

VIKTOR HOVLAND (-15)

VIKTOR HOVLAND: (in progress) just barely squeaking in, making the cut. And I didn't have a very good day yesterday, but I was able to finish birdie-birdie and I know okay, if I shoot a low one tomorrow, I can really jump up the leaderboard, and to do it feels really cool.

Q. A lot of starts coming in this journey for you. Right now is it more physical or is it mental, the back-to-back, the weeks, everything you're trying to string together?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: A little bit of both. Certainly this is my third week in a row now and it's definitely physical because you kind of have to find a balance of, okay, you want to practice and improve and get better, but at the same time you want to be rested up for the next day. So it's trying to find that balance.

Obviously you're thinking about making birdies for the next day and how high I can climb on the leaderboard and all that, so it's a little bit of both.

Q. A couple of days to wait until you have to make some more birdies. The golf course, we've got the leaders getting out on the golf course right now. Anything that you saw from how it maybe evolved through the course of the week that we can look for the rest of the day?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I mean, it's playing pretty similar to the three previous days. Greens are still soft. A couple of the pins you can kind of rip off the front, you can get a lot of spin with the wedges. So I think if you put the ball in good spots off the tee you can have a lot of wedges in, but you really have to control your spin and hit the right plateaus.

Q. Just curious, you can't play Sunday unless you grind away on Friday. Can you talk about the way you made the cut last week and this week?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah. I certainly felt like I played better last week in Hartford early on because I had a nice first round. Didn't have the best front nine my second day and then just out of nowhere I made a triple bogey on my 10th hole and that really put the cut back into play. I really had to dig deep. I wasn't playing very good that day.

Yeah, to make a couple birdies coming in to make the cut on the number was huge. I didn't have a very good Sunday that would have catapulted me up the leaderboard. But again, this week I was able to make a few birdies coming in on the back nine to make the cut by one, and with the round today that's really going to help me out.

Q. Can you give me your impression of the whole week here? It's the first

tournament ever here in the City of Detroit. What did that mean to you to play?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah, I haven't been here before. It's really cool to have a course like this, really old-school. Kind of makes me feel like home a little bit with the tree lined and the same type of grass, and obviously the fans are awesome out here. Yeah, it's a cool week to kind of experience a different place that you haven't been to before, yeah, and especially play well at it. Yeah, cool week.

Q. What's the biggest challenge on the course so far?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I think just kind of mentally knowing that you have to make a bunch of birdies to move up the leaderboard and then kind of doing it. If you don't drive it very good out here, you're not going to make a whole lot of birdies because it's hard to get it close. So just kind of, you know, pacing yourself, not getting ahead of yourself and just taking it a shot at a time.

Q. You're a young guy in this game and fans gravitate towards young talent, they really get excited about it. But as we were anticipating you guys coming here, from fans, you were one of the names everybody wanted to see. Did you feel that reception out here and did it grow as you started to play well throughout the weekend?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah, I definitely heard a lot of people that wanted me to do well. That's really cool. I mean, I'm just a 21-year-old from Norway and you've got Americans cheering on me. It's still a little crazy for me to think about, but I really appreciate it.

Q. What did you know about Detroit before you came here, if anything at all, and what will you take away from this?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I mean, honestly, I didn't know much. I heard a little bit about some of the car industries around here. Yeah, just kind of -- and how after that business was booming and then people left and just kind of the problems that's been around in the area. But other than that, I didn't really know a whole lot.

Q. What's on the top of your mind right now? What's the most important thing?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I think just kind of -- obviously I'm just thinking about playing well, but it would be nice to play well enough to have some sort of status for next year so I'm not in the dirt scrambling. Yeah, just want a place to play where I know what I'm doing for the next few months.

Q. Can you talk about the transition from your amateur career to your pro career now?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah, it's been -- I've had a pretty cool opportunity to play a few PGA

TOUR events and professional events as an amateur and I think that really helped me out. Now that I'm a pro, that I'm not using these starts, the first time I'm ever playing in a PGA TOUR event. That's kind of -- you know, I kind of know what to expect when I get into a week and that really makes me feel comfortable.