

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW: MICHAEL ALLEN**  
**Thursday, November 5, 2015**



**DAVE SENKO:** Well, Michael, good start today, 5-under 65 with seven birdies and two bogeys. Maybe just give us a quick kind of rundown on your round and then we'll get some questions.

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** All right. Do you want to know the birdies and bogeys?

**DAVE SENKO:** Yeah, start with a bogey at 2.

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** Yeah, I hit a pretty good shot there and in the cold I three-putted. The next one, 4 played so long, I hit driver and hybrid to about three feet. 5 I hit driver and a 5-iron up the hill to probably about 12 feet there. Then the next one I hit a hybrid off the tee and an 8-iron in there and my putt was about 15 feet there.

**DAVE SENKO:** Bogeyed 10.

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** Yeah, I hit a bad second shot left. I hit it in the left rough and then hit a second shot left and was dead. Then kind of 11 turned around, I hit a pretty good 6-iron in there but I made probably at least a 30-foot putt there about pin high, nice breaker, so that was nice. Great up-and-down on the next hole from the rocks. Then the par 3 I hit a nice shot kind of in the middle of the green, it spun way back and I made another at least 30-footer.

**DAVE SENKO:** What did you hit there?

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** I hit like a 50-degree wedge. Then 16 I hit a 3-wood off the tee. I had a little 8-iron in and I made about another 20-footer there, so obviously my putting was going pretty good. Then 18 I hit driver, 6-iron to probably about 25, 30 feet and two-putted.

**DAVE SENKO:** You've played here several times obviously, you played here in '12 and '14. Any changes course-wise that you had to be aware of this year?

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** You know, not too many. They put a new bunker in on 8 which really kind of tightens the hole up a lot and that was kind of a good bunker I thought. I didn't know it was there yesterday and hit it right in the middle of it. Other than that, the course is pretty much the same. Really, I got a new driver that kind of gets the ball in the air a little bit more so I think that helps me on quite a few of these holes, like 4, just getting over that hill. My old driver's so flat I always had to kind of keep it way right. There's a couple holes out here that it kind of helped me because I can get the ball in the air just a little bit more. That M1's been a pretty nice addition. The main thing is I'm using my long putter for the last time and it will die in infamy this week. It treated me very well today so that was kind of the highlight of the round, sort of made everything click.

**DAVE SENKO:** How much different is it playing at home as opposed to being on the road, the advantage of it for a player?

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** It's nice to go sleep in your own bed but for me I've got about six buddies from England that came in, about another 10 or 15 buddies hanging around. Trying to get all those people, I don't know if it's much of an advantage just trying to get everybody to move but it makes it fun. I always have a great time here and you get to see your good friends and spend some good time with them and they come up and they howled for me all day and it was fun.

**Q. You used the word howl. What's the highlight today, a 65 here or the Coyotes game tonight?**

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** Well, it was kind of funny because yesterday or a couple days ago driving back from Newport, if you saw me driving you would go, what's that guy doing? But I was in there practicing my howl the whole way back, so I'm just hoping I don't get hoarse before I get down there. I think that will be a lot of fun. I love hockey, I love going down, I don't do it enough. So this year we got rid of our basketball tickets and we'll probably see a lot more hockey. So it will be fun, it will be great. It's kind of an honor, but I just don't want to be the worst guy. So I've got to retain the rights on that question until I finish because if I'm the worst howler in the history of this thing, it's going to be a lowlight.

**Q. Well, I'm going to go, too, just to listen to you howl. Do you get a chance to play here when you're home a lot, this golf course? Do you get in any extra practice rounds?**

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** You know, I don't really. I remember when I moved here I got up here quite a bit. I love the development and all that. I think it's just as I've gotten older, I don't really play a ton of golf when I'm off. When I'm kind of getting ready I practice a bit, but I don't just really get out and go play. I'll go down to Mesa or something with my buddies and play. Troon's been great to me. So I love it and Mike Scully's great and always invites me up and tells me I'm welcome, so hopefully once in a while I will because it is just a great facility up here, I love it.

**Q. What's your plan to transition to the short putter?**

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** Well, I'm going to try everything, I think that's the best thing. This year I've putted quite a bit with a short putter. I putted last week with it. I did win in San Antonio with it, so this year I probably played six, eight tournaments with it at least. The hardest thing is really going to be I can putt quite well with it but when I stop putting well, I can always go back to the long putter. So that will be the hard thing, when I start kind of questioning it and all that, where do I go from there? I've got a lot of little putters. I'll see what I do. I got them all regripped last week, that was the only reason I drove so I could take everything down there. I'll probably go over to Cool Clubs and get one of those Kuchar

type things built, see what happens. Maybe cut down the long putter too just a little bit and kind of try that. So you're suddenly starting to think about it. As I say, I'm not worried about putting with a short putter, I'm just worried about when I start putting bad with a short putter where am I going to go. That's going to be the biggest transition?

**Q. Where do you think you're going to go, to a coach or just keep working on it?**

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** Yeah, you know, usually for me with a short putter, it's like my putt on the 18th hole last week, I had a nice little six-footer right up the hill to kind of finish top 10 and I just hit that little nervy putt that just -- I may not make the putt with the long putter, but I don't usually hit that kind of a putt; at least I hit a decent putt. Sometimes it misses, it's golf. That's what kind of happens with those short putters for me is once in a while -- I'm pretty good, I'm better than I thought I was, but once that while I get those things and I'm like oh, gosh, that's ugly.

**Q. Is there any way you found to work on that to sort of banish those things or does it just get you?**

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** I don't know. Maybe I need some of those -- what's that baseball movie with that guy that was always praying to this -- what was that movie, that baseball movie? It was a great baseball movie. It was that funny one.

**Q. The Cleveland Indians one.**

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** Exactly. The guy's always got his --

**DAVE SENKO:** Major League.

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** Major League. I kind of feel like I don't want to be that guy, but I don't know what you do honestly. That's one of the reasons I went to it and I've putted with everything. Usually it really is a mindset, I do know that. You get nervous because you choose to or whatever, it is a mindset. If I can kind of stay out of that, I think that's the biggest thing, stay relaxed. It's just a putt.

**Q. You said when you're home you don't play that much. How long can you go without playing that much?**

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** I usually go until about January. I'll play once a week with the boys or twice a week, that's about it. This time of year I just like exercising and kind of feeling good and getting away a little bit, get on my motorcycle a little bit and just kind of cruise around. My body needs to heal a little bit, too. My knees are sore, my shoulder's sore and I've got a lot of little things that when you're in your mid to late 50s, you know --

**Q. Yeah, we know.**

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** Exactly. So the time off is really good for me. It gets my body to heal and I do a lot of things to hopefully get my body healthy and strong for the next year and that's my most important goal.

**Q. When you're only playing once a week, when you come back for a tournament, how soon do you start getting ready for it?**

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** Usually around Christmas, kind of right after that I start, and then we've got the Tommy Bahama here which is always fun. So kind of after Christmas I'll start getting out, hitting balls. Spence Levin will come in and try to get me out. Once some of the guys come around I'll kind of get going a little bit more. My wife really goes crazy when I'm home for about two weeks and I've got nothing to do. Yeah, go do something, will you?

**Q. So you're pretty much playing every week during the season?**

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** Yeah. I mean when I'm off, I always take three or four days off if I've got a week off and then I start Thursday or Friday. The main thing at this point I'm not going to forget what I do. I'll go down and see Mike Mitchell and work on my game for a bit. It comes back pretty quick. As long as my body can do what I want it do, my game comes back. That's kind of my main thing is keeping my body so I can do the things I want.

**Q. There's obviously so much anticipation for the Charles Schwab Cup this week with the three guys on top. Any surprise to see Langer off to the kind of start he's off to?**

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** Not at all. I tell you, I've seen him play so many times and he's that guy that he just goes out and plays. I mean, he's going to play the way he's going to play no matter what. At the end of the week if those three guys, they've all had a wonderful season, played great all year, but just kind of who he is, I just figure he's going to just kind of roll through this. I'm kind of hoping they fight each other a little bit and I can slide in there and maybe finally get a win this year.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** I'm sure he would. Okay, there you go. It's noted.