

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
August 16, 2018

MARTIN FLORES (-6)



Q. Martin, great start. We were just talking about how perfect in condition this was, really no wind when you got to it, you knew you had to take it deep and you did so here to start.

MARTIN FLORES: Yeah, really happy. I made pretty much everything I looked at, which was really nice. I'm just really happy with my start, and from what you've said, from everything they've done here, I had no clue. I mean, the greens were as pure as they have been in previous years.

Q. When you look at this week and what is the focus like? Do you know the numbers, is it just about playing your game? Probably a top-5 finish gets it done for you at least in terms of the top 125, but there are so many other variables that go into it. How do you pursue this week?

MARTIN FLORES: First of all, I don't try to not look at it or -- I know exactly where I am, I know exactly what I've done, I know exactly what I need to do. But I've made a few little tweaks in my putting prior to this week. Really just focusing on the progress that I've been making this last week and, you know, all I'm going to do is just try and do my best and I'll accept whatever it is at the end and then try to keep going.

Q. To that point, 160 feet of putts today officially. What did you find, what was the tweak that found some magic out there?

MARTIN FLORES: Well, a few things. Josh Gregory, I give him a lot of credit, so far he's helped a lot. He tweaked my setup, tweaked my grip, putter change. So a lot of little things that turned out to be -- paid off.

Q. You're used to kind of throwing up some fireworks here, certainly you know how to sneak in, but -- not sneak in but get into the top 125. Does that kind of give you some confidence coming into this week?

MARTIN FLORES: You know, I can draw a lot of positives from last year. This is definitely not the situation you want to be in. You cannot come here and expect to do that every time you show up here. So I haven't done it every time I've shown up here, but I'm happy with my progress, I'm happy with how my game started to trend. So I came into this week focusing on those things, I'm well aware of where I am. I'm just trying to just keep focusing on the positive things I am doing and just kind of see -- do the best I can and just see where things fall.

Q. Do you like kind of playing with your back against the wall to a certain extent? Certainly you would rather be somewhere where you're kind of comfortable.

MARTIN FLORES: I mean, I don't really like it, but I seem to perform well when that is the case. I definitely, you know, have unfortunately made a small habit of it of late. I would like to change that, for sure.

Q. How many times have you watched that hole-in-one?

MARTIN FLORES: I don't know the number, but I haven't watched it in a long time, but right after it happened I kind of -- not immediately but a few weeks later I watched it quite a few times and just, I mean, when those things happen, I mean, it's just like you really have to appreciate them.

Q. So how would you sum up today? Obviously a very good day?

MARTIN FLORES: Yeah, I can't say enough positives about the day. I made more putts today than I've made all year, for sure. I mean, I made everything I looked at, but I'll draw on that and keep trying to improve in my confidence on the greens and today was a big help on that.

Q. Anything that you did specifically with the putter or was it just being comfortable on the greens?

MARTIN FLORES: I got some help from Josh Gregory and then he kind of altered my setup, altered my grip and new putter, so that's quite a lot.

Q. When did that take place?

MARTIN FLORES: Last week.

Q. Last week, okay.

MARTIN FLORES: Yeah. So I mean, I really felt like I couldn't putt any worse, to be honest, and I felt like it was time for something different.