ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES
October 30, 2026

VIDANTAWORLD
MEXICO OPEN

ANDREW NOVAK (-14)

Q. The way you were striking the golf ball today, what are you most pleased about?

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, the iron play was really good, the putting was really good. Driver, was just putting myself in position to hit good iron shots. Kind of one of those days where everything's working. A few loose wedges at random points, probably go clean that up. But yeah, 61 out here, that's really good.

Q. Sometimes you get an indication during a warmup, in the middle of the round that it's going your way. What was your warmup like? Did you have any indication that something special might happen?

ANDREW NOVAK: Warmup, it was just normal warmup. The whole point's getting loose. It's not that hard getting loose out here it's 90 degrees.

Kind of was leaking the drivers a little bit on the range. Wasn't hitting the driver great on the range but stepped up, hit a good one on one and then just threw a 7-iron in there three feet and I was like OK, we might be going here.

Q. (No microphone) here a couple years ago, you finished tied for 15th here. What's a North Carolina kid love so much about Mexico?

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, I think it requires you to hit some good iron shots. I think there's some holes out there where you've got to step up and hit good shots and I don't mind that. I think having hit a really good drive to set up a 5-iron into a par 4 and execute two good shots or if not you're trying to scramble, I think that benefits me a little bit. I feel like I've always played pretty well here, just comfortable with it. Yeah, it's continued this week so far.

Q. What's been the big takeaway from your season? Happy with it, not happy with it? What was your thought process?

ANDREW NOVAK: Obviously compared to last year it was pretty terrible, like 90th in points this year and I think I was 16th or 17th going to East Lake last year.

But then I go look at the stats and tee to green I was actually better this year. I was just truly one of the worst putters in the world for -- well, on the PGA TOUR for about eight months. I turned a bunch of 66s and 67s into 69s and 70s and that doesn't really get it done out here. I think the putter I put in at Wyndham has actually shown up, and my game never left, it's still there. Now when I actually am putting decent, it's turning into good results.

Thankfully, I didn't panic with anything. Like I was able to look at the stats and be like, hey, you're still doing things well, you just have to be patient and wait for the putting to come around. So far this week the putts have been good.

Q. What are you doing better with the putter? Is it speed control, is it --

ANDREW NOVAK: Funny enough, I spent all year doing stuff like that. Bounced around with a few different putters and would work with some of the reps, do all these testing on machines and basically get told every Monday and Tuesday that I'm aiming the putter elite, like I'm very consistent, rolling it great, everything I'm doing is perfect. Then I go and I'm the worst putter in the field.

I got very frustrated with that, every single week being told that there's nothing wrong with my putting and then just being dead last.

So went in the closet and dug out a putter that I used for a long time back in the day. It's rusted out, it's old, but I know it works. I don't know loft on it, I don't know the lie on it, but for the last four tournaments I've done pretty well making putts.

So I think maybe I was just overthinking some things and yeah, I've just gone back to hitting putts. I might do some chalk line stuff now for like start line, but really keeping it very simple and trying not to overthink it.

Q. What's your mindset with 36 holes to go?

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, look, there's a pretty bunched leaderboard, I separated a little bit, but we're halfway there, there's so much golf to play. I'm going to have to go out and keep hitting a bunch of fairways. If I'm hitting my irons like this, I'm going to be able to give myself a lot of opportunities. I don't know if I'll make as many putts as I did today, but as long as I'm maximizing my opportunities and make a few of those with the putter, I should be in a good spot.

Q. (Question about the pairing.) (No microphone.) Are you guys teasing one another, more --

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, the vibes were electric out there. Obviously playing with Ben is very comfortable for me, and Joel's just a good dude. He puts on that little frumpy attitude, you see him like mope around out there but he's having a good time with it. I think I would be very happy to play with both those guys first two rounds every single week.