

**ROUND 2 QUOTES**  
**June 8, 2024**



**STEVE STRICKER ( -9)**

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**Q. Steve Stricker, beautiful round of golf today, eight birdies, a couple of bogeys. Now, you said yesterday you weren't real comfortable with your putting, which we've never heard that ever before in the history of the PGA TOUR, Steve Stricker.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I don't know about that.

**Q. Well, what changed today? Your iron shots were spectacular, straight on, a little bit better as the day went on yesterday, but what about your putter? Did you make any adjustments?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I did. I went to the putting green last night, just a setup situation, kind of moved my weight around a little bit. I had noticed out on the course that I was getting my weight a little left and typically over the years and my career I've always been almost 60/40 on my right side so I was having a hard time getting through the putts, so I adjusted that. It was better today, I hit some nice putts, and could have made a couple more. As golfers we're always trying to make as many as we can, but overall it was better.

**Q. Tomorrow it looks like you, Ernie and David Duval in the last group, like days gone by, right?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah.

**Q. So how much fun will that be?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** It will be a lot of fun. I saw Ernie post that 9 early and it was key for me to make some birdies coming in, but it will be a great time playing with those guys tomorrow, friends. We appreciate them being here and hopefully we put on a good show.

**Q. I know you've worked really hard this week as the ambassador, as the host. You've delegated all the other duties, your duty tomorrow is to try to go defend the championship.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** No doubt. That will be the fun part and the hard part. Obviously Ernie's been playing well, he won last week, just Hall of Famer, he's going to come with everything he's got. But it will be fun. It will be a good challenge and hopefully the weather cooperates for a day.

**Q. You and Ernie go back a long ways. I think real early in your career you played against him in like a pro-am somewhere? Do you remember that way early in your**

**career?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, yeah, it was a match play event. I think I played on -- in the Wentworth match play early on in my career in '96 maybe or something like that. It was an event they had at the end of the year and it was a 36-hole matches. I had him down in the first 18 and he came roaring back and beat me. I think we've played each other in Presidents Cups over the years, too.

But just a great guy. I've gotten to know him a little bit more out here, spending some more time with him, a couple dinners here and there with him. Went to his pro-am early this spring, the Els for Autism pro-am that he throws where he raises a bunch of money. He's a wonderful guy and look forward to the day tomorrow.

**Q. Steve, with the weather today, thought it was going to snow for a minute --**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah.

**Q. -- how hard was it out there, or was it easier?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Well, it was probably easier than yesterday, for sure. The wind was down, but you throw that rain in at times today, made things a little bit more challenging, but it wasn't that bad a day really.

Then the last couple holes, 17 and 18 it got really nice for us. Yeah, you never know what you're going to get around here this time of year. We had a little bit of everything today. I didn't think it was supposed to rain as much as it did and we kind of got where we weren't really as prepared -- I kind of lighten the bag up for Nicki, right? I try not to tell her. Should we bring this? I'm like, no, we should just keep that back. We should have had a few more things in there. All in all, it worked out all right.

**Q. With the putting that you fixed yesterday after your round, can you go through that?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, it was really just a weight adjustment. I've kind of thought about over the course of my career I kind of pretty much 60/40 weight on my right side kind of thing. I've been noticing that I would get up over some putts and I would be kind of leaning on it, the ball was a little bit more in the middle and leaning forward. I was having a hard time catching it square really, getting it back for square. I was leaving them out to the right if I accelerated and I'd end up slowing down, so it was like a vicious cycle. Today was a little bit better, I felt like I started some more putts online. Could have made a few more. I made a couple nice ones, but it was better, definitely better.

**Q. The smile after the fourth birdie in a row, haven't seen that in a while. Did you like that stretch and especially that one with the roar you got there?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, I don't know if they were too excited about me making birdie as much as they were going to get a dollar off another beer I think was the deal.

I can feel the pressure going up there. When you hit it inside or hit a good shot in there, you hear the mumbles of the crowd saying, come on, make it, we need a dollar off our beer. As soon as I make it, I held up a one and then I see a bunch of people running to go grab another beer. I think I made some more fans there today.

Yeah, it's a cool atmosphere down there on 17. It's cool when you can make a birdie.

**Q. We talked about kickstarting this thing on Thursday that kind of gets you jump started. Do you feel like the fans have kind of kept their end of the bargain and helped you get going --**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah.

**Q. -- and finish the deal tomorrow?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, it's been good. I get a lot of support here. I feel that love right away from the first tee on. And then especially when I can finish the way I did today made things a lot more fun and enjoyable, got me right back in the tournament. For a while there, I made bogey at 13 up the hill with a wedge in my hand, looking to make a birdie and I make a bogey, so I was 4 back at that point. I needed to make a good, strong finish and I did.

**Q. Mario mentioned your mother-in-law has an 80th birthday celebration tonight?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah.

**Q. I don't know if you're going.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Oh, yeah, it's at our house, I'll be there.

**Q. Does that afford you the work-life balance that you're looking for, a week like this and you wish every week could be like AmFam?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I don't know if I wish every week could be AmFam week because I feel a lot of extra pressure here to play well, but it is a special week. And we get to stay at home, stay in our own beds, get to see a lot of family. My mom gets to come up and watch and we get to spend some time with her, so that part's really nice. Yeah, that's the balance we're all looking for I think as players, especially at our age, to do a little bit of this and do the family things that we all want to do.

Yeah, we'll have fun tonight. Gluten-free bundt cake for dessert, can't beat that. It's good. Chocolate. Have you ever had that?

**Q. I have not. Do you want me to stop over?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** It kind of looks like your hair, it's high and it's -- it kind of falls off. It's good stuff, just like your hair, it's good stuff.

**Q. Steve, with the driver you found you're happy with, now that you made this putting adjustment, is this as good as you've felt in a while about everything?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah. You know what, it's amazing, I've been struggling with the driver just to try to feel like I was -- I just knew I wasn't going down the right road. It wasn't comfortable, I wasn't hitting the shots that I thought I should be hitting, and then immediately I got that club on Monday morning and started hitting it in the middle of the day on Monday, I'm like here we go, the feelings are back. I don't hit them all perfect, but when I don't feel comfortable, I still kind of maneuver it out there and get away with it. But the good ones are really good and the feelings are correct. I piped it on 18 both days in a row, just really good feelings. Really good one at 16 today. That kind of filters down in the rest of your game, too. You feel good about things. My iron play I think has gotten better because of that. Yeah, and if I can keep working on that putter and get things going I'll be all right.

**Q. How does it feel to be in a great position to win it again tomorrow and what's it going to take?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, it depends on the weather. I saw 15- to 25-mile an hour winds again tomorrow, could be another tough day like we had on Friday, but I guess we'll just have to wait and see what it gives us or brings us. You know, you're going to have to put up a good number. Got good players up at the top. Ernie Els won last week and he's playing good, so you're going to have to shoot a good one but be smart depending on the weather.