

ABRAHAM ANCER

GERMAN ROZO: Hi, everyone. We are here with Abraham Ancer for the press conference. You just finished with The First Tee kids. Any advice for them?

ABRAHAM ANCER: Well, I guess there's plenty of advice, but I was just really happy to see how many kids are out here. I feel like maybe five, six years ago you wouldn't see really many kids in Mexico attending to a tournament here in our country, especially being part of a program like the first time. That really, really helps to promote this sport; not only the golf, but core values that they teach. It's just amazing what the Salinas Group have done to really get that kickstarted here. I'm really, really proud of what they achieved.

GERMAN ROZO: How important is it for the Mexican player having this tournament here at Vidanta?

ABRAHAM ANCER: It's huge having two PGA TOUR events in our country. I think it's really important. It creates more awareness for the whole country to watch a little bit of golf played in our country, which is not very common, but slowly it's getting a lot more popular. And it also creates opportunities for more Mexicans not only to play an event in our country and to experience what playing at this level is, and the lessons you learn in an event like this are priceless. If you're able to do that at a young age, you get prepared or you know what to work on for whenever you go to college or you turn pro. So it's really important for us to have an event here.

GERMAN ROZO: This is going to be your first start since the Masters, so tell us a little bit about your season and how's your game right now.

ABRAHAM ANCER: Yeah, the game feels really good right now. It's been a strange season. I had to withdraw from an event, which I've never withdrawn from an event before that I was planning to play. I got a little bit of a -- I tweaked my back a little bit, so doctor told me to take it easy for a couple weeks. I went to the Masters with really not much practice. I wasn't going to skip the Masters, so I convinced my doctor to let me go. Had two weeks before here to really, really get healthy and get back out there, get stronger. Thankfully, I feel 100 percent physically, which is really important. I have a lot of tournaments ahead still in the season, so I've got to catch up to where I want to be in the list. I'm just happy to be here.

GERMAN ROZO: So you already made the practice rounds. How's the golf course, conditions?

ABRAHAM ANCER: Yeah, I played nine yesterday and nine today, so that's all 18 holes. I was really impressed with the golf course. It's got some length. The grass is just pristine. It's

in perfect condition. They've done a tremendous job to get the golf course ready and I think it's going to be a great test. It can get windy in the afternoon, so the length on some of these holes are going to be pretty difficult. There might be a lot of birdies in the morning, but in the afternoon waves you're going to start to see some of it playing tougher. I'm really happy with the golf course, I think it's going to be a great tournament.

Q. With 10 Mexican players in the field, it looks like it's a record on the PGA TOUR. How cool is that just for the country to have so many players in this field? And then if you could give advice to some of these guys that are making their first start at this level, what would you say to them?

ABRAHAM ANCER: Absolutely. This is huge for Mexican golf. Like I said, having an event like this here creates opportunities for other Mexican players out there that maybe they'll be in their younger of their career. I played with a guy who plays in Oregon, he's a freshman there and he stripes it, hits it really far. You can tell he's going to be really good. It's just really exciting to see younger guys playing an event like this and getting the experience.

What I would just say to them is just to learn as much as they can. Obviously you come out here and you want to win the event and you want to finish really good, but even if you have a bad week, you should definitely learn what you need to get better at. It's going to help you so much down the line. So it's not the end of the world if you don't have a good showing. Obviously helps if you do, but if you don't, you realize how your playing partners play or what they do or how they conduct themselves. I feel like they could really take advantage of this invitation. Or if they earned their spot here by a qualifier or whatever, to really just soak it all in and just learn.

Q. Then with Carlos and Alvaro Ortiz just playing together, do you know Alvaro at all?

ABRAHAM ANCER: Yeah, I know him. I haven't played as much obviously as Carlos, but when he was visiting colleges to see where he was going, he was thinking about going to OU where I was, so I got to play with him when he was thinking about it. I always thought he was a tremendous player and I have no doubt that he's going to be on the PGA Tour full time one day.

It's going to be I think a really cool experience. I didn't know they were playing together in the tournament so that's going to be awesome. I feel like they're going to feel really comfortable and I'm sure they're going to have a great showing in this event. Yeah, it's really cool to see that.

He didn't go to OU, unfortunately. He went to Arkansas, but that's all right.

Q. You weren't able to give him a strong enough --

ABRAHAM ANCER: I guess not. I guess I didn't really impress him that much.