

CLUB CAR CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 1 QUOTES

April 4, 2024



MARCELO ROZO (-4)

Q. Marcelo, obviously you just noted the windy conditions here today, but got to be pretty happy with 4 under?

MARCELO ROZO: Yeah, no doubt. I stroked it from tee to green really well. I putted amazing even though I four-putted 8, the 17th hole, but I'm super happy. I'm really trying to focus on the process day by day, not looking at the results. I haven't started well this year, but I really kept working hard and that's the only thing I know what to do is just believing in myself and just going one day at a time.

Q. Played here a few times before. What are some of the challenges that this course offers?

MARCELO ROZO: With this wind and the pins are so firm around the greens, you really have to hit your spots, otherwise when you miss the green now with the collecting areas, the ball just rolls away, I don't know, 20, 25 yards from the green and then you have an upslope chip into the green. So that's kind of what I was focusing on today, like really hit a lot of greens. My putter's working well and I was able to put the ball in position all day.

Q. You doubled 17, technically 8 on the front. How important was it for you after the round you were having to come to 18, end with a par, potentially maybe a birdie and get on back on the right track before tomorrow?

MARCELO ROZO: That tee shot on 9, my last hole, was not easy, I'll tell you that. After making that double on 8, I just wanted the same thing, just to hit it on the fairway and give myself a chance for another birdie, which I did. I hit a good putt, it didn't go in. It was important to finish on a good note. I was able to kind of leave this behind walking towards the green, so that's what I did.

Q. As you alluded to, it had been a slow start to the season for you, but where's your confidence level now? Was the confidence going into today? Was the confidence level a little higher after 18 holes? Where's that at?

MARCELO ROZO: Definitely, because the 4 under today shows me that I'm heading on the right path with my technique and my mental changes that I've been doing. My swing, I've been changing it a lot. I was out for a year, I didn't hit a shot for one year because of an injury that I had. So confidence is there. It obviously helps to shoot this kind of score in tough conditions because it kind of reaffirms that I'm doing the right thing with my team.



Q. Preston mentioned that you've been here a few times now. Can you just speak on Savannah and the Club Car Championship and is this a weekend that you look forward to every year?

MARCELO ROZO: That's a good question, it's good you asked that. I love this place. To me it's, I don't know, top three events in the year for sure. They treat us amazing, the members, the tournament director, the food they give us. It's just a joy really coming to Savannah and then going to downtown. I have a great family that I've been staying with for the last five years I think, they became family, too. It's a week that I look forward to every year. Like I said, the course is just always in perfect shape. It's really a joy to come back here.

Q. Going back to 2013, obviously missing an entire season, can you kind of take us through what you were dealing with and I guess how difficult that was?

MARCELO ROZO: It's good you asked that, too. It was tough for me. I wasn't sure if I was going to play again.

Sorry.

Q. You're all right.

MARCELO ROZO: It's really a blessing that I'm playing. I'm super happy to be here. I'll just keep working. I love this game. I thought I was never going to come back, but through hard work and support from my family, my team, I'm here doing what I like. Whether I play good or bad, I don't care, I just like being out here.

Q. This season now with that mentality, is it kind of appreciate the moment, not get too down?

MARCELO ROZO: Yeah, that's really what I'm focusing on every day, just being thankful that I have a chance to come out here and do what I love. It's not easy. We get too focused on results and results really don't tell you the honest answer of your process. So I'm just trying to do my best, get one percent better every day, control what I can control, which is waking up every day, working out, eating well, practicing and really just trying my best. If at the end of the week or the year I get my card or I don't, then that's OK. But if you just do the right things and you can go to bed every night knowing that. That's what I'm trying to do.

Q. What was the injury that held you back?

MARCELO ROZO: I had a TFCC, I don't know, injury, broke a ligament on my left wrist. Like I said, I never had anything with the wrist, any injuries, serious injuries, but I understood now how complex the wrist is.



And really, like I could not hit a shot right after finishing '22, two weeks later I couldn't play. I tried to rehab for four months and December 20th my doctor tells me you've got to go do surgery. Like I said, that's why I was emotional. One day was like you need surgery and we'll see if you're going to be able to come back.

It really took me nine months to hit my first chip shot and it was so painful. Like I said, I wasn't sure if I was able to kind of play golf again let alone just being here. Like I said, it's a blessing and it's kind of where I'm living at, just being thankful every day and just working hard with my family.

I had a kid in the meantime, so that's really fun. Like I said, I'm happy to be here and just having the chance to play golf and do what I like.

Q. What was your -- did you have like a backup plan if golf didn't work out?

MARCELO ROZO: I got my real estate license because I like to really do different stuff for my family in the future, that's going to help us, I guess. But I just, I was going crazy in my house for four months, I was like, man, I need to do something, you know?

I really never had a backup plan. This is my plan A, B, C and you name it. I understood, too, through that time that golf is just golf. If you play for a living and you do good, that's all right, but if golf doesn't work, I'm still a great guy. I'm just really understanding the meaning of life with family and the things that really matter.

This is, like I said, it's a blessing being here, I give my best, but I'm not -- I'm trying to kind of separate who's Marcello besides the golfer, and that's really hard for all the athletes. I think that's super tough. I'm still in that process, but if it wasn't going to be golf, then my life is just going to be good.

Q. How special was it when you were finally able to come back?

MARCELO ROZO: It meant a lot. Like I said, just every day, first day I moved the ball two feet, it hurt really bad and it was like, oh, man, I don't know if it's going to work. I just kept pushing, pushing, and enjoying that grind. I do love the grind. I mean, I do like working hard and when things don't go right, you've got to just keep your head down and keep digging. I was just reading a book actually, just got to keep pounding on that brick, you know? You pound it 100 times and it doesn't break, then maybe the 101st time it's going to break. Just keep pounding, pounding, pounding every day and that's what I'm doing.

Q. That real estate license, do you have any background in real estate?

MARCELO ROZO: No, it's just liked it and I like kind of business in general. I thought it would be a good thing to know and to really get into for future opportunities for myself, for my wife, for our family. I think it works well with golf, too. That's kind of what I did.

