

**ASTARA CHILE CLASSIC**  
Presented by Scotiabank

**ROUND 1 QUOTES**  
March 7, 2024

**ROB OPPENHEIM (-8)**



**Q. Rob, 8 under today, bogey free, great day. What was kind of working well for you out there?**

**ROB OPPENHEIM:** A little bit of everything. I started out, made a 10-footer on one and about a 15-footer on two, so just kind of got the round going with a couple made putts. Then hit a few shots close.

But overall, yeah, just a solid round. Did a little bit of everything and it was nice to get off to a good start. I haven't played so far -- great so far this year, so it's nice to get off to a good start to the week.

**Q. Did you feel like you might play well coming into this tournament or was it you birdied those first two and you felt like you might have a good day out there?**

**ROB OPPENHEIM:** That helped. I played here OK in the past, I had I think fourth in 2012 or something like that. I like the golf course, it fits my game a little bit. Kind of tree lined, a little tighter than what we've been playing and a lot more wedges for me. So I like the setup, it sets up well for me.

But yeah, I think the couple birdies to start kind of just got me into the round. In a good group, played with Jamie Lovemark and Jared Wolfe, both guys I know pretty well so tried to keep the good energy in the group. Jamie played really well, so did Jared, so it was a good day, good group.

**Q. You had the stretch on your back nine where you made three birdies in a row. Were you knocking it close or making putts at that point?**

**ROB OPPENHEIM:** Yeah, both. The two birdies, all three were close and I actually had like a 15-footer for eagle on the last one that just burned the edge.

But I made a good par save on 17. It was pretty stress free up until 17. I pulled my tee shot just outside of a bush and kind of had to chip out and got up and down from about 100 yards for par there. That was my only real great save. Overall, just a great start.

**Q. You mentioned playing back here a few years ago, 10 years ago now at this point. Has that knowledge of playing this course before helped you coming into this**



tournament?

**ROB OPPENHEIM:** For sure. I didn't remember all of the different shots, but I think yeah, anytime you have success at a golf course it's always nice coming back. Just familiarity with just positive energy at the course that you show up there, you played well in the past, it always helps.

**Q. You mentioned start of this year might not have gone the way you wanted to so far. What's been your mindset just to stay positive and keep moving forward?**

**ROB OPPENHEIM:** Yeah, I've been doing this a long time so you kind of know that you're going to go through ups and downs in a season. It's a long season, just started the year. This is a tough start, you're playing all these events out of the country, a lot of travel, the bus rides to and from the golf course, they're long weeks. This is the last one, so just trying to get off to finish the stretch in a good way.

But I've been working hard and you just never know when it's going to all come together. It's nice to start off with a good round today.

**Q. Obviously a lot of golf still left, but what does it mean to you just to start off on a good note this week?**

**ROB OPPENHEIM:** Yeah, huge for me, 100 percent, a ton of golf, but for how I've been playing, or how I've been scoring -- I feel I've been playing OK here and there, but just haven't been scoring well. Today, to shoot 8 under, haven't been really close to that so far this year, so it's nice to kind of break the ice and post a good round.

**Q. What are your thoughts going into the second round? Going off in the morning might be a little bit different conditions tomorrow?**

**ROB OPPENHEIM:** Yeah, it played tricky this afternoon, the wind picked up and the greens got a little firm and fast. I'm not sure if the scores were better in the afternoon or this morning, but usually in the morning the wind's going to be a little calmer, greens may be a little bit more receptive. Yeah, I'm looking forward to coming back in the morning, get a quick bite to eat, quick turnaround. I always like when you have a decent round you have that to kind of keep the momentum going. Go to bed, tee it up again and keep it going.

**Q. You mentioned this is the last of the six international events. What have you learned about your game and yourself during these six of the season?**

**ROB OPPENHEIM:** You know, just I'm impressed with how good the competition is. I've been playing -- my first year was 2010, so kind of been out here for quite some time. Just the level of play has gotten better and better each year, just the competition's tough and I think that's -- I think these young guys are coming out, hitting the ball very far and competitive and they've got all the -- not just hitting it long, but all parts of the game. They're



strong, mentally they're tough. Just I think everyone's just gotten better. The courses we've played all the time, Argentina was the only course I hadn't seen yet, but yeah, just a lot of good players.

**Q. And then for you in the offseason, I mean, it wasn't too long ago that we were in the offseason, what were you doing and was there anything off the course that maybe helped you kind of channel yourself going into these events?**

**ROB OPPENHEIM:** I have an 8-year-old and an 11-year-old, so that's kind of been more my focus when I'm at home. My wife and kids, just taking care of them, spending as much time as I can with them whether it's coaching baseball -- my son, he's been playing rookie baseball down there, my daughter's been playing soccer, so going to their sporting events.

I can't wait to get home. My son's got a game tonight, I'll be kind of watching online, just kind of keeping up with that. My wife does an amazing job when I'm gone just kind of keeping the home under control without me being there. She does a great job with that.

