

**ROUND 2 PRESS CONFERENCE**  
**June 7, 2025**



**STEVE STRICKER**  
**MARIO TIZIANI** (-22)

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**MODERATOR:** We'd now like to welcome Steve Stricker and Mario Tiziani to the interview room at the 2025 AmFam Championship.

Guys, not a bad day out there. What was working well for you out there, and just assess your round?

**STEVE STRICKER:** Go ahead.

**MARIO TIZIANI:** Yeah, I don't know, I said yesterday I had a good feeling. It wasn't very -- just felt -- I felt like I was hitting it in the fairway, and whether he hit a good iron or I hit a good iron, or I had to make a putt or he had to make the putt, we just kind of did what we had to do.

We were in position every hole to make birdies. I can't really think of one we were not. Maybe 17, I guess. But other than that, yeah, we were -- we were in position. We just ham-and-egged it, we really did. I guess that's what you have to do.

**STEVE STRICKER:** And we made putts.

**MARIO TIZIANI:** And we made putts.

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, made a lot of putts today.

**Q. Steve, you guys were going early. What did you guys -- what do you like about playing the scramble format in a competitive tournament round?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, it's a lot of fun. It's an opportunity to be aggressive. I've got a great partner in Mario here who's hitting it great and hitting it in the fairway, hitting really quality iron shots. Really, I was a cheerleader most of the day today, which was actually kind of fun. Occasionally I would make a putt or occasionally I'd hit a shot, but yeah, you know, it was a shock if I didn't see him in the fairway. Like 18, all of a sudden I got a little stressed because I didn't know where he was. But he hit it so good all day long and kept us in position.

Yeah, it was actually a lot of fun to play. We don't get that opportunity to play a scramble out here so it's a treat, it really was. And to be with him, brother-in-law, a ton of fun.

**Q. Obviously both of you have very strong ties to Madison and the state of**

**Wisconsin. Just how special is it to not only play well here but just to represent your state and have people out supporting you?**

**MARIO TIZIANI:** Yeah, I said yesterday there's such a great turnout here, Wisconsin and Madison just support their people. We see it a little bit out there from time to time, but they never disappoint. And we knew this is how it would be, and it's special. Obviously home, my father's place, his father-in-law, my whole family's here. Yeah, I mean, we really can't write it any better. I guess tomorrow would write it a little better.

**Q. Was this almost like the ultimate team performance because Steve, you made a ton of putts on the front nine, and then Mario, you played so great on the back nine?**

**MARIO TIZIANI:** Yeah, like I said, it was working. We didn't even really talk much honestly of strategy, it was just -- we were just doing what we were doing, you know, reading putts, but we weren't overreading putts I didn't think at all.

**STEVE STRICKER:** No.

**MARIO TIZIANI:** We were just kind of on the same page. Those are the little things that kind of free you up to make good strokes or whatever.

It was kind of, I don't want to say a magical day because we're both very capable of playing good golf, but we had a lot of chances and we converted a lot. It just kind of took the stress off the next hole.

**Q. So, Steve, I was wondering if you had a strategy for today, because on the best ball maybe you don't, you're just playing your game; if you had a strategy or if any of you had a number in mind? Did a number pop in your head before the day began?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Well, I think I said it in here yesterday, 15 under would be a special round, and that's what we had. I think the question yesterday, I think it came from Gary about hard to move up, or maybe it was you, Rob, about hard to move up on a day like today, and I said, well, if you have a good round, and I had 15 under in my head, a round like that you can move up.

I think our strategy was really just to free him up because he's swinging it really well. I didn't want to like have him watch me kind of half hosel over to the right somewhere and have to have him hit a good one. It was really about just let him -- letting Mario go and get it, do what he does best. He's a good ball-striker. Then, yeah, we made some putts.

So I think the strategy was, without him really knowing it, was just let him go. It worked. Occasionally I had to hit a shot and did maybe once, but it was a good round. Ultimately we made putts. Then all of a sudden he got the putter rolling too on the back, I didn't even have to putt, so it was a really good day on the greens for us, too.

**Q. Steve, we talked yesterday about momentum and maybe just not quite getting (inaudible). What do you think today made it click, or why did you guys find that momentum to get it rolling?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I think just making putts, making a couple key putts early on. I don't know, we had some other opportunities on No. 4 and 5 that we didn't make, but I think just making putts.

Then he sees 'em go in and he starts to make 'em, and then he starts to believe and I'm believing. It's just one of those things where that momentum continues on each and every hole. Every time you step up there you're thinking you can make a birdie. I know that's the way I felt and I know Mario felt the same. It's just one of those things where you get that momentum in this format, you think you can birdie 'em all.

**Q. Steve, you talked about being a cheerleader. What was that like for you? What were the conversations like out there?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, it's actually, it's a weird position, right? He hits a good shot in there, it's like I'm not feeling great about my swing but yet I've got to try to hit it in there. It's like it's just a different position, it's a different game when you're hitting last and he's already in there, you're trying to stuff a shot, you kind of get out of your little thinking at times.

Yeah, it was fun, it was fun right out of the chute. We used his drive, we used his second shot and he made the putt. I'm like, hey, I can do this all day long if you want. It was a lot of fun. It was good to see him make some putts. He's super close to playing really, really, really good golf on his own and saw that today, he did a lot of it.

**Q. Mario, what was it like on 18 to roll in that last one? And this is a course that you probably dreamed of doing something like this but maybe in other bigger tournaments; now you've got a tournament here. Would you allow yourself to imagine what tomorrow would be like at any point or do you have to kind of stay in the moment?**

**MARIO TIZIANI:** Yeah, no, I can't think about that right now. We're going to just keep doing what we do. Tomorrow's a different format. I would love to have a chance to make a putt to win, I'd love a chance to two-putt to win would be better.

**Q. Just going off that, to be in the lead or in contention for tomorrow depending on how things shake out, just how exciting is that going into the final day?**

**MARIO TIZIANI:** Yeah, I mean, it's exciting, but again, there's too much -- there's too much emotion there to think about it. I don't think that would benefit me for tomorrow to kind of even get my head in that space right now. Pretty focused, yeah, ready to play good golf tomorrow.

**Q. Do you have any advice going into the final day?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** I think if we just continue to do the same thing. Clean up the first round a little bit better. I mean, that first round for us could have been -- he had some opportunities there on about three holes that he didn't capitalize on, and if we clean those up and I play a little bit better, I think we'll be right there at the end and have a good shot at trying to pull it out.

**Q. I'm not going to ask you for every birdie because we'll be here all night, but just go over the putts that were 10 feet or longer.**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Good question.

**MARIO TIZIANI:** Yeah, probably No. 3 was a good putt you made from the right, probably 15, 15ish feet. He made a great putt. I'll go through 'em.

**STEVE STRICKER:** Six you made a good one.

**MARIO TIZIANI:** Yeah, 6 was maybe the same distance from the left, maybe 12, 15 feet maybe.

The eagle putt, kind of what really we got smoking was 7, he made the eagle putt on 7 from, that had to be 25 feet. And then he made -- you made it on 8, right? Yeah, he made a bomb on 8. Was it long?

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, it was about 25 feet.

**MARIO TIZIANI:** Yeah, about 25 feet. Then he made another one at 9. I don't remember who made it. Did you make that one, too?

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, I made that one.

**MARIO TIZIANI:** I'm telling you, we could have easily -- those were important.

And then, you know, birdied 10, 11, 12 was about 15 feet, 13 was maybe 10 feet. Then the last holes, 15 was about 18ish feet, I guess.

**STEVE STRICKER:** Sixteen, too. We didn't hit a very good chip.

**MARIO TIZIANI:** Yeah, we were struggling there, 12-, 15-footer there. And then the last hole, I don't know how long that was.

**STEVE STRICKER:** Fifteen feet.

**Q. I'm sure you were very satisfied (inaudible) joining you today. Are you hopeful that**

**Tiger will be one of them in the future?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Yeah, for sure. Hopefully someday he can come back to the state that gave him his first opportunity at the GMO. Yeah, it would be a lot of fun to have him.

We'll see. I don't know how much he's going to play out here, but hopefully someday he feels like he should come here and play.

**MODERATOR:** Any **more questions?**

**STEVE STRICKER:** Thank you everybody.

**MODERATOR:** Thank you guys.