

ROUND 2 QUOTES
August 24, 2024

STEWART CINK



Q. You just told John from The Golf Channel a little bit ago that patience was a big key of your round today. Can you talk about that a little bit.

STEWART CINK: Well, yeah, I started off with a huge eagle putt on the first hole from 80 feet, and it was awesome, but sometimes moments like that can kind of send shock waves through your system.

While it didn't really shock me, I just played really good golf after that and just didn't show any results. I hit a lot of fairways and had a lot of birdie putts and just grazed the edges for like nine straight holes, and meanwhile the scoring was moving past me.

It could have been a moment to get a little frustrated and start trying a little too hard, but I knew that the really scorable part of the course was coming. Some of the early holes on the back nine are very gettable if you keep it in play.

I was proud of myself for being patient. Stayed in the moment out there and was executing. A really good day.

Q. Can you talk us through those handful of birdies that you had at the beginning of the back nine?

STEWART CINK: Yeah, I hit a beautiful shot on 11. It's a really small target there with a 7-iron there to about 11 feet and made that. That's not a hole you're expecting to birdie. There's birdie holes on the back nine; that's not one of them. I kind of stole one there.

Then I gave one back on 12. I drove one right in front of the green and did not get up-and-down for birdie. That's golf. I hit three really good shots and ended up with a par on an easy hole.

Then on in two, and I hit driver 5-iron into 13, middle of the green, and had a tricky two-putt. Accomplished that.

Then drove it down in front of the green on 14 in the rough and made a really nice up-and-down.

16, same thing, just played the percentage golf and left my golf ball in places where I could get it up-and-down.

The greens are firm -- they're not really firm on your approach shots, but they are very firm around the greens. So if you have it short-sided it's just very difficult to get it close.

I did a good job today of not short-siding myself very much. Putted fairly well. Not historically good or anything, but good enough to shoot a pretty low score.

Q. On that note of the firmness of the greens, firmer than yesterday, or did it play similarly to yesterday?

STEWART CINK: Yeah, I thought today's conditions were almost identical to yesterday. Very light wind, but the sun is baking this place out. It's very low humidity for five or six days now, and the moisture is just really not staying in the course. It's just making the shots around the green really, really roll out.

It caught me out a little bit today a couple times where I hit my shots from around the green but ended up the ball scampering on past.

Made a couple of adjustments, and it paid off on 16 there. I adjusted and got the right distance out of that one.

All in all, though, it's been a fun couple days. I've had some good pairings, and it's always nice -- I like being out here on PGA TOUR Champions. I'm going to expect to play more coming up out here.

Q. You were in the same position in Tucson. What did you learn from that week?

STEWART CINK: Well, it's hard to say. Those things happen in golf. That hurt. I'm sure that that will only be in my mind a little bit tomorrow, that I had a pretty good lead there and did not win.

But I just learned that I just kind of got out of my own little sphere. I tried to be somebody I wasn't there for about 20 minutes, and it really cost me.

Golf is just a funny game, and it can just leave you in a hurry. I'm aware of that. It's going to take a lot of discipline, a lot of patience and really just being true to who I am and how I play tomorrow to get this thing done. But I'm looking forward to the challenge.

It's great to be in contention, play golf in the professional ranks at 51 years old. Just to have a place to play is just a true blessing. So I'm looking forward to it tomorrow.

Q. Can you just talk about the fan support that's out here this week?

STEWART CINK: Yeah, it's fantastic. It reminds me of when I used to play in the old Buick Open here that predates the Ally by 15 or 20 years. They had great crowds

around here back in the '90s and early 2000s when I played, and nothing has changed. We got a good group, local support. I feel like everybody from the Flint area is out here cheering us on. Pretty good environment on 17 where you've got some craziness out there. Back to the old days.

It's great to see it. A lot of energy out there.

Q. An eagle and four birdies, clean card. Four birdies on the incoming nine. What was the key today to a clean card and a great round?

STEWART CINK: Well, I had to be patient. I started off with a huge eagle putt on the first hole, which is almost like a shock to your system. Then I played a lot of good golf for about nine holes and had no results. Just a bunch of pars. I think it was key to just kind of not get frustrated.

The scores weren't really going crazy. The course is actually holding up. It was a good day for patience.

I actually played really well all day. I had a great time out there.

Q. Seems like the fairways are kind of running, rolling pretty quick. You drove the ball beautifully today. Tomorrow to capture your first win on the PGA TOUR Champions, what do you have to do?

STEWART CINK: I think I just need to stay in the present and continue to be myself. I had a lead in a tournament earlier this year in the Cologuard in Tucson and coughed it up. We never forget those.

I'll just try to be myself tomorrow, and whatever happens, I'm excited about the way I played this week. But I look forward to being a winner out here. I know it's not easy; these guys play really good golf.