

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW: BILLY ANDRADE
Saturday, August 22, 2015



PHIL STAMBAUGH: Billy, 7-under 65, low round of the tournament and you have a three-shot lead going into tomorrow. Eight birdies today. A few thoughts about the round.

BILLY ANDRADE: Yeah, I got off to a great start birdieing three of the first four. Then I birdied 7, made the turn, getting a couple good up-and-downs on 9 and 10 out of the bunkers. Had a little slip-up at 11, had an 8-iron from the middle of the fairway and missed the green to the right and didn't get that up and down. Then came back with birdies at 13, 14 and 15, which were nice to get back on track and make those, and then made a nice birdie at the last. So all in all, it was a great day. I've had two very solid rounds of golf and I'm looking forward to tomorrow.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Can you go through the details on the birdies?

BILLY ANDRADE: One, I hit a 5-wood just on the back fringe. I had to chip it, chipped it down to a tap-in. Two, I wanted to putt it but the sprinkler heads were in the way so I had to hit a little chip and I hit a little chip and I chipped it in from about 25 feet there. Four, I hit a 9-iron about three feet. Seven, I hit a sand wedge about 15 feet on the back fringe and made that. Made about a 15-footer for par on 10 down the hill, which was big. That kind of held me together. No. 13, I hit an 8-iron about 25 feet and made that. 14, I hit a 52-degree sand wedge about 12 feet and made that. 15, I hit a 5-wood right -- beautiful shot, it went right past the flag on the back fringe in the muff and I made a nice up-and-down there. And 18 I hit a beautiful drive and a 3-wood, and I thought it was on the green but it went through the green. Had that chip shot that I had to hit a little flop with and I flopped it down past the hole I would say about six, seven feet and made that.

All in all, it was a great day. The golf course is firming up, the fairways are firming up, balls are going further, I guess more like the way this course has played in the past. It's been soft in the beginning of the week and it was nice to see the ball running and having chances to go for some of those par 5s.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Two weeks ago we were in Calgary and then we had an off week. Did you do anything between weeks to prepare? You're playing really well.

BILLY ANDRADE: Yeah, from Calgary I went back to Providence in Rhode Island to my house in Bristol, Rhode Island, and packed the house up. Took the dog, my son who's 21, and the sexy minivan, Honda Odyssey, and we drove 18 hours to Atlanta to our main home there. Got there Thursday midday. Friday morning, woke up and my wife and I flew to Dallas, Texas to take my daughter to college. She starts at TCU in Ft. Worth. That was an ordeal to get her in. My son a couple years ago was a 15-minute "see 'ya later." My daughter, you've got to go to Bed, Bath & Beyond, you've got to go all the places. You've got to help her fix the bed, unpack, make sure she has enough toiletries. It was an 8:00

9:00 window where you get them into the dorm. We did that, then we had to do the other stuff, and 6:00 in the afternoon my wife and I left. So we flew back to Atlanta on Sunday.

I practiced Monday, I practiced a little on Tuesday, and I flew out here Wednesday morning. So I didn't really have an opportunity to really work on my game last week, but I felt like that I played a lot lately. We've had a lot of travel on the Champions Tour from Chicago back to Rhode Island, then over to London, then I went to Minnesota, back to Rhode Island, to Calgary, back to Rhode Island, down to Atlanta. So I was pretty worn out in Calgary and I didn't play as well there, but I took the week off. This is a great stretch for us to have a lot of tournaments, so this is good. I'm happy the way I played so far.

Q. On the second hole, could you have gotten relief, you were between sprinkler heads, right?

BILLY ANDRADE: You know, I think if I wanted to bend the rules I could have where I said okay, I'm going to step up real close to the ball and say this is the way I'm going to do a stance and maybe call an official and see if it would have been a 50/50. But honestly, the shot I was going to hit, I wasn't stepping on the sprinkler heads. I got lucky there and made the chip. But it wasn't -- I wasn't really warranted, I felt like, to take a drop there.

Q. Did you realize you had a three-shot lead after your birdie on 7?

BILLY ANDRADE: I did not, no. I just knew that Larry was close and we were in the last group. You don't know what the guys in front of you are doing really, or you really shouldn't be thinking about what the guys in front of you are doing, you're just trying to do your own thing. I did not know I had a three-shot lead then, but I'm really happy I have a three-shot lead now.

Q. What was the three-birdie run on the back nine, what did that do for you?

BILLY ANDRADE: Well, yeah, I made that bogey at 11, and then I had about a 10-footer up the hill into the grain on 12 for birdie and I left it short. I was really disappointed not giving that a run because it was a pretty easy putt actually. But then 13, I made a nice birdie there yesterday. I hit a 5-iron past the hole and made about a 25-footer yesterday, and today, you know, it's tough to get the ball close to some of these hole locations with the firmness of the greens. I just played it out to the right and I got it there to about 25 feet again and I made a beautiful putt, so that started it.

No. 14, I laid up yesterday because I had to. Today I didn't have to, but it's such -- you know, it's really a dumb play to really go for it with the greens being so firm. So I just laid up again today and hit a beautiful 52-degree wedge in there and made a nice putt just like I did yesterday. I birdied both those holes yesterday.

Then to top it with the birdie on 15, so yeah, that was huge. What was I? I was six, and then I make those three on that nine and now I looked up and I had a couple-shot lead at the

time, so that was nice.

Q. I know your one win was with Joe Durant, you haven't won by yourself in a while.

BILLY ANDRADE: You know what, I feel pretty confident the way I'm striking the ball. I feel very calm about being in this situation. You know, I was nervous for 25 years playing the PGA TOUR. I had a nice little career. I probably should have won a few more than I did, but out here, this is just all gravy. This is just all fun. There's no point being nervous. Why? If you're going to do that and play lousy, there's no point. This is all fun, just go out and have fun. I'm looking forward to playing with Bernhard, and I think Jeff Freeman maybe might be in our group. I'm just going to go out and play the best I can and see what happens.

Q. Obviously Bernhard's going to provide a pretty good challenge tomorrow, right?

BILLY ANDRADE: Oh, sure, he's the best player on our tour for some time now. He's won 23 events and I've only won one and I had some help. So he's an idol, he's a Hall of Famer, he's one of the best players. What I like about him, he's a grinder; he comes out every day fighting and clawing and scratching, and I feel like I'm the same way. So I'm looking forward to playing with him and I'm looking forward to beating him.

Q. I think you can thank your parents for having you -- I think you were born in January, which gives you a full year on the senior tour.

BILLY ANDRADE: Right, yeah. Lee Janzen last year was kind of pissed off about that because his birthday was in August. I said, "You know what? You've got to talk to your parents. It's not my fault I was born in January."

Q. But what did you learn last year and going into this year that you're taking now, you're on the verge of maybe a victory?

BILLY ANDRADE: You know, I was talking to Carlos Franco. He's only played like five events this year. We were walking up the 18th hole. "You've just got to play, you've got to play a lot of tournaments."

I took three years off, 46, 47, 48. My wife was going back to school, into seminary. My daughter was going into high school. My son was in high school, going to go to college. It was a good time for me to be home some, and I did some TV. So I took a break. I wasn't having any fun playing the tour, I was struggling the last couple years out there, and that was a great break for me.

You know, what I learned last year was that I just needed to play. The more competition you get, you get more confident. You just need more reps. That's what I told Carlos today, just keep playing, pal, you'll get it. It just takes a little time when you've taken time off.

It was a good thing for me because I didn't want to come out here playing lousy, I didn't want

to come out here having struggles from the PGA TOUR and a lot of cobwebs and stuff. I wanted to come out fresh, and I did.

I did some TV for the Golf Channel, I learned a new craft. If I ever wanted to go back and do TV again, I can because I know how to do it. But this is what I love to do. I love to play competitive golf, and all of us out here love it. So this is what we were born to do. You may have a few years in there that you don't -- maybe I'm done, maybe I'm not good anymore, but the Champions Tour is just absolutely fabulous to be able to come back and not reinvent yourself, but come back and be competitive again with this group. I just -- like I said when I turned 50, you've got to thank the Bob Goalbys and the Sam Sneads and the Don Januarys, Arnold Palmer, all the guys that started the Champions Tour back in the late '70s. I never imagined I would be one of these guys taking advantage of it, so it's pretty cool.

Q. You won here in '94 at Overlake Country Club, right, over Fred?

BILLY ANDRADE: Yeah.

Q. Is that still pretty fresh in your mind?

BILLY ANDRADE: I know I pissed off a lot of people in Seattle that day over there. I beat him in a playoff, I think I made a 30-footer on the first playoff hole to beat him. It was the first year of that event. That was a big event, we played for a lot of money.

And yeah, I remember my parents have a picture of Fred giving me a high-five. Somebody gave it to them, an 8-by-10 that my parents have framed in their house so every time I go to their house I see it. I think Fred was more excited that I beat him than him losing. He was so gracious about it. The picture's hilarious. He's high-fiving me, he's got a big smile on his face. That was a two-day event. They had it for a few years and it was called the Ernst Championship. So yeah, I got a big old some Waterford thing sitting in my house, so it's pretty cool.

Q. You've got a baseball hat on.

BILLY ANDRADE: Yeah, I got to be friends with Bob Bowman, who started MLB.com back eight years ago, I think it was. Bob's now, I think he's second-in-charge of MLB behind -- you know, Rob Manfred hired him over. So MLB.com is kind of together with MLB and he just took a liking to me, we became friends. I was getting ready to come out on the Champions Tour and he said, "I want your hat, how much is it going to cost?" So I gave him a number. Man, I don't know, maybe I should have asked for a little more, you know? He said, "Done."

So it's been great. It's been a nice relationship. They've enjoyed it. They're an unbelievable service. They have since then gone in with the PGA TOUR, they signed a deal with them I think in -- I think it was right around the PLAYERS Championship, so now you can watch the early rounds, you can watch a group on PGA TOUR.com and you can follow that group. So

the other day I got an update to watch Tiger Woods play in his morning round, Adam Scott was the second round at Greensboro. That's all Bob Bowman, that's all MLB.com. So their technology and that stuff is coming on with the tour, so that's going to go crazy, I would think, in the next 10, 15 years.

Q. You were a decent young basketball player, not great. If you had to pick four other golfers to fill out a basketball team, who makes the team?

BILLY ANDRADE: Well, I'll tell you what, who can shoot the rock you wouldn't think would be Mark Calcavecchia, he's a great shooter. Russ Cochran, I would like him on my team. I think you would have to put Phil Blackmar in the middle and just kind of run around with him. Who else? That's three.

Q. You need one more.

BILLY ANDRADE: Yeah. You know who's a hell of a basketball player is Jim Booros. Remember that name? Not really? He played the tour back in the '80s and '90s. That guy was a hell of a basketball player. I'm probably forgetting a few more guys that can play, but we've had a few pickup games over the years and I love it, I love the game. I'm just very short and I couldn't go on after high school. I could have played Division II or III, I got a couple scholarships, but I knew what I wanted to do.

Q. Are you Rhode Island's most famous golfer?

BILLY ANDRADE: Well, we've got a few. Brad Faxon is pretty famous. Dana Quigley had a nice run on the Champions Tour for a long time, he's a pretty famous guy. I would say Brad and I -- he's three years older than me, I was his little brother -- we both had nice careers.

We've got a lot of players. It's really amazing the number of players who have come out of Rhode Island, the smallest state in the country. When you look at all the New Yorks, we have more players come out of Rhode Island than all the six New England states combined. It's pretty amazing. Brett Quigley, Pat Sheehan, Pat Horgan, Brad Adamonis. There's a few more guys that's escaping my mind. Pretty amazing for a small state like that to have a lot of players that have gone on professionally.