

**ROUND 2 INTERVIEW: STEVE PATE**  
**Friday, June 12, 2015**



**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Well, I guess Brad Faxon had the record for about an hour, hour and a half, something like that, and you come along and shoot 8-under 63 and now have the Belmont Country Club course record, your low round on the Champions Tour. Just talk about the day, Steve.

**STEVE PATE:** It didn't feel like it was that good. I didn't do anything spectacular but I didn't make any mistakes. I drove it really well, missed four fairways and three of those were in the first cut. Only had one bad drive all day. That makes this place a little bit easier. Hit a bunch of greens, made a few putts, hit it close a couple times, made a couple 20-footers, and I think the main thing was there just weren't any mistakes.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** 73 yesterday and you're 10 better today. Did you do anything different going out?

**STEVE PATE:** Well, I was 3-over after three yesterday, so I got off to a little better start. No, didn't do anything, didn't prepare any differently. I've been shooting some really poor scores, but I don't feel like I've been playing that badly. This isn't quite as big a shock to me as it probably is to some other people who have seen my scores.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Do you want to run through the birdies?

**STEVE PATE:** I think I got all the even ones on the front? No. 2, 3-wood, 9-iron to about 10 feet, made that. No. 4, the 5 par, hit a drive and a 4-iron to the back of the green and two-putted from 45 feet. No. 6, hit a drive and a 9-iron to eight feet and made it. No. 8, hit a drive and 9-iron to about two feet, made that. Birdied 11, 12 and 13, but 10 -- 11, hit a drive and a pitching wedge to 30 feet and made it. That was best putt I made all day. Next hole I drove it -- oh, God, I can't remember the holes.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Little par 3.

**STEVE PATE:** I hit it on the front fringe about 18 feet from the hole, made that. Next hole, drove it in the first cut of rough on the left and actually had to snap-hook it around a tree and hit it to about eight feet and made that.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** What club?

**STEVE PATE:** Sand wedge.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Hooked a sand wedge?

**STEVE PATE:** Oh, big time. I can hook it. And 17 I hit a good drive and against all odds it

actually hit that fairway, which is virtually impossible. Hit a hybrid over the green just barely, clipped it to two feet and made that.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Any good saves at all to keep the round going?

**STEVE PATE:** No. Lot of good two-putts. I hit a lot of greens, didn't hit it very close and don't seem to have a lot of tap-ins on these greens after the first putt. You never get it close enough, usually marking it and having to make something. Two-putted 18, I made a four-footer. That was kind of a nice way to finish instead of going home irritated.

**Q. Some of the guys are thinking that maybe the pins are going to be a little dicier over the next two rounds. Your thoughts?**

**STEVE PATE:** Don't know. If they are, scores are going to go up. Possibly. You know, it's the first time we've been here and the greens have a ton of slope and I think they've been careful not to make any mistakes because you can make some bad mistakes with pin placements out there. So far they're probably not as difficult as they will be, but I don't know.

**Q. You said you weren't surprised but others might be. What were the indications, indicators for you personally that you wouldn't be surprised?**

**STEVE PATE:** Even though I've been shooting bad scores, I'm not doing anything poorly, I just haven't done anything well. It's not like I've got a big issue with something just off the charts. I just did everything a little better today.

**Q. You're a course designer. Would you like to build a course like this one?**

**STEVE PATE:** I really like most of this golf course. Probably not a big fan of the 17th fairway, but I enjoy this golf course a lot. Back when it was built, there were a lot more pin placements than there are now. I don't think the greens should be any faster than they are and there really aren't any pin placements, but I love Donald Ross courses, I love playing here.

**Q. Steve, you referenced the string of poor scores lately. When you go on a streak like that, do you reach a point where, man, I really need a low number or what's it going to take to get a low number, or do you start pushing at all to try to get one?**

**STEVE PATE:** Not yet. A couple more months of it and I might. No, not yet because, like I said, I'm not doing anything really badly, I just haven't done anything well. That's just -- it's a very fine line and quite a bit of it's between the ears.

**Q. So comparing a round like today to maybe yesterday, are you hitting just a few more fairways or are you hitting just a few more greens or are you making a lot more putts?**

**STEVE PATE:** No, everything was just slightly better and I didn't make any mistakes. I've been throwing a double bogey in every day, throw a triple in and they add up pretty quickly.

**Q. What's the closest you came to making a bogey today?**

**STEVE PATE:** The longest par putt I made was 18, about four feet. But I had a few three-, four-, five-footers that I had to make and they're not easy. Everything moves here. There really aren't any straight putts and they're hard to read.

**Q. You seem to be fairly nonchalant about shooting 63. Are you kind of hoping that this could lead to some good golf?**

**STEVE PATE:** I would like to think that it would be the start of a string of decent play. God knows it's been a long time.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**STEVE PATE:** Usually yeah, I usually play well for a period of time in a row. Unfortunately I've got three weeks off after this. We've got two weeks off and I didn't qualify for the U.S. Open, so it's not going to be an immediate string.

**Q. Is the yellow ball a visual thing for you, do you see it better?**

**STEVE PATE:** No. I played the Srixon golf ball, I really like the ball, and they told me they preferred if I played the yellow one so I said that's fine. It's funny because when I was ball testing in December, they made some new balls, and just to be lazy the new one I was testing I got in white and playing with a white golf ball just looks wrong now.

**Q. How long has it been for you?**

**STEVE PATE:** A couple years. They make a bright orange one over in Japan, they don't bring it over here. You can see that thing from outer space. If they brought that over, I would play it in a heartbeat.

**Q. Have you set a course record before, and is there anything special about doing it on your first try here?**

**STEVE PATE:** I don't think I have in a tournament, no. I mean, I have around home at some courses, but I'm pretty sure I never have in a tournament. Yeah, it's nice, but I don't sit there and think about shooting a course record, I'm thinking more about the tournament. But no, you know, once the tournament's over and looking back you go, yeah, that's really cool, but right now it's not a high on my priority list.

**Q. When's the last time you shot 63 anywhere, even just a casual round?**

**STEVE PATE:** How many holes? (Laughter.) I've done it a couple times at home in the last year or two, but it doesn't happen very often. It's kind of fun.

**Q. What are you most looking forward to about the weekend?**

**STEVE PATE:** Actually playing a couple of meaningful rounds on the weekend. The only place I had any meaningful round on the weekend this year I think has been Houston, so it would be kind of nice to get back in the mix a little bit.