

STEVE STRICKER

STEVE STRICKER: A little chillier than what I've been used to, but when the sun pops out, it's still very playable. Nice to be here.

Q. Do you expect the course to play differently over the weekend as it warms up?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, probably. We had a little rain here yesterday. I got in late last night, but the streets were wet when I came in. So I'm sure it will play differently as it warms up and starts to dry out a little bit.

Q. So this basically represents your one-year anniversary being eligible for the Champions Tour. How would you describe what the last year's been like kind of straddling the line between being on this tour and still playing on the PGA TOUR, et cetera?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it's been a little bit of a challenge. I feel like I'm pulling myself to both tours. I feel like I wanted to play out here some, and I definitely feel like I've got enough game to compete still on the big tour, so I feel like I want to play out there, too. That's been the most challenging part this last year is where do I play. That's just pressure I'm putting on myself more so than anything is where and what tournaments, where do I feel comfortable, what courses do I like, all that kind of stuff. So that's been the biggest challenge I would say the last year.

Q. How would you describe the state of your game right now?

STEVE STRICKER: It's pretty good. I'm excited, I've been playing well to start the year. I played three times, had a couple of decent PGA TOUR events. I was in the top-10 until one round kind of messed me up each event. Then had a chance to win the Chubb Classic a couple weeks ago. So my year's just getting started, but excited about the way I've been playing so far.

Q. You've played seven or eight Champions Tour events.

STEVE STRICKER: Seven.

Q. You had second, third, third, second. Is it tougher to win on this tour than people think?

STEVE STRICKER: It's tough to win anywhere. Doesn't matter what tour you're playing, it's a challenge to win at any level. These guys are all proven winners out here. I've made a

couple hiccups along the way in a couple of those events to not pull it off, to not win. But again, it's tough. You feel the nerves always on that last day and you feel the pressure to try to win. It always is a bit more of a challenge on that last day to try to win a tournament.

Q. What would it mean to you to break through this week if you were able to?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it would mean a lot. I mean, I'm trying to win at any level. I came close here last year, I finished second here in my rookie year on Tour in 1994, so I feel like I've been close here. Not that this place owes me anything, but I feel like I want to get it, I want to finally get this place. So that's my goal this week.

Q. How did you play 18 today?

STEVE STRICKER: Driver today, it was straight into the wind. Driver and a 3-iron and two putts. It's a challenging hole without the wind, and today we had a good, brisk, cool wind right in our face.

Q. Which is actually sort of helpful, right, because didn't you run it through last year?

STEVE STRICKER: Last year I hit 3-wood through the fairway, so it's a bit different. But it still stings. I look at that hole and I hit a good 3-wood there last year, but just hit it a little bit too far.

Q. Do you enjoy playing in pro-ams?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, yeah, I enjoyed it. These were some Fighting Illini guys that support the U of I and I went to U of I, so it was good to be out with those guys today.

Q. Are you playing again tomorrow?

STEVE STRICKER: I am playing again tomorrow.

Q. Aaron Rodgers out here obviously.

STEVE STRICKER: Is he out here today?

Q. Out here today, big crowd, a lot of Packers fans. How cool is it to have a guy like that come out to a PGA TOUR Champions pro-am and give back a little bit?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, no doubt. It's great to have him come out here. He's an avid golfer and a good golfer. I've gotten to know him and play with him a couple of times over the years. He's passionate about the game and he's passionate about Wisconsin and Jerry Kelly, and he supports everybody from Wisconsin Badgers, Jerry, like I said. It's cool to see him out here and supporting the tournament and Jerry as well, so it's cool to have him out here.