

## ASTARA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

### ROUND 2 QUOTES

February 9, 2024



### CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR ( -15)

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**Q. So 2 under today, still a solid round over at the Lagos course. How is it playing over there compared to yesterday?**

**CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR:** Yeah, I mean, they're completely different courses. One of them is longer, the other one's short. It's a lot of 8-irons, 7-irons into the greens, tighter tee shots as well, and the pins are tucked. As expected, that's a championship course.

Yeah, I mean, I actually had a solid round. I hit the ball great, gave myself plenty of looks for birdie. A few of them went in, a few of them didn't, but hit good putts. Yeah, I'm happy with my round.

**Q. Did you ever feel yourself maybe just pressing a little bit coming off a 57 and then you're not rolling in birdie after birdie today? Did you feel pressure to be making stuff or --**

**CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR:** No, not really. I knew how the course is. I mean, I played it last year. It's a difficult -- I wouldn't say -- yeah, it is difficult. Maybe this year is not as difficult as the last couple years. Obviously definitely more difficult than the last one that I played yesterday.

I'm happy, I'm happy where I'm at. I'm happy I'm putting myself in this position, you know, more. I'm playing great. I don't think I really pushed it, I just kind of stick with my plan, just tried to play good golf.

**Q. Does strategy off the tee change much over there compared to Pacos? I know it's a lot of driver and get it down there.**

**CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR:** Yeah, yeah, of course. Pacos is just hitting it as far as you can near the green. This other one is more irons off the tee, 3-woods and, like I said, just tighter tee shots. On 18 you have to hit a massive slice of the tree and just kind of fit it in the fairway.

Yeah, I mean, they're completely different courses, you can't really compare them. You just have to build a strategy for each course and just stick to it. And I've done that, so hopefully it goes well on the weekend.

**Q. And we were talking Aldrich posted a 59 at Pacos, didn't quite catch you. Any**



**relief knowing he wasn't able to get down to your number?**

**CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR:** I mean, yeah. I mean, anybody that shoots under 60, it's unbelievable. Like I said, I've only done it once, which was yesterday. Great for him, I'm happy that he broke 60. He's obviously playing good golf, he won in Abaco and he's a great player.

**Q. Thoughts on chances that you're going to end up playing with him tomorrow?**

**CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR:** Yeah, I mean, probably. I just quickly saw the leaderboard on my last hole so that's how I knew he played well. Yeah, he's a good player, so I'll be watching good golf if we play together.

**Q. And just kind of thoughts going into the third round tomorrow?**

**CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR:** Just the same. Like I said before, just stick with my plan, my routines. Just nothing really changes on a weekly basis, so just keep doing the same thing.

**Q. Can you talk about the swing change that you made?**

**CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR:** Why, did they post a video from like six years ago?

Yeah, I mean, no words. No, I've been working a lot with my coach, Eduardo Miquel. For anybody that's going through a swing change, just stick to it, it's going to get better, that's for sure. I went through it, it got better, more consistent. And I'm still going through it, still trying to improve, better technique, better trajectories.

But it has evolved in a very nice way for me. I can see it on the trajectories of my ball flight and control and I'm very happy with how I'm doing and with my coach. I think we're working on the right stuff.

**Q. Has that really been over the past year you've been working on that?**

**CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR:** No, it's been going for probably four years when I decided, you know what, we're going to -- I want to be a really, really good player, so we're going to have to improve. Yeah, that's when I decided to work with him. That's when we started working, maybe four years ago, five years ago, I don't remember exactly. Yeah, just happy, happy how the things are working out and hopefully it ends up really good in my career.

**Q. And does it feel good starting to see those results after four years of working on it?**

**CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR:** Yeah, of course. Yeah, last year was -- no, two years ago on the Latin America Tour, that's when I really got really consistent. I don't really remember, I think the season was like 12 events and I had like maybe eight or nine top-5s or something.



It was really good golf.

Then obviously played well on the Korn Ferry last year. I think that's when obviously you grab more confidence in yourself, the things that we're doing are the right things. Yeah, like I said, I'm very happy with it.

