

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW: BILLY ANDRADE**  
**Thursday, November 5, 2015**



**DAVE SENKO:** I would like to welcome Billy Andrade, 65 today, 5 under highlighted by your first ace on the Champions Tour with a 6-iron from 190 on No. 2. Maybe just get us started, talk about your day. Looks like right now, Bernhard's not finished but two back right now.

**BILLY ANDRADE:** Right. No, it was a fantastic day, it was a great way to start. Haven't started a tournament like that with a hole-in-one before, so of course you automatically bogey the next hole, that usually happens always that way and I did that on the third. But I settled in, I drove the ball nicely. I don't think I missed but one fairway today. I hit a lot of greens, hit the ball well, was very much in control today. I thought the golf course played -- I played last year and the practice rounds with the wind blowing and with the rain that we got last night, I thought the greens were much softer and more susceptible to getting the ball closer to the hole and I think that helped with my game today.

Overall very happy. This place is very tricky. These greens are very tricky, they're tough to putt. You've got to really pay attention to where down-valley is. You may have a putt that looks like it's into the grain and then you get over it, you hit it and it's all of a sudden five, six feet by. So these greens aren't easy but I like my position going into Friday.

**DAVE SENKO:** No. 3, what happened?

**BILLY ANDRADE:** I hit a little cut 6-iron there, it was between 6 and 7 and I got a little unfortunate break there. It hit the mound middle of the green left, and instead of kicking right to go up to the pin, it kicked over so I had a very difficult chip to a pin that was short-sided. I hit a pretty good shot, came up a little short, missed about a seven-, eight-footer there for par.

**DAVE SENKO:** No. 5, birdie.

**BILLY ANDRADE:** I hit a 9-iron about five feet there and made birdie. I hit a 3-wood because of this new bunker on 8 to try to keep it short of it and I ended up, it probably would have gone in it if I pushed it to the right but I hit a 3-wood and a 5-wood about 20 feet on 8 and I two-putted for birdie. I hit a 9-iron to 10 to about four feet and made birdie. I hit a 52-degree sand wedge to 14 to about 10 feet and made birdie. 16 I drove it just in the right rough, I thought it was in the fairway. I had kind of a sidehill lie and I left a wedge short on the front fringe and had a 50-foot two-putt and I putted up short about five feet and I missed. Then the last hole I hit a driver and a 5-iron on the green to the right over that tree. I don't know if it nicked the tree, it might have nicked the tree, but it got on the green about 25 feet and I had a 25-footer. I almost made eagle so that was my last birdie. No real trouble, I didn't get into too much trouble today. I drove it nicely so I'm looking forward to continue this play tomorrow.

**DAVE SENKO:** How many holes-in-one now all-time?

**BILLY ANDRADE:** 17 total and three in competition. This year, just a fun fact, this year in Minnesota I played with Kenny Perry the second round and he shot 61. He made a hole-in-one on the fourth hole and we were walking off the tee and I said, So Kenny, how many holes-in-one is that for you? He said, Hey, Freddie, is that 46 or 47? He goes 47. I go, Holy shit, how many in competition? He goes, Well, what's it, three out here, seven on the regular tour, so 10 total. I'm like, Oh, my gosh, this guy's unbelievable. So 17 is not even close to 47 so I've got a long ways to go.

**Q. Tongue in cheek or otherwise, do you have a theory on why you always bogey automatically bogey the next hole?**

**BILLY ANDRADE:** No, I just said that as a joke, you never know what you're going to make on the next hole. But how many times do you make a hole-in-one or you hole a shot on a par 4 and then you go to the next hole and you throw back a shot because you're an idiot.

**Q. What did it look like from the tee? Sometimes you hit it and it's like oh, be as good as you look; was it one of those?**

**BILLY ANDRADE:** No, this one was right at it. It looked perfect. It looked very similar to Joe Durant's hole-in-one when we won the Bass Pro Shops on the 12th hole in the final round there. It was a shot that never left the flag and you just hope you have the right distance, and then you see it hit and you see it disappear and that was pretty cool.

**Q. You've had good karma with aces this year, seeing Perry's and Joe's. You were due?**

**BILLY ANDRADE:** Yeah, I was due, wasn't I?

**Q. You seem to be firmly entrenched in the tour as a player, you're like one of the guys out here. How long did it take you to make that transition from not playing to being really competitive on this tour?**

**BILLY ANDRADE:** Right. I felt like last year, my first year, I got to here, which was a goal of mine but I didn't win. I lost to Freddie in Calgary so I almost won. But I felt like it took me -- the first part of our season is very -- is a lot of time off so I play two weeks and I had a month off, play two weeks, month off. So it took me a little while, probably half the year. Maybe when I got to Calgary, about that time when I got more comfortable. I just needed more reps, I needed more rounds, I needed more competitive rounds and I've gotten that. This year it's been much -- I felt like much easier and more like what I've been used to when I played on the regular tour. Taking three years off and doing television, you lose a little bit of that competitive nature and it takes a little while to get it back. So I would say about a half a year last year where it was you're still not comfortable totally but I feel very much so that way now.

**Q. So what did you do to maintain your patience while you're going through that process?**

**BILLY ANDRADE:** Yeah, there's nothing you really can do. You've just got to play when you can get in. If you could get a few starts on the regular tour, that would have been great but that didn't happen. Just be honored that you're in this position that you can do this. That's the way I've kind of embraced this tour and I'm just tickled to death that I'm part of it and I can do this and I can play golf professionally again and have some success. I think it's great.

**DAVE SENKO:** Don't you have some friends here, MLB folks here?

**BILLY ANDRADE:** I do, a lot of folks in this area. Tony La Russa and Rene Lachemann and Curt Young and Mike Gallego. They'll all be out this weekend so it will be fun.