

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
April 26, 2022



CARLOS ORTIZ
ALVARO ORTIZ

HALEY PETERSON: Good afternoon, everyone. We'll go ahead and get things started. We would like to welcome the Ortiz brothers here to the Mexico Open at Vidanta. We're joined here, we have Carlos and Alvaro, Guadalajara, Mexico, natives.

How special is it for this event, to be here playing as brothers and close by for an event? We'll start off with Carlos for some comments.

CARLOS ORTIZ: It's actually really special. Starting being in my home state Jalisco, it's like a dream come true. I never imagined we were going to have a PGA Tour tournament in Jalisco.

And second of all, having two of my biggest supporters from the beginning, Azteca Salinas and Vidanta, it doesn't get any better. I've been in this property my whole life. My dad has worked for Vidanta, a contractor, for almost 25 years. When he's working, I've been here coming to the pools and everything, so I've seen this place change and grow over the years. I'm just a really proud ambassador for them and I love that we're having a PGA Tour tournament and we get to host and receive everyone from the PGA Tour here. I'm extremely proud to be here and then to be hosting a great PGA TOUR event.

HALEY PETERSON: Alvaro?

ALVARO ORTIZ: A little bit about the same. It's a dream come true that we get to play here that we've been coming for, man, I don't know how long. Since I have a memory we've been coming here to Puerto Vallarta. It's going to be an awesome week. We have our families. We don't get to be together often, so that just makes it a little more special, too. Pretty excited actually, the Mexico Open is becoming a PGA TOUR event, you know. It's really special for us, for all the Mexican golf. Makes us very proud. And hopefully the players will enjoy this week. I think it's a great venue, the course is in immaculate conditions, it's literally as green as it can be, so pretty excited about the week.

HALEY PETERSON: And happy belated birthday to Carlos. I hear you have a dinner planned. What are the plans for the night and who will be joining?

CARLOS ORTIZ: Thank you. You, too. Happy birthday for yesterday. Yeah, I'm just having a nice little get-together to have my friends, family and just having a good time. It's not always you have a PGA Tour tournament in your backyard, so I'm just happy to be here.

HALEY PETERSON: Sticking with you Carlos, this will be your 14th start this season, just

kind of a recap about your season and how you're game's feeling entering the week.

CARLOS ORTIZ: Honestly, it's been up and down. I've been battling through first a shoulder injury and then a kidney stone. So I'm finally getting healthy. I don't want to jinx it, but I'm finally in good shape. I feel good. There's no excuses now. I'm feeling great finally. I'm just happy about that.

HALEY PETERSON: And Alvaro, your eighth PGA Tour start but you've been playing on the Korn Ferry Tour. How's your game feeling?

ALVARO ORTIZ: Pretty good. I feel like my game is trending the right way. I feel like I've been playing pretty good golf in the last couple weeks, but it's hard to say that when you're not playing the weekend. I feel that I'm making the right strides and just super excited to be here. I think the course fits me very well. And I'm glad my brother's healthy so he doesn't have any excuses when I beat him this week.

Q. Guys, I was wondering if you could kind of take the trip down memory lane back to how you got into golf and what your earliest memories are of playing golf and playing together. And then Alvaro, what you remember as a kid looking up to Carlos, kind of playing as he was going through the progression and how that might have inspired or informed your kind of approach?

CARLOS ORTIZ: I mean, when you talk about memory lane, I honestly don't have any memories without golf. Since I remember, golf has been part of my life. We've always been together. We've competed not only in golf, but in everything. I've had many Nintendo controllers thrown into my head by him. He was a sore loser, he still is. But it's been fun having him be involved in golf. And as competitive as I am, it's been great for us. I think that's pushed us to be better and work harder. Every time we're back home, we're like this, we try to play together and we always have a competition. And we both love it when we beat each other because we can give each other shit as much as we can. As you hear him, he's already giving me -- like he's happy I'm healthy that he's going to beat me. So we'll see.

ALVARO ORTIZ: Growing up, I remember there was this group of his age, there were so many good players in our country club. So I remember as a kid, I was like, I don't know, 7, 8, 9, and I remember going to practice and they were like the elite group of the club. The elite juniors, they would like play together. They would like, you know, hit balls together, go chip together.

So me growing up, I always saw them and my brother was part of it. As time continued, my brother went to college, turned pro, so he kind of like -- he kind of showed me the path of how it had to be done. I learned so much from his mistakes and from everything basically.

So since I remember he's pretty much been my like role model. Like he said, truly golf has been so big in our lives since we were little kids. My dad, my mom, my grandpa, everybody played it, so it was basically we just kind of grew up in the middle of the game.

Q. And speaking of the Nintendo controls and stuff, what are some of the games you would play and some of the things non-golf that you guys would compete at and have competed at?

CARLOS ORTIZ: Honestly, everything. Back home we used to play soccer. We would break windows. We broke the neighbor's window one time.

ALVARO ORTIZ: Oh, yeah.

CARLOS ORTIZ: Nintendo, FIFA, even the Tiger Woods game. Even The Formula 1 game right now. And he's a sore loser, truly a sore loser. He used to break a control per week, like explode. He would not like it.

ALVARO ORTIZ: What can I say, I'm fiery.

CARLOS ORTIZ: Even when we play, like we used to play those games --

ALVARO ORTIZ: The board games.

CARLOS ORTIZ: Board games.

ALVARO ORTIZ: Our other brother, he's the crazy one now.

CARLOS ORTIZ: We compete in anything and I think that's pushed us to be great. I mean, it's always great when you have somebody to practice and share everything with. You work hard, and then when it's your brother it's even better. Like yesterday we finished playing and we went to a gym together and we took like a 10-minute ice and we were both shaking and giving each other shit in the ice. Those kind of experiences, it's great to share them about your brother. I think that's one of the reasons we've had success and we've always kept improving, because we push each other.

Q. Do you guys -- had you ever played in any tournaments together when you were younger? When would you have played your first tournament together?

CARLOS ORTIZ: Honestly, I think the first competitive tournament we played together was probably the PGA TOUR.

ALVARO ORTIZ: There was a couple amateurs, but I was very young.

CARLOS ORTIZ: I don't think we ever played in -- maybe one, but there's a five-year age gap, so we were never really -- when he entered college, I was already done and I turned pro, so we never really played together until --

ALVARO ORTIZ: I think the first one was Quail Hollow, Wells Fargo 2019. That was truly

like the first, I would say the one we played together and we kind of shared together.

CARLOS ORTIZ: The tournament, but we always played together back home.

Q. And what do you remember, Alvaro, about Carlos' season on the KFT on 2014 and following that?

ALVARO ORTIZ: It was a crazy season. I remember I was -- I just signed with Arkansas and I was getting ready for college and I mean, I remember just it was crazy how he played that season. Like basically I felt like every week he had a chance to win. That really pushed me like going to college and trying to get better, trying to go out there as quick as I could. And I remember he won his -- the third one, the first week I got to Arkansas, so it was pretty special like getting there and him getting his promotion to the PGA Tour, so it was pretty awesome.

Q. Were you surprised how well he did that year or were you expecting that?

ALVARO ORTIZ: Well, yeah, we were like a little surprised about him winning three weeks, but we weren't surprised he made it, you know, because I know he's quality, I know he's an unbelievable ball-striker, an unbelievable player. Truly, he started playing really good golf even before that. I know he played great that summer before he turned pro, then he turned pro. Both Q schools, European and Web.com at that point, they were like he played unbelievable. I don't know what his scoring average was, it was something like 67.

CARLOS ORTIZ: I made it through both Q schools. I made it all the way through to final stage. When you say surprised, when you show up as a new pro, I had no idea what to expect. You show up, oh, let's see how good these -- we don't know how good they are.

And that's where he said he's learned a lot, like when I went to college, I didn't know where to go, I didn't know where to play to get recruited. When he was growing up, then he knew where to go, he got a lot of offers, he was able to really pick where he went. I really had no option, it was like North Texas or a couple other schools.

But I had to red shirt. My mom said you're not going to go one more year without school, you're going to have to go somewhere where you start studying right now.

Other than that, I've always kind of showed him the way, we've kind of gone on the same path. We're always learning, but that first year was crazy for me, for everybody. We didn't know what to expect. I showed up and I finished third in my first tournament. You're like okay, they're not as good as I thought, I'm better than I thought. And you start playing and it's easy at the beginning. You have no thinking, you show up, tee off. It seems easy at the beginning.

Q. And then last thing from me was one thing you guys admire the most, or one thing you guys admire about each other?

ALVARO ORTIZ: I mean, to be honest, it's hard to pick one thing, but I would say just like his loyalty at this to our family. That's one thing that I really admire about him. It doesn't matter when R where he is or what he has going on, like if you call him, he'll show up. That's one trait that I look up to him and I try to emulate.

CARLOS ORTIZ: The values, you know, I mean, that's form where we come from, our family. Doesn't matter how many times we kind of struggle or fall or doesn't go our way, we kind of stand up. And it's not easy to do, but it's so much easier when you have a family and guys like this around you. You know, doesn't matter, I know you're struggling, going to keep working, get up and keep doing it again. His career's not been easy. Like all of us, he's struggling but somehow he finds a way to fight and get to the next level and he's done that unbelievable. I've seen him, he's not even come close to play his best golf, or not even half. He's already on the Korn Ferry and finding a way playing half assed, he's not all there. I know the day when everything clicks, he's going to be on another level. I just admire that he finds a way to make things happen even though he doesn't have his best yet.

HALEY PETERSON: With that, we'll switch over to the Spanish portion.