

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW: MICHAEL ALLEN
Saturday, November 7, 2015



PHIL STAMBAUGH: Michael, a little tougher day to play and 1-under 69 gives you a one-shot lead over Bernhard Langer leading into the final round. A little bit of everything today. You were cruising on the front nine and then the back nine sort of had a little trouble and then righted the ship with a nice birdie at 17.

MICHAEL ALLEN: Yeah, I started out playing just so beautifully and I had nice kind of little 10-footers I was able to make. Everything was kind of cruising on cruise control there. Then for some reason I struggled with 9. But really I mean 12 I just made that long birdie putt, a little bit of a surprise because I really hit it so hard it was going to go about 10 feet by. Instead of capitalizing on it, I gave it back real quick. The only kind of bad tee shot I hit all day or all week really and ended up in a pretty bad spot. I don't know, kind of sums it up. Then I struggled a little bit from there. But I rectified it, don't worry.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Just sort of talk about the day. It was a little harder to play today, right, the wind a little more and in a little different direction?

MICHAEL ALLEN: Yeah, the wind was the opposite direction it normally is, at least it has been, it was out of the east today. The front nine, which was really when it was really windy, was a challenge but we were hitting good shots. The nice thing about playing with Bernhard is you're always going to be playing with someone who plays hard and hits quality shots so it's always kind of fun. You always kind of drag along and hopefully play well together. That's one of the nice things about playing with him. We both played really nice on the front. He didn't really make any birdies like I did, but he didn't have I guess the blowups like I did.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: You've been in this position one time before in this event and that came in your hometown in San Francisco and here you are in your hometown now. Would it be special to win here after not quite getting it done at Harding Park?

MICHAEL ALLEN: You know, it's always special to win. I'd love to win. You know, the Schwab Cup is -- we don't have many four-round tournaments so it's always a little better to kind of win one of those. Last time I did I shot 61 at Harding Park and then John Cook kind of beat me on Sunday. Hopefully this time -- last time we played San Antonio I had a one-shot lead over Bernhard and he beat me. But I've beat him a few times and I can go out and hopefully play a great round tomorrow and come out on top. It's kind of what we play for is to have fun on these Sundays to go out and play for a title. It's going to be a challenging day and hopefully a really fun day. I always look forward to the challenge and it will be a good time.

Q. I hate to bring this up but what happened on the second shot on the par 5 where you tapped it into the lake?

MICHAEL ALLEN: I guess I needed it teed up a little better, I don't know, a little better lie. I was just kind of going through a little mental crisis right then. Not a mental crisis, I was a little out of sorts and probably just didn't go through the routine quite properly. I don't know because it was a perfect number. My caddie said I swung out of my shoes at it so I don't really know what happened to be honest with you, but I guess it happens once in a while in golf.

Q. Do you lose an edge when you find yourself with a six-shot lead? I mean does that have anything to do with it, you maybe let up a little?

MICHAEL ALLEN: You know, not really because I really just -- this whole week I've just really tried to play to put myself in position on Sunday. To be honest, I didn't even look at the scoreboard. I knew I was playing with a guy who was second and he was playing decent. I was beating him pretty good, so I knew I was in great position. I didn't really know what my lead was. It probably would have been a good idea to look at a board at that point, but I was just trying to do what I've been doing all week which is just try and hit good shots, make birdies and pars. I don't think my strategy would have changed any. When you look back on it, could I have done something maybe a little different? Really if I just -- I got on that tee early because the other guys took the cart and I stood there and I should have probably just kind of worked a little bit more, stayed in focus. I just think let up for a shot there and it kind of, it really got me. Is that what happened carrying on? Who really knows. I felt like I overcame it all right and I didn't feel like oh, boy, I'm uptight and not doing well, whatever. I kind of just tried to shrug it off and kind of keep moving forward. I knew I was still leading by a bit. I don't know what happened there. I hit a great shot on the par 4 after that. The par 3, it's always an awkward little shot down that hill. You hit the ball way up in the air, how much is the wind going to hit it, so it's up in the air a lot. Not to be a pun, but...

Q. So the tee shot on 12, was that unsettling at all when you knocked that into the desert?

MICHAEL ALLEN: Yeah, it is certainly a little unsettling because the last few days I've hit what I thought were good shots just on the left side of the house. I tried to move it a little right even though we were forward and today was into the wind instead of downwind, so maybe that was my fault a little bit in my thinking. Again, that was the only shot I probably hardly missed the fairway with with my driver all week; maybe a couple on 10 or something and those were all good shots. It was a little unsettling, to be honest, but I didn't really think like everything had fallen apart by any means. It was just kind of a bad swing. I didn't even think it was that bad a swing coming off but it just kept going right. I think I lined up poorly. A few things as far as pre-shot stuff I didn't really go through properly.

Q. So it didn't start anything in terms of what happened the rest of the back nine?

MICHAEL ALLEN: You know, I don't think so. In my mind I don't take it that way. Obviously people looking at it might kind of think something different, look at me like maybe I look different, but in my mind I felt like I was still in control and just trying to do what I was

doing. I was just trying to kind of stay in the moment and keep hitting good shots.

Q. So how were you able to stay in the moment and keep hitting good shots after that and then after missing the green on 13?

MICHAEL ALLEN: Yeah. Well, it's always a challenge and it's one of the things that's great about what I get to do; I get to challenge myself every day physically and mostly emotionally. That's what's fun about tomorrow. But I just kind of know I'm playing really well so I haven't hit many bad shots all week. I've hit the ball where I'm trying to, I've done an awful lot of good things, which I guess is why I'm still leading after a bad stretch like that. Having said that, that's what you try and do. I always felt comfortable there. Tomorrow I'll probably be a lot worse if I did that and let the thing go. I know I've still got another day tomorrow. That was the kind of challenge. I'm a little more mature in some ways and haven't quite matured in others.

Q. So you're okay?

MICHAEL ALLEN: You know, I feel good. I felt like I just lost my swing a little bit there and maybe really my focus more than my swing. Maybe I let up that little bit, things were going awfully well, so...

Q. And you still lead by one.

MICHAEL ALLEN: Yeah, yeah, exactly.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Michael, real quick just run through your birdies. Second hole, the par 3.

MICHAEL ALLEN: I just hit a little 6-iron to probably about eight, 10 feet. 5 I hit a driver up the right side and hit another little 6-iron to probably about 20 feet. The next one I hit a hybrid off the tee and it was just a little 8-iron, a little 140 8-iron to probably eight feet. The par 5 I hit driver and a 7-iron to probably about 40 feet and two-putted. The par 3, it was kind of into the wind. It was an awkward shot with that pin right. I hit a solid shot, a little left and I made a bomb there, I don't know how long it was, maybe 40 feet.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: It was moving pretty good.

MICHAEL ALLEN: It was moving fast.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: And then 17.

MICHAEL ALLEN: It was a 4-iron and I guess that was probably about 15 feet.