

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
December 1, 2018



HENRIK STENSON (-13)

HENRIK STENSON: I had a pretty nice start, good front nine. Maybe left one or two out there coming home, which is always -- standing there Sunday afternoon, you wish that you didn't leave one or two out there on Saturday, I guess, but it is what it is. We're in a good position. I didn't quite see how it ended up, I saw me and Jon were 13 under, and is Tony 14 or 13?

Q. He's 13. (Inaudible.)

HENRIK STENSON: Come on, man. You've been dancing too much.

Okay. So it's a three-way tie for the lead, yeah. So it's very open ballgame in that sense. I don't know how it looks behind, but I presume it's very tight behind, a couple shots back, I'm sure there's a bunch of guys. I remember last year the start that Rickie Fowler had was 8 under through 9, right? So it's anyone's tournament at this stage, so I'm just happy to be in that position.

I feel like I've been grinding out well, a lot of short shots around the greens this week, bunker up-and-downs, pitch up-and-downs and tidy chips, and cleaning up nice around the greens and made my fair share or more on the greens. So it's been a good week for the short game and the putting.

And long game, I've hit some brilliant shots but I wouldn't say I'm firing 100 percent. It's a little bit of a battle at times. It's like we have to work hard to get the ball where we want to, but that's fine. I'm just trying to do the best I can and keeping a good attitude. I've done that so far and I intend to do the same tomorrow to see if we can be at the end when it matters.

Q. What would it mean to finish a year like this with a win? I know it's not affiliated to a tour, but I'm sure there's a pride in winning?

HENRIK STENSON: Yeah, winning is always nice. It never gets old no matter how big or small the tournament. You can't say that this is a small tournament given the field. It's small in terms of number of players, but who you're playing against is obviously going to give you a nice boost if you manage to win it at the end of the day. A lot of world ranking points at stake. Given my injury problems from the summer onwards and how little I've played, I've started going in the wrong direction in the world rankings, so it would be nice to pick up a few good points here tomorrow and start heading in the right direction rather than going backwards and start going upwards. It's getting tougher every year to be up there in the world rankings. If I can play some good golf in the near future, I hope I can move back into top-20 and top-10 again in the next six months or so.

Q. Did one shot stand out today that you were pleased with?

HENRIK STENSON: I mean, I thought I played some really nice -- I hit a couple of nice iron shots, but the chip on 4, the chip on 3, the chip on 4, the chip on 15, a couple of really tidy little ones.

Q. Is this a course where that would probably be the biggest Achilles for a lot of players is the tightness of the --

HENRIK STENSON: Yeah, it's not just that it's tight, but you've got it into the grain sometimes when you're in these swales. When you get a good lie, you can kind of feel, oh, I've got a little bit of down grain, then you know you can play one shot, and if it's not, you might have to do another one.

I used the 5-wood a couple of times this week to run it up. I've. Turned a 52-degree wedge in and kind of clipped it off the toe. Just not give the whole bottom of the sole the chance to grab, and if you stand it up a bit more vertical and turn it in, you've only got that little bit and you can clip it off the toe and play another shot.

So there's different -- really, the lie dictates what kind of shot you're going to play, and also how it looks, if you've got a lot of green or if you're short-sided and so on. It's about choosing the right shot and obviously executing it. You've got to have a little bit of luck when you're playing a bump-and-run into these banks. You can never for certain tell how the ball's going to react and what's going to come out of it. But so far so good, I guess I've picked the right shots and executed them well and that's why my scrambling has been really good this week.

Q. I would think, I know you played Dubai a couple weeks ago, but when you've had that much of a layoff, it seems the short game sometimes is the last thing to come around.

HENRIK STENSON: I remember a funny comment when I pitched in on the 14th at Abu Dhabi in the first round, I think --

Q. This year?

HENRIK STENSON: No, a couple years ago. I said, Lord, I guess that's -- thanks, Lord, the short game practice I didn't do over the winter. So yeah, I was pretty good in Dubai around the greens too, I felt. Carried on here. I haven't done heaps, but let's not jinx it now, it's been good.