

## THE BAHAMAS GOLF CLASSIC at ATLANTIS PARADISE ISLAND

**ROUND 1 QUOTES**  
January 12, 2025

**JOHN VANDERLAAN (-10)**

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**Q. Obviously an incredible round. Just sort of walk us through the back and that streak of eagle and birdies there on the back.**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** Yeah, I mean, obviously a good way to start the year. Just kind of kept hitting the fairway, kept giving myself eight to 15 feet and just kept pouring them in, that's all there was to it. I kept giving myself opportunities and was able to convert on some of them. The par 5s are gettable today and there's only two of them, so once I got to the back, I knew if I could take advantage of those, I knew I would be in good shape.

Yeah, super happy with the day obviously.

**Q. And the approach on 18. I mean, you looked a little disappointed, I think.**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** Yeah, I mean, I wasn't disappointed with it. It's a tough shot, it's a tough hole. I hit a pretty good tee shot, had 7-iron in and pin's kind of tucked back right. I didn't think I caught quite all of it but was hoping I would just cover and I would have 18, 20 feet for birdie and just got caught up short, so I was chipping.

Yeah, I mean, played great, I can't really complain about anything.

**Q. Everyone kind of, you know, works out the math on a different timeline, I guess. When did you know that 59 was kind of in play?**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** I wasn't really thinking about it, I was kind of trying to stay kind of with what I was doing. Then when I hit a nice 5-iron in on 17 and was able to make that eight-footer, 10-footer for birdie, I was like, all right, there's a real chance at it now. Kind of hit a couple nice shots and good chip shot, too. I holed a bunker shot today on No. 4, so I guess I already got my quota for chipping in. Can't be too upset.

**Q. And have you come close to breaking 60 before? Have you been in the ballpark?**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** I mean, one time a few years ago maybe, but I don't even know if I shot 60 that day, I think I might have shot 61. This might be definitely my lowest round playing out here and it's been, shoot, six years now, so my lowest round in a while. So I've been playing good and happy to take advantage of it early.



**Q. Then Hannah on the bag for you here, the international swing, what's it like when you two are together out there on the course?**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** Yeah, it's great. She caddied for me last year in the Bahamas and we had some success. She keeps it light and we have a good time out there.

Early on in the round I was 3 under through 7 and 8's a drivable par 4 and I hit it about 30 yards left into the ocean and end up making bogey. She's like, she's like it's all good. She kind of like brought me back to reality a little bit, you're playing good and doing your thing, and I was able to right the ship and play well coming in. It's a good partnership obviously and maybe I'll keep her around.

**Q. Did she say anything when you were in the middle of that like seven birdie run or whatever it was?**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** She did not. She said to me after I hit my chip on 18, she realized on 18 that it was for 59 if it would be a birdie, because she thought it was still a par 72 for a while.

But no, she was great. She kind of kept it exactly the same as it was all day long, which is what we've got to do out there. Just another shot, just another hole. We did a good job of that today and we'll just kind of take that into the rest of the week.

**Q. And you shoot 60 and I think you're leading by two. I mean, is that -- you've got to go back out and shoot another one tomorrow, I guess.**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** Yeah, it's never a bad thing obviously. I expect some low scores this afternoon. By the time I tee off at 12:50 tomorrow, I'll be a couple shots back. So it's part of this tour and unfortunately -- I mean, the golf course is great but the only defense is the wind. So if you can kind of get it going when we had the wind down a little bit, so happy I was able to do that while I had the chance and just keep grinding away at it.

**Q. What's it like playing this course? I know we usually open with a tougher venue, but what's it like to open here at a place that's a little more gettable?**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** Yeah, it's honestly great. It's probably a more friendly place to come in after you haven't played a lot of competition. But it's a great golf course, in good shape. If you hit fairways, you're going to have a lot of opportunities. And the greens are rolling great so you're going to have a lot of putts in the five- to 20-foot range, and if you can make a couple of them, you can shoot some good rounds. It was nice to see some go in today and kind of take that into the next few days.



**Q. Is there like a hole that you think down the stretch that's really going to be like important to either make a par at or make a birdie at, just one hole in particular on that closing stretch?**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** I think once you hit the back nine you really just want to take advantage of the par 4s. I played solid on the front today and only shot a couple under because both par 5s on that side are converted to 4s for us.

I think once you hit the back nine you're going to see some lower scores just because there's more gettable holes. There's lot of wedges if you're hitting the fairway and you've got the two par 5s over there which are both reachable with this wind direction today. Yeah, just kind of try to take care of business on the holes we can and go at it.

**Q. And did you do anything fun in the offseason?**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** I wish I could say I did. Nothing crazy, just a lot of the same. Same old, same old. It was nice to be home for a bit, but definitely happy to be back out here playing some tournaments again. It's good to see a lot of people I haven't seen since the fall and happy to be competing again.

**Q. Any fun at the resort this week?**

**JOHN VANDERLAAN:** Haven't done anything crazy yet. We might go hit the lazy river this afternoon, we've got some time. Grab some lunch, get a little work in and then see what we can get into.

