



Shane Bertsch
Round 1 Interview Transcript
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May 7, 2026

Question: All right, Shane. Opening 66 here at the Insperity Invitational, birdied four of your first seven holes, and then made eagle on your 10th hole, the first. Tell us about your round today.

Shane Bertsch Answer:

Well, just a real steady round of ball striking. I mean, I hit practically every green. I think I only missed one green and a couple fringes; but, you know, for one of the lower-spin guys out here, you wouldn't think that, you know, I'd play that good on the greens, the way they're playing. But I was able to manage it. They put the pins back on, you know, quite a few holes. And if they're up, I mean, for me, anyways, I just have to take my medicine and, you know, land it maybe at the hole, and you know it's going to go 20 feet back. It's just kind of odd when they're like this. But, yeah, just played real well, gave myself a lot of chances. You know, the eagle is nice. Just kind of plodded around. I actually, you know, made a couple putts, which was nice.

Question: Talk about your greens. I mean, they're new, but they're rock hard.

Shane Bertsch Answer:

Yeah.

Question: How does that make this course much harder?

Shane Bertsch Answer:

It just makes it, I mean, luckily we didn't have much wind or anything because once that happens, like I'm sure it will at some point, you know, it just makes judging the shots all that much harder. I mean, like on 5, for instance, I like it in a way because I had 180 to 5, and I just hit a smooth 8-iron because I knew I had to land it around 160, and it's going to roll another 40 or 20. So it rolled 20 yards, which is, you know, 60 feet. So and I did. I got it right back there to pin high, about six feet. So in that way it's just kind of ó you know, we don't play them that hard very often; that's for sure. I mean, we've played much faster greens; but then they're a lot slower I mean a lot softer. So it's just a weird combo to get used to. I mean, you still leave a ball mark, but I think it's something to do with the new ó you know, the new root system yet, and they just don't you know, I remember from years ago at the Greenbrier one time on the PGA Tour, they resurfaced them. And it was just the strangest thing because they were soft, but they

wouldn't hold. The ball couldn't grip in, you know. So you just have to play for it. I was watching Retief Goosen's ball yesterday a lot because he was in the Pro-Am right behind me. And, you know, the U.S. Open champ wasn't having much trouble stopping them. You got a lot of – if you can really spin your ball and contact your ball well like a lot of guys out here, you know, it's not crazy different. But out of the rough, yeah, if you're in the rough because of the way it is, it's going to go even extra. So luckily I stayed out of the rough for the most part, and I had a lot of good chances.

Question: Couples texted me and said he'd take a bottle of red.

Shane Bertsch Answer:

(Laughing) Well, tell him thanks.

Question: You know, was just going to ask you about, you know, being the alternate. I guess you were the second alternate, so there's always that possibility you're not going to get in. But second, you got an opportunity. So you took advantage of it.

Shane Bertsch Answer:

Well, I mean, so far, I mean, I've been in this position this year, unfortunately, just because of, you know, I'm not the greatest player last year; so I've been hanging around as first alternate a couple weeks. And I've gotten in most of the time. I didn't get in Tucson. I was first alternate all week and didn't get in. But, yeah, it was nice to get in halfway through Wednesday because, you know, you got to be an alternate, you got to be here for both Pro-Ams just in case. And, you know, you could be you could have a chance to get in and be out all of a sudden if you're not around. So it's kind of nerve-wracking. But it was nice to get in. And then taking Freddie's spot yesterday was real nice, 12:10 off the back 12:10 off the front on Thursday. I mean, we were done, and I was watching all the guys that I'm usually playing with. You know, they still had two and a half hours to go. So it was nice. It was fortunate. And, like you said, I'm hoping to take advantage of the week because, you know, I'm not getting in everything this year; so I got to take advantage of them when I get it.

Question: The difficulty is, that's not the way you want to go play a tournament, just sit there and wait and wait and hope for the best.

Shane Bertsch Answer:

No. It's a little nerve-wracking. But you look at years past, and you know that there's a chance, and I think it was just last week, I mean, the tournament started on a Thursday. But Thursday morning two people dropped out, you know. So it's more common. Did anyone else drop out today? Did John Senden get in? So, I mean, sometime you know, the day of is usually the day that it'll happen because people want to stay in, you know, the whole time to try to if they have a little injury, they try to stay till the last second to see if they can play. But luckily I got in Wednesday and took the heat on.
