

STEVE STRICKER (-3)

Q. What was so hard out there today? I mean, now it's -- everybody came back to the pack, it's all bunched.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it's just a good golf course. You know, I mean, if you don't hit it in the fairway, it's a struggle. Sometimes you do hit it in the fairway and you've still got to maneuver a ball around a tree or overhanging limbs or branches. But the wind came up a little bit at times today, made things a little bit more difficult. A different direction as well, three different days really wind-wise. But it's a course you need to be on, and if you're not, it exposes some things and you've got to fight your way around. And that's what I did today, I kind of battled my way all the way around.

Q. When you look at the leader -- I guess you maybe look at the leaderboard when you're frustrated to see am I trying to catch up or anything. Was that the case today when you saw -- looking back to validate maybe some struggles and frustrations.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, you know, I got off to a poor start and then I saw the guys behind me got off to a poorer start, so it kind of, you know, you're never out of it. You've just got to keep plugging, keep grinding away. You never know when you run off a few birdies and you get right back into it. It's a challenging place, as you can see, and you know, it looks like I'll be two or three shots back going into tomorrow, so it's not a bad position to be in. And I just need to play better. Bottom line is I need to play like I did the first day tomorrow.

Q. Do you thing about the link at all to the PLAYERS Championship? Do you think about kind of SENIOR PLAYERS, the winner of this goes to the PLAYERS Championship?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, for sure.

Q. Does that kind of mean a little bit more?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah. I would love to play in the PLAYERS Championship again, but to do that you need to win here. Yeah, that's an added bonus for the winner, whoever that's going to be. Yeah, that was something I thought about when I came here this week was this is an opportunity to get in the PLAYERS Championship. It's still there and it's there for a lot of guys. We all let a whole bunch of other players in today, so somebody could come from a little bit further back and post a good round. It's going to mean that the leaders, whoever they are at the end of this day, is going to have to play well, too. But it's fun. This is a major tournament out here and the course is playing tough like it should.