Steve Stricker 2 | Regions Tradition | Day 3

## To not only get on the course, but to play championship golf. Were your surprised that this happened so quickly, to win a major by six shots?

I progressed a lot over the last couple of months. I didn't really know what to expect. My game was there some days and not there other days because my body was changing. I went from losing 25 pounds to trying to put on weight so I really didn't know to expect. So this is pretty surreal to be a champion at the Regions Tradition. I just couldb't be happier. I played well the last three events, now I get a week off to recharge, but I'm happy with where things are going.

You've mentioned perspective so many times. I have to imagine this being behind you is a relief? Getting past everyone asking you this question and you get to just keep winning tournaments. Yeah, even coming back the first week in Houston I answered a lot of question. I went there with high expectations, I felt like I could play well there and perform well. This is nice to get this off my plate and continue to get better. I know I'm on the right path and I just have to keep working on it.

## You're no stranger to having a huge lead and having to play with it in a major. All day long, what's that grind like knowing that guys are coming for you and have to stay near perfect because it's your event to lose. What's that like mentally?

It's no fun, it really isn't. When you have a lead, I got five or six shots at the turn, it can only really go two ways and one of them is the wrong way. I keep thinking about trying to not make a mistake and it's hard to play golf that way, it showed at times with me not being very aggressive and just trying to make pars, that can open the door for players sometimes. But I hung in there, made some big up and downs and par saves on the front side, and the hole out from the bunker on 17 was nice so I could come here and enjoy it.

What about Greystone fits you so well? Why do you like playing here in Birmingham? I don't know what it is, but I joked that it's the heat because it's 90 degrees every day here. I enjoy the golf course, there's some shots where you have to suck it up and hit a good shot, there's a lot of par-5s so there's scoring opportunities. I just try not to make any mistakes going around here, and today I didn't with not making a bogey and that's always good when you're trying to win.

## What about the hospitality that this area shows you and what this area brings to the game of golf?

This is a great area, we enjoy coming here as a family even though our kids didn't make it this year but they have for the last couple of years. We just enjoy (the area), there's a lot of good restaurants, 280 I think is the busiest road in America, it's a fun place. We get treated very at Greystone, people come out and support the event, great volunteers, and staff, and Regions as the title sponsor you can't get any better than that.

How emotional was it coming up 18, your wife is with you the whole way, how emotional is it?

It wasn't really coming up 18, but more at the end. Seeing it all come to an end, finally getting back into the winner's circle again, like we said we didn't know where this was going to be or how long it would take. I'm excited to be here.