ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
October 29, 2026

VIDANTAWORLD
MEXICO OPEN

KENSEI HIRATA (-8)

Q. Bogey-free 63, what did you like about your opening round?

KENSEI HIRATA: Yeah, it's been a while since I had a bogey-free round, but left a few shots out there still. Overall, really satisfied with the round today.

Q. And also a round highlighted by an eagle on No. 3. Walk me through that shot.

KENSEI HIRATA: Yeah, it was a perfect 7-wood distance and hit a perfect 7-wood shot, which left me a really easy left-to-righter. Then that went in and kept the momentum going the rest of the back nine.

Q. They rerouted this course. What are you seeing and liking with the rerouted course this year?

KENSEI HIRATA: Off the tee, there's not really pressure off the tee, but second shot could be tricky for a couple holes. Then requires me to hit a good shot into tight spots. Yeah, what I like about it.

Q. Great start at Bermuda last week and wasn't able to recover with the final round there, but what were the big takeaways? Completely different playing in wind there but the heat here this week, but what's the big takeaway from last week?

KENSEI HIRATA: Yeah, it's really calm here, so it feels a lot easier than last week. Then heat-wise, I'm used to the heat. I had a really calm day and a good day so far, yeah.

Q. Any prior experiences in Mexico or what's it like being here at Vidanta?

KENSEI HIRATA: This is my third time in Mexico. I played Cabo two years ago or three years ago, three years ago, and Korn Ferry last year. This is my third time. So far, yeah, this is one of my favorite countries for sure.

Q. Kensei, first off, congratulations, what a wonderful round of golf. I thought you really dominated the par 5s. Tell us about the eagle you made.

KENSEI HIRATA: It was just a perfect 7-wood distance, just hit a really good shot, then hit a really good putt, too. Happy that it went in.

Q. You're 170th in FedExCup Fall points. How has your rookie year been here adjusting to the PGA Tour, adjusting to a different culture? It's been a lot on your

plate this year.

KENSEI HIRATA: Pretty much the same thing last year on the Korn Ferry, went to a lot of different countries and stuff. This year also different courses, different countries, new grasses. I had an overall really good experience.

Q. Talk about last week. You played so well, had a difficult Saturday, then the weather prevented you a chance from rebounding from that. What did you learn in Bermuda?

KENSEI HIRATA: Even though I struggled on Saturday last week, I didn't execute that very well, but coming into this week I had a really good preparation and happy that I had a really good first round.