

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW: BRIAN HENNINGER

Friday, June 5, 2015



DAVE SENKO: Brian, maybe get started, 5-under, you've got to be pretty happy. Had the bogey at 4 and then six birdies after that.

BRIAN HENNINGER: Yeah, I played really well. I'm coming off a great event, my best event out here on the Senior PGA at French Lick, which was daunting to say the least, the difficulty of that golf course. I proved a lot to myself after these injuries and actually spending a lot of time getting prepared to play this year. So that felt really good. Then coming in here there's kind of this residual effect a little bit where I feel like I can compete at a little bit better level. I'm confident, I'm pretty patient. Today was representative of that.

That first bogey, I made a three-putt bogey and I plodded along, I played the par 5s pretty well and gave myself opportunities on pretty much every hole to at least have a chance at birdie. These fairways are really difficult to hit and I did a good job of keeping my tee ball in play. Somebody like me, a small guy, can't play out of the rough very well so it's kind of imperative that I keep it in the fairway. People were asking me that, what do you think of the golf course, and I said if I can keep the ball in the short grass, I think I can do well here, but if I'm fighting out of the rough it's going to be a really difficult test because there's so much slope on these greens that you can't control where you are coming out of the rough. So the driver really helped and then I was able to execute on the greens as well.

DAVE SENKO: Birdies, No. 5 and 8, do you remember --

BRIAN HENNINGER: No. 5 is a par 5. I hit a good tee shot, went for the green, I had about 250 and put it in the left-side bunker and hit a pretty good bunker shot to about eight feet and made it. And then No. 8 I did the same thing, I drove it in the fairway again way down there. I could reach the green but it's kind of tough because it's blind, you're down below the slope. I hit a 3-wood, I was just trying to hit one kind of three-quarter and draw it because I couldn't fly it, you don't want fly it on that green from that far away, and I put it in the green-side bunker. Hit a great bunker shot over there to about eight feet again and made it. Those kind of catapulted me into feeling like okay, I'm getting ahead of the game a little bit.

DAVE SENKO: 11 and 12, the par 4s back to back.

BRIAN HENNINGER: 11 is the little short one. Again, drove it right down the pipe, hit a 9-iron in there to about five feet and made it. And then again, you know, the next hole, 12 is a really difficult tee shot actually. It's a tiny little hole.

Q. It slopes.

BRIAN HENNINGER: Oh, it's so hard. You have to hit almost in the right rough to keep it in the fairway. Actually our whole group was down here. We only had like 50 yards and I hit a

good shot in there to about two feet and made it. And then what did I do, just par --

DAVE SENKO: 15, the par 5, another birdie.

BRIAN HENNINGER: Oh, I did. I had to lay up there. I hit it in the right rough a little bit, laid up to 80 yards and hit what I thought was a perfect shot that bounced just barely over the green and that was kind of a bonus. I made a putt from the fringe from about 20 feet. It was actually fun, those are kind of bonus.

DAVE SENKO: What did you hit, you said you laid up?

BRIAN HENNINGER: I laid up with a 4-iron, hit a 60-degree wedge from like 80 yards, it landed right by the flag.