

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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ROCCO MEDIATE



Q. Rocco, welcome back to Pennsylvania.

ROCCO MEDIATE: Good to be home, kind of home.

Q. Kind of home. How does it feel to be kind of home?

ROCCO MEDIATE: It's good, I love coming back. It's on the opposite side, the Philadelphia side, not the Pittsburgh side. There's a little rivalry there, but it's great being here.

Q. And how has this course --

ROCCO MEDIATE: Well, William Flynn, there's nothing else you have to say. He built a few other ones that were good besides this one like Shinnecock, Merion Country Club, Cherry Hills. You know, little ones that no one ever heard of. The guy was a genius.

This is some of the coolest greens I've ever seen. He used the land here, he didn't move any dirt. They really couldn't move a lot of dirt back then, but all he did was build tees and greens, just follow the land. Genius. Beautiful place.

Q. Roc, can we get into this season about what Stewart and Zach are doing? I mean --

ROCCO MEDIATE: It doesn't surprise me though. I'm not like -- it's impressive, but it's like, yeah, that was gonna happen. Zach wasn't -- Zach played right up until he was 50 basically. Stewart did the same thing. So they came out here and they're really, really, really good. All those guys like that, nothing surprises me what they're doing. Zach has always been that type of player. He still is very fit, hits it plenty far enough, that's just what Zach does, and he's the best wedge player out here.

Q. Do you think this tour is deeper now than --

ROCCO MEDIATE: Oh, God, it keeps getting -- well, I don't know if it's deeper from then, it's just more -- you know what I mean? Every year we're getting really good players, especially the ones that didn't stop for 10 years.

You know, like Justin Leonard, Duval, they were out for a while, it took them a few to get back to normal and they're back to kind of what they should be doing. But when you keep playing the whole way through, it's way easier if you could say that. If you're off for 10 years, man, it's hard.



I've never done that, so this is 41 straight for me, straight. So it's like yeah, I'm getting a little tired.

Q. Speaking of that, is this the last one this year?

ROCCO MEDIATE: No, next week, next week, yeah. I'll play Furyk down at the Palm Coast. Yeah, so I've got Francesca, she's into some volleyball stuff. It's just a whole different world now, it's a whole different -- it's good, it's good.

Q. Since you always have opinions on things --

ROCCO MEDIATE: Yes, I do.

Q. -- just a couple. What do you think the right balance is in the Playoffs between rewarding what guys have done all season and giving more players a chance to win the Schwab Cup?

ROCCO MEDIATE: If you're going to have a thing that you do all season, it needs to mean something. Otherwise, don't have it. Just have a money list and the top-30 get on and whoever wins, wins. Like the Tour, the PGA Tour did the same thing, which it's OK but why have all the -- they've got the money and everything, the bonus money, which is great, I love that part of it with their tour.

But with us, it's like if you're gonna give is -- if you're going to play great all year and then not really have it matter till the end, why is there a point system? Just make it like it used to be, money list top-30. Well, top-36 in our case, and see ya.

So I don't know -- I enjoy -- like ours, only a certain few can win ours still. It hasn't changed, it's the same this year and that's how it should be. If you played great all year, let's just say I sneak into the top -- let's say I win the next two events to get into the Playoffs and I finish 36th. I don't deserve as much as a chance to win the whole Schwab Cup as Stewart or Zach or Padraig or Steven or anybody because I didn't perform for the year, right?

They performed all year, these guys played -- I mean, think about the numbers they're putting up. Look at Alker, I'm still here guys, don't worry. He's unbelievable. Zach and Stewart, this will sound like we're not impressed, but that's what I expected from these guys. Nothing different than what I thought was going to happen with these guys.

Is it easy? No, but that's who they are. And there's so many good players out here, there's so many good players out here. It's fun to see. This is, I don't know how many years, 13 years, I've seen all this. It's pretty cool, it's pretty cool. I enjoy watching when I'm not playing to see what the guys are up to.

And it's changed on our tour, too. Balls going further, guys are younger, guys are stronger, blah, blah, blah, it goes miles. And it is harder.



But someone like me still can do things if everything is like good. It has to be really good in certain areas or there's no chance. But it's the way it is. It's the end of -- you know, the circle's coming to the end here and I get that. I'm not like, oh, my God, I'm so -- I don't really complain about it, I just try to see if I can -- I still -- my problem is I'm very fit, I'm very in good shape as far as motion and mobility. The only one that's stopping me apparently is me because the physical part is not -- I'm fine. So it's like I almost wish -- I don't wish, but I almost think it would be easier if I was 100 pounds overweight and I couldn't move. Well, I can't play anymore. That's not the case, so it's a pain in the butt right now, but I'm still working at it.

Q. You're still having fun?

ROCCO MEDIATE: Oh, I love it. That's the problem, see? I still love all the preparing. It's like I'm not going to play as much next year probably, but as long as I have something to look -- let's just say I'm going to get into one of the Hawaii events and I'm done next week. I have three or four months to at least have something to prepare for. Not every day, but you know what I mean, something in the future.

I don't know what it's going to be like when I'm done. I mean, I know I'm going to spend more time with the little one, and she's growing, growing, she's 11 years old now. I've got all that stuff, which I love.

But as far as what I do, what we do, it's interesting. You get sad, but then you're like -- it's like Jess says to me, she says, you do understand that you've been doing this for 40 years, that's not normal. So I mean, I'm talking all of us, not just me obviously. That's a long time. Basically I've been on the road for 41 years. It's a long time.

We all sacrifice a lot. You just see what we do -- well, some of us when we're on TV but not necessarily myself, but you see that. That's just the end result of what we have to do even at our level, even at our age. I'm not going to come out here at least thinking I'm ready to play because then it's even -- that's when you know -- if I don't have anything to get up for to work for, then you're done. I still have that.

But I'm not going to waste my time or anybody else's time. When I know it's done, I'll know. There's not going to be any like retirement tour, no one's even going to know. I've had -- this has been one of the coolest things in my life as far as PGA Tour and Champions Tour, that's all I've ever done.

Q. Back in the state like we started the conversation, I know it's other side of the state, but are you -- any visits, any family coming?

ROCCO MEDIATE: No, a couple buddies might come up from Greensburg. That's a pain in their butt, it's five hours. I said, what are you doing? You've been watching me play for -- they might come up. Not as many.



I'm staying with a buddy, Barry, over at -- over near Saucon. It's just good to be back home. You know, look at the hats, you know, Laurel Valley, but it's the Pennsylvania hat.

Q. I didn't notice that.

ROCCO MEDIATE: See? So yeah, I love being like -- when I go home to Laurel and Greensburg, Latrobe, Ligonier, I love being home because I always tell people, you can't change where you're from, right? Some people leave and don't want to ever go back, but it's still where you're from. You have to tell people.

So when I'm announced from Greensburg, Pennsylvania, and I don't live there now, why do you announce from Greensburg? I said, well, that's where I'm from.

Mr. Palmer was from Latrobe his whole career, that's where he's from.

But it's great coming home, it's great. The whole -- the people, the terrain, this reminds me of -- I laugh, where I grew up at Greensburg Country Club, this -- Lehigh's very up and down. Greensburg makes Lehigh look flat. That's how I learned, on slope, up, down, side, every which way you could look at.

My weirdest thing when I went to Florida for school was it was flat. I was like, what the hell's going on here? The only thing we played on that was flat was tees.

So it's good being here. You hear some of the guys going, what about this fairway? That's the terrain, deal with it, that's the terrain. They didn't have big tractors back then, they just used the land like -- a lot of architects take a look at Flynn stuff and I'm sure they do and learn from it, and learn from it, especially with this site. Great stuff.

