

MEXICO OPEN AT VIDANTA

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW

April 29, 2023



TONY FINAU (-19)

Q. Tony, in with a 65, 19 under, two-shot lead, that round must have been pretty special today in your eyes. What was the highlight for you?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, the highlight was the chip-in on 13. I hit a great chip on 12 to get it to tap-in and then missed the tee shot on 13 (indiscernible,) so I thought that gave me some nice momentum on a day where I was hitting it really nicely, wasn't getting that much out of my round. But yeah, I think those were the two highlights of the day and find myself two up going into tomorrow.

Q. Were you kind of paying attention to the leaderboard at all with Jon shooting a pretty low round and creeping up there behind you?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I did, I'm definitely a leaderboard watcher, but I didn't see my first leaderboard until I think about 13. So I think it definitely got my juices going a little bit and was able to make a few birdies coming in to stay in front of him. It was something I expected going into today, he's an amazing golfer. I play with him a lot and to see him at the top of the leaderboard after only 12 or 13 holes was not a big surprise to me.

Q. Tony, I asked you yesterday about your foundation. Still have some questions. You mentioned there will be a plan to make something here in Mexico every time you can be (indiscernible.) Which option will it be, which plan can be made to promote your foundation?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, like I said yesterday, I think there's some celebrities, some Mexican celebrities that I can join with to just help grow the game in Mexico, definitely down for that. I don't know what that -- exactly what that looks like, but I think as an ambassador of the game of golf and as one of the best players in the world, we kind of have that obligation and responsibility to make the game better than it was before us. You know, I'm happy to be here this week to perform in front of the Mexican fans and this week for the Mexico Open.

Q. Besides the good results you had here, which other options or doors opens up to be a Mexico Open at Vidanta, the tournament?

TONY FINAU: What are the options that open up --

Q. Other options or which other doors opens you up to be here playing in this tournament?



TONY FINAU: Yeah, our family just really loves it here. We came last year and the people are so amazing. I think this is some of the best people in the world, the hospitality's unbelievable, it's a great resort and it's a golf course that I really like, so it's a place that I think you'll see me coming back to hopefully for many years.

Q. Tony, you played a practice round with Jon --

TONY FINAU: Yeah.

Q. -- and Akshay. Do you find it kind of ironic that you're all at the top? And Wesley was with you as well.

TONY FINAU: Yeah, it is a little ironic. It's going to be a lot of fun. We had a good time during our practice round. Akshay and I played Wesley and Jon and came down to the last hole and all of us birdied and so we tied. Tomorrow there will be crowned a champion and the three of us will be vying for it.

Q. Was there anything said during the practice round that hinted that one of you might be the champion at the end of the week?

TONY FINAU: I mean, not really. I mean, Jon's the Masters champion, that's kind of the trump right now, but it's going to be a lot of fun to battle out with them tomorrow. They're playing some good golf, all playing some good golf, so it will be a fun one.

Q. You've already won this year. How meaningful would it be to capture the victory tomorrow?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, it would be great to get multiple-win seasons back to back I think would be pretty special for me in my career It will be the first time and I'll be trying to do that tomorrow.

Q. I'm just writing about sneakers and I was just wondering (inaudible)?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I love the AJ1, I think it -- they look great. I've got probably a dozen colors, so I'll have another pair tomorrow with different colors. I definitely think your shoe game's a reflection of you. And I like being creative, I like being a little -- thinking a little outside the box, and Nike allows me to do that so it's pretty cool.

Q. (No microphone.)

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I mean, it's everything, it's comfort, it's look. Obviously have to have the right amount of traction for me the way I swing the club, so it's everything, but it's pretty cool to just be sporting Nike Jordans while I'm on the golf course.

