

**ROUND 4 INTERVIEW**  
**February 24, 2020**



**VIKTOR HOVLAND (-20)**

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**DOUG MILNE:** Like to welcome the winner of the 2020 Puerto Rico Open, Viktor Hovland.

Viktor, congratulations on your first PGA TOUR victory in quite the dramatic style. You had a little bit of everything today, triple bogey to the putt there on the 72nd hole. With that said, just a few initial comments on getting your first career PGA TOUR win.

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** It feels crazy being here. It was certainly a day of lots of ups and downs. Was cruising along very well the first 10 holes to be 2 under par, because the course is playing pretty tough today compared to the first three rounds. Obviously the triple bogey on 11 put me back. That should have just been a bogey, but my short game held me back a little bit. But I kept plugging along and had a great chip-in on 15, and obviously the putt on 18 was, yeah, it was a great way to win my first Tour event.

**DOUG MILNE:** And with that first Tour win you pick up 300 FedExCup points and a number of other perks. PLAYERS Championship, just a few weeks away. Just some thoughts on the perks of the points and THE PLAYERS and so forth.

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** I mean, I was just thinking about trying to play as well as I could today and trying to get the job done. I hadn't really thought about the perks yet, but I'm sure it's going to be nice to get into some of the events that I wasn't already qualified for. So yeah, it's going to be a good year.

**DOUG MILNE:** One last question from me. First player from Norway to win on the PGA TOUR. How exciting and fulfilling is that to represent like that?

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** It's really cool. Obviously the only or the first person to play out here Henry Bjornstad. I grew up kind of watching him play or following the scores online. So to kind of follow his footsteps and be able to win kind of the first tournament for Norway is really special. A bunch of my friends and just normal people from back home paying attention, which is a lot more than I could ask for.

**Q. Did you feel good when you hit that last putt?**

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** I remember I was just thinking about all the other putts that I've putted throughout the round and I've pretty much left every single putt short. So I was like okay, I'm not going to hit this putt short. I had a good line on it, I thought, and I just whacked it. Thankfully, when it was five, six feet out, I knew it was looking pretty good.

**Q. Weather wise -- (inaudible)?**

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** The what?

**Q. The weather.**

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** Yeah, it was very up and down, like the first five, six holes we played, you know, almost like yesterday, a little less wind, it was pretty ripe for scoring. Then the wind started swirling coming out of the other direction where it was suddenly into the wind on No. 8, which makes that hole a lot harder. And then obviously from there on in you had a lot of rain, wind and it was switching back and forth. So it really, it played a lot harder than it did the other three days.

**Q. You had an eagle on the 15th hole. What happened there and how do you recover from that to win the tournament?**

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** I mean, I hit a good drive off the tee and I was kind of in between clubs either at 2-iron or a 3-wood. As I was going to hit my shot, the wind started gusting up a little bit so me and Shay decided to hit a 2-iron and keep it right of the pin. I flared it out a little too much and I ended up kind of in a dicey spot. Obviously the green was sloping against me, but I didn't have a lot of green to work with. So instead of trying to hit a high flop shot, I just went for a bump and run with a 56. I actually missed my landing spot by maybe a couple feet and I thought it was going to be short, and I saw I got a really firm kick and it just released right through and went in the hole. So it was pretty lucky, but that really got me going into obviously 16 and 17 are tough holes with the way they were playing. You know, I managed to hit two good shots there. Didn't make the putts, but I thought that really helped to, you know, obviously seal the victory.

**Q. Throughout the week you had a few mistakes and No. 11 happens. How long did it take you to kind of be able to get back in that mindset that there's still time to play, because it looked like you were a little frustrated after that happened?**

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** Yeah, obviously triple bogey is not what you're looking for, but I've done a really good job this week of not getting super mad. The last few weeks I've kind of been struggling with my game a little bit and I let small mistakes really get to me a lot more and this week I've been really ice cold. Even after that triple bogey I thought, well, crap, that's not ideal, but I knew that if I just played well on the back nine, because obviously the weather was getting worse and worse. So if I make two or three birdies coming in, I can be right in it. When I passed 14 tee and saw the leaderboard and we were tied, I wasn't thinking about that triple bogey at all.

**Q. What happened on that hole which you played well for the past three days?**

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** Three birdies, one triple, so I played in even par. No, the wind was completely opposite of what it has been the other days, it's been hard off the right and today it was off the left and I was kind of in between clubs. I went for a chip 6-iron and I just didn't

commit to it at all, flared it open and the wind just rode it. So it ended up in a pretty like kind of a muddy lie just right off the cart path and I knew that, yeah, I'm probably going to chunk this chip. That's just been my miss every single time the ball's kind of laying on mud and kind of sitting down in the grass, that's really where I need to improve my chipping.

So I tried kind of a dicey technique to try to get the club clean on it and just chunked it. The second chip I actually hit good, or the second chip. I just didn't -- I got scared and just didn't hit it hard enough and I left that one short as well. Then obviously the putt. I actually hit a good putt, I just didn't trust the line, thought it was going to break more after seeing Martin's putt from the other side break from a decent amount. So it was a train wreck, but I'm glad it ended up being okay after that.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** Say that one more time?

**Q. (No microphone) with the pressure coming into this week?**

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** It's hard to deal with the expectations because they're usually a lot higher than kind of what are realistic. If you would ask me a year ago if I would have won a PGA TOUR event in my 17th or 18th start as a 22-year-old, I mean, that would be nuts. I know obviously Matt and Collin have already won on the PGA TOUR and obviously I want to join that group as well, but all kind of the expectations and the pressure comes from myself. I want to perform because there's no fun showing up here trying to just make the cut or do whatever. So yeah, I just try to stay within myself and stay in the present and try to get better every day.

**Q. You spoke about the support in Norway. Who is going to be your first phone call?**

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** I should probably call my mom or dad, yeah. Then I have a few buddies that were playing an Asian Tour qualifier and I think they stayed up all night watching me play today, so I have to give them a phone call if they're not sleeping right now.

**Q. What emotion did you feel as soon as that putt dropped?**

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** I don't even know. I couldn't quite believe it. I didn't really make that many putts today. I made a couple chips, but I didn't really make any putts today. I really believed as I was standing over it that I've been leaving a lot of putts short today and I thought, okay, I'm not going to leave this short. I gave it a good rip and thankfully hit the middle of the cup, because it was going by a little bit. It was some relief and, yeah, a lot of excitement.

**DOUG MILNE:** What's your schedule like coming up?

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** Playing Honda next week and I'll do Bay Hill and PLAYERS and then

probably a little rest after that.

**Q. How do you feel with the crowd supporting you, rooting for you since day one from the first hole to the 18th hole?**

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** Yeah, I mean, it's great. As I said, just being a kid from Norway, 22 years old and have guys from Puerto Rico, people from Puerto Rico just coming out to watch me play, that's crazy. So, I mean, I'm glad that I'm able to give some entertainment back. Yeah, hopefully I don't disappoint in the future.

**DOUG MILNE:** Viktor, congratulations.

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** Thanks.