

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
March 9, 2019



ESTEBAN TOLEDO (-7)

ESTEBAN TOLEDO: Everything. I guess my caddie, Louis, really helped me on the yardage. He gave me perfect yardage all day. Hit a lot of fairways. Had a lot of confidence out there. Shooting a 70 yesterday, right after that I didn't putt well, so I went to the putting green and I stayed there for about 45 minutes working on a few things.

Then I went to the driving range right after about 5:30 working on a few things with my driver, and today I just hit it spectacular. I hit it straight, long, and I had a lot of confidence.

As soon as I birdied 2 and then birdied 3, it just gave me a lot of confidence, hit a lot of greens. Fairways are a little dry a little bit.

And to be honest with you, the tournament director is doing a heck of a job getting all the things together. Jeff doing a pretty good job. Beyond that, what's going to happen tomorrow, I don't know, but I guess I'm ready to go.

Q. Home court advantage at home, food advantage and everything else?

ESTEBAN TOLEDO: Sometimes it's hard when you're the local guy, you know. I met my wife in this beautiful country club and all of a sudden I had my daughter born at Hoag Hospital. It doesn't get better than that.

I guess a lot of people pulling for me. I can see it on the back nine cheering for me. I don't know who they are, but it got me going. I really believe that I've got to go out there and try to win this thing. I won four times and I would like to win this one.

This one would mean a lot to me since I met my wife, all the members, my daughter was born in Hoag Hospital. I mean, it doesn't get better than that.

So a lot of pressure, but I've been there before, so I've just got to go out there and just play well. And I have a good caddie, so that really helped me.

Q. Is your caddie from here?

ESTEBAN TOLEDO: He's from Venezuela. We talk about Venezuela, we talk a lot of politics out there. We going through a tough time as a Latino, but we're going to go through it.

Q. My wife's from Venezuela, I know the story.

ESTEBAN TOLEDO: There you go.

Q. The birdie on 17?

ESTEBAN TOLEDO: On 17, I've been there many times. I know it was right to left and I told my caddie, I've got to make this. I had a feeling that I was going to do it, I've just got to get the right speed. It was a straight down and about a foot and a half. I don't know if something happened, kind of turned left a little bit because it was on the right side and it kind of bounced a little bit. About a foot it was all the way in. So I did it like Greg Norman up in Memphis, Tennessee. I mean, it was great.

I just can't wait for tomorrow, it's going to be a lot of fun. And I'm playing well, so have a lot of confidence. I know this golf course well, but at the same time it's hard to win as a local guy. But I'm not going to put pressure on myself, I know how to do it, just got to be --

Q. Any family and friends here?

ESTEBAN TOLEDO: Yeah, everybody's here. My daughter's here, my wife, my friends. I mean, I don't know, it just felt like just it's my home, you know. Even though I'm in Houston, but --

Q. Do you still have a place in Irvine?

ESTEBAN TOLEDO: Yeah, my daughter lives there because she goes to college. I live in Houston. Stay away from California as much as I can.

Q. You still have a home, though?

ESTEBAN TOLEDO: Yes, I do.

It's going to be fun tomorrow for all the fans, you know, and through all the weather through the week, to have this, it's cold, windy, but it seems like the people, the fans, they're having a heck of a time. And I think they're the ones that are going to win the whole thing, with the sponsors. I believe just the whole thing is just fantastic. Like I said, Jeff Purser, the tournament director, is doing a heck of a job.

And I got a sponsor exemption, so I kind of have to -- he gave me a sponsor exemption a little while. I like to win it for him, to be honest with you. I think he gave me the chance to play and I'm going to try the best I can to win this one for him.

Q. You talk about pressure. Is there such a thing as good pressure, though, because this is kind of a positive kind of a pressure, you know what I mean? It's a little different than just "I'm trying to win." Your home is little more of a -- you know what I'm saying?

ESTEBAN TOLEDO: It is a lot of pressure. I was a little nervous coming down the stretch. I made good putts and great shots. Like I said, I won four times and it's tough, but I do believe I'm going to go out there and try my best tomorrow. If I can make some putts, and the way I'm hitting it today, I have a good chance to win it, so we'll see what happens.

Q. What's going on with your foundation, the orphanage and all that?

ESTEBAN TOLEDO: I did not get in last week in Tucson. I asked for a sponsor exemption, they told me no. So I have four weeks because my son is getting married in Dove Canyon on the 30th and right now he's in Cabo having a good time with his friends.

So I have four weeks off, so I've got to do something because I'm not going to go to Mississippi very unfortunately, because I love Mississippi. No, I mean -- yeah, Mississippi, right? Mississippi.

I've just got to play well. It's also a lot of pressure, but I enjoy myself. I've done a lot of good things for golf and my orphanage. Whatever I make is donated, some of it to the foundation. I have beautiful 10 kids that I love, they're my family. I just visit them right after I didn't get in in Tucson. I drove down there with my caddie and I promised them that I was going to win this tournament. So on top of that, it's for them. They're wonderful little kids and I'm pretty sure tomorrow they're going to watch me on TV because we have a TV.

Q. Like the Babe Ruth of golf if you win, promised the kids?

ESTEBAN TOLEDO: Well, I'm going to give it all.

Q. In Mexicali?

ESTEBAN TOLEDO: They're all in Mexicali, my foundation. I built a facility for them. They didn't have any food before, now they have plenty of food. They didn't have a house before, now they have a beautiful home. And they didn't have love before, and now they have love and that's the most important thing for my foundation.

And my wife has supported me, everybody. I'm going to have my tournament in Los Cabos December -- I believe it's Saturday, I think it's the 8th I think, or the 4th. I can't remember, one of those. I invite all the amateurs to play and support my tournament and make all the money for the kids.

Q. What month is that?

ESTEBAN TOLEDO: December, it's going to be in December. So I've got a lot of things going on. I'm happy and smiling, so tomorrow's going to be a good day.

Q. What happened on 18?

ESTEBAN TOLEDO: Well, it started a long time ago back when I was at the U.S. Open at Pinehurst, Carolina. They played the U.S. Open with -- I chip it in on 17 from the bunker and I just threw the left hook because I'm a boxer. It just -- I always throw the left hook. Got to be at the right time.

Q. You didn't do it on 18, but you do it --

ESTEBAN TOLEDO: No, just I did it on 17. Yesterday I did it on 17, so hopefully tomorrow I do it on 18. It's a lot of good players coming down the stretch, so we'll see what happens tomorrow.

Q. If you give them the hook earlier, then they won't have a chance to beat you.

ESTEBAN TOLEDO: Well, they already know what's going on.

You know what, I just want to say hello to all the fans up here to come up here from Newport Beach to support Jeff and the whole hospital and the whole enchilada. It's going to be great tomorrow, good finish. Hopefully, it doesn't rain.

Q. The back story on how you met your wife here?

ESTEBAN TOLEDO: Yeah. She was a waitress, she was a waitress back in 1994. I came in to play the Taco Bell Classic back at the time. I was throwing peanuts on her and I told her that she was going to be my wife, and she say that I was loco.

About three years later I put a ring on her and see what happens. So I married her and now we've got two kids. It's been fantastic. She thought I was crazy, but I wasn't crazy. I know what I want in life, and I got two kids and they're wonderful. So it's going to be a good day tomorrow.

Q. Is that the first encounter? You told her the first time you met her?

ESTEBAN TOLEDO: She was there waitressing and I asked her for a coke, and she charged me one dollar the first time and the second one didn't charge me, so I'm assuming it was something nice. Her name is Colleen. Now we're 20 -- what is it, 27 years together? Kind of proud of myself, you know?

Q. Did she go to the dance with you, or the concert?

ESTEBAN TOLEDO: Yeah, we went to the disco right on the Marriott right there. I don't know if it's there anymore, but there was a disco, so I want her to go down there and we had a great time.

Then the funniest thing, we went jogging the next day and I took her for breakfast and I forgot my money, so I have to ask her. I have to borrow money from my caddie later on to

pay her. So that was the story.

Q. Have you and your wife spent much time in Los Cabos?

ESTEBAN TOLEDO: Yeah, a lot, actually. If I win, every single time I win I take my caddie to Los Cabos. He book a ticket Monday to Venezuela, so we'll see what happen. Hopefully he doesn't have to go to Venezuela. Hopefully we go straight to Los Cabos and we go for a little margarita over there.