

THE BAHAMAS GOLF CLASSIC AT ATLANTIS PARADISE ISLAND

ROUND 3 QUOTES
January 14, 2025

JOHN VANDERLAAN



Q. John, you have the lead going into tomorrow -- Wednesday, tomorrow -- but how did it feel in the round today especially as the wind sort of picked up on the back nine there?

JOHN VANDERLAAN: Yeah, it definitely picked up. Yeah, it was playing tricky out there. You had to like really control your ball and put yourself in good positions. There was a couple of scoring opportunities where I kind of got in a tricky spot and didn't hit it real close. Then I left a couple out there on the greens I felt like and missed a couple putts. But I was hitting good putts. Whether it was wind, grain, misread, whatever, they didn't go in. Overall, can't be too upset with the day shooting a couple under out there.

Q. How different is this place when the wind is blowing like that?

JOHN VANDERLAAN: Yeah, it's pretty tricky, especially some of the crosswinds that we have out there. You've got to take advantage of the downwind holes. The front's pretty tough, I was happy to turn under par with both par 5s par 4s for us. Kind of just got to stay patient and know that there's birdie opportunities on the back nine and I was able to get a couple of those and put myself in a good spot.

Q. Does it help maybe -- I mean, some of the guys who played earlier didn't have to play in this wind, but this is the way it's going to be tomorrow it looks like with the forecast. Does it help to maybe get some experience with how this is going to be like tomorrow?

JOHN VANDERLAAN: Yeah, I mean, we kind of knew it was going to blow tomorrow. At the end of the day I'd rather be teeing off last than first anyways. I'll take whatever comes at me and see what we can do.

Q. What's the plan for tonight sleeping on this lead?

JOHN VANDERLAAN: Yeah, probably more of the same. We'll grab a quick bite back at the hotel, take it easy tonight, go to bed early. I think last tee time's going to be 10:20, so won't have to wait around too long, get right back at it.

Q. You've had some chances out here before. I mean, what do you think the difference between those previous opportunities and tomorrow will be for you?



JOHN VANDERLAAN: Yeah, I mean, like I said yesterday, it's always good to be in this position and kind of feel -- figure out how you feel and how you react.

I've proven that I've put myself there a couple times. Haven't gotten it done yet, but I plan on taking all that stuff into consideration and just kind of keep doing what I'm doing, try to treat it like any other day. It's hard, sometimes it's easy to let your mind wander, but you've just got to refocus on every shot and go through the process and that's what I plan to do.

Q. Is there anything like personally that you know you have to kind of like watch for when you're in contention in sort of the final round that you don't really have to pay attention to early in the week?

JOHN VANDERLAAN: Yeah, it's harder to treat it like any other day when you get in contention. Like I said, you kind of let your mind go a little bit. But it's just for me getting back in the process of each shot and one's just as important as the last one. You can't win it on -- well, what's today, Tuesday, but you've got to play all 72. Every shot's just as important as the one I've already hit. Last time I was in this position I felt like I played a solid round and just got beat by a guy who went nuts that day. Going to take some confidence from that and keep doing what I'm doing.

Q. What's the thing you're most excited for tomorrow?

JOHN VANDERLAAN: Just the opportunity to be in this position. This is what we play for. I've been out here for six years and haven't gotten a win yet. Especially early in the year, as important as points are with 20 cards, this is where I want to be. It's obviously a great field with a lot of Tour players coming down to play, so it just kind of shows me a lot about myself. A lot of positives no matter what happens. I've got good vibes.

Q. Could you have imagined coming into this season that your game is as good as it has been this week?

JOHN VANDERLAAN: Yeah, it's hard to say. You never really know when you're at home, but it's good to kind of get back out here and get the competitive juices going again. I've put myself in this position on this tour and I've played well in a couple PGA TOUR events over the years to where I feel like my game translates to the PGA TOUR. I've just got to get myself there and I feel like I can have some success. Just a lot of doing the same things I've been working on for the last few years and kind of fine tuning everything and we're in good shape.

