

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
February 22, 2019



SERGIO GARCIA (-7)

Q. Sergio, a round of 5 under par today, 7 under par in total. How pleased are you with your performance out there?

SERGIO GARCIA: Yeah, much better than yesterday. Felt like I hit the ball much better. Just a little shame that tee shot on 18 I hit just a tiny bit thin and caught a tree and left myself such a long shot back. Other than that, I thought it was a nice round. Played nicely, felt like I hit the ball much better. Just a couple little mistakes here and there, 14 and 18. Other than that, it was very nice.

Q. Tied in birdies made so far, 12 for you to this point, that's plenty. What is the secret do you think to success around here, eliminating the errors, or is it trying to push for making the birdies?

SERGIO GARCIA: Well, it's a mix of both. Obviously if you drive it well, you can be really, really aggressive and leave yourself a lot of short shots, but you have to drive it well. That's something I didn't do yesterday. I did that much better today and it showed.

So it's extremely important to drive the ball well, and if you can do that, as far as the ball is going, it's just a matter of guessing, trying to guess as well as possible.

Q. Going into the weekend, of course, there are good chances out there, so many different strategies from so many different players here. Is it one that you evaluate each day as you go out or are you going to try to stick to a game plan so you don't have any decisions?

SERGIO GARCIA: No, I'll probably stay with the same. I think that it's worked for me and I don't want to start changing things. The thing that -- unless I don't feel comfortable, a couple tee shots maybe that I don't feel comfortable, I'm a little bit less aggressive. But other than that, I try to be as aggressive as possible and hopefully not many mistakes.

Q. Sergio, second round 66 here. You measured the greens very well and got off to a fantastic start. How do you summarize today's round altogether?

SERGIO GARCIA: Yeah, I obviously got off to a great start birdieing the first three. I obviously hit the ball better than yesterday. Yesterday I scrambled really, really well. Today I hit a lot of good tee shots, a lot of good iron shots, gave myself a lot of good birdie chances, rolled a good amount of them in.

So yeah, anytime you're making seven birdies in a round, you can't be disappointed. So

yeah, I'm happy with it and hopefully we'll keep doing more of the same on the weekend.

Q. Last couple years it's been rounds where you clearly haven't been firing on all cylinders, but you've always been there within contention. What is it about this course that you love so much?

SERGIO GARCIA: Well, I love the way it plays. It's kind of like obviously big altitude, but it's kind of like a combination of Valderrama and Crans-Montana, courses that I like, that I've done well, that I've enjoyed.

So I feel like if I'm driving the ball well and I can be so aggressive here, I can leave myself a lot of short clubs into some of these difficult greens. So today I was able to do that, yesterday not so much, but I think that the important thing yesterday was to salvage a round that could have gone a little bit south and I was able to do that.

Q. Lastly, tell us how you're feeling with the short stick at the moment. A lot of players out there are struggling with putts over 20, 30 feet. You seem a little bit more comfortable.

SERGIO GARCIA: Yeah, I putted nicely. Other than the first round last week, I felt like I putted quite well. This week I've been putting nicely. Obviously missed a couple again, but it's normal. The greens are very slopey, they're fast. The poa, you get a little bit of footprints here and there, so it's not easy to judge. But the only thing I can do is just try to hit the best putt possible and then hope that the ball rolls as true as possible. If it doesn't do that, then you just move on and go to the next.

Q. Sergio, did you play any more aggressive today, and the reason I ask you that question, you had a great start and then even going for the green in two on No. 6, pretty aggressive play there.

SERGIO GARCIA: Yeah. Well, I went for it because I didn't hit a good drive. I was there yesterday, so I didn't have that possibility. No, I just -- same aggressiveness. I just played better. I drove the ball much better today and that gave me some real good chances on holes like 2 and 6 and, you know, even 8 and stuff like that; on the back nine, 12, something like that. That was the main key. Yesterday I scrambled really well. I thought obviously I was 5 under and didn't finish amazingly, but I still thought that the 2 under I shot yesterday was really, really good for the way I felt with my game. So today I was able to play a little bit better, I kept hitting some good putts and some good chips here and there. A very nice round.

Q. You're in good position for the weekend. Having played here before, this being the third year at the golf course, do you know what to expect from weekend hole locations?

SERGIO GARCIA: Yeah, we've seen some of them. Obviously it's a course that it can be

tricky. Some of the pin positions can be very difficult as the greens get firmer. You've just got to realize that and try to play the best you can and see if you can put in some good solid rounds.