIAH SALINDA: Going to have a nice dinner, maybe some drinks, and going to Bogota tomorrow.

Q. What is Tokyo Black?

ISAIAH SALINDA: It's just the company, one of my sponsors from back home in San Francisco. That's his company, that's his like venture capital firm.

Q. Just, I mean, the win today and playing with Wil, just how big was that swing on 11 and 12?

ISAIAH SALINDA: It was huge. I was playing solid golf up to that point. Wil and I were just kind of playing really solid golf, making pars. We were pretty much head to head there.

Kind of had to wait on the tee there on 11 for a little bit with the sprinklers. Just to hit the



fairway and the green there was huge, and then to make that like 50-footer was definitely a bonus. I was not really thinking about that, just trying to make par there.

And then on 12, again, didn't think I could reach that green in two. Hit a hybrid in there trying to maybe get to the front or just short. Took a nice bounce and rolled all the way up there, so that was definitely the turning point of the round.

Q. What were you thinking about last year when you left Q-School? I know you were dejected.

ISAIAH SALINDA: I guess just the results. Like at the end of the day it's hard not to get -- just not get down on yourself based on the results because I felt I was putting in the work and just wasn't getting the results I wanted. Just had to be patient.

Going into this year I knew that I was just going to try and have a fresh start, some more positive attitude every round, every tournament. Yeah, just paid off this week.

Q. You had a top-10 in the fall at a Tour event. Was that a huge springboard moment for you?

ISAIAH SALINDA: Yeah, I would say so. That was a really cool week to play in Vegas, my hometown now. Always playing a tournament, playing the weekend in a tournament is always good for your confidence. To finish top-10 there was huge. Yeah, I guess I kind of took that going into this year.

Q. You missed the first two events even though I think you would have got in. Just walk me through --

ISAIAH SALINDA: Yeah. So I actually, I had my appendix removed like right before new year's, so yeah, that's why I had to skip the first two. The recovery was faster than expected and my goal was to be ready for this week. Started practicing again probably two weeks ago. And I don't really know, like I knew the game felt pretty good going into this week and I was just excited to be competing again and feeling 100 percent. Yeah, it was a great week.

Q. And the last one I have is just what do you think will be the biggest difference between the golfer that you were last year and the golfer who won this tournament by nine shots today?

ISAIAH SALINDA: Not a huge difference really, just like I guess more of just the mature golfer, I guess. Like mentally just staying in it, kind of just staying in the present and like not getting ahead of myself or too down on myself just because I know that golf is a tough game, it's a funny game and I knew that eventually the results would come, just had to be patient.

Q. During the round today, did you kind of keep up with where you were on the leaderboard?



ISAIAH SALINDA: I think the only time I looked at the leaderboard was on like 9 or 10. Like making the turn early in the back nine it was still pretty stacked. From that point on, like after 12 I knew I had a pretty good cushion and didn't look at any leaderboards after that.

Q. When did it start to set in that this was your time?

ISAIAH SALINDA: I don't know, maybe after I hit the tee shot on 18 I was like, all right, I think we're good. Even though I had a bigger cushion than I thought, I was just trying to hit that tee shot in the fairway and then hit it on the green and two-putt. But stacked it in there kind of on accident and made birdie.

Q. When you think about this win, who do you think about in your support system that helped you get here?

ISAIAH SALINDA: Definitely my family, family back home in the States. I've got a big support system back home, the Salinda family is large and I know they've been following every shot. Yeah, this is for them.

And to have my girlfriend here too with me, she's been there the last five years plus, so to have her here is very special, too.

Q. Earlier this week you said coming into this year one of your goals was to win. So, I mean, did it come quicker than expected?

ISAIAH SALINDA: Yeah, it definitely did, but it's nice I can check it off the list. Still a lot of golf to play and a lot to play for, so trying to keep it going.

