ROUND 1 INTERVIEW May 6, 2021

VIKTOR HOVLAND (-2)



Q. Viktor, how would you assess the round today?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: It was a pretty solid day. My first nine, the back nine, I played really good. I just couldn't really make a whole lot of putts except for the one bomb on 14. And I kind of struggled towards the middle of my round, but I was able to just make one bogey on 2 there and just kind of keep making easy pars after that and managed to pick up a couple birdies at the end. So it was a pretty good day.

Q. Wind a little all over the place today, kind of make the course play a little more difficult?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah, it was weird, and sometimes you would feel a gust of 15 miles an hour and then it would just be dead quiet 15 seconds later. So it was strange. But this place is so big that, even though you're in between decisions, you kind of have a bigger area you can kind of err towards. So if it would have been another place where the greens are smaller, it would have been I think a little tougher, but it definitely doesn't make it easy when you're hitting shots from 225 yards into par 4s. Yeah, it didn't make it easier.

Q. Do you enjoy the tougher golf courses or courses where you have to go 16, 18, 20 under par? You can play well on both?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah, I do really like it. There's one thing I feel like, not to say anything bad about this place, but I think this place is more of kind of a driving range golf course. The fairways are -- they're not narrow and they're not wide, but it's what you see, what you get. And the greens are pretty big. It's all about just can you hit it in the center of the face or are you hitting it in bunkers and rough and you're going to have a tough day. I appreciate the more strategic places, but obviously if you come to this place and don't like it, there's something wrong with you. So I appreciate both aspects.