

ROUND 1 QUOTES
October 18, 2024

STEWART CINK (-5)



Q. Not a bad start for your first playoff event.

STEWART CINK: You know, it's a really good golf course here. It feels like an elevated event on the schedule, which it is. I was pretty pleased with the way I played mostly, pretty clean round. The couple bogeys I made were just completely excusable and routine bogeys that you're going to make sometimes. But this golf course definitely will tell you how you're playing. To throw a lot of birdies in there on top of that was good, too.

Q. What did you work on in SAS? You spent a lot of time on the range?

STEWART CINK: I spent a lot of time on the range. To be honest, when I got to SAS I didn't feel like I was really ready to play because I was assistant captain for the Presidents Cup and it just, you spend the whole time up there, you're basically focusing on other players' golf and not yours. I feel like I took a couple steps back and I wasn't sharp at all, probably not really ready to compete.

Getting out there and playing three rounds and struggling a little bit and some things came to the surface that I did not like. And I'm not just talking about golf swings or putts, but like my attitude and my heart. That's one of my hallmarks is being really good in those areas. So it was pretty good low-hanging fruit to clean that up, so today was much, much better.

Q. What about this golf course fits your eye?

STEWART CINK: I think off the tees it just -- it's defined really well. There's no secrets about what you need to do. It becomes about execution. And like anybody, you're not always great on execution, but we have, me and Chris, have a great game plan. We've scouted the heck out of this thing and if we aren't in contention come late Sunday, it's not going to be because we don't have a good game plan, because we don't like the course, because this course is really solid, very high quality and we're ready to compete out here.

Q. You've been out here now for a little over a year. We've talked to a bunch of players over the last week. It's not easy out here, is it?

STEWART CINK: It's not, it's not easy. The players out here, they're in the fields for a reason. You have to produce high quality golf for quite a long time in your career to be able to make it into these fields and have a career on PGA TOUR Champions. Everybody out here is well deserving of the spot in the field.

They don't forget how to close the door when they get in the hunt. They don't forget how to

close the door on a good round and finish it off. They're just so crafty.

I played today with Ricardo Gonzalez for the first time and watching some of the up-and-downs he made, he made it look easy. And it's not easy around here. Just the level of skill and craft that you can see from all the guys out here, it's pretty remarkable.