

**PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE**  
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**STEWART CINK**

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**MODERATOR:** All right. We're now joined by Stewart Cink here at the Constellation FURYK & FRIENDS. Just to start, how good is it to be here this week?

**STEWART CINK:** It's great. My first time here, Timuquana is a new venue for me so I got to check out all 18 holes and play the pro-am. Feel like our game plan is ready.

It's a really nice place, beautiful with the St. John's Bay, downtown Jacksonville right across the water there. It's a really nice part of town. Way different from Ponte Vedre where I've been for many, many years. To come over here, it feels like you're in a different world.

**MODERATOR:** And then on a personal note, you added a third grandchild a couple weeks ago. How are things going with that?

**STEWART CINK:** It's going awesome. My daughter-in-law is a NICU nurse so nothing fazes her. I don't know whether to be jealous or pleased, but there's just almost no scenario with our grandson now that he's almost three weeks old that has even slightly surprised them.

**Q. Stewart, what's your history on old-school courses like this, Ross courses and the kind of test that this one will give you? Something you've always enjoyed? There aren't that many of them left anymore it seems.**

**STEWART CINK:** That's true. And I have no idea what my history is like on them, I just know I enjoy playing them. The greens out here remind me of Pinehurst a lot in a lot of ways. They're maybe like a smaller version, but there's a lot of roll-offs, front, back, sides. A lot of greens that have roll-offs on every side. It definitely divides the really great shots from the good shots because some good shots can end up not very good.

It goes into part of your expectation, your planning for every shot. You have to make a choice how you're going to react to good and bad anyway and there's going to be plenty of good shots that end up bad. That's just the way that Ross did his courses, and the greens have the slopes on the sides and you know they're there.

**Q. Are you playing as well on the Champions Tour as you thought you might?**

**STEWART CINK:** Yeah. I mean, I had pretty high expectations when I came out here because I pretty much came straight from the PGA TOUR. No changes as far as like preparation and all that.



Yeah, I had expectations. This year I think has been kind of a year of near misses where I could have probably had some more wins, but overall I've been pleased with the way I've played. I've been in contention an awful lot, I've been knocking on the door. It's been a little bit I wouldn't say quite as an exercise in patience like I'm frustrated, but it's reminding me that golf just doesn't deliver the results immediately.

**Q. How difficult is it to try to catch Miguel on that points list with the way he's been playing this year?**

**STEWART CINK:** Well, it's tough when you give a guy a big lead and then he keeps playing well because you can only play -- you can only finish first, you can't finish better than that. Every -- like for instance I win in Houston this year, Miguel finishes third. I finished second in the U.S. Senior Open, Miguel finishes third. I've had good weeks, but Miguel's played very consistent golf this year and I think the lesson to be learned is that you can't (indiscernible) a lead early in the year.

**Q. Does a 54-hole dynamic change how you approach tournament week?**

**STEWART CINK:** It hasn't really changed the way I approach it because you still shoot the best score you can no matter how many holes you're playing, if you're playing one hole. It definitely, it lends a little bit more importance to the first day because I think -- I don't know the stat, but I bet if you shoot even par or worse on the first nine holes on Friday, then your chances of winning go down to like probably less than one percent.

**Q. So do you get aggressive earlier?**

**STEWART CINK:** No, I get aggressive appropriately. If the hole says you can be aggressive, I'll get aggressive. If it doesn't, I won't. We don't really change any game plan stuff until about the 15th hole on Sunday and that's situational.

**Q. All right. And is there anything that has surprised you being on the Champions Tour about the ability level of these guys? I know you probably anticipated that they're still -- the top players are still the top players, maybe it was true when you were on the Tour, but is there anything about the overall ability of these guys that surprises you?**

**STEWART CINK:** Not one thing. I already knew they were really good, I've seen the scores. It's not like I didn't watch the Champions Tour when I was playing on the regular tour. I still watched them, I paid close attention especially as I got closer to 50. There's not one thing that's really surprised me as far as the level of play. I knew they were good, I know they're crafty, they've been doing it a long time. Experience matters in this game.

**Q. I saved this one for last. Are you interested in being the Ryder Cup captain?**

**STEWART CINK:** Heck yeah I'm interested in being the Ryder Cup captain. I would love to.



I'd love to represent the United States and the players, take some of the experience that I've got and apply it and hopefully try to get this thing turned around. It feels like the Ryder Cup has been like a European party for about 15 years now or more. I'd like to change that.

