

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW: STEPHEN AMES
Saturday, November 7, 2015



MICHAEL BALIKER: Stephen Ames, 3-under par 67 today, just take us through your round a little bit out there. Right in the mix for tomorrow.

STEPHEN AMES: It was good. I'm not going to complain about it overall. I guess the last two holes were a bit rough but that's golf, it happens. I'm happy how I'm playing, playing very well, and I'm back in the mix of things again, which is nice. It's fun to see, so we'll see. Two more days, two more days to go. What's tomorrow? Lost count already, see?

MICHAEL BALIKER: If you could just take me through your birdies real quick today if you can remember.

STEPHEN AMES: On 3 I hit driver, I only had a hundred yards left to the flag. I hit it like 10 feet, made birdie there. On 8 I hit driver, 6-iron, made about a 15-footer for eagle. 9 I hit 3-wood, small 9-iron to about two and a half feet, made birdie there. 13 I hit sand wedge to 15 feet. 14 I hit driver, lob wedge again to six inches. 15 I hit driver, 3-iron middle of the green, two-putted. Two-putted from about 35 feet, yeah. And I bogeyed 16, 17 and 18 unfortunately.

Q. Stephen, where were you last week when Rod Spittle made bogey on 18?

STEPHEN AMES: I was watching the Seattle Seahawks game up in Huntington Beach having a cold beer. I didn't have a clue. I didn't want to stay around. If I made it, I made it; if I didn't, I didn't. I wasn't sure. Didn't have a clue. I thought when I bogeyed the last hole I was out. All Spittle had to do was par, which he didn't know so that was his fault, I guess, in some respects.

Q. And what was your reaction when you found out?

STEPHEN AMES: Thanks for the gift, early Christmas gift, yeah. That's how I kind of looked at it. It's fun to play another event. I haven't played a lot this year so the opportunity to play another event before the season ends and we start back in February, I'm going to have three months off now.

Q. There's been a lot of volatility out there. The leaders had at one point, a couple of them had four-shot leads and now things are kind of evening out again. Is it the conditions, the wind? What is it that's causing the trouble?

STEPHEN AMES: The wind played it tough today, yeah, without a doubt. If you weren't hitting the ball well, it was tough, the wind was definitely going to eat your ball up. And then the greens, they're fast and it's windy, it's tough to make putts out there. Today was actually

the first day I actually made putts for two days so I'm happy with the way the day turned out overall, but it is tough out there, yes.

Q. Bernhard's pretty much wrapped up the points championship unless he oversleeps and misses his tee time. What impresses you most about what he's doing at the age of 58?

STEPHEN AMES: I guess the main thing is the conditioning. He keeps himself very fit, which he's a good role model for the Champions Tour and I think for anybody. 58, still playing golf and the caliber of golf that he's playing today, I think it's fantastic.

But 2016 might be a different year for him considering the anchored putter is going to be gone, so let's see how he goes. I would like to see how he's going to be able to adapt to that. This will probably about the fourth time he's gone through the yips again, I think that's about right, three times in his career, so now he has to go back to the short putter, so let's see. It will be interesting.

Q. Do you think it's an unfair advantage?

STEPHEN AMES: Yeah, I do. Yeah, without a doubt I think it does. Tiger put it the right way, he said that everything else swings, why is it the putter has to be anchored? It should be swinging. Completely agree about that.

Q. What was the deal on the ruling on 18 on the unplayable? You got up against the fence?

STEPHEN AMES: There were two things in the way, the portalets. I took a line of sight, portalets, and then when I took that, I dropped it and then -- I had to take the line of sight from the portalets, and then when I dropped it again there was a fence that was there, so I had to go on the opposite side. When he said that was immovable, ding, right off the top it told me oh, I get to drop on that side. I didn't tell him that but I knew that was going to happen.

Q. So did you work to drop it against the fence?

STEPHEN AMES: It was two club lengths. I still dropped it like this far from the first one so I wasn't really trying to get it right on top of it, no. I was still well within the second club length. No, just normal drops. Just the fence was definitely going to be in the way, that was very evident on that. Then I hit a great fourth shot, unlucky with the putt.

Q. That actually was a great shot that you hit from out of there.

STEPHEN AMES: It was a great shot, yes. I was a bit shocked but it came off the way I saw it.

Q. Must be hardpan, right?

STEPHEN AMES: No, it was sand, it was pure sand. When I dropped, it plugged. So I got away with it so it was a good shot.