

STEVE STRICKER PRESS CONFERENCE

SANFORD INTERNATIONAL – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

We're now joined by four-time Sanford International champion Steve Stricker here at Minnehaha Country Club. Just to start – how great is it to be back here in Sioux Falls?

It's always fun to come back here and I say this each and every year – it's a special place for me. I've had a lot of success here and have met a lot of great people. Sanford Health being a great sponsor, obviously the ambassador for that is Andy North, a close friend of mine. So yeah, you put all of that together and it's a wonderful spot to come back to, and then, throw in the skins game last (Wednesday) night. You know, that's so much fun that we always start the tournament week off with that and playing with Freddy (Couples) as a partner in that. It's a good time here and it's a fun week, they do a really nice job here.

Let's talk about the state of your game – where are we at?

I'm seeing improvement definitely in the shots and the feelings are starting to be there a little bit more consistently. You know, I've put together some decent rounds, I put together a good round finally at home, which I haven't been doing when I played with Bobbi, my oldest daughter.

I played better today. So, it's kind of a wait and see. I'm not very sharp, I don't think, but I'm excited to be here and I'm excited to just kind of continue to try to work on my game and try to figure out what's going on and try to improve that.

Does that mean we'll see you more in the fall?

No. *laughs*

This may be it for me for the rest of the year to be quite honest with you. I'll play here, I'm going to go with Bobbi to the first stage of the tour school in a couple of weeks. I'll probably just kind of wrap it up I think. It's been one of those years and I just think I need to be home and figure some stuff out, get my life straight, and continue to work on my game and point towards next year.

Who's your caddy this week?

Ziggy (Mark Zyons) – my long-time friend Ziggy who normally caddies for Billy Andrade. I think he's been with Billy for probably 30 years, I've known Ziggy for that same amount of time. We've just never hooked up together, Billy's got a bad back, so Zig reached out to me a couple of weeks ago wondering if I needed somebody and I've been bouncing around with different guys that are available: my brother-in-law sometimes has done it over the

years and he's playing in the field this week, so he can't. Kids have done it and they can't, they're busy, so yeah, it's a great opportunity to hook up with a friend.

It's been a family affair for years here, which has been pretty cool.

Unfortunately, it's not this year. So, I got the next best thing - a good friend who's been out here and has a ton of experience and I enjoy being with him.

What is it about a comfort level that you get with any course that you've done well at – doesn't that help elevate your game when you walk in here, there's just that automatic confidence that goes with it?

Yeah, very much so. You feel good about coming here, everything about it, the whole surroundings, the people when they welcome you here, the volunteers are great. As I said, the sponsor in Sanford and Andy, yeah, it just gives you good feelings and it's kind of uplifting, and I need that right now. So, it's a good place for me to come and I continue to work on my game and it's not perfect by any stretch of the imagination, so I'll go to the range, keep working at it, and hopefully hit some better shots tomorrow. We got the wind to contend with tomorrow I understand, but yeah, we'll just see what I have.

Andy was telling me the other day he thinks Zach Johnson could be the next Steve Stricker on this tour based on how he plays, very similar to you. Do you agree with that?

Yeah. I mean, Zach, he'd probably be better than the way I was out here early on in my 50s. He's still kept in shape, he still drives it straight, accurate iron player, good wedge player, good putter, he's got all the makings. And Stewart Cink too, who's got a lot of length behind him. And there's a lot of other good players that continue to play well and find a way to get it done well into their careers. But Zach is playing great, for sure.

I know you guys play a variety of courses, but to play an old-style course like Minnehaha Country Club, which has been around over 100 years – is that a little more fun for you guys because it's a thinking man's course?

Yeah, and I think it's just straightforward. I mean, you see it, there's not a lot of tricks to it. You know where to kind of hit it off the tee. You know, the greens can be difficult, especially in the windy conditions. The pins can be difficult, you know, the greens have a lot of movement on some of them. So, if you play it smartly, keep it under the hole as much as you can here, you have some opportunities. But it can also play very difficult with the conditions, we've seen it over the years with windy conditions that this course is very challenging.

What's it like for the players to come here in this atmosphere?

We enjoy it a lot. You know, we want to play in front of people and perform and try to play our best in front of fans. So, it's nice to have people in the crowd and this crowd is one of the best we see on tour each and every year. From walking up on the tee boxes to the volunteers out in the middle of the fairways, they're all very polite and the people here are wonderful and it's a special place for me to be here and play here.

Nice to feel appreciated?

Yeah, usually at every tournament, they make you feel welcome. But when I've had the success here, I feel that extra little bit of motivation from people. You know, I don't know how many tee boxes I walked up on to today that said 'how about make it another one?' That's pretty special and I feel at home here – it's Midwest, Midwest values, a lot of nice people, so I always look forward to being here.