



Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship

Firestone Country Club (South Course) | Akron, Ohio | June 24-27, 2021

Final-Round Notes

Sunday, June 27, 2021

Course Setup: Par 70 / 7,085 yards (R4 average: 73.377; Cumulative: 73.204)

Weather: Mostly sunny with highs in the upper 80s with SSW winds 7-14 mph.

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Summary: Steve Stricker went wire-to-wire at the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship to capture his third major title on PGA TOUR Champions. He finished at 7-under, six strokes ahead of runner-up Jerry Kelly, who was looking to defend his title at Firestone Country Club. Fred Couples and David Toms finished T3 at even par.

	Player	To Par	Scores	Money	Charles Schwab Cup
1.	Steve Stricker	-7	63-68-72-70 – 273 (-7)	\$450,000	6th
2.	Jerry Kelly	-1	69-70-68-72 – 279 (-1)	\$264,000	1st
T3.	Fred Couples	E	72-73-68-67 – 280 (E)	\$197,250	12th
T3.	David Toms	E	72-72-66-70 – 280 (E)	\$197,250	18th
5.	Ernie Els	+2	72-67-71-72 – 282 (+2)	\$142,500	2nd

Quick Links:

- [Leaderboard](#)
- PGATOURmedia.com (transcripts and other resources available for download)

Steve Stricker, 63-68-72-70 – 273 (-7)

- Stricker birdied three of his last four holes on the front nine to shoot 2-under 33, but bogeys on Nos. 11 and 13 trimmed his lead to two strokes. Stricker parred each of the last five holes to post even-par 70.
- Stricker led the field in birdies (16) and made the fewest bogeys this week (7).
- Stricker becomes the second player on PGA TOUR Champions this season to go wire-to-wire (Phil Mickelson, 2020 Charles Schwab Series at Ozarks National).
- Stricker becomes the third wire-to-wire champion in Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship history, joining Arnold Palmer (1985) and Bernhard Langer (2015).
- In his wire-to-wire win, Stricker led by three or more strokes after all four rounds.
 - The last time a player on PGA TOUR Champions held a lead of three or more strokes after each round in a wire-to-wire win at a 72-hole tournament was Jim Thorpe (2003 Charles Schwab Cup Championship).

- The last time a player on PGA TOUR Champions held a lead of three or more strokes after each round in a wire-to-wire win at any tournament was Bernhard Langer (2016 Chubb Classic, 54 holes).
- This is Stricker's third senior major victory (2019 Regions Tradition, 2019 U.S. Senior Open) in only his 10th appearance in a major on PGA TOUR Champions.
- This is Stricker's seventh overall win on PGA TOUR Champions (33 starts). Stricker has won two or more events in each of the last three seasons on PGA TOUR Champions, including 2020-21.
- Stricker becomes the ninth two-time winner in 2020-21 on PGA TOUR Champions, joining Jerry Kelly, Ernie Els, Kevin Sutherland, Jim Furyk, Alex Cejka, Darren Clarke, Miguel Angel Jimenez and Phil Mickelson.
 - Earlier this season, Stricker won the 2021 Chubb Classic. He has nine top-10s in 11 starts this season on PGA TOUR Champions.
- Stricker has held at least a share of the lead in seven of 12 rounds in senior majors this season. He has held a lead/co-lead after at least one round in each of the last six majors on PGA TOUR Champions.
- Stricker, who has held the lead entering the final round in all three senior majors this year, successfully converted the lead into a victory for the first time in 2020-21.
 - He finished runner-up at the 2021 Regions Tradition after holding a one-stroke lead entering the final round.
 - He finished T11 at the 2021 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship after holding a one-stroke lead entering the final round.
- With his win, Stricker is 3-for-5 converting his third-round leads into wins in majors on PGA TOUR Champions, and 5-for-9 when entering the final round across all Champions Tour events.
- With his win, Stricker moves up six spots in the Charles Schwab Cup standings to No. 6.
- With his win, Stricker is invited to play in the 2022 PLAYERS Championship. He has made 22 starts at TPC Sawgrass and his best finish is T6 (1999).

Jerry Kelly, 69-70-68-72 – 279 (-1)

- Defending champion Kelly made two birdies and 11 pars in his first 13 holes to trim the deficit to two strokes, but bogeyed four of his last five holes to shoot 2-over 72.
- Kelly has finished each of the last eight rounds at this tournament among the top five. Last year, he was T1-1st-1st-1st, and this year he was T4-T5-2nd-2nd.
- Kelly, who won the most recent event on PGA TOUR Champions (American Family Insurance Championship), remains No. 1 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings with his runner-up finish in Akron.
- Kelly has finished in the top 10 in six of his last seven starts on PGA TOUR Champions. In 25 starts this season, Kelly has five top-three finishes and 12 top-10s.

Other Notes

- This is the fourth time Wisconsin natives **Steve Stricker** and **Jerry Kelly** have finished 1-2 in a PGA TOUR Champions event.
 - 2019 American Family Insurance Championship: Kelly (Won), Stricker (T2)
 - 2019 U.S. Senior Open: Stricker (Won), Kelly (T2)
 - 2018 Cologuard Classic: Stricker (Won), Kelly (T2)
- **Fred Couples** carded the round of the day with 3-under 67 to finish T3. Couples, who birdied four of his last six holes, earned his fourth consecutive top-six finish on PGA TOUR Champions. **David Toms** also finished T3 at even-par 280.
- After missing the last five events with a back injury, **Kevin Sutherland** finished T7 at 4-over 284.
- In the three years since the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS moved to Firestone Country Club, a total of 10 players have finished the tournament under par for the week.
 - 2019 (6 players): Retief Goosen (-6), Jay Haas (-4), Tim Petrovic (-4), Kent Jones (-2), Scott Parel (-2), Steve Stricker (-1)
 - 2020 (2): Jerry Kelly (-3), Scott Parel (-1)

- 2021 (2): Steve Stricker (-7), Jerry Kelly (-1)