

## PINNACLE BANK CHAMPIONSHIP

### ROUND 2 QUOTES

August 9, 2024



### JOHN VANDERLAAN (-12)

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**Q. John, right now alone atop the leaderboard. What's working through two days on a course that most people are saying is more and more challenging?**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** Yeah, it's definitely been tricky out there, especially yesterday, we had quite a bit of wind. I've just hit it really nice, especially off the tee, and gave myself a lot of chances. Haven't had stress for too many pars, which has been nice. Just gave myself a lot of opportunities and I made quite a few putts. So through two days everything's been good and that's why we are where we are.

**Q. I know we were just talking a little bit about it. Is it weird looking back on last year being in a very, very similar position?**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** Yeah, I'm happy to be here again. Yeah, I played great here last year, so obviously some good memories to recall. I think I finished second last year. The guy who won shot I think 62 Sunday, which was the low round by four or five, so I didn't even feel like I played bad, sometimes you just get beat. Feels good to kind of put myself back in that position. Hopefully, keep moving forward.

**Q. Why do you like this course or why does this course fit your game?**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** It's something about it, it looks good to my eye, it's in great shape and it's tricky tee to green. I've come in last two years hitting it really nicely, so I've given myself a lot of opportunities leaving it in the right spots where I'm kind of avoiding the big stuff. It just sets up good for me. Every year here I seem to read the greens pretty well, I'm comfortable on this type of grass. It just works out for me.

**Q. North winds, though, compared to south winds last year.**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** Yeah.

**Q. What do you find that changes, maybe strategy or club selection?**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** Yeah, it definitely plays a little different, but it's like half the holes -- the half of the holes that were hard last year are easy this year so far and it's vice versa. There's plenty of birdie opportunities when you get downwind, you've just got to take advantage of those and grind out the pars. If you can sink a birdie, great. If not, just keep moving.



**Q. How's your season been coming into here?**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** It hasn't been great, to be honest with you. I had a good start to the year. Hasn't been great the last few months, but we kind of just keep working, keep doing the right things and happy to find ourselves where we are right now.

**Q. Any swing adjustments or is it a mental adjustment?**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** Definitely mental adjustments. I've worked with some people to kind of -- just swing-wise and putting-wise, just kind of keep doing the same things. I've had success in the past and know that I've incrementally gotten closer to where I want to be. So trusting that I was doing the same thing and working a little bit on my mental game and finally starting to see some good results these last few weeks.

**Q. You're at an AirBnB this week. What's that like?**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** It's all good. We do quite a few of those on the road with a couple other guys. You get a nice place to hang out and like a kitchen and living room rather than just your hotel bed. It's nice to be with some other people, too, so you're not just by yourself.

**Q. You've been here a few times. What have you seen of Omaha outside of the course?**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** I wish I had seen more, to be honest with you. Our days are pretty long out here, so I kind of just chill in the afternoons or the mornings when I have an afternoon tee time. Maybe I'll get out and do something this weekend, who knows.

**Q. I guess with a course that's more challenging -- a lot of the courses out here might be just birdie-fests -- is this something that you really, really look forward to? Do you change any sort of approach to it?**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** I don't change anything really. I definitely look forward to it. It's one of the more challenging events and one of the better golf courses we play all season, so I kind of feel like it rewards really good play, but if you're struggling, it will kind of expose you. Some of the other courses you can kind of just blast it wherever and wedge it on the green, you're going to have 15 feet for birdie. This one, you've got to hit your spots. If you get it out of position, you can make bogeys in a hurry. It's kind of I feel like a real proper test and a full test of your entire game. I just like being here.

**Q. You had one hiccup today, the par-3 13. What happened there? And talk about the bounce-back birdie.**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** Yeah, just didn't make a very good swing off the tee, but I left it in the right spot, hit a decent chip in there to about six feet. Just kind of a little misread on the



putt, just missed it low.

I knew that kind of right after that is when you have a bunch of birdie opportunities, kind of downwind in the back. Didn't hit a great drive on 14, but got it up there around the green, chipped that one in, and then two great swings and a nice putt on 15 to make an eagle. It's always nice to bounce back after a bogey like that.

**Q. How long was that eagle putt?**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** Like 25ish, so it was a good one.

