

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
December 11, 2019



VIKTOR HOVLAND
MATTHEW WOLFF

DOUG MILNE: Thanks, guys, for joining us. We know y'all are a first-time team here at the QBE Shootout. Obviously we know the Oklahoma State connection, but just a little background on how you two guys came together and decided to play here this week?

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah, so I think it was towards the end of last year, my agent, John Moscatello, was like, "Would you be interested in playing in the QBE Shootout?" I knew it as like the Franklin Templeton Shootout, but now it's known as the QBE. And I was like, "Yeah, that would be awesome." He was like, "Would you want to play with Viktor?" I was like, "That would be incredible."

I didn't really think of it, because the only team event that we know is the Zurich Classic so that's why I wasn't -- I didn't even think of this one. But then when he presented it with me, I was like, I would love to play with Viktor, that'd be awesome because we played together so much in college and I've known him since he was -- I was like 15 and he's 16 and stuff.

Yeah, I mean, I feel like our games complement each other pretty well and should be a lot of fun.

DOUG MILNE: Viktor, do you want to add to that?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah, just kind of echo what Matt said. I thought it was a great idea the first time I heard of it and I think our games kind of complement each other where he has a lot of length and my strengths are kind of more consistency and I think we can really feed off of each other. I think the setup is really good for us, so I'm just looking forward to a good week.

MATTHEW WOLFF: A little burn.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I know you can take it.

MATTHEW WOLFF: I'm not consistent enough.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: My strength is more consistency. You bomb the crap out of it, is that what you wanted to hear?

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah, you make me feel so good.

DOUG MILNE: One last question from me. You guys are kind of looking at the new face of the PGA TOUR right now with all the young guys coming up and playing so well. Having gotten your first win at 3M in just your fourth start on Tour and top-25 finishes in half of the events you played and five top-25 finishes.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Consistency.

DOUG MILNE: Yeah, exactly. Just some initial thoughts on how it feels being out here on Tour. Are you kind of more goal oriented, or are you guys just kind of adapting as you go and seeing how things shake down? We'll start with you, Matthew.

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah, I feel like I've had cycles before, but to me, I was talking about it at last night at dinner actually, when I set goals, if you don't set them high enough and you achieve them you're like, oh, I'm good now. Then if you set them too high, then you feel like you failed. So I'm not one to set goals, I'm really just to play it out.

I feel like even though technically I'm not a rookie anymore, I'm still a rookie. It's the first time playing all these events, all these courses, and I'm still kind of getting a feel for how each part of the country plays and the type of players in it. Just there's so many factors that go into each event that I feel like it's important to kind of just feel it out at least for your first time seeing it. You know, I definitely, I'm looking to have a really good season and I'm excited. My game's coming along right now, so should be fun. But I'm more of a guy who just likes to go out there, give it my all, prepare as best as I can and then whatever happens, happens.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Personally, I would say I don't really like to set result oriented goals, it's more process goals where, okay, if I'm struggling right now hitting a low cut with my irons, which is kind of the preferred shot that I like to hit, right now it's launching a little too high and drawing maybe a little bit, that's just what I had right now and that's what I'm working on trying to get back to that little low cut.

It's not, okay, I need to make X amount of birdies and we need to finish so-and-so this week; I just care about my golf game. Week in and week out, that's all I think about. Okay, how can I get better this week, this day, and hopefully over a month or two, however long it is I'm closer to that little low cut than I was two months earlier. That's just kind of how I look at the game of golf.

Q. Matt, you said you were talking about goals. What did the win do for that and has it been, you know, harder to think, okay, well, now I've got to go out and prove this wasn't a fluke and go do it again? Take us through that, I guess.

MATTHEW WOLFF: If you win on the PGA TOUR, it's never a fluke. I'm sorry for anyone who might say it is. If you win on the PGA TOUR, you beat the best players in the world and it's the top tour in the world.

But it definitely, you know, takes the stress off my shoulders. It frees me up. Playing in events like these, it gets you into that. It allows you to really, you know, give you the confidence that you can do it and know that you're there for a reason.

Kind of echoing what he was saying about trying to work on his game or he has more goals like that like trying to make sure he hits the shots that he wants to, I know for a fact and I know I'm speaking for both of us, we know that our best is good enough to win. I feel like that's why we don't like to set goals of we need to do this, we need to win this many times, because we know if our game is where it needs to be, then the results will come.

To me, with that win, that's the biggest thing. It frees you up and it allows you to just work on your game, get your weaknesses, the parts that aren't your strengths, work them up, keep your strengths, and then if your game clicks then, we'll both have success and hopefully really long and successful careers.

Q. You guys talk to each other a lot during the season or give, you know, each other some pointers since you both don't have that history of playing out at certain events or places?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Like throughout this season?

Q. Yeah, yeah.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Not too much because we only see each other on the road and we were so used to seeing each other in college every day --

MATTHEW WOLFF: He's sick of me by now is what he's trying to say.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: This is true. It's going to be a long week.

MATTHEW WOLFF: It took a lot more convincing for him to play with me than it did for me to play with him.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: We know our games so well, so just going into this week, I mean, I know he's going to bomb the crap out of it, be in the middle of the fairway and we're going to make some putts and have a good week.

Q. I just meant more like travel or courses maybe that he had played that you hadn't or vice versa.

MATTHEW WOLFF: Well, I mean, he's a rookie and I'm not.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Ouch, ouch.

MATTHEW WOLFF: He would be looking to me for some advice. No, I'm just kidding. I said earlier that -- yeah. We both -- he's played Bay Hill, I haven't, so if I go there, I might ask him.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: You're not going to get anything, though, just to let you know.

MATTHEW WOLFF: What if we win this week?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Maybe. If I make more birdies than you, then no.

MATTHEW WOLFF: We're playing a scramble, we're going to make the same amount of birdies.

No, we always have a good time. Whenever we see each other, it's good to -- I live in Florida now, he still lives in Oklahoma so we don't see each other quite as much as we did in college obviously. It's good to see him out here. Our caddies both get along. It's always a lot of fun, and obviously we're having a good time up here and we'll bring that to the course.

Q. Viktor, sorry, what was your mindset on coming to the United States to play college?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I just knew I wasn't good enough after high school and a few of my friends from back home, they started turning pro after high school, playing like the Nordic League, the mini tours which is around in Scandinavia, and I just really -- my freshman or sophomore year in high school I just knew I wasn't good enough.

Luckily, Coach Bratton recruited me to go to Oklahoma State and I loved it as soon as I set foot on campus and saw the clubhouse with all the trophies and I knew that okay, this is a place you come to to play on the PGA TOUR. I think that's been really cool to see now with Matt being on the Tour and myself and Kris Ventura, who's also from Norway and I grew up with him. It's really cool to see that kind of paying off, if you will.

Q. The next guys coming in here, I don't know what their ages combined are --

MATTHEW WOLFF: Eighty-three.

Q. Okay. But they're both you combined, I guess. What's it like playing an event where you've got not just an age thing but people like Graeme and Ian Poulter and an event hosted by somebody like Greg Norman, what does that do for young guys like you?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Go for it.

MATTHEW WOLFF: I think it's awesome. You know, I feel like it's been repeated time and time again, but the young guys are starting to come out and fire quickly. I mean, obviously it showed it in JT and Jordan and Jon Rahm, like I said, but I guess there's a new generation, which is me, Viktor, Collin, Kris Ventura and there's a few guys that are under 23, 24 years old. It's really cool for us to have the success early and be able to play with guys that we've watched on TV.

I've watched Ian Poulter since I started watching golf. Greg Norman, I didn't even get to watch him, he was before, so I've seen clips obviously. Anyone who plays golf knows the name Greg Norman, but to be able to meet him last night and just talk with him a little. I've played with Ian before and Chez Reavie, all these guys are maybe just a little older. You still see them competing and it's really cool to see all the generations playing together and, you know, it just shows that golf is a game that you can really play forever.

I'm really excited to see in like a team aspect how the chemistry of like young guys work or maybe a little older. And I feel, like I said, we've been together for quite a while now, so that might help us out a little bit, but should be a lot of fun.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah, I think it's really cool. I remember my dad when I was younger he would always talk about Greg Norman being his favorite player to watch on TV. I never got to be a part of watching him at his greatest, but certainly watched a lot of Graeme McDowell and Ian Poulter and Charles Howell and Chez Reavie and all those guys. I think it's really cool to kind of be a part of the next lineage of players.

MATTHEW WOLFF: Ohhhh, big word. Nice.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Fancy book words.

MATTHEW WOLFF: Just a good word.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah, I think it's just like an honor to kind of be a part of that and hopefully we keep on playing well and win some tournaments. Yeah, it's a beautiful game.

Q. How much do you think you guys will watch the Presidents Cup since, time-wise, it's opposite?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Honestly, I don't think I'll watch it that much. It's kind of funny, I used to be all into golf 24/7, but now that you're on the PGA TOUR playing all the time, the last thing you want to do when you finish is watch some more golf. I think I'll just watch some Netflix. Or I have a friend of mine in town, we'll just hang out and have a good time.

MATTHEW WOLFF: I might read a book or something.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Wow.

MATTHEW WOLFF: No, I'm just kidding. Graham's laughing in the back.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: You didn't even need to say "just kidding," we all know you don't read.

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah, it will probably be on definitely, but I'm not -- as soon as you get off the golf course, you've been out there for so long, you're not itching to be like, "Oh, I want to watch more golf." Golf takes a lot out of you, that's all I'll say.

DOUG MILNE: Thanks, gentlemen, thanks for your time.