

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
March 1, 2018

RAFA CABRERA BELLO (-5)



Q. 5-under par today, what's the secret to your success?

RAFA CABRERA BELLO: Well, obviously I played very good. I didn't put myself in much trouble, felt I was always in control from tee to green, and I also putted very good.

Q. And you know one of the big stories this week is dealing with the altitude. All the preparation that goes in beforehand, did it feel like you had it bob on today?

RAFA CABRERA BELLO: Yeah, it's very hard. It's really hard to get the distance spot on. Whether you use 10, 15 percent rule, you always feel like you're kind of like five yards out all the time, but you know everyone's struggling a bit with that. But hey, I felt I managed it pretty good today.

Q. And do you have to account for -- because you know when the tournament goes, quite often pros hit it a little bit further when they're a little bit more pumped up. Do you have to calculate that in as well?

RAFA CABRERA BELLO: Yeah, it's so fun to be hitting it so far. We have like 220 and we're like discussing if we should hit like a 7-iron or an 8-iron, so it's actually pretty cool, yeah.

Q. On this golf course bogey free, that's really well done.

RAFA CABRERA BELLO: Thank you, thank you very much. Yeah, I felt I played very good today, put myself in very few dangerous positions, and I putted good as well. A couple putts, long putts that I had for par, I managed to roll them in and the rest was pretty steady golf.

Q. I thought you put yourself in dangerous positions on both 7 and 8 and you walk away with one-putt pars.

RAFA CABRERA BELLO: Yes, exactly. No. 7, wrong club. I just hit it too long and left myself, I don't know, 12-, 15-footer for par. 8 was just really, it's my lease favorite hole of the course. It's really hard to hit it off the tee and give yourself a decent shot in, and I don't know, I just holed like a monster putt for par.

Q. You mentioned your putting. Right now you've gained five strokes on the field with your putting, you lead the tournament in strokes gained putting.

RAFA CABRERA BELLO: Yeah. Well, I think I've been overdue, the last few weeks it's been the opposite. But I did some practice and actually found some positive sensations and feelings on the putting green and I was happy that I managed to get that on the course today.

Q. How difficult is it to adjust to altitude and commit to a number?

RAFA CABRERA BELLO: It's difficult. It's not the first time. It actually is the only time of year that we play this high, but especially in Europe I've been used to dealing with different altitude. But here it just goes, I mean it goes forever. It's fun in some places because you have like 220 and you think should I hit a 7, should I hit an 8, but then it's really hard to get the actual number right, so yeah.