

**ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES**  
February 22, 2024



**ERIK VAN ROOYEN (-8)**

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**Q. Erik, great playing once again in Mexico, it seems to be one of your favorite places on the globe. Why is that? Why does Mexico bring out some of your best golf? Is it the wind? Is it the grass?**

**ERIK VAN ROOYEN:** I don't know. If I think about Chapultepec a few years ago, the WGC we had there was kikuyu grass, bentgrass greens, that's what I grew up on. A little bit different here. I don't know what it is, got to be the feed, the people, the whole shebang.

**Q. You celebrated a 34th birthday yesterday. Happy birthday. How do you assess where you are? Some people say the mid 30s is sort of the sweet spot of a player's career.**

**ERIK VAN ROOYEN:** I like to think so, I like to think I'm stepping into my best golf. Had a few injuries the last few years and I'm finally healthy and good golf's starting to show up. So I like to think the best golf is still ahead of me. I told my wife yesterday that next year I'm 35 and closer to 40 than I am 30, so I'm going to enjoy 34 for now.

**Q. What was the best part of your game today as the wind seemed to pick up as the end of the round came to a close?**

**ERIK VAN ROOYEN:** Yeah, probably iron play. Hit it beautifully all day. There's a couple tee shots that you have to navigate out here, 10 comes to mind, I did that really well. Greedily, I feel like I left a few out there, but then again a shot like 6, the 3-iron I had into that par 5 turned out great, like I'm not planning to hit it to six feet to that flag. A give and take in golf and really happy with the round.

**Q. How much fun was 12? First of all, the second shot you hit over that parota tree and then of course the eagle chip. Take us through those two shots.**

**ERIK VAN ROOYEN:** Yeah, 12's a funky one because we played it into the wind in the practice round and you obviously can't get there for two. So today was downwind, smash 3-wood and just a beautiful little pitch. It's something I've been working really hard on and to see that goes in, it feels good.

**Q. What was your read on that chip shot?**

**ERIK VAN ROOYEN:** Probably pretty straight, to be honest. There's a bit of a knob I had to go over and then the pin's on a different one, so I tried to fly it right in between them and it rolled straight in, so yeah.



**Q. First of all, happy birthday.**

**ERIK VAN ROOYEN:** Thank you.

**Q. Why you like Mexico so much that you have got some great success? And talk about your eagles. Two eagles you had today.**

**ERIK VAN ROOYEN:** Yeah, two eagles is pretty rare, right? It doesn't happen that often. If you can do that and you can kind of capitalize on the rest of the round, you're going to have 8 under like I did today, so that was obviously nice.

I don't know what it is about Mexico. The food is amazing. This resort especially, it's pretty laid back. We've got great facilities here, beautiful hotel, so it's just quite a relaxing place and we have a good golf course to boot, so it's always just sort of good vibes.

**Q. Any bees today in the round?**

**ERIK VAN ROOYEN:** I saw that coming up. No bees today, thankfully. Hopefully it stays that way.

