



**Q. Obviously you must be disappointed with the finish after playing really well for almost three full days?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah. I hung in there. I played some really good golf again today and got off to kind of a really sluggish start. I buried the ball in the front bunker at 1. Hit a good drive and a good iron in there, just misjudged the wind a little bit and plugged it there. And then not birdieing No. 2, so I felt like I was behind the eight ball right away. Shoot, I had lost the lead already after four or five holes, which was fine. I knew he was going to make a run at some point and I was fine with that.

I clawed my way back and I took a couple-shot lead going up to 16 there. I three-putt and he makes birdie and that was really the tournament. The drive on the last, which I thought was a good one, it was 300 yards to that water there on that line and I hit 3-wood and we thought we had it into the wind, so I don't know how it went so far. But disappointing that I didn't have an opportunity out in the fairway to hit a shot into the green.

**Q. How long was the first putt on 16?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Oh, I don't know, I don't know. What it was, 50 feet probably.

**Q. And I couldn't see really, I didn't have a good angle, did it miss to the left?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, it missed to the left. I had about a four-, five-footer. It was probably five feet that I missed. Pulled it, didn't hit a very good putt there. Hit a couple good two good shots at 17 and kind of was looking forward to coming down on 18 and getting an opportunity to hit it into the green and just from that point I was just trying to make a par. Trying to force him to make a par. But he played great. I think he shot, what did he shoot, 7 under today? So he played great. He put the pressure on all day long. I just didn't have enough there at the end.

**Q. Did you hit the same club and the same line on 18 as you had the previous two days?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I hit it -- well, we had into the wind yesterday and I was way back. I mean, I hit 3-wood yesterday and I was way back. That's why I thought 3-wood today was -- and we had it we thought into the wind. It changes so much out there. I mean literally you could be feeling it into the wind and it flips around 180 degrees sometimes out there. I don't know if we caught a little bit of that, but when I had asked him from the tee where -- you know, we had 300 yards on the line that I hit it. Into the wind I can't hit a 300-yard 3-wood, but somehow I did today.

**Q. Last year Woody Austin did the same thing. He didn't know his ball was in the water until he got up there. When did you know?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I had a pretty good idea right away because I saw the marshal go over there. Actually, I heard the crowd groan a little bit so I figured that it went into the water, and then I sought the marshal go over there.

**Q. What do you take out of this week?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** It was a good week, it was a good positive week. I did a lot of good things. My game is always a work in progress, it's like anybody's, and I haven't played that much yet so far this year. I think this is just my fourth event. Yeah, I'm excited. I did a lot of good things. Finally made some putts and missed a couple that I should have made, but all in all a good week.

**Q. Is this Tour more competitive than people give it credit for?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I knew it was going to be competitive. I had no question in my mind that it was going to be a tough one to win today, so it didn't surprise me. They're not going to just lay down and give you a tournament. These guys, they've all proven themselves over the course of their career and they're out here for a reason. They all play good golf. So I knew it was going to be a challenge today. Winning at any level is a challenge and it was no different today.

**Q. Was it fun to kind of almost be in a match play mode with Tom from about the third hole on today?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, it was. He's such a good guy. For one, we're friends. We spent a lot of time together last year on the Ryder Cup team. He's just a great man and he's one of the guys I've looked up to in my career, over the course of my career. Yeah, it was disappointing. I still wanted to beat him, but we had a fun time. We went back and forth out there and he just was one shot better.

**Q. Steve, do you know when you're going to play on this tour again?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I don't know. I'm going to wait and see. I've committed to both Huston and Biloxi and I can't play them both. I was going to play the week before the Masters and that's Houston on the big tour or Biloxi, so I'm not sure which one I'm going to play yet.