

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
November 12, 2025

RAFA CAMPOS



Q. Rafael Campos, welcome back, defending champion of the Butterfield Bermuda Championship. Here with an addition to the family. That was all happening a year ago, wasn't it?

RAFA CAMPOS: Yeah. It's all thanks to her that we're here and now talking to you guys.

Really excited to be here back in Bermuda playing the Butterfield Bermuda Championship. Obviously it was a life-changing moment for me and my family, and celebrating here this week with us is my mom, dad, my daughter. She turned 1 yesterday.

Q. Happy birthday.

RAFA CAMPOS: But obviously really excited to be here and hopefully we have a good week as well.

Q. How different is it coming back to a venue where you're defending? What's different about it?

RAFA CAMPOS: It's funny because I feel more comfortable. That's something I always wanted to see how it feels to become -- to be a defending champion. Honestly, I feel really good. Feels different. It's not been a good year so far, but I was really looking forward to, these last couple months, getting here and hopefully feeling some good energy coming my way.

Right now I'm actually very positive for this week. I know it's going to be windy, which is something I want, and kind of gets my mind off of the golf swing and more of like shot shaping and all that.

Yeah, it feels really good to be here and trying to defend a title.

Q. You mentioned that it's been a difficult year for you this year. What sort of led to that? What have been the issues for you mostly?

RAFA CAMPOS: I was very fortunate after the win last year that I knew I had job security for two years. That year I honestly was not playing good golf. My caddie and I, we made a call, we wanted to make changes, we wanted to change coaches, change our whole routine.

We know it takes some time. Normally when you make a change, a good four, five, six months. Started getting really frustrated. I was not seeing the positive changes. It seemed to



be getting worse and worse every single time.

Yeah, that's the whole reason. I got no excuses. I mean, no excuses. I made some calls and turned out to not be the correct ones.

Right now I'm working with Boyd Summerhays and a couple other guys mentally as well that we're trying to figure out a way to get back to just play golf and not really focus so much on our swing.

Yeah, this year -- I thought last year was bad, this year was even worse, but it is what it is. I made a call, it didn't work out. But fortunately we still have a job for next year and hopefully next year will be very, very different.

Q. It's funny, do you believe in karma a little bit? Coming in here last year you missed 13 cuts in 15 tries.

RAFA CAMPOS: Yeah, doesn't look that different right now.

Q. This year is really similar, 10 and 12. Is there a different feeling or is it kind of similar?

RAFA CAMPOS: I still am -- last year I was very depressed. I won't lie, I was extremely depressed with the game. I do feel the same way with the game right now. Apart from golf, my life is really good right now with my family and all that so I kind of lean back on those feelings.

But when I'm talking about golf, I do feel equally lost. Like I said, I was really looking forward to coming here, hopefully getting that little click, different energy, different vibe, remembering the good times, the good things that happened last year.

I'm just hoping this week, doesn't matter what happens -- obviously I want to win, I really want to defend the title, but I'm hoping I can get away from this week with some positives. You're just try to hopefully enjoy a little bit more no matter the result and just keep working on it.

It was a very, very tough year work-wise for me. I know results were horrific, but I also put in a lot more time than I normally do. Sometimes -- I sat down with my wife and all that seeing if the whole process I've been doing is the right one. I used to not really practice as much, I used to really enjoy the game of golf. Now it's been pure work. I don't know if that's kind of led me astray a little bit, but hopefully, hopefully at the end of this week and next week, RSM, we get a better picture of what I have to do for the following season.

Q. How much inspiration do you think you'll get by having your entire family here? I believe your parents are here, too?



RAFA CAMPOS: My mom, dad are here, my wife is here, my daughter's here.

Huge inspiration. It's so cool to actually be able to bring them here to the place that actually changed all of our lives; not only my life but theirs. I think this was a no-brainer this year to bring the entire family here and actually celebrate my daughter's birthday yesterday.

I think it's a lot of inspiration honestly. I know once I start tomorrow my focus will be on golf. I don't want it to be, I want to try to feel the same things as last year. Last year I didn't care about golf and ended up playing well.

Hopefully, the focus is there but I find a way to enjoy myself here especially knowing that I've had good results in the past.

Q. What was the highlight of the birthday day yesterday?

RAFA CAMPOS: Highlight of the birthday. First thing I thought, I told my wife the day before, I'm like, "Honey, thank God that you didn't buy like an outfit or anything like that."

She looked at me like, "Do you really think I didn't buy an outfit?"

She had a little tutu thing and like a little shirt that said "first birthday."

The best part about yesterday, especially since it was a rainy day, windy day, we stayed in and it was just spending time with them like in the hotel room and singing, like calling our other family members and celebrating her birthday. It was just a very relaxing day. I think it was like perfect to celebrate her first birthday.

Q. When was the last time that you had your parents at a tournament with you?

RAFA CAMPOS: The Masters, the Masters. That's a tournament I did not want anybody to miss. So it was April last time, so it's nice to see them back at it again. Hopefully next year, we're already trying to plan out a few extra tournaments so we can all enjoy it as a family. Yeah, so it's been a good five months or so.

Q. The Masters was a benefit from winning this event. What was that week like for you?

RAFA CAMPOS: Extremely memorable. I still talk to everybody when they ask, how was the Masters?

Remember, we play golf for those types of occasions, you know, for those types of championships. Honestly, I'm not a fan of changes that have been going on lately. I think everybody that wins a tournament, especially in fall, deserves to play in the Masters and major championships.



I think for me it was the most memorable week of my life other than the win here and the birth of my daughter.

The reason is because we honestly grow up wanting to play these tournaments. You strive so hard, you really work hard. I think everybody deserves it, especially at this level once we're playing against so many great players, I think everybody, we all deserve to at least have that opportunity when playing well.

So what a week that was, especially the two Mondays prior to that I went for practice rounds and I just couldn't believe how beautiful that place was. No spectators, no anything and you kind of really could feel the aura and the mystique and the whole history behind Augusta.

I really want to win again. I really want to play well because I really want a little bit of redemption back there. Like I said, I just, I'll keep working hard. I'm not quitting on this. I really think my best golf is yet to come. I know hopefully by -- I mean, I'm rock bottom right now. There's not many places you can go further back than right now. Hopefully I stay strong, positive, and we start seeing some results that will bring me back my confidence.

Q. Just a couple more. I talked to you a couple years ago about your fitness challenge and weight lost and getting healthy and you've maintained it. Can you talk about that a little bit?

RAFA CAMPOS: Yeah. It's actually not been that hard to maintain. Very surprised. It's all eating now because I still work out every day. I made it a routine of habit. I'm very fortunate I got no injuries so that can't be an excuse, you know?

No, it's definitely helped me play all the events that I've been able to play, no injuries whatsoever. I like waking up now, going to the gym. I feel I have to do it before I play golf just so -- I'm not getting younger, you know? And the kids coming out nowadays, they look like they're a rubber band right now playing.

Yeah, I'll keep doing this and I'm happy I'm kind of wavering around the same weight.

Q. Good segue actually talking about kids. You're paired the first two days with Michael Brennan, who just won in Utah a couple weeks ago. Changed his life kind of like you changed yours. Have you met him? Have you played with him before and what --

RAFA CAMPOS: So I had not met him. We were on the charter bus going back from Cabo to the airport and spoke to him pretty much a good 20 minutes or so. Seems like an unbelievable kid. I was really impressed with his golf swing. I told my caddie, you know what, I'm really looking forward to playing with Michael. Obviously I'm playing with Sahith as well, love that guy.

It's a great pairing obviously. And I do want to see Michael hitting balls because his swing is



made for this type of place. Short swing, was able to hit really low drivers in Utah.

No, the talk that we had those 20 minutes, seems like a great guy and I know he's going to have a wonderful future here.

Q. Last year's a blur, right? Sometimes looking back on it, has there been like a memory, a shot, a conversation, something from last year that's come back to you being here the last couple days?

RAFA CAMPOS: Yeah, the last putt. Honestly just remembering that putt fall and the things that came to my mind, my family, my wife, my daughter.

That's the biggest thing, the recurring thing I go to actually, especially like in the down moments I've had this year. I kind of still have like three or four videos of some shots. Like the second shot on the par 5 on 7 on the last day, the chip on the last hole. I still have those videos, I keep looking at them like just reminding me like, hey, anything can happen in this game, just keep trying to put yourself there in these positions, just keep trying to hit the ball forward and things might change, your life can change and all that.

So I do look at those three or four videos occasionally throughout the year just to get me out of the depression I'm at, just make me realize that, you know, there's a lot of bigger things and people behind you in this game.

Q. Where do you keep the trophy from this, the distinctive Bermuda triangle?

RAFA CAMPOS: Literally, I have a room behind my actual bedroom with all -- the tournament I won in Abaco, Bermuda, and it literally is sitting right underneath the little plaques that we get from the scorecards after we win.

So it's in my trophy room. There's not many trophies, there's a lot of empty space around. Hopefully we can fill them out, but it's definitely the right place in the house for me to always remember.

