

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
November 10, 2022



TRAVIS VICK (-2)

Q. For a guy that had no nerves sinking the winning putt in the NCAA Championship for the Longhorns, you had a pretty solid round here as an amateur. Tell me about your day.

TRAVIS VICK: Yeah, it's always nice to get off to a good start. I had some decision-making errors towards the end, specifically bogeying No. 16 kind of hurt, killed the momentum. But other than that, there's a lot of great iron shots. It's just a good round of golf.

Q. Talk about the setup of the golf course compared to what you're used to on the collegiate level.

TRAVIS VICK: You know, I would say the setup's pretty similar. I would say this is definitely harder than any sort of collegiate course we play. The pins were pretty tucked today, specifically 17. There's a couple par 4s over 500 yards, had 4-iron in to one of them. It's difficult out there and I think the scores reflect that.

Q. Talk to me a little Longhorn golf because there's a lot of replacing for John Fields. You lost an awful lot of talent, with Hammer, the Coody kids. What's the future for Longhorn golf this season?

TRAVIS VICK: You know, I think it's going to turn around. I think we have this Tommy Morrison guy coming in, I think we have a lot of talent with the freshmen, Keaton Vo, Christiaan Maas. we've always been a spring team, we've never played well in the fall and I think keep an eye on us.

Q. If people don't know, I think Tommy Morrison's like six-foot-ten or something. It would really be fun to see him play. I know you're a golfer, but quite the football game headed to Austin this weekend, you go up against the Horned Frogs. What is Austin from here, a three-hour drive? Is there any way you can make it?

TRAVIS VICK: I think it's two and a half and I hope I don't make it because that means I'll be playing the weekend. But if I do miss the cut, I'll definitely be there. I think Game Day's going to be there as well, so it should be a good game.

Q. Good playing, nice round. What was the difference between last week and this week for you?

TRAVIS VICK: A lot. I lost all my golf balls in the mangroves last week, so it's kind of hard to play golf when you run out of golf balls. Yeah, this week I've been struggling with my



swing a little bit and my swing coach came down and he's actually on the bag. So we've really grinded the past few days and tried to figure out and diagnose some tendencies that have lingered in tournament competition. There's a difference between hitting it well on the range and going out in competition with different sightlines, so I've had to make adjustments and figure out what's really going on and I think we're moving in the right direction.

Q. What did you address, and was there a shot early on where you felt like, hey, this is working, the changes are --

TRAVIS VICK: Yeah, I've had to make adjustments during the round. So, for example, on 10 and 11 I hit really bad shots and I didn't really know what it was. Then I made a little quick adjustment and birdied 12. From there on I hit it pretty well. So I was able to kind of make adjustments throughout the round. But I do feel like we're moving in the right direction in regards to the swing and seeing a positive result like today definitely helps the confidence.

Q. Travis, you've played in pressure situations and before big crowds at the NCAA tournament, U.S. Open. What's it like just to be out here in your hometown tournament?

TRAVIS VICK: It means a lot. I grew up five minutes from here, so I've always come to this tournament and watched all the pros play. As a child it was a dream of mine to maybe be able one day to play in the Houston Open because that was the big tournament from where I'm from. So just to be here is an honor and I'm hoping to make the most of it.

Q. Did you have a lot of family and friends, supporters out there?

TRAVIS VICK: Oh, yeah. I had about I would say 50, 50 family, friends that I know of that have come out here. Then there's a bunch of people that live in this area that I know of and so they're either volunteering or they have a booth or something. Yeah, there's a lot of familiar faces.

Q. Before they remodeled this course, did you play here very much?

TRAVIS VICK: I did before the remodel. Once they remodeled it, the course is completely different. The old Houston Open course was pretty short and pretty gettable and now it's a monster out there. There's long par 4s, there's super undulating greens. They can make this place as hard as they'd like.

Q. Finishing your senior year at Texas, how much are you champing at the bit to come out and play this tour on a full-time basis?

TRAVIS VICK: A lot. On the edge of my seat. Thankfully they've done a lot of great things for college players, specifically with this PGA TOUR U deal. So I'm hope to play great here and finish off a strong collegiate season and then maybe get some Korn Ferry starts and slowly try to make my way out here.



Q. I know your confidence has to be pretty high because I know a lot of guys getting out of college, they haven't really played any big-time events and don't know where they really kind of stand, but you have a pretty good idea of where your golf game is compared to other pros.

TRAVIS VICK: Yes, I do. I'm very thankful to be able to play. I think this is my second PGA TOUR event and I played the U.S. Open, so I kind of had an idea of what the pros do and what it takes to get out here. Your game has to be sharp, you've got to play well. These are the best guys in the world, best players in the world, so it's good to kind of put your game to the test in front of them so that way you really know what you need to work on.

Q. What do you think you need to work on?

TRAVIS VICK: Well, I think there's a laundry list there. Specifically, chipping. I would say chipping and putting has always historically been my weakness, but the past I would say couple months I just haven't been hitting it well for my standards.

I think my swing coach and I were making some adjustments there, so I was happy with the way that I hit it today and that usually gives me confidence to other areas of my game.

Q. What's your best Houston Open memory as a fan?

TRAVIS VICK: Well, best memory, I would say watching the playoff with Ian Poulter and Beau Hossler. Beau I think was leading the U.S. Open at 17 and he's always been a huge Texas guy and he's had tremendous success in college. So watching him, I know he ended up not winning, but that was cool to kind of be there and witness all that transpired.

Q. Did you get autographs when you were younger?

TRAVIS VICK: Stewart Cink gave me an autograph one time. I was 5 years old and he just came off the ninth green and went to the tenth tee box and threw me a golf ball. That was my first autograph.

Q. Did you tell him that this week?

TRAVIS VICK: I ran into him, but I wasn't going to bother him with that. He probably doesn't care.

