

**PRE-TOURNAMENT
INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: ROCCO MEDIATE
Wednesday, October 30, 2013**



PHIL STAMBAUGH: Okay, we're joined by Champions Tour rookie Rocco Mediate making his first appearance in the Charles Schwab Cup Championship, two victories this year it's been a good first year for you, what are some thoughts about finishing the year --

ROCCO MEDIATE: Yeah, it's a good golf course, I played it, this is my second time today, I played nine Monday, nine Tuesday. It's fantastic, reminds me of an Open. The way I'm playing right now it might beat the crap out of me but it's still a great place. I like it a lot, it fits my eye well. Like I said, I've never seen it.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Rocco, we've had varying winning scores here because of the weather, 17-under one year and 8-under won the next.

ROCCO MEDIATE: Wow.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: How do you think it's going to play?

ROCCO MEDIATE: It plays long right now, obviously at sea level but it's damp. It's perfect weather, supposed to get good weather all week. Greens are good. Depends, who knows. What's par, 71? The three 5s, maybe they're reachable, aren't they? Still it's a driver -- you've got to drive good here. It's just a good golf course. A to B it's a good golf course, it's cool.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Before we go to questions talk about your year thus far on the Champions Tour and what it would mean to cap it off with a victory this week.

ROCCO MEDIATE: It's been a lot of fun this year. I would like to have competed more often instead of just whatever, a few times, but maybe next year that's the plan to be just a little better. Things are better now, so hopefully I'll be able to do that. I get to go home this year for the first time, be home for like a month, month and a half, which I haven't done for years and years and years, so get myself back in shape here and get rolling. I'm looking forward to next year already.

Q. Home in Pittsburgh or home in Florida?

ROCCO MEDIATE: Minneapolis, that's where I live now. You weren't even close.

Q. Your heart's in Pittsburgh?

ROCCO MEDIATE: That's where I'm from, but I'll be in Minneapolis, I'll be out west a

little bit and Naples a little bit. I'm going to stay home for like a straight month and just kind of get back together here. I'm a little beat.

Q. Every time you talk about this Tour and your time on it you have pretty much raved about everything. Any highlights aside from the victories? Obviously the victories are highlights, but aside from those, what are the best parts?

ROCCO MEDIATE: Just all the guys, to hang around with them. I played a little bit with (inaudible) this year and become not good friends but I've just always liked him a lot and he's been really nice to me. They'll bust me up all the time, needles all the time, it's fantastic. You don't get to hang around with the greatest players that ever played in most other sports and they still play really good. That's really unbelievable if you ask me. I haven't got to spend much time with Watson this year, he hasn't played a whole lot, haven't seen him that much, but hopefully I get to do that. But become a lot closer with Elk, Elk and I have become good buddies. We've known each other a long time, we do a little bit of stuff and practice here and there. But it's just the camaraderie is cool. It's a whole different sport out here.

Q. What about this Rookie of the Year race thing, what would that mean?

ROCCO MEDIATE: I don't even know who's in it.

Q. Probably a couple guys, but you're probably one of them.

ROCCO MEDIATE: Yeah, yeah.

Q. Take any particular pride in --

ROCCO MEDIATE: Yeah, it would be cool, but I'm not even realizing that's going on. A couple things happened, we talked about -- that was funny, but I don't know, I guess we vote, right? Whatever the guys think, that's what they'll vote. It would be cool but it wouldn't make any -- it wouldn't be like -- I wouldn't be very sad if it didn't happen to me. This week you never know, someone might knock it out this week and that's the end of that. That's the plan for I'm sure everybody who's in there -- I couldn't even tell you, I know Esteban's there. I don't know who else is. Duffy, too? I don't know.

Q. In your practice round today, the pro-am, you were very, seemed positive with the playing partners today. It's a great attitude, kind of consoling them on the greens.

ROCCO MEDIATE: That's the job, that's what you're supposed to do. It's not about me, it's about them. I'm usually awful in pro-ams playing wise because I don't really care, I want to go out and help them and whatever, talk and whatever we do. That's

what it's about today. It's not about me.

Q. Where does that come from in your estimation, Rocco?

ROCCO MEDIATE: I get to play golf for a living. That's about it. Think about that for a second. I get to play golf for a living for I think it's 30 years starting January 1st. That's cool in itself. I never thought that would ever happen when I first started obviously, but pretty much straight through coming up on 30 years. It's a pretty good gig so you don't really want to -- I get pissed off and mopey and all that crap like everybody else does, but the job is or the thing is trying to not let people see that. It's easy to be cool when you shoot 65. Can you do it when you shoot 75? That's the trick. That's what Mr. Palmer taught me forever, and it's hard to do. Sometimes, not all the time but sometimes I don't want to do this, I don't want to do that, woe is me. But the trick is, how do you not do that. I try to take a lot of pride in not doing that even though sometimes I'm like oh, here we go again, but you can't because they came out to -- whether they came out to watch me or whoever, but someone comes to watch you, you've got to give them something for their money, period. And if you can't do that, shame on you, especially in pro-ams, especially in pro-ams because it's all about these guys who paid whatever amount of money they played to play with our dumb asses so you have to give it to them, you have to make them have fun and that's all I try to do.

Q. Rocco, you talked early in the season, Allianz, before you got out here that you knew this wasn't going to be a cakewalk?

ROCCO MEDIATE: Hell, no.

Q. After a season out here, what about the caliber of play? Have guys hit any shots that stand out in your mind or has your feeling only been reinforced after being out here?

ROCCO MEDIATE: Yeah, there's a lot of shots we all hit that are stupid good, like what the hell just -- but no, the level of play doesn't surprise me at all. And if you look at it, our golf courses are 7,000 yards, most of them. I'm close, right? They're not 6,300-yard driver-wedge and driver 9-iron par 5s, there's none. There's some of those, there's some of those at every other courses we play on on the regular TOUR, too. I think it's a mindset out here, it's a three-round sprint. All but six events, right? Besides those, the other 20, right, are three-round sprints and if you're not sprinting out of the gate, it's over. It's completely, you're finished. You can finish good but you can't win and that's a lot of people -- I started out the year pretty good, kind of played okay and then okay and good and okay and good and then okay. Why don't you play like -- who do you think -- if I finished 5th every week, that how it works? No one does it, no one. Bernhard has done a few crazy things and Tommy's done a few crazy things, too.

My point is really, it's that easy? No, they don't get it. It's like I'm busting my ass out here, I'm working harder than I ever worked and I'm continuing to do that. I'm sore right now because I'm a little mixed up right now with my hitting, so I'm working on it. But this is the last one of the year. I've been killing myself the last week trying to get ready to do all this stuff.

Like I said before and this is the last time I'll say it this year probably, if people think this Tour is easy and just a hangout Tour, we'll open it up three or four times a year, anybody wants to come, anybody, bring them. We'll hand them their ass. I'm telling you, we will. I assure you if you bring half the TOUR out here, they won't win all these events. I guarantee they won't. I don't care where you come from, bring them all. They'll be absolutely rudely awakened.

You saw what happened to Vijay in Hawaii, didn't you? I played with him the first two rounds, he played perfect, hasn't lost a step, but he didn't win the golf tournament, did he? Not even close. That tells the story. So I said it before, I'm very protective about this stuff because people don't think it's a big deal. It's a big deal, it's a big deal.

Q. You talked about your game needing some work?

ROCCO MEDIATE: Just a little messy. Call it maybe it's been a long year, but that's an excuse. I'm just not hitting it good right now. So you come to a golf course like this, it will beat the crap out of you. I don't want that to happen this week so I've been really working hard. Last week I played awful, I scored okay a couple days but I played awful. I had stretches this year where I didn't miss, just kept going, did not miss shots, and all of a sudden that goes away. Hey, wait a minute, the human part came back, I hate that, I want to be the machine guy. Not all the time but I had a lot of good stretches this year. I haven't had one -- obviously Calgary was pretty good, too. Since then I've been okay, but I'm not real pleased about it, so we'll see. I have a lot of time to work. It's not a big deal, it's just you're off, just a little off and it doesn't come back immediately sometimes. When you're used to it coming back immediately and it doesn't, it makes me angry.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Rocco, good luck this week.

ROCCO MEDIATE: Thanks, guys.