

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
June 12, 2021



ROCCO MEDIATE (-2)

ROCCO MEDIATE: I laid up on 11. I hit a decent tee shot, laid up with a chipped 3-wood. One of my favorite numbers to pitch to, 78 to 82 yards, flat, 56 kind of. I kind of saw it, but pin was back right, kind of bled it to the right, skipped, boom, grabbed, fell in.

Q. And the story behind your shoes?

ROCCO MEDIATE: There's no story. There's Jordan 4s. I learned about Jordan's stuff in Silverleaf out in Scottsdale in December and I went, what are those? Those are the Jordan 5s. Try those on. That's the end of that.

Q. Really?

ROCCO MEDIATE: I have 5s and 4s, that's all I wear. They're stupid comfortable. They're so ridiculously comfortable, I can't even tell you.

Q. Are they basketball shoes made for golf?

ROCCO MEDIATE: They are golf shoes, but they come off the Jordan 4 tennis shoe/basketball shoe platform. But the stability, it's a joke how good they are. I couldn't believe it because they're just -- they're cool. They feel so -- right out of the box, boom.

Q. Every time Bret posts them, it goes viral. He can post whatever, but he posts Roc's shoes and it's like, explodes.

ROCCO MEDIATE: The culture is insane. I just learned about it. Golf shoes are nothing, tennis shoe stuff --

Q. Comfort, is that the big thing?

ROCCO MEDIATE: Comfort and stability, absolutely stability. Very stable, that's the thing. And the bottoms are firm, bottoms are firm. See, they have these -- and they don't move. They move, but they don't -- they're not like a mushy tennis shoe. You need stability out here. Like you said, I can't believe the people that notice this stuff. I never noticed it, I never knew. I guess, I mean --

Q. What did you wear before that?

ROCCO MEDIATE: I was wearing G-4, which was fine. You've got to think about it, and if you think, you look back and go Nike's made very supportive, really good shoes, tennis

shoes for 3,000 years. They have to be. And because I wore them in the early '90s -- not Jordans, but Nike. They were okay. These are just obscene. Wait until you see some of the other colors.

Q. And he's going to get Torrey Pines ones, right? Special edition?

ROCCO MEDIEATE: Yeah, they're coming next week.

Q. I was going to ask you about that. What are you going to be doing next week?

ROCCO MEDIEATE: I'll be home. Actually, I'll be in Pittsburgh. I'll be doing some Zoom things. I've done a zillion of them. I don't mind doing them, I love talking. I did Elk's thing yesterday, doing one with Charles Schwab, our guys, on Monday. Then I'm doing one with NBC doing the Open on Thursday.

Q. I mean, what do you --

ROCCO MEDIEATE: They just ask me questions. They ask me the same thing. It's the same question. Here's what I always say to them: Guys, I lost. Every time the replay comes on, I lose. Here's how I lost. He's really, really good, stuff like that. I make light of it. It's fun. It's one of the greatest days ever on the golf course and I didn't get the trophy.

Q. Whenever you see Torrey Pines on the flyovers, you're thinking, oh, that was such a fun week?

ROCCO MEDIEATE: Oh, man, I remember every single thing about it. It was funny, they looked at -- Rich Lerner and Elk actually gave me stats yesterday. I hit 65 percent of the fairways. Tiger hit like 51, which we knew that. But it doesn't read as well as -- because I bet ya I played from the fairway or first cut 80, 85 percent of the time. That's why I was able to do what I did as far as -- and Tiger, Tiger's driving distance was 40 yards average further than me.

So you figure about a U.S. Open setup, think about it for a minute, okay? You had one of the shortest in the field, bottom half easily, right? And the longest, and they tied. So my point is it was set up -- if you hit the ball in the fairway, it's like that. So now all of a sudden I could hit far enough. If it was soft, none of that would have happened because you can't compete. But I could get it out there with the draws that I hit and plenty far enough, you know, for me.

Q. Does it seem like yesterday?

ROCCO MEDIEATE: It does. I can't believe it's 13, 12, 13 years? I'm glad they're going back to Torrey. It's just a cool -- I mean the setting's a joke. It's right on the Pacific Ocean, it's right -- it's ridiculous. I just hope this year, like our year, that fairways matter because that kikuyu rough is four, five inches high. It's like a Brillo pad.

Q. It is. I got to play there --

ROCCO MEDIADE: You can't do anything -- I hope it matters because they're 27-yard wide fairways that we have. They're going to go, what the hell are we going to do here? They spend a whole shit-pile of money on the mowers, lots of money on the mowers to make the grass pretty. You might want to hit your ball there. Try that.