

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
June 23, 2018



STEVE STRICKER (-6)

Q. Does a birdie at 18 salvage anything from today?

STEVE STRICKER: It was a tough day, but that was a big birdie in my mind. It kept me a little bit closer. I mean, no one ran away with this thing today and three shots back, a lot of guys in between me and the lead. Yeah, it was a good putt to make and finally get a birdie. That was my only one today.

Q. I know you don't want to hear this, but there are a lot of guys who have stepped up here who have been surprised that you're not 12, 13 under par, and I'm sure you were every bit as frustrated. Could you describe the level of frustration?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it just was one of those days where I didn't have a lot of energy. Nothing -- hit very few good shots really. The couple that I did hit well, I was in bad spots, and a couple bad shots even got worse. So nothing really went my way today except for that last putt.

Q. Do you take solace now in the fact that there are a lot of guys that are right near the top that if anybody's got a chance --

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, yeah. You know, it's going to take something special for me being three shots back. I'm going to have to put up a good round, probably something similar to what I did the first day or maybe even a little bit better.

But it's out there, it really is. Just going to have to go ahead and do it and give myself more opportunities. I didn't swing at it very well today. I had a great warmup session on the range and then the first couple holes went okay, but then after that it was just all downhill.

Q. Is it better for you to be in a situation where it's a scrum as opposed to maybe playing one or two guys or maybe being in that last group and you're in a type of situation going out knowing that there's about 20 guys that could do what you're describing you need to do tomorrow, does that help you?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I think -- well, it helps knowing -- it helps me knowing what I have to do, I guess. I know that I'm going to have to come out and be aggressive and make some birdies and get off to a good start. Today I didn't get off to a good start, so tomorrow I need to do that. Maybe birdie 1 and have a chance at eagle at 2, something like that, which that can happen here. There's a lot of par 5s and they're reachable and you can shoot a good number here, you've just got to do it.

Q. There wasn't an eagle on any par 5s yesterday. I don't know how many there are today, but does that surprise you?

STEVE STRICKER: You mean that there wasn't any yesterday?

Q. No, according to the stats, there were zero.

STEVE STRICKER: Really?

Q. Yeah.

STEVE STRICKER: It's playing a little bit longer this year. It's softer. 11 they played up yesterday, but we played back today. Can't reach that green in two, that's been playing into the wind. 16 has been playing into the wind. So those holes that were playing downwind last year with firm conditions are playing into the wind with soft conditions. Everything's playing a little bit longer.

Q. It's the first round out here that you haven't shot under par. I know you're not a big stats guy, but does it make you appreciate how easy you made it seem when you encounter a day like today?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah. You know, it hurts that I didn't shoot under par. I knew that stat, I knew that I hadn't shot over par out here, but it was just one of those days where I didn't do anything right. Didn't make really any putts, just nothing really went right today.

Q. But you're a kick-in-the-pants guy, aren't you? You need something like this to --

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, this is good, this is good for me, and that birdie on the last is good for me. That's one less that I have to make tomorrow was the way that I was thinking going up the fairway there, so it was good to get that one in the hole.

Q. And no concerts tonight, so you just go home and get up --

STEVE STRICKER: I need some rest.