

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
February 22, 2024

NICOLAI HØJGAARD (-3)



Q. Great playing today. This golf course is a lot different than others you play on the PGA TOUR or DP World Tour. What are the keys to success around a golf course like this one?

NICOLAI HØJGAARD: It's the same thing as always, you've got to hit fairways, you've got to hit a lot of greens. It's a golf course where it's quite gettable off the tee. There's a few tee shots where you've got to hit some good ones, but you can kind of get away with it out here.

But into the greens you've got to position yourself quite good, give yourself some good looks. Everyone thinks it's going to be like really low scoring, but it's not really, really low today, which is kind of surprising. But the course is in good condition and there's a few birdies out there.

Q. What would you say are the trouble spots out there?

NICOLAI HØJGAARD: I would say I think when you go 16, 17 can be tricky in the afternoon when it gets into wind. We played them in perfect conditions this morning, so you don't feel like it's that bad. It was a 6-iron on 17 and probably going to be a 4-iron in the afternoon. Nos. 8 and 10 as well, even though you get 10 in the morning, you've got to get a tee shot in play and it's still a long iron into the green. And 8 now is into wind. There's a few tricky holes out there, but there's a lot of good holes as well you can make birdies.

Q. One thing you said was a big difference between the PGA TOUR and the DP World Tour is how much these players focus on wedge game and putting. How much have those things kind of been a focus of your work week to week?

NICOLAI HØJGAARD: Wedges in general are just so important. When you play courses, when you lay up on a par-5 you've got to be able to make the old-school birdies instead of just overpowering it all the time. When you're out of position and you chip it back in the fairway, you've got to be able to sometimes make those crucial par saves.

I felt like the end of last season was really good wedge game and I felt like we've got a little bit to catch up, but in general it's such an important thing to keep rounds going but also take it really low. Putting, putting as always where you're going to separate yourself.

Q. I notice on 18 that the tee boxes were switched from the tee box on the far right to the left. How did that change? Did it change a lot, especially that pin in the left tucked in?



NICOLAI HØJGAARD: I actually think it's a way easier hole off the left, you kind of take water more out of play. I feel like you're crossing more over the water instead of having it like on the left side from the right tee box, and the hole is definitely shorter.

The hole was quite gettable when we played it this morning, it's probably going to be a bit tricky in the afternoon when it's going to be into wind and probably play a little bit longer. It's a big target up there, but you just know there's trouble left.

Q. You said the last three holes, 17 were tough. Coming on to Sunday, what would be a strategy when you're coming to that long par 4 on 16, then coming into 17, 18?

NICOLAI HØJGAARD: Very simple, hit the fairway and hit the greens.

Play the situation. Whatever situation you're in, you're going to play for it and make a decision on how you're feeling when you get there.

It's a wide target on 16 as well, but you know the right side when it gets into wind, the trees are in the way, you've got to get it close to the bunkers. If you hit it in the bunkers, it's not easy. There's a little bit of stuff going on out there, but in general it's quite gettable off the tee.

