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Third-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Viktor Hovland	67-67-64—198 (-15)
2	Rob Oppenheim	68-70-61—199 (-14)
	Bronson Burgoon	68-65-66—199 (-14)
4	Three tied at	200 (-13)

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Viktor Hovland takes third-round lead at Albertsons Boise Open presented by Kraft Nabisco

BOISE, Idaho — Norwegian sensation Viktor Hovland carded a 7-under 64 on Saturday to leap to the top of the leaderboard at 15-under through three rounds of the Albertsons Boise Open presented by Kraft Nabisco. The low round positions him to earn his first PGA TOUR card with a strong finish on Sunday at Hillcrest Country Club.

“This week in Boise has a chance to be my first professional victory, so it could be pretty special here for me,” said Hovland. “If I happen to win, then I’m going to look back at this week as a pretty sweet week for me. I really like it here – the backdrop has mountains everywhere. The course is kind of narrow off the tee, you have to hit it straight...You have to take some irons off the tee and play the angles; I think it’s a great course.”

After back-to-back 67s over the first two rounds, Hovland came out of the gate hot, birdieing four of his first five holes to jump into contention. He turned in 4-under 32 before adding birdies at Nos. 12, 15 and 16 to reach 15-under. The 21-year-old ranks T2 in putting average and T12 in driving distance so far this week.

Despite making his debut in Boise, Hovland enjoyed a strong crowd throughout his round, growing especially large as he claimed the lead during the back nine.

“The crowd support has been crazy; I’m from Oslo, Norway, and I’ve been in the United States for three years now,” said Hovland. “I don’t do anything in particular to stand out, I just play my golf and try to be myself, but I’m glad people like it.”

Hovland made waves this year on the PGA TOUR with four top-25s in five starts as a professional, including a solo-fourth finish at the Wyndham Championship. He also competed in the Masters Tournament (T32) and the U.S. Open (T12) as an amateur before turning professional. He was part of a vaunted trio of newcomers on TOUR that included Oklahoma State teammate Matthew Wolff and University of California-Berkeley star Collin Morikawa. Wolff and Morikawa have already won on TOUR this season to secure their status for next season, while Hovland is looking to earn his way to the PGA TOUR through the Korn Ferry Tour Finals.

“It’s been a crazy journey, even so far, and I’ve only been a professional golfer for a couple of months,” said Hovland, who likely needs a top-25 finish to pass the projected points threshold to earn his PGA TOUR card. “Seeing what Collin [Morikawa] and Matt [Wolff] have done, I’m hoping to try and catch them. Looking back, I don’t think anyone could have really expected this to happen. But it’s a lot of fun.”

Another former college teammate of Hovland's, Korn Ferry Tour rookie Kristoffer Ventura, has already secured his PGA TOUR card for the 2019-20 season through two wins during the Regular Season. The duo went hiking in the Boise foothills on Wednesday.

Veteran Rob Oppenheim carded the low round of the tournament with a 10-under 61 to rise to T2 entering the final round. Oppenheim went eagle-eagle on Nos. 2 and 3 and tacked on six more birdies to tie his best career round. Bronson Burgoon posted a 5-under 66 to equal Oppenheim's three-day total at 14-under 199.

Sunday's final-round tee times will run from 7:30-11:55 a.m.

SATURDAY NOTES:

- * Saturday's weather: Sunny with a high of 94. Winds from the West at 6-12 mph.
- * Rob Oppenheim was 4-under through three holes after he eagled the par-5 second and third holes. He added six birdies en route to a 10-under 61, tied for the lowest round of his career. He also shot 10-under 61 at the 2012 Cox Classic.
- * Earlier this summer, Oppenheim took a week off and shot 60 at his home course, Indian Ridge Country Club in Andover, Massachusetts. Oppenheim said: "My brother texted me this morning reminding me some vibes about that, asking if I remembered that round. Today felt like that. This golf course is a little bit trickier with quicker greens, but it was the same mindset trying to make birdies on every hole."
- * Oppenheim is the second player to make back-to-back eagles this week. Tyler Duncan eagled Nos. 15 and 16 in the first round. Overall, four players have made consecutive eagles this season.
- * In his fourth start at the Albertsons Boise Open presented by Kraft Nabsico, Bronson Burgoon carded a third-round 66 and moved into a two-way tie for second at 14-under. His best finish in Boise was in 2015 when he tied for ninth (65-69-67-66). This season on the PGA TOUR, he posted two top-10s (best: T2, CIMB Classic) and finished No. 135 in the FedExCup.
- * Second-round leader Ryan Brehm was 2-over through 11 holes Saturday, but he salvaged a third-round 70 with birdies on three of his last seven holes. He leads the field with 21 birdies and he'll start Sunday T4 at 13-under.
- * Coming off a missed cut at last week's Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship, Hank Lebioda carded a bogey-free 65 on Saturday and is T4 at 13-under. This year on the PGA TOUR, Lebioda posted one top-10 (T5 with partner Curtis Luck at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans) and finished 148th in the FedExCup.
- * Tyler Duncan (T4/-13), Grayson Murray (T7/-12) and Anders Albertson (T26/-8) lead the field with three eagles this week.
- * Hunter Mahan (back) withdrew after the eighth hole.
- * Through three rounds, the 535-yard par-5 16th is the easiest hole (4.315) and has yielded 25 eagles and 187 birdies. The 216-yard par-3 13th is the hardest hole (3.205) and has yielded 26 birdies, 83 bogeys and 5 double bogeys.
- * Ten of the 25 third-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win this season, most recently Kristoffer Ventura at the Pinnacle Bank Championship. Last year's champion, Sangmoon Bae, was part of a three-way tie for the 54-hole lead at 14-under.

* This week marks the penultimate event of the Korn Ferry Tour Finals, a three-event series that concludes at the Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance next week in Evansville, Indiana. Twenty-five PGA TOUR cards were awarded following the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz. An additional 25 cards are up for grabs during the three Finals events, as well as positioning for all 50 cards.

* Entering its 30th year, the Albertsons Boise Open presented by Kraft Nabisco is one of four original tournaments from 1990 that are still on the Korn Ferry Tour schedule. The Knoxville Open, the Wichita Open Supporting Wichita's Youth and the Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper round out the original tournaments from 1990.

* This week's purse is \$1,000,000, with \$180,000 going to the champion. The champion will also receive 1000 Korn Ferry Tour points.

* Sixty-seven former Korn Ferry Tour champions are competing in the field, amounting to 97 victories, as well as 19 PGA TOUR champions (equaling 44 victories).

*** Hillcrest Country Club Scoring Average:**

	Front (36)	Back (35)	Total (71)	Cumulative
R1	35.837	34.209	70.047	
R2	35.344	33.703	69.047	69.547
R3	34.357	34.329	68.686	69.260

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