

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW: STEPHEN AMES
May 6, 2016



DAVE SENKO: Well, Stephen, 5under 67 today, looks like eight birdies today. Maybe just talk about your day a little bit and then we'll get some questions.

STEPHEN AMES: It was a bit up and down. Struggling a little bit with my golf swing right now, but I've put a lot of work on my putting the last couple weeks when I haven't been playing. I haven't put a lot of work into my golf swing so it's showing now for me. Made some nice putts and a lot of birdies, a lot of birdie opportunities out there if you hit it close. Hit it in the right spot, you know. I capitalized on that, which was fortunate for me.

DAVE SENKO: Maybe we'll just get your birdies, start at No. 7, the first one.

STEPHEN AMES: Tells you how much I know. 7, oh, yes. I hit 3wood, 6iron back of the green. The pin was all the way in the back anyhow and I made like a 25footer for birdie there. Then I birdied 10, I hit 3wood, 7iron about eight feet, made that.

No. 11 I hit driver, sand wedge to about 10 feet, made that. 12 twoputted. 13 I hit in the trap, laid up to 85 yards and then I hit it to about 10 feet, made that. And then 14 I played smart, I went for the middle of the green and I made about a 35footer, 40footer. I was trying to twoputt and I was lucky and made the putt on the par 3 because the pin was in the far right which was a bit of a sucker pin.

Then 15 I hit it in the trap again on the right, laid up. And then I laid it up to about five feet, made that. 16 I hit it pinhigh left with an 8iron, made about a 25, 30footer. Then 18 I hit 3wood, 6iron to about three feet, made that.

DAVE SENKO: How's your game been this year?

STEPHEN AMES: Assess it?

DAVE SENKO: Yeah.

STEPHEN AMES: Besides not playing, I think I'll take it, I think it's pretty good. I've only played four times, this is my fifth for the year. Vancouver's not quite ready for weather yet for playing and practicing just yet, so I haven't really done a whole lot. I would say last week was maybe a little bit, I started practicing a little bit but not to the extent I usually do. But I think overall it's not bad. I'm able to manage and get it around, which in the past I have not been able to do. I usually fight myself a lot.

DAVE SENKO: How much had you played here during the Tour days?

STEPHEN AMES: I was trying to remember that, when it was Houston days, Houston Open. Maybe four, five times, if that. Then we went to Redstone, we played both Redstone golf courses.

DAVE SENKO: Do you remember much when you got back when you were playing out here?

STEPHEN AMES: Oh, yeah, definitely, without a doubt. I remember standing on the 18th green and watching David sink like a 30footer for 64 on the last day. I go, okay, great. He ended up winning. That was years ago, David Duval, I do remember that. Shooting 64 going how did he do that? I was like whoa, okay.

Q. Do you personally have any good memories of the course, nothing that sticks out?

STEPHEN AMES: You know, I can't remember anything that stuck out for me. I remember always struggling with the greens but I think the greens were different back then to what they are now. I think years ago they might have been bermuda.

Q. They did redo them.

STEPHEN AMES: Or maybe it was bent and they redid them for the Champions, bermuda which I think was a good move because of the climate. You don't think they were bent?

Q. Seems like they redid the greens, though.

STEPHEN AMES: Funny enough, my only memory here that really sticks out was QSchool, 1989 QSchool was here. First three days, four days was beautiful weather. The fifth and sixth days I think the high was 26 and I was like, oh, shit, this is cold. And I remember the old ninth green was a little green that just was sheltered inside of a valley of mounds all the way around it and it was absolutely dead because it was the end of the year, December. That's the recollection I remember, and of course the players that were there, Lee Janzen, Robert Gamez, Michael Springer was another one that came through that year, so those things I remember. Unfortunately, I remember oh, God, that was cold.

Q. You didn't make it through?

STEPHEN AMES: No, I didn't. That was my first try trying to get through QSchool there.

Q. And that's from somebody who lives in Vancouver.

STEPHEN AMES: Yeah, I don't play golf when it's cold. I'm inside of the bar watching

a football game or something. I'm not going out where it's cold at all. That was 25 years in Calgary, too. Even then I'm not going out.

Q. Given the fact you haven't played a lot, how do you feel about your prospects for the weekend?

STEPHEN AMES: Again, I'm going to try and manage it as best that I can.

Q. No expectations?

STEPHEN AMES: No, I'm not playing well enough. You know what, something might click and I'll find it tomorrow and off I'll go, you never know. Being in the hunt or some situation, it might happen, who knows. I'm just going to go out and enjoy the weather, enjoy the golf course because it's in great shape considering how much rain they've had. The staff's done a great job getting it ready and prepared for us this week. Insperity and, what's his name, does a really good job this week for us.

Q. Bryan.

STEPHEN AMES: Bryan Naugle. They do a really good job for us.

Q. Were you caught up in any of the John Daly stuff today?

STEPHEN AMES: No.

Q. You didn't wear the pants, I see.

STEPHEN AMES: I didn't get the memo unfortunately. Mine might be hidden anyhow. I think we all did and refused not to wear them.