

## MEXICO OPEN AT VIDANTA

**ROUND 2 INTERVIEW**  
**April 28, 2023**



**ERIK VAN ROOYEN (-12)**

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**Q. Following a 64 with a 66 today and a nice note to finish there on 9.**

**ERIK VAN ROOYEN:** Yes.

**Q. What'd you like about Round 2?**

**ERIK VAN ROOYEN:** The patience. I hit it way better yesterday, especially when you hole out like I did on I think it was 15. Then I made that bogey on 4 and hit it in the trap on the next hole, I think it was the next hole, par 3. It's like it's so easy for the momentum to go the other way. So to get that one up and down and then make the birdie on the par 5, make the birdie on the par 4 and all of a sudden you're back on the front foot, so just staying patient out there knowing that I'm hitting it good.

**Q. You mentioned patience. What are those keys for staying patient for you out on the course?**

**ERIK VAN ROOYEN:** Well, even though I guess when you don't quite flush it like I did yesterday, there's just a few more flags that you don't necessarily aim straight at. Knowing where your space is, knowing what kind of shots I have at my disposal, which is the mistake I made on 4. I tried to hit a cut 4-iron in there and I've been drawing it all week, it was just a high draw 5-iron. Just knowing what you have at your disposal and playing to that, that's key.

**Q. Two rounds in, first time seeing this course, longer course.**

**ERIK VAN ROOYEN:** Yeah.

**Q. What do you like about how it's matching your game?**

**ERIK VAN ROOYEN:** I've always been a good mid to long iron player and there's a lot of that out here. The par 5s are relatively scorable if you can keep it in the right spaces. You can get up and down like I did on 6. So all of this, it just fits my eye. I love hitting driver, there's a lot of drivers out there, and then when you roll the putter like I've been rolling it, good things happen.

**Q. Pretty much past the halfway mark of the season. How would you assess your season so far?**



**ERIK VAN ROOYEN:** Probably not as good as I'd like to. The last two years have been tricky for me. I've had quite a few injuries, nothing that requires surgery but just enough that continues to put you on the back foot. Like every three months it will either be my neck or my low back that just spasms up. It happened at St. Andrews last year on Monday and I was like enough's enough and I took three months off. So it's taken me a while to find my flow again and find some momentum and get on the front foot. Things seem like it's starting to turn, which is great.

Yeah, would I love to be top of the FedExCup list, of course, but I still feel like there's quite a few tournaments to do that to get to where I want to be.

**Q. Austin Smotherman playing later this afternoon, will you be rooting for him --**

**ERIK VAN ROOYEN:** Yeah.

**Q. -- so your caddie can play with his brother?**

**ERIK VAN ROOYEN:** I love Smoe. Exactly, Feely, Austin, they're brothers, and Austin caddies for Smoe. I like Smoe, so hope he plays well.

**Q. First time here at Vidanta, what are you enjoying off the course? What do you like about the resort?**

**ERIK VAN ROOYEN:** Yeah, it's great. I love the hotel, it's so convenient. Awesome little food trucks by the beach there, it's beautiful at night. A lot to love about this place.

