

**STEVE STRICKER ( -23)**

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**Q. Steve, congratulations. Thank you for joining us. How great of a start to the year is this?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, you can't beat this, right? We're over in Hawaii just playing a great tournament, a wonderful venue. The course is in great shape. Mitsubishi puts on a tremendous tournament for us and to start the year off with a win is special and kind of hopefully sets up a good year and keep 'er going. Played solidly and did a lot of good things this week and controlled my ball really well. Just happy the way things turned out. Wasn't too stressful coming down the last few holes, which is always nice.

**Q. Speaking of that, you started the day with the lead, made an eagle on 14. Did that give you some breathing room do you feel like?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, I kind of fell asleep there on holes 6, 7 and 8 and kind of made some good pars there. Drove it in the lava on 7 and made a good par. A good up-and-down on 8. Then righted the ship really, I started hitting some better shots. Again, when you have a lead you're just -- it's hard because you're trying not to make a mistake. These guys are firing at it and you feel pressure then, right, of them trying to get a little bit closer. You know, it was two and three shots at one point today, but I stepped up when I had to, made a really clutch putt at 13 when Cejka was in there under a foot. Then making an eagle at 14 was -- that felt good to me and had to hurt the other guys that were trying to catch me.

**Q. With this win it's your 12th on the Champions Tour. You've now won 25 percent of your events out here. That means every four times you tee it up, you get a win. Have you realized that?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** You know, I saw that stat somewhere along the way. I feel lucky and blessed to be able to be doing this still, especially where I came from a year ago. It's still a lot of fun. I still put in the time, I put in the effort. I've got a great support system in my wife and kids love to see me play, and Mario helps when he's not playing. You know, everybody that's with me is so supportive; my family, my parents I should say and my in-laws. It still keeps going, I still feel like there's more to do and I can continue to play and play at a higher level. So it's exciting for me still to come out here and play.

**Q. Does your win today, do you think that will mean you play out here more this year or have you thought about how many events you'll play?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I haven't. I'm going to play a pretty full schedule here to start off the year. I'll play them all to start with and I'm going to try to get into a regular Tour event here or

there along the way, maybe John Deere in the summertime, that's a special place for me. So we'll see what happens, but I plan on committing out here and playing a lot more than I have out here over the years.

**Q. What role did Mario Tiziani on the bag have on this victory?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, it was very helpful. I had him read a lot of putts this week and we were on the same page a lot of the times. So when you can stand up there over a putt and feel confidence in the read, that's part of it, that's a lot of it, you know. He was very good. He's always been very good and very helpful. And the more we do it together, the better we seem to gel together as a team out there. So it was good, it was very good and I owe a lot of this one to him, too, because we did a lot of good things together this week.

**Q. Steve, my question was you talked about 12 months ago; 12 months ago you were sitting on your coach watching this.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah.

**Q. Did any of that pop into you the last three days, like --**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, yeah, I think about it all the time still. Tom Lehman asked me about it on the range yesterday or the day before.

Yeah, I go back to that time quite a bit in my mind and I see where I'm at today. You know, it was an unfortunate time, but I kind of used it as a positive. I feel like now I've kind of reset myself and I feel like I'm in better shape, I feel like I'm stronger, I feel like my swing has gotten stronger and better. So I feel like I've used it to my -- to a positive really. I've turned it into a positive when it wasn't such a good thing when I was going through it. I look back at it and you can either learn from it or not and I definitely learned from that time and I'm trying to take advantage of it.

**Q. Five wins in nine months is pretty good.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** It's been a good run. Like I said, I enjoy coming out here to get in contention and to try to challenge yourself down the end and see what you got and see how you react to it, that's been the fun part.