

FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW
May 13, 2019



STEVE STRICKER (-18)

Q. Interesting what you said there a couple minutes ago about why you wanted to beat Bernhard. Can you expound on that?

STEVE STRICKER: Well, I mean, he's been such a dominant force out here on the Champions Tour for 11 years, ever since he's been out here. Someone that we all look up to and idolize. He just handles himself with such class and grace and such a true gentleman of the game. He didn't have his best stuff today. I thought he would come at me a little more than what he did, but I kind of -- I wanted to win and I wanted to beat him and I wanted to beat everybody today. That was my motivating factor, I think. But it was finally good to get this under my belt, get a major win out here on the Champions Tour. Never was able to do that on the regular tour, so this is the next best thing.

Q. Do you feel validated?

STEVE STRICKER: Well --

Q. Is that the right word?

STEVE STRICKER: No, not really. I mean, I wish I would have won one out there; nothing can compare to that, I think, winning a major out on the regular tour. But to win one out here, this is the next level, I guess. To show myself that I'm able to handle the heat down the end on the last day. I hit some really quality shots today, so I'll take a lot from that.

Q. Your lead got big real quick. How hard was it to not look at that and stay within?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I knew I had a five- or six-shot lead at the turn. I got off to a good start. Could have made a couple more putts, but just my goal was not to make a mistake today, not to make a bogey, and I did that. One bogey for the week, which I'm very proud of. I figured if I could shoot 3 or 4 under it's going to put the pressure on somebody else to shoot 6 or 7 or 8 under. That was my goal today.

Q. When you psych yourself up to play Sunday with a lead, how tough is it not to play, turn around, wait that long and do what you did?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it was a long day yesterday, and I didn't sleep very well last night just probably from laying around all day yesterday. I got a good practice session in yesterday, which I think I cleared up a few things in my head. I putted and hit some balls and I had a good practice session, so that made me feel good last night and going into today. I used it as a little prep for today and it worked out.