

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW: MICHAEL ALLEN
May 2, 2015



PHIL STAMBAUGH: Michael, you started fast and finished fast today. As a result, oneshot lead heading into tomorrow, trying to win your second consecutive title in the state of Texas.

MICHAEL ALLEN: Oh, that's true, huh? All right.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Just talk about the day.

MICHAEL ALLEN: Today was really a struggle. Overall, I got off to a great start, hit a lot of really nice shots to start the day the first five or six holes, and then it just kind of got worse. I fatted a shot, I just struggled around a little bit. Somehow kept hitting a few shots close to make a birdie after I make a bogey. But again, then I finished last few holes pretty well. I mean, 16 I hit just a terrible shot and chunked it and hit a nice chip up there. Overall, kind of a real battle out there today, to be honest. It really wasn't my best by any means. But again, the last two holes were great, so I kind of forget about all the rest of the stuff.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Do you want to give me details on that? What did you do at 17?

MICHAEL ALLEN: Sure. Like 17 I hit a nice Pete thought I should have hit a 3wood, I hit a hybrid up there. And then just for that back left pin, I was just trying to get to that 162 spot when it was like 167 hole and I finally hit a really good shot a actually went online and solid, and luckily Colin Montgomerie had the same putt and gave me the line and I was able to knock that down from about 10, 12 feet.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: What club?

MICHAEL ALLEN: That was a 7iron. And then the next hole I hit a really nice drive. I drove the ball beautifully all day, but I hit a nice drive and I hit another 7iron all the way to the back to about three feet there, so that was good.

You know, to start the round I hit a beautiful driver and hybrid to about probably about 10 feet on the first hole and made a nice birdie. And then hit a beautiful shot on 3 and it went just over the green and I chipped in for the first time of the year, so that kind of got me off to a nice start. 5's where I kind of chunked it and started struggling a little bit. And then 8 I hit a nice 4iron to about three feet. On 10 I had a perfect drive and I had an 8iron to the hole and hit it way left, just a terrible golf shot. And then the next hole, hit a nice drive and then 9iron to about five or six feet there right behind the hole. And it was just a lot of pars, a little struggling. Nice finish, so I feel pretty happy.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: That's what I'm saying, you persevered during the middle of the round, and end of the day you're ahead. So you're going for win number eight, just talk about that.

MICHAEL ALLEN: You know, it's just like if you haven't won for a while, it just seems like you're never going to do it again. So to win again tomorrow would be really important to me and means a lot. I think it's a wonderful championship here, so it's a course I played for years and years out here on the PGA TOUR and here, so I love playing here. I think they've had a lot of great champions and I would certainly love to be a part of it.

Q. You have a oneshot lead, but there's a whole bunch of people one and two strokes behind you. It's not much of a cushion going into the last round.

MICHAEL ALLEN: No, it's not really a cushion at all, to be honest, and all these guys are certainly wonderful players. I guess that's what you want in a tournament, it will be really a fun day tomorrow. I've got to go out and play good, so in a way that's kind of nice, too. It's like I'm leading but I'm not really. I'm in a dogfight with everybody else and I've got a chance to win. They still have to make up a shot or two on me, so you know, it's going to be a fun day. As I said, would I like to have an eightshot cushion, yeah. The tournament loves having this and I love being a part of it. I think it's going to be a fun day tomorrow. The course is perfect and it should be a good battle out there.

Q. Did you do any scoreboard watching today to see how you were?

MICHAEL ALLEN: You know, I'm not really much of a scoreboard watcher. I do know where I'm at usually. A lot of times I really don't even know who's ahead of me or behind me, I don't really watch that closely. But I did notice when I got to 9 that I was in second place, you know, so I knew someone was ahead, I didn't know who it was then. So no, I mean, for me I have enough I'm trying to make birdie on every hole as it is, so I don't need any more anxiety out there or anything else so I try to stick to my game and do what I do. By the end of the round I kind of know where I'm at, if I need to push a little harder or if I can play a little safer, but again, I try not to get too caught up in the scoreboard. If I'm playing well, I know I'm going to be all right. That's my prerogative, or what I try and do is get out and get aggressive, get after it, start making some birdies and we'll go from there.

Q. Durant had a twoshot lead going into 17, he puts the ball in the water.

MICHAEL ALLEN: Oh, did he?

Q. And then I think it was a sixway tie.

MICHAEL ALLEN: Yeah, 8under. Yeah, we saw on, I guess, the par 3, about 14, I just boy, you've got to look, there was a 10 and there was like six 8unders or something,

there was a bunch of them. So I really wanted to make a birdie and get out ahead of those and in the last group or something instead of thirddtolast group. Because if I had finished 8under I would have been at the bottom of that pack and way back, so it's nice to play in the last group.

Q. So you birdied 18. Did you birdie 17, too?

MICHAEL ALLEN: I did, yeah.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Anything with the putter today? Another good day, 27 putts, and I guess you rank now second in putting.

MICHAEL ALLEN: Good. That's kind of why I switched so I could get back up to the top there. My putting's been good. I'm certainly not making everything or anything, but I'm making the short ones right now. I've felt comfortable with it, too. It's taken the nerves out of my hands a little bit. Right now it's just I've got to go hit a few balls and get my iron play going. I'm normally a good iron player and for some reason out there I just lost it in the middle of the day there. I'm not quite sure why, but just at impact I'm not getting it. So I'm not going to hit a ton, but I've just got to figure it out a little bit.