

ROUND 4 QUICK QUOTES
November 12, 2023



CAMILO VILLEGAS (-24)

MARK WILLIAMS: We would like to welcome our 2023 Butterfield Bermuda Championship winner, Camilo Villegas.

Saying that after more than nine years, how does that feel, honestly?

CAMILO VILLEGAS: Wow, it's unbelievable to be honest. It feels unbelievable. Nine years, nine years where you kind of stop believing at times, but I never stopped waking up early and putting in the work.

Life is interesting, it goes up and down both on the personal side and on the professional side. Just got to keep a path and you've got to keep your mind where it needs to be. Like I said, I'm a hard worker, I love working, I love having a purpose every morning and that's kind of what I did.

At the beginning of the year things were not going great, it was time to do a little swing change. I've never been too excited about big swing changes, but I trusted the guy I started working with, Jose Campa and he told me he needed a year. I'm glad it took less than that, here we are.

I was signing up for second stage of Q-School next week after a tough year. With my play last week finishing second in Mexico, I didn't have to play second stage, but I was probably going to go play finals and here we are, fifth win on Tour.

How do you say it, I'm just proud of myself. I'm proud of myself and everybody that's supports Team Villegas.

MARK WILLIAMS: You're very calm and collected here right now talking about this given that it's a really emotional time for you and probably a lot of your team. You tied the tournament record, 24 under, and you're in contention bouncing back and forth with Alex and Matti on that back nine.

What were your emotions like during that back nine period and where did you feel comfortable and where did you feel a little --

CAMILO VILLEGAS: Yeah, I never felt so comfortable being in contention like I did the last couple weeks, to be honest. It's kind of weird, it's kind of strange. Even when I was in contention back in the day, yeah, a few years ago, 10 or more, I didn't have this calmness. I've got to really analyze what happened the last couple weeks, try to replicate more often.



I had a great time with my caddie and we tried to save a lot of energy, and how did we try to save energy was by not being so focused the whole time, just getting in and out and really going through my routine very, very specific and then coming out and just kind of relaxing and having a good time: I was really good at reacting to the missed putts or the lip-outs or anything, which I'm not used to being like that.

Yeah, there was a calmness in me that I need to analyze and I need to try to keep, try to do it more often because obviously you saw the results and they were pretty good.

MARK WILLIAMS: Obviously runner-up in Mexico, winning here, you're playing next week at the RSM Classic. What sort of approach do you take into that tournament now that a lot of those things have changed? You don't have to go to Q-School, you're not an invite next week, you're actually in now for the next couple years. When you go there, do you think it's going to hit you differently? What do you expect?

CAMILO VILLEGAS: Well, I'm going to see my family and my mom's also going to be there, which is pretty cool. We're going to have a great week, we're going to have a great week. We're going to just kind of relax, enjoy it. There might not be as many workouts next week as I normally do. I think I've earned it. But still I'm a competitor, so once I tee it up on the first hole I want to play good.

The game of golf is about taking advantage of certain streaks and this one is one that started last week, played great this week. Sometimes it's hard to focus after a win. It's happened to me in my previous four wins where you just, you're so emotionally full that it can be tricky.

But I'm going to try my best, I'm going to try my best to enjoy it, stay focused and keep the good golf coming.

MARK WILLIAMS: The birdie on 17 from the bunker up-and-down there was obviously a crucial point, two-shot lead coming to the last, but was there a pivotal point there particularly on the back nine, maybe earlier in the round that stands out to you right now?

CAMILO VILLEGAS: I think the shot on 11 was very important for me. It was a tough shot where anything could happen. I hit a pure 6-iron. I almost drove that green on Friday and today I hit driver, 6-iron, that's how different it was playing. That was very important:

Then I made a great par save on the next hole, on 12. Missing some opportunities on 13, 14, good birdie 15 and then missing another opportunity on 16. I thought I made that putt on 16, and trust me, having a two-shot lead is very different than having a one-shot lead.

So when I saw Alex hit a bad chip on No. 17, I didn't have the best lie in that bunker but I looked at my caddie and I said, OK, brother, let's hit a good shot here. Came out a little better than I expected, nice tap-in birdie, gave me a little cushion, a little freedom going to the next hole.



I hit a pure 3-wood on 18 and from then on it was plain and simple, hit on the middle of the green, two-putt and get out of there.

Q. When you finished and tapped in, there was a lot of emotion, particularly from a lot of South American players, including Nico, who you were there when he won. What was that like?

CAMILO VILLEGAS: I guess it was payback. I got to spray him with champagne in Puerto Rico and now he gets to do it. I'm actually smelling like champagne and a little cold here.

Man, it's great. Can you believe it, it's like two wins for two Colombians this year, both guys growing up on the same golf course in Medellin, Colombia. Wow, it's pretty special for our country.

Q. Camilo, speaking of those younger Latin guys that mobbed you on the green after this, they were talking to me a little bit about how you served as a role model for them. How important is it for you to be a role model for the next generation for Latin American talent in this game?

CAMILO VILLEGAS: I tell my wife all the time, I say, listen, if you do the things in the right way, people are going to look at you in a positive way, people are going to like you and people are going to respect you. I think that's what I try to do.

I enjoy being around the younger generations and just sharing what I've lived. I mean, to be honest, life is about experiences. You get good and bad ones and then you try to learn from both. I was young, too. I had guys that kind of helped me throughout my career.

I'm a guy that I just, I mean, I want to accomplish a lot more, but I've accomplished -- I'm at peace with what I've accomplished. So it's all about just kind of sharing it with others and just this kid, especially the Latin kids can kind of represent a region, grow the game of golf in South America, why not, why not give them a little two cents and try to make 'em better.

Q. And obviously hanging around with those guys at different tournaments, you're the most recent winner, you've got bragging rights now. Are you going to have a little bit of fun with that or is that not your style?

CAMILO VILLEGAS: Not really, to be honest. Like I said, I'm just proud of what I've accomplished. It's nine years with so much in between. Yeah, I didn't know where this career was heading, to be honest, but I kept waking up every morning and giving it my best and I'll continue to do that. Playing golf or not playing golf or being a dad or not -- just everything. We'll keep it going.

Q. Last week obviously you came into the final round with the lead, Erik van Rooyen had the round of his life to win by two. Did that provide any additional focus for you



or motivation for you today as you got off to a hot start yourself?

CAMILO VILLEGAS: Well, Erik's round last week was very special, to be honest, the way he came back on the back nine and shoots 28.

Very interestingly, he told me the story about his friend walking down the first hole on Sunday. I know what he's going through. I saw it with my daughter.

It was just meant to be. He said it, playing for a different reason other than just a trophy and it was his time, it was his time. We hung in there. I was just hoping he gave me a chance on the last. He didn't, he hit it down the middle. But when you get beat with a 28 on the back nine, there's no regrets. I was happy for him. I sent him a little text and I said just please give your buddy a big hug from me and enjoy the time with him.

And here I am. I guess it was my week to be. Everything came out very good. I was very patient throughout the week and ended up winning by two.

Q. One last quick one. Obviously you were a part of the Presidents Cup last year as an assistant captain, you're a winner on the Tour this year now. If the form continues for you, is going back to the playing side of the Presidents Cup something that enters your mind?

CAMILO VILLEGAS: We don't need to get ahead of ourselves, to be honest. Things have changed a lot in the last two weeks, but I do want to say that that week in Charlotte was -- I wasn't playing and it was probably I'm not going to say the best week of my life, but very, very close. I enjoyed so much being part of that team, being assistant captain.

Trevor Immelman was unbelievable. When I say unbelievable, you guys don't know what he had to go through internally with everything that was going on in the game of golf, the golf world. His speeches with the team, his preparation, his interviews, his energy, it was a very, very special week.

I want to continue to be part of that International Team for ever. I want to add my two cents. You know what, they've got our number, but we'll keep working, we'll keep working on every angle and hopefully we can break the streak sooner rather than later.

MARK WILLIAMS: The putter that you're using, Adam Scott uses it; obviously a different version of it but similar. How did that come about? And Adam talked to us a little bit earlier about it and it was obviously a Presidents Cup connection there with that putter as well. Can you just talk us through that a little bit?

CAMILO VILLEGAS: Yeah, I guess I've got to thank Adam in a way because you're right, we did a little trip to Quail Hollow before the Presidents Cup and I was watching Adam putt with a broom. He kept rolling it so good and he kept telling me how confident he was feeling.



At one point I'm like, OK, man, let me try it. I started trying the broom, which I didn't think I was going to go to the broom, but we started talking about the technology behind the putter. I have always been a Scotty Cameron guy, which I love, respect and thank him for all the support over the years, but then came this LAB putter and it felt good. It felt good right away. I tried different versions of it, different lengths, different grips, different shaft leans on it and then finally I came with one that feels very comfortable.

My hands tend to get pretty low. With this putter I get them a little bit higher. I think my putting stroke is better. I think the technology behind it is great and I was telling Scottie earlier this week, this putter feels good, man, it feels unbelievable. It's been performing the last few weeks.

Q. They showed your tattoos on the broadcast. If you could just talk the meaning of those?

CAMILO VILLEGAS: Yeah, sometimes I forget to look at them more often, to be honest. On the left one it says attitude and on my right one it says positive energy.

There's a lot of things you can't control in life, but I guess these two you can.

You've got to have good attitude in life, easier said than done at times. And energy, you can bring the energy not only to yourself but the people around you and that's something we all should strive for.

Q. You alluded to it, but you might be on a flight tomorrow to go to second stage and the fact that in two weeks, was that hard because of where you've been to sign up for second stage Q-School and the fact that that's now out of the rearview mirror?

CAMILO VILLEGAS: Well, playing the Korn Ferry this year was not hard, to be honest. A lot of people might look at it and say, well, this guy's been playing on the PGA TOUR for so long, he's got four wins, this, that, what is he doing playing the Korn Ferry Tour.

Well, Korn Ferry Tour is a great place, great talent. Do we want to go a little backwards from the PGA TOUR to the Korn Ferry? No, but if we want to be on the PGA TOUR again since I lost my card, I had to go there. I enjoyed it. I enjoyed being around the younger generations, talking with them, getting a little twist going to different places, but this is where I wanted to be.

Q-School, if I had to go again -- I've only done Q-School once in my life, it was 2004 -- that's what I was going to do. Second stage, I wasn't too happy about it, to be honest, just because you miss second stage for some reason and you don't have many places to play. At the end of the day you've got to -- you've got to put together somewhat of a schedule. That's what I wanted, I wanted to make it through second stage, go to finals and that way have conditional on the Korn Ferry, have past champion on the PGA TOUR.



But I guess I'm a 2023 champion, so things have changed for next year.

MARK WILLIAMS: Thanks, Camilo. Tell us you haven't forgotten how to celebrate.

CAMILO VILLEGAS: I haven't forgotten.

