

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW: STEVE PATE
Friday, October 30, 2015



DAVE SENKO: Well, Steve, great start, 8-under 63. It's got to feel good to come back kind of for a little bit of a home game for you back in Southern California?

STEVE PATE: It does. I love playing here. Have a lot of friends out here. I've played well here in the past. I always look forward to it.

DAVE SENKO: Do you want to go through your birdies starting at No. 10?

STEVE PATE: Yeah. I hit driver and a 6-iron on 10, made a 30-footer. Obviously nice way to start the day. Birdied.

DAVE SENKO: Three in a row, 13 through 15.

STEVE PATE: Yeah. 13, I hit a 9-iron to about 20 feet and made it. 14, I hit driver, 8-iron to about four feet and made it. 15, I hit driver, 5-iron to the back of the green where I couldn't putt it anywhere near the hole, knocked it down about 10 feet and made that. Birdied 18, hit driver and a hybrid to 30 feet, 35 feet and made that, or two-putted that. No. 3, hit driver and hybrid to 10 feet and made it. Then birdied 9, 3-wood, 9-iron to eight feet and made it.

DAVE SENKO: So you got to 4-under on the par 5s today?

STEVE PATE: Yeah, that doesn't happen very often. You know, 15 and 18 were downwind. I mean you had to drive it good or you didn't have a shot at it but I drove it well on every one. 15 and 18 were downwind so they played short and 3 they moved the tee up.

DAVE SENKO: How were the conditions today? I know it was supposed to be really windy but it seemed like the winds were a distance away from the golf course.

STEVE PATE: Right. I live here, I know they don't usually blow that hard at the beach. When they're blowing like this, it didn't blow very hard but never consistent speed or direction. So it didn't blow that hard, but it was a little confusing.

DAVE SENKO: How important is this week for you where you stand on the money list and everything?

STEVE PATE: If I win, it's important. Anything else, it doesn't really matter. Really, the way I've played this year I'm really anxious for this year to be over.

DAVE SENKO: Anything you can put your finger on this year?

STEVE PATE: I had surgery last November, wasn't healthy until June, then I putted horribly all year. Pretty much sums it up.

Q. You have trouble brewing on top of the leaderboard there?

STEVE PATE: Did Scott (inaudible)? As long as we finish ahead of all the Trojans.

DAVE SENKO: I think we had four UCLA players in the top 10 at one time.

STEVE PATE: Oh, really?

DAVE SENKO: Tom was up there and Duffy.

STEVE PATE: Okay, good, that always makes it fun. In San Antonio there were seven of us in the field. That's a big number.

Q. How much of your time do you spend on golf course design or is that all --

STEVE PATE: No, there's stuff in the middle of the season. I went to Japan a month ago. Try to keep it pretty mellow in the middle of the year, and then hopefully if we get jobs we'll be busy in November, December, January, which sometimes we have and sometimes we don't.

Q. Which is more gratifying to you, a great round like today or the satisfaction of building a course that you're really happy with?

STEVE PATE: Playing. This is what I've wanted to do since I was 15 years old and I'm still doing it. But I really do enjoy the design, it's a lot of fun. It's like playing in the dirt when you were a kid. Being out on site with the construction crews is more fun than sitting in meetings.

Q. You had surgery in November?

STEVE PATE: Yeah.

Q. What was it for?

STEVE PATE: Shoulder.

Q. And you said you weren't really healthy until June?

STEVE PATE: Right.

Q. Do you try to push a little more than you should have?

STEVE PATE: I don't have a choice. I don't have enough career money to stay out here so I've got to play. I mean, I blew it out last July.

Q. If you were in a better position, it's not like you would have taken --

STEVE PATE: Yes.

Q. Par 5s, how important is it to score on those, especially today it sounded like you needed to get a birdie on par 5s?

STEVE PATE: Like I said, 15 and 18 being downwind and 3 moving the tees up, although 3 you can make a big number going at that green, too. There's water left, there's out of bounds right. 15 and 18, you need to take advantage there, yeah.