

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
June 11, 2023



STEVE STRICKER (-18)

Q. What was it like to stand over there and watch and then --

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it was very special. You know, I had a couple opportunities the first six years and didn't finish the job on Sunday. Today, today was a difficult day not only with the weather but just fighting my nerves and the emotions of trying to win a golf tournament, especially here in Madison.

Yeah, this one's pretty sweet. I held it together today. It was a day that it could have gotten away pretty easily just because the conditions were so tough. Held it together, so I'm proud of that part. Yeah, this feels pretty sweet to come out on top.

Q. Can you put into words taking pictures with your family with the trophy and --

STEVE STRICKER: Oh, yeah, it's very special. Anytime I get this opportunity to win a golf tournament and to have them here with me is very special. Nicki's been on the bag a lot. We've all wanted me to win this event and finally it happened.

Yeah, it's a special day for us in more ways than one, too. Sure, the golf tournament, winning that is nice, but I think where it really hits home to me is just the impact that we're having here in the community and the monies that we're raising. It never felt like we would be in this kind of position where we could raise this type of money for the hospital and the charities, so that makes it even more special.

Q. You've won big tournaments, but is it safe to say this one means more?

STEVE STRICKER: This one definitely means more than probably any tournament throughout my whole career really just because, like I said early on there, when I went into the office of Jack Salzwedel and we talked about a way to kind of impact the community through our foundation, to have it come full circle and to see what we've come up with and what we've done so far over the years is pretty special.

Yeah, and Bill and the guys that are there now, they're continuing on. They know how important this is, we all know how important this is to the community, so it's pretty special.

Q. How do you celebrate?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, that's a good question. Maybe have a few people over tonight and just have a good time with it. Usually never get back in time to celebrate something because we're on the road, so this one, party at my house.

Nobody heard that.

Q. Can you talk about the nerves, especially early on? You bogey No. 1, but how important was it battling back with that birdie on 2 to kind of get yourself back to even?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, 2 is a good birdie. I knew how that first -- the stretch of holes to start with were going to be a challenge. I knew 3 and 4, 5 were all going to be playing into the wind, so to get that birdie right away back on No. 2 is a big deal. I really wasn't flustered today surprisingly. I have been in other years and then today I just, I think I was so determined to do it that I just kept putting my head down. I bogeyed No. 10, I three-putted No. 10 and came back with another birdie at 11. So each time I made a bogey I bounced back and that kind of helped steady the ship and keep it going.

Q. The Edgerton golf team just finished fourth in the state tournament this past week after a rather tough second day. Some of their best golfers are underclassmen. After a performance like this, what advice would you have being so young and so successful?

STEVE STRICKER: Well, again, that golf program at Edgerton has come a long ways over the years and it's good to see they're making state pretty regularly. It's just continuing on, right? Keep practicing, keep working at it, have your eyes set on getting better and the prize winning state one year. I think they've got all the pieces there and having a young team, they're just going to get better.

Q. What does it mean bringing it back to Edgerton like that being so close to home?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I mean, obviously Edgerton is a special place for me growing up there, still have a lot of family and friends here. A lot of those friends and family were up today. It was a special day.

And Edgerton means a lot. It's where I learned the game, it's where my parents still live, the golf course I grew up right there at the Town Country Club. Yeah, the years have flown by it seems like, but again, it's a cool spot.

Q. Steve, given your love for the outdoors late in the year, was today a Steve Stricker kind of day weather-wise?

STEVE STRICKER: I'd rather have it 85 and hot and humid because it's a little easier to move. I don't mind conditions like this, I really don't. Pars on some of those holes were good scores, so it makes it harder for people to come and try to catch me. I knew if I could just play my game and just get it on the green, get some opportunities, I was going to make a few here or there and it was going to be tougher for guys to catch us because the day was so tough.

Q. And are you off now until the U.S. Senior Open?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I'm going to take a couple weeks off and then play the U.S. Open next.