

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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NICO ECHAVARRIA

MODERATOR: Good morning. We would like to welcome Nico Echavarria from Medellin, Colombia, to the media center here at the World Wide Technology Championship.

Nico is coming off a victory at the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP, the previous PGA TOUR stop, so he's carrying great momentum heading into this week as he makes his second start at this event, playing last year and finishing tied for 31st.

Nico, first we would like some opening remarks and tell us about repercussions of your win, going back home to your loved ones, your team, how was that celebration after the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP win.

NICO ECHAVARRIA: Thanks, Greg. Yeah, it was very cool. A lot of emotions, a lot of new things that a second victory and a victory on a very big event come with but all positives.

Happy with the progress that my golf is showing. A lot of times we're very focused on results and not on what we're doing to prepare for these big events or in general for the tournaments. So it's good that the results are showing of the great work that me and my team are putting in.

MODERATOR: Anything that stands out from last week taking in the win, getting back together with the people you love?

NICO ECHAVARRIA: I was glad that there was no tournament and I could take that week off. It was very tough to readjust after such a big time change from Japan. We had a little too much celebration on Sunday and that flight on Monday was tough. Yeah, I'm glad I had the week off. I started practicing again on Thursday, taking it easy and getting back into tournament preparation.

MODERATOR: This is your first start as a two-time PGA Tour champion, which must feel great. You're now one of only two Colombians with multiple PGA TOUR wins. How about that?

NICO ECHAVARRIA: It feels great not only having two wins, but when I talk about how small golf in Colombia is and we've had a lot of success for our country where golf is minimal is incredible. For the future generations, it's going to be good. It's always positive things.

Yeah, very excited for teeing it up as a two-time PGA Tour champion, that's very cool to hear, but at the end of the day you start from even par. Everyone starts with the same



amount of strokes, so back to square one where you've got to be focused. It's a new event, it's a new course, it's different conditions, so carry on the momentum, but be humble and be ready for golf. Golf is very hard, so anything can happen, but obviously we're in a good time.

MODERATOR: You played here last year, tied for 31st. You left this event feeling good. Well, you know the course, so it's nice to come to a place where you have played before, so your thoughts on playing here this week again?

NICO ECHAVARRIA: What I remember from last year is I struggled big time after the victory in Puerto Rico. I had to birdie my last hole on Friday, the par-3 No. 9. I made a 20-footer to get inside the cut number. I had a long stretch of missed cuts, so that's actually one of the coolest moments of the year, making that putt. It was almost dark, you couldn't see much and there was a lot of emotions after so many missed cuts. Making that cut, I played really good on Saturday and Sunday, so it was a cool week last year.

MODERATOR: Golf is about taking advantage of the momentum, you're carrying good momentum. Last year we saw what happened with Camilo, he played great here, runner-up and then went on to win the following week. It's a big opportunity to take advantage of the momentum, right?

NICO ECHAVARRIA: Yes, absolutely. How I said, you start from zero in a tournament, but you're also playing good golf. It's not out of luck, entire luck that you win a golf tournament. It's 72 holes and you have to play great golf. So yeah, use the good momentum, as you said, that you have, but also be conscious that anything can happen. You can have a great week or you can also miss the cut and that doesn't change from winning last week.

I'm taking in a different perspective. After the first win in Puerto Rico, I just struggled with my game and knowing that that can happen, you think in a different way, you prepare yourself in a different way, and also you have more experience. So all good things after Japan, but you have to be ready on the first tee tomorrow.

MODERATOR: Last one in English, the FedExCup Fall has been great to Colombia, two wins and a runner-up finish. Just starting from last season, so that's great for you guys, you and Camilo.

NICO ECHAVARRIA: Yes, there's a lot of good tournaments for us in the fall, great courses. I mean, being able to play PGA TOUR events in Mexico, we have two tournaments in Mexico, which is great. They treat us incredible, they make us feel like home. So it's not out of luck that Camilo had a good week. He was probably feeling good. He likes to play in the wind. Then he went and played in Bermuda in the wind and won. A lot of things that make up for good weeks is these courses are made for our games.

