

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
September 17, 2022

ROCCO MEDIATE (-9)



Q. Rocco Mediate, thanks for joining us today. Looked like conditions were a little bit tougher today after a soft round on round one. Walk us through today.

ROCCO MEDIATE: It was just nasty, the wind was cooking. Same direction mostly, but it was good. I mean, it just makes it harder. It's what we all kind of like because if you play good, you can make a good move and stuff like that, but it was hard, it was tough. This course gets nasty when it gets windy, especially when it's firm, but it's not so you can still get it around pretty good. It will be soft tomorrow, too.

Q. It looked like you had a little bit of an interesting round, a couple bogeys but a lot of birdies on the card. Were you playing more aggressive knowing that you needed to get some scores or --

ROCCO MEDIATE: Just playing. That's the thing, I'm reacting to what I'm looking at, I don't even care. All this looking at swings and, you know what, I'm done with this, I'm just going to play. You know, it's working. I'm putting nicely and hitting a lot of greens and I haven't been doing that, hitting a lot of greens. That's different this week, so that's a good sign.

Today was a good day. It was in the heat of the thing, you know, and it worked pretty darn good. Tomorrow we'll see how we do on the first tee, that's all you can really do.

Q. So what do you think has been working for you. You said you've been hitting a lot of greens. Has that been the approach play?

ROCCO MEDIATE: Yeah, I've driven it decent. I missed a few drives today, but it was hard. It was just windy and if you miss a little bit, it's gone. On some, like I missed it on 13, the long 4, I almost got up and down, but I got what I deserved, put it that way. But just hanging in there all day just hitting a lot of good shots and that's what you have to do.

Playing with Ernie's always good, playing with one of the best players ever. Always get ready because you know you've got to come with it, so it was fun.

Q. It looked like a pretty decent crowd out here today. What's it like to kind of see that support from the community here?

ROCCO MEDIATE: I love noise and this is -- it's really a nice -- the finishing, a bunch of holes out there, a bunch of people out there, so it's good. I've always liked chaos, so it's good when it's noisy. It's just fun, it's just fun to hear roars. Whether it's for you or someone else, it's cool.



Q. Has anything in your swing changed lately?

ROCCO MEDIATE: I mean, I don't know. I mean, you try to make it better, but then you look back and go, it's just fine. It's like I was one of those overdue to look at it part, what's going on. I think all of -- not all of us, a lot of us do that. I'm kind of tired of that because it doesn't really help anymore. It's like I know how to get it around and I know what I think about. I mean, I don't know how else to explain it.

Jess has been on me, like just go play, I'm making excuses. I told her yesterday, this is a good one, I'm going to stop trying to prove, what's the word? Wait a minute, let me think. I'm going to stop trying to prove the -- if you do something over and over again, that's the definition of insanity. I'm going to stop trying to prove that wrong. It's correct, so I'm out. I told her that yesterday morning. I said, I'm done with this, I'm just going to go and see if I can put it in the first fairway and go and see how it does. But so far, it's good and that's what I'm going to do. I'm done with all that other stuff. We'll see.

Q. How similar is your swing from the PGA Tour to today?

ROCCO MEDIATE: It's fairly close. It may have been a little longer then. Not necessarily turn-wise, more of this (indicating) wise. I had a little more set. I was always a late setter, now it sets less. I don't know why.

In trying to chase -- making it longer, as long as the shoulders turn, which my shoulders turn, rib cage is turning 93, 4 degrees, that's huge for someone old. All that really matters. But you're trying to get longer and it doesn't work, all goes sideways.

And then also when you miss, you miss. I think I was chasing something that didn't exist, you know. Like of course we missed shots our whole career. I don't know what made me think I didn't because I certainly did. I think just chasing something that didn't exist and getting it done no matter how, it can be ugly, it can be pretty, doesn't matter.

Q. The results matter?

ROCCO MEDIATE: It's the score. I'm looking up and looking at the wind and going, I've always been fast anyway, that's it.

So we'll see how it goes. Tomorrow will be fun because it will be in the heat, which is good. I haven't felt that in a while, I look forward to it. It was fun today. I felt good today all day, even coming out making that silly bogey on the first day, but I hung in there and all of a sudden it turned, so that's good.

Q. What's the story behind the hat today?

ROCCO MEDIATE: My daughter's. My daughter, Francesca, she does four or five hats

every time I go home and they'll say a lot of funny things. This one says "golf is cool" on this one, right? Yeah, golf is cool. Yesterday I wore one that said "be happy" and everyone was looking at me like, what? This is golf.

I get we all still get to keep doing this and yeah, we get mad. I get more disappointed than mad, but we all do. You want to be as good as you were or better, but you just have to be what you are. Hard to do that, though, but it's fun.

Q. For everybody.

ROCCO MEDIATE: Yes, it is, it is, and that's where I see the change in the last couple days. Even Pete, Pete was tired. My caddie, who's unreal, he's like, I'm not doing it anymore. It's illegal now for me to film my swing like ever when he's around. It's illegal. I don't know what the ramifications are. But he goes, I'm not. Hey, I have the power to get rid of alcohol, this is easy just not doing it. React to what you see, simple as that.