



*(Photo Courtesy / Luis Andújar - Golf Puerto Rico TV Show)*

Round 3 - RECAP

## **Amateurs fight it out as Campos pulls away**

*by Alberto C. Medina / PRGA Staff Writer*

**Río Grande, PR** - Rafael Campos all but wrapped up on Saturday his second consecutive professional title at the **PRGA Championships, presented by Johnnie Walker**, where the remaining drama is squarely among the players vying for the amateur crown at Trump International Golf Club.

Under a scorching heat in Río Grande, Campos shot a 69 to come in under par for the third straight day and bring his overall score down to -8, by far the best in the field. Campos, who has been at the top of the leaderboard from the start, bridied three of four par-5s on the day en route to building an almost insurmountable nine-shot lead heading into the championship round.

In second place stands **Edward Figueroa**, who hasn't ceded that spot on the leaderboard since Thursday. Despite a double-bogey on 18, a hole he eagled in the first round, the impressive 18-year-old shot even par to remain at +1 for the tournament, a score he shares with Max Alverio after the pro shot -1 today.

Figueroa's closest competitor among the amateurs is Jerónimo Esteve, whose third-round 72 allowed him to remain steady at +4, in the tournament's overall fourth place. After veteran pro **Miguel Suárez** (+6), amateurs **Daniel Cabán** and **Erick Morales**, both at +7, and defending amateur champ **Robert Calvesbert** (+8), complete the picture at the top of the leaderboard. All three shot even par in this third round.

While Campos may be practically unassailable at the top, and Figueroa enjoys a solid lead in the race for the amateur title, all of these players have good reason to try to climb the leaderboard as much as possible tomorrow. The top three golfers (after Campos, who has already qualified) will receive an exemption to play in the Puerto Rico Classic, a November

tournament which will be part of the PGA Tour Latinoamérica's inaugural season.

*"I didn't even know that," said Figueroa recently about that additional prize. "That's awesome. It definitely makes me want to go out there and play well; it's a huge incentive."*

### **Ortiz stumbles**

Meanwhile, in the Ladies category, Kristina Ortiz followed up her unexpected first-round 72 with a disappointing +10 in the second round, which caused her to slide to third place. She now trails Yudika Rodríguez (+9) and two-time defending champ Paola Robles, who shot an exceptional 70 to take over first place. The ladies will play their third and final round tomorrow.

In the Seniors and 'Super Seniors' categories, Venezuela native Fernando Díaz had the only score under par so far with a 69, and he now leads the field at +3. César Serrano (+10) and Elvin González, Sr. (+12), lag far behind in second and third place, respectively. The seniors will also finish up tomorrow.