

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW**  
**June 11, 2021**



**STEVE STRICKER (-2)**

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**Q. Steve, 2 under today. Your thoughts on the round?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, it was a bit of a struggle at times. Just had a hard time getting going. Birdied the first hole right out of the chute, but then bad swing at No. 3, put it in the hazard over there and made a good bogey. Just had a couple opportunities here and there, didn't make them. Then a couple of divots on the back side with sand wedges, lob wedges in my hand. You know, at that point I was just trying to get it on the green. One of them I did and one of them I didn't. Scoring clubs in your hand and you're forced to play away from the hole.

The second one I got on No. 14 was awful; super wet, sitting in a divot, down in a little bit of a hole. I should have probably just chipped it out sideways and got it up on the green somehow for my third to make par and move on.

So I had some battles out there, course battles, club -- you know, wrong clubs here and there. Picked the wrong club at 17, sent it over the green. So it was a bit of a challenge today, but ended strong. I birdied the last, 2 under. It's playing a little bit more difficult out there this year. The wind was tricky when it would kick up, so as you can tell, the scores aren't super low.

**Q. In between 17 and then the two divots there, you almost holed out for a double eagle on 16. You'll see how close it is on the replay. Does that snap you out of it at that point or are you still chewing on what had happened earlier?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, a little bit of both. I knew I needed to make something happen there, at least make a birdie. But I made a nice putt, and that's been the issue. I had a couple other opportunities as I went around. I had a little eight-footer at No. 2 that I didn't make. That's been kind of my bugaboo lately is just I haven't been getting any momentum going at all. Even some of my good rounds could have been better. I just -- I'm just not, you know, stepping up there with confidence like I'm going to make the putt. So that's been the challenge. It's nice to see a couple go in there, especially at 16, get that eagle and then made a nice 10-, 12-footer at 18, too.

**Q. Which putter's in the bag? Is it the same one from the PGA or is it different?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** It's a different one. It's a backup to my gamer. And I found some interesting things out about that gamer that I've been trying -- it hasn't been rolling very well. I just -- it doesn't look right. I kept putting it back in play and I struggled with it. I brought it here this week and it didn't have enough loft and it was a little bit flatter than normal. But in

the meantime, I had been practicing with a backup that was rolling it great, felt better about it. I did, I hit some nice putts today.

Anyways, I got this backup and I'm making putts on the putting green. They're rolling great, the stroke feels fine. It's just I've got to bring it from the putting green out on the course sometimes.

**Q. What did you think about the heat out there?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Oh, is it hot. Yeah, this is August weather in Wisconsin. Like on 18 there with all the stands around there, there's no breeze whatsoever, so it was very hot at times. Then the wind would kick up and you'd be like, wow, like the air conditioning unit turned on. It was extremely hot. Hopefully the fans -- I thought it was a great crowd considering the conditions. It's a hot one out there, I thought it would scare people away, and it probably did but it was nice to see people back and hear some claps and cheers for the players.

**Q. What was it like being back after a year's absence? Did you see friendly faces in the crowd? Did you interact with anybody?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, it's great. It's been two years for us to play in front of people here. Last year obviously we didn't have the tournament, so it's great to see people back here.

**Q. You mentioned getting momentum going. Do you think what you did on 16 and 18 can kind of carry over to tomorrow?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Very much so, yeah. I hit the ball actually okay today at times, it just got on the wrong side of a few things, but finished strong with some really nice shots. And like I said, the shot at 17 I pured and had one or maybe even two too many clubs there. I could have maybe -- I hit 4-iron, I could have maybe even hit a 6. That wind was in our face and then all of a sudden when I got up there to hit the ball's in the air and it felt like it just switched and went straight down. It was a little funky through that last five or six holes for us, the wind kind of switched around quite a bit and made club selection difficult. But yeah, I can take those last few holes and hopefully get that rolling into tomorrow.

**Q. What in particular on those last few holes with your swing or approach are you going to (inaudible) tomorrow?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I think just making some putts. I just made a couple nice putts and I hit some nice shots, and I've been doing that. In practice rounds here I've done well, the pro-am I played really nicely, so it's in there. First round here trying to play well, feel like there's a little extra pressure. I want to play well, so got this day out of the way and hopefully get going tomorrow and get off to a good one and keep it rolling.

**Q. Does it add at all that the group right behind you has Jerry and he's in the lead? Are you looking at his strokes at all? Is that making you play or are you --**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Oh, yeah, I'm looking at that board all the time. And Freddie was playing well, so I'm trying to catch him. I see Jerry's playing well. Yeah, I don't want to lose touch, you know. Three shots is nothing really. We've got two more days and anything can happen out here. I'm going to have to play well, going to have to play better.