

ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTES
November 16, 2024

RAFAEL CAMPOS (-16)



Q. Well, Rafa, what a fantastic round today. You had wind, you had the elements, you had everything else going on. Start with just a few comments about what went right on the course for you.

RAFAEL CAMPOS: Yeah, thank you. Really, I really am happy about the last couple days, especially today. Yesterday was no wind but today was a real test on some of the holes into the wind.

What went right today. I was really fortunate the short game was really on point today. It's been quite some time I haven't felt as comfortable chipping, but I had a couple chip-ins today and the putter rolled really well, S.o I think that started giving me a lot more confidence in just understanding and knowing that let's just try to give ourselves some looks, don't do anything kind of stupid, give yourself chances and I started seeing a lot of them fall in. It was a great day, to tell the truth. It was really fun to battle out there like the course, the elements and really happy it turned out the way it did.

Q. Somebody from Puerto Rico deals with the wind on a regular basis, and contended at Puerto Rico in the past. Were you perhaps on as alert with the conditions today going into the today as others might have been?

RAFAEL CAMPOS: Yes, I was. I obviously woke up and I saw outside the room and I'm like, oh, gosh it's going to be one of those days.

To tell the truth, the first thing that came to my mind was like, hey, you know what, Abaco when I won on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2019 was extremely windy and I remember the last day waking up sitting down outside and just looking at the wind and all I kept on telling me is man, I don't want to go out there and play, it's just too mentally draining, and I ended up winning.

All I thought about was like, hey, you've played in the wind. It was very windy today, especially at the end, but it does give me confidence. The harder it gets, the better it is for me, I believe. I have to admit I'm not the best ball-striker, but I can move my way around the course trying to keep trajectories down and all those things.

So yeah, I was looking forward to a big test today. I was really happy that I was able to perform the way I did and kind of bad shots, kind of let them go away and just focus on the following shots. That's something I haven't done throughout the year, you know, and just really happy the last couple days I've actually done -- my caddie and I have done a great job kind of picking apart the course.



Q. Two more questions from me real quick and I'll turn it over. You talked to Trip outside, Golf Channel, you said you had a feeling you were going to play well this week --

RAFAEL CAMPOS: Yes.

Q. -- but in the same breath you also said I'm just grateful to be out here, grateful to have the opportunity, grateful to have a job.

RAFAEL CAMPOS: Yes.

Q. How much does that keep you balanced?

RAFAEL CAMPOS: Honestly, the only thing that's keeping me balanced right now is my family. I'm in a really tough spot right now on the FedEx, I did not want to be in this position. I want a job for next year, I really do, but I've put a lot of pressure and stress and just everything the last like six months.

Everything really -- I think really everything has changed this week not because I'm playing well, it's just I had a daughter on Monday and it doesn't matter if I play bad, they don't care. You know, my wife doesn't care, my daughter won't care.

So at the end of the day if I end up losing my job, I lost my job and I've got a beautiful daughter and beautiful wife back home just waiting for me to hopefully give 'em a hug. So I really don't care if I -- hopefully I have a good day tomorrow and we'll see how we end up at the end of the day.

Q. Now, I don't want to make you even more emotional, but I asked you outside was there ever consideration of you not coming and playing this week?

RAFAEL CAMPOS: My wife is extremely understanding on where I'm standing on the FedEx, first of all. We knew -- the whole process of trying to induce labor on Monday was for me to try to get to the tournament, so we were always looking to try to see if I can make it here.

Tell the truth, we got to the house after the hospital at 5:00 in the afternoon on Wednesday, to the house. I held my daughter -- what the heck is this -- held my daughter. I thought about in like 20 minutes I had to go to the airport. I do want to provide for them as much as I can, so we're here and fortunate we were able to -- everything went well and we got our flights in and we were able to get here on Thursday morning and make our tee time. Obviously it's a bonus that I'm doing well this week.

Q. A week old and she's already bringing you --



RAFAEL CAMPOS: Gosh, what is this? (Laughs.)

Q. Rafael, I'll keep it quick, but obviously the first nine you played today the wind was far less severe than it was on that second nine. What adjustments do you make when you have just such an extreme swing conditions-wise?

RAFAEL CAMPOS: Yes, with the direction the wind is here, front nine definitely plays a lot easier. There's a couple holes, 4 is one of them into the wind. No. 2 is just a little bit, it's a par 5.

So you kind of had in the back of your mind, OK, let's try to put the ball in play, nothing spectacular, give ourselves some looks, try to make some putts on the front nine because we know that the back nine, especially the last five holes, they're a beast with this type of wind.

I was just fortunate I made a good putt on 2. It was like a 15-foot putt that I hadn't seen many of them go in this week. It was nice, like OK, we got one. Then all of a sudden we go to 7 and we make a pretty good eight-footer. Like I said, I haven't really been making many putts, but it just felt different today. I just felt like we know it's going to be a tough day, especially coming in.

There are changes you make. I know I was on the front nine, although you have some helping wind that you want to make sure you hit the ball up in the air, I was trying to practice the low shots because I knew once I got to the back nine I was going to have to hit a lot of very low shots. So I was -- little things like that I think really helped me, especially yesterday and today, just knowing that OK, you know, like OK, we can hit the ball really high here, but let's start chipping balls trying to keep the ball under the wind even if it's helping just so we can get ready for the back nine.

Overall it was a great day. I think everything kind of flowed and ended up making some good putts and chips that were very beneficial.

Q. People were worried that conditions would be unplayable today at certain points. How much of a relief is it to get your full 18 in and just have to worry about tomorrow?

RAFAEL CAMPOS: Extreme relief. I love it when we have to suffer, I think that's the whole point of golf, to tell you the truth. Yeah, when we did hear that there was a chance, I was a little bummed because I'm like, you know what, it's tough for everybody, you know? And I do like the wind. Like I said, I'm not a phenomenal ball-striker, but I do understand that I can manage like the height of the ball and that's pretty important when it's really windy. So I was really looking forward to playing. I was really happy when I got to tee off, like OK, we're not stopping so now let's try to focus on this. Yeah, I think the weather tomorrow's also going to be windy, so let's go suffer again.

