Phoenix Open Rd. 2: Villegas Takes Flight

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With almost a decade of Phoenix Open's under my belt, you'd think I'd be used to the spectacle outside the ropes by now. Truth be told, I don't think the scene at the Waste Management Phoenix Open is something anyone can get used to—but for one week each golf season it is an unusual thrill.



Women in gold sequin dresses, high heels clacking against cart paths, college students in "Team Phil" screened tees and (in the words of Lloyd Christmas) beer that flows like wine, are all aspects that converged Friday to make second round gallery duties a little more difficult for diehard golf fans.

Second round play began Friday morning with Camilo Villegas's name adorning the leader board's top spot. Throughout the morning and afternoon, players like Anthony Kim, Rickie Fowler, Pat Perez and Alvaro Quiros turned in stellar scorecards that flirted with the first place— that is until Villegas started his afternoon round and picked up where his first round 62 left off. The Colombian ended the day with a 69 and a total score of -11, which was good enough to hold a share of the lead with Mark Wilson, who finished with a 66.

Villegas comes into the Waste Management Phoenix Open off of a third place finish at the Accenture Match Play Championship, beating Sergio Garcia in the consolation match last Sunday in Marana. Prior to the opening round this week, Villegas spent some time between Phoenix and Tucson on Tuesday not teeing up, but rather trying not to throw up.

The 28 year old met up with acrobatics pilot Kirby Chambliss at Flying Crown Ranch in Eloy for an aeronautical ride Villegas won't soon forget. Villegas boarded Chambliss's Edge 540 acrobatics plane and the two proceeded to endure innumerable corkscrews, loops and spins high above the Sonoran desert.

Wonder if all those Gs help the golf game? Come Sunday, I guess we'll find out.

For pairings, parking and patron info, visit www.wmphoenixopen.com.