

FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW
June 13, 2021

MITO PEREIRA (-27)



Q. During the round today, when did you feel like you were locked in and had a chance?

MITO PEREIRA: Never. I just tried to keep focus on playing well and tried to finish on hole 18 as best as I can. I was just not looking forward, trying to keep my mind in the present.

Q. Do you feel like the weight of the world is off your shoulders now? You got your Tour card, one of 12 guys ever to do it this way.

MITO PEREIRA: It's crazy, man. It really is. So happy. Been working really hard and this is amazing.

Q. Just tell me how it feels to, you know, accomplish this amazing thing.

MITO PEREIRA: It's incredible, man. It's hard to put it in words. It's been hard work for a long time. Honestly, I didn't think this was coming, the three-win promotion, but this is amazing. Just can't wait to get to the PGA TOUR and do the best I can.

Q. I know you're looking forward to it. What are you going to do to keep everything going, moving in the right direction?

MITO PEREIRA: I don't know anything yet. I keep just the feeling of winning right now, so I'm just going to figure it out later and try to do the best for me.

Q. How do you feel with all the support that came out for you?

MITO PEREIRA: It's great. There's not this amount of people at every tournament, so it felt really good and it felt really good to do it in front of this amount of people.

Q. Mito, congratulations on your third win, going to the PGA TOUR. Just initial emotions?

MITO PEREIRA: This is crazy, man. Like I said, I didn't ever think I could win three times on this tour and now I just won three times in one year and going to the PGA TOUR. This is by far the best thing that I've done in my life. I just can't wait to get there and just to play the best I can.

Q. How early as a kid did you start dreaming about making it to the PGA TOUR?

MITO PEREIRA: Probably since I was 4, 5., so it's been a long ride. There's been tough moments, good moments, but it's all worth it.

Q. How excited are you to represent Chile, Joaquin at the highest level?

MITO PEREIRA: It's going to be great. I hope it helps everybody in Chile to grow this game and to get more easy entrance to the game. I'm so happy. I wanted to thank them, too. Chile has been great. All the people supporting me, thanks for everybody.

Q. You came into today three strokes back. What was the mindset? You just wanted to get as many birdies as you could, put the pressure on?

MITO PEREIRA: I just wanted to play well. I was playing so solid. I had a good start, made birdie on 1 and 2 so that gave me a little bit of momentum. Then I just knifed one shot over the green on the par 3 and it was like, whoa. But I played so solid. And my plan is the same as every week, try to do the best I can and try to keep my head in the present.

Q. For those of us who were watching, it felt like you were just throwing darts out there. Did you feel locked in?

MITO PEREIRA: I was locked in, but I was just so focused on doing what I know that I didn't even feel if I was playing good or not. I just wanted to go and go to the next shot and keep the mind in the present.

Q. And then a week off before kind of a PGA TOUR career start essentially. What are you going to do in the off time? How are you going to celebrate?

MITO PEREIRA: Oh, I'm going to celebrate, man. This is three celebrations.

Q. You're going to celebrate enough for three in one?

MITO PEREIRA: I think so. I'm not going to die, but ...

Q. Mito, the birdie on the first hole, I'm sure -- it's not one I'm sure you hoped to make, but it was definitely --

MITO PEREIRA: It was definitely out of the hole. I don't know what happened, just got a spike mark and just went in. I don't know how. I think that's the champions line, so it was a good putt.

Q. And then Panama, I'm sorry, Bogota, you had to come from behind in that, but the mindset is you don't seem to be affected by the chase?

MITO PEREIRA: I'm not affected now, but I've been working about it for a long time, so believe me, I've been affected to that starting my career. I'm real proud how I am doing in

this kind of situation. I just need to keep working and try to do the best I can.

Q. And was there any point on the back where you were like, I got this? When was the point where you were like, I got this?

MITO PEREIRA: I just kept fighting with my mind to just stay what you need to do and just get to 18, play the best you can and not just think ahead and think that you already won. You never know what can happen. So I managed it really well and really happy for that.

Q. And then what you've done is pretty historic, right? Three wins in a season as well as going back-to-back, both times the 12th person to do so. Does it feel historic? Has it set in at all?

MITO PEREIRA: Oh, for sure. Like I said, it's crazy. I don't know how to put it in words. It's just great work. And I hope this helps Chile, too. For sure it gives me more confidence to keep going and try to win on the PGA TOUR.

Q. What was the key club for all week? What was the thing that got you the win?

MITO PEREIRA: I think driver has been really good. On this kind of course, if you drive well every hole, you can be aggressive and make a lot of birdies. So I'll give that to the driver.

Q. And then do you look back, like I can't remember when the accident was, like three years ago?

MITO PEREIRA: It was 2018.

Q. Like the fact that when you were going through that, like did you ever think or did you know that you would get back, or did you have doubt that you would ever be in this situation?

MITO PEREIRA: I would like to say if I tell you that I didn't have a doubt because everything -- everybody has doubts, but I think I did it well with just going back to basics, start working with a mental coach, start doing the right thing and just keep moving, keep moving and try to do the best you can every time.

Q. And then also, Joaquin, how much has he kind of helped you the last couple years, kind of pushing you to --

MITO PEREIRA: Joaquin's been great not just for me, for Chile, too. He's grown the game, everybody's interested. I'm playing good now and there's more people interested in golf. He's been doing great. And I stay at his house whenever I can, so I just want to thank him, too. I'll see him in two weeks.