ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTES November 18, 2023

NICO ECHAVARRIA (-10)



Q. Nico, so first of all, the ace, what was that like? Kind of go through club, yardage, playing the hole and then seeing it go in?

NICO ECHAVARRIA: Yeah, 178 straight downwind, back left pin. I was hitting -- I was hitting my irons pretty bad when I was taking yardage out of the iron, so we decided to go full 9. Hit it on the screws and the ball didn't touch any edge, it was straight in. Didn't have to replace the hole or anything, pretty cool.

Q. What's that feeling like?

NICO ECHAVARRIA: Well, we didn't know where it was. We were walking and we were behind the last group and they were on the tee so they didn't want to make that much noise, I guess. And it was downwind, so we couldn't hear. When we were walking 20 yards up, the group in front started doing, you made it, you made it, and that was very cool.

Q. Awesome. That's your first on Tour?

NICO ECHAVARRIA: First on Tour. I've made one last year on the practice round of a Monday qualifier in Vegas, 4-iron that I never saw. This is my sixth hole-in-one, but obviously the best one.

Q. That's awesome. And your season so far, I know you've won and then maybe you've had some kind of results have been uneven throughout. How would you describe your season as a whole, your first year on Tour?

NICO ECHAVARRIA: Just a rookie year learning a lot. We were on the best streak so far, three out of three of the last three cuts, back-to-back cuts, so we're on a high. Got my whole team this week. More of a prep for Maui. And we've had a lot of fun, it's been awesome to be playing here. The weather today was perfect compared to the last couple days. It's just enjoying this place, it's super nice.

Q. Then I know you were on the 125 bubble, but your status is good, but it can also get you into THE PLAYERS for next year. What would it mean to like lock it up and get into THE PLAYERS?

NICO ECHAVARRIA: Yeah, I read a Tweet. Because I didn't know, I thought it was locked up. I didn't know it worked that way. That was the motivation so far this week, get into THE PLAYERS. Living in Jacksonville, it's a home game. So we're good so far, got to finish it off.

Q. What was it like playing THE PLAYERS this year for the first time?

NICO ECHAVARRIA: We were still on a high from the week before. I remember very few things from that week, I was so tired. It was so much fun. I mean, Stadium Course is probably one of the best courses all year, so it was a lot of fun.