

STEVE STRICKER (-5 through 17)

Q. First of all, how far have you got on 18?

STEVE STRICKER: We hit our tee balls. We are in the middle of the fairway on 18.

Q. Do you know how far you are on the pin?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, we have 140 yards to the hole.

Q. Okay. Is -- I mean, are you bummed? You've got to be bummed not to finish, but I mean, you still feel like you've got to enjoy this round today?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, bummed that we didn't get to finish because that meant we could have slept in a little bit tomorrow, and then now we'll have to get out here just to hit that shot. Hopefully, just one putt. And then we won't tee off until 1:00. Maybe go back and I don't know what we'll do. Kill time, eat breakfast a few times or something. Yeah, it would have been nice to finish.

Q. Steve, could you talk about the hole-in-one a little bit? The shot on the replay that's on Twitter and YouTube, it seems like it takes a long time for that ball to go in, so can you kind of describe what was going on there?

STEVE STRICKER: We had 173 to the front. What was it to the hole there, like 184?

Q. Okay.

STEVE STRICKER: What's that?

Q. Somebody put online 182, so I don't know.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I think it was 84. Yeah, we had a 6-iron out to start with and then some breeds came up a little bit and I knew the 6-iron was borderline, a little bit too much. Then once that breeze, we felt that, we thought that 7-iron was going to be the right club.

Came off good, it was just a little bit left of the hole and then it broke -- it went in with great speed. You know, from what I could tell, it wasn't going too fast or anything, it just disappeared.

So yeah, that's always something very unexpected. You don't expect that or see that very

often. Yeah, that was a good way to start the day, with a couple birdies at 1 and 2 and then making a one at No. 7, so it's a good start.

Q. Did that ball roll out quite a ways after it landed, or how far would you say?

STEVE STRICKER: No, it really didn't. It landed, I don't know, about three, four steps short of the hole is all. So no, it didn't roll out that far.

Q. Steve, you played this golf course quite a bit during your days on the Tour, especially when it was a WGC event. What do you like most about playing this course?

STEVE STRICKER: I think it just is old school, you know? It's right there in front of you. It's long, it's tough, there's not a lot of let-up holes. You have to drive it well, hit good iron shots. And if you do drive it in the trees, you can advance it up the fairway usually pretty far up around the green somewhere and then you've got to try to get it up and down with your short game. It's just a great old golf course that's in unbelievable shape, and hopefully we dry up a little bit overnight. But it's a good one.

Q. There weren't a whole lot of guys under par, at least the last time I looked. What -- was there something particularly challenging today?

STEVE STRICKER: It's got some length to it. The rough is high enough to present a problem. Yeah, it's tough, it's a tough track. Fortunately, the greens are holding, otherwise it would be a lot tougher. But now they'll really hold because of this rain.

Yeah, like I said, there's no real let-up here. There's only two par 5s, par 70. Usually par 70 courses with two par 5s are always a little bit tougher. It's just two less scoring opportunities on those par 5s, another element that makes it a little bit harder.

Q. Has this summer been one of those times where you know you're playing well and you literally, you can't wait to get to the next tournament and start playing golf? Is that where you are?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, you know, I'm excited to go to these tournaments and play, but I also -- it's been -- I've played a lot this year so far. I think this is my 16th event between the two tours, so I've played quite a bit. I had a week off last week, probably going to have a week or two off after this, so kind of excited to do nothing for a couple weeks. Yeah, I'm liking what I'm doing. My game has felt a little bit better the last couple of months and I'm excited to go play.

Q. Are you going over for the Senior British at Lytham?

STEVE STRICKER: I'm leaning on no. I sent in my entry --

Q. Just the fatigue factor?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, just it's a long ways to go, I guess. Got a trip to make at the end of the year with the Presidents Cup team over to Australia. Yeah, I don't know, I'm on the fence yet. I guess we'll see what happens here this week and go from there.

Q. If you had a chance to win a fourth senior major in a year, would that make a difference in your decision?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, maybe, but I've got a long ways to go here and first things first, I guess.

Q. I know you're one of the younger ones, but is what's going to happen tomorrow, that's going to be hard for a lot of these guys I would assume?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it's hard for anybody no matter what your age is. It makes for a long day. So you're going to make sure you get your rest whenever you can. Yeah, you're right, it does. Even when I was younger on Tour, you had days like this.

Q. So I assume that means you're not going to be toasting Fred tonight?

STEVE STRICKER: No, I will not be there to see Fred get the nice recognition that he deserves. No, I won't be there.

Q. Steve, I know you talked about your ace, but could you talk about your par saves on 10 and 12?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah. No. 10 I drove it in the right rough, hacked out, something underneath some trees and got it up in front of the green in the rough. Hit an okay chip shot to maybe about eight feet. Kind of a straight putt right back up the hill, so I left it in a good spot. Made that.

And then 12, kind of pulled my -- I tried to hit just a little 6-iron and chase it up the green, the middle of the green. Wasn't even going at the pin and I kind of tugged it a little bit and turned it over and landed on the green and rolled up against thick stuff in the rough. It wasn't a very good lie and hit a pretty good chip shot that really didn't release, maybe at about 10 feet. I saw one of my playing partners, I think it was Retief Goosen's putt come down on a similar line, so I knew what it was going to do. Put a good stroke on it, made it.

Q. How important were those two saves?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, those are huge. Anytime you got a good round going, you don't want to give anything back. So those are big saves and key saves in the whole scheme of things when you want to keep a good round going.