

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**April 26, 2022**



**JON RAHM**

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**RACHEL NOBLE:** We would like to welcome Jon Rahm to the interview room here at the inaugural Mexico Open at Vidanta.

Jon, you're making your 11th start of the season, first since the Masters. Four top-10 finishes so far this season. Can we just get a recap of your season and comments on the state of your game?

**JON RAHM:** Yeah, it was a good start to the year, the first few events of the year. I would say I could say numbers-wise it hasn't been my best, but, you know, I've been practicing hard, feeling confident. It's just golf. Sometimes you're feeling good if things happen. Actually, golf is life; sometimes you just don't get the results you want. I keep putting in the work so very positive about the future. I'm happy with the state of my game's at right now.

**RACHEL NOBLE:** And you're making your first start since the 2020 WGC Mexico Championship, some good memories there, a couple top-5 finishes, you had an ace on that hole in 2020.

**JON RAHM:** Yes, I did.

**RACHEL NOBLE:** What is it about Mexico that you keep coming back for and how excited are you for this event?

**JON RAHM:** You know, I've been pretty much all around the world, been to a lot of places and I always say the same thing, the Mexican hospitality's hard to match and I think that's one of the things that just keeps me coming back. You get treated so well, it's a very enjoyable experience whether you play good or bad. That's happened so far all three events I've played in Mexico. On top of great golf courses and good crowds, right, the main thing is hospitality's amazing.

**RACHEL NOBLE:** And what have you heard about this course at Vidanta? I'm not sure if you've played yet.

**JON RAHM:** I have not. So far what I've heard the last few days is it's in incredible condition, so that's always a good thing. And I'm expecting a resort type of golf course, but I'm saying there's some long holes out there, which is not characteristic of resort golf, and it's a quality design. So I'm looking forward to it. I really don't know much about it. I haven't been able to speak to Carlos or the Ortiz family at all. I have to basically go by what players have told me the last few days and everybody says it's in great shape.

**RACHEL NOBLE:** Thank you. With that we'll open it up for questions. We'll start in English, then we'll move over to Spanish.

**Q. Jon, so regarding this week and learning a new course, what's your approach to kind of game planning for a new course, the things you look at, mapping out the holes, talking with your caddie, things of that nature?**

**JON RAHM:** There's nothing special. I just -- plan A is hit driver everywhere. If it doesn't fit, we'll figure it out. But again, preparation I think a lot of times is getting the touch around the greens a little bit better, get that feel because tee to green a lot of times it's going to vary on how you feel, the wind, pin position and how you're hitting it that day. When I feel at my best, I'm pretty much comfortable hitting driver anywhere. That changes a lot. I remember one year I came into the press conference and said I'm only going to hit three drivers tomorrow, ended up hitting 12. So I can't tell you exactly what's going to happen, but I don't usually have a game plan off the tee until I get to the tee, I see where the pin is, what conditions we have.

**Q. And I saw your first start on the PGA Tour was as an amateur in Mexico in 2014. I was wondering what your memories are when you think back to that week?**

**JON RAHM:** Yeah. Well, we were in Mayakoba, so similar feel. So we were in a resort, the other side of the country. I was there because of the Spanish link to it. The owner was a Spanish owner and Spanish sponsor and I was really honored to be invited to play. I didn't have my best showing, I ended up missing the cut by a little bit. Unfortunate that I got a penalty stroke on my ninth hole Friday, only time in my life where I made a practice swing chipping and the ball moved and I think that cost me, ended up missing by one or two. Since then I came back and played good golf, but that start gave me so much info and so much to learn from the next time I played, which was the next February in Phoenix I ended up finishing fifth, right, so I took a lot from it.

**Q. And what advice would you give to the players in this field making their first start on the PGA TOUR? A lot of young Mexican guys are getting ready to make their Tour debut.**

**JON RAHM:** Advice? I always give the same and, you know, there's no trick: You have to go out there and try to win. Don't come trying to make the cut. If you're playing, play to win. If not, don't play. I think that is the mindset they should have. If they're invited, they're probably good enough to be out here, so just believe what you can do and try to win.