

**BLUE CROSS & BLUE SHIELD
OF KANSAS WICHITA OPEN
BENEFITTING KU WICHITA PEDIATRICS**

**ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
June 16, 2023**



RICKY CASTILLO (-11)

Q. Ricky, I mean, leading right now, a great round out there today. Just what were some of the highlights for you?

RICKY CASTILLO: I mean, I just kind of kept it in play, gave myself a lot of chances. I think I ended up hitting like 16 greens or something like that. Just struck the ball really solid and ended up having some putts go in today, so it was a nice way to finish the round.

Q. No. 7 I heard was an adventurous hole for you.

RICKY CASTILLO: Yeah, I went, tried to carry the water. I think it hit something, kicked back and ended up about like halfway under water, halfway not under water. I looked at my caddie and said, I mean, it's playable, I can get it out. I was thinking worst case scenario, make 5, it's not a big deal. Ended up hitting it to six feet and making it for birdie and then making like a 40-footer on the next hole.

I mean, I thought it was going to be -- I mean, after the tee shot, that could have been a 6 or 7 and walked out of there with a 3, so it's a pretty nice feeling.

Q. You're known for having a pretty vivid golf memory. Is there anything that's kind of compared to that birdie there for you?

RICKY CASTILLO: Honestly, probably not. That was one of the best shots I've hit in a long time. Yeah, just overall today was a really good day, just stayed patient, didn't try and force anything out there, just birdies came, so it was good.

Q. And with the way the PGA TOUR U category works, like when did you find out you were in here? Did you have stuff booked for Canada? Just walk us through that.

RICKY CASTILLO: Yeah, so I made a decision to just try and Monday qualify, try and play in some of these. Ended up getting into this event with a sponsor's exemption on Friday night. Then I think I ended up getting in for the PGA TOUR U category on Sunday after the tournament finished.

It's just a great opportunity for all of us to be out here just get the chance to play all these events and stuff like that, give us a chance to play professional golf.



Q. Did you follow last week and the significance of Adrien's win?

RICKY CASTILLO: Oh, yeah. I know Adrien really well. I know all the guys really well. Fred was my roommate for three years, I dropped him off at the airport last week for the BMW.

Yeah, I mean, I was watching, rooting for all the guys. It was awesome.

Q. And one thing, talking to your college coach J.C. at Nationals, he said that pro golf will be really good for you just because you put a lot of pressure on yourself and you'll still collect checks even if you don't win. Would you say that's accurate?

RICKY CASTILLO: Yeah, I think just, I mean for me, I just really want to win, I just want to be in competition golf. I think all of us are just really excited to be out here and get the opportunity to play Korn Ferry Tour. Five, six years ago this wasn't a thing, so to have the chance just to be here is pretty special for us.

Q. And the PGA TOUR U program you mentioned, it kind of came up while you were in school. What would you say your path was going to be when you entered college and how did that program sort of change everything for you?

RICKY CASTILLO: I mean, personally, after I had a really good freshman year in college so I thought about, you know, turning pro after two years or something like that. But then once PGA TOUR U came around, just the advantages of staying four years and all the things you can get. A bunch of us are out here right now, so it's just a great opportunity for all of us.

Q. No. 17 out here, how was it when you went through there this morning?

RICKY CASTILLO: It was pretty quiet, there wasn't a whole lot of people. But if I'm out there tomorrow afternoon there will probably be a little bit more, a little more rowdy. It's an awesome experience being out here, it's a great golf course, great people out here. It's awesome.

Q. Has anyone like told you about 17 or anything or are you just waiting to see it for yourself tomorrow?

RICKY CASTILLO: I've heard some things, but I'm just kind of excited to see it for myself tomorrow when it's in full effect.

Q. Rickie, you played amateur before, but this is your first actually kind of professional tournament, right?

RICKY CASTILLO: Yeah.



Q. I was talking to Ross' dad out there, you guys played a little bit together. This is both of your guys' first ones.

RICKY CASTILLO: Yeah.

Q. How cool is that?

RICKY CASTILLO: Yeah, it's pretty cool. Actually, our final amateur event we played together. We were playing match play against each other at Nationals and first day we were paired together, so it's a pretty cool experience.

Yeah, just being out here just playing with all the guys, living our dreams, it's a pretty special moment.

Q. He said that you guys have had a little bit of golf history, even before college you guys have just kind of crossed paths ever now and then.

RICKY CASTILLO: Exactly, yeah.

Q. Is it kind of ironic a little bit that you guys get paired in the same group your first --

RICKY CASTILLO: Yeah, it's pretty cool. Ross is a really good friend of mine. Just being able to play out here with a lot of your buddies and being able to compete with some of the best in the world, it's special feeling. Yeah, it's awesome.

Q. And then the competition in your group, I know you guys were all neck and neck there for a little bit, just kind of what was that like today?

RICKY CASTILLO: Yeah, it was really good. I think just all of us fed off each other really well. I was making birdies and all of us were kind of making putts and in good position. I think it was just a really nice couple days just all of us together just playing really well and just feeding off each other, so I think it just kind of helped us for the long run.

