

**ROUND 2 INTERVIEW**  
**March 2, 2018**

**RAFA CABRERA BELLO (-9)**



---

**Q. Rafa, a 67 on day 2. What do you make of your performance the first couple rounds?**

**RAFA CABRERA BELLO:** Well, obviously very pleased. I felt I've been playing very good golf and making some putts as well. I'm not leading but I'm right up there, so in a great position for the weekend.

**Q. You were number one 1 in putting yesterday, you had the benefit of the earlier tee time. Not a big field, there's only 65 guys in the field, but later start today. Were the greens any different, because you see plenty of players battle out there?**

**RAFA CABRERA BELLO:** Yes. I mean, it's poa annua, it can get a little bumpy at times. Like you said, yesterday I was one of the earlier groups, so at least for nine holes they were rolling pretty good. Today was the opposite, so a bit more bumpy, especially on the back nine, a couple ones that had a few bounces unexpected. But overall I'm happy that I'm reading them decently and I'm managing to judge the speed properly.

**Q. Just a note on these WGCs, you've played in all the big tournaments around the world now, do they feel different to regular events on Tour?**

**RAFA CABRERA BELLO:** Yes, a little, just the fact that there's a smaller field. As a general rule you normally have the majority of the top 50 players in the world, so you know you have to play really good to be up there. I mean, you really get the feel of the world championships.

**Q. So bearing that in mind, in a field is so good, what are the thoughts heading into the weekend now in the position you are?**

**RAFA CABRERA BELLO:** Well, obviously just going to stick to my game plan. It's worked pretty good these first two days. I'm playing very good, I'm happy with how I'm hitting the ball off the tee, my irons, my short game as well, so I don't see any reason why I couldn't continue with this with my game.

**Q. What was different between the two rounds?**

**RAFA CABRERA BELLO:** I mean, I felt if anything I hit the ball marginally better today. I felt I putted good, I hit the putts how I wanted, just not that many broke. I think maybe just because I was on the later draw today, the greens were a bit bumpier, but overall there were very similar scores, so I'm very pleased with it.

**Q. Do you find the ball bounces more on a downhill putt or an uphill putt?**

**RAFA CABRERA BELLO:** It gets offline quicker on a downhill putt because as soon as it hits something, it will get offline. But I think that when you get the big bounce, it's normally uphill.

**Q. So your eagle putt, that was down the hill?**

**RAFA CABRERA BELLO:** It was downhill, yes. It was good to hit the hole.

**Q. What do you mean by that?**

**RAFA CABRERA BELLO:** I think it went in a little quicker than desired.

**Q. What club did you hit in there?**

**RAFA CABRERA BELLO:** 4-iron.

**Q. You played well here last year. Is this a golf course you feel like you can be aggressive on?**

**RAFA CABRERA BELLO:** I started good last year, didn't play that good, I think I finished mid 30s, something like that. I mean, I think it's a golf course that suits -- I mean that you need to play -- you need to drive it good. If you're in play, you won't get away with hitting too wide off the tee. But I think the biggest challenge for all of us is judging the altitude. I mean this year I feel the greens are a bit softer and makes it easier because you don't need to gamble with how much it's going to bounce on the green. I feel like that has helped me a little bit. I tend to have a slightly lower ball flight into this than some of the other guys, so here with the air being so light, it's hard for me to really hit long irons up high to stop it quickly, so the greens being a little softer helps with that.

**Q. With your ball flight, do you pay less attention to what other guys are hitting, especially on par 3s?**

**RAFA CABRERA BELLO:** No. I do glance at what they hit, but it's not -- you'll see a difference maybe with your drivers and maybe with 3- and 4-iron, but not necessarily with any other club.

**Q. Rafa, what do you know about Shubhankar, somebody relatively new on the European Tour?**

**RAFA CABRERA BELLO:** What do I now about --

**Q. Shubhankar Sharma.**

**RAFA CABRERA BELLO:** Oh, Sharma. Like you said, relatively new. I spoke with him a little at the beginning of this year -- sorry, at the beginning of this week just to congratulate him. I haven't really watched him play. I'm sure he's a very talented player, but I haven't had the opportunity to watch him play or play alongside him.

**Q. What are you going to do in the month leading up to Augusta schedule-wise?**

**RAFA CABRERA BELLO:** Well, my schedule at the moment is two weeks off after this week, and then at the moment I'm planning on playing three in a row from the Match Play up all the way to Augusta. Whether that changes or not depending on scores, we'll see.

**Q. What would change it?**

**RAFA CABRERA BELLO:** It's hard to say. I mean, if I get all the way to Sunday on the Match Play, then I might decide to take the following week off. But who knows, I might not. Don't quote me on that.