

**PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE**  
**August 7, 2024**



**VICTOR PEREZ**

---

**MODERATOR:** We would like to welcome Victor Perez into the interview room, making his first start at the Wyndham Championship.

Victor, I know last week was a big week finishing fourth at the Olympics. Comment a little bit about that and then also being here in Greensboro this week.

**VICTOR PEREZ:** Yeah, had a very good week last week, very happy with everything. I think the turnout with the crowds and everything was probably what most of us didn't expect, so it was great that a lot of people showed up for the golf. Obviously had a really good week, just one shy of kind of like what we came for. Yeah, very happy and obviously very happy to be here as well.

**MODERATOR:** How big was that for France to have golf and then also for you personally?

**VICTOR PEREZ:** Yeah, I mean, it's never easy because obviously being such a strong field, you know, only three people basically medalled. If you're kind of out of it quite early, it probably would have been a little bit of a longer week.

It was really good. I think the crowd pushing me on for four days was something that I never experienced as strongly with the French fans because the French Open's obviously not as big as the Olympics. Yeah, it was really good.

**MODERATOR:** And now you occupied the last spot to get into the FedExCup Playoffs, I know that's high on your radar right now. Talk a little bit about the state of your game coming into the week and your goals for the week.

**VICTOR PEREZ:** Yeah, very good. Obviously I had a really good week last week. I was able to play nine holes yesterday, we flew in on Monday. Yeah, no, playing well. I think whether I'm the last guy in, first guy out, you still have to play well anyway. I think even the guys in 67, 66 probably don't feel too comfortable, either. We're kind of all in the same bucket. It's about trying to put on a good performance and see how it goes.

**MODERATOR:** How's the jetlag? Are you OK?

**VICTOR PEREZ:** Yeah, I'm fine. Used to it traveling back and forth. It's OK, I should be fine.

**Q. Victor, when you think about the Olympics and how it's like through each of the three Olympics it seems like it's grown more and more of a buzz in golf and players are echoing that, what do you think it is that's allowed that to kind of take hold and**



**grow from where it started and continue to establish itself?**

**VICTOR PEREZ:** I think this one was really kind of like the first one since golf's been back where like everybody's been at the event. I think the one in Rio was a little tempered by some of the things going on, obviously the one in Tokyo with COVID wasn't easy with no fans.

Yeah, it's growing. It's a bit like the tennis was maybe when it got back into it as well. It's just going to take a bit of time. I think the next one in LA is going to bring a lot of people as well and the next one in Australia, they're going for big golfing countries basically after France, which had a really good turnout. I think it's going to keep developing, and if everybody keeps showing up, I think the event was great. It came down to the last few holes, which I think everybody was hoping for and it happened. It was really good.

**Q. Looking back a few days ago, what's that emotion like of walking off the 18th green on Sunday?**

**VICTOR PEREZ:** Yeah, yeah, it was good. It would have been probably a lot better if I holed a putt, but at the same time yeah, it was really good. I think just having the people cheering me on throughout the four days was great. All the way to the end playing, kind of making a run on the back nine and being so close, yeah, was really good.

**Q. That was sort of my question, but when you reflected on that hour and a half or whatever, what comes immediately to mind and was it a feeling maybe unlike that you've had in competitive golf given all that was swirling?**

**VICTOR PEREZ:** Yeah, obviously it happens really quickly. I birdied 12 and 13 and then eagled 14. Now you think like, oh, wow, I'm a lot closer than I expected it to be even an hour ago. You birdie 15 and 16, now you really think that you have a chance knowing that the last two holes are quite difficult. Just as much as you could make a birdie guys could easily drop a shot on the last few holes with the hazards and kind of the amphitheater that was created with the people. Yeah, it was definitely strong emotions to say the least, yeah.

**Q. And when you compare kind of going into Sunday at the Olympics where you're almost in a way playing with not much to lose and you come in here, you almost have a position to protect in a way, do you think in those terms at all or how do you describe the difference in kind of your situation from Sunday to this week?**

**VICTOR PEREZ:** Yeah, this is obviously a lot more what we're used to where kind of everything matters, every points, positions, where you stand on the FedExCup, making the cut, missing the cut, the repercussion that it will have, top-10, winning, obviously where that puts you, everything can change so fast whereas last week a lot more straightforward. You're going for three places kind of playing pedal to the metal throughout for four days and that's all you really can do, whereas this is a lot more what we're comfortable in doing. Whether it's easier or harder, it's just what we do in a sense.



**Q. Did you learn anything about yourself on Sunday?**

**VICTOR PEREZ:** I don't know, it's difficult to say because the experience was so kind of like outside the, I wouldn't say comfort zone, but kind of like what we're used to doing where you hardly have that many people on the fourth green, you know, when you're 10 shots back in a sense. So I don't know. I mean, I was quite happy to make a run, but still, you know, whether you look at it positively or negatively, it's still a little sour to not have gotten the medal, which would have been the best in a sense.

**Q. But it's unique because you still had the round of the day and played amazing. Is there like any sort of like pride or happiness that you can --**

**VICTOR PEREZ:** Oh, yeah, obviously very happy. I think everything that has gone down and the positivity that you can get from a 63 on the final day at Golf National on a course that I've played since 12 years old where I've had probably the biggest meltdowns of my career, and at the same time when you're 13 and you roll up on 15 tee and all you can see is water, it was definitely nice to see the development 20 years later to see that, oh, I can actually do this. It was nice in that sense.

**Q. You alluded to this earlier, I think, but did golf in the Olympics sort of need a week like last week and a day like Sunday to get the best players to sort of cement what that means now in the game, because it's been sort of a growing -- first it was a curiosity and everybody was trying to figure out what it means. Seems like suddenly it's gone from here to here. Did you get that sense?**

**VICTOR PEREZ:** In France?

**Q. Yes.**

**VICTOR PEREZ:** I would say so. I think the Ryder Cup was definitely big in 2018 and Europe winning, but obviously there was no French players in the field on the European side obviously. I don't know if it got the kickback it was expecting. It definitely got some, but it was already six years ago and maybe the way French golf has developed with Matt playing really well this year, winning at Torrey and some of the guys playing very well on the DP World Tour as well kind of shows how some of the players developing. I think the boys won the European Championship.

So yeah, I think French golf is definitely developing and now it's kind of like how many of those younger guys, amateurs make the transition and obviously get into the professional ranks and start winning and going on as well. I think time will tell in a sense.

**Q. Just for the players and the public what it means now, a gold medal, you know what a green jacket means or the Claret Jug, but feels like it's higher now or bigger. Did last week do that?**



**VICTOR PEREZ:** Yeah, I would say so. In a sense I took this analogy when the question was asked prior to the Olympics what would it mean like to win the gold medal. I said, well, when I was 10 years old developing your dreams as a kid, the Olympics weren't a thing anyway, so it was about watching Tiger win the Masters, it was someone winning The Open, it was about that, whereas now hopefully the young kids that were 6, 8, 10 years old that came to the Olympics hoping to get Scottie Scheffler's ball or Rory McIlroy's ball or anything really at the end, it was at the Olympics, it wasn't at The Open.

So hopefully the emotion that the kids felt along the way are going to translate into dreams that maybe one day they're hoping to win the 2040 Olympics wherever that is. I'm guessing that's going to change because kids are going to be exposed to it from an early age, whereas when I was a kid I remember April was you tune in the Masters really late at night because of the time difference, or you're watching The Open or stuff like that where those were the big events.

I think this has gotten on the map more by being in France, having a great event in a sense, and I'm hoping me competing and giving French kids a chance of going, oh, that could have been me because how am I so different from this person, I think that's going to help for sure.

**Q. It's been a huge year for players over from the DP World Tour. Just wanted to get your thoughts on kind of the program and having your first regular season in the rearview mirror now after this week?**

**VICTOR PEREZ:** Yeah, I think it's been a lot easier having played the full schedule relative to 2020, 2021 just playing through top 50 and playing the invitationals and playing the majors only. I think you kind of get in the groove of things by playing, I'm not going to call them the smaller events but relative to this year's signature or majors, you kind of get in the habit getting used to the courses, getting used to the travel. Rather than coming for three weeks, flying back for three weeks, coming back for two weeks, having been in the U.S. basically the whole year I think has made a big difference.

It's nice to see the DP World players, the top-10 qualifies, Bob's won twice, Matt's won, Sami Valimaki had a second place in Mexico. There's been some really good finishes along the way where we've shown that our game can translate if we're given enough opportunities in a sense.

I'm not sure obviously the members here love it in a sense because we're taking 10 spots from either the Korn Ferry or whoever to keep their cards, but I think if everybody's honest, at the end of the day you want to play against the best players and if we've shown that we're able to win and compete week in and week out out here, I think it's for the better of the game, which is in a sense what everybody's hoping, I'm hoping in a sense.

**Q. And have you been on one of these status bubbles before kind of right in that last spot?**



**VICTOR PEREZ:** Yeah, I have actually. I think drawing back from experiences, I think when I got on Challenge Tour in Europe, my first year I was like 16 going into the final and obviously top-15 would get their cards. I remember just absolutely crumbling the last week and not getting my card, finishing 18. Looking back in hindsight, being like, oh, I wish I would have gotten my card at the time, but looking back now, I think it was probably great that I didn't get my card and I was able to get another year on the Challenge Tour, and I finished third and then I did end up getting my card.

So I can draw back from those experiences and looking at this week with like a little bit less pressure than I would have if I was 22 years old where you feel like every week is like a do or die.

My goal was to make the Playoffs and then all of a sudden if you don't make it, everything's going to fall apart. I'm much further up in my career now and I think I have a little bit more perspective on the results in a sense. Whether it works or doesn't work, obviously you want it to work and I think everybody on my team wants it to work and we're all going to push the hardest for it to work, but if it doesn't, I don't think it's going to be the end of the world.

I think in a sense the season being different here in America relative to what it was in Europe where we used to finish in November and then it was the break and then the season was completely over. In a sense it's only August, and so there's still time to do great things in the fall as well.

The perspective is important and I think I'm lucky that it's happened to me in the past and that I can look back and not look at this week with the first seven-footer on 3 or something and then you miss and you think, oh, no, everything's falling apart. I can look back, just play golf and see where it goes. If it goes well, great, and if it doesn't, then I'll probably learn something from it and something good will come later on. So I'm going in this week with a lot more peace than I would have than if I was 23, I'm guessing.

**Q. Was making the Playoffs a goal to start the year this season?**

**VICTOR PEREZ:** Obviously making the Playoffs is important, but I think making top 50's probably even more important with everything that comes with it. I think we've seen how much this year the Signature Events have an impact. Having played well in Canada and getting into two Signature Events right after on either side of the U.S. Open has really put me in a place where I'm competitive for the Playoffs, whereas if I hadn't gone into Memorial and had a good week, then I would probably be further down and wouldn't be playing for the same things.

So they obviously have a lot of weight. Whether people like the Signature Events, don't like them from strictly a FedExCup perspective, they matter a lot.

So yeah, making top 50 is probably the bigger goal rather than try to make it to next week.



But at the same time, yeah, everybody wants to -- whoever's in -- I think even the guys that are up to 100, if they have a really good week and a top 3, they probably think that they're going to playing it, which can lead to the next one and the next one, so kind of carries over itself.

**MODERATOR:** Victor, we appreciate your time. Best of luck this week.

**VICTOR PEREZ:** Thank you.

