ROUND 3 QUOTES March 2, 2024

VAN HOLMGREN (-16)



Q. Van, great round, leading right now. Just sort of the take me through highlights of today.

VAN HOLMGREN: Started off well. I think we had control early. Birdies started coming and they didn't stop coming, which is good.

Almost holed it on 8 from 173, tap-in eagle, which is nice. Did my best to keep it going, birdied 10, birdied 11 and then just kind of slowed down a little bit, but ready to get after it tomorrow.

Q. This tournament's known for bringing a lot of fans out on the weekend. Did the atmosphere feel a little different today out there?

VAN HOLMGREN: Definitely, yeah, the crowds came in. It was a long day, slow round, but it was fun. The crowds kind of -- they didn't -- I noticed them, but they kind of just gave me a little more energy.

Q. A lot at stake tomorrow, you're already into next week but you need all the points you can get early in the year, there's a major championship exemption, four-year exemption with a win. How much of that is going to enter your mind tomorrow?

VAN HOLMGREN: Nothing. We're hunting for trophies no matter what. Got to do my best to stay present, I think. Being able to compete and compete on the weekend is kind of a blessing and I want to just try and have fun with it, do my best.

Q. Anything off the course this week that's sort of been like a routine that's maybe helped you out?

VAN HOLMGREN: Steak, Argentina's got really good steak. That's about it.

Q. Washing it down with Malbec or anything?

VAN HOLMGREN: Hopefully tomorrow, yeah.

Q. You mentioned in like a Q-School questionnaire you were thinking of going to Minnesota as just a general student and you changed your mind at like your



graduation party. Is that sort of how all that went down?

VAN HOLMGREN: Yeah, I didn't have any offers out of college. Luckily, I won the high school state tournament my senior year and I just kind of asked around and found a spot. My brother, my dad really went to war for me. Funny how it is, that's probably why I'm still playing.

Q. What ultimately led you to like make such a different decision than you sort of --

VAN HOLMGREN: I think I always knew that I wanted to play golf, I think I was really good at it, I love the competition.

The only thing that just threw me off was I grew a foot in about 15 months and it just got so hard. I mean, every time I looked at the ball, it was further away. So it's hard to just go through that and still love the game. But when I got it back, it was nice.

Q. So what was it like, the height progression from freshman year of high school to like senior year?

VAN HOLMGREN: I think I went from like 5-6, 5-7 to 6-8 in about 13 months my sophomore year. It was crazy. I'd wake up in the middle of the night with back pains, shoes never fit, all that stuff.

Q. So like at the graduation party, did you have like a whole bunch of Minnesota stuff out?

VAN HOLMGREN: Yeah, yeah. So it was bittersweet, my friends gave me a few gifts and they were all maroon and gold and then I had -- yeah, I had to switch them around.

Q. I mean, how crazy is it for you to look back at your freshman year at North Dakota State when you were like, yeah, can't really get any worse than this, to where you are?

VAN HOLMGREN: Oh, I mean, North Dakota State's an unbelievable spot, it's a great spot, they have their blessings. The year-round golf they do not have. Yeah, being a walk-on, it's kind of balls to the wall, might as well play some good golf.

Q. What other sport achievements do you have outside of golf? Do you have any?

VAN HOLMGREN: Nothing worthwhile.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: He's actually -- you've won State in swimming.

VAN HOLMGREN: OK. Yeah, I put 44 points up in a rec game one time in a basketball game, that was pretty good. A lot of 3s.



Q. We read that in your bio.

VAN HOLMGREN: Thank you for that.

Q. Didn't you try to dunk on someone in that game?

VAN HOLMGREN: Tried to dunk on to someone. I've got heavy feet, sadly, and I got an offensive foul, almost a technical foul, so not great.

Q. Where was this rec game at?

VAN HOLMGREN: Edina, Minnesota. The tallest person on the court besides me was about 5-10, so I should be putting up those numbers.

Q. Last one, just what are you most looking forward to tomorrow?

VAN HOLMGREN: Staying present, enjoying the moment. Again, I think it's a blessing to be able to have the pressure and be able to compete, but I want to kind of check in and enjoy it, not get through it.

