

ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTES
July 15, 2023



STEVE STRICKER (-7)

Q. Solid round of golf, 5 under par it's always good around here at Firestone. But I know something about you today, you seemed very patient in your approach to the game. Would that be the case?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, and I have been patient I think for the most part. I've been letting things just go. I've been letting them -- when I do hit a poor shot, I just kind of shrug it off and move on. And I hit a couple poor shots today, let me tell you.

For the most part I've played really solid, hit a lot of good drives off the tee, I gave myself some opportunities out of the fairway, cashed in on a couple. Good round put me right in there for tomorrow.

Q. All right. Tomorrow more than likely you're going to have the lead or tied for the lead going into the final round tomorrow. What's going to be the game plan?

STEVE STRICKER: You know, the same things around here, you have to hit it in the fairway to be able to attack some of these pins, then you've got to have a pretty sharp iron game. The greens are perfect, they're starting to bounce out a little bit, so you've got to be in the fairway, otherwise you're just kind of scrambling around trying to make a par.

Q. Steve, 5 under today, currently top of the leaderboard. Just what was it about the shift in your mindset from yesterday to today to make this big push?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, good question. I've been playing well. Yesterday I played horribly, I just didn't do anything very well. Hit some really bad shots, and I hit a couple more of those today, kind of pull hooks with a short iron. I worked on it last night, ironed out a few kinks, need to do it again today.

But a solid round. I drove the ball really nicely, I put it in play a lot. But again, I hit a couple of those pull hooks with short irons that cost me bogeys, otherwise it would have been really special.

Hopefully, you know, work on it, get it a little bit better and drive it like I did today tomorrow and hit some better iron shots.

Q. We got this round in, but do you think that the rain tomorrow is going to make a big difference for you?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, you know, it depends on how much we get. Obviously if it



softens things up -- the course is playing really good now, it's firm, the greens are bouncing out, it's in great shape. Hopefully we miss the majority of it and lets us play a good one tomorrow.

Q. When you got to the first green you had, what, about a 12-footer for birdie? You weren't happy with the result?

STEVE STRICKER: No.

Q. What goes on, because I know you worked on that yesterday, you ironed that out? The putting, too.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah.

Q. You just missed. Was it a misread, mis-hit, what was that?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it's hard to tell if I pushed it there a little bit or if it broke more than what I thought.

I had in my mind to start off 3-3, that's where I was going. When I didn't do that and then hit it in there on the second hole for an eagle and don't make that, you know, it tests your patience a little bit right away.

I was in a good spot. I hit a lot of good quality shots today. Like I said, I'm picking on the two that I didn't hit very well, but I hit a lot of good shots and gave myself some opportunities, scrambled when I had to. Hit a lot of greens, which I haven't been doing.

Q. You moved today, moving day as you say, whatever, but it's hard to do that here to pick up shots, especially in abundance where you want to be I think going into Sunday?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it was important that the leaders didn't go too far away, and I needed a 4, 5 under round and I did it, I got it. And they helped me out a little bit by not going low themselves.

Tomorrow should be fun. There's a lot of guys with the opportunity to win and we're on a great golf course and the weather looks perfect for tomorrow.

Q. Strick, you hit 14 of 18 greens as well today, which was tops in the field. Just how does that attribute to missing in proper spots, having the right mindset, et cetera?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, you know, I think that round yesterday was a real wake-up call. I've just been kind of, you know, going out and not thinking a lot and just letting things happen. Then yesterday, like I said, I hit some really poor shots and I'm like, well, wait a second.



So I went back to work on some of the things that I need to do and clean some of those things up for today. Yeah, I hit a lot of good shots, missed some in the bad spots but missed the four greens in the proper spots. Holed one out of a bunker, which is always a good thing, at No. 11. I needed that round like that to get right back in there.

Q. When you talk about fixing things, how much of it's mechanical versus mental?

STEVE STRICKER: A little bit of both because, you know, to be quite honest with you, some of those shots I hit yesterday, I'm like, wow, I haven't hit that kind of shot in a really long time. So then it messes with the mental side of things, either your confidence level. Then I hit a couple more of those today. It's hard to pull the trigger when you hit it that poorly on those couple of shots, but I did for the most part. I'm not swinging as freely as I'd like, but I managed to get it around with a good number.

