

ASTARA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 2 QUOTES

February 9, 2024



ALDRICH POTGIETER (-16)

Q. Well, Aldrich, 59, great round. What was going well for you out there?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, I was hitting the driver really well. Obviously the course is a little bit shorter so I was around a lot of greens. Yeah, putting it really nicely. The greens are awesome, just running really smooth. Yeah, just got it going at the start. That eagle helped on the third or fourth hole and just kept it going on the back nine. Felt a little bit of a struggle coming up, but kind of pushed and birdied the last three holes.

Q. Seeing Cristobal get the 57 yesterday, was that kind of something in your head that you could get maybe into the 50s or at least low 60s coming into today?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, I had to play well, I knew I had to play well to be able to shoot this low. It was just kind of the confidence to hit the ball, get it close, make putts. Not many mistakes, I think that was a big thing, trying to eliminate the mistakes and just try to keep the ball in play. There's not much danger on the short course, so just try to shoot under the 60s, try to get as low as I can, but definitely looking at that.

Q. So you mentioned your driver a bit. Was kind of the strategy on this course today just kind of hit the driver down and just keep it relatively close to the fairway, not too far off line?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, yeah. I've been hitting it well the last two days. Well, yeah, the last two days. I changed some shafts and stuff. The last wasn't the best, but this week was a lot better. Just trying to hit it good, even though on the long course it's still pretty wide open so you can hit a lot of drives.

Q. Talking to Cristobal yesterday, he said outside the turn he didn't really know where he was at with his score. Did you know much where you were at, or keeping it in mind much?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: I kind of knew, I kind of knew. I was kind of trying to get to that 57, so I was trying to push myself, but then kind of realized that we're still in a golf tournament, we're not playing a fun round out here, so I was kind of trying to concentrate when I made those last three birdies, which helped a lot.

Q. So did you find yourself out there kind of having that 57 number in mind that you



started chasing a little bit?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, I would say close to the end of the front nine I was really, really close to just being close to being under every hole. So I just tried to do that on the back nine as well.

Got a little bit ahead of myself, but then just tried to get the ball in play, go back to the basics and just -- I had a lot of easier opportunities on the back side close to the finish, so I just tried to do that.

Q. And around the greens, were you just sticking a lot of the shots close or were you making some lengthy putts?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: No, I didn't make anything from far away. I had a lot of chip shots that either hit the pin or lipped out, so that kind of helped. I had two that kind of went in and popped back out. Could have been that 59 if they -- or 57 if they dropped. Yeah, I just hit it a lot closer, the putting was really good and I'm just happy to shoot the 59.

Q. And the one bogey out there, what happened on that hole?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: It's a pretty tough par 3. I was kind of in between two clubs and I can't go long, short you spin it off the green. So it's kind of like have to trust the long club and try to hit it shorter. Just pushed a little bit into probably the best spot you can. The chip shot just ran a couple of feet too far past and just missed the putt. It was disappointing, but got it back a little bit.

Q. And now you're going back to Lagos course tomorrow, you played well there in the first round. Kind of what's the strategy change going back over there?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, just keeping the driver in play, I think that's the big thing. There's a lot of big trees out here got to make sure you miss, try to hit it close. Greens are nice and soft, so stick it next to the flag and hopefully make a lot of putts on the weekend.

Q. Do you have anyone out here this week with you?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, I've got my dad with me again. He's been supporting, he's been running up the fairways trying to find my ball. It's been really helpful. And Pablo, my caddie, who's been doing an awesome -- yesterday we actually had a missed number from him, which I made a bogey on the first hole, so I have to rub it in a little bit. No, I'm really happy with what he's done, his support as well.

Q. With the 59 today you become the youngest player to make a 59 in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event. Just kind of initial thoughts on continuing to make history?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, yeah, that's the goal, I think, trying to play the best golf I



can. Like I said when I won, just the history's just a bonus on top of it. We're just trying to win this event and go to the next and do the same. I guess shooting as low as I can will help a lot.

Q. What was your goal to shoot today at Pacos coming into today?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: I had a look at that 57, I tried to beat that. I knew it was possible with the short course, but I didn't even play the back nine in a practice round. I was kind of going in blind with the rain delays, so we couldn't play that. Yeah, just trying to take advantage and try and shoot under the 60s. It's probably my lowest round in my career, so yeah.

Q. You've had a lot of success the last couple of weeks. Have you had a chance to kind of pinch yourself just making all this history?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: No, not really. I kind of like set the goals and I've got the goals, so I'm kind of just trying to improve on the goals and set new ones. It's kind of like expecting to go in that direction. I feel like I'm good enough to be playing on this high level or even playing on the PGA TOUR in a couple of months and stuff. Really looking forward to getting into that top-30 and making sure that I get that at the end of the year. Hopefully just getting a few more wins on the way there.

Q. You mentioned you didn't get to play the back. Did you get to walk it at all?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: No, I didn't see it at all and that was probably my best nine holes ever. Yeah, it was really good.

