

## THE BAHAMAS GREAT ABACO CLASSIC AT THE ABACO CLUB

**ROUND 3 INTERVIEW**  
**January 24, 2023**

**RAFA CAMPOS ( -11)**



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**Q. At a place that you know well, what's it like going to the final round, you're in the mix?**

**RAFA CAMPOS:** It feels great. To tell the truth, it's been a long time, I haven't been in this position. But actually happy to have my wife here and have her experience also the same emotions I'm experiencing on the golf course.

No, I love this place, I truly do. I think I understood it's a course you can't really attack pins to tell you the truth. You've got to hit some good shots to the center of the greens and that's good shots, you know. Just try to take advantage of the easier pin locations today was a tough day to tell you the truth. I knew holes No. 1 through 5 were the easy holes because it was downwind. Unfortunately I didn't really take advantage of that. So I told my wife, I'm like hey, if we can figure out a way to just be around even par, I mean if we can go under par the first five holes, great, because then 6 to 14, most into the wind and crosswind, so makes it a lot harder.

But ironically, this game, how this goes, I didn't play well the first five holes and hit some unbelievable shots throughout the day into the wind just taking a lot of club and just kind of knocking the ball down.

It's great to be here. It's great to actually have a pretty solid low round, it's been a long time. So I'm just trying to take the positives right now. There's a couple things I could improve, but just happy for the day.

**Q. When you say it's been a long time, how does that change the approach going into tomorrow? Anything different or just let it flow?**

**RAFA CAMPOS:** You know, it was just really cool to experience the nerves the last like five holes. It's been, like I said, it's been a long time. I think it was since Corales, the PGA TOUR tournament in Corales where I finished tied for second, that's when I last was really in contention. That was a couple years ago.

No, it's just I won't change the approach. I think I've got to commit to the shots a little bit more. When I started getting a little nervous, I started kind of guiding it a little bit more and I did miss a few shots. Fortunately the putter worked. So I think tomorrow, just play it smart. This is not a course where you can really attack. Hopefully just make some good swings and

keep the putter rolling.

**Q. You mentioned on the walk over here with Joe Highsmith, Akshay Bhatia, a couple young guys getting their careers going --**

**RAFA CAMPOS:** I felt like a real veteran, OK? These were 20 and 22 year old kids and I really love this group. It made this day a little bit more special to tell you the truth. Obviously playing well, but it was great chatter between everyone. The day was a little kind of muggy and all that, so it was really nice walks between us three and our caddies.

Yeah, I honestly, I want to say it was close to a perfect day for me. Only bogey I had was a three-putt and apart from that, just being with Joe and being with Akshay made it fun. We had no idea how we were doing, we just kind of enjoyed just hitting shots today.

**Q. Eighteenth hole here, big par 5, water on the left.**

**RAFA CAMPOS:** Big par 5. You've got big fairways throughout the day and all of a sudden you actually step up to that tee box and you're like wait, there's hazard left, hazard right. It's still a big fairway.

I've never been comfortable with that hole, especially because of the wind, mainly left to right. And today was just, I made a horrible driver swing but fortunate it went straight and we had downwind so I could go for the green. Poor second shot, ended up in a wrong spot. Wasn't hard. Like I said, just the nerves got a little bit to me there. Just tried to force a shot that I probably should not have done.

Yeah, 18 is a great finishing hole. For me I think it's a great finishing hole. For a lot of other guys I'm sure they think it's a very easy hole. No, like I said, it's a great finishing hole. Ended up making par today. Hopefully tomorrow we can put the ball in play, give ourselves a look for birdie. And if not, it's golf.

**Q. As a past champion member here, I know you know the staff here, you know the different folks, is it fun being back and just kind of that vibe, getting to see people?**

**RAFA CAMPOS:** It is. We had over there at Flippers, he stopped working I think four months ago, Maxie, he was a cool guy. But then we got Teresa as well, she's still there. I really feel like home to tell the truth. I was so fortunate to win this event and have had a honorary membership.

Not only that, the head pro here, Brian Shaver, he's known me since I was 9 years old. It's ironic how, you know, the world is. He used to work at clubs back home in Puerto Rico and ended up here and my first professional win was here.

So I do feel like home, I love this place. I love playing in wind even though if it's really hard or not, but I love playing in wind. And this course really, you kind of like to hit shots into the

greens, it's tough. I just feel comfortable with this place and fortunately I've played well the last three days and hopefully we can -- I have one extra good day and I'll be happy no matter the result to tell you the truth.