

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
June 6, 2025



STEVE STRICKER
MARIO TIZIANI (-7)

MODERATOR: All right, gentlemen, thanks for joining us. Got tournament host and 2023 AmFam champion Steve Stricker, and -- were you '23?

STEVE STRICKER: I don't know.

MODERATOR: Tournament champion, and his brother-in-law, PGA TOUR Champions player Mario Tiziani joining us.

Take me through your round today, gentlemen, and what was working for you guys out there.

MARIO TIZIANI: I don't think either one of us is sitting up here super thrilled. We kind of ham and egged it pretty well. We birdied different holes. The par 5s we didn't play great. We probably left a few out there. I know he certainly didn't have his best stuff, and I had an opportunity to kind of help him and didn't really do a ton.

That's kind of what I would say.

STEVE STRICKER: Pretty spot on.

MODERATOR: What's the strategy going into tomorrow with the scramble format now?

MARIO TIZIANI: Yeah, hard to say. We're still trying to figure out -- I mean, historically a scramble, you have to get after it. Depends on the weather, but I feel good about that format for us, I don't know why. I have no reason why other than I just feel like that's a good format for us so I expect us to play well.

Q. You guys have played a lot of golf together. What was different about playing together today?

MARIO TIZIANI: Not much.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I don't think it was much different. I mean I was comfortable, felt good, felt right.

And Mario said it best, we birdied 7 holes but they're all the opposite holes, which is a good thing, we just needed more of those.

But it was fun, it was a lot of fun. I wish I was in play a little bit more. I threw it in the weeds on him a few times and out of the hole a couple times, which is not typically my game but I did. Yeah, I've got to try to find something better for tomorrow.

Like he said, tomorrow the format -- he's hitting his irons well and get me on the green, I think two looks at it I think hopefully we can throw some more birdies at 'em.

Q. Steve, could you describe the level of frustration out there? We know you're battling stuff, but the level of frustration out there as you were going around, but then what was your reaction when you saw where your score finished in relation to everybody else? It's not that bad.

STEVE STRICKER: No, it's not horrible. I mean we were -- yeah, I'm frustrated, I'm frustrated how I feel, to be quite honest because I don't feel like I'm capable of doing what I want to do. I actually hit a really couple two good shots in a row at 13 and then again at 14, and then it was gone again.

It's not -- I don't know, I don't know what it is. Struggling to get through the ball in general, so that's frustrating. Yeah, we're fine.

I mean, as I was telling Nicki, that could have been a 10 under round pretty easily really. I left him hanging on these par 5s. On 7 I hit it in the hazard, 11 I didn't get it up over the top of the hill. Uncharacteristic of some of the things that I do, too. Kind of left him hanging on those holes where he's in perfect position.

If you have another guy, you know, in there, kind of frees him up to hit a better chip or whatever the case may be. Yeah, not happy with how I left him hanging on some of those par 5s where we should have been making birdies.

I mean, we played two par 5s, Nos. 7, 11, in 10 and the Argentinians played 'em in 5, a 2 and a 3. We didn't -- we didn't expect to play 'em in 5, but we should have played 'em in 8, so those two holes were kind of a buzz kill.

Q. Steve, I was wondering how the scores compare to what you thought they would be?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I think 12 under is really -- is it just one 12 under?

MODERATOR: Um-hmm.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, that's a really good score. But we thought the scoring would be pretty good. Whether we knew it was going to be good today and it's going to be good tomorrow, the course is in great condition.

But you have to play well going around here. You have to hit it in the fairway, and if you don't

have two guys hitting it in the fairway, you put a lot of pressure on the other guys. That's what I'm sure some teams did. If you can get two balls in the fairway, you can actually get pretty aggressive and have a lot of opportunities for birdies.

Q. Thongchai was in here earlier with Brendan Jones and Brendan spoke about how important this week was for him, and Mario, it's a big week for you. How do you set that aside, or is it motivation? How do you see that to kind of (inaudible)?

MARIO TIZIANI: Yeah, I mean, I'm not thinking about what it -- you know, anything -- what it would do for me or anything. I guess I'm not going to be able to answer very well, I haven't thought about it other than I want to play well, I want to do my part. I feel like if I play well -- he always plays well, so if I play well, we're going to be there at the end. Obviously a big finish is great for me given where I am on the list but I'm not really thinking about it.

Q. But there are a number of teams where that is a factor. Do you sense that means some motivation for guys?

MARIO TIZIANI: Yeah, yeah, I think so. Yeah, I think it is motivation. It certainly is motivation when you have a partner that you want to play well.

Q. With tomorrow being a different format, is it harder tomorrow to make up (inaudible)?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, might be a little bit harder, but if you have a really special one, you know, you definitely can move up. I don't know, still you've got to, you know, make the putts going around here.

And the greens are subtle enough that it's tricky. I think that's why the scoring across the board wasn't super low. I mean, the greens are great, they're pure but they're subtle. There's a little bit of movement in there that sometimes you really can't pick up on. That's what makes it a challenge, too.

Hopefully we -- whoever plays well has got to make putts tomorrow because you're going to have a lot of opportunities. You're going to have two looks at every hole pretty much, so you're going to want to putt well.

Q. You guys (inaudible)?

MARIO TIZIANI: Yeah, he's a prideful guy. This is a special week for our family, for him. I know he doesn't say much, but I think he does wear it on his sleeve, I think everybody sees how happy he is and proud. He's not a "sit in the back" kind of guy very often, so I'm glad he was taking it in.

Q. Steve, you saw the fireworks from Cabrera on that albatross. What does that kind of foreshadow for tomorrow when you've got two guys hitting good shots? Is there

anything about this course that would lend itself to that kind of excitement in the scramble format?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, for sure. I mean, a lot of talented players out here, and you're going to get a lot of opportunities. You're going to get guys who just -- take No. 1 for example, and 2, all of 'em. I mean, one guy gets it into play and all of a sudden the next guy can stand up there and hit driver and try to get it down there even further. Now you've got a sand wedge in your hand.

No. 2, today he could have gone for it, but then we talked about it and we're like, OK, two good wedge shots at it.

I mean, you get two guys going for it from 220 yards, you're going to potentially see 3s on No. 2, eagles. I don't know about albatrosses anymore, that's pretty rare, but you're going to see a lot of that and that's what's going to make tomorrow a lot of fun. You can get more aggressive at 16. All those holes, there's a lot of risk-reward out there so it will be a fun day.

MODERATOR: I'll go last one. Just talk to me about the fan support for you guys out here and how well received this event is, and now it's becoming a premiere event on Champions Tour.

MARIO TIZIANI: Yeah, the crowds are always great at this event, and it means a lot to us out there, you know, the support. Steve gets great support. It's fun for me to tag along, be a part of as well.

But I generally think people appreciate kind of what's going on here. Having people out and helping us celebrate this and support is a big deal.