

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
June 22, 2019



STEVE STRICKER (-10)

Q. Steve, great round today. Let's start and talk about 16. What an incredible shot that was.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, thank you. I needed that. As it turned out, I was thinking it, Nicki was thinking it. I got in here, Mario said he was thinking about chipping it in there. So we all must have been on the same wavelength because I needed something like that.

It would have been nice to get one of those last two on 17 or 18, but a good finish. Tough day. You know, it was gusty, swirling wind. It was tough to pick the right club, so it made for a bit more of a challenge today.

Q. It's night and day over your second round last year, but you still have work to do. How do you summarize what you were able to do today versus what you have to do tomorrow?

STEVE STRICKER: You know, again, I'm in position to try to win this tomorrow and that's a good feeling. There's a lot of guys bunched up there, though. I imagine somebody's going to come out of that pack with a good round, shoot a good round tomorrow, and that means that's what I'm going to have to do if I want to have a chance to win.

So hopefully we can dodge some of the weather. I see we're going to go early and hopefully the showers and the thunderstorms stay away, but hopefully we get it in.

Q. You must have felt a presence out there with Jack on the grounds. I mean, this place was hopping today.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it was unbelievable the energy and the atmosphere that was out there today. It's so cool to see, and it looks like everybody's having a great time. A lot of people at 17, looks like they're having a really good time. It's fun to see everybody here and supporting what we're doing and having fun and giving back to the community, so it's all good.

Q. Any highlights out there today that kept you in a good mind?

STEVE STRICKER: Not really. You know, I played the par 5s extremely well this week and have not really made -- I think I've only made one birdie on a par 4 and one bogey. So it's -- if I'm going to contend tomorrow and have a chance to win, I'm going to have to make some birdies on par 4s. I can't rely on all the par 5s like I did the first two days here. Hopefully, get some birdies in on the par 4s or 3s tomorrow.

Q. Seems like on a lot of those par 4s you're kissing edges, though.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I had some opportunities today, had some good looks at it. I putted really good early on. I scrambled early. I made like two or three good saves in the first five holes that kept me in the game and enabled me to shoot this round that I ended up shooting, so that was good to see. Putter felt good, I hit a lot of good putts again today.

Q. Did your win at Regions, did that give you good like experience to draw on for tomorrow, kind of chase after something?

STEVE STRICKER: For sure, yeah. Anytime you can win, no matter what level, you can draw on that experience knowing that you've done it. And it's going to be -- it will be a challenge tomorrow. Like I said, there's a lot of guys up there and they're going to go out and have a go-for-broke attitude, and so that's -- that puts the pressure on you to go out there and perform and make some birdies.

Q. Do you look at the board tomorrow? What's your mindset in a final round when you're at the top of the leaderboard? Do you watch, do you look?

STEVE STRICKER: Oh, yeah, I'll be watching. I enjoy that part, who's up there, who's playing well, what do I need to do. I'll be in that last group it looks like, so that will be fun, that's always a great experience.

But yeah, I'll be watching all the way around. And you hear the cheers, you know who's making birdies and who's playing well for the most part. But yeah, I like to watch.

Q. I think it was in the notes before the tournament that all three winners of this thing so far have come from behind the last day. You obviously have expectations in this tournament. That means there's been excitement the last day. Is that something you're pretty proud of and is that something you think will happen again tomorrow?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I sure hope so, because I'm behind, I guess. You know, this course lends itself to some exciting finishes, I think. It's kind of a shootout course. You have to play aggressively, there's birdies to be made. There's eagles you can make on some of these par 5s, they're reachable, so a lot can happen in these closing holes. That's what makes it exciting and fun to play here.