

**PAT PEREZ**

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**PAT PEREZ:** I've always loved coming here and the fact to come back as defending champion is always cool.

**Q. You had your comeback last year from injury. Does it almost amaze you a year later what that road has been like and what it's yielded?**

**PAT PEREZ:** Yeah. I've told a thousand people, it's unbelievable. I can't believe what's transpired in 12 months. I would have never dreamed of coming back, and when I got to CIMB last year, I would have never thought that that 12 months was going to happen. I was just hoping, you know, not get hurt again and hopefully get my card back and that kind of stuff, and here I am, I won twice and now I got to 18 in the world. I just can't believe it.

**Q. Do you almost have to recalibrate your expectations now that you already have a win this season, you're back at a spot you won before, it seems like everything's lining up for you?**

**PAT PEREZ:** No, it will be the same because I won like three weeks ago and it was kind of the same time as now. And my goal is to get to the TOUR Championship again. Like I said, I would love to be a contender in some big tournaments. You know, it would be nice to -- obviously Ryder Cup's a long way away. I haven't got any points yet, so I'm still behind the eight ball there, but it would be nice to be in the running for stuff like that. You know, like I said, I'm not going to put any pressure on myself. I'm just going to play and kind of do what I do and see what happens.

**Q. Pat, how do you feel?**

**PAT PEREZ:** I feel good, feel good. The game's in good shape, the body feels good so it should be a good week.

**Q. You're trying to get a championship how?**

**PAT PEREZ:** How am I going to get it? I'm going to beat everybody, that's the only way you get it. That's it. I don't know, just you've got to play well. You've got to play real well to win.

**Q. You're going to try to repeat the championship?**

**PAT PEREZ:** That's the goal. It's not that easy, so we'll see what happens.

**Q. Pat, you come here as the defending champion. What expectations do you have for this week?**

**PAT PEREZ:** I don't really have expectations. I'm just going to try to play well and hit some good shots, try to make some putts and see what happens.

**Q. The lessons you learned last year, the biggest lesson you learned here?**

**PAT PEREZ:** Controlling your ball in the wind would be number one, and staying on the right side of the greens and trying to score as low as you can.

**Q. The big tournament in Malaysia gave you a lot of confidence. Do you come here like more motivated because of that?**

**PAT PEREZ:** No, I don't have any more motivation than any other event. I mean, I would like to defend, but obviously it's very tough. It's not something that happens every year to anybody. So just going to try to -- like I said, I'm just going to try to play well and see what happens.

**Q. You have a Mexican heritage, you said you love Mexican food. Have you tried anything new this year?**

**PAT PEREZ:** This year? No, I kind of stuck to my carne asadas and chicken tacos, kind of my go-to.

**Q. And the Mexican players told us that the field is impressive with like yourself, Rickie Fowler. What do you have to say about that?**

**PAT PEREZ:** I'm not surprised at all. The tournament's fantastic, the resort is incredible, the golf course is phenomenal. It's not hard to believe that guys are coming down here because the tournament's so well run, and it's so easy, you stay right here on the property, the resorts are five-star. It's not hard to believe that guys are coming down. The weather's fantastic. I think the field's going to get better every year.

**Q. And the course, they also said that it is at its best this year. Do you agree?**

**PAT PEREZ:** I haven't seen it yet, but that's what I've heard so I believe that.

**Q. And about the weather conditions, how are they going to affect the play?**

**PAT PEREZ:** I don't know. Depends what the weather is. It's usually windy so that affects the course, but usually it's the same direction all the time so that makes it a little easier to know what you're doing every day. But it's like anything, if you get wind or rain, it's going to change the scores.

**Q. Coming into this tournament last year you were outside the top 100 players in the world. Right now you're in a completely different position. What are your feelings compared to what they were last year?**

**PAT PEREZ:** Well, totally different ends of the spectrum. I was 331 coming in here and I was just fighting to get my job back from my medical status, so after I won, that all changed.

But this year, since I won here and I won a couple weeks ago, it's totally different because I feel like I'm a totally different player and I have a different kind of outlook on life and everything. It's amazing what the 12 months has brought.

**Q. What was that moment, that thing that made you have this different outlook in life that's been having -- it's been affecting your way of playing?**

**PAT PEREZ:** I don't know. I'm just a little more relaxed on the course and just kind of I would say life in general. So I've got a great wife, we have a lot of fun together. She makes it a lot easier for me and we just kind of -- we're kind of just enjoying everything. We're not really rushing it, we're not getting ahead of ourselves, we're just kind of enjoying every day and enjoying what's going on.

**Q. You've been having an amazing past months, this momentum you're having. How do you meet your objectives in the short and long term based on these results?**

**PAT PEREZ:** Nothing really changed at all. I've got to do like everybody else. You've got to start on Thursday and everyone's got to play well, including me. I don't really put any more expectations on myself to play well. I'm not thinking about the future, I'm not really worried about what happened in the past, just kind of doing every day. I still have all my friends out here, we still talk smack and do all that stuff. It's all fun and just trying to play well and put no pressure on myself.

**Q. And this field, this year's field, it's a pretty competitive one. I don't know if you have time to see it. How do you feel regarding the field?**

**PAT PEREZ:** I think it's fantastic, for one. I think it's great that everybody's come down and the field's getting better every year. I think word's getting around that the resort's incredible, the course is fantastic, we've got an unbelievable sponsor in OHL that puts it on. Joe and Terry are amazing guys. I think it's starting to reflect that the tournament's so great, I think it's awesome that they're all down here and I'm excited they are.

**Q. Last, although Mexicans are playing now, I don't know if there's talk about that on the Tour about how Mexican golf is growing. Right now we have two golfers over there but we've had in the past. How do you see this golf and how these events, they help Mexican golf grow?**

**PAT PEREZ:** I think the whole sport in general is becoming more global anyway. There's

more kids and more people playing in every country, and I think it's starting to show because we have so many tours that have so many world-wide players. But I think it's great for Mexico that since we have this tournament here that it's helping more Mexican players come out and play and see where their game is. I think it's awesome.

**Q. And now you'll have an opportunity to play in another Mexican Tour event?**

**PAT PEREZ:** Exactly.

**Q. Well, you'll have a different weather and everything?**

**PAT PEREZ:** I hope so. It's nice, though.

**Q. One question from me. Between CareerBuilder and here last year and obviously some lean and frustrating times here, if you could just touch on the lows and how you kind of pulled yourself back out and really got yourself back to where "I'm not going to take no for an answer"?**

**PAT PEREZ:** Well, it's a lot of things. I didn't really have great teaching from after I had won, like a year after I won all the way through basically until I got to Drew. Drew has been phenomenal. He teaches a swing for me, but even -- I know what he wants me to do a lot of the time, but I just can't do it and I'll tell him, "I can't do this on the course." I kind of go with what I can.

And it's hard, though, but you just have to grind. You can't feel sorry for yourself. No one else does, no one cares if you play well or not. It's just what it is. So you have to be strong yourself and that's one thing that I am. So that helped me get through.

My short game was good enough to help me get through even though I wasn't really that competitive in that many tournaments, but I was able to get myself through. And now the work that Drew and I have done over the last three years, I think we're finally starting to see the results come around.

And everything in life is different. My new wife's unbelievable. We have a great life. We enjoy ourselves. I am totally different, even though it doesn't always seem like it on the course, I know I'm a totally different person than I was 10 years ago, kind of lost. But I know where I am now in life and I don't really worry about the golf that much anymore, believe it or not. Maybe because I've been out here 17 years and I've done all this other stuff, but I realized that things are just different.

When you're 24 to 30 you're trying to find your place in life, you're trying to prove to everybody you can play and you're trying to make all this money, you're trying to make sure that you can do it for a long time. Now that I'm 41 it's like I've done it now, now I've won three times. You know, it's just things are just different. I can't believe I'm like the older guy now. I look at these kids, they're incredible. They're so good. But that's way the game is

going to go now.

Like I've said 100 times, Tiger was the only one. When we were coming up, Tiger was so far above everybody, it was unbelievable. Now you've got like 10 of these kids that can win at any time. Actually, you've got 50 guys a week that can win now. I'm just in a different place where I don't have the expectation. Even though I'm leading the FedEx and all that stuff, it doesn't mean anything. The season's long, but nobody expects me to win or do anything and that's fine. That actually helps because I don't have the expectations. I'm not in the media room every Wednesday, planning press conferences. I don't want all that. And it's great, I don't have all these expectations because nobody really expects that much out me, which is awesome. So I just kind of do my own thing and play golf. If I play well, great. If not, then it's really no big deal, I'm not letting anybody down. I'm just at this place at 41 where I know where I'm at, I know where I'm going and it's just kind of -- I'm just trying to enjoy the ride.