

VISIT KNOXVILLE OPEN

ROUND 4 QUICK QUOTES

May 25, 2025

PONTUS NYHOLM (-19)



Q. Pontus, let's just start with the finish. You let all the emotion out on that eagle putt. How did it feel to finally get your first Korn Ferry Tour win in that fashion?

PONTUS NYHOLM: Yeah, obviously amazing. I mean, this is my fourth year playing out here and haven't been able to get it done. Been real close a few times, and that stung obviously.

Then just missing that putt in regulation, obviously gut wrenching. Then going into the playoff and being able to finish off that way, I don't really know how we celebrated but just raw emotion, yeah.

Q. What was the mindset there? You have that tough putt for bogey on 18 and then you go into scoring. Where's your head at?

PONTUS NYHOLM: Yeah, obviously tough. I did such a good job all day of just staying present. Didn't really look at leaderboards. Was playing well obviously and kind of just let it get to me here on 18 a little bit on the green. That was the first time all day where I kind of let my emotions take over and didn't really go through my process on that short putt, and it cost me.

Then going into the playoff, it was funny, I was telling my caddie, Josh, because we were watching the Masters a few weeks ago and Rory said something like, after the 18th hole when he came up to him, Harry came up to him and said, pal, this morning if I would have told you we were going to be in a playoff, you would have taken it.

So that was sort of the mindset we tried to have going into the playoff. Like I was 5 back going into the day, didn't really -- obviously played with S.H. yesterday and he played so good, so thought I would have to shoot 8, 9 under to sniff having a chance. Would have obviously taken a playoff this morning before even hitting a golf shot, so that's sort of the mindset and we got it done.

Q. Going into today, as you mentioned, you were five back. What is that mindset knowing if you want a chance to win you're probably going to have to chase somebody down and make some birdies?

PONTUS NYHOLM: Right. I mean, it's a little tricky because obviously out here every spot is important because you're trying to chase that PGA TOUR card at the end of the year. So

you don't really want to go flat out and 10 under or something because you still want to play well and have a good finish no matter what, so you can't maybe let loose too much. That was just sort of what we talked about the first two days, just sticking to my process. Been playing well and just trusting my game and knowing that birdies were going to be out there.

Q. I know you weren't really scoreboard watching, but you probably felt like you were up there. Did nerves -- I guess you kind of felt it on 18, but were nerves coming in at any point earlier in the round?

PONTUS NYHOLM: Yeah, you're obviously more -- you can feel the pressure the whole round really. I made a bomb on 9 to get to 5 under through nine. Kind of had a feeling that a good back nine we would have a chance. Played great on the back nine, had a 360 lip-out on 12, hit it tight on 15, made birdie there, and then made like a nine-footer down the hill, slider for par on 16, and then an unbelievable up and down for par on 17. So they were huge, huge par saves on 16, 17 even though obviously you're feeling nerves, but I was able to, as I said again, stick to my process and try and stay where my feet are and just hit the shot in front of me, and I was able to do that all the way up to the 18th green.

Q. Your career as a whole out here, fourth year out here, you've been very solid, retained your status. You weren't too far off a Tour card last year I guess. Where do you feel like you've grown over these last four years, your game's really improved that you were able to have this breakthrough.

PONTUS NYHOLM: I mean, my game's changed so much, and just the way I think about golf from four years ago when I first got out here. When I first got out here I was so focused on my golf swing, and every time I had a bad round I'm like, OK, I'm swinging it bad, that's why I'm playing bad. I went to the range and I hit balls for five hours afterwards.

Now I feel like I've sort of come to the realization that it's such a mental game. I've been trying to work, especially this year and later half of last year, really focus on the mental aspects of the game. I think that's helped me tremendously in just trusting the swing, and everything I have is pretty good, it's good enough.

Q. Does this change anything for you? Where's your mindset at? You win and now it's PGA TOUR card really improves your chances in that sense?

PONTUS NYHOLM: Yeah, haven't really thought about that. Obviously huge relief. Been so close many times out here, I had the 36-hole lead and 54-hole lead and just kind of fallen short a few times. Just being able to get it done is obviously a huge confidence boost. Haven't really thought about it other than that. Yeah, hopefully I can keep riding the momentum and keep playing well this season.

Q. When Kim made the turn, he was 21 under. Were you aware of that?

PONTUS NYHOLM: Well, I looked back briefly on 7, the par 5, and I saw his score started

with a 2 and I saw he hit it in close on 7 for eagle, so I figured he would be 22 at least, 21, 22 under at least.

Yeah, I tried not to worry about it too much, kind of focus on my own game and trusting that. I didn't really look back or look at leaderboards too much, but you obviously are aware of what's going on around you, you can hear the cheers and the applause around the course. And then obviously playing with Johnny, I knew where Johnny was at. So yeah, you're aware, but just kind of stick to the process.

Q. Kind of interesting that he makes like a 60-foot bomb to get into the playoff and you match it in the playoff.

PONTUS NYHOLM: Yeah, exactly. Obviously he had all the momentum going into the playoff. We pretty much made the exact same putt I think that he made in regulation. I missed a three-footer straight up the hill, so he's got all the momentum. I was happy I was able to turn that around and make a nice putt.

Q. You mentioned the advice Rory's caddie gave him at the Masters and then what your caddie told you. Did that resonate with you at that moment?

PONTUS NYHOLM: Yeah, sort of a similar moment. We both bogeyed 18 and Rory bogeyed with a wedge from the middle of the fairway, I three-putted, made bogey from the bunker. Obviously very disappointing. But you kind of need to reset, and I think that's a good way of thinking of it. Like before I teed off this morning, if someone said, hey, you can go play a playoff right now for the win, I would have taken it.

Q. Did you know that it had a chance off your putter there?

PONTUS NYHOLM: Yeah, I was telling Josh, my caddie, before I hit, I was like, Johnny just made this, it's doable. As soon as I hit it I could tell it was tracking and it was, what, 20 feet shorter? I knew it had a good chance.

Q. What's the story with the AirBnB?

PONTUS NYHOLM: Just staying with a couple blokes this week, they bring good vibes and they were -- nothing crazy.

Q. Did you know them before this week?

PONTUS NYHOLM: Yeah.

Q. OK. I thought it was --

PONTUS NYHOLM: No, no, no, we knew each other. It was the first time we all stayed together for a tournament, so might have to keep doing that.

Q. You got Go Camels on your yardage book?

PONTUS NYHOLM: Yeah, Campbell University. Not exactly the same orange, but it's orange.