

**PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE**  
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**BRANDON WU**



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**MODERATOR:** We're going to get things started. We would like to welcome Brandon Wu to the media center here at the Mexico Open at Vidanta.

Brandon, welcome. Making your third start where you have had quite success here with a T-2 and third place. Just want to get some comments on what it's like to be back at a place you're comfortable.

**BRANDON WU:** Yeah. I think super excited to be back. Obviously, like you said, had past success here and I think that breeds a little bit of confidence just being at a place that I enjoy being at and have played well.

I think just playing these practice rounds the first three days, just nice to be out here feeling good. And I really like where the golf course is at, it's in great shape. We have beautiful weather, especially after a rainy West Coast Swing. Yeah, just excited to be here.

**MODERATOR:** You mentioned the golf course. Is there anything in particular about the layout of the course that matches your game and style?

**BRANDON WU:** Yeah, I think it's pretty wide open for the most part off the tee, but there's definitely a couple key tee shots you have to get it in play. I think No. 1 is a great example, No. 10 as well, which is pretty interesting because your first shot of the day both Thursday and Friday you're going to have to hit a pretty straight drive. I usually drive it pretty straight, so that lends itself well to my game.

Then I think with the length as well, you're going to hit a lot of mid to long irons. Yeah, I feel like I usually can control the ball pretty well with my irons and that's a strength of mine.

**MODERATOR:** With both years, what was it like to be in the mix with players like Jon Rahm and Tony Finau on Sunday? Any memories you have in particular on that?

**BRANDON WU:** Yeah, I thought it was pretty funny that those were the two players I was in the mix with both years. Yeah, I thought it was great. I remember playing with Tony Finau I think on Saturday last year and he's someone I've looked up to for a while and he's such a great guy to play with. It's just been exciting being able to go toe to toe with him at a golf course like this.

**MODERATOR:** And here staying at Vidanta, What's it like with people and the community and the fans that come out to watch and support the tournament?



**BRANDON WU:** I think there's definitely a noticeable growth this year in the amount of people that are hanging out at the resort and asking about the golf tournament. I think it's been really incredible to see how far this tournament has come the last few years starting in year one where it was kind of a new tournament and no one really knew too much about it. I think all the players are really excited to be here. I think the caddies had a caddie tournament last night and they're super stoked to be here. Yeah, I feel like it's grown a lot and been a really nice tournament.

**MODERATOR:** Did your caddie partake in the tournament last night, the par 3?

**BRANDON WU:** My caddie did not partake. I think he went out to watch a little bit and hang out. They all had a good time.

**Q. The differences between the golf course last year and this year, how do you see the golf course right now?**

**BRANDON WU:** I think the biggest change is probably it's a little bit softer and I think maybe that's due to just the time of year. We've come I think April or May the last couple years and this year it's in February.

I think the softness makes the golf course a little bit longer, which has been maybe something to adjust to. For example, I hit a couple 5-woods into the par 4s today and yesterday and usually it's maybe like a 5- or a 6-iron. I think the greens are still rolling really nice, the ball sits up really nice in the fairway. I think it's in really good shape still.

**Q. Beside you, who's your favorite player to win this week?**

**BRANDON WU:** I'll go with someone other than myself I guess because that's probably the usual answer.

I think with it being a little bit softer, I think Tony Finau is probably the person to owe beat. He's had a lot of success here the last couple years and the course suits his game well, so I'd watch out for him.

**Q. Why do you think this golf course has fit your game to be able to have some strong finishes and be able to compete year after year?**

**And what do you think of the talent of Mexican golfers in recent years? Raul Pereda of the PGA TOUR, Santiago de la Fuente competed in the Masters. What do you think of the Mexican talent in recent years?**

**BRANDON WU:** Yeah, I think for the first question I feel like the past couple years it's been really windy and I think just being able to control your ball in the wind is really important. I think I've putted well on Paspalum grass as well, I think maybe just seeing the slopes well and I feel like the speed is really comfortable for me on the greens. I think that's a couple



factors that has lent itself to me playing well here the past couple years.

Yeah, I think it's been amazing to see sort of the surge of young Mexican golfers playing really well and I think this is a great week for them. A lot of them in the field I notice competing and yeah, I'm excited to see what they can do on the PGA TOUR.

**MODERATOR:** You were able to play in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and looking on the outside for the Aon Next 10, what's it kind of like to have that opportunity to play in for other Signature Events?

**BRANDON WU:** Yeah, I think as professional golfers we're all just looking for the chance to be able to play in. I think that's the key. We're all confident in our own abilities to be able to play well and take advantage of those opportunities.

Yeah, I think it's great because I was a little disappointed not to finish in that top-50 last year and be lock up for all the Signature Events, but I think how it's structured with the Swing 5 and the top-10 or Next 10, I think it's yeah, great. You can have a hot stretch of a few weeks of great golf and you'll be rewarded with playing a couple Signature Events. Yeah, I think that's what we're all shooting for.

**MODERATOR:** For those that are less familiar with your game, where would you explain your strong suits in your game?

**BRANDON WU:** Yeah, I think I usually drive it pretty straight off the tee and then I think I'm a good iron player. That's kind of where I really like to work on and practice. I think I've kind of been a streaky putter the last couple years, so usually when I putt well, I can play well as well. And that's something I've been working on this past year.

**MODERATOR:** Three seasons in, we have a lot of rookies in the field this week. What advice would you give to a rookie class this season on how to approach their first season on the Tour?

**BRANDON WU:** Yeah, I feel like I have good advice in just being patient. My rookie year I think I missed 10 out of the first 11 cuts. It wasn't until I played well in Puerto Rico and come here and played well until I kind of got my season going. I think I was maybe 200-something on the FedExCup before those two tournaments.

It's a long year and I know -- I think rookies haven't really played that much to start the year just because of the new schedule. Honestly, I would be maybe a little bit panicked, but I would stress really be patient, there's so much golf left to be played. I think all these rookies have the game, they've made it here and they can compete at this level, so I would say be patient and good golf will come.

**MODERATOR:** Still early on in the season. Are you someone who personally sets goals ahead of the season?



**BRANDON WU:** Yeah, I think it's great to set goals, have something to work towards, have something to aspire to.

I think my goal every year that I've been on Tour is to win a tournament. I haven't quite gotten it done yet, but yeah, I think that's the No. 1 goal for this year.

**MODERATOR:** Last year we had Harry Higgs in and we kind of asked him what his biggest travel pet peeve is. You're someone who travels many weeks on the road. Do you personally also have a travel pet peeve?

**BRANDON WU:** A travel pet peeve.

**MODERATOR:** (No microphone.)

**BRANDON WU:** Yeah, honestly, I think the travel part in general can be kind of tedious. Just going week to week, like you said, waiting for bags, sometimes your clubs don't show up. I think that's probably the biggest stressor. Just seeing OK, are my clubs going to show up today? I have all these things planned, I want to go practice, I want to go play nine holes and your clubs don't show up.

Yeah, along with that just the logistics of traveling is probably the biggest pet peeve.

**MODERATOR:** Brandon, thanks for joining us and good luck this week.

