

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW: MIKE GOODES
May 6, 2016



MIKE GOODES: I love it. I think it's a great golf course, for sure. We play a lot of great ones and I always play good on them.

Q. Mike, good start. Six under, 66 today.

MIKE GOODES: Thank you.

Q. Maybe get us started, just some general comments on your day. Like your only bogey was at 18.

MIKE GOODES: Yes. Makes dinner real good. No, I played really good. I got off to a nice start. I hit a great drive on 1. I got there but I hit it just in the front bunker and had a great bunker shot to about a foot, foot and a half. Then I had a good drive on 2, I took it over the right bunker and had it, I only had about 80 yards and hit it about ten feet and made it for birdie. It was a nice start. I barely missed a birdie on 3, flipped out on 4, came close on 5, and came close on 6, two putted 7, almost birdied 8 and made a nice birdie putt on 9 to get to three under.

Q. What did you hit, what was the sequence on nine?

MIKE GOODES: I hit a driver off the tee and a pitching wedge. I hit it 125 yards. And then a pitching wedge.

Q. To about?

MIKE GOODES: Ten feet.

Q. Looked like you had a run on 13, 14.

MIKE GOODES: Yes. I played real solid on 10, 11, 12. I had birdie putts on every hole, and then on 13 was really my worst hole of the day. I tried they had the tee up a little bit, I knew if I hit a good drive I could get there in two and I pulled it a little bit and it got across the cart path up towards the bushes and could barely chip it out. I chipped it out. I had about 190 yards and hit a 5 iron in the middle of the green about 40 feet and made it to birdie. So I mean, it was really the worst hole I played in I made birdie. Then I hit a great tee shot on 14, the par 3, to about 12 or 16 inches right behind the hole.

Q. What did you hit there?

MIKE GOODES: A 5iron.

Q. Okay. And then 15?

MIKE GOODES: And then I laid up the second shot and hit a sand wedge to about 12 feet behind the hole and made it, and 16 I hit an 8iron, par 3, I hit an 8iron to probably about, close to 20 feet, 18, 20 feet and made it.

Q. And 18?

MIKE GOODES: And 18, I hit a driver off the tee. I wanted to keep being aggressive, I didn't want to feel like I had to lay up or anything and try to protect because there is nothing to protect on Friday. I pulled it just a little bit, I hit it good, but it got in the left rough and I tried to run it up the middle green. I pulled it just a little bit and it got up on the fringe on the left of the hole, and I putted it from there, actually, and I came up about five or six feet short, and I missed the putt there for par.

Q. Okay.

MIKE GOODES: So, you know it wasn't bad.

Q. About how far from the hole was the putt on 18?

MIKE GOODES: On 18? Yes. I probably had 40 feet. I come off the slopes and the main thing was get it on line or close to the line, so I throw it either way, but I got it down on the line but it didn't roll up as much as I anticipated and it came up about five or six feet short. The first putt, I liked. I liked it when it was rolling. I didn't like it when it stopped. The next putt I just didn't quite hit it hard enough and it broke out to the right a little bit.

Q. Do you feel like you left some stuff out there? It sounds like you

MIKE GOODES: No. I had a lot of opportunity. And that's the key. The key in my game is keep giving myself opportunities. You make some putts and you go around, it looks like you're not making much, and all of a sudden I make four in a row and that's just the way this game is. You have to be patient, keep giving yourself opportunities. All my good rounds are putting the ball in play and hitting irons when I have birdie putts. Rather than being 20 feet or 30 feet or 15 feet or two feet, but give myself an opportunity, keep giving myself an opportunity and all of a sudden good things happen.

Q. At the midpoint coming in here, have you playing good?

MIKE GOODES: A lot of times, as y'all know, the way you're playing and the way you're hitting and the way you're putting doesn't always relate to the score. I mean, on my last tournament in Atlanta, a good, tough golf course and I hit the ball really good, I didn't get a whole lot out of it there. The greens were tricky and I didn't make many putts. I had too many three putts, too many holes that I walked away with bogey when I had a chance, more of a chance for birdie, and you're not going to finish great like that. But it wasn't like I was hitting it all over the place. I was driving it great there, had a lot of great irons, and I didn't score good. I had one guy shot 67 on Saturday, and I didn't hit it one bit better than I did Friday or Saturday, but I happened to make some putts. And poof, you have a good round. A couple balls that were going 15, 20 feet from the hole came up three or four feet from the hole and you have easy birdies all of a sudden and it's just such a fine line. I mean, when I got through playing, I was playing with Mike Allen and Larry Mize Saturday, and we got through playing, great round and everything and we were riding back to the clubhouse and I go, "To be honest, I may have hit the ball better on Friday when I shot 75 than Saturday when I shot 67, but I made a lot of birdies."

Q. You know, you're 27 years old and then you're 30 and you're still in your prime. I mean, the last time you contended here you're 62. That's okay, he is older now. How is your game and your physical strength and all that?

MIKE GOODES: Well, I don't feel any different.

Q. You look the same.

MIKE GOODES: I haven't grown. I feel great. I mean, I work really hard to try to get myself the best opportunities and continue to play. I love the Champions Tour. It's been the greatest second kind of career anybody could ever dream of, and it was never dreamed by me to be a career it turned into. This is my 10th year, so I love you know, when I was working every day and playing golf when I could, I couldn't wait to get to go to the gym so I could work out, and I couldn't wait to go to the golf course and practice, and I feel the exact same way today when I wake up in the morning. I look forward to working out and I look forward to going to the golf course and playing and practicing. No matter what, we always any, all of us, and I don't mean all of us in the room, all the players think we can get better, no matter whether you can or not, we think we can get better.

Q. To do that you have to be physically fit.

MIKE GOODES: Right. And I have no injuries, knock on wood. And, you know, a lot of these guys are way more beat up than I am. They have done this now for 30 to 40 years. This is my tenth.

Q. So this may be your best?

MIKE GOODES: Well, I don't have all the elbow and no wrist injuries and back. The guys start at the shoulder, they go through where they had this, a cut, and sewn up and this, and therapy on this, and they get therapy and half the guys spend, you know, two or three hours in the physio truck and I spend an hour in the physical training truck. So

Q. For some reason I can't find the story that was written on you on the first round in 2013, so can you talk back through again how you were this late blooming golfer and how you ended up becoming good enough to do this and play on the PGA?

MIKE GOODES: I grew up a pretty good junior player. I was one of the best in the North Carolina, Carolinas, and, you know, and I don't want to say I dominated, because I didn't. I was a good solid player and I never when I got out of school, I went to work for my dad, never tried to play professional golf.

Q. Did it cross your mind?

MIKE GOODES: Well, you know, as I got closer to what was I going to do in life, it got less likely that that's what I want to do. It is so hard. I mean, I didn't want to go travel around, play mini tours.

Q. What was the family business again?

MIKE GOODES: At that time my dad was in the dry cleaning business. Then we got in the textile packaging business, and now I have a plastic recycling business for the last 20 years is what I've done, 25.

Q. You kept playing.

MIKE GOODES: Yes. I played golf and had fun with it. Some years I would play good and some years I stunk it up. But, you know, it was always great staying a pretty good amateur. Thank God I don't try to do this for a living. So I stayed healthy, I was able to make a living over time, working hard. When I got closer to 50, it was worth a shot to see if I could come out and play a few times. My whole plan was I'm going to try it for a couple years. If I qualify, if I get to play somehow; if I don't you always want to play good, and I was kind of I applied for my amateur status back in time before I turned 55 to get to play senior amateur golf. So that was my plan, was at 55 I wanted to play senior amateur golf. 50 to 55 is a tough time for amateur golf play. You're in limbo agewise. You play against 25yearolds in the Mid Ams, and, you know, 16 year olds in the regular Ams, and I was waiting for the 55yearolds. So I never thought that hey, I might play this for a long time, no. So I have been very blessed.

Q. When did you win a title the first time?

MIKE GOODES: 2009. The third year I was out.

Q. Third year? Well, it was tougher than when you just came out of school, to play the tour, because it was a different tour, and it was, you know, if you didn't get in the top ten, I mean, it was a real grind.

MIKE GOODES: That's exactly right. Well, a good friend of mine, he is three years older than me, but we grew up in the same little town, David Thore, he played at Wake Forest with Jay Haas and Curtis Strang and that group that won two NCAA championships, and I watched him go through that, and he was miserable. The local, you know, town, did fund raisers for him to try to raise money for him to go out and play mini tour events. Man, that is a rough, rough life. People, if they are not familiar with it, they think that turning pro out of college is going to be like signing a contract in the NBA, or football or something. It's just not there. Unless you're one of the

Q. And you didn't need the Senior Tour, Champions Tour to feed your family?

MIKE GOODES: No, no. I made a nice living. It's been a great bonus.

Q. If you had to do it all over again, do you wish you would have played the PGA TOUR?

MIKE GOODES: I would not change one thing in my life.

Q. No kidding.

MIKE GOODES: I tell you, to be honest with you, I've had the best. You cannot know what it is to appreciate getting to wake up in the morning and the hardest thing you have to do that day is go practice and play.

Q. You are feeling good?

MIKE GOODES: I feel great.

Q. What is your gym routine like these days?

MIKE GOODES: My gym routine? I work with some different trainers, but I've got, I do I still run a fair amount. I feel real strong that the cardio is very important. Heart rate is very important. You know, when you get a little nervous, which we all do, if your heart rate starts lower it will stay lower than, you know, so I still believe in a lot of cardio. I do a lot of stretching. I do, you know, a lot of stuff with bands. I do a lot of stuff on the pulley machine, physio ball. And sometimes I just go in to the trainer and I say, you know his name is Ken Bickerstaff. I just go "Ken, give me a workout," and it will just be something that I haven't done in three months. It will be different stuff.

Q. How many tournaments are you planning on playing?

MIKE GOODES: Every one I can get in. I don't know, because my status isn't good. I've been very fortunate. A lot of people give me sponsorships this year.

Q. This one where you're required to have one.

MIKE GOODES: It was for me, yes, and it did, and they were nice enough to give me the opportunity. Great people.

Q. You played well here. Congratulations.

MIKE GOODES: Thank you.