

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
June 12, 2022



STEVE STRICKER (-9)

Q. Steve, thoughts on the day, the tournament, how the week's been? It's going to be a tight finish here.

STEVE STRICKER: It is, there's a lot of guys up there. Fun to watch. Yeah, what another great week. The sun decided to show up at the very end, better late than never, I guess. Another wonderful week here. Tremendous crowd support, sponsor support and player support. We had it all again.

Yeah, you can feel the love and the energy from the people in the crowd. They're happy to be here and they appreciate being here. Yeah, so I don't have anything negative to say, it's been another great week.

Q. When you got to 9 under, you were one off the lead, did you have that sinking feeling that you were going to run out of holes?

STEVE STRICKER: Oh, yeah. I told Nicki I had to get to 13 yet and I was at 9 and we had four holes left. I was thinking an eagle in there at 16 and then trying to birdie some coming in. Yeah, a little late to join the party, but it was some better things today. I putted awful, though. I didn't birdie any of the par 5s today. Could have been a real special round, but just didn't get it in the hole very well.

Q. After all you've been through this last year, after the Ryder Cup, now this, what are your thoughts now that you have a little bit of time to rest? How appreciative are you of everything that's going on?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, very appreciative. I've said it before, I've got a different perspective on life and all sorts of different things now. Yeah, I still have some battles to kind of get over. I've still got to get stronger and continue to work on that part of it. Yeah, I'm just thankful to be able to do this, to be able to continue to play, something that I really love to do. And yeah, so it's come a long ways and the ups and the downs in these last six months were something else, but I'm glad where I'm at now.

Q. Going off of that, too, to get the welcome back or just the amount of fan support that you had, what was it like seeing everybody welcome you back?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, yeah, very special. Like I said, I can feel a lot of the love and the support that I get here. It's very special and it's worthwhile. They all know why we're doing it, they know why we're playing here, to give back to our community for these charities, for the children's hospital, they receive a lot of money, and it's part -- we owe that to the fans and

the sponsors and obviously American Family Insurance. You put it all together, this community has embraced it, they enjoy it. And the players love it. I get nothing but thank-yous and appreciations. They just love coming here.

Q. Is this the kind of ending, the best kind of ending to hope for? I mean, besides yourself.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, you know, it's always -- I come into this week every year thinking yeah, this is going to be my year, I want to knock this one off, and then I always end up here trying to rally at the very end. I've got to get off to better starts, I think. Yeah, we've got a great leaderboard, we've got a bunch of guys that could win. Jerry's back up there again, so it should be an exciting finish. Like I said, the weather finally came through and the people came out.

Q. When you're looking at the leaderboard when you're out there on this final round, do you do it more as a player or as a tournament host. When you look at that, eight guys tied for the lead, do you say we nailed another one, we've got a great tournament?

STEVE STRICKER: You know, a little bit of both. I was looking at it mainly as a player for a while when I started making those three birdies. I told Nicki we've got to run the tables, we've got to make them all coming in, so I was looking at it as a player. But when I'm finished here and sitting back and seeing the people on 18 there, looking at the amount of players, like you said, it's going to be another good finish.

Q. Will you use U.S. Open week to plot out what's next or do you know what your schedule is going forward?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, my schedule right now, hopefully U.S. Senior Open in a couple weeks, then John Deere and then Bridgestone Seniors.

Q. Will next week be a key week of rest for you?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah.

Q. How do you recover now that you're in this situation of having to protect your body a little bit more than in the past?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I've got to do a little bit of everything. I'm going to have to work out, which I don't like. I'm not a fan of that, but I need to and I need to get back after it like I did for a while there. I need to get stronger, I need to get my back and my core better. It shows up after a period of time when I start to play that it starts to fail, so I've got to just get better with working that out and getting stronger.

Q. Was it pretty good when the sun came out today, does heat help?

STEVE STRICKER: Heat helps a lot. Yeah, we all know that. We all know Florida in the wintertime is a good place to be, or out west somewhere. Yeah, heat is good.

Q. (No microphone.)

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, he's older than I am, though.

Q. If Jerry doesn't three-peat here, Thongchai Jaidee has the chance to become the first player from Thailand to win. Just overall thoughts on him --

STEVE STRICKER: Oh, cool.

Q. -- and how he plays and what he's meant to this tour?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I haven't gotten to play with him since he turned 50, but I played some rounds with him on the regular tour. First of all, he's a wonderful guy. He's very nice, very soft spoken, but he's a great guy to be around. Yeah, I'm pulling for him. I'm pulling for all the guys up there. You know, Jerry again, but it's going to be a shootout coming down the end, which will be fun to see.

Q. How will you watch that shootout?

STEVE STRICKER: I'm going to find someplace comfortable to watch it, for sure. Maybe down in the media room next to you.

Q. Great accommodations, thank you very much.

STEVE STRICKER: You got it, guys.