

Valspar Championship

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Palm Harbor, Florida, USA

Innisbrook Resort (Copperhead)

Viktor Hovland

Quick Quotes

Q. How would you assess that opening round, it was a nice little stretch in the middle, can you talk about that?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Didn't get off to a very good start. Was battling there, 2-over par, early on the back nine. But made a nice long putt on 16 for birdie and very nice par save on 17 and stuffed it on 18 and made another nice putt on 1 and 3. So I had a nice little stretch going there to gets back to 2-under. A little disappointing bogey there on the par-3 after a three putt and just couldn't make another kind of coming in, even though I felt like I played better finishing the round. So all in all somewhat happy with the 1-under after still not feeling very comfortable out there, but I am seeing some progress, so that's nice.

Q. How did you feel like the conditions, not just on the course, but the weather changed from the time you started this morning until now.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah, I mean, showing up, it was dark and it was cold. It was windy as well. Not super windy the first few holes, but then the wind definitely picked up. Even though the sun started coming out, it was, the wind kept it a little bit chilly. Although now it looks like the wind's going to die down a little bit and temperatures are heating up.

THE MODERATOR: Kind of a historic moment for Norway with three Norwegians in the field for the first time ever. How is that going to be for Norwegian golf going forward.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: It's pretty nuts. We don't have to look that far back before we didn't have any players and then Henrik Bjørnstad was the first Norwegian to play on the PGA TOUR with full status. And then it was kind of a drought after that. And now we got three guys and we hope get some more out there. I feel like there's other guys that could also make the step. So, but, yeah, super exciting.

Q. The last two rounds for you the 16th hole has been pretty good for you, I take it?



VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah.

Q. And it's probably one of the hardest holes on the course. Obviously you would like to hit it closer, but still you've taken advantage of it.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah, so far, so good.

Q. Do you have anything after this before the Masters or is this it?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: No, two weeks off.

Q. Do you go in advance at all?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I will, actually. Not for necessarily a scouting trip, but I was invited to go and play and, yeah, so we're going to make a little trip out of it.

Q. Like for fun.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah.

Q. Have you ever stayed in a cabin?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I have one time, yeah.

Q. What was that experience like?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: It was cool. I remember I played as an amateur and I had Álvaro Ortiz was an amateur with me. And I was pretty good buddies with him from college golf, and there was a few other amateurs in there as well. And we just kind of shared the top floor there and hung out, watched March Madness together and, yeah, it was a good time.

Q. Was it like a whole full day, did you do 36 holes and like people talk about making the most of it?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: The most of it? Kind of don't remember everything in detail. I think we, I think I either played nine or 18, practiced a little bit. We had the amateur dinner later on that night and then we just went up



to Butler Cabin and took it easy the rest of the night.

Q. I'm sorry, that was during the tournament week?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah.

Q. You were in the Crow's Nest.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah.

Q. I meant --

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Okay, yeah, confusing stuff.

Q. Have you ever stayed in cabin?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: At Augusta? I have not, no.

Q. Do you think you will during this visit?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Probably not, no.

Q. Everybody says it's such a neat experience?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I'm sure it's amazing.

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