

MEXICO OPEN AT VIDANTA

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW

April 26, 2023



JON RAHM

MARK WILLIAMS: We'd like to welcome Jon Rahm to the interview room here at the Mexico Open at Vidanta.

Jon, you're obviously the defending champion, you've won the Masters, you're the FedExCup leader, you're the world No. 1. That's a pretty nice resume to have right now, but obviously you played the Masters and took a week off. What has that week off been like for you? Do you feel refreshed, ready to go this week to defend your title?

JON RAHM: You know, I wish I could say one week off was enough. It was a long Masters and then went right away to RBC, so it wasn't -- I wish I could have rested a little more, but it is the life we signed up for.

I probably didn't help, I celebrated the Masters win on Tuesday, that delayed the recovery a little bit. But it's always good to be home and to be able to come to a place like this. This in itself, even though there's competition, you're in such a relaxing spot, great resort, great amenities, great food, great people, great weather. There's a lot worse places to be than this one. I'm glad to be back and I'm glad to be in good form this year.

MARK WILLIAMS: You mentioned the celebrations. Can you give us an idea of what that might have been like for you and your family and friends?

JON RAHM: I think you can -- I think everybody can imagine what it was like. I won't be speaking of it too much.

MARK WILLIAMS: Obviously the Masters took a toll physically with all the delays and suspensions and then having to grind out the tournament following anytime after you win a major particularly, that's pretty difficult. How are you mentally ready to go? Are you pretty clearheaded, ready to play this week?

JON RAHM: Yes, sir, yeah. I think playing Hilton Head helped getting in a competitive mode right afterwards. I think in a weird sense it did help, so I'm glad I went. It was a lot of fun, played good golf. Like I said, feeling good with the game where it's at right now. I've only been able to defend the Spanish Open as a professional, so it wouldn't be the worst thing if I could make the Mexico Open be my next defense.

MARK WILLIAMS: I wanted to ask you, last year when you won here I think your previous victory before that was the U.S. Open, which was pretty much an 11-month span. How



significant was getting the victory after that and during that 11 months, what did you do to get to the point where you could win again?

JON RAHM: Well, technically I shot the lower score at the TOUR Championship, which I still count as a win, but I played really good golf afterwards. That's the thing, I played really quality golf, a lot of top-10s, I just couldn't get it done.

To be able to come here and go wire to wire, take the lead on Thursday and never give it up and never really be trailing from that point on was big. To get it done in any Spanish-speaking country makes it a lot more special, there's always a little bit of extra pressure, extra motivation for me to want to win. So it was big, it was big. I played a little bit better golf after this one last time and then it wasn't until the fall that I won again, but it was big. You want to get the next win after a major right away just if you can get it done just for the state of the game, for your own state of the game.

MARK WILLIAMS: When you won that, was there anything specific in your game that kicked off that epic run? Like once you won here last year, did you change anything during that 11-month period?

JON RAHM: No.

MARK WILLIAMS: Did you work on anything that you specifically changed?

JON RAHM: No, nothing. It's golf, period. It's golf. I didn't really change anything actively. I had lifestyle changes, our newborn was becoming more of a toddler, then Kelly was pregnant again, so a lot of things that changed outside the game of golf but nothing golf related.

MARK WILLIAMS: With four wins this season including the major championship, do you have to reassess the goals that you made at the start of the season?

JON RAHM: Yes.

MARK WILLIAMS: How do you change that?

JON RAHM: Yeah, I had to reassess them even before winning the Masters. One of my goals for earlier in the year, I mentioned it a couple times, was to win multiple times again on the PGA TOUR and I won my first two events. After L.A. I kind of had to -- you kind of need to reset because I was getting close to accomplishing everything I had set my mind to. I like being able to -- if you have to reset or refresh your goals, it's an amazing thing because that means you're exceeding your expectations. So I did have a day with my mental coach where we talked about things and reassessed and refocused on what we wanted to accomplish in the year. Yeah, I had to do it, which again, it's a wonderful thing to do.

MARK WILLIAMS: Just a couple more from me. The fact that you're a Spanish-speaking



Masters champion, being here at the Mexico Open, how meaningful is that, how important is that this week?

JON RAHM: It's meaningful, it's meaningful. Obviously I would love for this to be something I'm doing in Spain right now this close to the Masters, but this is the next closest thing. The Mexican crowd, the Mexican people have all accepted me not as one of their own but like you just mentioned, as an Hispanic playing golf as the champion at the Masters, they've taken me in very, very well. If I can be an inspiration to anyone, it's great. If I can be an inspiration to somebody who maybe didn't have the means to play golf early on, it's even better, so I'll take whatever it comes.

MARK WILLIAMS: And last one from me, do you have the green jacket with you this week?

JON RAHM: No, no. It's at home safe.

