

## THE BAHAMAS GREAT ABACO CLASSIC AT THE ABACO CLUB

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW  
January 22, 2023



CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR ( -5)

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**Q. First of all, round of the day. What was the course like, especially you've probably seen it for the first time and then a lot of wind on top of that?**

**CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR:** Yeah, the course was really good. The greens are rolling nice. It was very windy, though, it was very tough conditions. I don't know, man, I just hit the ball really well, managed like hitting under the wind like low balls and just make a few putts. I don't know, I think like I like the course, it's beautiful, the grass is in really good condition. Just everything kind of, you know, kind of fell into place.

**Q. Like scale of 1 to 10 given the conditions, course difficulty, how would you rate your round?**

**CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR:** It's probably close to 10. I mean, it was definitely one of the hardest ones. It's my first year out here so I don't know what kind of conditions you guys play. I played Latin America last year and we played in some pretty rough conditions. Yeah, this is probably up there with all the other ones.

**Q. How would you summarize like your journey to this point, like coming from Latin America, going to Florida State and then actually working your way here?**

**CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR:** I mean, everything is good. Obviously it was a sacrifice. I mean, obviously my family stayed back home. I went to IMG first so I moved to the U.S. when I was about 15 years old, 14 or 15. Then I went to FSU. Yeah, then I turned pro. Now I live in Jupiter.

Yeah, it was definitely a journey. After I turned pro I played Latin America, came close to earning a Korn Ferry card the last few years but haven't done it until last year. Last year I played awesome, really good. Ended up getting my Korn Ferry card there and now I'm here.

**Q. Where was home for you and how difficult was that decision to leave as like a teenager basically?**

**CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR:** I'm from Vina del Mar, Chile, so it's about an hour away from where we were playing the Korn Ferry Tour there. Yeah, I mean, it's good. It's obviously tough because you're so young. My dad wanted me to go because he knows that obviously to be a golfer, you kind of have to be in the U.S. It's an easier path to get there being in the

U.S. even at a young age.

Yeah, for my mom, it was tough. She didn't want, no, definitely she did not want for me to move there at a young age. Yeah, I mean, I wanted -- I was going from, you know, an all-day school thing in Chile to like playing a lot of golf and going to like a boarding sports school at IMG. It was definitely different. It gave me more freedom to practice more and do what I love.

**Q. And what would you say that you're looking forward to the rest of this week?**

**CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR:** Hopefully play well. I'm going to keep my strategy. I kind of do the same thing every week. You make a plan and you follow it. That's pretty much what I'm going to do. Every tournament has the same thing, so trying to play well and keep going.