

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
March 4, 2023



NICO ECHAVARRIA (-17)

Q. Nico, congrats on a fantastic round today, 7-under 65. Just a few comments about today.

NICO ECHAVARRIA: Yeah, it was a dream start. I found something on the range yesterday and even if I felt nervous out there today on some holes, I just kept putting my game plan and my feeling of what I found on the range and it worked really good. Happy with how I played, happy with the shots I hit when I was under pressure. Hopefully we can do it tomorrow.

Q. What was it you found? Are you at liberty to tell us what you found out there?

NICO ECHAVARRIA: Yeah, yeah. The last couple weeks I've been struggling in tempo and I've been having too many things in my head of technical-wise. It was not helping. The first two days I honestly felt like I was guiding it. I was making a lot of putts that made me keep the round going. Today just felt the swing, trying to feel it longer on every shot, and it felt comfortable yesterday and I've done it before while I was struggling with tempo and hips turning too fast that we played with that all day today and probably going to play with that tomorrow.

Q. As well as Carson has played the first two rounds, did you think you were just going to try to keep chipping away and catch up and get as close to a lead as you could? Did you imagine you would be where you are?

NICO ECHAVARRIA: You never think you're going to shoot 6 under on the front nine the third round, so I knew it had to be a low one because he had a big lead. I gave myself some really good chances on the front nine, putter was hot. The back nine, how I said, it plays a little harder, some shots into the wind that are uncomfortable, some tee shots. But I'm happy with the back nine finishing strong. Obviously not birdieing 18 feels like you lost a shot, but overall it's not a comfortable tee shot left to right with hazard on the left, so I'm happy with how I finished.

Q. Did you realize you're 14 under on the front nine and 3 under on the back?

NICO ECHAVARRIA: No, I didn't, I didn't think about that.

Q. You're playing really well on the front nine this week.

NICO ECHAVARRIA: Yeah, I know that I've been shooting lights out on the front nine.