

Valspar Championship

Thursday, March 20, 2025

Palm Harbor, Florida, USA

Innisbrook Resort (Copperhead)

Ricky Castillo

Quick Quotes

Q. 4-under with a birdie on your last, how did you feel about your opening round today?

RICKY CASTILLO: Really happy with how it ended up. Just being able to shoot something in the 60s on a course like this, the rough is up, wind's blowing, greens are firm. So just a lot of you different variables out here, just a really tough golf course.

Q. You said happy coming into the clubhouse with the score, what do you think it's looking like this afternoon for the guys still on the course?

RICKY CASTILLO: I'm just glad I'm done, let's just say that. Yeah, it's just really challenging out there. You just got to be focused on every single shot just because the wind can kick up on a three-footer and make it just that much more difficult and that's just kind of how it's going on right now, just everyone's going to have to just focus on every single shot and make sure you're not just whacking it.

Q. Second time here, last year played on a sponsor exemption, what do you like about the test of this course?

RICKY CASTILLO: I think it just really is a good golf course. I mean you just have to really have control of your golf ball off the tee and into the greens. Just knowing where you got to miss. This is a golf course where if you're in the wrong spot you're just not going to have any chance to get up-and-down and make par and make birdie. So just knowing where you got to miss is super important out here for sure.

Q. Prior to last year had you seen this course at all from AJGA events or anything else?

RICKY CASTILLO: No, no, last year was the first time I set foot here but, yeah, it's an unbelievable property. One of my favorite courses to come to.

Q. On a busy stretch since Mexico Open, is there



anything you've been fine tuning with your game or how are you feeling, exhausted with the stretch?

RICKY CASTILLO: Just little things, just my mental game has probably been the most, the worst part about it. It's been tough, I mean, when you're on the road for so many weeks at a time it can get, take a toll on you, so just this week I really wanted to focus on just having a good attitude for 72 holes or whatever, and just making sure that I'm mentally ready for every shot.

Q. What were you up to this weekend since post-PLAYERS?

RICKY CASTILLO: I didn't do much, honestly. Just took a day off and just relaxed and then just drove down here on Sunday. Just nothing crazy, just trying to relax after so many weeks on in a row.

Q. Did you fill out a bracket prior to today at all?

RICKY CASTILLO: No, I didn't, I'm just hoping that I don't have to and Florida wins it all.

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