

BILLY ANDRADE POST-ROUND 1 PRESS CONFERENCE
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SANFORD INTERNATIONAL – SIOUX FALLS, SD

Billy, 7 under today – what golf course were you playing?

You know, I knew it was hard and I knew the wind was up right when we first teed off. And I just knew that if you could keep it below the hole if you could or keep it in the fairway and not try to make too many mistakes, and I didn't make any, which is pretty amazing that I didn't make at least a bogey. And I got on a roll on my front nine, birdied 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 and it was like 'wow, alright!' And I hit it really close on 1 and missed and then I made a 10-footer for birdie on 2. So, the front nine I thought played much harder, especially coming in. Greens are very, very firm and fast and with this wind, it's very, very difficult. And I'm just ecstatic with the round.

I think it's the best 18 holes I've played on the Champions Tour in my 11 years. It's been a while and I've had some good scores over the years, but nothing this low in these kinds of conditions.

You told John Maginnes from Golf Channel a little bit ago, you felt like you were trending towards a round like this – could you speak to that?

Well, you know, I think every golfer feels that way or every golfer should if they want to succeed. You play a lot of good tournaments, you finish 15th to 20th or 25th, there's not much difference between that and a top 10, or then a top 10 to a top 5 and winning. So, you know, you've got to put yourself in position and I feel like I've played some really good golf this year and haven't gotten much out of it. So, am I trending? Well, today I did. But there's still a long way to go, but I've been playing well, so I'm really happy the way I handled myself today.

When you're going that way as you were today, how hard is it to stay out of your own way?

Yeah, that's the biggest thing. You know you're on, so now it's just a matter of just letting it go. I've always been pretty good at that, my problem is not getting there enough maybe in the course of my career. But when I feel comfortable and on, I'm not nervous at all. I guess players, we get more nervous when we know we're not on and then you're just hanging on to make sure that you get through the day or get through the week. But when you're playing well and the ball's going where you want it to go and you're making some putts, I like that feeling. And it's not hard for me to let that go, so today was one of those days.

How hard was it out there?

Well, just look at the scores and see how hard it is. We've played here when it's not flooded, but very, very wet and the scores are very, very low because it's such a great course and greens are perfect and guys are just going right at it. And then you have conditions like this which is what I think every tournament strives for is to have firm and fast conditions and then, if you don't hit the perfect shot, it's not going to hit the green. That tests everybody's patience and looking at the scores, you could see that my gosh, it's a pretty low one.

They say the hardest thing to do is back up a number. What's that going to take?

I'm 60 years old. I don't think anyone really cares how I back up tomorrow from today or the next day or next week. We're all out here just having a blast, having a great time. And I haven't won in a long time, so it would be so sweet to get back in the winner's circle. So that's all I'm thinking about is going out tomorrow and having a great time with a couple of great golfers – probably a Hall of Famer – and we'll enjoy, so that's what I'm looking forward to.

You've played this course a few times. Did you have kind of a 'okay, this is a windy day, this is a windy version of playing this golf course' - did you kind of have that idea?

I remember I played with Darren Clarke the year he won. On Sunday, it was a day like today. It was very, very windy. The 15th hole, I drove it over the green that day. Today, I drove it on the green. You can't drive it on the green there if there's no wind, so I knew I played that year with those conditions and I knew that this was going to be a test today. And I really didn't look at the leaderboard, I was just trying to stay in my own zone and it was just one of those days where I started making some putts and I didn't make any mistakes.