

STEVE STRICKER (-7)

Q. What was the key to today's round?

STEVE STRICKER: I think just keeping it in play. Hitting it in the fairway a lot and gave myself a lot of opportunities, and that's what you need to do around here. You've got some real scorable holes. You've got some par 5s that you can birdie, and I took care of those today. And then you've got some short par 4s where you've got to hit it inside 10 feet and make some putts. I did everything fairly well, made some putts for a change. I missed some, but happy to see a couple go in.

Q. Speaking of keeping it in the fairway, have you figured out how to play that 17th hole yet, keeping it in the fairway?

STEVE STRICKER: No. I back off that thing so much. I just try to hit a utility over there, don't even mess with the water, and if I have to hit a utility even short of the green like I did today, it's a little more difficult when they put the pin over there to the right, but it's just a tough one. Freddie and David Toms both hit good ones and I just can't keep it in the fairway. It's a tough shot.

Q. It certainly is. Earlier in the week you were working on some pre-shot routine. You started up with your weight on your right side. What was that for and was it just like a learning tool?

STEVE STRICKER: You know, I've been struggling on turning the ball over a little bit consistently. I never know when it's going to come. I used to just turn it right to left every time. I'm trying to get back to that again, and when I was, I was getting behind it really nice. As we get older, it gets a little --

Q. It happens.

STEVE STRICKER: It gets a little tougher to get behind it. So I'm trying to get behind it so I can get the inside of the ball so I can turn it over. I did it pretty well today and I hit it out there with some distance, which for me around here is a good thing.

Q. (No microphone.)

STEVE STRICKER: It was solid, it was a good day. Did a lot of good things. Kept the ball in play and made a couple putts. Gave myself a lot of opportunities. Just anytime you can go around not making a bogey is a good, day. So I was proud of that fact, that I didn't make one today.

Q. Coming into this week you said your putting was not really up to your usual standards. How would you grade how you did in that regard today?

STEVE STRICKER: It was better. The greens are -- they're a lot slower this year than they have been in years past and it's hard to kind of adjust at times. We've had some putts here in years past that can get away from you. I hit one in the back of 16 green and I left it six feet short, and that's typically one of those putts that you're just trying to die down there close and get away. It's a little more challenging on the greens. You've got to kind of forget about the past and what you've done here. I hit a lot of good putts, made a couple, missed a couple, but overall a good day.

Q. One of the players that you're tied with at minus 7 is Mark O'Meara, who made eight consecutive birdies today, holes 2 through 9. Have you ever done that?

STEVE STRICKER: In practice, but never in tournament play. That's pretty impressive. How old is he?

Q. 62.

STEVE STRICKER: That's incredible. It shows you the type of players that are still out here and capable of playing well any given day. It's cool to see.

Q. You know as well as anyone how hard it is to win this tournament, came so close in 2017, you pulled it off in 2018. Super crowded leaderboard. What's your sort of outlook heading into the weekend?

STEVE STRICKER: I've just got to continue doing the same thing; just keep putting it in play, give myself some good looks at it and concentrate on those greens and try to get it in the hole. Just do what I did today and I should be okay.

Q. I think you birdied all the par 5s today.

STEVE STRICKER: I did.

Q. Is that part of the game plan or is that --

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, around here you sure do. No. 2's reachable. I got to No. 8 in two today, I got to No. 12 in two. Had legitimate eagle putts on 2 and 12. You've got to try to take care of those. They're there to make birdies. Then there's a bunch of short holes that you should be able to get it in there a few times to make some birdies. That's the game plan.

Q. You did have a look on 18, which isn't one of those --

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah.

Q. -- birdiable holes usually. What's your strategy on that hole?

STEVE STRICKER: Get it in the fairway. It's a hard tee ball and you've got to get it in the fairway. I don't care if I'm hitting 3-iron into the green, just get it in the fairway and get it up on the green. You try and make a 4 there and move on, so I was able to do that today.