

STEVE STRICKER (-7)

Q. Steve, a lot of ups and downs today. Just assess where you're at right now.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, you know, it was a tough stretch of holes in there from 12, 13, 14, 15. Yeah, I had a five-shot lead starting the day, I've got four now, so all in all I didn't give away too many. Had an opportunity to kind of really distance myself, and that was the plan today is to get out, get going and be aggressive and make some birdies and get out ahead, but kind of got side-tracked there in the middle.

Q. Was there a theme to that sidetrack stretch in the middle of your round?

STEVE STRICKER: Not really. You know, I three-putted No. 10 after hitting a nice shot in there underneath the hole. No. 12, I just barely missed my 6-iron, hit on the top the bunker and kicked all the way against the back lip and had no play, couldn't even get it on the green for my next shot. Pipe a drive at 13, hits a tree and kicked more in the woods, end up making par there. But just the feeling of stuff was turning and going the other way all of a sudden, you know. Drove it in the middle of the fairway at 14 and hit a terrible 6-iron in there, don't get it up. Missed the green just barely at 15 and don't get that up and down. Yeah, just not a good stretch of holes, but played better coming in.

Q. Do you feel like 16 sort of righted the ship so to speak?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, yeah, I think so. It was a good drive and a good 4-iron that I hit there, and a nice chip, good putt. I played the hole well. Played the next hole well, too; I just got a gust of wind at 17. And played 18 well. I'm fine. I just -- I wish I didn't have the little hiccups there in the middle.

Q. Playing with Jerry tomorrow, I mean, do you guys -- how do you guys play off each other, you know, fire each other up?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it will be fun. We've played a lot of golf together, but tomorrow we're going to be trying to win so it will be probably a little more serious than what we typically are out and playing with. It will be fun.

Q. The mental adversity, the lapses that you had on the back, how does that make you better and how much was it mental for you?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I think I just gutted it out really. I shot 2 over, which really isn't that bad a score at this place. I got off to such a great start and I didn't want to rest on that great start, but it showed that I can gut it out, what happened to me today and I didn't let it

keep going. It could have easily kept going the other way. I hit some nice shots coming in.

Q. Is there any kind of letdown when you make your first bogey at 4, because you played bogey free that whole --

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, yeah. Obviously you're trying to continue to make that stretch and continue that stretch along, but that's a tough stretch to do here. Maybe I can do that tomorrow.

Q. Playing the Memorial, you're used to the rain, but how much of a different wrench has the wind been, maybe stopping your shots and maybe making you commit to other thoughts?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it was gustier today. It was probably the toughest of the days, I would say, just because the wind was up and then it would really gust. The one good thing, it's always been in the same direction, so guys are getting used to it. It's just the velocity at which it's blowing, it makes it a little tough sometimes.

Q. Do you have a shot or a putt today you feel most proud of that helped you get on track?

STEVE STRICKER: Probably just getting it up and down at 13. Then I didn't take advantage of it because -- well, I made par, but then I bogeyed 14 and 15. That could have been a stretch where I could have turned it around really quick and just made some pars and made a couple birdies coming in. So be it.