Production Transcript for 22INTCUTTO\_MEXICO OPEN.mp3

[00:00:20] >> The PGA Tour is proud to bring you the season-long race for the FedEx Cup. Now, coverage of the 2022 Mexico Open at Vidanta.

[00:00:51] >> This event as a story pass dating back to 1944. But with the tour backing it for the initial time, this week promises to be a showcase for the sports crazed nation. What a beautiful spot they've chosen too. And the beach resort city of Puerto Vallarta is ready to host world class golf. The course at Vidanta is long, but there was very little rough to deal with. The weather, just about perfect, warm, dry, blue skies, a gentle breeze off the Pacific Ocean. We should see some more low scores this afternoon. Earlier today, the second ranked player in the world, Jon Rahm, showed off his immense short game skills at 13. Look at that. And Jon card 7-under par 64. The brightest star in the field is tied for the lead here in Mexico. Now, this afternoon, some of the guys chasing, including Tony Finau. He was at the 5th. Knocks it close. Underneath the hole, he would make birdie from there. So Tony is making an early move in this first round. What about Monday qualifier Bryson Nimmer at the 9th? Twenty-five-year-old playing his last hole of the day, knocks it close, and makes the birdie putt. Good day so far for Nimmer. If you take a look at the leaderboard at the Mexico Open at Vidanta, Rahm leads the way with Byrd, Todd, and Mullinax. Low scores are in the offing. It should be a wild ride this afternoon. Glad to have you with us here for Round 1.

[00:02:28] >> Let's go up to number 8. This is a par 4, a good par 4, 488 playing back into the breeze. Scott Brown has it in good shape here under the hole.

[00:02:40] >> Oh, yeah.

[00:02:40] >> And that is one heck of a birdie. Eighth hole can play it very difficult, especially this afternoon with the wind up.

[00:02:46] >> Very good, Brown.

[00:02:49] >> Let me swing you back to 6 again.

[00:02:52] >> And Abraham Ancer. This is for a birdie. Much needed.

[00:03:06][ Cheering and Applause ] Struggled with some back problems before the Masters, but had a few weeks off and says he's 100% now. Very excited to be here on home soil, and he'll have a lot of support out there.

[00:03:22] >> And speaking of Abraham Ancer, Trevor, we talked about 10 Mexican golfers in the field. I had a chat with Abraham Ancer yesterday during the Pro-Am, and he said it's impossible to emphasize just how big a week this is for Mexican golf. Knous on the tee at 11.

[00:03:42] >> Swing. He would make that for birdie.

[00:03:54][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:03:57] >> In the bunker at the 8th, Matt Wallace. He's plenty of green to work with here. The ball is setting up. It shouldn't be a real tough bunker shot.

[00:04:09] >> At all. Give these guys just the right amount of green to work with, with a good line the bunkers, they almost would rather have that shot than out of some heavy rough around these greens. And it's more predictable.

[00:04:23] >> Carlos Ortiz for birdie at 6.

[00:04:27] >> Yeah, they used to come here when they were young. And we're right on the border of Jalisco, the State of Jalisco, so this is home territory. That is a pretty good effort there. Looks like it's going to drop. Oh, yes, a bonus. Great up and down in the end. And that will get the crowd going his.

[00:04:58] >> Good job.

[00:04:59] >> His father has worked here for 25 years as a contractor. So, you know, he's really been -- he's had a front row seat to see this part of the world develop. And this golf course has been around for about six years, so he's had a chance to see that grow into maturity. And he knows the lines obviously on this green.

[00:05:21] >> Good job.

[00:05:23] >> Let's see if Gary Woodland can get it up and down. Better than getting it up and down. Just go ahead and hole it. Great birdie at a very difficult hole. And how about that stretch? Four in a row now for Woodland.

[00:05:49] >> South of the ammeter for 2. Nicely done. Started with that double bogey at 10. It's a tough opening hole.

[00:06:00] >> Wallace going for the green in 2 here at 12. He would make that for eagle.

[00:06:20] >> For the third time this season, on the PGA Tour, there have been two holes in one in the same round, Mayakoba in Mexico, Chris Kirk and John Huh did it. Kiradech Aphibarnrat was the first to do it at the 5th a little bit earlier today. And then two hours 17 minutes later, Scott Gutschewski at the same hole. By the way, Shane Lowry and Viktor Hovland were the other two did it on the same day in the third round at the Players. But Kiradech and Scott did it on the same hole. That's the first time that's been done all season-long on the PGA Tour.

[00:06:58] >> Now, Ancer for birdie at the 12th.

[00:07:09][ Applause ]

[00:07:14] >> And go up to 18.

[00:07:16] >> Ben Kohles just off the green. It should be an exciting finish come Sunday afternoon with this par 5. Oh, another one goes in from off the green. How about that?

[00:07:29] >> Yeah. That's the third eagle we've seen at 18. Yeah, it's a nice vibe around this 18th green. A lot of people, a lot of action going on.

[00:07:37] >> We go back to Jon Rahm. We saw this earlier, and you can't see it enough. What touch at 13. Yeah, with an awkward stance as well kind of hop in, hop out of that green side bunker. Really nice. But this swing is just so pure. The way he sets that clubface a little close to the top and then rotates the body through. Beautiful long iron there.

[00:08:03] >> Yeah. He's got the short game. He's got the long game. Jon Rahm has it all working. And now, here at the 7th. We talked about this. It's a short par 4. Most of the guys are trying to get after it off the tee.

[00:08:15] >> And look at that speed, 182. That is up there by two of standards, two of standard right around 171, 172. So got the power as well.

[00:08:26] >> The second rank player in the world showing his prowess here at Vidanta. Now, the eagle try.

[00:08:34] >> And this sure did help more than 96 feet of putts made by Jon Rahm today.

[00:08:40] >> Yeah.

[00:08:44] >> Six are tied at the top after opening round 64 is including number two in the world, Jon Rahm. England's Aaron Rai is just one shot back. Round 2 is next.

[00:09:02] >> With the Sierra Madre Mountains and Pacific Ocean as a backdrop, Vidanta is a stunning site. The golf course opened in 2016. Six years later, the greatest players on the planet are vying for a coveted title here. Only a few days, they have visited, but this stunning property has already received rave reviews from all the players. The combination of the accommodations and golf course had been a big hit. Top ranked player in the field this week is making his presence felt. Jon Rahm, 7-under 64 yesterday, a 28-foot birdie there at the 1st. A little earlier today, that moved him to 8-under par. We will see a lot of the second ranked player in the world during our live second round coverage from Mexico.

[00:09:50] >> Up ahead at 11, Trey Mullinax has this for birdie.

[00:10:02] >> Get there.

[00:10:04] >> Yeah. Just does. Drip it over the front edge. So good pot there for Trey Mullinax.

[00:10:13] >> What a terrific drive by Jon Rahm, just a 4-iron, 249 total. But he's looking out to the left, trying to land this ball 219 front, but trying to land this ball about 225 yards left to the flag.

[00:10:28] >> Wrap it.

[00:10:28] >> We're not trying to miss to the right. It's cutting out to the right, needs a pretty good kick back to the left and gets it there. Wow. Good break there for Jon Rahm. That kick off the hill on the right-hand side back to the left. Now, he's got an eagle opportunity.

[00:10:53] >> Munoz for birdie at the 5th.

[00:11:04][ Applause ]

[00:11:10] >> And now, Jon Rahm has an eagle putt Billy Ray.

[00:11:15] >> Yeah. We'll say Jon Rahm, watch the little pitch shot from Cameron Champ very closely. Saw how the ball was riding up that ridge and turn left. Majority of the way up, the first three quarters of this putt is going to ride this ridge and actually start to turn back to the left. Brings right around 10 and a half on the stent meter. So from long distance players, they have to give it a bigger hit than what they're used to, that's for sure. It just went left immediately off that slope.

[00:11:47] >> Rahm would finish that off for birdie.

[00:11:54] >> Here's Arjun Atwal at the 9th.

[00:11:58] >> Chipping from below the level of the green. Nice lie in the rough.

[00:12:01] >> Did he?

[00:12:02] >> Oh, yeah.

[00:12:03] >> Yes. What a shot from Arjun Atwal. He needs to hustle if he's going to make the cut over the weekend. Patrick Reed, let's see what kind of touch he has. We know he has one of the great short games in the world.

[00:12:17] >> Yeah. I like his chances here. Get this inside of 3 feet for sure. How about in? Really good.

[00:12:27] >> His touch around the green.

[00:12:28] >> He's so good at landing the ball right on his spot.

[00:12:34] >> And, Billy Ray, we see the gallery around that 9th tee. He's the biggest star in the field and the fans are showing him why.

[00:12:42] >> Yeah. No doubt. I mean, he is world number two. He is putting on a show right now for the fans. And this is a 6-iron for Rahm. He got a really good view of the ball flight there of Cameron Champ, making a decision to go with one club more. Trying to work this ball in from right to left.

[00:13:04] >> Man, that is nice.

[00:13:05] >> Oh, my.

[00:13:06] >> What a nice.

[00:13:09] >> And you wonder why he's got the gallery, Steve Sands?

[00:13:11] >> Exactly.

[00:13:12] >> It's just like that.

[00:13:13] >> Rahm would convert for birdie.

[00:13:18] >> And now, Patrick Reed for his birdie try at the 9th.

[00:13:22] >> You can see that grain change about 6 feet short of the hole right there.

[00:13:27] >> Oh, yeah.

[00:13:29] >> Long distance for Patrick.

[00:13:31] >> And nice bounce back off to the issues at 8. Didn't really hit a good shot at all on 8, made bogey there and a beautiful 2 at 9.

[00:13:39] >> And let's go up to the 18th.

[00:13:41] >> Just behind us, Chez Reavie, putter in hand from off the green.

[00:13:51] >> That looks good. Real good. How about a 3 at 18? Nice eagle for Chez at the par 5.

[00:14:01] >> That's the first eagle of the day at 18 in the second round.

[00:14:05] >> And that erases the double he committed two holes previously at the 16th. Major champion and Jon Rahm. Somebody's got to make a birdie on this par 5, right?

[00:14:20] >> Yeah. If he's going to do that, he's going to have to give us a pretty big hit as it worked its way back up the slope. And it will come across the whole move back to the right once it starts losing a little bit of speed.

[00:14:42] >> Kind of gets the putter set, and then lowers his hands down onto the grip, right there.

[00:14:53] >> There you go. And Rahm gets back to 10-under and has the lead by himself.

[00:14:59] >> That was a wonderful read too. He did -- I thought it was going to break a bit more of the right. He just played it inside left and center, cut there for Rahm.

[00:15:07] >> To 5.

[00:15:08] >> And Kiradech Aphibarnrat who made a hole in one on this 5th hole yesterday. Oh, wow. I think he likes the 5th hole.

[00:15:18] >> To 13 where Charles Howell III has a long birdie try.

[00:15:28][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:15:39] >> Twelve.

[00:15:39] >> More short game prowess for Patrick Reed.

[00:15:44] >> Should be a ton of spin on that second bounce. There you go.

[00:15:48] >> I mean, look at that. Every time, Trevor.

[00:15:50] >> Just has so many shots from around the green.

[00:15:53] >> That would be a birdie for Reed.

[00:15:58] >> Back here at 14. Rahm is going to go take a look at his lie. I think he's going to be pretty happy with that lie.

[00:16:06] >> No, he's going to be very happy. This hole is very compacted where his balls come to rest. It's actually sitting up very, very well. He'd be pitching back into the breeze.

[00:16:20] >> This shot will have a lot of spin on if he catches it correctly.

[00:16:24] >> You know, there's a drain there. So whatever water that came off the fairways kind of drained into that area and help pack it down, which I think will help on this next shot. He could cut -- He should be able to catch the ball first and kind of drive it in there. Shouldn't he, Billy Ray?

[00:16:39] >> Oh, yeah. I don't see any issue at all here. I think the issue is that he's going to have to actually get it up there close to the hole because it's going to have so much spin coming off this tight lie.

[00:17:11] >> All right. Third shot to the par 5.

[00:17:31] >> Drives it in low, should spin.

[00:17:33] >> Oh, yeah.

[00:17:33] >> How was that? How was that?

[00:17:35] >> Wasn't that cool coming up for that hard pan? He had it back in his stance.

[00:17:38] >> Yeah.

[00:17:38] >> He had the face square so that the leading edge could dig in a little bit.

[00:17:44] >> Rahm moves to 11-under.

[00:17:47] >> Jonathan Byrd.

[00:17:48] >> With, yeah, putt here for an eagle. This would be to tie the lead. We know there's a lot of movement right to left trying to keep it high enough.

[00:18:03] >> Now, back with Rahm.

[00:18:05] >> Trevor, you're telling me something during break. We saw Rahm's tee shot one handed. How far did that tee shot?

[00:18:10] >> Three-sixty, longest tee shot of the day here.

[00:18:13] >> Yeah, one handed, that's great. Yeah, 88 yards now. He'd rather be coming in from the left-hand side so he doesn't have to go over that bunker. As you said, Trevor, we don't want any part of that bunker on the right-hand side. Yeah. But no worries there, able to spin it.

[00:18:33] >> This is Armando Favela, one of the 10 players competing this week in the Mexican flag, the most ever in PGA Tour history. Give them something to cheer about. There you go. Armando. How about that? And by the way, the cut line is 3-under right now.

[00:18:59] >> All right. Jon Rahm here at 15, Billy Ray, trying to put a little bit of a stranglehold here in the second round.

[00:19:05] >> Yeah, this is amazing. We've been talking about his power. But he has hit some wonderful pitch shots inside 100 yards. I don't think that's talked about enough, his ability in his -- the feel that he has from short distance. You bet.

[00:19:21] >> Yeah, that stroke is starting to look really good. He's keeping his head so nice and stable. No extra body movement. That putter shaft is just tracking right on plane.

[00:19:33] >> Jon Rahm follows up his opening round 64 with a 5-under 66, and he leads by 2 over Alex Smalley. Round 3 is next.

[00:19:46] >> Right now, it's time to make a move. Every shot, every finish matters. The race for the FedEx Cup is on.

[00:20:23] >> Yeah, the skies are perfect, the course conditions are ideal, and everyone is excited about welcoming this new event to the PGA Tour. It's not a new event. It actually goes back over 60 years, but it's first time it's a part of the PGA Tour schedule. Vidanta, it opened a little more than five years ago. Greg Norman designed this layout. It's long. It's got five par 5s on this course and five part 3s that you will see a lot of action out here today with a stack leaderboard that has Jan Rahm right at the very top. We're at the 7th and he's a co-leader now. Jon Rahm, this is a drivable par 4 hidden back. He eagled it on Thursday.

[00:21:13] >> Jim, that starts right at it into the breeze from the right.

[00:21:18] >> Look at this. Subtle. Look at this. He'll have that for an eagle 2.

[00:21:25][ Applause ] Kurt Kitayama, meanwhile, with an 8-iron at the par-3 9th. And, Jim, this one looks good.

[00:21:38] >> You're not kidding.

[00:21:49] >> Good work. What a side by Kitayama, 5-under on the side. So Rahm in a three-way tie, but that won't last long. And he's in here pretty close for eagle, so birdie. That is a certainty as the worst it appears.

[00:22:12] >> Now, the putter was such a friend to him for the first two days. It hasn't quite lit up yet. Left the eagle putt short actually at the previous hole. You feel like he hasn't gotten completely untracked yet and is just waiting to explode.

[00:22:35] >> Chance for an eagle. Come on now. Oh. It hooked left at the end. He thought he had it. So in pursuit of his first victory since the US Open in Torrey Pines.

[00:23:02] >> And gone.

[00:23:07] >> Up to 17 here, Nate Lashley. He's been having a good day, 6-under on his round as he gets to the difficult par 3. And there's one more. And Alvaro Ortiz trying to save par here at the tough par 3. He doesn't want to make back to back bogeys. Oh, yeah, great putt down the hill.

[00:23:40] >> Yes.

[00:23:42] >> So that'll save some momentum for him as he hits to the par-5 18th.

[00:23:50] >> After missing the green, Rahm has this to save par.

[00:24:06] >> But how about that? And the fist pump to drive it home. He's been keeping his head so nice and still on the putting this week, not peeking early at all.

[00:24:16] >> Agreed. It looks really, really good. And he's first this week in that category, by the way.

[00:24:20] >> Let's take a look at the roll here. Right out of the center, breaking from his right, and dives right into the middle with perfect speed. So Rahm stays one ahead.

[00:24:38] >> Kitayama on the tee at the par-3 11th.

[00:24:50][ Applause ]

[00:24:55] >> Let's bring it back up to the par-5 18th. We saw Lashley short of the green and to pitch that up to here. Now, he has this for a closing birdie.

[00:25:04] >> And the chip really grabbed on him. It didn't roll out like what he was expecting. This hole averaging 4.6.

[00:25:12] >> How about that? Drops it for 64. Nate Lashley who has played the last now 41 holes without a bogey.

[00:25:28] >> Let's push ahead to 11.

[00:25:30] >> And Kitayama, his birdie putt.

[00:25:33] >> Just over 10 feet. Not a whole lot in it, Trevor. Moving a little bit to his left.

[00:25:39] >> Nice. Look at the grip there. Some forward shaft lean.

[00:25:48] >> Get in there.

[00:25:48] >> And rolls it right in the middle. So good bounce back there from cut off to the bogey at 10.

[00:25:55] >> Let's go to 10.

[00:25:57] >> And Jon Rahm, let's see what he can do. He's at little painting it fair, Dottie.

[00:26:00] >> This is the test we've been talking about, the tee shot at 10.

[00:26:05] >> Which those hips rotate super fast through impact.

[00:26:09] >> And so well grounded. This is cutting toward the penalty area.

[00:26:17] >> Twenty-thirty, that's wide.

[00:26:19] >> Yes.

[00:26:19] >> And not wide enough. Yeah. We have just heard officially, he is wet and he knows it.

[00:26:26] >> Rahm would make bogey and drop back to 13-under.

[00:26:29] >> Fourteen.

[00:26:29] >> And Kitayama is second.

[00:26:31] >> Two-eighty-two hole, 249 to the front. Anything short left will do, Trevor. But once again, looks like this one's heading right.

[00:26:38] >> There's water there.

[00:26:42] >> Stay up.

[00:26:43] >> I couldn't tell.

[00:26:45] >> I's inside the penalty area but I can see the bowl, Colt.

[00:26:50] >> We're back with champ playing his third over at the 12.

[00:26:55] >> And it's a much easier approach from short of the green than long here. And that's probably why he went with the iron rather than the wood with his second.

[00:27:05] >> You're going to love this. Beautiful.

[00:27:10] >> So, just a little tap in birdie is going to be to get the 14-under.

[00:27:16] >> Patrick Rodgers eyeing a birdie.

[00:27:23] >> Good shot, buddy.

[00:27:25] >> We knew that was decided to be putting from, straight up the hill.

[00:27:30] >> We go to 14.

[00:27:31] >> And Kitayama's birdie putt.

[00:27:36] >> Trying to tie the lead, gave it a smash up the hill there.

[00:27:42] >> Rahm's third at the par-5 12.

[00:27:47] >> But there's no trouble.

[00:27:50] >> No. It's a green that I think tries to be a Biarritz but it's not quite as dramatic as it probably needs to be. But this is when you practice so many times, even the time you're a munchkin.

[00:28:00] >> Yeah, nice little back foot wedge.

[00:28:05] >> Going to think inside 3 feet nine out of 10 times. Maybe eight out of 10.

[00:28:15][ Applause ]

[00:28:20] >> Smalley for birdie.

[00:28:24] >> Bingo.

[00:28:28] >> Wise layup from the bunker. Well played.

[00:28:50] >> Ian.

[00:28:51] >> That's not my fault. That was the jet flying over.

[00:28:58] >> It's what it was. Let's go to 14.

[00:29:06] >> And Scott Brown with a nice look up the hill for eagle. There's only been one eagle here so far today. And there's the second. So he joins Sebastian Munoz as the two players that have made eagles here.

[00:29:24] >> Fifteenth.

[00:29:24] >> And this could tie the lead.

[00:29:26] >> Kitayama has just started out near that roll mark.

[00:29:31] >> I was going to say that might be awfully close. It's going to go inside of it and pour it in.

[00:29:38] >> Beautiful stroke, great speed, really.

[00:29:44] >> We're back at the 14th, Cam Champs third. Is it going to keep working its way down there? Interesting technique. A little bit of a stab at it to get that ball to come out with some run on it.

[00:30:07] >> All of our contact just went up the hill.

[00:30:10] >> Oh, yeah.

[00:30:11] >> Strides it in.

[00:30:11] >> Yeah, he sure did. Really aggressive with the speed there and that ball held its line beautifully. So he takes the lead all on his own again. Nice card there. No bogeys. We're going to take a look at how Jon Rahm got to this point after his second shot back at the par 5.

[00:30:33] >> This is pretty straightforward. But you do have to take into account the wind.

[00:30:41] >> Yeah, that's fantastic.

[00:30:43] >> Now, look who's in trouble with 17.

[00:30:46] >> Kitayama with his second. He's got lie issues. He's got tree issues. Trevor, he would take four and be very happy. This is a heck of a shot from there.

[00:30:54] >> Kitayama would scrape out a bogey. Adam Long from off the green at 15.

[00:31:00] >> Got to land it on the green with some spin. Bumping is not going to work, I don't believe.

[00:31:05] >> Oh, how sweet is that. Just clicked the perfect, like.

[00:31:14][ Applause ]

[00:31:22] >> Going down breeze as well.

[00:31:26] >> Yeah. The breeze will be hitting him in his -- right in right shoulder right from here.

[00:31:46] >> Come on now.

[00:31:49] >> That's ridiculous.

[00:31:56] >> And he's right there and knock this one in to tie the lead again.

[00:32:01] >> Here, we are looking at the faces of the golfers from Mexico who have won on the PGA Tour, and we saw Victor Regalado who won twice He went at Pleasant Valley where you had success. And he won at Quad Cities as well, and a terrific career.

[00:32:16] >> Now, if he doesn't make this, Ian, that's all pars on the par 5s on this back 9.

[00:32:19] >> That's not good. Of course, there's three of them. Again, if you're just joining us -- Oh, man. Man, oh, mam ends up behind the hole.

[00:32:28][ Applause ] So here we are the final three at the 18th. It did use split tees today, so one more group coming up over the 9th.

[00:32:43] >> What about Rahm?

[00:32:46] >> This is a very scruffy lie. A little bit of a downslope, 231 total.

[00:32:52] >> Try and run it up between the two front bunkers would be a good shot. He could get it on the surface with a little runner.

[00:32:57] >> Oh, it's going to be hot, but it's going to have to turn over to get in the gap.

[00:33:06] >> It runs all the way up to the top of that bunker.

[00:33:14] >> All right, Long has this for birdie. What a putt.

[00:33:30][ Applause ]

[00:33:36] >> And this would be for the two shot lead going into Sunday.

[00:33:45] >> Always the same routine, just shuffles in, gets comfortable and goes.

[00:33:50] >> There it is. Birdie finished for Jon Rahm.

[00:33:55] >> Finally saying to himself. Finally got one in the bottom of the cup. It's been a tough day. A route of 68.

[00:34:05] >> Spain's Jon Rahm holds a two shot lead heading into Sunday. He's looking for his first win of the '21-'22 season. The final round is next.

[00:34:24] >> We have discovered a beautiful new site as a regular stop on the PGA Tour, year one for this event on the PGA Tour, the Mexico Open at Vidanta, the resort town of Puerto Vallarta. The golf course is about a mile off the coastline, and today it's warm. It has been all week. Pretty standard stuff but a little warmer today and a little breeze here, the Pacific breezes coming in and being felt a little more force. It's lush. It's green. The lies are perfect greens are too. We're going to sit back and enjoy the chase here for the title at the Mexico Open.

[00:35:00] >> This is Davis Riley.

[00:35:10] >> We enjoyed watching yesterday with that sweet swing that is new on tour. And there's big results already. Another good week.

[00:35:19] >> Remember too, he's had issues with his left wrist, had injuries to his left wrist at the end of last year.

[00:35:27] >> And you can see, he's actually that brace on there still.

[00:35:31] >> And, Trevor, my opinion, this is going to make or break time. You don't pull this off. I mean, that's going to be the golf tournament.

[00:35:35] >> That's a good point there.

[00:35:36] >> One behind.

[00:35:37] >> I don't know which direction it's going to go.

[00:35:41] >> One behind, Rahm is in there inside of 20 feet.

[00:35:46] >> I don't know whether it's worth it. Go back to the tee play three.

[00:35:50] >> We're about to find out.

[00:35:53] >> There you go.

[00:35:55] >> Great shot.

[00:35:56] >> It's going to be in the fairway, but it has a ton of mud on it.

[00:36:04] >> To 9.

[00:36:05] >> It's Davis Riley for birdie. What a two that is.

[00:36:17] >> Young man lives in Dallas, plays out at Maridoe Golf Club.

[00:36:21] >> Back to the action at the 8th.

[00:36:23] >> And champ.

[00:36:25] >> One-ninety-one going with 6-iron back into this one. Just trying to limit the damage.

[00:36:31] >> Not only has the mud on the ball, but also the crosswind. Just look at this.

[00:36:40] >> Mud, it's a mud.

[00:36:42] >> We go to 18.

[00:36:45] >> And Abraham Ancer, one of the three players from Mexico to make the cut. There were 10 to start the week. Abraham has this for birdie. And a big ovation for their very own.

[00:36:57] >> Let's take a look at what Champ has been going through here at this tough par 4.

[00:37:10] >> Pretty unfortunate to have the mud on the ball for the third. Still be 3 behind, at least somewhat in touch then. Huge putt. So that is going to be a disastrous triple bogey 7.

[00:37:36] >> Back to 9.

[00:37:41] >> Kitayama.

[00:37:43] >> Downhill the entire journey, this one. Everything wants to gather to the hole so you can dump this just onto the putting surface.

[00:37:50] >> And gravity should have the rest.

[00:37:57] >> Looks like a pretty perfect landing spot. Lovely shot.

[00:38:06] >> To 13.

[00:38:07] >> And Tony Finau, first two days, he putted horrifically, nearly missed the cut because of this very club. But the weekend, it is hotted up. Putter is starting to match his tee to green game. Birdie is just starting to float.

[00:38:22] >> Kitayama on the tee at 10.

[00:38:44] >> Oh, dear. Second straight day at 10.

[00:38:48] >> Yes. And as you saw, he has bogey this all, each of the first three rounds. He's been trying to save that tee shot that right I'm going over. We got to 17.

[00:38:57] >> And Alvaro Ortiz, one of the three Mexican players that made the cut here. Oh, man he's all that. What a beautiful shot out of position there at 17. Still makes the two, gets him to 5-under. Now, at 14, this is Wu's eagle putt. He's only three behind Rahm.

[00:39:34] >> So here's our leader at the 10th.

[00:39:39] >> He's trying to survive this all. Going to need a nice pitch here to try and do that though.

[00:39:46] >> Frank, the practice swings have been that he's going to take this upstairs, use the wind that's blowing in his face to bring it down softly.

[00:39:52] >> He's a good bunker player, so it's going to be a similar technique.

[00:39:56] >> Remember the bunker shot he got up in in yesterday at the 18th.

[00:40:00] >> Sort of like that.

[00:40:01] >> Just like that.

[00:40:03] >> That's a great shot. And it's so softly.

[00:40:12] >> Certainly is. Just also looking at the difference in the demeanor between Kitayama and Champ at the stage. What a try from Kitayama. Six feet left for Rahm. And that is just the second miss inside 6 feet this week for Rahm. Not done yet. So lead goes back to perhaps just the solitary shot. Either that or we have a three-way time if this does not go in.

[00:41:14] >> Frank, it seems to me that Jon is out of his normal pacing, taking longer over the full shots, and starting to take longer over the putter.

[00:41:23] >> We go to 17.

[00:41:26] >> And Tony Finau, a good second shot here right up in front of the green. First half going up the hill, and then start heading back down. This is for eagle. Oh, how about that? Karen, a ton of speed actually jumps up into the air after it hits the cup. And all of a sudden, Finau, after going birdie eagle on 13, 14 is 14-under and 2-behind.

[00:41:52] >> At 18, Alvaro Ortiz now for birdie to get to 6-under. Oh, how he wishes he could play this all over yesterday. Made eight yesterday that out of bounds. But other than that, superb week.

[00:42:15] >> And here are the three players from Mexico to make the cut. Ancer -- They're all in. Alvaro, time for low honors with 6-under, finishes, and Carlos at minus 5.

[00:42:28] >> Over at 15, Tony Finau, eight feet away. He's gone birdie eagle.

[00:42:36] >> Birdie. How about this stretch?

[00:42:38] >> What a great run there on those three holes. Wow.

[00:42:40] >>He's one off the lead.

[00:42:41] >> Let's go to 16.

[00:42:45] >> Yeah. Brandon Wu has also just won back. Nice drive at 16, slight dogleg right par 4. But this is still a long way. And into the breeze. And, Jim, he's a good looking player, that's for sure. Good swing.

[00:43:03] >> Now, up at the green.

[00:43:05] >> We have a chance for a tie if this goes in. Longer putts than this made today.

[00:43:16] >> Oh, can you believe it?

[00:43:18] >> And that is sent the cat amongst the pigeons that's for sure. And Rahm gets to look at that leaderboard and realizes this challenge is Finau-Wu though.

[00:43:28] >> And Cameron Champ after that sensational shot from the sand with a 3 wood in position to strike and get one back.

[00:43:38] >> Ball needs to land in the final upslope before the hole location.

[00:43:42] >> Spectacular shot.

[00:43:45] >> Just like that.

[00:43:46] >> That is a really tough thing today.

[00:43:50] >> We're at 13.

[00:43:52] >> And now, Davis Riley, looks like he's aiming in the same direction. Ideally, you got to try and get over a ridge so that 27 paces into this green. He's done more than that. Great shot.

[00:44:05] >> Back to 12.

[00:44:09] >> And Cameron Champ, Dottie, anything in this?

[00:44:12] >> Not much. This is a -- however, after a back off and a reset, didn't like what he saw first.

[00:44:20] >> Likes what he sees now. We're at 13.

[00:44:27] >> Saw the great shot, Davis Riley, but like the scenery around here. Can you pay it off? Yeah, that's right in the heart again.

[00:44:40] >> And now, let's see what Kurt can do with this one.

[00:44:45] >> That's tough with some pace.

[00:44:49] >> Tie the lead. There you go. Three now at 16-under par, Rahm, Wu, and Kitayama.

[00:45:02] >> Further up near the green, this is Riley's third. Got a mouthful of sand while he was at it. Oh, yeah, that's beautifully played from long range. That can be such an awkward shot.

[00:45:16] >> Up at the green.

[00:45:18] >> Wondrous little play out of the bunker with some kind of spin on it at 14.

[00:45:22] >> Wow, we've spoken about the fact that he's leading this putting stats for the week, and bearing that one as well. So back to back birdies there to get to 15-under. Just one behind right now. Up to 18.

[00:45:35] >> And here's Wu to post 17-under and take the lead outright. Come on now.

[00:45:46][ Applause ]

[00:45:51] >> Just left him a little bit too much work to do there with the ball bunker shot. But still a great round of golf.

[00:45:57] >> Yeah. So round of 63 is now the new competitive course record at Vidanta. Finau.

[00:46:07] >> Pretty straightforward pitch from about 30 yards.

[00:46:09] >> Yeah.

[00:46:10] >> Up and down, tie the lead.

[00:46:15] >> Settled in.

[00:46:16][ Applause ]

[00:46:26] >> Fourteen.

[00:46:27] >> Now, Rahm, he's birdied this whole every day so far.

[00:46:30] >> From this angle, it looks like it should go a little bit more to the right, take the bank, but it stays out to the left as we saw with that first chip.

[00:46:41] >> Yeah. Might have just learned a little --

[00:46:43] >> Exactly.

[00:46:44] >> -- from Champ. Didn't dial in the speed as well.

[00:46:49] >> To 18.

[00:46:50] >> And this can tie the lead. There it is. Tony Finau matches Brandon Wu's course record 63 with an 8-under par performance of his own.

[00:47:03] >> As we get back to Rahm with a chance to break out of that four-way tie, 14.

[00:47:12] >> As that wind starts to pick up, it may affect the reads on the putts too. How good is that roll? Man, is he any good at putting left to right, breaking putts?

[00:47:37] >> Exactly. Unbelievable. Most people are better on those right to left uphill lose. That was a difficult putt.

[00:47:42] >> To 18.

[00:47:43] >> And this for birdie for Smalley to join Lipsky and Riley in wise tee 5. Closing birdie it is.

[00:47:53] >> Swung the club beautifully all week. Great finish.

[00:47:56] >> This comes on the hills with three straight missed cuts.

[00:47:59] >> After Rahm made par at 15 and 16, we pick up his group at 17.

[00:48:04] >> So the hole is played quite a different each day but still maintained its difficulty.

[00:48:11] >> One-eighty-eight total.

[00:48:18] >> He's been hitting little draws in here all week. Hole location on the left.

[00:48:23] >> That would fit perfectly. Started right at that number.

[00:48:29] >> That was a good looking swing right there.

[00:48:31] >> Come on, baby, get a number.

[00:48:33] >> Oh, yeah, that is high class from the world number two.

[00:48:37] >> And the third shot for Davis Riley has to back off for just a moment. It's got to negotiate this shoulder that's about two thirds of the way to the hole. Is he going to pitch it or chip it here, Ian?

[00:48:52] >> He's going to hit a little chip. It's not very far and he's 70 feet to the hole. It's similar the putt -- the shot that Aaron Rai has had earlier.

[00:49:02] >> Lands it in the fringe. And look at this, skillfully played.

[00:49:05] >> Incredible.

[00:49:06][ Applause ]

[00:49:13] >> Seventeen.

[00:49:15] >> Rahm for two shot lead.

[00:49:25] >> Just ran out of speed. Champ trying to make his 2 here. This would get him to 14-under and in a tie for fifth. Big forward press there. OK. So his ball held the line because it had a bit more speed on it. So a good 2 from champ. He's kept fighting. That triple bogey at 8 was just so costly.

[00:50:07] >> Jon, the best driver of the ball in the world today. I think he has been for last four or five years. Look at him, 12-under this week on the par 5. Field average 5-under. You can pick up seven shots on the field on that set of holes, you're going to be in this position you find yourself right now. He's birdied it all three rounds to this point.

[00:50:33] >> That's pulled again.

[00:50:38] >> Oh, no. Wow. It got stuck in the thicker stop.

[00:50:43] >> Did not see that ball fall in the bunker, no.

[00:50:46] >> Behind two shots, Kitayama needs to go for the green in two.

[00:50:52] >> Got it good.

[00:50:53] >> He's just left of it, turning over a touch. It's actually a gap wedge in his hand, trying to ride the wind.

[00:51:18] >> He can't hit it high. Look at that one, 32 feet of apex. Perfect.

[00:51:24] >> Subtle.

[00:51:25][ Applause ]

[00:51:30] >> Good safe shot.

[00:51:32] >> Came out little knock wood.

[00:51:44] >> It's well played. He hit a beautiful bunker shot back at 16 as well, which would have given him some help there on field.

[00:51:51][ Applause ] Thirty-three feet, 3 inches, two putts for victory.

[00:52:01] >> I can tell you, Jim, from rolling balls around here earlier today, when this gets just over the hill, a couple of feet short of the hole, it then goes quite quickly down. So he has to be cautious.

[00:52:16] >> There's the ridge right there. Nudges it up right next to the hole. He'll put a coin down on the green and just wait for the inevitable. Oh, hold on it. Goes ahead and finishes it out. The champion at the Mexico Open, Jon Rahm.

[00:52:39] >> This concludes the PGA Tour's coverage of the Mexico Open at Vidanta from Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico.