

**ASTARA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**Presented by Mastercard**

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW**  
**February 9, 2023**

**DAWSON ARMSTRONG (-6)**



**Q. All right, Dawson, 6 under to open up the week. Just talk me through your day and what it was like.**

**DAWSON ARMSTRONG:** So two days ago I found out I was playing with Wesley Bryan. He and I are basically two of the same people. Even after I made two bogeys in a row, he came up to me and just made me start laughing like crazy, so this was by far the most relaxing and enjoyable round I've had probably ever since I've turned professional. Obviously the good golf helped a lot, but didn't really matter how we played, we were just having a good time out there anyway.

But yeah, just I feel like I hit the ball really well. Didn't really make anything crazy long or chip in or anything, just kept it in front of me. Kind of just made a putt on 18 which got it to 6 under, but other than that, it was a pretty standard, solid round.

**Q. All right. And playing the shorter course today, what are your thoughts on heading over to Lagos tomorrow?**

**DAWSON ARMSTRONG:** Lagos is a great course. It's really tight just like Pacos is, but Lagos is -- if you hit it in the fairway, the rest of the golf course just opens up for you. The greens are amazing on both courses. I feel like I've hit it well this week. Ready to play, really excited to play tomorrow, especially with Wesley and A.J., we've had us a good time. No matter how it goes, it's just going to be really fun.

**Q. How much of an effect does that -- I'm just curious for my own --**

**DAWSON ARMSTRONG:** How much? Oh, a ton.

**Q. -- just playing with a group that you really enjoy?**

**DAWSON ARMSTRONG:** Yeah, Wesley, like I've gotten to know Wesley really, really well the last few weeks especially, but as soon as I found out that we were playing together on Tuesday, I don't know, it's just been like my eyes just got so wide, like yes, I finally -- we get to have a great time out there.

Wesley didn't play incredibly, he played pretty run of the mill, but he just, his vibes are really good. I feel like he and I complemented each other pretty well out there. We'll see how



tomorrow goes.

**Q. Last question from me, it's the fourth event of the 2023 season.**

**DAWSON ARMSTRONG:** Yeah.

**Q. How do you feel about your game so far up to this point?**

**DAWSON ARMSTRONG:** Well, the first two weeks I didn't have my driver, it broke the day before I left for Exuma, yeah. So I tried other drivers, different stuff, didn't work out super well. Missed the cut on the number in Panama and you know, I feel like it's been pretty solid the last few weeks. It's just you've got to -- I guess you've got to stay patient. I don't know, I've never had this start of the season before where you missed three straight cuts.

I don't know, this is just a week where my wife and I had been talking about where maybe we had been trying too hard, taking it too seriously and just come into this week and have a great time, enjoy it, it's the last one before a five-week break. And obviously again playing with Wesley made it a lot more fun. So yeah, this is the week where enjoy it, smiles all around and see how the week goes.

**Q. I like how you said you and your wife both decided --**

**DAWSON ARMSTRONG:** No, she decided for me.

**Q. She plays a big part --**

**DAWSON ARMSTRONG:** She decided for me. Yeah, she decided for me. She's like, Dawson, you're definitely trying too hard. My caddie told me I was trying too hard, I've had other people tell me I'm trying too hard, so maybe I was trying a little too hard out there. Yeah, this was -- we were just having a really good time out there, all of us. It was really fun. And it helped that A.J. played well, played good as well. Looking forward to tomorrow.

**Q. Did you get the driver situation figured out?**

**DAWSON ARMSTRONG:** Yes, finally. Got it after Abaco, got it shortened to what I needed it to be and actually drove it pretty well in Panama and drove it fairly well here. Not many drivers on that course, but yeah, it's finally back in the bag.

