

ROUND 2 QUOTES
January 25, 2024



NICOLAI HØJGAARD (-11)

Q. Nicolai, another solid round for you, put yourself one shot back right now off the lead heading into the final two rounds. Kind of take us through what's going well for you right now.

NICOLAI HØJGAARD: Yeah, I feel like it's been two solid two days. Played some really good golf, scrambled pretty well when I've been out of position and finished off with a nice par on nine today, or 18. Feel like the driving has been quite solid. I still missed a few fairways on the par 5s, which are the scoring holes, but overall very pleased with the game.

Q. How much sleep did you get last night?

NICOLAI HØJGAARD: Probably, started probably out with four hours and then maybe an hour at a time for four hours maybe. I don't know, not much sleep at the moment. I feel good in the morning, wake up early and feel fresh, but when we get to midday and afternoon, I can feel like body is tired. But it's getting better every day, but we'll find a way.

Q. Did you catch any -- with your sleeping, did you catch any of Rasmus? He was contending after the round in Europe.

NICOLAI HØJGAARD: Yeah, actually woke up in the middle of the night and looked at the scores, so saw a little bit before I went to sleep last night. Yeah, it's weird, so big difference time zone wise and I've just been there, so it's kind of surreal. But yeah, it's pretty cool to see him play well and hopefully he'll keep it up the next few days. Yeah, I wish him the best.

Q. The North Course is the easier of the two courses, you shot close to the same round, but did you feel it a little bit more, like a little bit more forgiving at different points?

NICOLAI HØJGAARD: I mean, I made three pars on three par 5s today and I was greenside on 11, so I had plenty of chances to shoot this one even lower. I could see the course playing a little bit easier, but there's still some strong holes out there, long par 3, a couple long par 4s.

Yeah, it's definitely a little bit easier, but you can shoot a good score on South Course as well if you're in the fairway. But there's definitely stronger par 5s, longer, so you don't just reach them as you do on the North. Yeah, looking forward to the weekend.

Q. How do you explain playing so well when you haven't seen, you know, the entire South Course and only half of the North?



NICOLAI HØJGAARD: It's a good question. Sometimes not knowing where the trouble is is a good thing, but now I know so it's going to be different on the weekend probably.

You can see most of the course, so it's about trusting the execution part of it a little bit more. I think that's very important at times that you focus on that more than just looking at the golf course, what you're supposed to do, and go internal and focus on yourself and your own ball-striking and trying to put it in the fairway. I feel like sometimes that's a bit underrated and I feel like this week it's been the main focus.

Q. So when you did play nine, that practice round, did you play the front or the back of the North?

NICOLAI HØJGAARD: I played back nine on North.

Q. So you haven't seen the front nine of the North until you played it today?

NICOLAI HØJGAARD: No.

Q. How long was that travel day when you got here? Did you go through Canada?

NICOLAI HØJGAARD: Yeah, it's obviously a long travel, but it's part of it and it's the right way. So we were 12 hours behind, so it's easier going this way than going back again. Yeah, it's probably 20 hours travel. But we got here Monday midday, so we had plenty of time to recover and get ready. But then it's a Wednesday start, so it felt a little bit stressful still.

Our focus was just to get ready for the tournament and then focus on the golf course, focus on the execution part on the golf course. So far it worked really well, so hopefully we can build on that on the weekend.

Q. So was that the new winning formula, like sleep deprivation and not seeing courses and everything that's counterintuitive than you would think?

NICOLAI HØJGAARD: We haven't won anything yet. I don't think it's the right way to go about it all the time, but certain times I think it's good to have a different focus and maybe spend a bit more time on the recovering part.

But I'm going to do weeks similar to this, but it's going to be a course I know so I won't play too much. Normally when I go to a new course, I spend more time on the golf course than in the practice area, but it's been a little bit different this time. It worked well so far and yeah, we might do it again at some point.

Q. Yourself and Matthieu Pavon, both up towards the top of the board. Just want to get your thoughts on the talent on the DP World Tour and obviously more opportunities for those guys coming over to play here.



NICOLAI HØJGAARD: Yeah, it's exciting. There's a lot of good players and you see the guys coming over now playing some really good golf. There's still plenty on the DP World Tour that's really, really good.

Yeah, it's good to see some Europeans as well competing on the PGA TOUR. I think it's good for the global picture. Obviously knowing the guys coming from Europe sometimes makes it a bit more comfortable as well. Yeah, it's cool to see.

Q. Nicolai, last question, obviously a big round on the South Course. The South Course is the course that hosted the U.S. Open, it has the reputation of being a tough golf course and you go out, you put out a big number there your first day.

Does that -- did that take a little bit or any pressure off of you coming into today knowing that you kind of slayed the big beast and then you have the North Course, which is still a test but not known as being as tough as the South Course?

NICOLAI HØJGAARD: I actually think, yeah, it probably takes a little bit of pressure, but in a way where I could see my game was really solid, I could see my driving was solid, which I can back myself a little bit more going into today's round. There's still thick rough around North Course, you've still got to hit the shots out there. It's not just an easy golf course. If you're in the fairway and hit the right shots, yeah, you can tear it up, but you've still got to hit the shots on that course and you've got to hit the shots on every course you play. I don't feel like it's that easy. I've played some really good golf these two days so it kind of felt stress free, but I can see that you can get in trouble on both courses.

