

*2022 The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club*  
*Round 2 – Monday, January 24, 2022*

**Alvaro Ortiz**

City Plays From: Mexico | Turned Pro: 2019 | College: University of Arkansas

Exempt Status: Finishers 4-5 on 2020-21 PGA TOUR Latinoamérica Order of Merit (thru 2022)

*On finishing his first round this morning and carding a 5-under 67 immediately after...*

"It was a good day. I got off to a weird start. I was hitting the ball good, but not quite making the putts. I stayed patient, I hit the ball great from the tee, so that helps out here. I gave myself a lot of opportunities, so I was putting a lot for birdie. Finally, on No. 7, I made the first one. After that, it was a smooth ride in. I did make a clutch putt on No. 15 for par from, like, seven feet. I actually made it from the fairway on No. 16. That was a big turnaround."

*On the hole-out on No. 16...*

"I had 82 yards. 58-degree wedge. It landed pin high, spun a little bit, and went in perfectly."

*On beginning the year without guaranteed starts, playing on sponsor exemptions the first two events...*

"You feel the pressure a little bit of, 'Hey, I got to get off to a good start. If not, I'm not going to play in a bit.' Especially with a month off between LECOM (Suncoast Classic) and Louisiana. You feel a little pressure. It's in the back of your mind. I'm not really focusing on that. I'm just trying to do my job here, put in the work, and hope the results come. I'm not trying to pressure anything. I'm just trying to enjoy my time out here."

*On remaining an amateur for an extra year after playing at Arkansas...*

"There were a lot of (tournaments) I could play as an amateur when I left Arkansas. I got into the (Arnold) Palmer Cup, it was going to be my last World Amateur, too, and I had the Latin America Amateur, which, to be honest, I did not want to play. I'd had my heart broken four straight years. It gladly worked out and I got my exemption into the Masters."

*On the 2020-21 PGA TOUR Latinoamérica season, his first as a professional...*

"It was super weird, because it was a COVID year. We played one week at Mazatlan and the next week was when the whole world shut down. It was a very weird season. I enjoyed my time off. It settled a lot of stuff in my life, especially on the personal side. On the golf side, I made some good changes with my coach. I'm trying to take this process very patiently. I understand golfers normally peak between 33 and 38, so I understand I have a long way to go. I'm just trying to soak up as much as I can from every week and just expect the best."

*On the personal changes he made during the time off...*

"I wasn't the most disciplined kid. I started to take the partying out of my life, everything that was not helping me achieve my goals. It's been a fun process. This learning curve when you get out here, you get to see some guys who have been out here for 10 years, 12 years that have been up to the (PGA) TOUR, down to the Korn Ferry Tour. It's a fun thing to watch them play and watch them compete with you. I

feel like I play so much better golf than most of them, but they're slapping my ass every week. It's fun to see how the experience works out. I'm trying to take this very patiently and just enjoy it."