

The American Express

Friday, January 17, 2025

La Quinta, California, USA

PGA WEST Pete Dye Stadium Course

Sepp Straka

Quick Quotes

Q. You got to be happy with that round on the Stadium Course. Finishing both nines with three birdies in a row. Just describe that for us.

SEPP STRAKA: Yeah, that was really nice. Any time you can make a turkey it's good, especially on a golf course like that. Yeah, there's zero wind, so if you hit good shots you can definitely get yourself some birdie looks. The greens are really firm because they're new, and that made it tough to get it close. Yeah, fortunate I was able to make some putts when I got it close.

Q. Can you talk us through the last three holes.

SEPP STRAKA: Yeah, I was stagnant on the back nine, making a bunch of pars, had some good saves. 16's a par-5, you want to take advantage of it, but it's dicey because any time you hit a drive or second shot, anything left, you're pretty much dead. You got to keep it up the right side. Hit two really good shots to put me in a good position.

And, yeah, 17, they had to move it up a lot because the firm greens. Without the wind it actually played fairly simple. It was just a wedge up the pretty much the middle of the green and just give yourself a look. Just something they had to do for the course because it could have gotten out of hand from the back tee.

Then 18's pretty intimidating, water all up the left. I tugged my second shot a little bit, got it -- I was trying to land it middle of the green, and ended up going pretty much right at the pin, and because I tugged it a bit it went through the green. Yeah, I was able to hit a good chip on line and yeah sunk it.

Q. Nice way to finish. You've had mixed results here in the four times you've already played here, some good finishes and some not so good. What is it about this place that doesn't let you be consistent? Is it just because you have to make a ton of birdies?

SEPP STRAKA: Yeah I think so. I think you have to have



a good putting week. You got to make putts. No matter how good you hit it, if you don't make putts you're not going to shoot low numbers. Yeah, I think so, I think also with the three-day cut it's easy to kind of get into a funk a little bit early, and then if you're not constantly on the gas pedal it's hard to make up ground here, because everybody's making birdies, so I think that definitely make it's kind of tough to be consistent.

Q. You go to La Quinta tomorrow.

SEPP STRAKA: Yes.

Q. So how is that mindset for you having played this probably more difficult course of the three and gotten that out of the way heading there tomorrow?

SEPP STRAKA: Yeah, it's definitely good to go 8-under on the hard course. I was able to take advantage of some ball striking and, yeah, looking forward to La Quinta tomorrow. Love that course, it's a beauty, old school. You still have to really drive it well out there, so that will be kind of the key tomorrow.

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