

ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTES
August 16, 2026

STEWART CINK (-12, won playoff)



Q. Second last year, what's it feel like to win this this year?

STEWART CINK: Last year actually really stung because I felt like I played well enough to win. I didn't play that well on Sunday, and from where I drove it on 18, just didn't take advantage of really being in a strong position to make a birdie and win, or tie at least, get into a playoff.

So, I felt like I had a little bit of a score to settle in my heart coming in here, to be honest. I started off really well on Friday, but then I just kind of lost it middle of the round and it was pretty ugly from middle of Friday through almost all day yesterday. Just kind of had a little heart to heart with Chris, my caddie, and myself, and became a little bit of a new person today and went out there with a completely different heart, attitude, a peace about me and just resulted in a lot of like really nice shots and some putts, and here we are with the trophy.

Q. What was the mindset coming in today?

STEWART CINK: Well, I knew that I was within range of a good round, maybe making some noise out there. But I was -- I feel like I was in like 10th place, so that's a lot of players between you and the lead. I put a lot of -- I took a lot out of my control, and I don't want to do that, but today it worked out. I played well enough just to get over the finish line.

You know, it's really a good feeling to be able to have one good round and that be enough to remain in contention when I was kind of sloppy the first couple days. I don't want to harp on that because I still ended up winning and I'm proud of that. I work hard to be in this position, but today I'm really proud.

Q. What do you like about this course?

STEWART CINK: It's a great course fit for me for one thing. A lot of these bunkers and the trouble off the tee is right around that 275 range, which I can hit it over.

So, David Toms is one of my best friends and before I ever came to Boeing Classic, he said that I need to add this to my schedule because he thought it was a great course fit for me because of that. So, when I came here, I played the first couple holes and I'm like, David Toms is exactly right, like this is a great fit for me. I feel comfortable playing here, too. I like the greens, everything's in great shape, the fan support's been awesome.

Q. What's it like to play the round with Freddie Couples here?

STEWART CINK: I got to play twice with Fred this week. He's just a legend. Especially to play with him here in his home backyard basically, it was so great.

I saw a lot of faces on Friday and Sunday, the two days I played with Fred, a lot of people were repeat customers coming out and watching our group. And it's not because of me, it's because of Fred, I'm well aware of that. But it was great. I love Fred. I was happy to see him play great. He played very well and he looks like he's fairly healthy, so hopefully we'll see more of Fred Couples.

Q. I'm going to go first with now you're 3-0 in playoffs; that's five wins this year. We talked 10 in Hawaii. We still on that track?

STEWART CINK: Well, it's not impossible because I do have enough tournaments left to do that, but it's going to take a little bit better golf than I played here this week because it wasn't really the best.

Today was a really good day, but the first two days were kind of sloppy. I don't really want to come out here and be anything other than excellent. I'm not saying I want to play great every day, that's not going to happen, but there's a difference between not putting up a great score and not being excellent. I wasn't excellent here the first couple days. Kind of kicked it into gear today, was a little bit more myself.

It was a real pleasure to compete out there with Chris, we had a good thing going. Just kind of detached from the results and a lot of times that just turns into some magic. I know Miguel shot 28 on the back nine, that's quite a bit of magic, but I had a little bit of magic too and it felt really good to compete again.

Q. Yeah, take me through that because I talked to Chris; how important was that range session yesterday just to I guess get your head around it?

STEWART CINK: You know, you'd be surprised sometimes why we go to the range. We don't always go to the range to practice our golf swing. Sometimes we just need to go and sort of flush some things down and get them out. It really had nothing to do with swinging the club, it was just more about trying to rediscover sort of what kind of culture me and Chris have built between us in competition, where is that culture.

We happened to find it yesterday at the range and I left with a really good peaceful heart. But we didn't go out there and try to rework the swing or check the setup or alignment or anything like that. It was all about just like, hey, the alarm clock's going off right now, the culture's got to come back tomorrow because this is not excellent. So today was just a lot better.

Q. How nice is it to know you have a caddie that could do that for you?

STEWART CINK: It's really nice. I have to say, Chris is -- I'm not afraid to talk about stuff

out there on the golf course like vulnerability and let Chris know when I'm feeling afraid or feeling like I'm not up to the task, and also let him know when I feel confident, maybe overconfident sometimes. He's in lockstep with me on that and he understands what we're trying to accomplish.

The scorecard's just not a very good indicator of how you're doing in golf. Unfortunately, it's the one thing that really gets you trophies like that one, but there's a lot more to it. I know that if I can be better on that kind of scorecard, then the card that you write on with pencil, the numbers are going to show a lot better scores for me.

So that's what we're after, that's the kind of culture I'm talking about. It really wasn't there the first couple days and then today's round, Sunday, was much more like this.

Q. How does it set you up going into the rest of the year, because you and Zach are like playing ping pong.

STEWART CINK: Well, actually, it didn't feel like ping pong, it felt like I served and he stuffed it down my throat the last three months or so, so that's not very much of a ping pong match. It's really good to be back in the winner's circle this time of the year.

I'm just going to be honest, I just haven't been that good at golf the last like three months, it just hasn't been me. I had a good finish in Portugal where Zach won, almost there, was second, but really just hasn't been the kind of golf I was playing earlier in the year. To come here and rediscover a little bit of that culture like I was talking about, I made a couple changes in my golf swing so letting those settle in and meld, I'm really excited. I'm just really excited. Winning is always great, but even more, it's more of a long-term thing for me where this week was a good indicator of what might be awaiting.

Q. Can you tell me why you haven't played well in three months?

STEWART CINK: Well, yeah. I played some of the best golf of my career from about last three or four tournaments of 2025 through around May this year. Best of my career. And I had the kind of command that I just didn't have really at any other point in my playing career.

I took some time off and when I came back to start practicing again before the U.S. Senior Open at Scioto, I just was struggling to find it. Some stuff had leaked into my swing that was just, it was unintentional. It was just kind of like got in there and I had a hard time getting it out. It caused us, me and my team, John Scott Rattan and James Sieckmann and Chris and I to kind of rework a little bit.

I played at the Senior Open at Gleneagles and at Portugal with quite a new swing thought. That's just not comfortable to do and when you put it under the gun like that, but I had some good results and I built on it.

So, coming in here, I feel like I've been able to get that part of the swing sort of smoothed

out and back where it ought to be so I can go ahead and continue thinking about some of the core tenets that I hold on to every swing. I try to keep it pretty simple. It's not simple in practice. When I go to the golf course, I keep it very simple and athletic. It's a good feeling to come to a tournament like this where you've got some trouble around here.

Obviously, I didn't drive it well on 18, I missed the fairway. Look at that fairway, that's 100 yards wide and I missed it both times today, but still, I hit some good shots coming in. It's not all about the tee ball.