

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
June 4, 2023

JORGE FERNÁNDEZ VALDÉS (-13, won 1st playoff hole)



Q. Jorge, four wins on Latinoamerica, but this is your first Korn Ferry Tour win. Can you take us through the emotions of winning this one?

JORGE FERNÁNDEZ VALDÉS: Yes, it was a long journey to get here. It's been like 10 years of professional golfer and I can't believe it, I can win here out here. It's really tough, there's so many good players and every week it's hard to beat everybody, so happy with this.

I played very well this week and like the last nine holes of the tournament I was playing pretty good but didn't know I was that close, to be honest. I saw Murray playing very solid and he was like 16 under, but then golf, it's golf and nobody understand this sport sometimes.

Well, I keep playing my golf, my strategy and I finish like kind of strong, you know, with a couple birdies on the par 3, which is a really tough hole, 14. Well, yes, I can't believe it, I won the tournament.

Q. You said it was a long journey. At any point today when did it start to sink in like, OK, I can actually win this thing?

JORGE FERNÁNDEZ VALDÉS: Actually, when I made the putt on the 14th, the par 3, I heard somebody saying, "You're leading now," so I was like OK, let's go. So I couldn't believe that. Then when I got to the 15th tee, I heard that again, "Let's go, you're leading," so that was the time that I realized that I was leading.

Then I played all right. I mean, I played a -- three-putted on 16, which was tough because it was a decent like short par for birdie and three-putted. That was tough. Then made a really good up-and-down on 17 and a good par here, had a chance at birdie.

Yes, I can't believe it.

In the playoff I hit the drive, my drive way right to the right rough and I got a shot from there under the trees. Like all I wanted is to have a chance for par, then I got this chance for birdie and I made it. Yeah, sometimes you never plan this game and sometimes happens. Really happy.



Q. With the putt to win it, how long was it and kind of what was your read on that putt?

JORGE FERNÁNDEZ VALDÉS: Actually, I putt like a singular putt on the 72nd hole and it was a pretty similar line, but I trusted it this time. Yeah, I hit it pretty good. Obviously the putt that I hit before helped me a lot to make it, which is unbelievable.

Q. How much more meaningful is this win knowing that your wife and daughter are here?

JORGE FERNÁNDEZ VALDÉS: Yes, it's huge. They just got here last Monday, last Tuesday and they're going to stay here for three weeks. Well, we didn't know we were going to end the first week just winning the tournament in Raleigh, but well, we are practicing and preparing our body to be better every week. Well, when it comes, you've got to take advantage of that.

Q. How special was that moment; the ball rolls in, you win and your family comes out on to the green to give you a hug?

JORGE FERNÁNDEZ VALDÉS: Yeah, it's a little -- it's a lot of things going on, like the last holes were tough. I mean, it's not -- it wasn't that easy like probably you can see from outside, you know.

Yeah, having them like following me the whole round with the baby, that little thing, you know, she carried it the whole day, it wasn't that easy. Yeah, I'm really proud of my family and the whole family.

Q. This win's going to help you tremendously towards going up the points list in search of your first PGA TOUR card. How impactful is that for the rest of your season trying to get to the Tour?

JORGE FERNÁNDEZ VALDÉS: Yes, it's huge. We are like in the half of the tour and we have a couple like 13, 12, 13 more tournaments, which is going to be really nice for me having a chance to get in the Top 30. Yeah, it's something we were looking for for a long time. Well, I'm in the position and I have to keep playing very well.

Q. Last one from me, any plans on how to celebrate tonight heading into this next tournament week?

JORGE FERNÁNDEZ VALDÉS: Actually, yes. Of course I love to celebrate with family and friends, but I'm far from them. But I have my family, my two.

So the thing is also I'm playing the Monday, the qualifying for the U.S. Open tomorrow and it's 36 holes, so it's going to be a really long day if I celebrate too much tonight. We'll just have a nice dinner and get some good rest to get my legs ready for tomorrow.



Q. Childhood friend Emiliano Grillo winning Schwab last week. Have you talked with him since his win? I'm sure he's going to be reaching out to you.

JORGE FERNÁNDEZ VALDÉS: Yeah, yes, of course, I text Emi a couple days ago after he won the tournament. I was so happy about all of that. I mean, he's an amazing player and an amazing person and he deserved that.

He also told me that I'm going to follow you this week, so play well. Yeah, he's probably going to text me today. Yeah, so glad for Emiliano and I would love to see him winning many times.

Q. How huge is it to continue the tradition of, you know, advancing golf in Argentina?

JORGE FERNÁNDEZ VALDÉS: Yeah, I know, I know this story is so big for Argentina. For everybody, but for Argentina it's big. I remember being watching Fabian Gomez, Carballo, Julian Etulain winning these tournaments and I was like, wow, these guys are really good and I don't know if I can do that. You know, you see too far and then, well, you know, when you play good golf, things happen.

But yes, I think all this helps a lot of young players to keep playing, to keep -- yeah, to keep playing the sport which is amazing. Yeah, very happy.

