

STEVE STRICKER

CHRIS RICHARDS: Good morning, everyone. Steve, welcome to the Chubb Classic. Welcome to the PGA TOUR Champions for your debut for the 2018 season. I know recently you talked about your excitement playing tournament golf. Does that excitement get rekindled this week making your season debut out here on the PGA TOUR Champions?

STEVE STRICKER: Very much so. It's exciting. It's like my rookie year all over again. Even though I went through some of this last year, it's still a different feel when I come out here. It's all familiar faces that I see, but courses that I haven't played, areas that I'm not accustomed to. Yeah, it's about learning things again and trying to figure it all out again.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Yesterday you played nine holes with Billy Mayfair. Compare a practice round out here with a guy like Billy Mayfair to the practice rounds you played the last couple weeks.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, totally different. We're in a cart, nobody out there, you can do just about whatever you want. In that regards, it's a lot of fun. It's casual, so we had a good time doing that and trying to take it all in while I'm here.

CHRIS RICHARDS: And this will be your third week in a row, you played twice on the regular Tour. How are you feeling and how's the game feeling right now?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I'm feeling good and my game is trending in the right direction. I hadn't played since last August when I played Northern Trust, and I played Shark Shootout down here but that's a team event, kind of a different feel and different competition altogether.

So last two weeks were my first two weeks since August. I did a lot of good things, really three good rounds each tournament, and then always one little hiccup round in there somewhere so kind of cost me some good finishes out there. But overall I'm doing some good things and excited about what I'm doing and where my game is headed.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Fortunately, we only play three rounds out here. We'll open it up to questions.

Q. That's what I was going to follow up on actually. Does that help your mindset now that you only have three, or is that a big change because I can't ease my way into the tournament here because I've only got two rounds left?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it's something that I'm not too happy with that I only played three

good rounds out of four. Coming here, though, I think it's a different mentality altogether. You need to be aggressive, you need to get off to a good start, you don't want to get behind out here because a lot of guys are shooting low. You want to make sure that you don't need a hero round to come back and try to finish well or win the tournament. So yeah, it's definitely on my mind that I want to get off to a good start and put together three good rounds, and out on the Tour it's four rounds. You've got to make the cut and then put up two goods ones to have a chance to win. So it's a little bit different mindset, but still fairly similar. I mean, you've got to be I think more aggressive out here, I feel like. There's more birdies out here, where on the Tour you can play a little bit smarter and plod your way around and try to not make bogeys and make some birdies in there. So it's a little bit different, but obviously it's the game of golf and there's a lot of similarities, too.

Q. You had a chance (inaudible) in 2017, Presidents Cup, playing out here as a rookie, playing some Tour events. Do you look back on that and think that was kind of a blur?

STEVE STRICKER: It did go by in a hurry. All these years seem to be going by in a hurry, but the whole Presidents Cup experience was surely the thing that I treasure the most. Being able to be a part of that and captain that and be able to be with those young guys and with the assistants, it's a special week when you're able to do that. And those relationships that you build, you know, it's just a cool experience. We were in New York City and 9/11 was on our mind. We visited the firehouse there that was one of the first responders. A lot of really neat things that we did that week and something that I'll remember forever, but it went by so fast. I'm glad it's in the past now that I can kind of focus on my game and try to play and do some things with my own game. That's what I'm looking forward to this year.

Q. I know you've had a pretty long and good relationship with Tiger, he's obviously back this week again. Do you stay in touch with him very often. I know he asks for putting tips over the years, but how's he look to you?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, he looks great. In some of the texts that we've been back and forth with, he says he feels great. Other guys that have played with him out on the west coast in San Diego says he looks and feels great and swinging the club with a lot of speed. I think for him it's about getting some repetitions in and feeling good about what he's doing, but it sure looks good from the outside, and from what he's telling me, all is good.

Q. Back to this week, have you ever been around this course at all?

STEVE STRICKER: Just the first time yesterday.

Q. What kind of course from that sample do you think this fits, what kind of golfer?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, there's some driving holes that you can be aggressive on or you can lay back on, and I'm going to have to figure that out. A lot is going to be dependent on the wind and what direction the wind is blowing. I was aggressive yesterday because it was

a practice round, I just drove it everywhere, but there's some options to either drive it or lay back from the bunkers. There's some cross bunkers, depending on tee locations whether you're going to be able to carry them or you're going to have to lay back. So length I think is a big deal here. If you can pop it over some of those bunkers, you're going to have an advantage. And drive it well. It's pretty generous in the driving areas, but there are some that are a little tightish. So you're going to have to, looks like, pick and choose what you want to do.

Q. What was the thought process on choosing to play here and doing this for three weeks? Could you have played in L.A.? Was there any thought of that?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, L.A., it was either L.A. or here. I was going to play one or the other. We enjoy our time down here so much, Nicki and my youngest daughter are here, and my oldest daughter was here over the weekend before I got here last week end. We just enjoy being down here. And the weather looks great, so we chose warmer weather, less traffic and came here instead.

Q. Obviously just winning being the Shootout, coming back to Naples, you mentioned you spent time here, different course and everything, but have you had a good experience here? Kenny Perry kind of became the mayor of Naples because he won the Shootout and then he won here. Just all of that, what does that mean to you?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it definitely helps no matter what the competition is. It was a team competition so Sean played great and we teamed well together. But when you come back to a place that you like and you enjoy and you've had a little bit of success, I won with Jerry Kelly there at the Shootout as well, it always brings back good memories, and you enjoy the area and it helps in playing well, too. Another reason why I'm here, because we like being here.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Anything else? Thank you very much, Steve. Good luck.

STEVE STRICKER: Thank you.