

ASTARA CHILE CLASSIC
Presented by Scotiabank

ROUND 1 QUOTES
March 6, 2025



SPENCER RALSTON (-8)

Q. Spencer, you were able to put everything together today for a great round of golf. Tell us about it.

SPENCER RALSTON: It was just kind of very easy. I hit a lot of fairways, hit a lot of greens, gave myself a lot of looks, something I've been kind of struggling with the last few weeks.

I played three events so far, missed all three cuts. I played very solid golf. Kind of felt like I was playing behind the 8-ball all day with the last three events.

One thing I tried to do this week was just kind of go out, try to play simple, easy golf, which starts by hitting in the fairway, something I didn't do very well last week. Yeah, so just kind of from there.

And then the golf course is playing -- I didn't really know what to expect. I played here the last two seasons, but it's a lot firmer on a Thursday than it has been in years past and there's a couple new tee boxes, so some new clubs off tees and everything.

So knew it would probably play a little bit more difficult than it has, I just didn't know what to expect. You've got to be in the fairway, so I think getting it in the fairway off the tee is big.

Q. OK. Picking up a few birdies early in the round had to be huge?

SPENCER RALSTON: Yeah, it was a good confidence booster, kind of get the day started on a high note.

Like I said, hit it in the fairway, had some good looks, made the putts. When you're kind of doing things like that, it helps to get off to a good start and try to ride that momentum the rest of the day.

Q. Any shot that stands out from today?

SPENCER RALSTON: Probably my second into 18. I just birdied 17, which was my 8th hole of the day, to get to 4 under. I had a great number on 18, into the wind, hit a great drive, I had 241 to the hole and hit a hybrid in there to about four feet just behind the hole.

I was kind of steady all day and then had that and made the putt for eagle so I turned at 6



under. That was -- like I said, I was steady, but that was the shot that kind of sparked everything.

Q. You mentioned having played here before and the difference in the course, the length and it's quite firm. Tell me a little bit about the conditions.

SPENCER RALSTON: Yeah, I mean, it's great. We can't always pick and choose the weather, but it's nice to kind of play when it's nice and hot and firm. We don't get to see this every single week out here so it's nice to kind of do that where you know you have to hit certain shots and get rewarded. If not, you can get penalized really quickly when it's playing this firm.

It helps off the tee where you may have a little bit of shorter clubs in but if you don't hit the fairway, then -- I mean, there was a couple times that I hit great wedges out of the rough but it's still going to bounce and roll about 10 paces. So kind of just playing to the front of the green when it's like that.

Yeah, kind of puts the emphasis of everything in the game of starting off the tee, hitting it in the fairway and hitting good shots and good putts.

Q. You mentioned that you have played three events this season, haven't made a cut.

SPENCER RALSTON: Yes.

Q. So this is a very important week, you playing here and having a chance to score points and getting off to these starts. Tell me a little bit about that need of recording points.

SPENCER RALSTON: You don't want to think about it but we're all human, we all do. You know, I have been -- I played decent the other day and I shot 2 under the first round at Argentina. Felt like I played OK, just didn't get a lot out of my game. Then shot 7 over the second round. Kind of one of those days that you shake your head and kind of scratch it, like what happened?

I felt like I kind of had a bunch of those rounds. A lot of it had been course management and club selection, that kind of thing, maybe forcing stuff a little bit. That's why today I just, you know, knew we were going to have a little bit tougher conditions than we had in years past and just tried to stay patient and get off to a good start.

Q. Finally, is there something in particular you worked on in the beginning of this week?

SPENCER RALSTON: Not necessarily, because I haven't felt like things have been very off. I played three events this year and I missed by one, guaranteed starts at final stage. I was close there, just kind of missed by one. Just felt like I've been close, close, close and



kind of haven't gotten over that hump.

I think today was big, kind of a confidence booster heading to the rest of the week. If something does not particularly go my way on a shot, can rely on today or look back on today and be like, hey, I made the most of today and I can continue to do that throughout the week.

