

Billy Andrade

*I want to get your opinion on what happened on 18. You hit the ball into the bunker on your approach shot, called over an official, what happened there?*

I just wanted the official to come over and see the lie so he could document it, and so they could talk to the agronomy staff and the head rules official, Brian Claar. I wanted them to see it because this is a problem out here on this golf course. I don't know if they've done renovations on the bunkers, but in a lot of the faces of these bunkers it's almost too soft. I was talking with Bernhard Langer in the fitness tent and he was saying that he had three balls plug in the lips of three bunkers yesterday. When I hit the second shot and it was in the air and I knew it was going in the bunker I was thinking great it's not going to be a hard bunker shot, but please don't be buried. Then I got up there and I could barely see the ball.

When a pro can't get the ball out of the bunker, I swung as hard as I possibly could, and I was just lucky to get the ball out of its buried lie. I just wanted to show our guys what was going on and how bad it was so maybe they can fix it down the road.

I feel bad for the members of this club because they have to play here! We're just here for one week, but the members are out here playing in these club tournaments and every shot they hit into the bunker is going to bury, that's not cool. Hopefully they'll get it fixed.

*Three straight birdies on the back nine, four in five holes, what kind of rhythm were you in on the back nine?*

I started feeling better with my putter, got some more feel with it, and made a few putts there in the middle. I made a minor adjustment in my stance and I started getting the ball going where I wanted it to go. I hit some nice shots where they weren't long putts, they were in there, so all-in-all I had a great day.

*Generally 20+ under wins this thing every year. Do you feel like if you don't shoot 67 you are shooting yourself out of it?*

It's a 72-hole tournament, we normally play 54-hole events and when it's that type of tournament it's a sprint, you have to get off to a good start and you have to shoot low the first day to give yourself an opportunity to win.

Out here, a 72-hole tournament it's not a sprint, it's not really a marathon either, but when you know that around 20-under is the score you have to shoot you have to go out and play well every day. You can maybe make it up if you get hot and have a really low number one day.

The golf course is in perfect shape, greens are spectacular and fast if you get it above the hole. Overall these are the best Champions Tour players in the world and these guys are going to get hot every day.

*A little confidence boost because you qualified for The Open on Monday. There's a lot of golf left, but do you like how you started here and heading into this week?*

It was actually Tuesday, not Monday, but it was in Atlanta, a bunch of us were there. Last year I didn't make it and it was devastating to not go to the US Open. It's such a great event, it's our biggest event, it's almost like playing two tournaments in one because the purse is so high so missing that when you feel like you're one of the top players is a bummer. This year I got the job done and I'm really looking forward that.

But I'm really looking forward to tomorrow.

*You look like you found something, particularly in your mind, what did you come into today thinking was the key?*

I've been struggling with being comfortable with a putter. I've played great all year, just haven't had any great putting rounds and getting the lower scores that I should be shooting. On the back I went a little taller, I might have been bending over a little too much, and kind of found some good feel. These greens are so fast and is crucial in so many locations that you have good feel out here. I felt like my feel got better as the round went on, so with that and good ball striking it led to a great day.

*How do you feel about your finish? You hit the pin on 16, nearly hit it on 17, and 18 you hit the cart path four times, got a horrible break up by the green. Have you ever seen a finish like that?*

Not for me, maybe somebody has. The shot on 16 was right at it, I was hoping it was the right distance, then on 17 it looked good but I couldn't really tell from up on that tee. Then 18, Bernhard Langer and I were in the fitness stand last night and we were talking about the bunkering here not being great, especially up in the faces of the bunkers and he said he had three balls in the pro-am yesterday plugged. So when I hit that shot, typically you want to go into the bunker because the bunker is easy and you have that little shot to shoot 66, but the minute I hit it and knew it was going into the bunker the first thing I said to myself was 'Gosh, I hope it's not plugged.'

I brought Joe Terry over just to show him and have him say that it needed to be fixed. I felt bad for the members here who have to play and have the faces of the bunkers be so soft and shots like that plug. Fortunately I got up and down to save my par.