

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
August 18, 2020



STEVE STRICKER

Q. So, yeah, I mean, you just said it, what a setting, huh?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it's a beautiful place. We've been taking some drives around the last couple evenings, just taking a look around. Going down to next to a river, watch some guys catch a brown trout last night, which was pretty cool. It's just a beautiful area. We're happy to be here, we're lucky to be here and we're looking forward to the next couple weeks.

Q. What do you know about like the area, this golf course?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it looks like a great destination spot, doesn't it? I've been looking into how many visitors they get on an annual basis and what I was reading, it's over 7 million visitors each year. It looks like a lot of people come here, enjoy the beautiful place. There's a lot to do, you know, from water activities all the way around to playing golf, and there's a lot of great golf courses here that Johnny Morris has got going and put together and we're playing a good one here with Buffalo Ridge. So excited to be here and looking forward to this week and next week.

Q. How's your game right now?

STEVE STRICKER: You know, it wasn't very good last week, I know that. I struggled getting the ball in the fairway. Just never really got anything going, didn't putt very well, spent a lot of time in the trees and you can't do that around Firestone. Hopefully, clean that up a little bit this week.

Q. Was it nice to see Jerry get the major?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, very cool to see Jerry win. Yeah, he played great. That course is right up his alley, if you can drive it straight. He drove it in the fairway a lot and his iron play looked good. He always putts well. So it was good to see him knock off that major and I was happy for him and his family.

Q. You guys get to celebrate at all?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, you know, we flew here and we talked a little bit, but then it's all back to business again this week. It's a quick turnaround, but yeah, I congratulated him. It was cool to see him win.

Q. I saw Davis Love last week, when he was sort of towards the top of the leaderboard, he did some media and he was talking about essentially, and we've

talked to you about this, but he said something like Strick and Furyk and I kind of keep talking about when we're going to make the move to PGA TOUR Champions. Have you guys thought any more about that? What's sort of the state of that discussion?

STEVE STRICKER: You know, my move was going to be after the Ryder Cup, now we've got another year of that. So I think I'll end up playing some more out on the regular tour next year, which was supposed to be fully probably out here on the Champions Tour. So now that the Ryder Cup got pushed back, it's going to push back my full-time commitment out here on the Champions Tour.

Yeah, it's bittersweet, I was looking to spend some more time out here, but I get to stay out on the tour one more year to watch these younger players and get to know some of the buys. I played a practice round with Collin Morikawa at the PGA Championship. So there's some guys that I really don't know all that well, now it gives me the opportunity to go back out there and get to know some of these younger players and some guys that I don't know very well. It will just push off this Champions Tour one more year for full playing time. Look forward to the year.

Q. Will you be here both weeks?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I'm going to play both weeks.

Q. Just give me a thought on kind of back-to-back, same city.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it's a great opportunity for us to be able to play here two weeks in a row. Literally, six rounds of competitive golf in eight days. We don't ever get to see that and it's a great opportunity and we're happy and lucky to be able to do that. We thank Johnny Morris for giving us the opportunity to be here and the tour for putting this together for us to be able to play. Yeah, knock on wood, we keep -- the testing has been good and the players have been responding, doing their part, you know, and we haven't had too many cases out here. So we continue to do that and it gives us the opportunity to play.

Q. The last thing, so with Zach winning the Payne Stewart Award, can you just give me sort of a thought on Zach winning and why he's deserving?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, Zach is the ultimate professional when it comes to golf. Zach is a friend of mine, has been a friend of mine for -- since we started playing together out here. And I look up to Zach in so many different ways. He's obviously a great player, a major winner, a great family man. He's got a lot of faith in the Lord and he just, he epitomizes what truly professionalism is all about and that's what I admire about Zach. He's really well deserving of the award. I've been to his charity event in Iowa a couple times and he does a wonderful job, him and Kim, with putting that on, with raising money for the local charity there in Iowa. He's the ultimate professional and a great reflection of the Payne Stewart Award.