

**PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE**  
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**STEVE STRICKER**

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**MODERATOR:** We are now joined by GRAIL ambassador Steve Stricker here at the Galleri Classic presented by Spotlight 29 casino.

Just to start, could you speak to your partnership and the impact of GRAIL and the Galleri test and this week as a whole?

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, it's an exciting partnership for myself. I've been learning a lot about their company and their test over the last few months. I was at a dinner last night and learned more. We're in a great spot here in the desert for the demographics of what this test is meant for, you know, people over 50. It's a simple blood test, but I think it's more than that. It's been raising awareness for cancers. Yeah, so I'm super excited, super excited to be part of this company and obviously the tournament. Hopefully, we have a wonderful week here.

**MODERATOR:** Switching gears to golf, it is the second year of the event, your second appearance here. Can you just speak to Mission Hills and the challenge it provides looking ahead to this week?

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, again, it's a perfect spot for us. The course is immaculate, there's not a blade of grass out of place. It's a great venue. Again, the type of people, the demographics that are here for us as well, you know, it's an older generation that lives here for the most part and we're old, too. We've got a lot of recognizable names that play out here. It gives those people who live here a chance to come out and see the past players.

**Q. About the golf course, obviously in this desert, this is a fairly famous golf course because it hosted the LPGA for so long. I imagine last year was the first time you had a chance to actually play it. What is it about that course that fits so well with the Senior Tour as well as with the LPGA?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, I think it's a wonderful course no matter what level you play at. There's room to hit it, but not a lot of room. If you want to be able to score here, you have to play out of the fairway. The greens, they can hide some of the pins on the greens. They're fair. It's kind of right in front of you, there's nothing tricky about it, but it's a good challenge.

I've been able to come here over the last two or three years, my oldest daughter has tried to qualify for the LPGA Tour, so I've caddied here so I've gotten to learn a lot about the course just being on the bag and seeing the breaks. Although it plays quite a bit different in August when it's 110 than 70-some degrees, but it's still an opportunity for me in August to go around there and learn about the course. But it is, it's a great venue no matter what kind of skill level you have.



**Q. At the media day David Toms said one of the reasons he won here last year was because he drove the ball very well and this is a driving golf course. Is that the way you feel?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah. Like I said, to attack some of these pins, and the greens are always -- they were firm last year if I remember right until we got some rain, but they're firm again this year. If you're going to want to be able to get the ball close to the hole, you're going to have to be able to play out of the fairway. And they're tricky to get in the fairway. They give you room on the edges in the rough and everything, but to get it in the fairway, the ball, there's some humps and bumps and it rolls away. It tends to find the rough pretty easily at times. So if you drive the ball well, you're definitely going to have an advantage.

**Q. You mentioned some of the things that you guys liked about this tournament. I was just wondering what was sort of the opinion after last year's event took place around the clubhouse?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, all positive. It's a great setup for us. Being here in the desert, the weather, although it looks like rain this weekend, it's usually pretty good. But yeah, all around a great spot for us to be. From the setup here in the clubhouse to the hotels to everything about it is first class and it's an easy place to come to. They put on a wonderful tournament here, they do a good job with everything and it's great for us to be here.

**Q. Coming into this week, how do you feel and what do you think you need to work on getting to the final round?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, my game hasn't been quite up to speed of where I would like it, but I feel like I've turned the corner on some things and I feel like I'm getting better, and that's all I can do really is continue to try to work on the things I need to work on, try to bring them to the tournament rounds. I feel like I've been practicing really well and hitting the ball in practice rounds, on the range; I really haven't taken it to the tournament setting, the Friday through Sunday rounds yet. So looking to do that and get the ball rolling. What better place, being an ambassador here for the Galleri test and GRAIL, so it would be a great spot to start.

**Q. Steve, pleasure talking with you, first of all. The competition is pretty wide this year. How do you necessarily address the competition and, first of all, you shot 10 under in last year's tournament, so how do you necessarily get over that hump?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, there's a lot of good players out here and they're out here for a reason. There are a lot of major championship winners, a lot of guys that have won tournaments over the years on the regular Tour and out here, so you can't really just fake it around and expect to win. You need to play well, you need to make putts, do all the things that you need to do to win a golf tournament. That's the plan, right, is just to continue to try to get better and do all those things that I've been doing, last year especially, but to bring



that into the start of play right away. A three round tournament so you've kind of got to get off to a good start and it's tough to come from behind sometimes, so it's important to get off to a good start tomorrow.

**Q. Steve, last week you brought in new irons, I think a driver. Are they still in the bag? What are we doing this week?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, the driver's in the bag. Actually, I think I tied for first in driving accuracy last week, which was really good putting a brand new driver in the bag. I feel like it's got some length, too. I drove the ball pretty well. That's the same club in the bag this week.

Different irons against, same company's irons but different model. It seems to be working out a little bit better. The ones that I played last week, I love the look of them but they didn't love me really. The spin on those was a little bit low and I'm not a high spin player, so I need some help with spin, so these clubs in the bag this week have a little bit more spin.

**Q. You mentioned your ambassadorship. I understand you took a Galleri test.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I did.

**Q. What was that experience like?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, it was super easy, right, and they've got a great spot right down here for everybody to go to. They treated me unbelievable, like I was an ambassador, I guess. It was really cool. Very easy, just a simple blood draw. It's kind of weird, but I feel like -- I mean, you're checking for cancers, right, which we all know is such a potentially deadly disease, and there's a bunch of them. It's weird in a way to think about it, but the way I look at it is if I do have it, it's like -- and I was talking to the gentleman last night, it's like you can get a hold of it if you do, it doesn't come sneaking up on you and find out too late. So I feel like being a little bit more proactive in what I'm doing. If I have it, then I can get after it. It's kind of a weird feeling, but one that I was happy to do.

**MODERATOR:** Anything else for Steve? All right. Thank you for the time.

**STEVE STRICKER:** Thank you.

