

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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CAMILO VILLEGAS

(Technical difficulties.)

CAMILO VILLEGAS: (in progress) last year, so that kind of gives expectations in terms of kind of what we have to do out there. Set a plan for each day and try to put ourselves in contention.

MODERATOR: Last one from me. Nico Echavarria is a good friend and coming off a win at the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP. The FedExCup Fall has been good to Latin Americans, especially Colombians with two wins over the last season.

CAMILO VILLEGAS: Yeah, I was so excited for Nico. Nico's like a little brother in a way, I saw him grow up back home.

Yeah, it was very cool to be there in Puerto Rico for his first win. It was awesome to have him there in Bermuda last year when I won.

Yeah, I was not there in Japan. I did go to bed, I was tired, but I woke up in the middle of the night to see if he had won and I was very happy and excited for that.

I think Nico, it was very interesting, I stayed with him the week before in Vegas and he got the bad wave. Vegas this year had a very tricky wave where one side was so much harder than the other. He missed the cut. I remember talking to my brother, I said, hey, I see Nico doing good things, man, I think something good's coming for him at the end of the year. I saw him focus, I saw him working on the right things, I saw him structure, I saw him more confident. I was probably not expecting a win, but he goes to Japan, ends up winning the golf tournament.

Yeah, it keeps helping the game grow in South America, Latin America. Like I said, keeps inspiring others and I think that's all we can do out here. We can inspire those young generations to dream, but it's up to them to put up the hours. I mean, inspiration just plants a seed and then from there on it's each individual that has to kind of put the time, work. Put that passion with a little bit of -- almost with a little obsession because at the end of the day, if you want to play against the best in the world, you almost have to be a little obsessed with what you do. We just try to inspire and then the young generations need to follow with the work.

Q. Camilo, you just mentioned the younger generations. Being in the room as part of the leadership of the Presidents Cup this year, do you feel like you draw inspiration



from that younger generation to stay motivated?

CAMILO VILLEGAS: Absolutely. I hope I inspire them in some way or another as an assistant captain. I think they've seen what I've done and I think there's respect.

But yes, I'm also inspired by them during the week. It's a very fun week, it's a special week. They got us working hard to see how we can keep getting a little bit better, a little bit better and lifting that trophy. It's a goal not only of the players, but the assistant captains and the future captains and the whole kind of team and staff around the International Team.

It was very cool to be in Charlotte, Trevor trusted me to help the team. And then Mike Weir, a good friend and Canadian legend, it was nice to be in Montreal.

Once again, it's a highlight week for me every two years. I hope to continue to be involved with this great team, with the many cultures and try to help these kids get themselves in the best position possible to go perform and lift a trophy.

Q. And given how busy you are with PGA TOUR leadership tasks, the Presidents Cup here and more, what do you find yourself working on with respect to your own game when you have the time?

CAMILO VILLEGAS: Everything. You know what, the game of golf, there's no time to stop. We've got long seasons, we've got a lot of goals and we have some tough competition. I'm not getting any younger, either.

I'm an active guy, I enjoy the process, I enjoy waking up early, I enjoy giving my best both in the gym and the golf course and the range.

And kind of the new rules I have in life from Mia's Miracles Foundation to being the PAC chairman to future board member here the next few years, it is busy. Being a dad, can't leave that one out. It is busy, but it's fun and it's challenging.

I think my life has kind of been -- the energy keeps moving by the challenge. In a crazy world in a hectic world where so many things are happening and so many challenges are coming up, I'm up for it.

Q. You knew when you were making changes to your swing that it was going to take some time. What was it that you finally felt clicked and what do you think hasn't worked this season?

CAMILO VILLEGAS: Your question was -- I could barely hear you. You said trying to make changes and what was it that clicked?

Q. Yeah, what clicked in Bermuda, here and in Bermuda?



CAMILO VILLEGAS: Man, I wish I knew, to be honest. You know, I think that was very interesting because I gambled big time and I started working with Jose Campra from Argentina and he told me this is going to take a lot of time, this is going to be tough, I need you to be patient because there's going to be times where you're going to want to quit on me just because it is some drastic changes and you've been swinging the way you swing for a long time.

He's a good friend. We played junior golf together, South American tournaments, great caddie, great teacher. He caddies, too. And I believed in him, I trusted him and I was very patient throughout the year. We were doing a lot of things that kind of maybe didn't make too much sense to me and then eventually they started clicking and clicking and clicking. I started understanding his system to the point where every -- more than me asking questions, I was just kind of giving him explanations of why things were moving a certain way. And every time I'd give him an explanation, he would agree that was what was happening.

The tough part was to be mentally calm. I mean, I remember last year here I was -- I just played two practice rounds at Tesoro where second stage of Q-School was going to take place and I was supposed to go there and I was working on my yardage book here as I was playing this golf tournament to go play second stage of Q-School.

But I wasn't worried. I had my back against the wall and I don't know why I wasn't worried. So I guess it was a little bit of that understanding what he was trying to give me that gave me that clarity. And boom, it clicked. I played great here, I fricking threw away my Tesoro yardage book for second stage of Q-School. I thought I was going to go to finals after that and then I go and win and no Q-School, so here we are.

Q. Are you still playing with that sort of calm this season?

CAMILO VILLEGAS: I can't hear you, bro. The mic is off.

Q. Have you stayed calm this season as you had some struggles?

CAMILO VILLEGAS: It's been frustrating at times. I have to be honest, I'm not very proud of the fact that yes, I have been somewhat calm and when I try to analyze the situation it's because I'm exempt for next year. There's no other explanation in my mind.

Again, that has been my weakness in a way. At 22 when you win a golf tournament, you kind of keep pushing, pushing, pushing. At 42, I feel like I won last year and I feel like I bought time, I bought time to keep working on my game. It's kind of bite me in the ass a bit where I just kind of need to be a little bit stronger and keep going.

Again, I want to close out the year in a good tone for 2025 because 2025 will be an important year for me and I want to come out here, challenge myself, perform and play some good golf.



