

**ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTES**  
**October 26, 2024**

**NICO ECHAVARRIA (-17)**



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**Q. Nico, how special was that last hole for you?**

**NICO ECHAVARRIA:** It was very special. It was very hard to see out there at the end. It was dark, it was gloomy, so I couldn't tell how close it was. I heard the roar, but when I got there and it was almost tap-in, it was very good.

**Q. What club was it?**

**NICO ECHAVARRIA:** It was a 5-wood. I had a perfect number for a middle of the green 5-wood. Was trying to cut it a little, maybe pushed it a hair, but it was perfect.

**Q. You made bogey on 4, but you came back so nicely with those four birdies. Just talk about your thoughts after that bogey on 4, a hard hole. What were you thinking of that led to such a nice run?**

**NICO ECHAVARRIA:** Yeah, it was a wake-up call. I hit one of the best 6-irons I've hit all week to two feet on a hard par 3. That got things started. Hit a quality second shot on the par 5, took advantage of that. Then hit it to two feet again on 8 and made a good putt on 9. So it got things going. Started getting shaky on the back nine with a bogey on 9 and an incredible save on 12, but we finished the round as well as we could.

**Q. Twelve was that pitch from the downhill, terrible lie. What sort of energy do you get from the eagle on the last hole carrying over?**

**NICO ECHAVARRIA:** Yeah, I mean, that's the way you want to finish a round. I had a good tee shot -- hit a good tee shot, hit a really good second shot and finished with an eagle. I prefer that than a birdie obviously.

**Q. Nico, I noticed you smiling a lot on the course today. Talk about that, how you're feeling out there playing, playing with J.T., you're doing it again tomorrow, you've got a two-shot lead. How are you feeling with all this?**

**NICO ECHAVARRIA:** Yeah, I'm just trying to enjoy myself. This is a beautiful country with great people and we've had an incredible time. They've treated us very well. The crowds have been awesome. So I'm just having a good time out there and making a lot of birdies, so that's the reason for smiling.

**Q. What's been key to your great week so far, Nico? Looking at your season, one top-10, but a great run so far this week.**

**NICO ECHAVARRIA:** Yeah, I've hit the ball well. I've hit it very close, I've made a lot of putts. It's been consistent. I've kept it in the fairway mostly and that's the key out here is hitting from the fairway. The greens are in great shape, so if you're in the fairway you're going to have some good looks.

**Q. Did you find anything on the range when you arrived here?**

**NICO ECHAVARRIA:** No. I mean, I've been playing well, I just haven't had that many good results. I played well in Utah, I finished 11 or 12th maybe, yeah. Last week, how I said, I made 12 birdies and missed the cut. That's a good sign that if you're making that many birdies, it's because things are going the right direction. Seems like it's clicking this week.

**Q. You said yesterday you've led before after 54 holes. When was that and how did that come out?**

**NICO ECHAVARRIA:** That was in Puerto Rico.

**Q. That's the one you won?**

**NICO ECHAVARRIA:** Yeah, um-hmm.

**Q. Any experiences from Puerto Rico that can help you tomorrow do you think?**

**NICO ECHAVARRIA:** Yeah, absolutely. Obviously this is a better field than the one in Puerto Rico, there's better players out here, but a win is a win. I'm going to rely on that and keep doing what I'm doing, trying to have fun and see where we go.

**Q. What are you going to try to focus on tomorrow?**

**NICO ECHAVARRIA:** Just stay in the moment. It's a cliché, but it's really important. You don't want to go ahead with yourself, especially there's a lot of hard holes out here. You just have to hit shot by shot and try to be in the fairway, try to hit the green and see if the putt goes in.