

Steve Stricker

*Great finish there on 18, what is the confidence like going into the weekend since you are the defending champion here?*

I enjoy it here, I enjoy the course and the tournament. I'm doing some good things at times, and I'm doing some dumb things at time, so I have to clean it up heading into the weekend. I'm not too far back right now and there's a lot of golf left.

*What is it about this place that brings out the best in you?*

I don't know. There's a lot of short irons in your hand if you can get the ball in the fairway, and at times I did that today and at times I didn't. In the fairways today we were playing lift, clean, and place and you have a lot of short irons in your hands in those situations, but I have to make a few more putts. That's what I'm going to work on and hopefully get it in the hole a little quicker.

*Did the rain overnight change any strategy in your mind?*

I mean maybe a couple of longer clubs off the tee or the layups knowing it was a little softer, but overall the course played really nice, it's in great shape, and still played fairly firm.

*You have 36-holes left, what is your mindset?*

It's a marathon because we're not used to this. But it's good, I need that time and I need to get a good couple of rounds. There's some good rounds out there to be had. Whoever is up at the top of the leaderboard now is going to be tough to catch.

*I have to ask you about your pitch shot on 18. Down hill lie, out of the rough, over the bunker, towards the water, what a nightmare. Did it have your attention?*

Oh yeah! I went over to the other side of the pin and made sure how much room I had there. That one could have gotten away from me really easily and gone in the water so I was giving myself a good look at it. That wasn't the spot to be in for sure, but we escaped it nicely.

*You missed quite a few putts. What part of your putting stroke are you going to work on?*

I'm going back-and-forth with the grip. Sometimes it feels good, and then I go back to my old one and it feels good, so I haven't settled on one. Then I get over some of these shorter ones, these 6-footers, and I'm not thinking properly, I'm thinking about the stroke more rather than the line I want to hit it on. I need to clear that up, I need to clear my head out more than anything. I'll go hit some balls, hit some putts, and then see what I got.

*How much will the memories of your success here help you get back into the mindset you want?*

It's a comfortable place for me, I feel good going around here. I started off making a birdie then made a quick double right after that, but I didn't get too rattled. I knew I could make some birdies around here and you have to be patient, I did that coming in and it kept me in the tournament. I'm a couple shots back as of now and will need a couple good ones though.

*You seem to know the secrets of this golf course and shooting a good score, what are the keys for you getting around here?*

Getting it in the fairway because there's a number of short irons that I have in my hand and that's my strong suit, short irons, wedges, and putting. That's the part that has bothered me as of late, not getting it in the hole like I normally do and that's got my attention. I'm hitting it fairly good, I'm giving myself some opportunities here and there, so I need to do that and clean it up on the greens.