

FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW: ROBERTO CASTRO
May 8, 2016



Q. Great perspective as you were just talking, a gritty finish but where does this put you going forward for the rest of the year?

ROBERT CASTRO: I'm really excited. I feel like this is my fifth year on Tour and the season's always kind of started right here for me, this time of year. My best year when I made it to the TOUR Championship I had only made a few bucks before THE PLAYERS and went on to have a good summer. So really encouraged by what I saw in my game this week. It's a great test here at Quail Hollow. I am excited to tee it up next time.

Q. Talk to us about when you missed the green here at 18 in the playoff, you were grinding to hole that?

ROBERT CASTRO: Yeah, it's the exact shot you want if you have to make it because it's just pitch it on the green and hope it rolls right in. About 10 feet from it it looked really good. I think if it has a little softer speed it might turn in the right side there. But congratulations to James, for sure. Everyone had to grind it out. It's a big golf course.

Q. It was a big golf course. Does this let you set bigger goals for the rest of the year?

ROBERT CASTRO: I think so. You always want to stay ahead of the curve whatever your goals are. You just feel like you're a little bit ahead of where you want to be and chasing your next thing so I think this puts me in that position.

Q. First of all, congratulations on a great week, commiserations on losing in a playoff. What are your thoughts and your feelings right now?

ROBERT CASTRO: I'm really positive. I think my game's in good shape and I saw some really encouraging things and holed a few putts, which I haven't done in what feels like years. So I'm excited for the rest of the summer. This opens a few doors for me. I love this place. I feel like I wanted to win this tournament specifically, not just a tournament. But I'll be back to try again.

Q. You say it opens doors, that's a great thing. You've got to take great things away from this. We know that as professional golfers it will take a day or so for it all to go away, the pain, but what doors do you feel it opens?

ROBERT CASTRO: It just frees me up for at rest of the year, probably get into a few more of the top tournaments. It's just more shots in my just memory bank of good shots down the stretch. There's a lot of great players in the field this week and going back to Thursday I hit a lot of good shots. Friday, Saturday, Sunday. It's easy to focus on the playoff but it took 72 really good holes to beat 154 of best players in the world.

Q. Last hour, what a wild last hour. What do you take out of what happened here the last 60 minutes?

ROBERT CASTRO: I feel like just a lot of positives. I hit two shots I didn't like on 16 and 17, but that's okay, it's something I'll work on. I made a lot of good putts on the back nine. I made a great putt to get in the playoff. Hopefully I'll be in this position again and tell myself I've made a six or eight-footer to get a chance to win a tournament and try to do it again.

Q. You hit so many good shots, though. 13, clutch putt. 14, incredible drive set you up for a birdie. You've got to take a lot of real positives out of this?

ROBERT CASTRO: Yeah, I've watched enough golf and seen enough tournaments finish that when you go back and watch the telecast, a bounce here, a bounce there, you can't get too hung up. It's just how did I play for four days against this field on this golf course, there's a lot to be said about that.

Q. Must feel good about the rest of the summer now because your game looks pretty good?

ROBERT CASTRO: Yeah, this is my time of year. With the season starting in the fall now, I have to be patient because I've always played my best golf from here in Charlotte through the Playoffs, so that's the back third of our season now. So I felt like I was in a decent position for me heading into this stretch and that kind of kick started it for me.

Q. Exciting playoff, you obviously didn't win but there's a lot of positives this week for you.

ROBERT CASTRO: Yeah, it's really only positives. I wish it would have been a more exciting playoff, put it in the fairway and see if somebody can make a birdie, but it's a lot of dreams lost here on 18 at Quail. It's a very difficult hole and you've got to hit two great shots and James did that.

Q. Can you talk about what this tournament means to you? You said before this is one that you really wanted.

ROBERT CASTRO: Yeah, I love this tournament. I told my caddie when I was a rookie that I really thought I would win this tournament one day at some point on this golf course. I thought it set up great for our game and I love playing it. I get excited when I walk to the first tee. So this was a really good opportunity. Like you said, it hurts to let this tournament specifically slip away, but there's 154 guys that didn't have a chance in that playoff and I feel grateful to have had a chance.

Q. When you're in contention pretty much all weekend, I heard you just say you're playing your best golf right now?

ROBERT CASTRO: Yeah, I think that's another key point you make. That's three or four times in the last six months where I've been in contention all week, which is great, it's great experience. I mean, everyone, we all have back-door top-10s and it's great, we love that. Tee off in the middle of the pack and shoot a low Sunday round. It's a totally different experience than leading or being around the lead for four days. So I'm proud of that, proud of the way I played the last four days.

Q. Take us through that playoff.

ROBERT CASTRO: Got nothing, it's a baseball swing. There's no way you can hit a 3-iron. I would have never guessed I could get that much club on a 5-wood as my little league baseball days. I feel terrible, I hit a spectator pretty good there. I was worried he was going to be laid out when we got up there so when he was vertical, he'll ice it down and he'll be okay I hope, but I felt bad about that.

Q. Even that chip, pretty impressive.

ROBERT CASTRO: Yeah, the chip had a good chance. That's the chip you want to have if you want to make it because you've just got to dump it on the green and get the line. Halfway there I thought it might scare the hole, but just slid by. James hit -- he striped two shots. That's how you win a tournament.

Q. Looking ahead, you said you love this course, you've played well at this course, PGA Championship here next year. Any thoughts on that?

ROBERT CASTRO: Gosh, that's exciting. It will be about 150 degrees in August, which is right up my alley. The hotter the better. I'm looking forward to it. I hope I'm here.

Q. Thank you Roberto. It was great to watch. I think I know the answer but you tell me, you're going to leave Charlotte with a better attitude and not disappointment?

ROBERT CASTRO: Absolutely. I played 72 really good holes to get in the position I was in. That's a big golf hole and I give James credit, he striped a driver and striped a 7-iron, whatever it was. I'll take a lot of positives for playing in the final group on a great golf course. I played with Rickie today, he's a great player. That's why I practice.

Q. You've been in the final group the last two days and you mentioned you played with a superstar, Rickie Fowler, and you made it to a playoff. What did you learn about yourself as a player today?

ROBERT CASTRO: Just further reinforcement if I go do what I do well and focus on what I'm doing, I can win on hard golf courses. Some of my previous best finishes on Tour have been on hard golf courses also. That's encouraging. If I can get in some more big tournaments and majors (inaudible.)

