

ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES

March 8, 2024



RAFA CAMPOS (-12)

Q. Rafa, day 2 in front of this board obviously means -- actually, day 3 if we go back to the pre-tournament. Another great round today, start with 65, finish it this morning, turn right around, come back up with a 67, just two bogeys through 36 holes. If I haven't teed you up enough, tell me how good you're feeling.

RAFA CAMPOS: I'm feeling really good, I really am. I think my game's in a spot right now where I'm very comfortable, especially dealing with the nerves I've had the last couple days, I've been able to manage them fairly well.

Overall, really happy. To tell you the truth, a couple poor swings but that's part of it. I think my caddie and I did a really good job of just kind of staying on the safe sides and rolling the putter really well. As long as I have a look, it doesn't matter if it's 20, 30, 40 feet, still feel comfortable. Right now that's our game plan and whenever we can attack we'll try to attack a pin or two.

Q. I've known you for a long time and one of the things that's always stood out about you, you're always very mild mannered, you don't ever seem to get either ahead of yourself or behind yourself, too hot, too cold. You're very balanced. Was that something you had to work at to get to that level or do you even agree that you are that mild mannered?

RAFA CAMPOS: I actually think I'm hot tempered.

No, out there, yes, I'm trying to focus just on whatever I have in front of me, trying to really stay in the present. Like this morning and yesterday morning before I went, I kind of came in earlier because I was already having too many thoughts in my head of what could happen and all those things. I was just trying to get rid of them and go to the gym and spend some more time.

I try to keep a level head out there. I will get upset, you know, after a poor swing or whatnot, but I really get back to it fairly fast.

Yeah, it's nice to feel the crowd here, it truly is, especially for a Friday. I felt that a lot of people came out to support and that's extremely good. Makes me feel really happy about where this game's going. Hopefully we can have a couple more good days. I feel I'm hitting it extremely well and putting really well, so as long as I kind of manage the nerves a little bit, at least if I can keep managing the nerves the way I'm managing them right now, I think I'll be fine for the weekend.

Q. Not only are you at the top of the leaderboard, that's stressful enough, but you're doing so here in Puerto Rico. I know you've been asked this question a lot, but how difficult is it to manage the expectations, everybody that wants to see you, get your autograph?

RAFA CAMPOS: I'm happy I'm playing good, I really am because I know these guys are coming out because they want to see some good golf. It's very difficult, it truly is. I have a lot of pressure, a lot of stress out there, but truth is I try to really blank out and not really pay attention to what's going on in my surroundings.

Obviously I know what they want at the end of the week and it would be my dream as well, but I'm just trying to honestly hit the next shot and kind of play smart. Like I said, I think I feel the game's in a really good spot right now. It's just tougher here in Puerto Rico just knowing I want to win.

Q. And my final question, we talked a little bit earlier in the week about your physical fitness and your commitment to that. Have you noticed a big difference in your ability to make it through 18, 36, 72 holes with this smoking hot body you've got these days?

RAFA CAMPOS: Yes, I have. It's really cool. It's a sacrifice, but this morning I was out here at 4:45 with my trainer and all those things. I knew it was going to be a long day, but I feel if I don't do these things, I will feel a little kind of clumsy or lazy throughout the round.

I do feel that it really has helped me drastically. These long days and especially yesterday with the delays, I really feel good, I could go out there and play. I don't want to, I think I'm mentally a little tired right now, but physically I feel great, just nothing bothering me, which is a huge plus just being able to play a season, last year and everything without injuries. That was a huge goal of mine.

I'll keep on doing them. My trainer's really happy to wake up at 4:00 in the morning sometimes, but I know tomorrow we'll kind of sleep in a little bit more and our workout's going to be a little later, so that's going to be nice for both of us.

Q. Definitely one of the perks to having a top of the leaderboard is a late tee time.

RAFA CAMPOS: That's true, exactly. I'm like I finished early, so I'm good.