

ASTARA CHILE CLASSIC
Presented by Scotiabank

ROUND 3 QUOTES
March 8, 2025



COLE HAMMER (-15)

Q. Cole, it was a battle out there, so tell me about how hard the course played this afternoon and the grind that it was out there.

COLE HAMMER: There's no question about it, it was a grind. It's funny, my caddie went out and scouted the golf course this morning and watched some guys play and he came back and said, honestly, the greens don't look like they're that firm. But this is about 10:00 a.m. and when we teed off they had definitely started to crisp up.

It took us three hours and 45 minutes to play, but it felt like a lot longer than that just because it was a physical and mental beatdown just having to be in the right places in the fairway, coming into the greens, thinking your way around the golf course.

I'm proud of the way that I managed my way around the course because I didn't exactly have my best stuff ball-striking-wise, but I rode a hot putter to a good number.

Q. The birdie-birdie finish was huge to open a two-shot lead heading to tomorrow. Take make through those final two holes.

COLE HAMMER: Yeah. It's funny, I did not hit a very good tee shot on 17 but I got up to my second shot and I was kind of blocked out behind a tree, but I had a good lie to where I could hook it around. That's probably my favorite shot in golf is to hook a wedge and land it on the right side of the green, let it spin, so it was kind of right in my wheelhouse. Made a great putt to probably about 12 feet for birdie on 17.

Then wanted to give myself at least a look on 18. I missed the fairway but wasn't too upset about it, I was probably going to lay up anyways. I did not know where I stood, but honestly, par would have been a good number on 18 just with where the pin was today, water short.

I'm thrilled to birdie the last two and open up a two-shot lead. It's going to be a battle out there nonetheless tomorrow.

Q. Davis will be your pairing partner as well tomorrow, he's two shots behind, solo second. So more golf with him.

COLE HAMMER: Davis and I go back a long time. This is the first time that we've played together though on the Korn Ferry Tour, so it has been a little while. We've been friends for



quite some time and we had a blast out there today, just kept it loose, kept it light and so I'm sure it will be a little bit more of that tomorrow.

Q. I believe it's your first 54-hole lead on the Korn Ferry Tour. Tell me about handling the lead and heading into Sunday, what are your thoughts?

COLE HAMMER: Yeah, you know, it's a new experience for me in professional golf. I haven't had the 54-hole lead of a tournament yet as a pro, but I did have some experience with it as an amateur. It's been a few years now, but I like to think that I taught myself how to do that growing up. So just kind of do everything I can to give myself an opportunity tomorrow. Just kind of put the rest in God's hands.

Q. It was a late start today, 3:00 p.m. and tomorrow it's going to be around 2:30. It's different, usually you guys will play earlier in the last groups. So there's a lot of time from the start of the day. How are you managing your time?

COLE HAMMER: Managing time is not the easiest thing in the world, but I did have some practice with it this week because I had a 3:54 pro-am time on Wednesday so I kind of learned how to kill some time during the day.

I'll try to sleep in as long as I can and have a late breakfast and just kind of ease my way into the day. Get out here on the last shuttle, which will probably around 1:15 -- tomorrow play 2:30ish, so get here around 1:00 and have some lunch and go. It won't be all that bad. I'm pretty good at sleeping.

