

STEVE STRICKER (-6)

STEVE STRICKER: The course is in great shape, so yeah, all in all it was a good start.

Q. You won this event two years ago.

STEVE STRICKER: Yep.

Q. Obviously you have some personal reasons why you might like this event more than others?

STEVE STRICKER: You know, we're here because this has been a longstanding tournament really throughout my career. I started here back in the early '90s, Monday qualified for an event where we played here and Starr Pass. Then Jerry Kelly's affiliation with Cologuard, a Wisconsin company, is the main reason why I'm here this year and I just enjoy the area. I have relatives here. My aunt, when she was alive, lived out here, so we've always come out here to Tucson and I love the city and love the people here.

Q. Got the family with you. Obviously it's a little better place to be than Wisconsin right now?

STEVE STRICKER: A little bit. Yeah, we got about six to eight inches on the ground, but it started to turn the corner. We can feel spring right around the corner. It's not great right now.

Q. Aside from the water, is that back bunker about the worst place, the last place you want to be on 18?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it's not very good there, either. You know, I was on a severe downslope out in the fairway and I just didn't take that into account and just rifled a 7-iron, hit it way too hard, but hit a nice bunker shot to get out of there. A par is always good on that hole.

Q. When you're in that bunker staring that downhill shot, what's sort of your mindset or strategy?

STEVE STRICKER: You know you don't have to hit it very hard, you know if you can get it on there it's going to get down towards the pin. I just didn't want to blast it by because it could have gotten pretty aggressive and you end it rolling it 15, 20 feet past. Yeah, it was just a delicate little shot that came off pretty good.

Q. How did you feel about your round as a whole?

STEVE STRICKER: It was pretty good, pretty solid. No bogeys today, so that's always a good thing going around any course. It was tricky out there at times. The wind would come up and lie down. Lee played a great round, so you're trying to catch him. What did you end up shooting?

LEE JANZEN: Four. You're two ahead of me.

STEVE STRICKER: So I did catch you.

LEE JANZEN: That's what he likes to do, rub it in.

Q. What has it been like balancing your duties as a Ryder Cup captain with also trying to be a competitive player?

STEVE STRICKER: It's been okay. I mean, it's a challenge because my mind is somewhere else sometimes. I'm trying to think about what I can do for the Ryder Cup and what I need to do, so my focus at times is elsewhere. But for the most part it's been pretty good. It's not overbearing or anything like that, but it's just my thinking. I want to make sure it's a perfect week and make sure the guys are going to have a great time there and hopefully we can get a W out of it.

Q. Did you learn anything from the Presidents Cup?

STEVE STRICKER: You're always learning, yeah, for sure. We saw some pairings that we may want to use or stay away from if those same guys are on the team. Yeah, to be a part of those teams, to be around the guys, and that's why I'm playing a lot out there, just to be around those guys, see them just so that I'm familiar with them and they're familiar with me. There's a lot of guys I don't know out there that could potentially make the team, so that's why I'm there.

Q. How would you assess your caddie's performance?

STEVE STRICKER: Oh, A-plus, she was great. It was all good, yeah, and she's been doing it, she did it a couple times this year already on the big tour, so she always likes to do it.

Q. Is it nice to be back out here with some of the guys?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah. I haven't seen anybody for a while, so it's like a new tour again and it's always a different feel for me to come here and play out here. It's just, it feels brand new to me, so I've got to get past that stage and know that I belong out here and I should play out here at times. I know where my spot should be, it should be out here, but because of the Ryder Cup, I'm doing things out there. Yeah, I'm missing it out here each and every

week I play out there because it's so hard the guys hit it so far, but can't be both places.

Q. How many times do you expect to play on this tour this year would you say?

STEVE STRICKER: I'm thinking about seven times, four of the majors and three of these events, and then about a dozen times on the regular tour. I'll be busy.