

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
August 21, 2024

STEWART CINK



Q. Stewart, just a couple general comments on being back here, obviously an historic place that's been in the mix for a long time on a number of tours. Just thoughts on being back here this week?

STEWART CINK: First of all, it's good to be back playing PGA TOUR Champions golf again. It's been most of the summer I played on the PGA TOUR. While I still thoroughly enjoy that, I miss all the players out here and the caddies and even all you media folks. It's just nice to be in this crowd again.

So coming back to Warwick Hills, there's a few spots on the schedule that I know a little bit. There's very few, but there's a few and this one is one of them. I played in several Buick Opens back in the day at Warwick Hills, so I'm just happy that Ally stepped up and put together a tournament and here we are. From what I hear, the golf course hasn't changed very much. I haven't seen it yet, but it's going to be good to be back and play with these guys again and compete.

Q. What got you into the sport of golf in general?

STEWART CINK: Well, I don't remember because I was too young. What I'm told is that my parents both started playing golf a little bit before I was born just -- we were almost like beginners at the same time. My parents wanted something they could do together outside and back in the day they played at like munis and something inexpensive. They didn't hire a baby-sitter, so they just took me with 'em. I just learned by watching my parents, like so many.

So I've been playing golf literally my entire life that I can remember.

Q. And what do you think your young self, looking at your career now, what do you think you would be saying to yourself as a kid?

STEWART CINK: Well, I think I would probably tell myself not to sweat it so much, because I've played a long time and this game has a way of kind of getting into your mind a little bit and your expectations build. That happens to everybody that plays golf, not just the pros. We all think we should be a little bit better than we are at any point along the curve.

I feel like I might have missed a few moments of just sheer enjoyment just by being stressed about the little small stuff. That's what I would probably tell my younger self.

Q. With Warwick Hills being this tree-lined, traditional country club-type course, a lot

of guys really enjoy playing here. Is that kind of what you like about it? Any specific memories on holes or anything like that?

STEWART CINK: I don't remember a lot about the golf course. I do remember that it's tree-lined and fairly narrow. I don't know if that's something that a lot of players choose to -- that's the reason they come back. I think they just like it because it's a good quality golf course. Whether it's narrow or tree-lined, it's just good, it's always in good shape.

And this community is very supportive. I think we all remember playing the Buick Opens and the crowds here, a lot of energy for one of the middle sized markets on the schedule. Flint's not exactly the booming metropolis that some of the ones we play in, but for a smaller town it packs a punch and it's always good to have the support of the crowd. You just feel the community involvement here and that they're behind you.

Q. You mentioned bouncing back and forth, PGA TOUR Champions. Is this setting a little more, I don't want to say fun, I'm sure they're both fun, but a little bit more relaxing?

STEWART CINK: A little bit more relaxing because there's a smaller field and you know all the players. It's a little bit more social, but at the same time the competition is still competition. When you get into the mix, the juices flow just like they do anywhere else. That's what we're all out here for, to keep that feeling going. We're kind of addicts to that juice in a way and we keep coming back for more. You just kind of hope it works out in your favor. Some of the time it doesn't. Most of the time it doesn't, but you hope that sometimes it will and the whole goal is just to put yourself in position to feel that on the inward nine on Sunday.

Q. One guy that's approaching 50 is Tiger. If he pulled you aside and said, "Why should I come out and play the Champions Tour," what would you tell him?

STEWART CINK: The same thing I just mentioned. I would say that you get to -- you play in smaller fields where you know everybody for the most part and the competition is just, is really good, but the whole environment's just a little bit less intense, it's less taxing.

I'm not inside Tiger's head, but I know that's one of the reasons he limited his career to playing somewhere around like 16 to 20 tournaments a year, because every week was so taxing on him. He had a lot of demands. Being in contention a lot, it takes a lot out of you, there's quite a toll. So I think playing PGA TOUR Champions golf, the toll is a little bit less and that's what I would tell Tiger.

Q. This tournament, Stewart, has raised over \$7 million in six years for charity. How has charity impacted your career?

STEWART CINK: Well, I'm just proud to be part of the PGA TOUR as a whole because of what they do with charity, impacts in the communities. Golf is just such a perfect fit as a

vehicle for fundraising and charity. There's a lot of people that want to play. It's unique in that the amateur golfers can come out here and play with the pros on the same course and they can kind of compare themselves. You don't have to like guard someone shooting 3-pointers or return serves from someone who you're not going to return their serve. That gives golf a real advantage. It just lends itself to being a great vehicle for helping communities support things that are needed.

Every tournament on the schedule, they blow me away with numbers like you just said, \$7 million in six years is awesome. It motivates me as an individual to do what I can do back at home. My foundation, we have our events, I'm the host of the MEC Classic in Atlanta and so we do our part, too, but it's all really because of the way I see the PGA TOUR lead in that department.