

**ASTARA CHILE CLASSIC**  
Presented by Scotiabank

**ROUND 2 QUOTES**  
March 7, 2025



**COLE HAMMER (-11)**

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**Q. An impressive round, 62, currently moving into the lead. What was working for you today?**

**COLE HAMMER:** Would you laugh at me if I said everything was working today?

I was just really in the zone. I made everything on the greens and put the ball in play off the tee and hit my irons well, and my caddie and I were on the same page on pretty much every shot today. Left myself in the fat of the green and had great looks at birdie and they were lucky enough to go in for the most part.

**Q. You made your lone bogey on 17 and then you got fire starting on 18, birdied eight of the last 10.**

**COLE HAMMER:** Yeah, it was definitely a heater. I hit it into a tree on 17, had to take an unplayable and was kind of just coasting along. That kind of made my heart skip a beat a little bit, put a little fuel to my fire and got hot starting on 18.

No. 18 was probably the most important birdie of the day for me just because that gave me momentum going into the back nine. I actually got a couple lucky breaks with some tee balls on 2 and 3, so I kind of survived the rest of the day. But it was solid. I had so much fun out there, felt like I was smiling the whole time.

**Q. Any long putts, things that stand out on that last nine?**

**COLE HAMMER:** I made about a 30-footer for birdie on No. 7, which was my 16th hole of the day. It was beautiful, it just hugged the ground the whole way and went in pretty much in the center and gave me some momentum going into the last two.

**Q. Last week in Argentina after that opening round that had you tied for the lead, you were telling us that your ball-striking hasn't been there. Evidently a good round today, close to that good round last week, so things are coming together?**

**COLE HAMMER:** Things are definitely coming together. It was a difficult start to the year ball-striking-wise, like I said last week, but I saw some progress in Argentina.

Unfortunately, I didn't finish the tournament off the way I wanted to, but I got off to a good



start, saw myself make some putts and hit some iron shots that I haven't seen myself hit in a while.

Honestly, this week more of the same. Did some work with my coach over the last couple days just to kind of smooth things out and seemed to really pay off.

I've also made a conscious decision to improve where my head's at on the golf course. I've been really leaning into my faith recently and I just feel so much more peace out on the golf course. It's been a huge part of my life forever and I think I just wasn't putting quite enough emphasis on it. Being in a good head space is critical on the golf course. I just wasn't, I was pretty negative for a while. I'm just very -- I'm blessed to call Jesus my Lord and Savior and it's been a fun couple days so far.

**Q. And then the junior clubs are making their magic as well?**

**COLE HAMMER:** Yeah. I'm using Ping iBlade irons, some of my favorite irons that Ping's ever made. I think I've used them since my junior year in high school. They are like my babies. Sometimes they go in the closet, but for whatever reason they always seem to make it back out.

**Q. Finally, you played here last year, tied for 26th. Coming back this year, the course is playing a little longer, it's quite firm. Tell me about the conditions this week.**

**COLE HAMMER:** The conditions are brutal out there, or at least they will be in the afternoon. Yesterday some of the greens were turning a different color and precision out of the fairways is crucial, and you have to put the ball in the fairway to be able to attack.

I think it's a magnificent setup this week. I love the changes that they made to the golf course with the longer tees on multiple holes, and changing 14 to a par 4 was a great move. It alleviated some of that backup as well.

It's going to be a great test going into the weekend. I don't think the scores will get too much lower as the weekend goes on because the weather's perfect and the staff can do what they want with the greens, but the greenskeeper and his staff have done an impeccable job setting up this golf course so far. It's been a fun time.

But you are rewarded for good shots, so I think that's the mark of a good setup.

**Q. Talk about playing in South America. It's so different from playing in the States?**

**COLE HAMMER:** There's no question, it's definitely different. I am used to some of these grasses just playing up north in the States, but it is a long way from home. But Chile and everybody here has been treating me well. Definitely a long flight, but at the end of the day I'm still chasing around a little white golf ball. I love it here. Everybody's been so nice and welcoming.



**Q. You and your caddie were matching today. Was that on purpose?**

**COLE HAMMER:** It was not on purpose, we did not match on purpose, but I think we might have to do it more in the future if it leads to 62s. We kind of laughed at each other in the hotel room this morning. Thankfully, he has the straw hat on with the mustache and we have a little bit of a different look. Purple might be our new color.

**Q. You guys are pretty in sync it seems?**

**COLE HAMMER:** We are. Nick, my caddie, and I have been friends for a really long time. We went to school together, he was my teammate at Texas and he's just another great golf mind to have out there. One of my best friends, so it's easy to bounce ideas off of him, and lots of laughs.

