

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
NOVEMBER 4, 2021**

VIKTOR HOVLAND (-4)



Q. Just your overall assessment of the round today?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Played really well, I thought. Even towards the end, even though I didn't have the best of finish, I thought I really played well throughout the day. One bad tee shot on 16 cost me a bogey there, but played really well. Hit a lot of greens and gave myself some looks.

The only thing I would have liked, to have got my distance control a little bit better because I hit a lot of good shots that were 20, 25 feet away past or short. Just didn't make very many putts.

Q. Danny Lee told us that some high jinks went down. What happened?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Well, he told you?

Q. Yeah.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah. I mean, he was just doing a speed session behind me and we were just talking. He asked me if I could hit some on his quad and I hit some drives as hard as I could and then he went back to hitting his and like I was just kind of a -- I was just curious, I wanted to see if he could get his ball speed up with my driver that was a little longer. Yeah, and then the rest is history.

Q. Did it just like snap?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah, I don't know where it snapped or how he snapped it, but I just look up after he hit the shot and it was in pieces.

Q. Do you have a backup?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I got a backup head, but I don't have backup a shaft.

Q. (No microphone.)

VIKTOR HOVLAND: James Hahn was in front and he was nice enough to lend me one of his backups. It's a little bit shorter, it's a different shaft, but honestly, almost helped me this week because it's a little shorter. It probably goes 10 yards shorter, but I just felt like I could really hit it a little lower and a little straighter. So I'm hitting that thing really well.

Q. (No microphone.)

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Kind of, yeah.

Q. Seems like you hit almost every fairway today. You missed a couple, I think.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I missed two, yeah. And those weren't with the driver. Every time I pulled the driver, it was in the fairway.

Q. Kenton from Ping, I talked to him a little bit and he said that, yeah, just confirming it's pretty comparable to what you have. It's not the same, but it's close.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah. I think it's half an inch shorter and a different shaft, but as soon as I like hit a couple with it, I was like, this feels pretty nice, I think I can work with this. I was able to go to a different course out here and just kind of hit it a few times on the course with different winds, because you just kind of hit one shot out here and the wind was off the left and you can hit 10 balls in a row and kind of dial it in, but then as soon as you get out on the course, it's a little bit different. Yeah, it was good.

Q. Was it James Hahn that --

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yes.

Q. -- the shaft?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah