

ALBERTSONS BOISE OPEN presented by Chevron

ROUND 4 QUICK QUOTES

August 17, 2025



EMILIO GONZALEZ (-22)

Q. Emilio, congratulations. Just sort of walk us through some of the highlights of the round and then maybe when you thought you had a real chance to win this thing today.

EMILIO GONZALEZ: Yeah, thank you so much.

Yeah, I mean, just holing out for eagle on the first hole definitely set the tone for the day looking back, but then birdied the two par 5s, which was a great ideal start for the situation. I was three back coming into the day so I knew taking care of those first few holes was really important.

Then the round kind of slowed down a little bit for the next three, four holes. I made a pretty silly bogey on 4, but from there on I made an incredible birdie on 5. No, on 7 to -- no, sorry, on 8 I holed out from the bunker, which was another hole-out, which was great.

Then from there, just I kind of blacked out a little bit. I knew that I needed a special finish for that to happen and then I, yeah, birdied 15, eagled 16 and then birdied 17. That just kind of did it for me, it was great.

Q. How often were you checking leaderboards today to figure out like where you were at and kind of what you needed down the stretch?

EMILIO GONZALEZ: I did not look at the leaderboards at all, I just knew the situation I was in, especially once I got to 15 tee. I mean, the people, a few came over, I knew exactly where I stood. But the first leaderboard I looked at was actually here on 18.

Q. So you had a little over an hour before you knew who was the winner. Kind of what did you do with your time and what was your thought process waiting to see if your lead was going to --

EMILIO GONZALEZ: Yeah, me and my caddie just went into player dining and sat down. I didn't want to go just putt or hit balls for that long since they still had like an hour to go, so I hung out for a while. They first told us that Jeff, they thought that he made birdie on 17, I told my caddie, OK, let's go hit some balls because if he would have made birdie, it would have been a playoff. But it wasn't that way and they made a mistake it looked like.

Yeah, we stayed on the range, just hit a few balls, and Jose (indiscernible), the rules official

just told us after Jeff almost hooped it that we were good.

Q. Did you see how close Jeff came to holing out on 18?

EMILIO GONZALEZ: I didn't see it but I heard it. I actually thought he holed it for a second, so I was like, OK, I guess we're doing this.

No, it's just pretty special. Jeff has been playing awesome golf especially this summer. Not surprised that he gave it such a good run here on 18.

Q. Considering the stakes, how would you kind of rank this round for you personally over your career? Has to be pretty far up there?

EMILIO GONZALEZ: Yeah, absolutely. As I said earlier, I had never won as a pro. The only other win I won was first stage and second stage of Q-School. Never something that gave me not even a check or any sort of just kind of make me advance to final stage of Q-School. It's still really cool to finally get it done, especially here in Boise after a long summer. Just capping this off, yeah, just super special.

Q. You said this course reminds you a bit of your home course. What is your home course and what about it is similar?

EMILIO GONZALEZ: Yeah, my hometown is San Miguel de Allende. It's a golf course called Golf Club Melanquin. It's very similar, it's short and tight. Well, narrow fairways. There's not as much elevation, but the greens have the same type of grass. It's up in elevation, so I grew up on something really similar. It wasn't a big adjustment for me to like adapt to altitude, the golf ball going too much further. I mean, since I can remember I played at altitude so I kind of knew how to adapt to that pretty well, which is nice.

Q. How did you get into the game and who kind of introduced you to golf?

EMILIO GONZALEZ: My dad and my siblings. I'm the youngest of three, and I remember my dad would take my brother to some local junior golf tournaments. He was the first one to kind of get into golf and my sister and I just followed him around. I was like I kind of want to do that. I was never pressed into it, it was not like we come from a massive golf family or anything, it was just something that was introduced to us, to me and my siblings and it just worked out and now we're here.

Q. When did it become a goal to try to I guess try to play on the PGA TOUR?

EMILIO GONZALEZ: I mean, when I was a kid I always loved golf. I grew up playing all sports, but since I was a kid I dreamt of becoming a golf professional. I was nowhere near good enough until like I got to college that I could consider it, but always a dream was alive so it's just special to be here.

Q. Knowing you're Tour Bound and going to be a PGA TOUR member next season, what kind of goes through your mind and just body when you just think of that?

EMILIO GONZALEZ: Yeah, I mean, that's the third time I hear that in the last 10 minutes and I still can't believe it. First of all, I told my caddie last week that our goal was to be Tour Bound before French Lick just to take a little bit of the stress out of the week, but I mean just to do it before all the Playoffs, and going home and knowing that I got three weeks to enjoy with my fiancée and my dog, knowing this is just super special, so just really excited about that.

Q. I noticed after photos you hugged a couple folks on the sidelines. Did you have a chance to have family here today with you to witness this?

EMILIO GONZALEZ: I did not, no. Just people that I've known from last year. Just people from Mexico and Latin America following me throughout the week, especially starting since last year, they came and watched again. So like the least I could have done was just share a picture with them.

But then I had Rick and Caroline, who used to live in my hometown, they're from Boise and they moved back here this last year and they followed me all week, too. It was super special just to have them around. Yeah, I mean, they made me feel like family was really close to me and yeah, they're sitting right there waiting for me.

Q. Do you mind running through the eagles real quick on 1 and 16? I saw you hit that approach really tight on 16, and then 1 you said you holed out from the middle of the fairway?

EMILIO GONZALEZ: Yeah, on 1 I hit 7-wood off the tee and then we had I think 150-some yards to the hole. It was a perfect number for a pitching wedge to land it four, five yards short of the hole and let it skip back there and it went in the hole.

And then on 16, pulled my drive barely into the left rough I hit it and we were in between clubs. And my caddie, actually credit to him, he told me to trust the club, it was a 6-iron from 215 yards I believe. It landed 15 yards short of the green and just trickled back to two feet or so. It was pretty stress free, it was nice.

Q. I know this is kind of a cliché question, but you know, \$180,000 check is pretty awesome. Is there anything that you want to get with that money like right away, like a little gift you're going to give yourself for making the PGA TOUR and getting your first win?

EMILIO GONZALEZ: I don't know. I've been craving getting a home gym so I'll probably invest into that, we'll see. I've got to look into numbers, I guess.

Q. Who's the first person you're going to call?

EMILIO GONZALEZ: My fiancée.

Q. How did you wind up at St. Mary's?

EMILIO GONZALEZ: Funny story. I wanted to play college golf for, I mean, my whole junior career, but I mean it was so competitive, I didn't rank too high up for big schools to look at my name.

My sister actually played college golf also at St. Mary's. She's a year older than me, and thanks to her, she reached out to the men's head coach and said, hey, my brother doesn't have a school, he's a pretty solid player, like if you're interested, here's his contact info, and we started chatting. I didn't really have many other options. I had a few other community college options to go to. My grades weren't high enough either to go to a good school.

Fortunately, I grew a lot at St. Mary's, and thanks to my sister and the coaching staff at St. Mary's I'm here, too. So it's a pretty cool opportunity thanks to them.