

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW: PAT PEREZ
January 28, 2017

Q. Good stuff today. Just general thoughts?

PAT PEREZ: Yeah, it was awesome. It was warmer this morning. The wind was down. They cut the fairways, everything was in great shape. I hit some good shots, made a couple putts and it was definitely gettable today.

Q. How fun is it for you to get it going at this place?

PAT PEREZ: It is. I've had some bad rounds here. It's nice to actually get one. The course is so hard, every shot is just full stress. If you don't hit in the fairway, you're going to have trouble hitting the green. If you don't hit that green, it's hard to get up and down. With the speed of the green and the way the pins are, it's awesome to get a good day.

Q. Take us through that birdie on 17.

PAT PEREZ: Yeah, hit a good drive. I had mud on my ball, went left, but fortunately it was just short of the pin, which was an uphill championship. I drew a decent lie, it was sitting up a little bit and I thought, this is good, within a nice circle, and luckily hit the pin and went in.

Q. You said before, Pat, this is your major championship. You were there a few years ago in the final group. Are you going to look back onto that and kind of remember, use that tomorrow?

PAT PEREZ: I don't remember when that was. How long ago was that? I don't know. Yeah, I mean, I've played here so many times that I have all kinds of memories. These guys are really good so it's going to take another great round like today probably to catch anybody. You know, it's the same every day, if the wind's the same, all the shots are the same, it'll be same conditions and hopefully I can get enough out there.

Q. You've obviously won several times, but this one is different. Is there an added pressure that you really want this one?

PAT PEREZ: No. There used to be early, you know, I really wanted to do well. I've kind of put that aside now. I try to play well every week. Obviously I would love to play well here, but I don't -- the course is so hard, it's not like you're going to go out there and make nine birdies and try to catch the leader. I mean, par on a lot of holes is great. I don't have that pressure because it's not one of these courses you can -- for me, I can't overpower it. I have to hit a lot of great shots and I don't really get ahead of myself out there.

Q. Where does your experience come into play as much as you've played this place?

PAT PEREZ: Just the wind more than anything because the wind always blows the same off the ocean. I've hit thousands of balls out there with that wind, so I've always hit the same shots and it doesn't really vary for me, but I just kind of know what I'm getting on every hole.

Q. How much does it help to have the galleries behind you?

PAT PEREZ: Oh, it's awesome. The fans are great. This is my town, growing up here and especially on this course, it's awesome for everybody. It's awesome to have all the fans.

Q. Do you know J.J. at all, another local here?

PAT PEREZ: I got to meet him in the offseason, another great kid. We hung out a little bit in the offseason. We had a great time today and he played good, too. I'm pulling for him, he's a good kind, got a lot of talent and I think he's going to do well out here.

Q. What did you think of his putt on 17?

PAT PEREZ: Awesome. I was hoping Tim was going to make it. That would have been a hell of a trifecta. That was awesome.