

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**July 14, 2021**

**RAFAEL CAMPOS**



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**HALEY PETERSON:** Good afternoon, everyone. We're joined here with Rafael Campos here at the media room at the Barbasol Championship.

Rafael, welcome. You're going to be making your tournament debut here, so from the pro-am today and being around the course, what are your thoughts here?

**RAFAEL CAMPOS:** I thought this was a great course. I'm really happy and fortunate to be here. Last year I wasn't here, so I didn't have a chance to play and I'm really happy to be here.

Course is great, it really is. It's a really cool layout. Greens are very undulated, so you really have to be in the right spots to be able to make birdies. But it is a birdie course, you know. Unfortunately we've had a little bit of rain the last couple days and it's a little soft, but overall the course is in great shape, especially with the water that we've had. I think it's a course that really sets up for me, and we'll see. Hopefully this is a week that everything turns around and we have a great finish.

**HALEY PETERSON:** You touched upon the weather. We are expecting a little bit of rain and thunderstorms in the forecast, so what will that do kind of here to the course throughout the week?

**RAFAEL CAMPOS:** It really won't do much. The course, like I said, is a little soft right now, which is fine. I think we're expecting a little bit of rain this afternoon as well. It's good. It means I practiced how the course will play. It's very different when you go out Monday, Tuesday and it's raining and all of a sudden you get to Thursday through Sunday and it's completely dry. Obviously you've played two completely different golf courses. It looks like throughout the week it's going to stay pretty much the same. It's going to be soft, which is great.

Great tee shots here. I really enjoy hitting it off the tees here, I don't know why. It's like a nice layout, you've got good definition to where you actually want to hit the ball. No, I'm expecting the week to be kind of the same as yesterday and today, a little soft but overall in great condition.

**HALEY PETERSON:** And two of your top finishes this season have come in a similar field event. You had a runner-up at Puntacana, and in Puerto Rico, top-3 finish. So what can we expect with this week?

**RAFAEL CAMPOS:** Hopefully another top-3. It's ironic, yeah, the co-sanctioned events I've

actually done really well this year. It doesn't have anything to do with the field, it really doesn't. Just (technical glitch) a couple good weeks a course that I actually know. This course, I'm really happy because it's Bermuda. I'm used to Bermuda. I told my caddie, when was it, Monday, I was like, oh, it's kind of nice to get off of bent and poa the last four weeks.

So I'm actually feeling really comfortable for this week. All I need is a good start, to tell you the truth. I've been struggling after those good finishes to start well in tournaments. I think if I just have one good solid round, it doesn't have to be great that first day, I think everything changes for the rest of the week. I expect myself to actually finish really high if I just get that good start.

**Q. How's your game been feeling?**

**RAFAEL CAMPOS:** The game has felt great, to tell you the truth. Scores absolutely do not justify how I feel, and it's been a little frustrating, especially the last four months apart from the two good finishes. It's been actually very frustrating, to tell you the truth, but everything feels really good. My swing feels great. Mentally I feel very strong with it. It hasn't clicked, it really just hasn't. Like I said, all it takes is that one round. And I know it's there, I just need to hopefully find it as soon as possible. No, I feel great and hopefully it's going to be a great week.

**HALEY PETERSON:** And congratulations, I hear you're going to be representing the country of Puerto Rico in the Olympics. Tell me what that means to you.

**RAFAEL CAMPOS:** Goosebumps already. This is my dream come true. One of my dreams, obviously. Before this it was to get to the PGA TOUR, be among the best players in the world and be able to represent my country in the best team event basically in the world. Dream come true for me being able to go to Tokyo in two weeks, represent Puerto Rico.

I already have the outfits, they look extremely cool. I'm really going to embrace that week. It's going to be so cool to just have that Olympic atmosphere, at least in the village. It obviously won't be the same without the fans with all the restrictions and all that, but for me it's a dream come true to be able to represent my country on the biggest stage of all.

**Q. Do you have any personal goals or team goals while you're in Tokyo?**

**RAFAEL CAMPOS:** I want that medal. I want a gold medal really. Honestly, yeah, personal goals, I definitely want medals. I would love to play well and give myself a chance to at least gold, bronze, silver, whichever, give myself that opportunity. It's a smaller field, 60 players, so I really do feel the chances are really high. Best chances we'll have throughout our careers to win golf tournaments. I definitely just expect to play well over there, but at the same time I really want to enjoy, kind of embrace that whole Olympic atmosphere and go with the flow.

My outfits will kind of be very different than what I'm normally used to, but it definitely

represents the Puerto Rican pride I grew up with and what I feel. Hopefully it's good for the Puerto Ricans as well.

**HALEY PETERSON:** Coming up on kind of our final events of the season, especially this one, what would a win mean heading into the FedExCup Playoffs?

**RAFAEL CAMPOS:** It would mean the world to me at this point, it truly would. Just the fact to be able to set up a schedule for not one year but two years where you can really play yourself into more events, that would mean the world. It's been really tough, especially under the category I've been in the last two years, to not know what your schedule will be and not know how many tournaments you have. At some point you actually do put a lot of pressure on yourself knowing that you don't have the same opportunities as the other 125 guys, you know. So a win here would mean literally the world to me just simply because I'll be able to have job security, which is one of the biggest things. But at the same time, just kind of prove myself to myself that the hard work, even though there's also (indiscernible) if I get a chance to win, if I win, it will just kind of validate the fact that all the time and work that I've put in the last six months, seven months are working towards like the right way.

God, I would love to win. Hopefully it will come whenever it's supposed to come, hopefully it's this week. I've just got to go with the flow.

**HALEY PETERSON:** We'll be rooting for you this week. We appreciate you taking the time to join us today.

**RAFAEL CAMPOS:** Thank you for having us, it's my pleasure. Anytime.