

**ASTARA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP**  
presented by Mastercard

**ROUND 4 QUOTES**  
February 8, 2026



**JAMES NICHOLAS**

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**Q. James, your first win on the Korn Ferry Tour, what does this mean to you?**

**JAMES NICHOLAS:** Yeah, it's my first win on any PGA TOUR-sanctioned tournament. I can't, I can't believe it. I was talking to my wife last night, we were at the Italian place down the road and we were like, I've always been so scared to talk about winning, being scared I'd jinx myself, but we actually talked about it last night. We said it's actually OK to talk about it and we're out here to win, we're out here to get a PGA TOUR card, and if you finish second it's 300 points.

My head's all wrapped up in the points because I want to be on the PGA TOUR, the highest level in golf. But this means so much. To make eagle on 18 when I was literally shaking on the tee shot, the second shot and the putt, it's incredible.

**Q. Talk about those last few holes and what your mind was going through, just all your emotions as you were coming down the stretch.**

**JAMES NICHOLAS:** Well, on 14 I chunked my tee shot, hit a tree, had to lay up, hit it on the green, two-putted for bogey.

Then on 17 I chunked my tee -- sorry, on 15 I chunked my tee shot, got up and down for par. I hadn't looked at the board so I didn't know where we stood the entire week. I had a good idea that I was playing well. I saw that I was 1 back of Norman posted and that's when, you know, I've got to go for it.

And I hit a great drive, best drive of the week on 16 to 60 yards, an awesome little spinner, made that putt for birdie. Really wanted to make that birdie on 17 because as you just heard me, I kind of wanted to lay up on 18. That tee shot's a little bit nervy. My first year here there was no internal OB so I could just hit as far as I could and go find it, but this year there's internal OB on the left and right. So once I hit that tee shot, it clipped a little tree so I definitely had a little luck from above to keep that ball in the fairway.

And then that second shot was just perfect. I actually sent a video of that exact shot to my coach in a practice round and I had blocked it into the tree. So we worked on some things in the round and I hit a great shot there and then rolled the eagle putt it and here we are.

**Q. With all the weather that we've had this week, did that help take your mind off of**



## **golf a little bit or did that change your game plan at all?**

**JAMES NICHOLAS:** We had floods in the Airbnb. What did we have, we had no internet, we had no running water, and then we had all the weather on top of this on the golf course.

But I told my wife, Mykala, that I love this place, I love Colombia. I always wanted her to come to this event. I convinced her to come here. I don't know, maybe I had a special feeling about the poa grass, the bentgrass, you know, the bluegrass rough. This feels like New York to me. I know it's a long way from New York, but this climate. Obviously the ball goes a lot farther than it does in New York, it's going to pad my stats, but yeah, this is incredible.

## **Q. What are you going to do to celebrate?**

**JAMES NICHOLAS:** I don't know. I didn't get that far, I really didn't. I've never in my wildest dreams -- I did, I believe I can get here.

I have so many people to thank, like there's so many people in my corner. Like all my coaches, and I've worked with a lot. Jim and Jon McLean, Darrell Kestner on my putting. Gary Weir, who I don't work with anymore but he's who got me to pro golf at that elite level.

I worked with a few short game coaches and I know I'm going to leave out a few. Tony Ruggiero looked at my swing. Jeff (indiscernible) he looked at my swing the last couple months.

And then all my sponsors. You asked what I'm doing to celebrate, my wife and I are going on an Ikon Pass ski trip to Deer Valley. So we're heading out there tomorrow so we're going on a little bit of a ski celebration.

And obviously Protiviti and Pepe Auto Group, thank you guys so much. I could not do this, I would not be here without you guys.

The Korn Ferry Tour for having us. I think a lot of players take it for granted to get to play on this stage at this level and I'm just so honored to be on this tour, I love this tour.

I joined the PAC this year so hopefully I can shape some of the, you know, rules and regulations going forward to make it better and stronger than ever before. So thank you everybody for everything.

