

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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ROCCO MEDIATE

Q. We'd like to welcome Rocco Mediate to the Constellation FURYK & FRIENDS. You were able to get on the course earlier today --

ROCCO MEDIATE: I was on the course Tuesday, the place is mint. It's perfect. Only thing bad is the stupid weather we might have, but it's perfect. Timuquana is awesome. It's a relatively new course, it's only 102 now, so it's relatively new. Ross gem, it's great. I mean, not because of last year. I played here years and years ago when I lived here, it's magnificent. The fact that Jimmy got us the tournament here is cool, very cool.

Q. You won in bad weather last year.

ROCCO MEDIATE: It was just rainy, yeah. We're looking at 30ish mile per hour winds. This place becomes even more evil with that going on. It's always good, it's a challenge. There's nothing you can do. We all have to play in it.

Q. How are you playing so far at this point?

ROCCO MEDIATE: Well, I've been awful this year. In a nutshell, I've been awful. Some little small injuries like all of us have that kept me out for a few months but I'm fine. Rickie Smith and I worked -- it's better. Today was as good as I've been in a long time.

Now, can I bring it tomorrow? That's the thing. There's several steps. One, can you do it on the range? Check. Two, can you do it when you play like today? Check. Three, can you do it tomorrow in a tournament? I'm not sure yet. Unsure. Four, can you do it with a chance to win? Would love to check that off too shortly. So I'm halfway. We'll see tomorrow. Everything's good.

Q. What kind of goals do you have? Do you want to wake up every morning and play golf when you're physically capable?

ROCCO MEDIATE: No, it wasn't like a bad like couldn't play thing, it's just nagging. We all have 'em, we just do. It's not a big deal.

But no, I still think I -- I wouldn't do it anymore if I didn't think I could, and I'm not talking about just taking a spot like I have most of the year. I still think if I can get myself where I'm moving towards now, it may not be this year because I only have a couple events left. If I played good one of the next two events I'll get another one, but you are where you are because that's what you deserve.



So I'm not real concerned, but I'm not done yet. Sometimes you think you are, but I keep -- I still love it, that's the danger. It would be amazing if I said I hate this, I'm not playing anymore. Good, but I still love it, absolutely love the challenge. I want to be home more with the little one, with Francesca and Jess, and I am. I only played 15 last year, which is fine. So we'll see.

Q. Miguel's having a lights-out year and he said it's all about the putting.

ROCCO MEDIATE: Yeah, sure, because Miguel's always outstruck most. He's always been a tremendous hitter of the ball and when you putt like he has this year, this happens. He just keeps going and he's making -- you know, he's hitting it better than most and he's putting better than most. That's a dangerous combination and he's got it. Plus, he's one of the greatest guys of all time.

Q. Do you guys share a cigar?

ROCCO MEDIATE: Oh, absolutely, all the time. We always trade out. His are always better than mine, because they're right from Fuente and sometimes he'll give me Cuban stuff. We switch a lot. He's a beauty, beauty.

Q. OK. But I guess what I'm saying, in the future what more do you want out of golf?

ROCCO MEDIATE: I don't know. I love the radio show. I do only two days a week. I love it because I get to talk about -- it's unfiltered, I can say whatever I want. I mean, I don't swear or anything. I guess you could on Sirius XM but I don't.

I just like talking about the game and teaching a lot of stuff. My Instagram is all about teaching, and we call it research and development. This is the development stage. On my Instagram stuff I'm talking about how to help everybody. It may not always be right but it's like my whole career's been research. How do I get better, how do I do this, asking people questions. Now I'm throwing it out there just because, that's the development. It's like basically one of my little charity things. I don't monetize Instagram, I just give it back. A lot of guys seem to like it so it's good.

Q. Over the years I don't think there's ever been a bigger Tiger fan than you have been when he was in his prime.

ROCCO MEDIATE: Love him, 100 percent.

Q. Is it unfair for Tiger comparisons being made with Scottie or do you think Scottie may one day live up to something close to that?

ROCCO MEDIATE: Win-wise, no, I don't think so. World No. 1 ranking, I think he breaks it as the streak he's on now because he has the game to do that.



See, like Rory's awesome. Xander's, they're all awesome. Scottie doesn't miss that much. He doesn't have any foul, foul balls. The other guys do. So the way he drives it, if he continues to play, if he doesn't quit, he will surpass Tiger's No. 1 ranking in this run, I'm telling you, unless he gets hurt. Hopefully that won't happen. Hopefully he didn't go skiing or hopefully he doesn't cut himself on whatever. But if he continues to do exactly what he's doing, is he going to win seven, eight times a year? I'd say probably not but he could. There's not many other guys you could say that about. Scottie's too much like this, it's so unbelievable to watch and I think he breaks Tiger's No. 1 ranking.

Q. You're right about one thing, he doesn't make doubles and he doesn't shoot 76.

ROCCO MEDIATE: No. And is that going to happen? Of course he's going to have his bad times, of course he is, it's just golf. But man, the way he does it now, this is what Tiger did, the same thing. He didn't make a lot of mistakes with foul balls.

Q. Yeah.

ROCCO MEDIATE: So I think Scottie's got a shot at it. Is he going to win 90 times? I don't know, I would doubt it, but can't say he won't. Can't say he won't. What did he win seven, eight this year? Are you kidding me? What did Phil say? He won't win before the Ryder Cup. He won five times, two majors. Please. Stop it.

