

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTE
March 6, 2026

STEWART CINK (-5)



Q. We have Stewart Cink, Round 1, 5-under 67. So today was crazy with all of the conditions. How did you handle those just kind of coming in?

STEWART CINK: Well, this is my first time playing this course, and every day I've played it this week it's been the same wind, the same wind direction. There's been very little variance. So we're getting accustomed to playing this course with this kind of wind direction.

Now, if it flipped around and blew the same direction, it would be a completely different course, but as it is we're kind of getting the feel for some of these tee shots and some of the approaches.

Mostly our game plan was good and I hit a lot of solid shots, gave myself some birdie looks, made my share. Probably could have made a few more, but it was a day I'm pretty pleased with overall.

Q. Was there a specific hole or shot that you're most proud of just today?

STEWART CINK: Well, yeah, I would say the shot that I'm most proud of ironically was the one I pumped into the water on 9 off the tee to the left because it was an opportunity for my attitude to go in one of two directions, and I chose the right direction.

Me and Chris, my caddie, were talking about what kind of options we had and decided that it would be a good time just to sort of like take a deep breath and kind of re-collect everything. I played really well from there. In fact, I had a great shot after taking a penalty drop and then went on to birdie 10 and 11. Sometimes those forks in the road during a round are very meaningful and the bad shots are more meaningful than the good ones.

Q. Absolutely. You do a really good job of just kind of handling that pressure, especially as a competitor. How do you do that? You came into this week, you had some family things going on at home and just how do you stay kind of calm out there?

STEWART CINK: Well, I think the biggest thing is just to trust. I've worked hard to be good at golf. Some day I hope to be good at golf, and I've worked really hard at it. When you hit a shot like that, I hit just an awful shot off 9, just a big hook into the lake.

There was a time in my career, wasn't that long ago, when I would sort of see that as sort of an exposure kind of shot. Like uh-oh, I've been exposed.



Now I choose to see that a lot more like an outlier and trust that that's just going to happen sometimes. No, it doesn't feel good, but you can't let a shot like that keep beating you for 30 or 40 minutes, and I've been guilty of that.

So did a good job of that today. Certainly it's going to happen, and the better you handle those kind of moments -- we've got to play a little defense out here, too. We're not like some of these NFL Hall of Famers where we smack against other guys and get physical with all the pads and the helmets. In a way, golf has a lot of defense and that was a moment where I had to play some good defense and it worked out.

Q. What are some takeaways from this round that you maybe want to carry into the rest of this tournament or some moments in your game that you kind of want to leave behind today?

STEWART CINK: I think the biggest thing, I'll evaluate today's round and I won't find a whole lot of negative out there. I was really proud of the way I stuck to the process on the greens and my routines were really good.

Some of my reads were kind of off, but the greens are kind of new and they're not the easiest to read. That will be OK. It's a percentage game. You play good enough golf tee to green, give yourself a lot of birdie looks, the percentages are going to work out in your favor. Most everybody's going to make kind of about the same amount of putts unless someone has an incredibly hot streak, so I'm OK with that. I know I'll give myself the chances and be patient and trust the process and make my percentage and we'll just see how the cards add up at the end.