



STEVE STRICKER

Q. Steve, just your thoughts on coming back here to Naples, it's an area you know well. Different golf course, though.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, excited to be back here. This is another home, a second home for us. We've kind of grown to really love the Naples area and the people, so we're excited to be back. Had a good run at Chubb Classic last year, and although we're at a different place, I truly enjoy the area and excited to be here.

Q. I'm guessing you've not seen the golf course, or did you have a chance to see it before?

STEVE STRICKER: Yesterday, I went around a few holes yesterday knowing that today could be a little bit of a washout. And I'm not in tomorrow's pro-am, so I got to see some of it yesterday. It's good. The greens are small, it's in great shape. Depending on the wind and the weather, it could play totally different. But I think there's going to be some birdies made out there. The course isn't overly long, and now that it's soft after today's rain, guys will take advantage of that and probably put up some good numbers.

Q. I saw the comment you made on Twitter about the weather or something like that factoring into this. What was the decision to come play here?

STEVE STRICKER: The weather, no doubt. We can sleep in our own bed. Yeah, so it's -- I looked at the weather. I really wanted to play L.A. Nothing against Chubb, but I'm trying to play as much as I can on Tour. But then after going through Pebble last week and dealing with some of the weather issues there, looked at the forecast at L.A. and they're supposed to get a couple inches of rain and still cool conditions, I just thought it would be more fun. It's kind of the time I'm at in my career, let's go where I can have some fun, enjoy the weather. We love the area here, so there was more than just the weather involved in the decision, but that was part of it.

Q. Congrats on getting named to the Presidents Cup vice captaincy. Just your thoughts on that. I know it's been talked about, the Ryder Cup 2020. Did you ask anybody on your phone call what the timeline may be on that one?

STEVE STRICKER: No, still waiting to hear on that. Excited to be a part of Tiger's team, and to go to Australia at the end of the year will be fun. It's a great venue. And yeah, just to continue to be a part of these teams is pretty special for me. 51, almost 52 years old, to be involved with that and to be there watching these guys and helping them in any way, shape or form that I can is still really exciting for me to do and I look forward doing it and being a

part of it.

Q. Bernhard's had a lot of success everywhere on this tour. Just your thoughts on him maintaining this level at 61 years old.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it's incredible. He's still the guy to beat out here and he's showing that the first couple events on this Champions Tour. He won last week and had a strong finish at Hualalai. He seems to be the guy that we've still got to beat. He's still motivated and he works at it very hard. He's committed to being out here and playing well. You know he's going to be around there towards the end of the tournament.

Q. As you said, you want to play more on the regular Tour this year. Did you take away anything from the events you played so far that you think is going to help you as you try to play more?

STEVE STRICKER: I've been stinking it up a little bit so far this year, to tell you the truth. Had a hard time getting the ball in the hole, bottom line. A couple wayward shots here and there have cost me, and not making some putts, my short game hasn't been that sharp. So I've been working hard, spent a lot of time so far and continue to work at it. Hopefully get something going this week. I would like to see that ball going in the hole a little bit more, see if that can happen here.

Q. Is Toby someone you normally played with at Pebble?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah.

Q. How did that come about, how did that relationship start?

STEVE STRICKER: You know, the relationship started quite a few years ago. He came to play at Summerfest, a music festival in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He got in touch with me and wanted to play golf. So I drove down -- I never met the guy before. I drove down to Milwaukee and played golf with him down there before one of his shows. Then we went to his show that night, spent some time with him on his bus and all that. It kind of blossomed from there. We went to see him play at a couple other venues in Wisconsin, outside of Wisconsin, and then we started playing in this AT&T together. I think this is the fourth or fifth year we played together.

We put on a champions event in Madison and he's coming to play in our celebrity foursome on Saturday this year and do a concert on Friday. We have a concert series that we do for our event, so he's playing in Madison this year for us. He's just become a really good friend and good guy, and we've had a lot of fun together playing in that AT&T. So yeah, it's been going on for a little while, but good guy.

Q. Thoughts on the rules changes? Any that you've experienced that you liked or not liked?

STEVE STRICKER: You know, I call a rules official now every time that I have an issue because I don't know them. I really don't know, I really don't know what they are yet. I'm starting to get a handle on a couple of them. I like some of them. I like the fact that -- like Pebble last week, we were able to tap down spike marks. Now, that makes a big difference there and that's fair for everybody. Everybody gets to do it. And it doesn't seem to be holding up play at all.

The other ones, dropping at knee height, they're all pretty basic. They're nothing drastic, I don't think. Really, it's been a pretty seamless and painless transition, I think.

Yeah, but I still call a rules official. Tried to give Kisner a ruling and if he would have listened to me, I would have got him DQ'd. That's what leads to me calling a rules official every time I'm in a predicament.

Q. I guess the yardage book one?

STEVE STRICKER: I don't know about that one.

Q. I don't know totally the deal, either.

CHRIS RICHARDS: I think it's the maximum size of the green in the book is now smaller than what it had been.

STEVE STRICKER: And it can't be as deep, so you're not getting as much detail as you were probably.

Q. And Rocco was saying if my caddie blows his knee out and I come in and caddie for you, I can't give it to you.

STEVE STRICKER: There's still some really -- you've got to wonder about some of the decisions, who makes them. Really, does that really make any sense? No. So there's some common sense things that still are out the window.

Q. And they tweaked some of it already with the caddie being behind the player?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, well, they saw where that was going in a hurry. Anyways. Debate that all day long.