

STEVE FLESCH (-11, won 2nd playoff hole)

CHRIS RICHARDS: Welcome, Steve Flesch, winner of the 2018 Mitsubishi Electric Classic. First professional win since 2007, I believe. How does it feel to finally break through and get another win?

STEVE FLESCH: Well, obviously it feels fantastic, Chris, but it's just one of those things you never know if you're ever going to win again. Honestly, it's been harder than I anticipated winning on this tour. The guys are so good. That Langer guy is hard to beat. Once again today he was right there. It's fun, it really was fun to come down the stretch with him and Jay, and played the entire day, 36 holes with him and you learn a lot playing with those guys. You learn why they've been so successful, especially Bernhard. Just thrilled to death.

CHRIS RICHARDS: You mentioned how hard it is to beat Bernhard and you got a front row seat playing with him all 36 holes today. Does that add a little pride to know that you went mano a mano with him all day?

STEVE FLESCH: Yeah, because I got off to such a quick start today on my first nine, I was 3 under and they were a couple over and I was like 4 clear of him and Jay. I was like, wow, you know, Bernhard kind of struggled a little bit on the front, first nine holes. I was just kind of surprised. But then sure enough he ended up beating me for the round because I struggled on the back nine. That's just how golf is. But you can see why he's such a great champion and obviously a Hall of Famer because he's steady, he doesn't make mistakes and he hangs in there. That's the secret to playing well.

CHRIS RICHARDS: An unusual day, a grueling day. Is this one of the more grueling days in professional golf that you've had?

STEVE FLESCH: Any 36-hole day is really tough. Being able to use the carts today certainly helped with some of the hills out there here at Sugarloaf. It's more mentally taxing to me than physically taxing, especially if you're in the mix kind of like that all day. I know I'll sleep great tonight, but mentally I'm more exhausted than physically.

Q. Can you talk about your approach after Scott goes into the water there on the second playoff hole, how did that change for you?

STEVE FLESCH: Well, the first two times I played 18 -- well, in regulation, the 54th hole and then first time around, I had virtually the same yardage so I hit a rescue club. And this time around I had 217 to the hole. But when Scott hit it in the water, the most important thing for me was to obviously not hit it in the water. So I just changed my line where I aimed.

I didn't aim it as close to the hole, I made sure that my mistake was going to be long in the bunker and just clear the water. So I just shifted my aim about 15 yards further right. Figured at worst he's still got to get up and down and make 5. I know I could make 4 hopefully, worst 5 if I can at least clear the water.

Come to think of it, it might not have been the smartest play. I honestly should have maybe laid up. As it worked out, great. I just shifted my aim. I hit a 4-iron the second playoff hole just to make sure I had room for error, and my 4-iron I'm more accurate with usually than my hybrid club.

Q. So it seems like you were pretty confident in your out shot there from the sand trap. Did you expect to get that close?

STEVE FLESCH: No, all the elements were kind of lined up to at least get it working toward the hole. I just had to make sure I just honestly didn't hit the ball first because with the water long, obviously that's no good. I swung aggressively, I made sure I just thumped down in the sand behind the ball and you pretty much just let the club do the work, throw it out. I had a good line. Obviously it came out perfectly, got down to about three feet. Even though I knew I just had to two-putt that three-footer, your mind plays tricks on you. So anyway, glad I squeaked it in, yeah.

Q. How do you feel after 16 when you make bogey there and you're playing with Bernhard at that point?

STEVE FLESCH: Well, you know, I fully expected Bernhard to probably birdie 17 because he hit such a good shot in there. I just was so in between the clubs on 16, I had to hit the longer clubs because I didn't know if my iron would clear that front bunker. And that front bunker's no good, but certainly where I hit the 8-iron was even worse. So it was a horrible bogey, it was probably my biggest mistake of the day just not trusting my gut and going ahead and nailing the 9-iron. My adrenaline was obviously going because I haven't been in this position in quite a while. Tried getting a little cute with an 8-iron and I hit a nice cute fat hook over there to the right and made a nice bogey. So you learn. I was pretty mad at myself, but birdie on 18 at least gave me a chance.

Q. Different place in life now, I don't know how this win here compares to your first win on the PGA TOUR, I guess it was New Orleans?

STEVE FLESCH: It was New Orleans and I made -- actually, I made a putt about the length of the eagle putt I had in regulation to win in a playoff in New Orleans. So I thought about that, I thought, hey, you made it in New Orleans for your first win on Tour, why not make one here?

Like I say, you never know if you're going to be able to win again. There's a reason I kind of was doing TV for four years. It wasn't that I lost my passion for the game, but I just kind of got a little sideways on how I was approaching things. So having a second chance and

playing the PGA TOUR Champions has reignited that flame and my desire. I still work as hard, but there's always that doubt whether you're going to actually win again.

Q. When's the last time you birdied the same hole three times in a round?

STEVE FLESCH: Tonight, yeah.

Q. It's one of your favorite all-time holes?

STEVE FLESCH: It is. And I remember when I played the BellSouth when it was here, I played that hole great. I love the second shot. I actually think that being a lefty I can hit kind of a high fade into that green. I think it stops quicker than righties hitting draws in there. So it's a little bit of an awkward second shot, but it fits my eye for some reason.

Q. In your youth I'm sure you've gone marathon days when you played a lot of holes. What's the most holes you've played in a day?

STEVE FLESCH: I think I've played 72 and walked them when I was young just because that's what you did. I couldn't get enough golf. Now with a cart, and as I get older I play less golf just because I figured out how to -- I used to think quantity was better than quality in practicing so I figured if I played 72 holes, that was better than playing 36. Well, maybe two hours of hitting balls and really working on something's better than playing at all, just depends on the weaknesses in your game. It's funny, as you get older you think you get smarter and wiser how to prepare. I've realized that you don't have to play and practice as much as long as you're doing it the right way.

Q. Big party tonight?

STEVE FLESCH: Well, I'm guessing that my wife changed her flight. She was supposed to fly out at 10:30 tonight going home, so I'm guessing she changed it. But no, we're just heading down, I'm flying out in the morning to -- where are we going next week -- Branson, Springfield. I'm going over tomorrow and I was planning on just chilling in the room all day and I don't know. Plans might change tonight, we'll see.

Q. We look forward to you having a nice parking plays here next year.

STEVE FLESCH: I know, it's great. I'm thrilled we're here. I love Sugarloaf. When I saw it was on the schedule three years ago, I was jealous that the guys are playing because I've always loved playing here. So I'm glad that the PGA TOUR Champions is playing here and Sugarloaf's a great venue, Mitsubishi Electric's a great sponsor. Hey, we're 50-year-old guys playing golf, we're fortunate that we have a place to play, so we're thrilled.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Thanks very much and congratulations again.

STEVE FLESCH: Thanks a lot, yeah, appreciate it.