

ASTARA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 1 QUOTES

February 8, 2024



CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR (-13)

Q. So often when players come off the course, we have to ask them, "Do you feel like you left any out there," and they generally go, "Yeah." Can you say that you left any out there today?

CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR: Actually, yeah, yeah. I mean --

Q. How many?

CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR: Yeah, the front nine, it was really good overall. I think I wouldn't say I left on the front nine, but the back nine, 18 I hit it to maybe six feet for birdie and lipped out. No. 17 I hit it greenside and then didn't really hit a good chip and hit it to 15 feet and missed it. I had 20 yards, you know, from front edge, so it was fairly simple.

I just had a few, I probably -- I would say three. I haven't counted exactly, but I would say around three missed opportunities that could have, you know, could have been a potential even greater round.

Q. Magic 54 almost, right?

CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR: I know, right?

Q. In terms of that final stretch, I mean 17 is a pretty short par 3 and then 18 obviously. Can you kind of just take us through maybe the last two or three holes as you parred in?

CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR: Yeah, of course. So 16, I would say probably it's a 380-yard hole I think, but in Bogota, so it would probably about around 320, 330 or so at sea level. Hit a drive, hit it to around 20 yards off the green and then not very good chip and hit it to 15 feet, missed the putt.

And then 17, even though 17, it's very short, might be just 100 yards, but the greens were so soft and that green specifically is elevated, so I knew it was a back pin maybe four, three paces up the back, maybe two, I don't really quite remember. Anything that just lands near the pin, it will spin. Like whatever club you hit, it will spin back to the middle of the green. So yes, it's a very easy hole, but with that pin location I would say you would have to make a long putt to make birdie.



And then 18, just hit a beautiful drive down the middle and then I had a, I think it was 145 yards sea level, it would probably be 170 here in Bogota and then hit it to five, six feet. Hit a really good putt and the ball lipped out, but still happy.

Q. I think this is probably the first time a lot of people are going to hear your name, see you play and kind of see your performance, having been on KFT for the last two years. Can you kind of describe your pro journey to this point?

CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR: Yeah, of course.

I went to Florida State. I graduated FSU and I turned pro in 2017. Then I played four years in PGA TOUR Latin America. Played actually good, won each year and it wasn't quite enough to get to the Korn Ferry. I was playing good golf, just everybody's playing good golf. You've got to play well in those opportunities. I was very I'd say borderline to getting to the Korn Ferry Tour in 20 -- I don't remember, it was two years ago when I played PGA TOUR Latin America. Then I played really well that full season and finished second and moved up to the Korn Ferry, which last year was my first year on the Korn Ferry Tour.

Yeah, I played great. I mean, played really good last year. Really good finishes. Wasn't quite enough to be on the PGA TOUR, which that's where I would love to be and that's one of my dreams. Yeah, then kept my card on the Korn Ferry Tour and now we're here.

I think overall I would say my consistency has improved in the past couple years. I've been working with my coach, Eduardo Miquel, with my mental coach Eugenie Lasama (phonetic) and physical coach Ken Macdonald, and we've been working really hard I would say the past multiple years. Technique has improved, I've gotten stronger, mentally I'm getting better as well.

I think this game is just about consistency, so I feel like you just need to try to find your own way of doing it, your own form, and then once you do find something that works in whatever it is, routine, just need to keep doing it. I think I've done a really good job in I would say the past couple years to just find my own way of doing it and my way of loving what I do. I don't know, I'm very excited.

Q. Got any celebration plans for tonight?

CRISTOBAL DEL SOLAR: Well, today's first round of the tournament, I've got to play tomorrow again. Hopefully by Sunday I have also an amazing week. So yeah, hopefully I'll celebrate Sunday as well

