

## MEXICO OPEN AT VIDANTA

### ROUND 1 INTERVIEW

April 27, 2023



### RAUL PEREDA (-6)

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**Q. Raul, in with a 6-under 65 in your first PGA TOUR event. How proud are you of that score in front of the hometown fans?**

**RAUL PEREDA:** No, I just think more than the score I'm proud I was able to stay very present shot by shot. My coach, my old coach from school just told me just enjoy shot by shot, and sometimes it sounds easier said than getting it done. I was just able to stay in the present and give myself opportunities and roll it very good today.

**Q. Is that your coach from Jacksonville University?**

**RAUL PEREDA:** Yes.

**Q. What's his name?**

**RAUL PEREDA:** Mike Blackburn.

**Q. Did you just talk to him recently?**

**RAUL PEREDA:** Well, I called him maybe a couple days ago, told him that I was playing and he texted me last night or this morning and said just enjoy it shot by shot. That was my goal today, just live it every single shot of them. I hope there are not many of those, but just try to be one by one.

**Q. When did you first sort of notice yourself on the leaderboard or get a sense that you were up there in contention?**

**RAUL PEREDA:** Probably just after the front nine, kind of caught fire on the last three holes, 7, 8, 9. Then just I didn't -- really wanted to do the same, just giving myself opportunities and gave myself a couple opportunities on the par 5s. Bummer on the last hole, but I'm not gonna lie, I was a bit nervous.

**Q. Apart from staying in the present, what specific parts of your game excelled today?**

**RAUL PEREDA:** Everything, everything. My mental game was on point, my driver was very good, I think my strategy was very good. I think it was all on me today.



**Q. How do you go into tomorrow's round given the situation that you're in now? Just keep the same mindset?**

**RAUL PEREDA:** Yeah.

**Q. Kind of do the same thing?**

**RAUL PEREDA:** Yeah. I'm going to have a cold beer after this round today for sure with my parents and just keep it very simple. I don't think I need to get ahead of myself. It's just like any other sanctioned Tour event for me, it's 18 holes a day and just 18 chances for birdie and just commit to every shot.

**Q. Was there one particular hole or shot that stood out to you today as a highlight there that round?**

**RAUL PEREDA:** Yeah, I think my drive on I want to say No. 7, the short par 4. I drove it very well, everything how I saw it and got a good kick and I was putting for eagle. Almost made it, but I think just gave myself some confidence rolling it very good and it went in.

**Q. You've dreamt about playing on the Tour. How did today meet your expectations?**

**RAUL PEREDA:** I don't know, it's just there was not a lot of people on the first tee so I don't know how nervous I could have gotten if there was more people. For sure I was a little nervous on the first tee when they announced my name and making my PGA TOUR debut. Other than that, I just felt like I was playing with my buddies at home and in front of my parents, too.

**Q. How does it feel to put together a 65-shot round in your home country?**

**RAUL PEREDA:** It feels amazing. It feels amazing to see a lot of people just walking around the course and just cheering for me. It just feels great. More than that, having my parents, my family around here and just playing in home soil, which is I like to be -- I like to host people, I like to be a great host, so it just means a lot to play in Mexico.

**Q. Is it only your parents here today, or your sister?**

**RAUL PEREDA:** My parents are here today. My sister's coming in tonight with my brother-in-law, so just it's an event that couldn't be missed, for sure.

