ROUND 1 INTERVIEW October 18, 2019

ROCCO MEDIATE (-5)



Q. So you got out, you were 1 over on the front nine and --

ROCCO MEDIATE: Yeah, I was playing okay and then I hit it close on 10 and 11, just made a few putts. Missed a couple, but I made a couple goods putts. I almost birdied both the par 3s, just missed them. It was good, it was a good day. It's always good playing with Miguel, and Kent's great. Kent didn't play great today, it was one of those days, but it happens to everybody.

Q. Is it one of those things where you just make one birdie and it turns into two and you --

ROCCO MEDIATE: Yeah, I just kept trying to put it -- you know, the numbers were good and I kept trusting my stuff and it all worked out nicely. It was clean, very clean today. A couple missed -- three-putted four, but that happens. Made a couple good par putts, a couple good saves on seven. Seven, made a good save. I hit it that long left in an old divot and I mean, I was trying to make five, hit it out about 10 feet and made it. Huge, so yeah, just solid.

Q. Coming off that win a few weeks ago, are you still riding the wave of that momentum?

ROCCO MEDIATE: Oh, yeah.

Q. You found confidence --

ROCCO MEDIATE: Yeah, I'm just letting it rip, yeah. I mean, that's -- since Seattle, since all the equipment change and going back to the old feelings with the golf swing, the ball's doing what I'm asking most of the time. Sometimes it doesn't listen, but yeah, it's good right now.

Q. What were the big changes with the equipment?

ROCCO MEDIATE: Well, heavier shafts and much stiffer, much heavier. Same length, much more loft. Forty-degree 8-iron, which is unheard of. But my numbers, I can get my numbers and spin is with the Bridgestone balls, the XS spins beautifully, I can control it. So having spin and control is huge and that's what I -- since Seattle, my numbers have gone -- skyrocketed. They've gotten much better. I knew there was an issue and we fixed it. Mike Biviano, who worked -- built all my clubs that I've won with, we talked about eight weeks ago. He goes, what are you doing with the light shit? I'm like, I don't know, I'm an

idiot, what are you going to do? He goes, let's go back to Rifles, which they just came out with, 7.0 mids, stiff, stiff, heavy X. My driver was already good, but Ping made me a beauty that I can hook. All of a sudden I can stand up there to the right, look and have it do what I ask it to do. Or like today, I didn't curve a lot early. Coming in I did because I wanted to. My living's made with -- our living out here is made with controlling the spin.

Q. It sounds like significant changes but back to specs that you've used before?

ROCCO MEDIATE: Specs I've used from late '80s, early '90s.

Q. So maybe not a big change because --

ROCCO MEDIATE: It's back, I'm back, but I've been out of there for two or three years, four years and it's been a nightmare, just could not control the distances or the curve. And Rickie Smith and I go do the same thing we've done for 35 years, same old thing. I draw, period.