

**ROUND 4 INTERVIEW**  
**May 1, 2022**



**JON RAHM (-17)**

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**MARK WILLIAMS:** We would like to welcome our 2022 Mexico Open at Vidanta champion, Mr. Jon Rahm.

What a great week we've had here at Vidanta. There's some wonderful names on this trophy, Jon, and you've just added yours to it. It's your first win of the season. You've moved for No. 6 in the FedExCup and this is your, I think, seventh victory but the sixth season in a row where you've had a victory. Just how meaningful was it to win in Mexico in front of all your fans here?

**JON RAHM:** Yeah, it's seventh or eighth, depends who you ask. I'm honored. I was close to winning at Chapultepec a couple times. I had a chance and I didn't quite get it done and I feel like there was something left every time I left, right? I knew I could get it done.

I came this week wanting to do it. I've spoken at length about the importance of Seve and his impact on the game of golf and how I play because of him. Nowadays we have a much bigger reach, the PGA Tour has become a bigger tour, and with social media, we're worldwide stars, bigger than they were in the past. I feel like I can make some impact in Mexico as well, and Mexico deserves a good event. You can even see golf growing in Mexico as well.

So it's a true honor to be able to come here in this first edition of the event to be the champion. It was a wonderful week. It's a wonderful resort. For anybody watching here that is doubting about playing, I say come. Just coming to the resort, it's just worth it. The golf course, it's a lengthy golf course and it's in pristine shape. It's a highly recommended week in my book. I'll be back obviously and, you know, it feels good to get this first win done early in the season. I had a couple chances and I couldn't close it out. And today was a battle, but I got it done.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** You're right, we've certainly all been treated to some wonderful hospitality. But I want to talk about the round today. There was some moments, I think especially No. 14 perhaps was a bit of a turning point for you, but just talk about the day. Was there any stage during the round where you looked at the leaderboard and thought, oh, I better get moving here? You seemed to have control most of the week and maybe today as well.

**JON RAHM:** Well, Thursday, Friday I played amazing and I was in incredible control of my game. Seemed like really nothing could go wrong.

Yesterday I played really good tee to green, just couldn't make the putts. Today felt good,

but I just couldn't quite get started. I was making good swings early on and wasn't quite hitting it as close as I wanted to and didn't really have the best chances to make the putts. Got going. I mean, played 6, 7 and 8 and 9 beautifully. I just -- you know, that stretch, I made those birdies on 6 and 7, but 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 is where I think could be a key stretch. I feel like if you play those holes before getting to 12 under par, you're gaining on the field.

And I had my chances, I had my putts and I just didn't make them. I think that could have been where I could have extended my lead two or three shots instead of just staying one ahead. You know, it is what it is. I was still trying to be aggressive on the par 5s and I couldn't get things done.

But yeah, that birdie on 14 was key. That was one good putt that I saw go in and it was a very good visual. Then making a par putt on 15 as well was massive because if I hadn't given that stroke back after that tee shot, that would have been a big loss.

The only thing I keep going back to today is 17. I thought that putt was absolute center of the hole and it just snapped left at the end. It would have been a lot easier to play 18 with a two-shot lead, let me tell you, instead of being the stress that it was. Still, I've had the enjoyable walk in the past and I think this is the first time I had to, you know, kind of buckle up and finish it in style and strong and I was able to do it. You know, I'll take it. My first wire-to-wire victory and even though it was hard at the end, I'll take it.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** You managed it well, especially with that two-putt on the last hole to win. It was a difficult putt up the hill.

**JON RAHM:** Well, you know, I've got to commend my good friend and sponsor Silverleaf and Ben Herman, who's the owner. We played a member-guest last week and the greens were rolling 17 and a half and they were completely baked and it was windy. So when I got to the hole where I believed because of the grandstands that green was a little drier and a little bit more dead, I felt like at home. Thanks to him I got to that putt and I was like, oh, this is what I did last week every single hole, and I was actually more relaxed than expected. I made three good birdie putts the first three days on 18 and I thought I made that putt, but I felt confident I could lag it to tap in.

So, Ben, if you see this, thank you.

**Q. Jon, congratulations. What did it mean to you to walk off the green and have your wife and son there and be able to experience the moment with them?**

**JON RAHM:** It was cool, it was great. At one point when I was reading the break, I saw Amanda kind of give way for Kelly and Kepa to walk up to the front and I could only think I better two-putt this to make sure we enjoy this moment.

It was really cool. Last time he was very young, this time he's still too young to remember. I was hoping I would get that moment of him running towards me, but I think he got a little bit

overwhelmed, but still really cool that I can enjoy that with my family. Especially today when we're done, it's all said and done, we're able to enjoy it. Even though he doesn't care one bit what happened, he still expects me to play and feed him and everything else. It's really, really enjoyable. It's a lot more fun and a lot more meaningful when they're there. I'm sure it will be even more when he can get an idea of what's going on.

**Q. What are some of the lessons you hope to impart as a dad? You have a kid and a second on the way and kind of looking forward to fatherhood?**

**JON RAHM:** Be more like mom, that's the general norm. I know I have my good qualities, but she's a heck of a person. For my part, to never give up, always be positive, I think that's one of my traits. Yes, I might seem frustrated sometimes. Yes, I might let some anger out and I might say some things, but I'm always hopeful and I'm always positive. That was key today. I never lost faith, I never lost my approach and my confidence and that's why I got it done.

**Q. I've noticed this week you're pretty good at staying focused and competitive inside the ropes and then when you get off the course you're smiling more, you're having more of a good time.**

**JON RAHM:** Yeah.

**Q. How are you able to switch that on and off so quickly?**

**JON RAHM:** It's work. When it's go time, it's go time. When it's over, it's over. I've said it many times, I'm a very different person on and off the golf course, especially when I'm competing on a Sunday. That's a stressful part of the job. You'll see a much more serious face and a much more intense look outside. I don't really -- I consider myself very lucky to be in the position I'm in in life. However hard I've worked at it. I'm very fortunate. So I really truly have no reason to be that intense or upset in any way.

Yeah, I mean, I'm always going to be smiling afterwards. I've got a wonderful family and a wonderful life. Again, I count my blessings.

This should be a difference, right, on and off the golf course. We're in there to do a job, it's a different mental state. I don't know how or why I switch it so quickly, but it's just how it's always been.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** How does this set you up for the rest of the season now that you've got a victory on the year and going forward?

**JON RAHM:** Well, I think I'm not going to count the COVID year when we stopped. It's been my -- I guess last year it took me a little bit longer to win, but in the past I had given myself a chance to win and I've been able to do it early. This year I got close in Hawaii and Torrey and since then, not really. So I'm happy. I kept working hard even though the results weren't

coming. I got a little tired about answering questions about stats and putting and short game and this and that.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Now you can talk about a win.

**JON RAHM:** Exactly. It's just how the game is. I knew I was improving, I knew I was seeing results and this week has proven that. I think that Sunday with Tiger at Augusta gave me quite a bit of confidence. I was a little bit technical in my approach, a little too technical. I'm a feel player and that Sunday I told myself just go out there and hit the golf ball, make shots, see the ball flight and execute and I shot a 3 under without having my best stuff on a tough day.

So I applied the same thing this week, minimal technical thoughts and just visualizing ball flight of the shot and getting back to my true self and I truly saw the difference. My iron game was really, really solid, especially into the wind. Those shots into the wind on 8, 9, 13 -- 13 went long, but it was still great -- and 17, they're not easy shots and I was able to hit really, really good ones.

Sometimes we deviate from our path but this time we didn't and I'm happy to get my first win and get back up there in the FedExCup standings and hopefully get my second one soon.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Lastly from me, you talked to Fred out there and you mentioned another baby on the way. The saying you have in Spanish, can you just share that with us?

**JON RAHM:** I think I'm butchering it a little bit, but babies come with a present under their arm, which I think the same in Spanish says (indiscernible,) meaning "present."

Last time Kupa gave me the U.S. Open and this next one, even before he's out, I got this win, right? Obviously it means something more meaningful in life than winning a tournament, but I'll take it this way and hopefully I can get another one before he comes out, but that's a little bit of the saying.