

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**May 16, 2018**



**STEVE STRICKER**

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**Q. One of the feature pairings out there this morning in the pro-am was Steve Stricker playing with Condoleezza Rice, and joining me now is Steve Stricker, second year on the PGA TOUR Champions. Condi was one of the biggest dignitaries you've ever played with, is that right?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Oh, yeah, sure. She's a wonderful woman, inspirational woman, and very smart. You don't want to get into a political battle with her. She's a neat lady and I enjoy her company and we had a good time.

**Q. You stuck to giving her tips. Did she stick to any of those or did they kind of go off to the wayside?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** No, no, she's very willing to learn and a very competitive person, and her game has improved. I first played with her back in 2009. Her game has improved tremendously since then. She loves the game and plays quite a bit. Very passionate about it as well.

**Q. PLAYERS Championship last week, you were one of the great stories. Tied for 8th going into the weekend, tied 23 finish. How good is it to feel -- is it vindication, do you even need that to say, hey, I can compete on the Tour?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** You know, it's always good to show that you can still compete at that level out there. As we get older, I'm 51 now, there's always that little doubt that creeps into your mind whether you can still do it or not. I enjoy playing out there on the regular Tour and I still enjoy coming to play some like Birmingham here, too. I'm looking forward to the week and I'm excited to be here.

**Q. You're killing it on the PGA TOUR Champions, you've gone 2nd, 1st, 1st and 5th. I've got to ask you, what's the difference between a course like this on the PGA TOUR Champions and the regular PGA TOUR?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I think mainly just length and the severity with which they set it up at times. You know, the pin locations are maybe a little bit tougher on the regular Tour. Length for sure is a little bit longer on the regular Tour. But this course here is a good one. It's in great shape. You've got to watch what you're doing around here, too. For the most part, it's just the length difference and some of the tougher pin locations.

**Q. 7,200 yards, it's still pretty good. When you're on the Tour and you're a guy who's your age, just turned 51, how do you differentiate between wanting to stay on the PGA TOUR one week and go to the PGA TOUR Champions? What's the rationale?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, I don't have that rationale yet. I don't know where I should be going. That's been part of the problem, I guess, in my decision making. You know, it's been kind of just pick where I want to go play and enjoy coming to play. I played here last year, I enjoyed it. It's a great area that we stay in here in this area. I've got my family with me, my wife and kids, and we're enjoying it here. It's a nice spot to be.

**Q. Last year was your first year, and actually you look at your stats, this was one of your worst tournaments. Going into this week, how do you feel and what could be the difference in your game?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, this has been my worst finish on Tour, this tournament here last year. So I need to improve on that a little bit, just keep doing what I've been doing, keeping the ball in play. I haven't been putting the greatest of late, so hopefully that comes around this weekend. Just keep doing what I'm doing and hopefully I get some more putts to fall.