



**PAT PEREZ ( - 13)**

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**Q. Pat, 7 under for today and the clubhouse lead. Tell us about your round.**

**PAT PEREZ:** Yeah, it was actually surprising, I didn't think I really played that well. I got off to a slow start, I was 1 over through four. No, through three and then I birdied 12 -- no, what did I birdie? 13, 14. I didn't birdie 18, either. I just got off to a slow start. We had the break obviously and just went out, and I like the front, I play better on the front. Just made some decent shots and I putted pretty well today. My short game was good so that saved me.

**Q. More than three hours of delay. How did you reset and bounce back with four straight birdies on your back nine and finishing your round with back-to-back birdies?**

**PAT PEREZ:** Good question. I just made some good putts. I had a good up-and-down, I hit a good shot on 2 and made a good putt there and then on 3, and 4 I made about a 16-footer. And I got lucky on 5, I hit it on the cart path twice and went down there so I only had 150 so I made birdie there. And I had a great save on 6, good 7, and great iron on 8. I got lucky on 9, I hit it way left and I had a shot and made birdie. Overall it wasn't a great ball-striking day, but I scrambled well and I got the most out of my round.

**Q. Everyone's going to be aggressive for Saturday and Sunday. What sort of game plan for the weekend?**

**PAT PEREZ:** Same thing I've been doing. I'm going to try to hit it better. You're going to have to putt well anyway. Anytime you're trying to win you've got to putt well. So the guy that wins hits it pretty good, but he putts the best, he scores the best. I've got to try to do the same thing on the weekend. Obviously Justin, as he did it with low scores last year, the last two years. So yeah, just going to be the same, got to try and make birdies and go as low as you can.

**Q. Just give us your assessment for the day, pat. A bit of a (inaudible) day, but it seems like after the rain delay you played so much better?**

**PAT PEREZ:** Yeah, I didn't really rush anything. I was just kind of taking it slow. I had a great time playing with Hideki and Brandon, they're great guys. We had some laughs and some fun and that makes it more comfortable for me. I hit some good shots. I wasn't hitting that great so I didn't really have a whole lot of pressure of hitting it close all the time and I just kind of relied on my short game, and I've been putting well all year so I just relied on that.

**Q. You talked a lot about putting the last few days. What have you been doing right on the greens, especially this week?**

**PAT PEREZ:** Well, I putted great all year. I didn't really hit it great this year but I scored well. My short game's been good, I work on it all the time. I've just been seeing the putts go in all year and it really helps when you can start to see 15-, 20-footers go in and you make a great save from the rough or the bunker, whatever, it keeps your round going. You know, basically that's all it's really been.

**Q. Did the course play any easier after the rain delay?**

**PAT PEREZ:** No, it played longer. I don't hit it that far anyway, so it played longer for me. So it was a little more challenging because I couldn't get it to where I was the last couple days, yesterday. Just played a little longer for me, but I just have to change my strategy a little bit.

**Q. Your position you're in again on the PGA TOUR, what's important for you to maintain over the weekend with a good field chasing you?**

**PAT PEREZ:** You know, I'm not even going to worry about winning too much. You put too much pressure on yourself, it usually doesn't work well. I'm just going to go out, try and stay calm and have fun and that kind of stuff. Whatever happens, happens I've got a long year ahead of me. I've already had a long year. The new season started. I'm just happy to be over here and playing well and we'll see what happens. I'm not going to put any pressure on winning.

**Q. You did really well on the first nine for the past two rounds?**

**PAT PEREZ:** I like that nine. It's shorter, so it's good for me. The first hole's short, 2's short, 3's a par short par 5, 4's a good hole, 5's short. The stretch on this course, the hard stretch is 11, 12, 13 for me. I have to get through those holes nicely. So that's really the stretch. But the course is fantastic. You've just got to make putts. All the guys are wonderful players and you've just got to go out and go as low as you can.

**Q. So you say it plays longer in the rain, so are you hoping for sunshine tomorrow?**

**PAT PEREZ:** No, I don't want sunshine at all. It's too hot, way too hot. No, I like it just the way it is right now, perfect. Cloudy, no wind, perfect.