

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



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**MODERATOR:** Stewart Cink joins us here at the Dominion Energy Charity Classic.

Stewart, welcome. If we can get some comments on being here in Richmond this week.

**STEWART CINK:** Well, thank you. It's nice to be back. It's my second time.

This is one of the very best facilities of the year on PGA TOUR Champions. It's a really good golf course. The town supports us really well here, and the practice area, everything's very high class and top notch. It's a good place to come back to.

The golf course has a little bit of everything. There's some holes where you really need to keep the ball in play, very narrow, and there's some holes where you can really air it out. So it's not the kind of course that has one style that it fits better than another, it just brings everybody into play and I think that's one reason why the players continue to enjoy coming back here.

**MODERATOR:** After being on the PGA TOUR for so many years and now out here, how many years does it take to sort of get accustomed to the new golf courses and the strategy and all of that?

**STEWART CINK:** Well, we learned pretty quickly how to set up golf courses and how to game plan, so we're pretty good at that. Most everybody in the field is quite adept at being able to do that quickly. Once you get through one year of seeing the courses, you start to feel more comfortable and you start to understand like what maybe went wrong with your game plan and what's went right with it.

I'm at that point right now where I've gotten to play pretty much all of the courses. There's very few that I haven't seen. Now I'm in the tweaking mode and just kind of learning what it takes, where to not make mistakes. Everybody out here's really good at golf and the key comes down to like making the fewest mistakes. So that's why we game plan these things.

This is one that certainly requires a lot of attention. Off the tee it's not just driver everywhere, you've got to hit the ball the right distance and pick your targets. To me, that's a really good separator.

**MODERATOR:** No. 2 in the standings, how excited are you for this three-tournament stretch?

**STEWART CINK:** Well, I've been anxiously anticipating these tournaments where the

points magnify a little bit because it's hard to catch Miguel because he always plays good. Now we have a little bit extra points available. Wins, really high finishes will go further. Like I said, I've been waiting for this. We've got three weeks. I've made it my goal and been very vocal about it all year that I want to win the Schwab Cup. That's not changing, but it's going to take some really spectacular play over the next three tournaments.

**MODERATOR:** How is the state of your game coming into the week?

**STEWART CINK:** It hasn't been great actually. The last couple weeks have been just a little scrappy and unlike me, but sometimes you need stuff like that to sort of like open your eyes and highlight a problem, or a few problems.

So in my case I've just been able to identify some patterns and make some quick adjustments. Doing it in the middle of like a long stretch of golf tournaments is not the ideal situation, you would rather have some weeks off to do that, but we're pretty quick on the fly.

So made a couple adjustments and it's going to be a great test these next three to see if the adjustments paid off in the form of good finishes and results.

**Q. What is it about this golf course that you like?**

**STEWART CINK:** It's a golf course that rewards quality and it can punish inaccurate drives and missing in the wrong places. The greens have pitch.

This time of year the bermudagrass, the rough is, it's not dead, it's just kind of dormant. It's been experiencing some cool weather so it's pretty weak, and in the rough, the ball just sinks right to the bottom. It doesn't have to be three- or four-inch rough to where it can be very penal. That's one thing that makes this course play really tight is that the rough is just punishing.

So you don't want to be coming in out of the rough, out of bermudagrass just having no control over the ball. It's nothing new, we saw this same thing at SAS in Raleigh, we saw the same thing at Jacksonville, Timuquana. These bermuda rough courses this time of year, you just don't want to be in it. So it dictates a little bit of your game plans off the tee and it definitely focuses you on execution off the tee, too. Keep your ball in play.

**Q. I take it four par 5s and two drivable par 4s are right up your alley?**

**STEWART CINK:** Well, you would think so, yeah. It's nice to have some holes where you can use some length. There's one drivable par 4 that it's drivable, yeah, but it's not a driver, it's not a 3-wood, it's about a 4- or 5-iron because it bit me last year.

I was watching this tournament on television and seeing guys hit driver up there by the green and have some success, but it's the wrong shape for me. I tried it last year and made a quick 6 on that hole. So I will probably not be able to hit a driver this year on the 15th hole.

**Q. You spoke that Schwab Cup is your goal. Is it a failure year if you don't win it?**

**STEWART CINK:** I wouldn't say that because I've done a lot of good stuff this year. Played really solidly almost consistently top to bottom this year, put myself in contention a lot. It's really not fair to judge yourself by wins versus losses when you're finishing really high because sometimes it's just the way it goes. Literally, you cannot control everything about the way the ball bounces or if it lips out or goes in, you just can't.

So while it's easy to sort of look at the list and say, well, I have two wins but I could have had more, you have to resist that because you've got to look at the whole body of how you played and it's all about really just giving yourself a chance to be in contention, which I've done quite a lot.

So it's going to be a successful year. I just want to finish first.

**Q. Off subject, when you were a kid, your go-to Halloween costume?**

**STEWART CINK:** My go-to Halloween costume as a kid? I don't even remember. I don't remember a single Halloween costume as a kid. I can tell you a lot about Halloween costumes as an adult.

**Q. What have you got?**

**STEWART CINK:** Buddha, beekeeper, viking, Star Trek Starfleet officer, Superman. Let's see. I can probably go -- Buzz Lightyear. There's probably more.

**Q. When the candy bowl comes out, the go-to candy is what?**

**STEWART CINK:** The go-to candy. My wife is a very smart shopper and for ingredients, not cost, for ingredients and so we always get the knock-off organic version of like your most popular candies that you would see in any convenient store.

So we have, like we call them like the fake Kit Kats and the fake Snickers and the fake Twix and the fake Reese's Cups. And we live in a condominium where we have zero trick or treaters and we still have an enormous vat of Halloween candy that's just out there waiting.

Well, who do you think's eating that? Every night. Yeah, every night.