

FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW: CARLOS FRANCO
September 6, 2016



DAVE SENKO: All right. We are joined by our 2016 Shaw Charity Classic champion, Carlos Franco. Congratulations, Carlos, on your first Champions Tour victory. What does it mean to you to finally break through?

CARLOS FRANCO: I'm so happy, finally won my first tournament in Champions Tour especially here, this country, Canada, love the people here because my ex-caddie from Canada in Japan tour and PGA Tour. Well, give me nice memory here. I play so confident this week, I don't know why but that's I needed a long time ago but maybe my game come back.

DAVE SENKO: You capped off the victory with a birdie on 18, a very nice celebration in front of a large gallery. What did it mean to you to cap off the victory in such a show I fashion?

CARLOS FRANCO: When I come, the last hole, you know, I don't remember the last 16, 17 hole, only I played 18 holes, my mind is only I need to finish and finish good. I no nervous for the win the tournament, I no nervous for the score, but I need to know don't give it too far opportunity to take a stroke, leader, Bernhard and Jeff. And I start good and I take a big confidence and I come power today and yesterday too and my best score in my life, make a 63, 63. The score is not too easy, but you need to hit it good and so straight and good putt in to make a low score. You know, something, one week you play good, one, two days, you have always chance to win.

DAVE SENKO: We'll open it up for questions now.

Q. (No microphone.)

CARLOS FRANCO: After win this week I think so, more sweet now. You know, long time ago, no win a tournament, no win in South America, no win in the regular season, and I lose my game couple years and come back again this week. And I hope my focus stay with me and my game same too. And win the Champions Tour no easy because you know everybody is a winner here, especially Bernhard Langer, you know. This guy, I can't believe he play so well. I played with Tom Watson yesterday and when you see him it's unbelievable, you know, 66 years old, 65 years old, the guy still same swing about 25 or 30 years ago, it's unbelievable. That give me I think so the more confidence to come back next day because I know what happened, I know what kind of guys I need to play today, you know, and I respect the -- big respect I have for two guys, Jeff and Bernhard and other guys too on the front nine. But first you need to respect the golf course. When you play good you guarantee you have chance to win. That when I win and came back happy and strong to touch the trophy.

Q. (No microphone.)

CARLOS FRANCO: You know, I prepared to come play here this tour, you know. Web.com and PGA Latino, too many young guys, too many hungry player there. That's a good practice for us to come here to play because I know here hungry too but I think so it's give me good experience to play web.com and PGA Latino because this guy plays strong and never give up, you know, because looking for a card to come to the regular season on the PGA Tour, you know. Well, this happen in the golf game, you have to say no finish for this game because every day you learn or learning more this game because you have to respect the golf game because one day maybe you shoot 73, one -- another day you maybe shoot 58, that's the nice for the golf game.

Q. (No microphone.)

CARLOS FRANCO: I can't believe -- I know that Bernhard Langer is the number one putter in the world here because he won how many tournament he won, 30 something. I think so this week my best times on the green. I play so well, I make a good couple putts, but putting you can win the tournament because you see the guys how many low score and I focus in on I don't know why I love much this course, I come here for the first round and second round and third round. I no get bad. I saw Bernhard Langer, okay, I saw Watson, I saw other guys, and I say, oh, my gosh, I have to play good, that's my game for this win and look my present right now, patient, confident, power and happy.

Q. (No microphone.)

CARLOS FRANCO: I see that Lanny Watkins talking yesterday on the TV, he say when somebody have to win this tournament they need to make a couple low scores, 63 or 65, you know, but I know that one because the guys play this course, I don't know why this course not looking easy, but the guys played so low score, you know. I say no, no, I speak only -- when I start my first or second hole I say I hope no going too far for the leader because I like to win the tournament because I want to win to start to come back again on the season.

Q. (No microphone.)

CARLOS FRANCO: Wow, this is a fantastic feel I have there when I make this putt longer, when I make this putt because I know that I need to make a 2-putt to win the tournament. I think so this trophy inside me right now and maybe he give me more confidence to come back for the next tournament. Very important to win here now.

Q. (No microphone.)

CARLOS FRANCO: You know, long time ago I asking to TaylorMade guys give me one, and now I have after the win, that's beautiful, right? I thinking maybe when I go doing the fishing that's nice because my country is too hot. Save for sun there.

Q. (No microphone.)

CARLOS FRANCO: This is one how Argentina guys caddie, he caddie to John Vanderbilt and he say, Carlos, I hear that one when I hit my third shot and I say, sshh, quiet, I need to play my putts. And, yeah, South American people is very kind, very warm people when I see Argentinian, Colombian guys coming to play the last hole and chance to win the tournament I have -- I feeling same too for the people. That's good.

Q. (No microphone.)

CARLOS FRANCO: I know, checking my wife, fine, I don't have telephone with me. I think so, yes, Paraguay maybe the people so happy there because I am the player, the more trophy make my country, you know, worldwide. Soccer, whatever, you take everything together, you know, have my total winner -- my total trophy there because that's the people love me very much and I respect that. Not too easy to hero in your country when you win -- when you're rookie of the year in America, when you won PGA Tour two time -- four time, sorry, and when you -- two time the President's Cup and after magnifico year you have on the regular season after you play so-so, you know, the guys sometime push you, give you -- not give you power, give you low, and that's -- you need to support that one. And I support more than 10 or 14 year right now after my last time win, I'm so happy right now.

Q. (No microphone.)

CARLOS FRANCO: Well, that's exactly happening, I have a two-year exemption after four time win on PGA Tour because next year in June is finish for me and I no make 300,000 in almost year and a half. Now I pass half million, I'm so happy, and winner this year and next year I have exemption and I hope play better and make more money and stay still on the season.

Q. (No microphone.)

CARLOS FRANCO: Yeah, think so very important when you play two guys together or three guys together, good player and now you have chance to play good too. When sometime you know another place or so, another player okay, you know, you don't have much chance because the guys on the front attack and pass you, you can't catch, you know. I think so Bernhard give me -- he push me a little bit and give me more power and confidence. I know this guy no miss the shot, no miss the putts. He make a lot too but I respect very much him and I hope he respect my game too today because I never give up. I go always on the front and fight for make more birdies and I know the score is maybe close to 16 or 18 on the par I say but I no focus for my score, I focus only for my play play well and finish top 5 or top 10, that's fantastic for my career.

Q. (No microphone.)

CARLOS FRANCO: Yeah, you know, sometime this green give me good line, you know, I

read nice because when I play a couple putt on the practice days, you know, looking sometime hook, but no hook. Looking sometimes slice, but no slice. I think so looking only for speed on the green because you can hit it hard, you can hit it a little nervous or tension, guarantee you lose the stroke on the green or speed because speed very important here and looking a little bit on the line is that's I think my best confidence on my green about after the win here.

Q. (No microphone.)

CARLOS FRANCO: Well, think so after number -- when I make No. 7 hole and I see, oh, I'm the leader, oh, my gosh, I say, but I told you guys I come so well so confident and today and I respect everybody one shot or two shot because two shot or three shot, no finish the last hole, nobody win yet. You have to finish the 18th hole and that's the -- you have to say who win the tournament.