

**ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES**  
**March 29, 2024**



**STEVE STRICKER (-4)**

---

**Q. Steve, 4 under today, not a bad way to start. How was it working for you out there? You don't look happy.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** No, I wasn't happy the way I came in, struggled coming in. Had it 5 under after 11 and doing some pretty good things, then just hit some marginal irons like not even -- they're starting left and going left. Yeah, played it up too far on 18 in the rough, a couple of dumb mistakes. But scrambled good just to maintain that 4-under round, that's a positive. Just didn't hit irons I was wanting to hit.

**Q. Seems to be a little bit of a pattern on this course, score early and survive late?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Some good holes coming in, yeah. Once you get through 11, you have seven, six holes because 18, you've got to drive it good at 18 but it's a birdie opportunity. It is, there's some good holes there coming in, it's a challenge. And the par 3s are really good here, they're small greens, small little areas where they put the pins. I short-sided myself at 17, was able to get it up and down. It's a challenge, some of the par 3s are really good, too.

**Q. You mentioned in your pre-conference that you felt maybe you turned a corner a little bit with your game.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah.

**Q. Did you see some of those results today?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, actually I did. Like I said, the first 11 holes were pretty good, made some nice putts. I didn't really -- you know, hit it out of the fairway, too, I was hitting it -- hit a good iron at 12 and then hit a poor iron at 13, 16, 17, those three holes weren't very good. Yeah, I'll go to the range, see if I can't catch onto something a little bit. For the most part, it was OK.

**Q. We've heard the weather forecast.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah.

**Q. Did that put a little more pressure on you to try and get as many birdies today?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** No, not really. Everybody's going to have to deal with it tomorrow, and Sunday looks a little bit better than tomorrow. We'll see, wake up and see what you have and go from there. The Tour does a good job of setting things up and they'll set it up fair. It



doesn't look like we're supposed to have wind with it, it just looks like rain. That will probably be easier than a wind like what we've got right now.

**Q. It's hard to believe we're in the second year of this tournament now between the inaugural and this season. Amongst your playing peers and yourself, what did you guys talk about this course, this field coming back to this tournament again?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, it's great, this is a great spot for us. It was a great spot for the ladies when they were here and it's a good spot for us, too. The whole setup is really nice. We're here at a good time of the year where weather is usually pretty good. The course is in great shape, the facilities here are really nice and yeah, the demographics, you know, it's a little bit older clientele just like we are so they can kind of relate to -- and there's a lot of name people here that they grew up watching when we were playing the regular Tour. So all in all it's a good spot for us.

**Q. So you had obviously five birdies on the day and you mentioned in your opening statement yesterday saying you had to stay in the fairway to have success. Is there anything else that you learned from today's performance necessarily that you can go into tomorrow?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** No, it really doesn't change anything. I mean, you still have to drive it in the fairway. I just got to be a little sharper with my irons, I just didn't do that very well today. Some good ones early on, but for the most part they really weren't that good. Got some work to do. But I did hit it in the fairway quite a bit, which is a good thing. Hopefully tighten that up tomorrow and have some more opportunities.

