

PAT PEREZ (E)

Q. Just some thoughts on your round today, opening even par 72 at the South?

PAT PEREZ: I'll take it. That's a long course for me. I didn't play much in the offseason. I didn't really play too well in the fall, I was kind of burned out from the last two years of COVID and playing a ton of golf, not playing well. You know, I've been working with Claude now and we did a lot of great work Sunday, Monday, Tuesday this week and really got it going. I hit a lot of great shots, just the course is really hard. It's hard to get it close to the pins. I don't hit as far as the other guys, you know, they've got three clubs less than I do, so it's a lot harder for me, but I thought it played great. Even par for me I would have taken after struggling for about six months now, arguably one of the hardest courses I'm going to play during the year. I'm really excited about it. Made a couple putts and hopefully get something going on the North tomorrow.

Q. Did you feel the setup was good today? Your caddie mentioned the hole locations were pretty difficult and the rough's obviously pretty tough.

PAT PEREZ: Yeah, the rough is tough. You know, you know what you're going to get when you get here. It's like a U.S. Open course and you've just got to be in the right spots. Obviously there's some low scores on the South. The greens are fantastic, the fairways are phenomenal. The rough is hard, which it should be, it should be penalizing. We have enough easy courses, it's nice to get to somewhere where you have to hit it and really concentrate every shot. It's difficult. Tough pins, but the Tour tries to make the first two days the hardest and then kind of give everybody on the weekend some, so I enjoy it.

Q. San Diego, a place you're familiar with, what's it like getting to come back and play here once again like you get to every year really?

PAT PEREZ: It's phenomenal, I love this city. It's still my favorite city in the world. I love coming back here. I can see all my friends and family. Especially when we get weather like this, this is the best place in the world when you get this kind of weather. I always enjoy coming back. I always have memories of working the range or the cart barn or whatever it is. I played this course a thousand times and it's fun. It's always nice to come back here.

Q. Is there a comfort level in coming back here when it's the first time playing in a long time?

PAT PEREZ: No, because the course is so hard, you just -- it's just so hard. You know every single shot is going to be stress. Even I hit some beautiful chips and I kind of, you know, turned to my caddie because I think it's there, and it's there and now you've got to

think about it. There's no comfort anywhere on that course. It's a beast and it's awesome, but it's really hard.

Q. I guess I meant from a familiarity standpoint.

PAT PEREZ: Oh, yeah, of course. I know where to go to eat and I know the town. It's always coming great coming back to town because I really only come one week a year now. Yeah, I mean, there's nothing like pulling in to town and thinking of all the spots I'm going to go. I'm going to Roberto's right now, I'm looking forward to it.

Q. We're working on a story on you and your dad. I know you talked about it before, but is it still cool just to share that experience every year?

PAT PEREZ: Yeah, of course. Nobody else gets to do it, so it's pretty cool. He knows that that shot is hard and we've got to go through just announce and let me go, but of course it's cool. It's great to see him there. He's been there forever, all the guys love seeing him. It's really a cool week for him.

Q. Obviously you knew that he was doing that when you get on Tour. Is that something you thought about, a goal that you had, and what was the like the first time you had that experience?

PAT PEREZ: I didn't really think about it until we were coming towards the course the first time, but it's cool. Every year it's always special because I don't get to see him as much as I want to. I got my own kids and the whole thing now. It's kind of hard, I live in Scottsdale, it's just hard to see him all the time, but they come for Thanksgiving and Christmas and come up to L.A. Yeah, it's always awesome to see him on the tee and hopefully he'll be doing it a lot longer.