

SEAN O'HAIR
STEVE STRICKER (-26)

DOUG MILNE: Like to welcome the winners of the 2017 QBE Shootout, Steve Stricker and Sean O'Hair. Congratulations, 8-under 64 today, got the job done about two strokes. Just a few comments on that. I kind of got the sense yesterday that you guys felt like you just kind of got by. Obviously today was a different story.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it was. It was a tough day yesterday, like you said, the conditions were tough, and even today it was tough, going out those first four holes maybe not No. 1 so much, but that wind was right in your kitchen at 2, 3 and 4, and 5 was tricky. The wind just made it tricky all week. Yesterday was kind of a survival day and today was a day where we just kept hanging in there.

Sean played steady every day. I contributed here and there, but it was really hats off to Sean really. He really stepped up big time, especially coming down the stretch today making eagle at 17 and just really solid play. You know, when I'm 40 yards behind him and he's up there, you know, it gives me a great sense of that we're going to do something pretty good on this hole when he's so far up there. So it relieves some of the pressure I thought on my side, and I may have added a little on his side at times, but we really jelled well together I thought. It was a fun week to be with him.

SEAN O'HAIR: Yeah, the format is a lot of fun. This is always a great event to finish the year off with, and to pull this off is special but to do it with Steve is even that much better for me. You know, I'm a golf geek, so he's a friend of mine but still it's kind of hard not to look at him and kind of put him a little bit up on a pedestal. It was just fun watching him play at such a close -- trying to learn things from him and see how he handles himself, especially under pressure and coming down the stretch. It just is such a great experience and something I'm not going to forget for a long time.

So we both played really well I thought, and yesterday we left a lot out there and to be quite honest with you, today I thought we did about as good as we could have done. So I thought we did a good job.

Q. You guys have both won this event before. What does it do for you going into the next season? Maybe a little wind in your sails for the west coast swing?

SEAN O'HAIR: It's definitely better than if we finished last, right? I think it definitely gives me a little bit of confidence. I had knee surgery after Chicago and I was out for a little bit, so fall series I just played Sea Island and I still wasn't quite in shape the way I wanted to.

So to come out here and play as well as I did, it gives me the confidence that I feel I need to go start next year where I need to start. I need to be ready to win, I need to be ready to play well and I think my game, there's a few things I need to work on yet, but yeah, I'm excited about this year.

Q. Left knee?

SEAN O'HAIR: Right knee.

Q. Obviously you had that finish but they were 2-up and you birdied 7, 8 and 9, so you have yourself right there going to the back. Not taking you through the whole thing, but what was the key part for that and what did that do for you guys to get there?

STEVE STRICKER: I think just putting our mind to it. At that point we were 2-down and we both were talking that let's make two out of these next three holes. We ended up birdieing all three, so it was a nice momentum push going in the back nine. And those holes played a little bit tougher, too. Sean made a great birdie at 11 to kind of get us up ahead. Those holes were tough holes today. We just built that momentum there, and then really the killing shot there was at 17 when he made eagle and put us ahead for good.

Q. So you're both in snowy climates up there. Are you glad you came down to nice, warm Florida?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah.

SEAN O'HAIR: Yeah.

STEVE STRICKER: Although it didn't feel so warm today.

SEAN O'HAIR: But you know what, we could be in snow. Yeah, it was great. Naples, it's unbelievable how hot it was earlier in the week playing practice rounds and the pro-ams, and then here we are today. But it's fun to come down here, great nightlife and stuff. So my wife and I kind of look at it as date week and hopefully play some good golf.

Q. Could you feel your hands out there?

SEAN O'HAIR: It wasn't that cold.

STEVE STRICKER: It wasn't that cold.

Q. Sean, just take me through 17 and what you were thinking going into that. You had a one-shot lead, right?

SEAN O'HAIR: Yeah. Well, Steve coming up to 17 tee said, "You'd better eagle this or I'll

kick your ass." No, he just said, "I think 3 is going to go a long way," and I told him, "I'm thinking the same thing." It was actually funny because that's kind what he said on 6, he was like -- I said, "Hey, let's get a couple before we make the turn." He goes, "How about we do a couple before 9," and that's what we did so it was good.

It's a comfortable drive for me, just aim down the right side, turn it over a little bit, and I just had a perfect number, to be quite honest with you. It was a perfect wind, perfect number and just a matter of executing the shot and I was fortunate enough to make the putt.

Q. How far out and what did you hit?

SEAN O'HAIR: I was -- shoot, I don't even remember the number. I was playing about a 180 so I think it was about 195 to the pin. I hit a 7-iron and the putt was, I don't know, how far was the putt? 12 feet.

STEVE STRICKER: 12 feet.

SEAN O'HAIR: Yeah, something like that.

Q. Was the knee surgery something you had been meaning to do for a while?

SEAN O'HAIR: I just had a blown-up knee for about eight months. My medial and lateral meniscus were torn so they had to clean it up.

Q. How did you injure it?

SEAN O'HAIR: On, I don't know, maybe just wear and tear. I'm getting old. Yeah, but it had started really hurting during the Texas swing and it just got to a point where I just couldn't deal with it anymore.

Q. You came within a whisker of lifting a trophy at the Valspar.

SEAN O'HAIR: Yeah, yeah.

Q. What does it mean to you -- I know it's a two-man deal and it's not quite the same but winning is winning. What does it mean to you to actually lift the trophy?

SEAN O'HAIR: It's always great. It never gets old, does it? You've done it a hell of a lot more than I have. It's always nice to pull that off. Obviously this isn't official but for me it feels pretty good.

STEVE STRICKER: It feels official.

SEAN O'HAIR: It feels official.

Q. You're officially the winners. Steve, definitely not a hometown win but I mean this is a place that you've started to come to more, you're a member at a couple clubs here. Does it add a little something to win the tournament here?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, we enjoy coming down here a lot. We'll be back down here in a couple weeks right after Christmas and then over to Miami to watch the Badgers play in the Orange Bowl.

Yeah, we really enjoy it. The best weather in the country during the wintertime, isn't it? We have made some friends here in the past and got some great golf courses to play. Kids love coming here, the beach is just down the road. It's a neat place to be. We always look forward to coming here. We probably spend about six weeks down here a year probably and we enjoy every week, every day of it.

DOUG MILNE: Sean, Steve, congratulations and happy holidays.