ROUND 3 INTERVIEW June 4, 2023

STEPHEN AMES (-17)



Q. What is it about this course?

STEPHEN AMES: I think it's the weather I like, the nice warm temperatures that we play in. Yeah, the course, like I said, has grown on me over the last couple of years obviously. Unfortunate they're going to change it, but fortunate at the same time it's going to be a better golf course when we come back.

Q. When you knocked it in up there and knew you weren't going to a playoff, is there any relief in that?

STEPHEN AMES: Well, the fact that Steve missed his putt, I knew that we weren't going to a playoff, yes. I would have thought that he would -- in the past I think Steve would have made the putt on 16 and here, so fortunate for me it worked out that way.

Q. How did it feel?

STEPHEN AMES: Good. It was a battle today, there's no doubt about that. Steve, obviously the way he's played this year already tells you it was going to be a good battle, and the fact that I ended up on top, which is more fulfilling than anything else right now.

Q. There were quite a few people who had some challenges on 18. Was there something that you saw up there that was causing that?

STEPHEN AMES: No. I think it was just the fact that we were a little too aggressive with the second shots, a little passive -- I tried to get it real close, just kind of closed the door and I hit it a little firm but it was OK.

Q. For you, this is your second in a month.

STEPHEN AMES: Yeah.

Q. What's working for you right now?

STEPHEN AMES: Everything right now. The main thing is that I've been doing the same thing that I was doing all of last year. Last year I had no wins and finished eighth. This year I've come out and got three under my belt already. So now I'm contemplating looking at my schedule thinking I can take a couple weeks off here and there, so we'll see what happens. At the stage right now it's the same thing that I was doing last year I'm doing this year, maybe the putter's a little warmer at times and that's probably why I'm winning.

Q. A little fun fact in this, you're the fifth person in a row with the name Steve or somewhere in there --

STEPHEN AMES: Correct, yeah.

Q. -- a win. What's working for the Steve --

STEPHEN AMES: Popular names, I don't know. I have no clue what's working for the Steves, but nice fun fact, though.

Q. Happy to be in that group?

STEPHEN AMES: Yeah, I am.

Q. How are you going to celebrate?

STEPHEN AMES: Drive to Madison, that's what I've got to do tomorrow. I'm not sure what I'm going to do tonight. My wife is not even here with me, so we'll see what happens.

Q. What did you do when you won it back in '21?

STEPHEN AMES: Oh, we got absolutely hammered because that was my first win since '17, so OK, let's celebrate. That was a great night. I think we went to 801 and had dinner there.

Q. 801 Chophouse?

STEPHEN AMES: Yeah.

Q. That's a good one.

STEPHEN AMES: It is a good place, yeah, it is.