

**ROUND 4 INTERVIEW**  
**May 9, 2021**



**ALEX CEJKA (-18)**

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**Q. Monday qualifier to this in three weeks.**

**ALEX CEJKA:** Yes.

**Q. What is going through your mind right now?**

**ALEX CEJKA:** Yes, it's incredible. I still can't believe it. As I said, it felt like -- the second par 5 felt like two days ago. That's how time flies. Today I have no words. I fought so hard. It's everybody's dream. We work so hard to win trophies and I did it on this Tour. Of course, when you come here as a rookie, you see all those great players, all those Hall of Famers, and it's still a bit intimidating. And you still have to play great. And that's what I did.

And I was, I think, lucky today in the playoff. Steve is such a great player, all his career, all his life. And I finished second to him at my last tournament, and this week I'm on top. So I'm just so happy.

**Q. Because you had that two-shot lead, he birdies 16, and then coming down 18 what's going through your mind? And then when he makes that putt on 18, did you feel like it was slipping away? What was your demeanor on the --**

**ALEX CEJKA:** No, I think that -- I thought everything is still open. I knew if I make up-and-down -- I knew his chip was difficult. I knew if I made up-and-down then I'm going to seal the deal. I had a great bunker shot, it was just a little bit too far right. And he holed a great putt under pressure. You got to make this to go back into the playoff. It was a clutch putt. And in the playoff, I'm a winner today. It might be different in two or three weeks. Every week is different. But I'm glad that it's on Mother's Day, too. And I'm just happy.

**Q. You made a clutch putt very similar to his on 18. What did it feel like when you made your own clutch putt?**

**ALEX CEJKA:** It was great. You know what, for 99 percent I thought he's going to make it, and I knew I have to make it to have a chance to go into a next hole. And it was a pretty straight putt. He had his putt to go into the playoff, just a little bit longer. And I watch him, it was that straight, so I played it that straight. And it never moved. So it was great to see it go in. And it was a little bit sad, too, that he missed the short putt like this. You don't want to win like this, but eventually it's going to happen.

And I'm just so excited when I see all those guys here on the trophy, and it's just incredible that my name is eventually going to be there, too.

**Q. What were the emotions -- I saw on the Golf Channel telecast, you were really overcome with emotions.**

**ALEX CEJKA:** Yes, I still am. I think it's probably going to sink in by tomorrow morning. Yeah, it's -- it's a dream come true, as I said, to a lot of guys. And especially like a senior major, it's even more special than just a regular tournament. It sounds weird, but a major is a major.

And I still can't believe -- I still can't believe it's true that I'm holding the trophy. And I'm just super excited.

**Q. The 13th hole, down by three strokes, and Steve Stricker hit it into the water and you make a birdie there. How big was that for the tournament?**

**ALEX CEJKA:** Yeah, that was a little bit of turning point that gave me a little bit momentum. I knew I still had to make great shots. He's such a great player, he's not going to give up and not make stupid mistakes. And even on that par 5, if you hit it in the water you can still make 5, but he made 6. So you took two shots from there. But we both grinded today all the way to the end.

**Q. Can you tell us about Timmy, your caddie?**

**ALEX CEJKA:** Yeah, Timmy is a great friend. I know him for so many years. He has been -- he always volunteers at the New Orleans tournament, the Zurich Classic, as a driver that week, and he has been driving me when I play that tournament. He drove me like 10, 15 years in a row. And when I got into this tournament on last -- last-minute call, and I know he's so close to here, and I just called him up and say, hey, what are you doing? You want to carry that heavy bag? So he said immediately yes. And I'm just glad he did it. And I'm glad that he was part of it, too, winning a major.

**Q. Talk about your journey. We talked to you yesterday about your journey. You're nine years old, and now you're here 40 years later holding a senior major. Just talk about your journey.**

**ALEX CEJKA:** Yes. I think everybody has kind of a journey in life. And mine was maybe a little bit different than a lot of people's journeys. But it shows you that a lot of things are possible. No matter where you come from, no matter what country, what money status or what standards, it's just -- if you have a dream, you follow the dream, you've got to grind it, work hard at your dream, and be always positive. It's always possible to end up somewhere on top, no matter where it is. If it's sports, business, life, and it's just -- I'm one of the -- one of the thousands, millions of people who have a dream and got it done.

**Q. Whatever it takes, you were an alternate coming into this week, all of that stuff. Can you kind of -- I mean, you don't care, you just go grind.**

**ALEX CEJKA:** Yes. I'm a little bit lucky that I still was playing the last couple years on the PGA Tour, Korn Ferry Tour, so I was still in my rhythm. I have a lot of friends who maybe lost a Tour card or lost the interest to play and had to wait a couple years until they got onto the Champions Tour, or coming onto the Champions Tour. And when you have such a break -- I don't want to say you lose it a little bit, but I was fortunate enough to still play under pressure, till recently, till I turned the great 50. And it's -- I like to grind. I still like to practice. Obviously, at our age, you don't practice as much anymore as those 22-year-old guys on the PGA Tour, unless your name is Bernhard Langer or Vijay Singh. But it's -- I think you can play great if you just put the hard work in it. In the end, hard work always beats talent. A lot of players, no matter what sport, have a great talent, but over a long, long period, you still have to work on it. And that's what a lot of guys do, and the guys are still successful.