

ROUND 3 PRESS CONFERENCE
September 17, 2023

STEVE STRICKER (-16)



Q. All right, Steve, congratulations. Your third win here, your sixth win of the season. How does this one feel for you?

STEVE STRICKER: It feels really good. Challenging day anytime you're trying to win a golf tournament. There are a lot of guys up around the lead and it just became a two-man race there towards the end. It's always a challenge. You're fighting your game, you're fighting your nerves, you're just trying to get it done.

Like I said earlier, it's so rewarding when you do, and it's a lot of fun. It's a lot of fun to come here and play and enjoy the area, enjoy the course. Couldn't ask for a better week.

Q. Steve, I talked to you about this being like a home course before you teed off. Becoming more and more evident you really love it here.

STEVE STRICKER: I do, I do like it a lot. You've got to work your way around the golf course, you've got to hit it in the correct spots. There's some birdie holes, there's some challenging holes, there's a good mix of holes that you take advantage of some and make pars on others.

Just understanding the golf course. The greens are pure. I've puttied well here again this year like I have other years. It's just I enjoy coming here.

Q. Have you ever three-putted 18 and won?

STEVE STRICKER: I'm sure I have. You know, I saw that K.J. made bogey there on this hole and just, you know, knew I could make bogey and win. I wanted to get it up on the top shelf just to give myself just an easier two-putt, but I'll take it. That's why you work hard all the way through, just to have that cushion at the end. I'll take 'em any way I can.

Q. He sure gave you a run though today, the whole tournament.

STEVE STRICKER: Oh, yeah, he played great. I guess he shot 5 under today and bogeyed the last, so he was playing well. I was definitely paying attention to what he was doing on the way in. Yeah, so it was good to get this one.

Q. How nice is it to play with these ideal conditions? This isn't normal to have no wind.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah. A friend that I've gotten to know here over the years, he's like, I

told you it doesn't always blow in South Dakota. Today, it was a beautiful day, hardly any wind.

But it almost makes it harder sometimes when you have such pure conditions that you feel like you should make birdies, and you can get a little aggressive with shots and sometimes that can get up and bite you every once in a while, too, when you have such pure conditions like that. So you've still got to play your own game, but it was a wonderful day.

Q. I wanted to ask you about Bernhard Langer. He's 66 and still playing at an incredible level. Talk to me about what he means to this tour.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, he's an inspiration to all of us. He's a wonderful man, a great player, a great ambassador, a great role model. We all look up to him out here. He continues to do the unthinkable and continues to play well.

I saw him creeping up the leaderboard, so I knew he was coming. Just another reason why this victory means even more to me. It kind of pads my lead on that Schwab Cup a little bit and it's something I'm looking forward to trying to cap off at the end of the year. Anytime I can come and win and continue to move up that leaderboard is good.

Q. Would you say you're getting better and better, just kind of like he's done?

STEVE STRICKER: I don't know. It's getting harder and harder really. Our bodies, it gets harder and harder to get loose, to swing at it with speed, so you've got to continue to work at it. That's what he's done so well over the years. I see him in there working out, stretching, doing all the things you need to do. Again, it's someone you can watch and look up to and try to model yourself after.

Q. Was it a bigger putt for you on 9 or 12 to really get you going there toward the end?

STEVE STRICKER: You know, yeah, they're all big. I mean, anytime you can make a putt like I did at 9, 12. I missed one at 10. I was thinking, well, I could have really got something going by birdieing 10 and didn't.

You know, I made a lot of good putts this week. The one at 12 and then a good up-and-down at 13, and good ones at 15 and 16, good solid putts. Those really make me feel good, I can handle that under the gun.