

**ROUND 2 INTERVIEW**  
**June 12, 2021**



**STEVE STRICKER (-2)**

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**Q. We'll get started with Steve Stricker. Could you start with some overall thoughts on your round today?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah. Up and down, pretty lackluster. I'd get some momentum and then give it away right away. Just doing some really dumb things, making a mess out of things that I really shouldn't be making a mess out of. Just not very sharp for some reason. It's been a struggle the last couple of days.

**Q. I don't think anything would compare with the second round your first year where you felt really dejected, but what is the frustration level like that you haven't been able to show off your game here this week?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, I want to play well here so badly, I think, and that's part of the problem. I put some extra pressure on myself to play well. And I had been playing well coming into here and I'm still striking the ball fairly nicely at times. A couple wayward shots on the way in when I tried to force things. Yeah, so that's disappointing.

But, you know, the putter has been kind of the thing that's let me down a little bit, and kind of the same this week, just not very sharp with it. I'll make a putt here or there, but miss some that I should make. Kind of it's getting to me I think more than anything. I think it's just when I miss a putt that I feel like I should make, then it just kind of takes me down another path, you know, that just -- yeah, that's been the frustrating part.

**Q. The commentators talk about you struggling with the putter because of how good you've been and how (inaudible). What is it like for you to struggle with that club, and is it more mechanical or is it more mental?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I think it's a little bit of both. I just don't feel very comfortable over it at times. Sometimes it comes off a little bit left and a little bit right and I don't know when that's going to happen. I guess that's golf, but it's just not very consistent.

You know, when I was putting my best, I always had a little bit of a miss, the same direction miss. It's like your regular swing, if you know it's going one way, you can kind of play with it, but I kind of got a little two-way miss going with my putter and that's not good. And I feel like it's gotten better this week a little bit. I've kind of cleaned up some putts and they felt a little more solid when I'm stroking it, but that's not really the cause of my score, I don't think.

I'm not hitting it close enough and made some really dumb mistakes coming in. I'm 4 under, you know, going down 15 and I decide I'm going to hit a driver there and go against my shot

shape and end up hitting the cart path, it goes in the weeds and I end up making bogey. Then I do the same thing on No. 16 and I made bogey. I had it in a decent spot where if I could have made one birdie coming in and post at 5 under, I'm sure the lead's going to be 10 or 11, but now I'm just way too far out of it.

**Q. Steve, you got your daughter on your brother-in-law's bag, your wife's caddying for you, Andy's in the field. I mean, I know you wouldn't use distractions as an excuse, but are you being pulled in too many directions here?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Oh, I don't know. I mean, every year it's kind of the same way. I think, if anything, I want to play well here so badly. I want to win, I want to win here, I want to get in contention. I think, if anything, I probably put a little extra pressure on myself to play well here, and I know I've been playing well coming into here, so that's the frustrating part.

Like I said, I came out today, I make an eagle at 2, got some momentum, then I make a double out of the middle of the fairway at 4. It's just like, you know, just huge momentum killers usually a hole or two after I do something well. I just haven't been able to sustain some good play over the course of a number of holes, this week anyways. So that's -- maybe it will be better tomorrow and put up a really low one tomorrow.

**Q. What did you do to eagle 2, because there's only two eagles out there today overall. Just seemed kind of weird after yesterday with so many.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, I drove it over the bunker. It was downwind for us, I drove it over the bunker and I had 185, chipped a little 7-iron in there to about probably 10 feet and made it.

**Q. What are you hoping for tomorrow? What's your attitude going into Sunday's round?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** 60 or 61, that's kind of what I'm hoping for. You've got to set your sights low, don't you, especially when I'm 8 or 9 back. Yeah, I've just got to try to go out there and have fun and try to make as many as I can and see what that does for me.

And you can shoot a low one here. There's some good scores to be had here. The course is actually I think a little bit tougher than it has been in other years. The greens are firm sometimes and soft sometimes. Coming in they're really firm. Starting the day they must put a little water on there so they're somewhat receptive to start the day, and as the day goes on, they get firmer and it's a little bit harder to control your ball on the green.

Yeah, it's playing great. The course is in great shape and the greens are great, but there is a low score out there and hopefully I can put a good one up tomorrow.

**Q. Did you talk to Bobbi before she did her thing with Mario?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah. She was nervous. She was wondering what to do and what to say and all that kind of stuff. I said, just be yourself, and you're a golfer, so what do you want to hear kind of thing. She'll do fine, I'm sure, and Mario's easy to get along with. What did he end up shooting today, anybody know?

**Q. Three over last time I checked.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Blame it on the caddie.