

ASTARA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 3 QUOTES

February 10, 2024

KEVIN VELO (-17)



Q. Kevin, great round today. What was working well for you out there for your second 64 out there?

KEVIN VELO: I just really like this golf course. I feel really comfortable on the poa annua greens and the poa annua fairways. I grew up on this type of grass and I've just been hitting the ball really well. I hit it well in Panama despite the result. I just feel like we're trending really well and this week seems to be clicking.

Q. You mentioned kind of the results. You started off well to start the season and a couple missed cuts. Is there just kind of any difference or just things kind of -- putts are falling, or what's kind of changed this week, do you think? Anything much?

KEVIN VELO: Not much. Honestly, just a lot more patience this week. That's kind of my whole goal for this year. Last year I got impatient and this year I'm trying to work on a lot of patience and it seems to be working this week, so hopefully I'll get another patient round going tomorrow.

Q. Is there anything out there, can you kind of actively do to remind yourself to stay patient or that helps your mindset out there?

KEVIN VELO: I have a really good caddie who keeps me present. And my girlfriend's here this week as well, which helps out a ton. I can look at her and she smiles every time no matter the result, so that helps a lot. But my caddie's done a really good job of -- we kind of talked about it during Q-School, understanding what patience really is on the golf course, so we're learning as we go.

Q. I think you might have to be one of the few guys this week who's played the Lagos course a lot better than the Pacos course. Do you think there's a reason for that or anything in particular?

KEVIN VELO: No. Honestly, I actually got impatient yesterday on the short golf course and it's really -- it's an easier golf course so you can go really low, and when you're not going low you can get frustrated. Out here I know that birdies can come if you're patient with it, so that's what I'm doing all week.

Q. Do you have anyone else out here besides your girlfriend this week?



KEVIN VELO: No. I have a couple -- some of the sponsors of the tournament are a couple friends from a couple years ago on the Latin tour that are out here with me this week.

Q. What did you work on in the offseason?

KEVIN VELO: I worked on a lot of long irons. My long irons -- my par 3 and my par 5 scoring average was not great this year -- oh, sorry, last year. Focusing on that with my coach has kind of been a huge help. Now hitting it a lot better so I can be a little bit more aggressive to conservative targets on par 3 greens. Besides that, just a lot of mental stuff, just trying to be as present and patient as possible.

Q. You mentioned also patience as a goal for this year. Did you have any other goals in mind coming into 2024?

KEVIN VELO: Yeah, win, win and get my Tour card. Hopefully this week, even if I don't win tomorrow, it will give me a good head start and hopefully we can figure it out.

Q. Did you know coming into this year that your game was trending upward?

KEVIN VELO: Yeah. Even after Ohio State I went back to a few old clubs in my golf bag. That's been a huge help. I went back to my old putter, which I have some very good memories with it so that's helped a bunch.

Q. With the end goal to win, what's the thoughts going into tomorrow?

KEVIN VELO: I'm going to stay as patient as possible. I mean, I know it sounds redundant, but that's my whole goal. If I can do that, I think I'm going to be in a great spot on the 18th green there. If I can do that, I think there's a good chance I can win tomorrow.

Q. What's your old putter?

KEVIN VELO: It's a Ping Anser 2 that I won with down in Argentina on the Latin tour with. I strayed away from it probably four or five times last year and this year it's not leaving the bag.

Q. Why did you stray away from it?

KEVIN VELO: Because I had one bad week actually putting here last year and I called the Ping rep and asked him for some help. He was obviously going to help me out, but I probably should have stuck with the old tried and true.

Q. So is it just -- I guess it helps with comfortability just --

KEVIN VELO: Yeah. I mean, I know that I had success with it and I shot a bunch of low rounds with it and I know that. So being able to just work on things instead of change things



all the time is what I'm going to do this year. I even told the Ping rep I'm not changing any equipment this year. I think that's going to be one of my things is just work on things instead of changing things.

Q. What would a win tomorrow mean?

KEVIN VELO: One step closer to a Tour card. I haven't won in two years, so it would be awesome to get a win. Even if I don't win, I'm super happy with how I've played so far this week and really excited for the weeks to come.

