

MEXICO OPEN AT VIDANTA

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
April 29, 2023



JON RAHM (-17)

Q. Jon, you always say that I tell you things that you're not aware of when you're on the golf course. Take a deep breath because it's a long one today.

Sixty-one, that's a tournament course record; 61, that's a personal record; first time you've ever gone out in 29. But maybe most remarkable is your putting, 156 feet, 4 inches in this round. It's the first time you have ever had more than 100 feet in every round of a tournament.

But at the end of the day, what's most remarkable is you have given yourself a real opportunity to successfully defend your title. Tell me about the round.

JON RAHM: It was a great round. To be honest, it didn't feel -- the swings didn't feel that different today to the first two days. I think I mentioned in a couple interviews that the first two rounds, a couple of the not-so-good swings cost me a little bit too much, right? Either I hit it in a hazard or put myself in a spot where making par was difficult and that's why I was a little bit out of pace.

Today, everything just seemed perfect, right? Made a lot of great swings and the ones that weren't great, still gave myself a good result. A great example is the one on 8. It wasn't the most flush 5-iron I can hit, I thinned it a little bit, but it released out two feet. That's not something that usually happens or you expect to happen, but it was one of those situations where not the best swing ended up in a great position.

Added to that, the fact that I made three putts, was it three over 30 feet? One is already a great bonus; to do it twice, three times is amazing. I think that's the difference usually in a course like this. You can see a lot of 6, 7 under pars, but to get to 10 you're going to have to make a few lengthy ones, and combined with really good ball-striking, great round. Really happy with what I did and just glad I gave myself a chance for tomorrow.

Q. Well, maybe tomorrow, I'll tell you about another first: First time you've defended a title on the PGA TOUR.

Q. Jon, can you just talk about the last four holes, particularly the putts on 15 and 16 that were makeable chances and obviously the long one on 17 and the mindset when you (inaudible)?

JON RAHM: Yeah, 15 was a misread, which I don't say often. Honestly, I've been really



close all week, and a lot of times if it didn't go in, it was more speed than line. That one was a complete miscue. I read it a ball left and the ball went left.

No. 16, 16 is the only moment of the round I would say I wish I could take back, but I think it wasn't my best stroke, it was the only one I could say was a bad stroke. But even if I hit my putt on the intended line, I don't think I would have made it. I saw Michael Kim's putt straighten out at the end. I just saw a replay I think it was Eric Cole hitting a putt from a similar line and his ball at the end was dying pace, never broke right, which leads me to believe that even if I hit the perfect putt, it wouldn't have gone in. But that's golf, you don't make them all.

And I had three massive bonuses making the putts on 1, 3 and 17. Making that birdie on 17 today, I mean, I am still -- at least half a stroke from the rest of the field, it's not an easy par putt.

Q. When you got to the last tee, what was your mindset knowing where you were standing?

JON RAHM: Well, I saw Tony got to 18 so I have to assume he's at least going to get to 19. I wanted to make a birdie. Honestly, it was probably one of the best swings of the day. You obviously don't want to push it too far down the right side. And I made a great swing. Very rarely I hit a drive dead center and the wind takes it as much as it did because that ball faded and it fell hard to the left, very surprised. And then it's just unfortunate that it ended up where it ended up, right? Not that I need a shot to the green, but if I can give myself at least a wedge, I could have been a lot more aggressive. But it is what it is, you know. It was earlier in the round, I didn't hit my best 5-iron on 8 and it ended up a foot and a half from the hole, so this is golf, this is what happens.

Q. Jon, yesterday you mentioned how important it is to be very precise to some of these pin placements. The first two days you did a great job at that but still left some shots out there. What was the difference today getting the numbers so right with your caddie?

JON RAHM: Honestly, I just struck it a little bit better today. A lot of those shots into the wind yesterday, the first two days weren't as solid as I would have liked. Today they were and that was the difference. If I have a picture in mind and I don't get the contact I want in this wind, you're going to pay the price.

I think my swings weren't as bad as the results were yesterday, but today they were really good. There was a couple swings out there, the shot on 9, the second shot on 10 and the iron shot on 17, I'll highlight those three because 10 and 17, those two 4-irons were really, really good, and to give myself birdie chances on all of those were key.

Hopefully I can keep that tomorrow. That's exactly what I did last year, I hit a lot of those penetrating ball flights pretty perfect the entire week and that's why I would say I ended up



with a win, so hopefully I can keep doing it tomorrow.

Q. Finally, how much were you keeping an eye on the leaderboards as you were passing by? Seemed like every time Finau got one up on you, you came back and got one up on him.

JON RAHM: I like to look, obviously. I think it's important to know where you are. But I know I was behind so I knew birdies were the only thing I had in mind. I tried to stay as aggressive as I could and I did a really good job at that. It's just, you know, you never want to look up and be like, oh, man I'm four behind or something like that. I just wanted to make sure I was keeping up with the pace. I was assuming Tony would get some birdies on obviously the 12 to 15 stretch, you have to assume he's going to do that.

