

**ROUND 2 INTERVIEW**  
**June 22, 2019**



**STEVE FLESCH ( -11)**

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**Q. Great round. It must have felt really good to get a birdie on that last one. Can you talk about it?**

**STEVE FLESCH:** Yeah, you know, I played very good the last two days actually. Hit a lot of good shots, had a lot of opportunities. Greens are perfect, and today I made three more than I did yesterday. So two good rounds.

And it's nice because I haven't particularly played well here in my two previous showings, so nice to play well this year.

**Q. What's going better this time around? What have you figured out?**

**STEVE FLESCH:** Nothing. I'm just playing better. You know, I had last week off. I didn't play any golf, didn't hit any shots. I was doing the Fox coverage for TV for the U.S. Open, so I didn't even have my clubs with me. I flew home from there and didn't even fly up here until Wednesday, so I had a nice week and a half off from playing any golf, although I was immersed in maybe the biggest championship going on in the world.

Learned a lot from those guys just watching Brooks Koepka, I had him on Sunday, and how they go about it. I think I was getting a little too worked up putting pressure on myself playing. He looks like he's not trying and he's winning majors. I just kind of took a little bit of that and said, you know, let's just play golf, you've done this your whole life, and for two days it's been working out well.

**Q. Is it easy to take the foot off the gas as long as you've done it?**

**STEVE FLESCH:** No, that's the thing. From years past I've never particularly made a lot of birdies here, and you have to make putts and you have to keep your foot on the gas. On this tour, since it's only three rounds, it's not so much a shootout, but you have to just be aggressive. You know, that's never been kind of my MO in my 20 years playing the tour. I'm kind of a plodder and conservative and not a big risk taker, and out here I've had to change that.

So my screw-ups are because I haven't been very comfortable playing like that. I'm not even saying I played aggressively the first two days, I just kind of played the way I normally play, but a few more putts went in today and I played a nice round.

**Q. Every group that comes in, there's a new leader.**

**STEVE FLESCH:** Yeah, that's kind of the MO here, and probably why I haven't particularly played well in the past. I don't think I've putted particularly well and today I made, you know, some 15-, 20-footers. Not all days will those go in, those are hard to make. It's usually days you shoot seven, eight under that you're making a lot of five- and six-footers, but today I made some nice long ones, especially on the par-5s, which have been a little bit of a problem for me this year. So, you know, one of those days I played well and I'm looking forward to playing tomorrow.

**Q. It's like watching the Koepkas of the world gave you a different mentality, like you can go out and have fun a little bit more now?**

**STEVE FLESCH:** Well, I've been having fun, I just haven't been shooting low scores. You know, I've been shooting two, three under, and out here that's kind of par each day. Today a couple nice putts went in.

But I hate the word patience because in no way, shape or form am I great at it, but that's kind of how you have to play this game. That's what Brooks literally -- I watched him for three days last week out of four and he literally looks like, I play good or bad, it is what it is. It was fun to watch. So I'm glad I'm playing against guys my own age and not guys their age, I can tell you that.

**Q. If you can get Stricker or Kelly, they're both threatening down the stretch here, what would that be like tomorrow, and do you like playing in front of -- it may not be as big a crowd --**

**STEVE FLESCH:** Well, I can imagine I probably wouldn't be the guy everybody's rooting for in the group, which is fine, but they're easy guys to play with, very encouraging, they compliment good shots. Yeah, it's fine if I play with them here. At least there will be a lot of people out there. There will be a lot of nice energy in the day.

**Q. How many events do you do for Fox? Just the Open?**

**STEVE FLESCH:** I just do the Open. I used to do five before I turned 50, and now my boss at Fox, my executive producer, Mark Loomis, is nice enough to let me do just the U.S. Open. So everything else conflicts; the Women's Open, the U.S. Amateur, our Senior Open I'm playing next week. Everything else conflicts with a tournament on our tour, so he's nice enough, one, to let me keep my job, and two, allow me to do only one week a year.