

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
April 27, 2022



PATRICK REED

MARK WILLIAMS: We would like to welcome Patrick Reed to the interview room here at the Mexico Open at Vidanta.

Patrick, you just finished nine holes in the pro-am. Hot, steamy morning. What are your first impressions of the golf course here?

PATRICK REED: It's so pure. When you're sitting up there and you get to the driving range Monday afternoon and it looks like carpet and you go onto the golf course and it's identical. I mean, it's an absolutely amazing shape, perfect shape. It's a long golf course, it has some length, but really the defense here this week is going to be wind. The wind has to blow because even with the length, if there's not much wind, guys will be able to go out and attack this place.

But the golf course is good. You have to work the ball both ways and you have to get really disciplined I feel like at this place. There's some pretty wide fairways out there and you still have to set up and hit a quality golf shot, because even though they're wide, you have to play from certain angles into these greens.

MARK WILLIAMS: You've had some experience in Mexico at a number of different courses. You've already played here this season at Mayakoba, finished T-56 there. Of course you won at Chapultepec in 2020. What do you love about coming to Mexico?

PATRICK REED: I think the biggest thing is the culture and the people. There's nothing better. You come down here and every time I've been in Mexico, whether it's in Mayakoba, whether it's here, whether it was in Mexico City, the people are so friendly, they treat you like their own and you really feel like you're at home. You know, it has something to say because we've been to three different venues in Mexico and it's all the same. I knew once this one came on the schedule that we wanted to come and play, and ever since I've been here, it's been unbelievable.

MARK WILLIAMS: How would you assess your season so far? You're currently 60th in the FedExCup and you had a runner-up finish in Bermuda in the fall. How do you think your season's gone so far?

PATRICK REED: I feel like I've been doing things a lot better than I've kind of resulted in, but the great thing is we have a decent amount of season left and I feel like the game's where it needs to be in order to improve and to get the -- get where we need to be. The game's close, the game's there, just need to go ahead and put it all together and get out there and shoot some numbers.

MARK WILLIAMS: One last one from me before we take some questions. As I mentioned, you're 60th in the FedExCup currently. I'm impressed with the fact that after your first season, you ended up going to the TOUR Championship in the Top-30 at the end of the season nine consecutive times. That's pretty amazing and I don't think that gets the credit it deserves.

How do you perceive that achievement compared to a lot of the other things you've done as a major winner?

PATRICK REED: To me, I'm really proud of it because that means you have to play consistently well every single year. You can't have a down year, you have to consistently play solid and throughout each season be inside the Top-30 on the PGA Tour, which we have the best players in the world playing on the PGA Tour and to be able to do that, that means your game's obviously in the right direction and where it's supposed to be in order to compete at the highest level because if you playing it in the Top-30 year in and year out, that means you're also playing well in the big events.

Q. Patrick, with this course you mentioned the length. Is there like -- do you do a bag tweak at all, like add an extra hybrid or wood or something? How does that go about your game plan for a course like this?

PATRICK REED: The biggest thing is for me I always have basically a 15-club set, whether it's a hybrid or a 3-iron, but everything else stays the same. The hybrid or 3-iron will depend on if it's windy or not because if it's windy, you don't want the ball floating in the air. Really, it just comes down to that.

But the golf bag for me relatively stays the same just because, I mean, you want to be very comfortable off of tees, and especially if you're hitting 3-wood off of a tee or even into a par-5, you want to know exactly how far that ball's going to go. You don't want to have to sit there and get used to two different 3-woods and a bunch of different clubs. To me, the bag stays pretty much similar and swinging within myself and knowing that, hey, even if the hole's long, two quality golf shots will put you where you need to be.

Q. Scottie Scheffler said something last week I wanted to get your thoughts on. He said he felt more pressure at Q-School than on Masters Sunday. You've kind of been in the Monday qualifier Q-School grind and have won the Masters, so I wanted to get your perspective on those type of feelings.

PATRICK REED: Yeah, it was weird, when I was at Augusta, that Sunday when I woke up there was just -- I felt so calm. It was almost weird feeling how calm I felt. I felt normal, felt just kind of at peace. And then once I walked onto the first tee, that's when it hit me. The nerves hit me throughout the first hole. Once I got done with the first hole and I hit the fairway on 2, at that point on I felt normal, I felt ready. It was weird. I mean, it was almost as if I had that feeling inside of, hey, it's your time, go ahead and just play your normal game

and it will happen.

For Q-School, I mean, I'm right there with him. After my first two days I was on the bottom of the board. I shot 18 under my last four in order to make it on the number. You have Q-School. At the time my wife was on the bag. Well, soon-to-be wife was on the bag and we were getting married I think the following week, so there was a lot of pressure on that week, just that week to go out and play the golf we were supposed to play. Especially how well we did on the Mondays and came close getting our card that way that we felt like, you know, we had to go out and actually capitalize the year off by getting your card and making it.

Q. Is there like energy from doing that at Q-School that you can like take with you for your whole career that you can still feel and draw back on?

PATRICK REED: Oh, for sure. I basically just taught myself and I was able to feed off of, hey, it doesn't matter if it's a three-hole stretch, a nine-hole stretch, you still have a long time to kind of try to make it up.

That's the thing in golf is it's not a sprint, it's a marathon. The sprints are the Monday qualifiers, 18 holes you've got to go out and perform. But when you have a full tournament, you're going to have your ups and downs throughout the round and you just have to make sure that on the downs, they don't get you out of it mentally. Physically, guys are going to be able to bounce back and hit some quality golf shots and be able to turn it around, but going through something like that in Q-School allowed me to, one, realize, all right, you got beat up for those two rounds, but you've got four more. And also it taught me when I need to go out and play golf and shoot numbers, I'm able to do that.

Q. Touching on that like mentality you have, what is your process for those really tough shots or those moments that are like extremely stressful on the course and how you stay focused and maintain your composure during those?

PATRICK REED: For me, the biggest thing is you try to -- throughout all my practices I try to be uncomfortable. You want to put yourself in uncomfortable situations when you practice so when you get in those situations on the golf course, you already have a sense, a feeling that I've done this before in practice. So that's basically the biggest thing for me. You put the ball in divots, you put it on bad lies, you put yourself behind trees in practice to learn how to deal with those as well as, all right, also not just to hit a golf shot, but to see okay, where's the best leave, make sure you're thinking correctly because thinking's 60 percent of the battle. All of us have the talent to be able to pull off a golf shot, but when you're not swinging it well, when you're in a bad spot, am I thinking correctly to put myself in the best spot so minimize the damage.

Q. I've got a question. What is the biggest challenge to assist to a first year tournament like this?

PATRICK REED: I think the biggest challenge is just getting to know the golf course. We

haven't seen it before and because of that we don't know certain areas that are better than others. I mean, you might look on paper and feel like missing it on this side of the hole compared to that side is the better spot, but until you actually get in those scenarios and situations, you're not really going to know. The biggest thing is with obviously during the practice rounds, you try to learn as much as you can on it, but once the tournament comes down, really sitting there and thinking where it is to best leave golf shots in order to attack golf holes.

Q. What are your expectations about the Mexican crowd, because you have been at Mayakoba and then Mexico City, there's different between the crowds?

PATRICK REED: Well, if the crowds are anything like both of those, the crowds here are going to be absolutely amazing. The fans in Mexico City, just like the fans at Mayakoba are just absolutely great people and amazing to be around. They get rowdy when you make birdies and hit quality golf shots. If you hit an unfortunate -- unfortunately hit a bad shot, they're there to pick you up and kind of keep you going. I look forward to all the fans coming out and hearing all the loud cheers and roars.

Q. Patrick, quick question about the weather. Obviously it's sweltering hot out there. Most golfers, they get to about 14, 15 and the round starts falling apart. How do you keep it together mentally and physically when it's so tough outside?

PATRICK REED: I think the biggest thing is, especially how hot it's going to be this week, there's a difference between -- even though the temperature might say it's not stifling out, there's no clouds. I have yet to see a cloud since I've been here, so the sun's just beating down on you.

And the biggest thing is try to stay hydrated and really try to stay in the present. Obviously try not to burn as much energy as you can and all the energy you're going to burn is hopefully during the golf shots, not during extracurricular stuff or really in between shots with all the talking and kind of wandering around.

MARK WILLIAMS: You're a global player, you've played all around the world, a lot of different championships. This is Mexico's national Open. How important is it for you to play in national Opens of countries around the world and how meaningful would it be to win?

PATRICK REED: It's very important to me. I've always wanted to be known as a worldwide player and play around the world and compete in not only national Opens but also just compete around the world and try to grow the game of golf worldwide. To be able to come down here, obviously I've been in Mexico multiple times, but to be able to come down here and have a chance to win Sunday would mean a lot. And to be able to hoist that trophy would mean a ton to me as well as my coach and everyone else.

MARK WILLIAMS: Appreciate your time, Patrick. Have a great tournament. Maybe we'll see you in here on Sunday.