

**STEVE STRICKER ( -14)**

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**Q. Did you ever dream of a season like this?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** No, no. I said that out there, I really didn't know what to expect. I didn't know where I was going to be, I didn't know where my game was going to be. When I was starting to come back and hitting it super short and my body felt awful, I was just hoping to play really more than anything. Nicki's thing was let's just take it in two-week increments and that kind of proved to be the savior because we just could see improvement every couple weeks whether I felt better, starting to put on weight, putting on muscle, all that kind of stuff. Slowly it started to come back a little bit and I started to hit it a little bit -- I had time to work on chipping and putting and that's kind of what's carried me through all of this really is I continue to chip and putt fairly well. My long game, driving it in the fairway a lot, but we all can hit it better. We always can continue to try to hit it better.

But yeah, I didn't know what to expect coming out this season at all, so it's been a lot of fun really. I mean, gave me a different perspective last fall. I've said that on a number of occasions and it's true. I'm blessed to be out here to play and to do the thing I love to do.

**Q. Nicki and I were talking, it seems like Bobbi's having a great year, Izzi's got States starting tomorrow. I mean, it seems like the whole family, it's just kind of made you guys a little tighter maybe? I don't know what the word is.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah. They would have to answer that, they're the ones who went through those couple months when I wasn't feeling well, but after that, when I got back out of the hospital, spent more time at home, we do a lot of together as a family. We play a lot of golf together as a family, we root each other on in our golf games and we help support each other. We'll all be in watching Izzi the next couple of days. Bobbi was here watching me these last couple of days. I'll be caddying for her at Tour School. It's a family thing, W.e enjoy being with each other and we enjoy rooting each other on.

**Q. What's next? Where are we going from here?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, good question. I'm going to go up in a tree for a while, I know that. I'm not in SAS, I won't play there. I don't know, I really don't. I've never chased the fall so much on Tour, but I did set a goal of these last three events and I achieved the goal, so I said if I could achieve this goal, then I could probably maybe play in November time. So I maybe owe it to myself to do that, but then again I go back and forth. I enjoy most being at home and hunting with family and friends, I enjoy that period as well. It will be a game-time decision, I'm sure.

**Q. I'm the only one who doesn't know this, I'm sure, but what is it you hunt?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Whitetail with a bow.

**Q. Steve, that perspective thing you were talking about earlier in the week after late last year, what happened?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, yeah. I mean, I feel like I want to do what I want to do. I'm 55 years old, I've had a nice career, I've been fortunate enough to play a long time, but I still feel like that's my passion, that's what I love to do.

So I wait for this time period all year long. It's really only about a month of good hunting and then it goes away, so it's like I hate to miss that month. Unfortunately, the Schwab Cup Playoffs are right in that month time frame. We'll see. We'll see what happens at home and I'll go from there. Go back, start working out again, start trying to get stronger and eat better and try to put some more weight on and go from there.

**Q. At what point after the round started or maybe even before did you feel like, OK, it's going to take somebody doing something extraordinary behind me to catch me? Did you have the confidence that you were going to be as steady as you were?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I felt like if I could go around here and not make a bogey today and take care of the par 5s, birdie two or three of them, shoot 3 under par or 4 under par, it was going to take a really special round.

And the pin locations were just as hard or harder than some of the other days. It's hard to get the ball close, so a lot of times I'm just trying to get it on the green, two-putt and move on, and I was good with that. I was fine with just making pars and moving on. I played the par 5s well, I birdied them all today and that was a goal. And didn't make a mistake really until the last shot out of the fairway and at that point I figured it was over. It was a good day. It's a tough day when you have a three-shot lead, but I did all the things I was supposed to do.

**Q. You spoke of a goal and you said you achieved it. What was it?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** It was out of the three tournaments, to win twice. I did that. I needed that to get caught up really to Steven Alker. I'm still a couple, 250,000 probably behind him, but I needed those two wins to get in the game, to get in the picture, and I am. It's like OK, I don't want to throw that away, either. Maybe I can have some success in the tree early and get back to playing golf.

**Q. Steve, you guys have done this, you guys have done this for a long time together. Obviously great years, great moments, but how special is maybe this year doing it together?**



**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, and she's been on the bag all year. That's been a lot of fun. It's kind of rekindling how we started my career off in the early '90s and even before I got on Tour from Canada when she would travel along and caddie. It's been a lot of fun. We've enjoyed our time out here. I don't know, I enjoy it, I don't know about you, but --

**NICKI STRICKER:** Absolutely.

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, it's a lot of fun. The hard part is leaving one family member at home to go to school, but she's been a trouper. But it's been a nice family get-together when we come out and play these events.

**Q. Do you have good venison recipes or do you donate?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** We donate now.

**Q. Which daughter was here and who was --**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Bobbi, our oldest, is here, and Izzi, our 16-year-old, is back home. She qualified for the State tournament tomorrow and Tuesday, so she'll be playing.

**Q. Madison Club?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** It's at University Ridge where we have our AmFam Championship.

**Q. With your strategy, did you find yourself putting a little bit of pressure on yourself on the tee on the par 5s knowing that's where you wanted to at least make your --**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah. And I drove the ball really well this week, I put it in the fairway a lot. Wasn't always the longest. I didn't really try to rip away, I just wanted to play from the fairway and I did that lot and I did that again today on the par 5s. You're right, it's important to get it in the fairway on the par 5s, otherwise you don't really have a chance to get it up that close to the green. Yeah, that was the key to the day, all week really was my ability to drive the ball in the fairway.

**Q. And at what point this year did you feel like you were at full strength?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** You know, I think the last month or so. I feel like I'm showing better signs. I still, you know, feel like it's not all quite there. My body, the way it feels isn't quite the same like strength-wise. Like I really want to give it some time and it's just not there.

I've played a lot of golf lately, I've lost some weight again lately, so I don't know if I just need to get going again, put some weight back on, start working out harder again and try to get back up there 10 more pounds. I feel good. I'm not taking any medicines or anything like that and I feel fine. It's just probably older age, too. I'm 55 and things don't get any easier, but it's going in the right direction.

**Q. At what point did you stop taking medicine this year?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I was slowly weaned off probably in April or May the heart medication stuff. I know when I first came out and played Houston, I was still taking stuff, but I haven't for quite a while.

