

**ROUND 3 INTERVIEW**  
**February 27, 2021**



**VIKTOR HOVLAND (-10)**

---

**Q. Looks like you flushed yesterday's ending away pretty quickly. Did that stick with you last night at all or how did you bounce back?**

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** It was the same as the last couple days. The golf course is very gettable if you're playing really well, but there are some really hard pins out there and if you're off by a little bit you can make some big numbers. It was very fair and not too windy out there. It was swirling a little bit, sometimes it was gusting maybe 15 miles an hour, but you could very easily shoot a good score.

**Q. How was 13?**

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** Which hole is that again?

**Q. The par 5 with the pin kind of --**

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** Oh, that was brutal. I practiced that one a lot in the practice round to no avail today, but I mean, it's such a hard shot. I'm standing there with a 6-iron in on the second shot and I mean, looked at Shay and I was like there's no point in even going for this pin, I'm just going to try to hit it in the front bunker, that's about the only good spot you can have there. I mis-hit it, ended up in the shorter bunker, hit a terrible bunker shot and another bad chip. I mean, you've just got to try to hit it in the short bunker and try to make birdie that way, that's the only way.

**Q. Can you think of other courses where the margins between having a look at birdie and scrambling your butt off for par is worse?**

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** Yeah, I think a lot about it's very much a Tom Fazio design I feel like, so Carson Creek is like that a little bit like that, Shadow Creek I thought as well where we played. For example, the 17th hole out there, the par 3, it's like either you're in the water or any of the bunkers and you're making bogey or double or you hit it close and probably make a birdie. It's kind of a similar style because there's a lot of bowls on the green. If you hit a good shot, you can get it close, but if you miss it by a little bit, you have just an extremely tough up and down. So quite a few golf courses out there like that.

**Q. Does it make it any easier to accept if you take a double or worse to realize it can happen at anybody at any time or -- trying to make it look good for you.**

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** The doubles are hard to swallow, especially the 8s, but you can make a bunch of mistakes, but if you can kind of just limit them to bogeys. And you're going to

make enough birdies out there, so it's all about just minimizing the errors out here.

**Q. When got to the ninth tee, did you think any flashbacks to yesterday or when you were walking up on the green or being on the green, does anything flash back?**

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** Well, I was thinking about it. I hit a better drive today and I hit a nice approach shot and I thought to myself I'm probably not making an 8 from there. No, I mean, it was just, it was a fluke. I happened to blade my bunker shot there at the worst time possible yesterday and hard to blade if from the middle of the fairway.

**Q. This is the one year anniversary of you saying on live television that you suck at chipping. That's no longer the case, statistically you've improved drastically. What's gone into that process to take that from a weakness into an above average strength?**

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** Yeah, first I had to put some time down because I didn't practice a whole lot of chipping before, but it's also a technical change. I've been working hard with Jeff Smith basically just trying to use the bounce. I wasn't doing that before, it was all leading edge, which I could get away with in overseed or rye grass, but out here you're exposed immediately as soon as you get it to any type of bermuda into the grain. You have to catch it perfectly.

Still got some work to do, but I'm hitting some chips that I wouldn't have been able to do before. For example, the one on 3 yesterday, I was left of the green on the downslope and the pin was front left and I was able to kind of elevate it and hit it close in there. It's cool to see a couple of those shots.

**Q. That's kind of what I was getting at. This would be a pretty good litmus test for --**

**VIKTOR HOVLAND:** Yeah, if you can chip out here, you can chip.