

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
March 28, 2019



STEVE STRICKER

Q. Steve, first of all, going back to last year, in your mind what worked so well for you to be able to come out on top?

STEVE STRICKER: It's a difficult course, and if I remember right, we had some wind a few of the days, a couple of the days and the greens were firm and fast. You just had to really take care of the ball and manage your game around here. There's some challenging holes, some difficult holes, and some holes you need to take advantage of, too. But it's just paying attention around the greens because they're very difficult. They're very fast.

And it's much like Augusta. If you get on the wrong side, you're going to pay the price. So you've got to know where your spots are to miss and where you can be aggressive and other times where you have to lay back.

Q. Is there an extra challenge in repeating as champion or do you let that even enter your mindset at all?

STEVE STRICKER: You know, I'm not really worried about trying to repeat. Obviously I'm just coming here to try to play well, try to get in contention and try to hopefully come out on top at the end. You know, it's a long week. You've got three days of golf and a lot can happen. So I'm just trying to play well and see how that -- and let it take care of itself mainly.

Q. You had a chance to kind of come down the 18th and, I mean, no victory is a sure thing but you kind of had it in hand there, and then the special trophy presentation. What are those special memories you remember about being here last year?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, when the guy delivers -- the veteran delivers the trophy through the air, it's pretty special, you know. I got emotional watching that and just never had that happen to me before. Just a really neat experience. Got to shake his hand.

And a lot of great people involved with this tournament, a lot of military service people, veterans. Just a unique experience I had last year and something that I won't forget.

Q. Have you seen this tournament just continue to grow ever since it brought on the title sponsor and anything like that?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah. You know, this is my third year here. I've enjoyed coming here. I enjoy the area, enjoy the course. It's been a wonderful tournament. And I haven't seen it grow, I guess, because I've only been here three years, but it's been good. It's been something that I look forward to coming back to each and every year.

Q. And why do the players just brag about this course so much? I mean, what's so special about it?

STEVE STRICKER: I think it's the greens and the layout. The layout is really nice, but the greens are pretty special. They're in great shape. From what I understand, the course is in good shape. I haven't been out there yet, but the greens are pure, they're fast and it adds another challenge when they're that fast. Like I was saying, you have to pay attention to where your misses are and where you can be aggressive at at times, too.

Q. Kind of a competitive but fun mix at the pro-am. What kind of things do you try to take into tomorrow's first round here today?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, just get the conditions down and see how it's playing. I haven't been here since last year. I haven't played, as I said, since last year. I guess just to get a feel for what's going on here, and the speed of the greens look like they're fast again, so just get a good feel. Meet four new partners, pro-am players, it's always a good time.