

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
February 28, 2018

LORENA OCHOA



Q. What was it like playing with Jordan out there even just for two holes?

LORENA OCHOA: It was great. First I want to say thank you, it's always difficult when you ask, it's complicated to do it and your practice round and taking a little of his time. But he says since the beginning just very open, very easy, relaxed. We talk a little bit about the way he plans the year, his family, his routine. Just little things that I was really, really excited to spend a little time with him. I'm glad I hit the ball okay so I didn't look too bad. It was a great day, thank you.

Q. Were you nervous at all?

LORENA OCHOA: I was, yes. Teeing off from the 17th hole, it was not the easiest hole. It looks too far to me, but I was able to put it on the green and make two putts for par. More important, just to be able to be close to them, the whole group. Rickie Fowler, I met him before just briefly. Just spending time with them, you see how talented they are and how good they play. They are all very happy to be here in Mexico. It seems like they just enjoy the tournament a lot. They say that the crowds are very supportive, so I was very excited just to see that inside the ropes. Thank you.

Q. Lorena, this experience with Jordan Spieth came from a Pregunta Lorena thing on CNN. Tell me about the whole process and how it evolved.

LORENA OCHOA: Well, first of all, I want to say thank you to him for taking the time. I hope it was not too complicated and it was a big request, and he say yes since the beginning. Very nice, not only him, the whole group. I felt good. I actually hit the ball good. I felt a little pressure that I enjoy. I think he was just very easygoing, very relaxed the way he talked and talking about his life, the way he plays, how many tournaments, and when the family travels with him and what is his plan, his routine. It was just a very special day. I just want to say thank you.

Q. The question was like if there was a player that you wanted to have featured on your show to play or something like that, right?

LORENA OCHOA: Say again? For my show, yes? Yes, we have a special edition for the whole event, for the whole tournament and we want to put something extra. We ask him to give us just a little bit of his time. He said yes and I think people here in Mexico really love him. The people in Mexico, they just watch him play a lot. You can see the kids, all of them, they go crazy for him. It's nice to see how open he is, and I think he's going to have a great week and I'm really excited to see that.

Q. And your fans were very excited to see you play a couple holes here?

LORENA OCHOA: Yes, you miss sometimes the cheer of the crowds. It was a good day for me.

Q. They love you.

LORENA OCHOA: Thank you.

Q. Finally, your thoughts on having such a big event, a World Golf Championships event, here in Mexico?

LORENA OCHOA: Yes, yes. Well, for sure I'm very proud to see these happen in our country. Thank you to Salinas family to make it happen. I think it's a big, big compromise, it's also a big investment, you know, and thinking about the business, something huge for our country. Just thank you for having the courage to show more of a great event in our country, in our city because we deserve to have top events and this is a great example that we can do it. It's a perfect example. So now for all the golfers and also the amateurs, fans, people that never been on a golf course, this is the perfect opportunity to come here on the weekend and walk around and enjoy the weekend because it's great to be out here.

Q. Finally, how much is this paying off for the development of golf in Mexico?

LORENA OCHOA: Well, this is a result. So much hard work for so many years, this is the result. I'm really happy and proud to say that we are part of this little, you know, movement and wishing things are changing, and hopefully we see in the near future many Mexicans on the tours. Thank you.