



VIKTOR HOVLAND (-13)

Q. Was that Oklahoma wind you were talking about?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah, it's been pretty windy this week, yeah. A little different scenery, though.

Q. Talk about the putting today, because seemed like not that you couldn't miss, but you didn't miss many.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah, no, I started -- I missed probably like a 10-footer on the first hole and lipped out and I kind of thought here we go again, but after that it was a lot of putts that went in. You need that on a day like today when the winds are down and you can be a little bit more aggressive. That's the only way you can make that many birdies, so that was a lot of fun.

Q. Did you know how many putts you had today?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I don't know, 24?

Q. Maybe.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I don't know, it was just a guess.

Q. I figured you knew better than me.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: No, I'm not counting that as I go.

Q. Well, 10 birdies or whatever?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah.

Q. Xander said you played so good it almost made him feel bad about the way he was playing and he thought he was playing OK. Just curious, did you get a sense of how well you were scoring and playing?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah, obviously had a great start, but after the bogey on 6 was back to 2 under and, you know, 3 under through five and 2 under through six, that's a big difference there especially when you just bogeyed a par-5. But I was able to get back into it with a birdie on 7. And I mean 3 under through the front nine, that's good, but there's still a lot of birdies out there. And then when I went on the run birdieing 11, 12 and I guess 13 and



then 15, 16, 17, you know, that's when they kind of start adding up. They all happened so late in the round, it almost took a little bit for me to process it and then we were stood on 18 and we were 9 under, so that was fun.

Q. You've got a four-shot lead?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I think three.

Q. Three?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah, I think so.

Q. What do you have for tomorrow just knowing how last year unfolded? You were 10 back last year?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I don't know about 10 back, it was like maybe six or seven, I can't remember.

Yeah, I mean, obviously a lot can happen. When we're playing the ball down and you get some mud balls, you get one bad mud ball, lost ball and then the other guy shoots 7, 8 under, you can play a pretty reasonable round of golf, shoot a couple under and still get beat. So I have to go out there and do a lot of the same stuff I did today.

Q. Did you have any significant mud balls today that forced you to hit something you didn't want to?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I had a couple, but it honestly wasn't that bad. Feel like I kind of got lucky on that side of it. I had a slight mud ball on 18, like flew a little bit weird, but I didn't hit the greatest of shots. Just a couple weird ball flights here or there but it really didn't make that big of a difference, not as bad as Xander's on 4 today.

Q. We were asking about that.

Q. The worst mud ball you had was (inaudible)?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah, I heard about that. Xander went and picked that ball up and it was just a clunk of mud.

Q. What is it about playing here that seems to agree with you?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah, it's just a relaxed atmosphere. I think it's just a great golf course. It's very similar to Puerto Rico, Mexico. You have to be a good driver of the ball. Usually blows so it helps to flight the ball and that's usually my go-to shot. If I don't feel very comfortable, I just flight the ball down and I hit it pretty straight. With it being kind of softish, I know where the ball's going to finish up.



Q. What did you hit at 17?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: That was a 7-iron.

Q. And what was your best shot today? I know there were a lot, there's a lot of choose from.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah, I hit some really nice shots. I don't know, I hit a lot of just like good quality iron shots to give myself seven to 12 feet. It wasn't like I hit one just incredible shot and stuff it or make it like I did the other days, but it was just kind of consistently giving myself looks.

Q. When you're making putt after putt, and I think you had five or six in a row there on the front nine, including the bogey putt at 6, are you even thinking about how well you're putting or that you're making all --

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah, that enters your mind pretty quickly. You start missing a couple short ones, it's like, huh, they're not going in, I need to kind of make this. But then the opposite side when I started making putts, it's like, man, I'm putting well today and then you're kind of feeding off of that and you just kind of -- your mind just kind of looks at the hole like OK, I know how to make this. You know, it's going to break this way, all I need to do is just start it on this line with this speed and it's going to go in. It was just kind of one of those days.

Q. Viktor, do you prefer bunker penalty or mud ball?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Say that again?

Q. Do you ever bunker or mud ball?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I mean, boring answer, but it just kind of all depends with how deep the bunker is, how big the lip is and how much mud you've got on the ball. Because there's a couple times you can get a little bit of mud on it and if it's on the front of the ball, like directly in the middle, it doesn't really affect it that much, but some of those spots where there's a huge clunk of mud on the ball, probably better off just hitting it from the bunker.

Q. What was the key for your putting? Which kind of putting you've been doing?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I mean, it just blew a lot less so it was easier for me to feel comfortable with the read. It was easier for me to feel the slope of the greens, so when I knew, OK, this is a 2 percent slope, I need to aim it here, it was very simple to do so. But then with the last couple days, I'm standing over the ball for 30 seconds just waiting for a wind gusts to slow down so I can hit the putt. It's harder to focus on the things you need to focus on, so it was a little bit easier today.

