

STEVE STRICKER (-8)

Q. Steve, 64 to open. Did today kind of feel like a continuation from last week?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, it was a good start. I haven't been -- even though I've been playing well, I haven't gotten off to the fastest of starts, so it feels good to get off to a really good start here. I came in late, didn't get a full practice round in, our pro-am got rained out. The course is in great shape, though. I played it last year so I knew what to expect a little bit, but yeah, it's good to get off to a good start.

Q. Steve, you don't often hear athletes say "I'm in the zone." Are you there, and what is it?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah, I have no idea. I have no idea what that zone is. I've got my head down, I'm just trying to hit the next shot as good as I can and go from there. I'm really in a good spot mentally I think more than anything. I'm just concentrating. I want to play well, I want to get up there and try to win. I'm grinding and trying to do that.

Q. Are you trying to stay out of your own way maybe?

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah. You know, I've been playing a lot lately too, which is good. After last week I went home for a couple of days, didn't touch a club. I've been kind of getting away from the game, too. Even though I've been playing a lot, I've been taking a good two, sometimes all the three days prior to the next event off and then feeling pretty fresh and ready to go again come tournament time again, and that was no different this week. So I feel like I get here, I was excited to be here because I hadn't played for a couple of days, then I'm ready to go again and I feel pretty fresh really.

Q. You played pretty well last year, top-10 finish and then obviously you started to play well. What do you like about this course, this event?

STEVE STRICKER: I think it's more like what we grew up on in Wisconsin. It feels very similar to that, and that's probably why Jerry won here last year and is playing well. This is a lot like the course that he grew up playing, tree lined, you've got to drive it fairly well, greens are good. It's just kind of got a home feel, a Wisconsin feel. We're not too far really, right? It always feels good to come back to areas like this. And they put on a great event, they do a nice job with the tournament, fans come out to support it, so it's fun to come here and play