

**STEVE STRICKER**

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**JACKIE SERVAIS:** (in progress)... event here in Sioux Falls, how are you feeling?

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, a little wet, but I feel good. Nice to be here for the first time here in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. I don't think I've ever been to Sioux Falls, so I'm excited to be here and support Andy North, a close friend of mine and (inaudible) people (inaudible) yesterday and just a great group of people for a great cause and happy to be here.

**JACKIE SERVAIS:** Yesterday you probably didn't see much of the course, but from what you did see (inaudible.)

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, it's really good. It's obviously wet from unfortunately Mother Nature, but I was able to -- I played seven or eight holes and I was able to drive around and play the remainder of them. Or I just drove around and looked at them, I didn't play them. But I got a feel for it in the seven holes that I was able to play. I think everybody this week is behind the eight-ball practice-wise and playing a new course. You're going to just have to adapt and we're going to miss some shots (inaudible) that should be (inaudible.) The greens are pretty severe and undulated. It's just, yeah, it will be plod your way around and see.

**JACKIE SERVAIS:** You've obviously had great success here on the Champions Tour with five top-5s in six events. How do you balance playing both tours?

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, it's been fun. I still feel like I belong and should be playing out on the regular Tour, whether that's just my warped thinking or not, but I do enjoy my time out here as well. It's fun to see the guys that I grew up playing with and idolizing when I was first out on Tour. But yeah, it's been a little bit of a challenge only in my own thinking, I think, trying to come up with a plan on which tour I should be and that's been the hard part.

**Q. How do you figure -- do you figure that out as you go along, your schedule for the year, or do you kind of map it out early?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I kind of figure it out as I go, I think, and see where I'm playing and how I'm playing, I guess. What courses I enjoy going to, what courses still suit my game, stuff like that. It's been kind of a mixed bag. It's been tough to make a decision at times trying to make up my mind where to go and what I should do. There's a (inaudible) for me out here, like I said only in my own thinking, no one's making me feel that way. It's just I feel like I should be out here trying to do some things out here. I won a couple times, I feel like there's potential for me out here to play well and vice versa on the regular Tour, I still feel like I have -- my game's strong enough to compete out there and that's the biggest stage we

have in golf. To miss out on some of those events, I still feel like I am missing out, so that's what still draws me out there.

**Q. Could you touch on a few things that are different typically with the courses you play on that tour versus this tour?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** (inaudible) I think the setup and the courses are just a bit easier on this tour, and you can look at scoring averages and that kind of proves to that point. Other than that, you know, obviously crowd sizes are bigger out on the regular tour, but some places out on this tour it's very well received and great turnouts and courses can be tough out here at times. So it depends each week, I think, where we're playing. I would say (inaudible) is slightly easier, the courses are probably easier, and it's not the demeanor but just the vibe out here on this tour is a little bit more relaxed and (inaudible.)

**Q. What the biggest difference, just the fact that -- I realize (inaudible) inside the ropes, but there just seems to be more of a friendly atmosphere.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, for sure, there is. That's some of the difficulty I've had on this tour, I think, is it's so intense on the regular tour and you're grinding and then you come to here and it's a totally different atmosphere. It takes a little bit of an adjustment to get used to that. That's part of the learning curve, I think, that I've had to deal with, too, is just trying to understand both tours, that they are different. Kind of embrace the differences and still, once you get inside the ropes, it's no different. Trying to win a golf tournament I feel like are the same nerves, the same emotions that you feel even trying to win on the regular Tour.

**Q. How much did Andy North influence you to come play in this tournament, especially with Ryder Cup coming up next week?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** That's the only reason I'm here, because of Andy North. He's a boyhood idol of mine, a friend now, he lives in Madison. His relationship with Sanford I've gotten to know a little bit, too. I shouldn't say it's just Andy, but it's Sanford as well. Usually this time of year I'm not playing that much and next week is the Ryder Cup, so any other event I probably (inaudible) just because of the Ryder Cup overseas. It's why I'm here, it's why I'm here, because of Andy and Sanford. Obviously every event does great things for the community and I know what they're going to be doing here with the money raised. It's all for great causes. Don't get me wrong, I'm extremely happy to be here and supporting the event, but it's because of Andy and Sanford that I'm here.

**Q. (Inaudible) the Ryder Cup was at Hazeltine (inaudible). Feel this might be the best in terms of a team that you've ever seen?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, it's going to be -- I've never been over to Paris and to the golf course that we're going to be at, but I understand it's a course that's going to provide great theater. The last four or five holes are all kind of in a big circle around a pond or a lake. Spectators are going to be up high, so it's kind of a stadium atmosphere.

And these Ryder Cups are so much fun. They're highly anticipated with the two teams wanting to win so badly and fans getting into it and the players getting into it. I was watching some replays just the last few weeks of these last few Ryder Cups and just so much emotion from the players' standpoint. It's fun to be at, fun to take part of and excited to be going over there. And the teams are strong. The U.S. team is playing well. The European team on their home soil on a course that they've played before, so they're going to have, I think, the advantage over us. But our guys are young, they're fearless, they've been friends for a while, they come together as a group and they really enjoy being with one another, so that means something, too. I'm excited for next week already.

**Q. Can you talk about the -- (inaudible) nerve wracking first tee in your life regardless of majors or anything else, could you talk about that and also the team aspect of it, which is something you guys never get to do?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** It is, it's very nerve wracking. Playing at Augusta National is another nerve-wracking moment because you hear all about the history and stories behind that. But playing for your team and other teammates is probably the most nerve wracking, you know. Or playing for the USA, I should say, and your teammates. It's something that you put on yourself and it takes a few Ryder Cups to kind of get used to it or President Cups to kind of get a good feel and say, hey, this is just golf. You still get nervous but it's just you deal with it, find a way to deal with it better.

But it is, it's a lot of fun. I've always said that it's one of those weeks that when you're going through it, you're like it's stressful and leading up to it is stressful and you want your game in good shape. You go through all the stress during this week and you're like, "Why am I doing this," when it's going on, but once it's over, you're like, "Wow, I want to do that again." That's what drives these guys each and every year to be part of these teams, because it is so much fun and these relationships that we build and experience during the week last a lifetime and are very special.

**Q. Despite the rain, how do you keep yourself prepared if you can't go out when it's raining?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, good question. I was looking on my phone today if there was any indoor driving domes or anything in the area. (Inaudible) if you know of any place where you can get out of the rain and hit some balls.

It's just really about, you know, having some fun. We went shopping a little, my wife and I went shopping a little bit this morning, kind of relaxing. And then tomorrow's the day where you can probably give yourself some extra time out here and loosen up well, try to test out some of the conditions in the practice areas chipping and putting, hit some extra balls probably just because we missed a day today and we're old. We're going to get stiff laying around, so try not to lay around and get too stiff and try to give yourself some extra time tomorrow.