

MEXICO OPEN AT VIDANTA

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW

April 28, 2023



RAUL PEREDA (-7)

Q. Raul, let's just start with the eagle on 16, the media center erupted when that happened, 249 yards is the longest hole-out on the PGA TOUR this season. Just take us through what club and then just what was going through your mind at the time.

RAUL PEREDA: I actually hit a good drive. I was hoping to get that ball more towards the right but kind of caught the rough and actually ended up in a sprinkler, so I got relief. The rules official said you can drop in the fairway if you want, so that was to my advantage.

The wind was blowing, really picking up at that time. And 249 yards, I grabbed my 3-iron and my caddie was like, what are you doing, you know, it's not enough club, you're going to have 75 yards left after that. I said, well, 3-wood may not be too much? He said, I think it's good, with the wind maybe like a 260-yard shot.

So I just ripped a good shot and I let it (indiscernible) the entire way. I heard someone clapping so I thought it hit the pin because it was coming in hot, I thought maybe just close, and 10 paces later someone said, oh, it's in. That was very nice to have in the round today. It was a round with a lot of ups and downs.

Q. And I guess just speak to that a little bit. Being in this position, you're still within earshot of the lead. What is kind of your mindset going into these last two rounds?

RAUL PEREDA: It feels great. I'm 1-1 on the PGA TOUR, right, in cuts.

I can see rounds like this like boxing, I got hit but I hit a lot more, too. I did my best, I kept my same mentality and the same process that I did yesterday. I missed a few shots, I was trying not to pee my pants the last few holes and that kept me out of focus. But I'm very, very pleased with how I handled things today, especially how I started the round. I started hot with two birdies in the first three holes. So looking forward to a great weekend.

Q. What's kind of been -- again, you mentioned it's your first PGA TOUR start, but what was kind of your mindset coming in? How was your game kind of feeling trending into this week?

RAUL PEREDA: My game was peaking right at the time. I spent actually the week of the Masters I spent the week working with my coach up in Atlanta. Then I went to play a Monday qualifier for the Korn Ferry Tour event in Dallas and I lost in a playoff with 7 under, so everything kind of was trending. Then I went to play on the Mexican tour and I finished fifth.



I feel very good about it. I was going to go to Peru this week and play in the Latinoamerica Tour when I got the call. I prepared myself to really feel that this is the environment where I want to be and the environment where I want to belong and I just started believing it and never hesitated or doubted myself about why am I here.

Q. What's the support been like here so far these last couple of days and really just urging you on?

RAUL PEREDA: It's been great, it's been great. I don't think I would have liked anybody else to be here supporting me. I mean my mom, my dad, my sister, her husband, they're here. It just means a lot to me getting to play good golf in front of them. I've had some people following around and just it's been great. I can't complain about anything about the tournament, about the situation, everything I'm getting to experience this week so far.

Q. And what's your sister's name?

RAUL PEREDA: Gina.

