

**ROUND 4 INTERVIEW**  
**November 8, 2020**



**CARLOS ORTIZ (-13)**

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**JACK RYAN:** We would like to welcome our champion of the Vivint Houston Open, Carlos Ortiz, into the interview room. Carlos earned his first victory on the PGA Tour.

Carlos, how's it feel to be a PGA TOUR winner?

**CARLOS ORTIZ:** It feels great. It's been a while. It's been I think almost six years since I won and I missed it. I've played great this week and it was really hard to hold the emotions all the way to the end, but I'm really happy the way it played out and the way I played, too.

**JACK RYAN:** How were you able to get that done today? In the final group, you and Sam Burns, you were down a stroke to Sam Burns, and you had Jason Day, a four-time PGA TOUR winner. How were you able to get that done today?

**CARLOS ORTIZ:** Honestly, I was trying to mind my own business. I was trying to hit it in the fairway to begin with and then from there I knew I was going to have a good chance of hitting it close or putting it in the spot I wanted to, especially with these greens, they're kind of undulated and firm. So I think I did a great job today.

Mentally, too, I've been working really hard on staying positive, patient and don't let my emotions get the best of me and I think I did an amazing job this week. I'm really happy the way everything played out, and then obviously this time it went my way. I feel like I've put in the work, my team has been working with me really hard and I'm just happy.

**JACK RYAN:** Fifty events this season on the PGA TOUR. How does a win like this change your goals for the rest of the season as we're months away from the TOUR Championship, but you put yourself in great position to get there?

**CARLOS ORTIZ:** Honestly, nothing really changes. I'm going to be working on the same things. Obviously it's awesome to validate the work with a win, but I'm still going to be working on the same things, I have a long way to go from where I want to be and this is a step in the right direction.

**JACK RYAN:** We'll take questions from media on the line now.

**Q. First of all, congratulations, Carlos. I know that's a big win for you. Getting that first win is so important, so big, but how significant is it that you did it in the state of Texas?**

**CARLOS ORTIZ:** It was awesome. Like I said, getting a win is amazing, but getting a win

here in Texas made it even better. Texas is like my second home state, I've been here 12 years now and I'm just really grateful to this state. It's an amazing place. People are great to me, they're really friendly and how you guys could see today, they were cheering. So it was a great experience and I'm just really happy it happened here.

**Q. Do you have family in Houston, any relatives?**

**CARLOS ORTIZ:** I don't have relatives here in Houston. My wife is near here, she's from College Station, so I don't know if that counts.

**Q. Did you ever play any tournaments in Houston, any junior tournaments here?**

**CARLOS ORTIZ:** I think I played a couple, I don't know if it was an AJGA or TJGT, I played at Redstone and also at The Woodlands I played a couple ones, too. Yeah, I played here quite a bit and obviously in the state of Texas.

**Q. Did you do very well in those tournaments at Redstone?**

**CARLOS ORTIZ:** I don't remember. I remember the weather was bad and cold, that's what I remember from those tournaments.

**Q. When you got up to that first tee today, did you have a feeling that this could be the day to get that win?**

**CARLOS ORTIZ:** Yeah, I mean, every time you're inside three strokes from the leader, you know you have a good chance. I've been putting myself in those spots quite a bit the last year and I feel like I had what I needed to get it done, had the experience from the past, you know, being in those same positions in the past and I think I did a great job today on putting all those experiences in practice.

**Q. Congratulations. As Dustin and others down the stretch on that back nine, which for the most part the back nine really gave people problems all week long, you seemed to gain confidence on the back nine. For a guy who's never won on Tour, how do you explain that? On 14 you piped one of your best drives maybe of the day and really were aggressive about it at that time. How did you kind of build on that confidence when you've never done this, at least winning at this level before?**

**CARLOS ORTIZ:** I said earlier this week, I was a little bit -- struggling a little bit putting it on the fairway. I was hitting it great, I knew if I could put it on the fairway I was going to have a great chance, and today was one of those days where we found something and I started hitting it where I wanted.

I had nothing to worry, I just had to stay aggressive, stay patient, stay in the present. I wasn't really worried about other people. I know from experience that if I worry about myself and I do the best I can to stay aggressive, for the most part it's going to work out. That's what I did

and I wasn't really worried about other guys. I know the back nine is hard, so I knew if I played good, I was going to have a really good chance.

**Q. When you didn't put it where you want it, No. 1 in scrambling the last few days. You really made some shots down the stretch. What was it that you just felt while other guys, again, were kind of struggling with some of the greens and just getting things on, but you did really well around the green.**

**CARLOS ORTIZ:** Honestly, today I didn't really struggle. The two times I got out of position, I made them, I made them at 9 and 4. I think 4 was the place where I was the most out of position, but the beginning of the week I really struggled. I put myself from the driver in spots that I could really mess it up and I think I did a great job making sure that I was going to leave myself a good chance of making par.

You have to be really disciplined on how you play this golf course and I think I took my medicine when I was out of position, I played it to the right spot, and obviously when I was out of place I hit some great shots.

I'd probably say the best shot of the tournament for me was yesterday on 14. I short-sided myself and I was in one of those spots that you're pretty much happy if you make bogey and I end up making par. I hit an amazing shot. Those were the shots that were, you know, really helpful to get the win.

**Q. Just curious, you started walking after the second shot on 16, seemed like you liked it right away. What are you thinking as that ball's in the air?**

**CARLOS ORTIZ:** Just trying to hit the green. Had a section where I wanted to hit it to. I was in a little bit of an upslope so I knew it could come out a little bit left. I'm maybe 10 yards right of that and it came out exactly what I thought, hit right at it, so there was nothing. I knew I hit it good, there was nothing wrong with that ball, it was right at it and I knew it was going to be far enough to cover the hump. I mean, that was one of the best shots of the day for me. And actually hit an amazing putt and I end up -- I end up making birdie. I mean, I played that golf hole pretty good.

**Q. And then 4 and 9, just to confirm, you used putter both times, correct, off the green?**

**CARLOS ORTIZ:** Yes.

**Q. And you mentioned six years since you've won. After having so much success so quick on the Korn Ferry Tour, were you surprised that it took this long, and what did it take to kind of cross this line and get a Tour victory? Was it something you've improved or maybe grown as a player in those six years?**

**CARLOS ORTIZ:** I learned a lot. It looked really easy that first year for me on the Web.

Winning three times, looked like winning was easy and as I learned, winning's not easy, you have to put in a lot of hard work and I think I've matured tremendously during those six years.

I'm doing a lot of work mentally. My game I feel is pretty solid, but mentally I still I have a long ways to go and I think I'm taking some good steps in the right direction.

**Q. Carlos, congratulations, well played. Really just want to ask you kind of a deep question, but it's your first win on the PGA TOUR and that's huge, but the manner in which you did it, bogey-free round, holding off Dustin, birdieing the last, seems like there's so much you can take away from this win. I was wondering if you can talk about the confidence you're going to gain from doing all those different things on the way to ultimately getting a victory.**

**CARLOS ORTIZ:** Yeah, I've actually been playing, played pretty decent the whole week. I wasn't putting it on the fairway, so I knew if I can somehow put it in the fairway, I was going to have a great chance and today I pretty much hit every fairway that I could and that just made it really easy. I wasn't really thinking about the other guys, I wasn't worried. I knew if I played good I was going to be hard to beat because I already -- the guys in my group, I knew how they were playing, and the rest, if I finished strong, there was no chance for them to catch up.

**Q. I guess the point I'm trying to get at is, how much more confidence do you get from doing all those things just beyond the win?**

**CARLOS ORTIZ:** I knew I was capable of doing that because I know myself, but obviously validating that and then showing it, it definitely gets me more confidence and overall I'm just happy the way it played out.

**Q. Congratulations. I wanted to ask you real quickly about Memorial Park, just your take on the golf course, brand new golf course. What did you think about it? Obviously you played well on it so you like it, but just kind of talk a little bit about that if you would, please.**

**CARLOS ORTIZ:** Yeah, this is a great place, you know. Once you drive here, just Memorial Park as a whole as a park looks amazing. A lot of people jogging, enjoying the place. Coming in here, walking into a public golf course you really don't know what to expect, but it exceeded my expectations. I think this is going to mature to be one of the probably best public golf courses in the state, if not the best. It's challenging, it's good. I think they did a great job with the design. I don't know how it looked before, but right now it looks pretty good. I think it probably has one or two more years to mature and it's going to be -- it already is a great golf course, but it's going to be even better.

**Q. Congratulations, and hey, you're in the Masters next year.**

**CARLOS ORTIZ:** Thank you.

(Remaining press conference held in Spanish.)