

STEVE STRICKER (-13)

Q. Have you ever won a tournament without playing the whole course?

STEVE STRICKER: No, I've never felt so unprepared in my life playing a golf tournament. You usually get around it a couple times at least. But you know what, there's something to be said about that, too, where you can just kind of plod your way around, kind of learn as you go around and take each shot really one shot at a time and keep plugging away. That's kind of what my mentality was this week. I didn't know some of the spots to miss it, I wasn't very familiar with it, but all in all, it worked out.

Q. What a great start today. That had to kind of relax you a little bit?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I came out feeling really good, really comfortable. Hit two really good shots and really played the first five, six, seven holes really solidly. Then once you get that lead, you know, it's like a different mentality sets in. You're trying not to make a mistake. It gets a little bit harder to play. I did my best. I was just trying to make pars and keep moving along, so it was good to hang on and a good finish.

Q. You mentioned that Andy North's friendship was kind of the main reason why you're here. So just describe the feeling, what it means to win his tournament.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, he's a special man. I grew up idolizing him in Wisconsin. He was a guy that we looked up to and the winner of two U.S. Opens. I've gotten to be real close with him and friends with him over the years. So it's very special for me to win here. To win the inaugural event is really cool, too. But what a fantastic week and what a turnout of people and crowds. You guys put on a great show. The city was -- we stayed downtown, it was a lot of fun. The whole week was very special.

Q. Does it feel like something you would be coming back to next year?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I hope so. I hope it works out. I'm going to try to maybe play a little bit more on the regular tour next year, but when you win at a place, it always gives you some very good feelings and memories. Andy being here, I'll be back for sure. I mean, there's no doubt I'm going to be back and I look forward to coming back.