

ROUND 2 PRESS CONFERENCE
June 7, 2025



STEVE FLESCH
PAUL GOYDOS (-21)

MODERATOR: We're joined by Paul Goydos and Steve Flesch.

Gentlemen, 14 under today, great round. New format, new venue, different format today. Just take me through your week so far and what was working out there today.

PAUL GOYDOS: Steve was working out there today.

Yeah, I'd never played a scramble before in a tournament. Obviously you have some fun deals with some friends, but I've actually never done that. I had no expectations of what was going on.

I thought we played OK yesterday and shot 7 under, and then we shot 7 under on the first nine holes in the scramble. I guess Stricker shot 15?

Fourteen under, it's not that easy of a golf course. It got a little bit windy coming in. I can't expect us to shoot much lower than that. I don't know how you felt. I thought we played brilliantly.

STEVE FLESCH: I'm with Paul, I don't think a two-man scramble's that easy. I generally, I hit first on every hole today except No. 1.

PAUL GOYDOS: We made par.

STEVE FLESCH: And we made a par, so we went back to what was working yesterday.

Even leading off I said it, I said in the scoring area it's nice when I know Paul is behind me basically off every tee because Paul generally hits it straight. Well, always, mostly always hits it straight. It frees me up a little bit because I can hit it sideways every now and then.

It's a good golf course to kind of be aggressive with your driver if you can because it makes some of the holes shorter. There's a lot of tough long holes out there. The wind was tricky.

We just played a lot of good golf today. Paul hit a lot of good iron shots, I hit a lot of good iron shots. I made a lot of putts today, Paul made a couple great putts that I don't know if we really expected to make. And chipped in on 7 for eagle, just slam-dunked one from just off the edge. We did a lot of things good today.

But 14 under I didn't expect. I'm like Paul though, I didn't know what to expect. We kind of

ham-and-egged it around yesterday. I left him hanging a couple times with some bad tee shots. I didn't see 14 under.

But it's one of those things where I think as the leadoff guy, if I can get the ball on the green, you want to be aggressive but at the same time you don't want to leave your partner hanging. Today -- I'm not usually an aggressive player in terms of my iron shots, but today I aimed a little tighter to the pins and a couple of them worked out. I think we both played very well today.

MODERATOR: Weather being a factor tomorrow, going back to best ball, what's the team strategy in the final round?

PAUL GOYDOS: Shoot low as we can seems like a reasonable strategy. Same thing we're doing. The golf course, what the golf course gives you.

I felt in best ball that you just want to have as many balls in play as you could. If you can get 36 birdie putts regardless of how far they are, you're probably going to do all right.

That's kind of the goal is to keep doing that and then see what happens. I think we putted pretty well the first two days as a team. I'm going to take credit for Steve's putting. If I was putting second, I would have made 'em, too. Just kind of keep giving yourself chances.

I'm a little taken aback by how good the scores are. I think the golf course is pretty hard, pretty long. It's in --

STEVE FLESCH: Par 3s are tough.

PAUL GOYDOS: -- stupendous condition. I mean, if you hit a 25-footer online, it goes in. The greens are perfect.

The golf course is in great, great, great -- I mean, we don't talk about that enough when it comes to scoring. We talk about the ball and the driver and the clubs, we don't talk about agronomy anywhere near enough. The golf course is in prime scoring condition because it's blemish free.

Q. I guess we've got a 59 and a 57 now.

PAUL GOYDOS: We were kind of talking about that, we shot 14 under at Dick's, I don't know, 10 years ago. Kevin Sutherland was 14 under on his own ball after 17 holes.

Q. Was this as much fun as John Deere in a different way?

PAUL GOYDOS: Yeah, I thought -- again, I think -- Stricker shot 56. I'm a little surprised we got beat but I thought it was fun to watch and fun to do.

Doing it as a -- Steve and I have been playing practice rounds together for 25 years. Doing it with your friends and having good things happen with people that you enjoy playing golf with, yeah, I would obviously make the argument that in this particular format it's even more enjoyable.

Q. Steve, when did you find out that Monty couldn't play, and what were your thoughts when Paul was inserted, and how did the dynamic of what you thought you could do in this tournament change?

STEVE FLESCHE: Well, we were -- my wife and I were sitting at a steakhouse in the lobby of our restaurant at the PGA, Congressional. He came in on Saturday night and just said, "Partner, I've got to go home for some tests." He says, "I don't know if I'll be back."

It's the same thing I guess he was struggling with at the end of last year, he didn't play like the last third of the year. He was just like, "I'll let you know how it goes."

You know, I talked to him I guess the next weekend after he had withdrawn, he said he had a surgery, had an operation I guess for whatever was going wrong. I didn't want to bother him too much.

I picked a straight hitter in Monty and I picked a straight hitter in Paul, and I'm glad I did because this golf course, it's tough tee to green.

We're having a good time. It's always fun when you're making putts. That's what this game boils down to. If you're making putts, everything else is easier. It's easier to drive the ball, it's easier to hit iron shots. we've hit a lot of good shots.

Hopefully tomorrow the weather holds off and we get to go out there and make a lot more birdies.

Q. Paul, you mentioned over at Oconomowoc the other day turning 60 has been a little bit of a challenge. Do you feel rejuvenated this week? What is being in this situation doing to benefit the overall (inaudible)?

PAUL GOYDOS: You know, I think this is probably for the whole gang, take the whole facet of driving, iron play, clipping, short game, putting, it's probably been as good as I've played all year. I think part of that is just the comfort of -- you know, Steve talks about it's nice to have -- knowing Paul's behind me when I'm going to hit a shot, because I generally hit it where I'm looking, but it also, once Steve's hit a good shot, it's a lot easier to hit second. And Steve hit a lot of good shots today, he drove the ball in play almost every hole. The one fairway he missed we played from and made birdie, on 12.

STEVE FLESCHE: Yeah.

PAUL GOYDOS: Actually, he missed it in the perfect spot.

So in a sense, going second when your partner's playing good is freeing.

And one of the things I thought about a little bit this week, these last two days, is why don't I have that same freedom when I'm playing by myself? Because it's a totally different feel. I made about a four-footer for birdie on our third hole, our first birdie of the week and it just, I couldn't hit a better putt. Playing by myself, I'm struggling with those types of things and it doesn't seem to be -- there's a comfort factor there that I need to find when I'm playing individually because I would say I played really well with Kevin, too, when we played the Bass Pro.

Having a partner kind of has made things a little more comfortable. And Steve's playing well.

MODERATOR: Does it mean more playing for someone other than yourself?

PAUL GOYDOS: No, I'm pretty selfish. But I think -- again, I think that it not necessarily means more as much as if you're both playing well, it's comfortable. You don't have the same -- there's not as much, for lack of a better word, anxiety. I don't know if that's a fair statement or not.

Again, I think that -- I do think that winning this event with Steve would probably mean more than winning other events as an individual just because of, you know, the camaraderie and the friendship. We've been friends a long time. I think that would be more special.

STEVE FLESCHE: Dude, I'm going to tear up.

PAUL GOYDOS: I think all players would say that, I really do.

STEVE FLESCHE: We've all had success individually, that's how we got here.

PAUL GOYDOS: That's a fair point, too.

STEVE FLESCHE: But that's kind of the hardest part about this job is it's all on you. You have no teammates to rely on, nobody to pick you up on a bad day.

I wish we had more events where it's different formats. The same 54-hole stroke play, whatever, I get it, it's medal play, it's the best way to weed out the best player weekly.

But whether it's a team event, whether we do a Stableford type event where it's points, mix it up a little bit. We've all played the same medal golf, medal play golf our entire career.

And I think, you know, it's special to win with a partner in something, especially because it's not like we're playing a member-guest. We're playing against these other jokers who play golf for a living. I think it would be pretty cool. Hopefully we go out tomorrow and make a run for it.

MODERATOR: Anything else? All right, gentlemen, thanks for the time.