



KEVIN SUTHERLAND: And then made a nice up and down out of 3 on the bunker which kept the round going, and then 6, hit a 54-degree wedge from about 100 yards to about six feet and made that. And then didn't birdie anything else on the front. Had a good birdie putt on 9, about the only bad putt I had all day actually, just didn't happen to make it. Then went on to 10, hit two good shots, hit a 7-iron from about 170 yards to 12 feet, 10 feet, somewhere in that area and made that. Then actually 3-putted 11 from the fringe, which was obviously a little disappointing but then I turned around and made about a 40-footer on the next hole for birdie, so we'll call it even. What did I do --

MODERATOR: Then three in a row?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: I birdied 14, I made about a 20-footer there for birdie, and 15, you know, I hit my drive almost on the green. I wasn't really trying to, I just kind of blocked it and it got way down there. I was just chipping, chipped it to about six feet and made that for birdie. I hit 16 in two, par 5, and 2-putted from about 50 feet, but I had to make about a six or seven footer for the two putt so it was a nice save there for birdie. Then on my only bogey today was on 17. Actually I hit the shot very solidly, struck it very well, hit a 5-iron, just overcut it a hair and then actually plugged in the right bunker and had nothing. I was just trying to get on the green and make my bogey and get out of there so that's what I did. And you know, last hole I played really solid, hit a good drive and an 8-iron to about 20 feet maybe, a little less, maybe 15, hit a really good putt, just lipped on the high edge and but I made a lot of putts all day, so that's all right. So I was -- I'm happy with how I played.

Q. It's been said all week here, people are going to go low here. Is that when you start a round, does that affect how you approach your game at all?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: I honestly didn't even think about it. You know, I played this course on Tuesday, I go, yeah, I'm sure the scores are going to be low. I played it again on Thursday in the pro-am, like, yeah, there's going to be some good scores out here, just a lot of wedges and the greens were receptive after the rain we got and but the par 5s are gettable and so there's going to be some good scores. But I honestly wasn't -- that thought, I just want to play good golf and hit good shots and make good putts and just happened to end up with a 7-under today. I wasn't really aware of that, I've just got to go out and make birdies from the beginning, just really put pressure on myself from the beginning to do that. I was just, no, just keep the game going. I know that if I play well those birdies will come.

Q. Kevin, how would you characterize your year so far and have you had these kind of starts to tournaments before?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: I had starts to this tournament like this before, but this year I don't

think I really have. This year has been I feel like I've played well but I haven't really put it altogether. I've had a lot of -- seems like every tournament I finish between 7th and 15th every week it seems like. I have the same tournament every week. So from that standpoint it's been a little redundant. You kind of wish you could put it all together and get in contention. I haven't been in contention all this year for the most part, you know. Maybe if I went out and shot an 8 or 9 or 10-under round on the last day, but that's having the work yourself, it's putting a lot of pressure on yourself, getting behind. So-- but I was always confident with how I was playing. It wasn't really like I was playing poorly, I just wasn't making key putts at the right time and hitting a good tee shot on a tough par 4 or easy par 5 to get yourself in a chance to make a birdie or a good four on a tough hole. Seems like I've always been kind of like not able to take advantage of those opportunities and today I did.

Q. Kevin, what's your take on this tournament overall, being here in Madison, seems like a lot of people certainly showed up today, just the ambiance?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: It's been fantastic. I mean, we can't ask for anything more. There was a lot of people out there today. It was amazing to see everybody out here. I think it says a locality about Steve Stricker, about the way people feel about him around here, and they should. He's a tremendous human being, he's obviously a great golfer. So this says a lot about Steve, says a lot about Madison, it's been fantastic.

Q. Can you help us frame expectations for, you know, we see a lot of red numbers out there but I'm sure you see those every week. Are there more than normal and what could they do to make it play any harder?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: Well, it's always, you know, the difficulty of a course a lot of times is dictated by how firm the greens are. And if the greens got firmer it would obviously play a lot more difficult. If we know what the ball is going to do when it hits the ground as far as not really bouncing or spinning back or anything like that, we're going to have a lot of good birdie putts. But when the ball is bouncing on the greens we kind of lose control a little bit and it's hard to get the ball real close, you end up having a lot of 40-footers for birdie, 30-footers for birdie and it's hard to make those on a consistent base. So it's just firmness of the greens. That's pretty much all it takes.