



**Q. Well, another good round for you today, another hot start. You got off to a birdie-eagle to start.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah. I wasn't expecting it again. I got off to a good start yesterday and just was trying to hit good quality shots to start the round and I did, and made a couple of putts. So yeah, I got off to a better start today than I did yesterday, so the trick is to keep that momentum going and I did better job of that today. Yesterday I didn't do that very well and today I kept that momentum going all the way through the whole round.

**Q. You said you were a little bit nervous yesterday. Did you feel a little more comfortable today?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, I felt a little for comfortable today. Still a little nervous, but any time you're playing well up and up around the lead there's a little anxious moments here and there, but I'm handling those okay and hopefully I can do the same tomorrow and have a good opportunity. But need to play well. Low scores are out there. The ability to shoot low scores is there on this course, so you've got to take care of your own business and give yourself a lot of opportunities and hopefully make some birdies.

**Q. How big was it to save par on 14?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, that was big. I didn't hit that bad a shot in there. We misjudged the wind a little bit and the wind ended up taking it over into the bunker. Not a real good bunker shot, but I had a good idea what the putt was going to do and to make that is a bonus. But that's a big boost, keeps the momentum going. Then I go ahead and birdie the next hole and the next hole. I birdied three in a row after that, so that was a good stretch of holes for me there.

**Q. Can you walk us through the 17th hole, which was a little bit of an interesting adventure?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah. Yesterday I pulled it a little bit off the tee and I covered the water and it didn't really get to the fairway. It hit soft and didn't get out there. So I was just trying to play down that right side and kind of sling-hook a 3-wood. It was kind of in between a utility club and a 3-wood and I decided to still hit the 3-wood and I knew it was a lot of club, but you can't make the mistake in the water there. Where I was was fine, I could chase something up there, which I did with a driver. I just thought I would run it up there and get it close to the green and try to get it up and down. I could have actually knocked it on the green if I would have cut it a little bit more. So it wasn't as bad as it seemed. It's just a tough driving hole. It's a tough fit because it's all sloping away. David Toms I thought hit a great drive and he ran through the fairway quite a ways, too. So it's just a tough fit to get it in there.

**Q. So did you hit driver because you had to keep it under the trees even after taking the drop?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah. Even if I rolled it, even if I didn't get it in the air, the trouble there was the trees themselves up in the air. So I almost felt like 3-wood would have been borderline jumping up in the air and hitting some of the limbs, so I just took out the driver and decided just to almost roll it up there.

**Q. What were your expectations for yourself coming into the week?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** To play well. I never go into a week thinking I've got to win or top-5 or anything like that, I just try to go in and play well. Let whatever happens, happen. I know I'm capable of playing well at times and I want to give myself an opportunity come Sunday to try to win. That's what I've done, so so far, so good. I've just got to put one more round together and hopefully take care of business.

**Q. Playing with the lead tomorrow, does your strategy change?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** No, no, I don't think so. I've played the course the last two days the way I've set out to play it in the practice rounds and nothing's really going to change.

**Q. Who in the Stricker household is happiest about the Badgers winning today?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Oh, good question. We all are. We're all big Badger fans. Even though I went to Illinois, I grew up close by, went to a lot of the games as a kid. We're season ticket holders to the Badger games, so we're big basketball fans and Badger fans. It's pretty cool. It was killing me not to watch the game today a little bit, but it was good to see. I didn't think they really got a fair seeding going into the tournament, but they kind of proved everybody wrong; that they, you know, they're a good team.

**Q. Are people telling you the score as you're playing out there?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, I was going around getting scoring updates from people.

**Q. What hole were you on?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I was walking to 14 tee and a friend of mine let me know that they had won by three.

**Q. Maybe that's why --**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, I might have not been totally focused.