

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
June 10, 2022



STEVE STRICKER (-1)

Q. Got Steve Stricker. Steve, just talk about what it means to have your tournament here and the turnout today and just kind of what that means to you and your family.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it's a special week. I've said it all week, it's great to be here. We're all here to support these charities that we support, the children's hospital and all the other charities. It's a busy week but a fun week, and one that we look forward to each and every year.

Q. How's your energy when you get to the first tee here? Are you drained from all the other stuff you have to do?

STEVE STRICKER: You know, I've been drained for a while, since last November I think. I'm not quite there yet physically yet. There's some good days and bad days yet. Yeah, it is what it is. I keep trying. I'm getting better, there's no question. I feel good. My body isn't reacting sometimes very well. That's not the excuse today. I actually played pretty poorly, but managed my game around pretty well. Had it at 3 under going in the last couple holes without birdieing 16 either. It just was some mental mistakes and not really finishing it.

Q. What did you do on 17?

STEVE STRICKER: Hit it in the bunker and then fatted it out of there. Had a kind of so-so lie, but all I had to do was get it out on the green, it was going to run down there towards the hole. Fatted it, barely got out onto the fringe and then whacked that one by about 15 feet. It had double written all over it after that.

Yeah, that was a disappointing way to finish really because I had it in the middle of the fairway at 16 with a 7- or 8-iron in my hand and I haven't -- I've been trying to hit some hard shots and I tried to hit a hard one there and just didn't go. And then make the double at 17.

Q. Coincidentally, the hole where you had your worst hole is where everybody has the most fun here. Do you ever look at that hole with the beer garden and see all the fans out there?

STEVE STRICKER: Oh, yeah, yeah, it's a great looking hole, horseshoed all the way around the green and people having a good time. Is it dollar birdies this year? Are there dollar beers? Free beers on a birdie?

Dollar beer when you make a birdie? What about a double, what happens when you make a double? You've got to go back and buy? I should, I should be buying for everybody there.

Yeah, that wasn't very good.

Q. Do you like seeing how much fun --

STEVE STRICKER: Oh, yeah, yeah. In the new area up here on 14 green and then 15 tee box, the last four holes is pretty special, pretty cool.

Q. Frustrated, is that a good word to use?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, yeah, it wasn't very good today. Right away from the start, just struggled hitting it very solid. Drove it actually pretty nicely, but irons were awful, just never really did anything. Last hole was a good shot in there, but didn't capitalize on it. Yeah, just rotten iron play really.

Q. Do thoughts about your duties as tournament host, do they ever like intrude on you on the course or are you able to block if out?

STEVE STRICKER: It's a busy week, for sure, but no excuse. I should be able to go out there and just put it behind me and play, but I didn't today. I didn't do very well. Two more rounds and I'm going to have to shoot something pretty special both the rounds to get in there.

Q. I was going to ask how you reset for tomorrow.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I just have to go out there and have a good one, get right back in there, shoot one of those 7-, 8- or 9-under rounds and get back in there, which is possible on this course. There's a lot of birdie opportunities, there's some eagle opportunities if you can drive it in the fairway. Just going to have to go out and do it tomorrow.

Q. When you talk about the physicality and just kind of feeling drained, do you ever consider using the cart or do you need that kind of walk in between shots to reset?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I've used a cart early on this year a couple times. I'm also taking this as a way to try to get stronger, too. Go around here and get better and get stronger. And I am, that's the good part. I'm getting better, and this is my I guess sixth tournament in this year so far. So yeah, I'm excited the way I'm feeling and I'd like to get a little bit stronger and have a little bit more energy at times, but it's getting there, I think.