



Round 1 Interview: STEVE STRICKER (-6)
March 17, 2017

Q. What were your thoughts on your first round on this tour?

STEVE STRICKER: I was a little more nervous than what I expected to be or thought I was going to be. I got off to a good start, birdied the first three and settled down a little bit, but I was excited to get it going finally. It's been a lot of hype really that I'm not accustomed to, you know, and I just kind of wanted to get it going and start playing. So it was good to get the first round under my belt.

Q. When you birdied the first three holes, were you thinking gosh, it's kind of easy out here?

STEVE STRICKER: No, I never think that. Golf has a way of jumping up and getting you. I was just trying to play my game and do the things I know that I'm capable of doing, just taking it from there. But it was a good start. I kind of slowed down in the middle of the round, missed a little short one over there at 11, but all in all a good start.

Q. There was a lot of "Go Badgers" and "On Wisconsin" and that sort of thing going on amidst the crowd. Are you used to that sort of thing?

STEVE STRICKER: I get that a lot out here in Arizona. I got a lot in Phoenix when I was out there this year a month ago and there's a lot of Wisconsinites that live out here or come out during the wintertime. It's fun to hear that. Don't hear that at every tour stop, so it's definitely fun to hear it.

Q. Was there any rookie hazing today?

STEVE STRICKER: No. My caddie bib has my name on the back and somebody wrote "rookie" right next to my name. Somebody did it, I don't know who did it but somebody got ahold of it.

Q. What did you think of Fred today?

STEVE STRICKER: It's impressive. I don't know, what is he, 56? Do you know how old he is?

Q. 57.

STEVE STRICKER: 57? To still have that power that he has at any given time, it looks like he can just step on it and hit it hard if he wants, so it's fun to watch.

Q. Is your wife over there?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah.

Q. Wearing a U of A hat?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, we're nonpartisan, we support anybody.

Q. Badgers played yesterday?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah. They play Villanova tomorrow.

Q. What time does that game start?

STEVE STRICKER: It's during the day. I saw that it's at 11:00-something I think. I'm going to miss it. Same tee times tomorrow?

Q. Earlier, around 9:00 start.

STEVE STRICKER: Oh, okay. So I'll still miss it.

Q. How was the course playing?

STEVE STRICKER: It's playing great. It's in good shape. It's a course if you get it in the fairway, you give yourself some opportunities and it's a good one. Like I said, you have to put it in play off the tee, and if you do that, you're going to have some opportunities.

Q. Thoughts on playing 17 and 18 the way they have it configured now?

STEVE STRICKER: I like it. More of the holes, the finishing holes are up around the clubhouse here, so it's good for the spectators. They don't need to really go out 10, 11, 12, 13, they can wait up here for us to come back and enjoy the hospitality and all that. I like the change.