

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
June 10, 2023



STEVE STRICKER

STEVE STRICKER: I was trying to make as many birdies as I could, but yeah, two good rounds, came out of the gate playing well today, and birdied the first couple holes, so that's always a good start, and kept it going on the front. Hit a lot of quality shots on that front nine and made some nice putts.

All in all, a good round, and the scoring I saw was really low, so I figured it was out there and guys were -- I think I saw Miguel at 10-under at one point.

Q. Are you mostly getting up around the green in two a lot or with your wedge, or is it a combination?

STEVE STRICKER: A little bit of both. I've knocked it -- I've hit an 8-iron and 9-iron on No. 2 this week, so I've driven it well and long on No. 2 and made eagle yesterday. Had like about a 15-footer for eagle today that I didn't make. Knocked it on the back of the green at No. 6. I had to lay up, I drove it in the rough at 11, got it up-and-down, and then I didn't birdie 16 today. But I was over the back of the green in two and didn't get it up-and-down.

It's been a little bit of everything. If I drive it good enough, they're reachable for me, so I'll give it a whack and get it up there.

Q. I heard what curfew there was last night was strictly enforced and you were a good boy.

STEVE STRICKER: I was a good boy. I told you it was between one and six beers, and I was in between there. It was fun. Saw a lot of friends came up from edger ton area and had some friends here from Madison, so it was good to see everybody. We don't get to see everybody too much, so it was good to see.

Q. It helps to have a later tee time.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, well, I had a later tee time when REO was here, too, but that didn't pan out.

Q. Paul just tied your score. Will you be nervous tonight? You've been in this position before but maybe not this tournament. Will it be a sleepless night, or what will you think about going into tomorrow?

STEVE STRICKER: Just like any other week, I'm trying to make this out to be. Yeah, I'll be nervous, but you have to embrace it, otherwise it's just going to get the best of you. I'm looking forward to the challenge, and I'll have to fight some nerves for sure tomorrow.

Paul is a great guy. I've played a lot of golf with him, so I look forward to that. The score is low, so somebody could come from behind. It just doesn't have to come from our group. Somebody could post a low one, and we're going to have to do the same thing.

Q. I saw Nicki walk off with a Strick Nine beer.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I was going to bring you guys some, but maybe tomorrow. We could have a party tomorrow.

Q. I know it's going towards your charity, so that's a pretty cool thing.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, they reached out to us -- District 1 is the brewery, and they reached out to us last year, so it took a few months to come up with something. They gave me three choices kind of thing after I told them what I like, so we picked one out, and we had a name. There's some people that call me Strick Nine. Play on words, right? Strychnine will kill you, but it's alcohol, so it tastes good. It's kind of fun, like you said, all the proceeds are going to our foundation.

Q. What's it like to have that big following and just all the roars when you birdie those holes, especially having the lead?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it's a lot of fun. I don't get that type of support week in and week out, so when we come here and play in front of all the home fans, it's pretty special. There's things that go along with that, too. A little extra pressure, feeling like you don't want to disappoint, all that stuff. You've kind of got to fight through all that and just do your best. But it's fun.

Q. Tom Lehman said he wants to know if you think you're playing the best golf of your career.

STEVE STRICKER: I'm pretty consistent. I think I'm more consistent now than -- the courses are easier. I read some social media stuff that they don't think that records should be -- I shouldn't have that record over Tiger, and I kind of agree, really. Two different tours. It's two different styles of golf courses. Much harder out on the PGA TOUR than it is here, but you still have to do it. Otherwise there would have been somebody else on this tour breaking that record before, too.

I'm playing really well, consistent. I'm driving it good. My irons have been really good lately. I've been making some putts off and on. That equals some good scoring. There's a lot of short irons in your hand, especially here. That's what I do and take pride in the most is short irons, so I get a lot of those, and I've been capitalizing on some of those.

Q. What's the formula that's worked this year in the final group or with the lead? And does that change being at home?

STEVE STRICKER: It's not going to change. I don't know. You've just got to go out and try to do it. Go out there and try to beat everybody. You've got to play your best golf, and somebody could play better, and hats off to them. Just like last week, I had the opportunity to win that tournament and I had some putts that I could have made, and I didn't. Stephen Ames did, and he took advantage of it and hit a great shot in at 17.

You just have to try to take control and try to get out ahead and stay out ahead. It's hard. Golf is hard. To try to win is hard, too.

It'll be a challenge tomorrow. But exciting all in all.

Q. Some rain expected overnight, different wind tomorrow. Does that change how you have to approach this golf course given how aggressive and able to go after the greens like you've been so far?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it was softer today. They pumped a lot of water on the greens today for some reason. The ball was stopping a lot quicker. We've played with this north wind in the practice rounds, the pro-am, a little bit even today we played with a north wind. But it's supposed to be stronger, I think I saw tomorrow, 10 to 20 miles an hour. Hopefully the rain misses us and we can get it in and have a good Sunday finish.

Q. With Derek and Zach Johnson and all these guys in town, Michael Phelps, how cool is that to add to this event?

STEVE STRICKER: I'm going to try to sneak up there and watch them finish the last hole. It's super cool. Just another added element that we have for this event. It gets a lot of different people coming out and watching and partaking in what we've got going. It just opens up a lot of doors for other people to kind of experience the Am Fam Championship. They might be a Michael Phelps fan and not a golf fan, so they come out here to watch.

It's really cool. Zach Johnson, the Ryder Cup captain this year, so that's a really nice thing for him to come here. He's a busy guy. Andy does a great job. Then Derek Jeter, I think this is his second or third time here. It's really cool for that kind of support, and the fans love it.