

**STEVE STRICKER**

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**Q. Steve, we'll start with this. Last night you took in quite the awards haul, including Player of the Year. Can you talk about how special a night that was for you?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** It was very special. Yeah, you know, it's really rewarding when you play well for an extended period of time and I was fortunate to do that last year. Played really solid all year, won a few times, had some other opportunities. But yeah, to have that consistency all year long means a lot to me. As players, that's what we're looking to do out here. Luckily, I was able to achieve that last year. A lot of fun.

**Q. You're the defending champion here, shot 60 in the second round, won by six. How's it feel to be back here at Hualalai this week?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, it feels great. We haven't had the best of weather the last two days, but a little bit nicer now and the forecast looks good for the start of the tournament tomorrow and Friday and Saturday.

Excited to be here. It's a great place to start the year. Hualalai is in the best shape I have ever seen it in the times I've been here. There's not a blade of grass out of place, it's pure. Scoring's going to be good, I'm sure, because of that so you're going to have to come out here and get off to a good start.

**Q. Last time we saw you was World Champions Cup and then PNC. How have you felt about your game since that time?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, I've been -- obviously we all have the holidays where you kind of get away from the game a little bit, but I played a couple times, like you said, in December and then right after the first of the year I was able to start working on it again.

My game feels OK. I've been playing quite a bit lately for fun with my brother-in-law, Mario, in Phoenix for a few days before coming over here. I'm hitting it solid and controlling it pretty well. Excited for the start of it.

**Q. I've got a couple from Rob Hernandez. Your best year on the regular Tour was 2009 and then the next year you won twice. What was your approach going into 2010 coming off such a great 2009, if you remember?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I don't know if I really remember. My approach now is just to try to continue what I did last year, come out with the same mentality, try to get in contention, try to have an opportunity to win the last nine holes. Out here it's 54 holes so you've kind of got to

get off to a good start. You can't really, you know, get off to a slow start, otherwise you're forced to do something special the last 45 holes or 36 holes. You have to be prepared right out of the gate. I did that better last year, but I'm hoping just to kind of continue what I did last year and keep it rolling.

**Q. Last year balance was a big key for you, spending time with your family, also TPC Wisconsin and all that. What was the key to maintaining your focus the 16 times you teed it up on PGA TOUR Champions last year?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I think just being prepared when I do go and play. That's always been a thing for me over the years whether it was on the regular Tour or the Champions Tour, just to be prepared and ready to go when I go play. Even though I go and do a lot of different things, I take the time at home to get ready and prepare because when I -- if I'm traveling and especially traveling away from my family, I want to have the opportunity to play well when I go there and give it my best. I think that's been the key to have that good balance, do other things away from the Tour and then be prepared when I do come here and play.

**Q. Last one from Rob. This upcoming year you're in THE PLAYERS Championship and the PGA Championship. That comes at a very busy time on the PGA TOUR Champions schedule. Have you thought about how you're going to lay out your schedule during that time yet?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I've looked at it, but I don't know what I'm going to do there yet. I have some opportunities to maybe play in another PGA TOUR event or two along the way which is right during that busy time. I've got to really look hard at that and determine what I want to do. It is, that time of the year, March, April and May is really busy out here, so I get the opportunity to play in those Tour events. It's going to be something I'm going to probably have to just see how it goes I think. Right now I want to play in more PGA TOUR events if I have that opportunity, but we'll see.

**Q. A little off topic but just with the Packers still in the Playoffs --**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I'm a Bears fan, buddy. Yeah, no, go ahead, I didn't mean to cut you off.

**Q. Any reaction to the game last night or upcoming games?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, we weren't able to watch it last Sunday, but I am rooting for the Packers when they're not -- when the Bears, and they haven't been in the Playoffs for years, right? So I end up being a Packer fan in the postseason lately.

Yeah, they played unbelievable. Jordan Love is playing unbelievable. I think I saw a stat, did he have two or three touchdowns in his last playoff game but he's only thrown one pick in about 20 or 21 touchdowns? Obviously he's playing great. I think they've got a really legitimate chance of going there and knocking off the 49ers, too, because of how good and

how well they're playing.

**Q. (Inaudible.)**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, that is tough. I don't know, what time is it on over here?

**Q. 3:15.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** What's our finish here?

**Q. 5:00 each day.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** We'll be able to watch the second half. You know, shower up and watch the end of the game, the most important part of the game if they're still in it or beating them. We'll definitely turn it on.

**Q. Are there any other 49er fans or big football fans on --**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Well, we're all football fans, I think. I'm not sure about the 49er part of it, but we're all football fans.

By chance did you guys see Woody Austin on TV the other night?

**Q. Yeah, at the bowling --**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I turned it on, I like to watch bowling every once in a while. I was like that looks like Woody Austin. He's first row right behind there. He lives in Wichita? Yeah, he does?

**Q. He knows all those guys.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, he's a good bowler, too. But I didn't know, was that tournament going on currently or was that a taped thing, do you know?

**Q. I don't know anything about it.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** All of a sudden -- I took a picture of him, I'm like, hey, there's Woody watching bowling. He had a Storm bowling ball shirt on with a Titleist hat.

**Q. All right, big bowling fan, Steve Stricker, thank you for joining us.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** You got it.