

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**June 8, 2023**



**STEVE STRICKER**

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**MODERATOR:** Steve, thank you for joining us here today. Can you talk a little bit about what it means to be the host at this tournament and kind of take the reins on all that?

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, this is a special week for us all, not only my family but the American Family Insurance Company. It's just a very rewarding week for us and we look forward to this week each and every year. It's a busy week for everybody, but a lot of fun. We see a lot of similar faces in the volunteers, the corporate people that support our event keep coming back each and every year. People talk -- even when it's not tournament week, I get a lot of questions and excitement about this week. So it brings a smile to all of our faces to be able to do this.

**Q. And then on the golf front, you've been playing some spectacular golf. I'll save us all a little time by not reading off the accolades, but can you kind of speak to what you can attribute that to?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, I've just been feeling really good about my game. Been doing a lot of really good things, keeping the ball in play, hitting a lot of greens, making a few putts here and there. Yeah, so it's been a good stretch and hopefully continue it this week. This would be a nice one to try to win or try to have the opportunity to win come Sunday, especially the last few holes.

**MODERATOR:** Open it up to questions.

**STEVE STRICKER:** And no LIV questions, by the way.

**Q. If Bobbi and Izzi weren't playing, do you think you'd be playing as much as you are or would be as sharp as you are? And the second part of that question is how much does their playing motivate you to keep going and playing well?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, good question. I think I'd still be playing as much as I am, I enjoy the competition, I enjoy seeing the guys out here and trying to compete and trying to win golf tournaments, that's always a lot of fun. But it keeps me sharp at home because Nicki plays a lot of golf, my kids play a lot of golf. So when I go home I have to really force myself to get away from the game because they want me to come and play, watch them swing, all that. Then all of a sudden it's like I'm at the course every day and I've got to make sure that I get a day in there where I can just go goof off, do nothing golf related. I've been doing that. But then when I come back, I'll go play with Nicki or one of the girls or both of them, or just be involved in what they're doing in their lives, in their golf games.

Yeah, it definitely does keep me sharper when I'm away from it or away from tournament play, but again it's kind of -- I've learned over the years I've got to make sure I find my time that I can get away, too. Can't play golf every day, it's not good for the mind.

**Q. Are you happy with how things have turned out weather-wise and all the pros that showed up this week? It's another great field and should lead to an exciting weekend as well.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, very much so. There's a lot of beat up guys on the Champions Tour right now, some of the guys aren't here, but we do have another good field. Yeah, and the guys are extremely happy to be here. . The course is in great shape. It's firm, it's fast, something that we haven't seen for a few years. To be quite honest, as you know, the whole area needs some rain, but it's in great shape. Phil and his staff have done a great job to prepare the course and get it ready for us. Like I said, it's in great shape.

**Q. Saw the Stricker Family Challenge a couple days ago.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** It was a beatdown.

**Q. How much confidence does that give you heading into this, and in all seriousness, what's it like just to be able to do that year in and year out with your family?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I just saw the Amesese, Stephen Ames and Kelly. You know, she made the comment like, "You took it out on your daughters because you couldn't win last week," kind of thing. Yeah, I think I was still a little ticked off that I wasn't able to win last week. And they're my daughters, so we just had to take it to 'em, I guess.

No, it's a lot of fun. They enjoy that, we look forward to doing that, it gets them involved. They think that part's pretty cool, too.

**Q. Not to bring up something that comes up every year, but you talked about the importance of winning this thing and sometimes you think about that too much or try too hard. Have you figured out any answers in terms of how to get past that?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, that's a good question. We'll hopefully talk to you Sunday and I have the answer.

Yeah, it's obviously a tournament that's very important to me. Maybe I've just got to kind of let it just flow like I do each and every week and not try to do too much and put extra pressure on myself and try to win.

Cut back on the alcohol content level is always a good thing it seems like this week, which I normally don't drink and all of a sudden you get all the friends and the concerts, all the

corporate friends we have, AmFam people, it's dinners and all that kind of stuff. I'm starting to do a little bit better job of that, but I still have fun with it. I think I just need to go out there and smile a little bit more, enjoy it, embrace it. If I play well, I play well. If not, so be it.

**Q. So you've obviously been investing pretty heavily in working with TPC Wisconsin in getting that course kind of up and running. How do you see that impacting the landscape of Wisconsin golf in a couple years?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, we walked around it yesterday with a couple of the PGA -- one of them, the rules, Brian Claar, the rules official, and then the design team of the PGA TOUR.

Yeah, it's coming along really nicely. We all know that in a couple years' time it will be over there hopefully, or it should be. So it's exciting for us as a family as well. Yeah, I think hopefully we just have to see how it plays. We haven't really been able to get out there to see how it plays and that will be the big thing, make sure that we set it up right for the tournament week, make sure that we still see a lot of birdies like we do here.

I think it can play very tough. There's a lot of water over there, it's built on a marsh, there's a lot of hazards. We're just going to have to make sure that we have fun with it and set it up correctly for the guys to enjoy it.

Yeah, it should be a good test of golf and hopefully one that people are going to enjoy and play.

**Q. I know it's a busy week for you, but I wonder if you've had any time to process what's going on in golf this week --**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah.

**Q. -- and just what your reaction has been to that and what you're hearing from a lot of the guys that have come here in terms of how they're processing --**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah.

**Q. -- what's coming and what has happened this week?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I mean, your guess is as good as mine really. First of all, I was shocked to see that development on Tuesday morning. No one saw that coming.

You know, there's some real positives, and I kind of always look at things trying to find the positives in things. There's no more fighting between these two groups, kind of unifies the game of golf.

I just, I just don't know enough about it. Why did it happen, right? I have questions, too. I

just, I'm not sure if I can even answer your question honestly, right? I mean, there's just a lot of, lot of things that we'll learn, we'll all learn over some time and then we can make our own decisions and judgments, I guess.

For now, I mean, I know Jay Monahan. First of all, he's a great man. I've known him for a lot of years. I don't think he would do anything that wasn't in the best interests of the Tour and its membership and the players. That's kind of the way I feel about it.

So I'm sure once all this stuff comes out and we find out the reasons behind it, there's going to be some pretty good -- and he's taken ownership of some of the things he said early on and now he seems to have flipped his mind, but he's taken ownership of that. So we'll just, we'll all wait and see the reasons why, I guess, as we move forward.

**Q. Steve, is Nicki on the bag?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah.

**Q. No matter who it is -- you had Izzi a couple weeks ago, you had Bobbi -- how much does that calm you down? Is that a calming influence for you with any of those three on the bag?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, yeah, it is. It's a comfortable feel when Nicki or any of these -- Mario's been on my bag, my brother-in-law. Even Joe LaCava Jr.'s been on my bag a couple times. They're just good people.

It's nice to switch it up every now and then, I think everybody needs a break from Steve.

It's good for me, too. Everybody seems to enjoy it and I enjoy mixing it up a little bit. But to have Nicki on there, I had missed her. She hadn't done it for a few tournaments and then last week it was like right back to like we hadn't missed a beat and it was really comfortable for us both.

**Q. You mentioned having questions about what happened this week. What kinds of questions do you have and who do you put them to?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, I think it's just the reasons why really. You know, what flipped their decision? The board members, a couple of those we know the names, and Jay, what flipped their decision, you know, and their thought process. Basically, why did it happen. I'm sure over time we'll all find out why.

**Q. Some of these streaks you're on, in particular the consecutive rounds of par or better, I don't know if you're aware that you and Tiger are tied for the most ever in PGA TOUR-sanctioned events, 52. Do you pay attention to that stuff? What does that mean to you? Does it mean anything to you to have those streaks?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** People last week came up to me a little bit and mentioned that, otherwise I wouldn't have known about it.

Until you brought it up, it's not something that I'm thinking about really all that much. It's all nice, but I really have my eyes focused on just getting off to a good start tomorrow. If I do, that will be another under par round. All those things kind of come along after the fact if I just play well.

You know what, the course is I think a little bit more challenging this year. We had a north wind today, which it's supposed to kind of get out of the southwest and northwest the next couple days but then come back out of the north again, so that makes this course a little bit more challenging, I think. Then the firmness of the greens and the fairways, I think it's a few shots harder this year, so you're going to have to play well to score well and get it in the fairway.

**Q. Do you really have two different size feet?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, I do.

**Q. Which one's bigger?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** My right one.

**Q. Did you get up to SentryWorld a cup days ago?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I haven't been up there yet.

**Q. On that same line, you how big of a month is this for you with two big tournaments in your home state and what are you thinking, the way the state of your game is? You've got to feel pretty good about your chances.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, every tournament's different, right? I haven't been to SentryWorld since I can't even remember when, junior golf, I think. Maybe in the mid '90s I did a fundraiser up there of some sort. So it's been 20 years or plus since I've been there.

Yeah, I'd like to hope that it's going to fit my game, fit my style of game, but I don't know, I haven't been there.

Yeah, I feel comfortable with my game, for sure. The USGA is always a little bit tougher of a tournament. The U.S. Open, whether it's the Senior Open or the regular Open, it's always a little bit more difficult. You're going to have to play well. To be quite honest with you, I think I'm going to take a couple weeks off after this week and I'm looking forward to that so I should be fresh and ready to go for SentryWorld.

**MODERATOR:** Steve, thanks for the time.