

**ROUND 2 INTERVIEW: MICHAEL ALLEN**  
**Friday, November 6, 2015**



**MICHAEL BALIKER:** Michael Allen, 64 today, 11 under par for the tournament.

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** So Michael, is this your first interview?

**MICHAEL BALIKER:** It's not, thankfully it's not.

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** It was his first go last night.

**MICHAEL BALIKER:** So just talk about that finish, the birdie-eagle finish there to put you in a pretty strong position for tomorrow.

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** It was just kind of perfect numbers for me. I had like 192 to clear the bunker and 202 to the hole, so the wind was a little in so it was just a perfect 5-iron for me. I was able to make that 10-footer. Then 18 I hit a great drive and a great 5-iron again. It was about 200 to the front. Then I was -- the ball went in, it was just a little bit lucky. I knew it wouldn't break quite as much, at least I thought it wouldn't, but it was really hard to see with the sun in my eyes. I was just trying to get the right speed because when the sun's in your eyes like that, you can sometimes hit it a little hard and kind of lose it a little bit. I was happy it was really close but it went in. Makes it just a little bit better.

**Q. Michael, how put off were you with the slow play? I don't know if it was a warning or discussion?**

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** Yeah. Here we go again. I know. It's already happened once this year. Obviously I've been timed a lot, I don't really worry about it. I guess it was just kind of a little bit the way it was handled because they said it was me I was taking two minutes on every shot and I took it wrong. It's kind of, you know, something that I still obviously have to deal with a little bit better. I know there's guys just trying to do their job, there's no issue there. I just tried to really walk away from it and just go play. Pete's going, We've already been through this once, let's move on. Joe's trying to do his thing. I don't know where it was going from there. I just tried to really walk away. Joe's a great guy and I don't want to have any issues there so I just tried to get away and I was a little mad and called Brian over. Once again I just vented a little bit and then walked away as best I could, I guess. Part of it's me venting probably.

**Q. What were your thoughts when Bernhard got off to that very quick start again and you're watching this?**

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** I was just really glad it was a 72-hole tournament and not a 54. He was just hitting every shot at the pin and hitting great putts. But I kind of felt that I was playing -- I knew I was playing well, I just kind of hadn't gotten anything going yet. So I just tried to stay

real patient and tried to make a few birdies and get myself back into it. Eventually he hit a few bad shots. It's golf, so we all have our good streaks and bad ones. I just tried to hang in there and keep playing my game at that point and keep moving forward and see what happens. It's a long tournament for us.

**Q. After you're a career journeyman all that stuff, what was today like being essentially a rock star, having all these people know who you were, the home favorite, doing the howls and all that stuff? Probably treatment you're maybe not used to receiving?**

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** No, no. Yeah, it's nice being here. It's a little bit of a hindrance and then I have a lot of people I've got to deal with every night and a lot of things, but I love being around them. It's a great time. People come out to watch. I've got people come out from England and Omaha, good friends who come and a lot of friends around here, so it's really just, it's a great time. The howling the other night for the Coyotes game was just kind of got this new thing going. When they left after their prime rib, they had to howl before they could leave so we all had a lot of fun with it. You know, I made that very first birdie on Thursday and they all started howling. It took me by surprise. And then the second time Fred was already getting a little flustered with us, like what the heck is that, you know? So that was kind of fun. It is kind of nice. Maybe that's what it's like to be a star a little bit more, you kind of get a little bit more attention. It's been a good time.

**Q. Is there any back story about the people from England or Omaha?**

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** Oh, there's always stories. The people from England, when I played on the European Tour I was over there and the first year I lived down in the south of France and I went to London. Then I met this group of people out near Sunningdale, and so my last year I rented a house from one of them in this little town called Englefield Green, which is about five miles from Sunningdale. We just got to be great friends. I spent all my off time in this little pub called the Armstrong Gun. So then I didn't see them. That was in 1989, my last year, so I hadn't seen them until I came back and went to the Senior British Open at Sunningdale. What was that, five years ago. So that was like the second tournament I played on the Champions Tour. Went back and all of a sudden after a practice round there's like five of them out there. Then we finished the round, there's 30 of them. We're sitting around that big main area there drinking pints. Some of these people were like two years old, some were not even born and now we're throwing down pints together and just having a great time. They've just been great friends. We would go in, everybody was at the pub and they have this scrapbook they've kept of me.

So we get kind of to the end there and my daughter says, You know, Mike, I didn't know you had a life before me. It was just kind of a neat thing. Now every year I go back, they come wherever I am. There'll be about 10 of them come up to watch the tournament. At Sunningdale there's about 30. But it's great friendships you have over life and you've met at different times in life. Now all of a sudden they come and they just, you know, they love coming over and they love Arizona, so they get to live in the modern world for a little while.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** Yeah, pints and wine. They've moved on a little bit, too. They drink a lot of beer, those guys. I'll tell you, they drink a lot of beer. But it's been great having them. Loosened my wife up and we have a great week there, it's really fun.

**Q. I'm glad Rosaforte asked that question because I was going to, but by the time you got to me I forgot what I was going to ask. That's what happens when you're 70, you know?**

**MICHAEL ALLEN:** That's happened to me at 55, it's all right.