

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
February 12, 2026



NICK TAYLOR (-7)

Q. Nick, 7 under par today at a tournament that you love. Get some comments on the great start.

NICK TAYLOR: Yeah, a lot of great memories coming here. Had a lot of good results even outside of the win there. Game has been in good shape to start the season, which has been nice. And definitely rolled the ball really nicely on the greens today, so that was the best part of the game today.

Q. When was your first visit out here?

NICK TAYLOR: When?

Q. Yeah.

NICK TAYLOR: It would have been my rookie year, so that was 2015. So I've come here every year. I feel like family's come down every single year maybe outside of the COVID year. I think in the last 12 years I've been here 13 times with the U.S. Open in '19.

Pebble is my No. 1 answer if people ask me what's my favorite course that I've played or on Tour, so I always have good vibes coming here.

Q. Why is it your favorite?

NICK TAYLOR: You know, the golf course fits my eye. Once you hit honestly 4 through 10, I don't know how you beat that in golf with 18 obviously being there as well.

I think one of my first memories in golf was Tiger Woods winning the U.S. Open here in 2000. I remember having that recorded on VHS and watching it constantly. So that was kind of my introduction to golf.

And then to be able to actually play that later in my life, I've always loved it. I've always loved coming back. The elements are part of it. It's something that I grew up in, so it's not something that I necessarily love playing in but it doesn't faze me in a sense. I've seen like everything I feel like here over the years. Looks like Sunday we might get some of that as well.

But yeah, I just enjoy coming back here every year.

Q. Has your appreciation for Tiger's margin of victory in 2000 increased over the time



that you've been competing here?

NICK TAYLOR: Yeah, I think I always had a high respect for a 15-shot win. The course was probably a little bit different then at that U.S. Open than it is here this week, but yeah, I've always had a high respect for that and probably grown a bit somehow.

Q. It's a place with a lot of nostalgia, Pebble. Did you remember anything about like the first round you played here now having logged hundreds?

NICK TAYLOR: That's a good question. I've hit it down in those pebbles left of 18, hit it out of there multiple times. That's memories I don't necessarily love, but I've done that.

Obviously winning was a great memory there battling Phil down that day, a lot of good memories and a lot of confidence I took from that.

Yeah, it's just one of those places it's hard to be ever in a bad mood, and if you are, you can just look at the ocean for 20 seconds and you definitely get in a better state of mind.

Yeah, anywhere here. You know, we played Spy for years, Monterey, anywhere on the peninsula is awesome.

Q. We're approaching some really low scoring averages the first day on both courses. I was wondering if you had gone out and played yesterday, how different that would look?

NICK TAYLOR: I actually played a game on the back nine here and shot I think 1 under, which I thought was really good. Pebble's a different story, obviously there's a little more block here, blockage with the trees.

Yeah, it's soft obviously with all that rain. The rough isn't really much of a factor, so I think that's probably why the scores are low.

But when the wind picks up, it's just a factor that it's kind of unmeasurable with Pebble especially. Typically you have a wedge on 7, you can hit literally anything there when the wind picks up. If that picks up over the weekend, the scores will be different for sure.

Q. How did you celebrate your win?

NICK TAYLOR: We got Dominoes and just -- my son was three months old I think at the time. Now he's six, my daughter's 2 and a half, so we had a rental house here at Pacific Grove, got some pizza.

Q. Peperoni, sausage?

NICK TAYLOR: I'm a peperoni guys, yeah. It was chill, it was a chill night.



Q. Anything special as defending champion that you got to do out here?

NICK TAYLOR: You know, not really because the next year, COVID, the world shut down two months later. The next year was kind of still in that return-to-play category, so there was no fans, there was no pro-am, so I didn't get to run it back with Jerry Tarde the defending year. So it was just a different type of defending unfortunately, but not really.

Q. Is Spyglass underrated?

NICK TAYLOR: I think it's great. Yes, I think it's definitely underrated. Anyone I feel like you talk to on Tour that plays it is always, you know, the condition of it is always phenomenal.

Like I said, I putted really nice today, which is definitely part of the biggest defense out here. You get above the hole or in little spots, it's just really challenging to make putts. It's scorable obviously with the softer conditions but a little more demanding probably off the tee. I guess putting is similar as Pebble, probably a little more demanding off the tee.

