

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
NOVEMBER 3, 2021**

ABRAHAM ANCER



DOUG MILNE: We would like to welcome Abraham Ancer to the interview room here at the World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba.

Abe, growing up in Mexico, I know this is a special event for you. You're making your seventh consecutive start here with top-15 finishes in three of your last four starts. Just some thoughts on being back here this week and kind of how you're feeling.

ABRAHAM ANCER: Absolutely, yeah. This is one of my favorite weeks of the whole calendar. It's a tournament that means a lot to me. I've had a lot of great memories. It's a golf course that I love, just the area, the hotels, everything. The full experience is unbelievable. Being Mexican, only having this event and, well, I guess the WGC at one point, every week we get a chance to play in front of our people, it means a lot to me and the rest of the Mexicans that are in the field.

DOUG MILNE: You're making your third start of the season coming off a top-15 finish at THE CJ CUP. Just the state of your game, how you're feeling, the confidence level coming into the week.

ABRAHAM ANCER: I feel very good. The first week in Vegas after taking four weeks off, I was maybe a little bit out of sync maybe a little rusty even though I practiced and felt prepared for it.

Then, after that, the second week I felt a lot better. Not the finish I wanted after Saturday. I played pretty well Friday and Saturday. But feeling good, got to work on my game this past week and a half and feel fresh and I feel ready to go.

Q. Abraham, to expand on what you said about this tournament and the Mexico Championship and just what it means to not only Mexican players and up-and-coming players, but fans as well.

ABRAHAM ANCER: Yeah. I mean, like I said, tournaments like this are just so important for Mexican golf in general. We have just golf, it's not very big here, and it's been better ever since Lorena kind of started this movement of showing us, including myself, that we can make it to be a top player in the world.

It's definitely growing. You can just see a lot more kids involved in golf and just really pumped up about what's going on. I know it's only me and Carlos right now on the PGA TOUR, but I have no doubt in the coming years we're going to have more Mexicans on the PGA TOUR and events like this play a huge part in it.

Q. And then second question, just about Latin America as a whole. Between you and Carlos and Joaquin and Sebastian and Jhonny Vegas, you guys have won tournaments out here. Just how much that helps grow the game in Latin America?

ABRAHAM ANCER: Absolutely. I think we're just a great group of friends as well. We push each other, we motivate each other. We see somebody in our friend group obviously playing really well, it motivates us knowing that we can play the same or maybe even better, you know.

I think it's unbelievable. I was speaking only about Mexico, but us as a whole and Latin America has been growing tremendously. It's been fun and I can't wait to grow that even more even little by little. I feel like we've done a great job, but we've got to do better.

Q. Abe, obviously you're top-20 in the world, there's posters of you around this golf course and et cetera, et cetera, but how do you compartmentalize all that other stuff and realize come Thursday, I've got a golf tournament to play?

ABRAHAM ANCER: Yeah, thankfully this tournament and the other tournament in Mexico City, I have learned so much how to manage my time. And you want to make everybody happy, but also you want to be ready for the tournament because you will make everybody even happier if you have a good finish. So I have to keep that in my mind.

I've been able to get better at that. Maybe the first years that I was here and Mexico City, it was a little bit tougher, but every year I've learned how to deal with that and how to manage my time better and get my practice in and then do the rest of this stuff outside of the golf course. It's part of it. I love it. I know it's for a good thing, it's helped grow the game, which is one of the big things I want to be a part of.

Q. Just a quick Presidents Cup question. Obviously looking ahead to 2022, you have to make the team of course first, but how much of an honor, how excited would you be to find yourself on that squad next year ago?

ABRAHAM ANCER: Yeah, absolutely. After I played in Melbourne, I knew I wanted to be part of that team every time. I mean, it's an unbelievable experience. You can't really put into words what it feels like to play for a captain, a group of guys like that. It's just extremely special.

So I'm going to bust my butt to make that team. I know the rest of the guys are playing some really good golf, guys are winning tournaments, finishing up there week in and week out. Yeah, like I said, I cannot wait. First I want to make the team, but I can't wait to be there.

Q. Carlos said it would be an honor to have the opportunity to play alongside his friends. Do you feel the same way? If you and Carlos were on the team together, what would that mean?

ABRAHAM ANCER: Absolutely. For Mexican golf and Latin American golf, that would be huge. I know in Melbourne I guess it was me and Niemann from Latin America, but I feel like we've got the firepower to have more Latin guys on that team and it would be so much fun.

Q. You are among the tournament favorites this week and I am curious if you like that position, if you like kind of walking around knowing that people expect you to be contending, or if that's kind of foreign and you feel more comfortable in an underdog role?

ABRAHAM ANCER: I don't mind. I had no idea I was one of the favorites for the tournament. I know I like the golf course, I know what I need to do, but it's golf, it's so hard to predict who's going to win. But I guess some odds have to be put out there, I don't mind it. I don't think -- I don't like to put that much attention to that. I know my game plan, I know what I need to do to have a good tournament. Just got to go out there and execute.

I guess it gives me a little bit of confidence knowing that the experts, quote unquote, put you up there, so it feels nice, but I don't want to get too caught up in that, I've got a lot of work to do.

Q. What's the last tournament you remember playing where you went in feeling like you should win?

ABRAHAM ANCER: That's a good question. I don't think I ever go to a tournament and feel like I should win. I try to keep my expectations to a minimum. I feel if I go out there with high expectations, I tend to not play very well. Sometimes when I play my best rounds, I play -- I just hit the ball terrible on the range. So I had no expectations, I'm just focusing on every shot and somehow I end up with a great score. And sometimes when I'm flushing it on the range, I'm like I feel awesome, I just don't play that well. So I like to forget about everything. It doesn't matter what I'm feeling, when it comes to Thursday and just figure it out shot by shot.

Q. I was thinking like maybe high school or college did you show up thinking I'm the best golfer here, I should be low man, or not really?

ABRAHAM ANCER: Well, when I was in Odessa Junior College there was a stretch where I played some really good golf and I won some events in a row and I kind of got that feeling. I had a lot of confidence. I never showed it. I told myself every time, okay, you're here to win this thing, and I got a lot of confidence there. On the PGA TOUR it's a different animal for sure.