

**ROUND 2 INTERVIEW**  
**January 20, 2023**



**STEVE STRICKER ( -16)**

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**Q. Steve, with the course record 60 today, how good did that feel?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, it was a good day, it was a special round. I got off to a good start. I was 4 under through five and getting through that fifth hole with a birdie is a key to the round for me and I did that. Strung together a few more birdies after that, too. Hit the ball solidly again today and I just, I hit it closer today than I did yesterday and gave myself some opportunities and made some nice putts.

**Q. So you would say the biggest difference between yesterday and today was proximity to the hole?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah. I drove it well yesterday, too. I had the ball in the middle of the fairway a lot yesterday and just didn't really hit it that close, pretty tentative and pretty defensive.

Today I was a little bit more aggressive going into the holes, had a better feel for what was going on. Then I made a little adjustment in my putting kind of before I left, started the round today that seemed to pay off. Yeah, it was a good round. Trying to get one more on the way in would have been cool, but all in all it was a good day.

**Q. Are you able to explain what that adjustment was on the putting today?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, it was something really simple, just ball position. I was struggling on the ball kind of jumping left on me a little bit. I've been putting OK in the week prior to this just trying to practice, but just moved the ball back a little bit, my hands got a little ahead and all of a sudden the ball seemed to start on my line a lot easier.

**Q. Where did you practice at before here?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Right here on the putting green. I was hitting some right-to-left putts and just struggling on where the bottom of the stroke was and where I was contacting the ball. Like I said, just moved it back a little bit and got my hands a little bit ahead, which typically for me that's where I need them to be. Yeah, it paid off. I made a nice putt right away at the first hole, a 10-footer, eight-footer, whatever it was. That kind of gave me some confidence right out of the chute that I was doing something right.

**Q. When did you see you had a chance for 59?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** You know, I had about a 25-, 30-footer for eagle at 14. I think at that

point I was 9 under and I was thinking to myself if I could knock that in, get to 11, just get a couple more, it's a real potential.

So I didn't do that, but then made a good one on the next. I knew I needed to birdie two out of the last three and gave myself a chance and hit a couple good putts. Yeah, anyways, it was a good day.

**Q. Yesterday on the first tee the guy who says he was third on the Schwab Cup was tugging on Superman's cape. When he came in today, he said he shot 8 under and got smoked. Is that a little payback?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Well, no. I mean, I just went out today knowing that I needed to shoot a good round and that was the difference. My mentality, first round of the year yesterday, you're just trying to find yourself kind of. Even though I've been hitting the ball OK, it's competition, right? It's a new year, a new tournament and you're just trying to find it a little bit, make sure what you're doing is good.

Going out today, I'm like, I've got to get to 8 under because I thought the lead would get to at least 12 or 13, so that's where I was thinking. So my mindset was to be aggressive and take advantage of some opportunities, and I did, stole a couple. Like I said, I made a couple long putts and I had a couple over the edge, but all in all it was just basically a mentality that I had that I've got to play a good one today.

I told Lanny before, he was on the practice range, I was like Lanny, I need a good one today. So I knew it and I'm just happy I was able to do it. Puts me in a good spot for tomorrow.

**Q. Now, what's tomorrow's mentality?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, same thing. The weather is so pure, the course is so pure and conditions, it's all so nice. There's going to be guys that are going to freewheel it and who knows, I may only have tied for the lead or a one-shot lead, who knows by the time it's all said and done. It's going to be another tight one tomorrow and you're going to have to put up another good number.