

## VISIT KNOXVILLE OPEN

### ROUND 1 QUOTES

May 23, 2024



### PONTUS NYHOLM (-7)

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**Q. Pontus, 7-under 63 today, nice round. What was working well for you out on the course?**

**PONTUS NYHOLM:** Putted really good all day. Didn't hit it as good as I wanted to, but I was able to hit some wedges close and made a good amount of putts. Yeah, putter was rolling.

**Q. What was the start of your day like? Didn't make a par until your fifth hole of the day. What was it like going up and down to begin the day?**

**PONTUS NYHOLM:** Yeah, I started off with a birdie on the first and hit a couple poor second shots and caught a few bad breaks, just kind of short-sided myself, made a few bogeys. But I was still feeling like my game's pretty decent and I just stayed patient, I knew I was going to make birdies out here.

**Q. What's been your thoughts on your start of the season? Making some cuts, still kind of looking for that first big finish. What's been your thought on your game so far?**

**PONTUS NYHOLM:** Yeah, it's been decent, it's been pretty solid, just a lot of 2 unders, 3 unders. Haven't really had a lot of 63s like today. I think it's mainly been putting. I've been putting solid, just haven't made a whole lot of 12- to 18-footers and today I was able to get them going.

**Q. How did you restart today during the rain delay? Did you feel kind of cold coming out, or what was that break like for you?**

**PONTUS NYHOLM:** Yeah, I actually came back and probably hit the worst shot of the day, terrible drive on my 12th hole. Yeah, just like any rain delay, you try and stay in it as much as you can. You don't know how long it's going to be, so got a nice little warmup and was kind of able to get back into it, even though first tee shot was shaky.

**Q. What's been your thoughts on the course out here?**

**PONTUS NYHOLM:** Course is great. It's one of my favorite courses all year. It kind of suits my eye off the tee, pretty wide open, just a good golf course.



**Q. And what have you thought about your time in Knoxville this week? Have you been able to do anything?**

**PONTUS NYHOLM:** I haven't done a whole lot, to be fair. Just staying with a couple buddies in an Airbnb 25 minutes west of here, so just kind of hung out at the house. But we'll probably go explore downtown a little bit more towards the weekend and such for dinners.

**Q. Who are you staying with this week?**

**PONTUS NYHOLM:** I'm staying with Dimi Papadatos and Tano Goya and my caddie, Josh.

**Q. Is that the worst thing possible, you're a few hours into the start of a tournament and you hear a horn?**

**PONTUS NYHOLM:** Yeah, it's not ideal, especially with such an early tee time. We were second group off, so we were up since 4:00 this morning. You kind of just want to get it done with so you can go back and take a nap, and then you have to sit in the clubhouse for two hours. It's not ideal, but it's the same for everyone, so you just deal with it.

**Q. Lastly not an ideal start but a strong finish. Talk about that birdie on the last.**

**PONTUS NYHOLM:** Yeah, it was a great birdie on the last. It's playing tough today. I hit driver, 6-iron. It's a long par 4. I was able to hit a nice one in there to about 10 feet and made the putt.

**Q. It feels like you're kind of like close all the time, but you've never quite broken that stat. Like what is it about this week that has got you off to a hot start?**

**PONTUS NYHOLM:** Tough question, I'm not sure. I've had good starts before. I've been in the lead through 36 and 54 a few times and kind of fell short on the weekend, but I always go back to my putting. If I putt good, I feel like I'm going to play pretty good, too. There's been a lot of times where my game's solid, I'm hitting it nice, just not really making any putts and therefore shooting 2, 3 under, not 6, 7.

**Q. Did you have any goals coming into this season?**

**PONTUS NYHOLM:** Obviously get to the PGA TOUR, that's the main goal. I've been out here now, this is my third year and I feel like I've had a lot of opportunities to win and get up there on the points list, just haven't been able to get it done.

**Q. What's the key to kind of mentally the locking in and kind of blocking that out? Like you're so close, but the game is there, but just trying not to get the yips whenever it --**

**PONTUS NYHOLM:** Yeah, yeah, I'm trying not to think of it too much. Also, you play so



much and sometimes I catch myself just kind of going through the motions out here. You just travel week to week, you're just play practice round, pro-am and all of a sudden it's tournament and it's like, oh, I shot 3 under, shot 2 over, it's like whatever.

So I was talking to my caddie a little bit this week and we're trying to be a bit more precise in what we're trying to do out there and just not go through the motions and just hit shots, but be really precise with everything we're doing.

**Q. What was it about the course today that kind of suited your eye?**

**PONTUS NYHOLM:** As I said, I like it off the tee, it's pretty wide open. I feel like I can shape the ball off the tee. Then I just like the -- it's just a good golf course, I just like it.

