

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW: SHAWN STEFANI
Thursday, November 12, 2015



Q. Shawn, bogey on the last, not how you wanted to finish but take me through that start, 5 under through four.

SHAWN STEFANI: It was actually really nice. I got off to a good start making about a 15-footer on 10. Haven't been playing all that well of late but kind of found something early in the week. Hit it really close on 11, hit it close on 12 and got to 13 and hit it close there. I was like, man, if I make it, I'll go to 5 under through four. So I knocked in it in. It was nice to get off to a good start, kind of keep that momentum going. It's not always nice to finish with a bogey, kind of lost concentration there on the tee shot and the chip shot, but it's a great start for me. I haven't been playing well, like I said, and to get off to a good start like this gives me some momentum, gives me some confidence for the rest of the week.

Q. What is it about this place that has you so comfortable? Runner-up a year ago, off to another great start here at the OHL Classic at Mayakoba.

SHAWN STEFANI: Well, it's reminds me of Houston where I'm from. It's hot, humid and paspalum grainy greens. So grew up on stuff like this, used to the kind of weather and it just kind of has kind of a hometown feel to me even though we're down in Mexico. I love it here, loved it here last year and we'll probably come back here every year.

Q. Tell me about that start. You were on fire.

SHAWN STEFANI: Yeah, it's nice to get off to starts like that. I think that's the best start I've ever gotten off to on the PGA TOUR. I would like to start off like that every day but we know it doesn't happen. When things are going like that, you just kind of ride it until it stops. Played very solid, gave myself a lot of looks. It actually probably was the worst I could have shot today. I had a lot of good looks that didn't go in but I'm not going to complain. Lately I haven't been playing all that great, haven't had a lot of confidence in what I'm doing and kind of found something early in the week that's giving me a lot of momentum going into today and just like being here. It's a good place. I've played well here, and typically when you have confidence in a place you like, you bring that confidence back to the table. So it was nice to go out there today and play that way.

Q. Just to clarify, you birdied your first three holes and then you eagled your fourth. Tell me about the eagle at the par 5.

SHAWN STEFANI: Just striped a drive down there and had like 203 in. Was just kind of aiming left. The wind was a little bit off the left and down and I was just like, you know, just try to hit a good shot left of the flag and it just started left and peeled in there about four feet and when I got up there I was like, you know, I've got a chance to 5 under here. So it was nice, it was nice to make the putt, knock it in, go 5 under and kind of keep it rolling.

Q. Harder to make the eagle or the birdie at 16? That birdie at 16 is always special.

SHAWN STEFANI: Yeah, 16 probably for sure. I mean it was kind of in off the right, the wind was. I had just seen Charles kind of hit it in the bunker over there or by the bunker and I was just trying to put it out to the right and just give myself an opportunity for birdie. I hit it in there about 10 feet and knocked it in, so it was basically taking one from the field it felt like.

Q. Golf's a funny game. Your track record coming into this tournament, not necessarily your performance here where you finished second last year, but just your last couple tournaments you haven't been quite hitting on all cylinders. You said you found a little something, could you please share that at all?

SHAWN STEFANI: No, I can't share my secrets. (Laughs.) It's obviously I wasn't getting through the ball, kind of hanging back and just found a way to get through it and I finally managed to do that. I was actually able to start hitting the club in the center of the face and get the ball starting on line, and so when you're starting the ball offline out here, it's hard to play well. So it was nice to see the ball go where I was looking today.