

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
July 13, 2023



STEVE STRICKER (-5)

Q. Steve, another solid start at Firestone, looked like you were scrambling well, making putts. Can you tell us about your day?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it was. It was a combination of everything, right, and this is what this course makes you do. You have to scramble going around here, take advantage of the good shots that you have. Tough to get in the fairway at times, and when you don't, you're scrambling to just to make a par, try to get it on the green. The rough isn't horrible so you can play out of it, but it doesn't lend itself to being able to attack a pin from the rough.

So you get a lot of everything around here. If you get in the fairway, you can attack, but if not, you spend your time trying to just salvage par.

Q. When you say the rough isn't terrible, is that different from previous years here? It's shorter than it has been?

STEVE STRICKER: You know, I think it's probably a little bit shorter than it has been. I remember a couple years ago, maybe three or four years ago now that it was really long and you had a hard time just getting it to the green. Now we can definitely get it to the green, but it brings in fliers. You don't know whether the ball's going to jump, come out soft, which adds another element to it, too.

Q. How much did the wind affect a lot of your tee balls today?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it was gusty, it was tricky, it was all over the place. At times you felt like it should be into you and then all of a sudden your ball gets going and it's downwind. It was definitely variable and it was tough to keep track of it and find the consistent direction that it was going to go.

Q. The second shot into 10 was nice, but still that birdie putt was not easy, was it?

STEVE STRICKER: No, and I was in a divot out in the fairway on 10. Sometimes that's good, you know, it changes your focus from let's just do a smart play here, try to get it up there around the center of the green somewhere and not get too greedy with it. It came out nice. Then I had a big left-to-right curler, but when you make a putt like that early on, it provides some confidence right out of the gate.

Q. Speaking of putting, on 16, the seventh hole, your 16th, walk us through that putt. How far was that, firstly?



STEVE STRICKER: Yeah.

Q. And what happened on 8? I didn't see what happened on 8, I just saw you go from 6 to 5.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah. On No. 7 I hit a nice 4-iron in there. Again, that wind should have been into us and all of a sudden my ball carried a long ways, got carried to the back of the green. It was a good probably 40-footer or more, 45 feet probably. I've had that putt over the years here, it's a big breaker. You've just got to put it out there and kind of let gravity take over, and it did, it went in nicely. You don't expect that.

Then No. 8, hit a nice drive right down the middle of the fairway, and I was kind of in between clubs. Went with the 8-iron instead of the 9-iron and kind of just decel'd on it, pulled it just slightly. Didn't have that bad of a bunker shot really, really fluffy sand. Went right underneath it and didn't get it onto the green, so it was a bogey.

Q. You mentioned a lot about scrambling today. In a round where you're scrambling and obviously doing extremely well, how critical would you say is it to be able to control your emotions each and every shot in order to stay in the present?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, on this course you have to just grind it out. Everybody goes through those moments here. My stats won't look as good really as how I played. I hit a few on the fringe that I ended up putting that don't count as greens in regulations. Hit some really nice drives off the tee, a good one at 4, thought I hit the fairway but it's this far in the first cut. So a lot of that happened today.

But it is, it's one of those courses you've just got to keep your head down, keep plugging along. It's challenging. Just not, you know, try to give stuff away. Scramble, give yourself an opportunity when you're out of position.

Q. Would you say that in a major like this where someone has success, is that often the difference in who ends up being successful at the end?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I think so. You know, having a good head on your shoulders means a lot in this game. It can help you or get in your way.

Yeah, in majors it's probably utmost important to just control your emotions, think well, don't get too rattled. I'll try to do all the positive things. It's easy to say, hard to do sometimes, but you've just got to keep trying to do that and keep thinking your game is going to go in the right direction, make some birdies and get off to a good start.

Q. Could you explain the bean soup? Some of us are feeling left out. And crunchy pie? There's some things that we've been exempt from.

STEVE STRICKER: And what was the other thing?



Q. Crunchy pie or something?

STEVE STRICKER: I don't know about the crunchy pie.

Q. Just take us to the bean soup then. We'll get that from someone else.

STEVE STRICKER: Well, it's a -- I'm not even sure what kind of bean, pinto maybe? I don't know what kind of bean soup it is, but they always have it here. They used to have it in a pot that's always heated up, warmed up so you just go up there and scoop your own bowl out, or cup. Now you order it.

So I got a bowl yesterday with a half a sandwich and I'm going to go do the same thing. It's good stuff.

