

ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES
March 28, 2026



STEWART CINK (-14)

Q. Stewart, albatross on the 18th hole to shoot 62. Talk us through that shot.

STEWART CINK: Yeah, it was a heck of a walk-off. Hit a great drive. A hole like that for this course is a pretty wide fairway and you just really want to eat up as much yardage as you can off the tee. So that was as good as I can hit one. I left myself only a 6-iron to the green.

To be honest, I wasn't aiming over there towards the flag. I hit a little bit of a push, but I hit it really solid. I knew when it took off it was going to be the right distance, but is it going to go in the hole. You never know that, it's luck from that point. But when the crowd reacted, it was pretty awesome.

Q. You said 6-iron. What was the yardage?

STEWART CINK: It was 205.

Q. How many of those have you had in competition?

STEWART CINK: My caddie just asked me that. I don't know. I've had a couple. I've had at least two that I remember. There might have been one or two more, I don't remember.

Q. Show me the reaction.

STEWART CINK: The what?

Q. The flex.

STEWART CINK: I don't remember if it was like this or like this. I have lots of different kinds of flexes.

Q. You don't practice that?

STEWART CINK: No, that's not something we practice. That's a rare thing that happens.

No, you know, that's a fun time. My caddie and I, Chris, we're both, I think we're really dialed in on just trying to stay in the moment and planning shots and executing shots. Results, we try not to let the results matter, but when you get a result like that especially at the end of the day, I don't have to hit another shot, I can't mess up the next hole. So it's kind of fun to laugh a little bit, interact with the crowd and talk to Cookie on the way up in the fairway.



So that's a cool moment to have happen right there on the 18th hole with the crowd. This is a great crowd here. Hoag always gets such awesome support from this local area, it's so good. Felt really good to do that there.

Q. How's your eye just from the -- the ball goes up in the air. Is there a point where you just lose sight of it and then like the rest of us, it's a hop, skip and a drop in the hole?

STEWART CINK: I did not lose sight of it because it was a little right of where I intended it to be and I was watching it very anxiously to make sure it carried that little corner of the green. Once -- I hit it solid and it wasn't leaking right, it was just a little push. It was actually kind of drawing with the wind. I felt like it had plenty to get over that edge and it cleared by about one inch. Found where the ball hit and it was like right on the fringe.

But I never lost sight of it until it landed and you can't see the bottom of the flag from down there in the fairway. What happened, happened. The crowd let us know.

Q. Is there anything that you can take away from Ernie goes first, he comes up short of the green; Padraig goes next and he flies the green?

STEWART CINK: No, no. First of all, Ernie was pretty far back. Ernie didn't hit his greatest drive there so he was a lot further back. His shot was completely different than mine.

And Harrington's ball, I never saw it.

We had a pretty good game plan no matter what their shots did. They ended up making two really good birdies. I had a pretty big advantage off the tee there with distance and able to hit a 6-iron to the green. It's a completely different shot than Ernie had there. Padraig, they both hit some kind of wood into the greens.

Q. Stewart, you had a really good round going and you get to 16 and you had that unfortunate three-putt, then you changed balls. Is that superstition? Is that just new ball? Tell me about that.

STEWART CINK: Well, normally I don't really change balls out of superstition unless we cut up the cover or make impact with the ball right where you drew your line, or I draw a cross on the side of my ball. If you deface the ball like that, I'll change.

But really, on that shot there was no real reason to change except Chris said let's change it up. So it sort of was for superstition because that ball was just kind of fighting against -- silly to say that, it wasn't. Yeah, I changed balls. I gave you the three-putt ball. You're welcome for that. I'm not trading.

Q. Overall a lot of focus on the last shot. Just the round overall, what was working?



STEWART CINK: It was just an excellent round really almost start to finish. There was a little three-putt hiccup on 16 where I misread that second putt pretty bad. Overall, I mean, from the tee all the way into the hole it was a really solid round.

The way I like to describe it, my heart was just in a really good place out there. I wasn't too wrapped up in the results, I wasn't too attached to birdies or bogeys or eagles or double eagles, whatever. I was just playing each shot for each shot and very willing to accept whatever happened.

I free myself up really well when I'm like that. Today I had a round where I felt very peaceful and a lot of putts from 15, 20 feet went in, a lot of good tee balls. It was just the kind of round you envision having when you get you ready for your round in the morning.

Q. Is that liberating when you feel that? That's got to be a cool feeling.

STEWART CINK: It is. It's a difficult thing --

Q. Easy to say, right?

STEWART CINK: Easy to say. And to play a game at our level where the results matter so much, it's very difficult to detach yourself from those results and just do what you can do right here in the present and be willing to accept the results, because some days I can hit just as good quality of shots in every phase of the game and shoot 71, and today it happened to be 62.

Q. How about sleeping on the lead, how do you like that?

STEWART CINK: I would rather sleep on the lead than sleep on the not lead. I've done it lots of times, and I've lost in dramatic fashion and I've won in dramatic fashion. I'm not going to let it faze me too much. I've played well. I like what I'm doing.

Me and Chris, my caddie, Chris Jones, he and I have a good thing going out there on this course. You know, I'll wake up tomorrow, be ready to accept whatever and come out here and have a great time doing whatever it is.

Q. We talked earlier this week, you didn't get a practice round when we talked earlier. How do you find the golf course and course conditions this week?

STEWART CINK: It's exceptionally good. I played last year and I can't say I find one bit of difference. The rough maybe is a little bit healthier this year. This is a really fun golf course to play, there's a lot of sporty shots out there. I just think it's an awesome track and it's in great shape. I just love it here.

Q. Seems like you're playing well, you played well last year, obviously you're doing well this week here. Does this place just set up for you? Is it just made for you?



STEWART CINK: I don't know about that. The scores are low. It's made for a lot of guys. I don't know if I can explain it like that.

I do have a good eye for this place and some of the holes off the tee kind of fit my shape a little bit. The ones that don't though, I've got a pretty good game plan on what to do. Like 16th hole's not exactly a really comfortable driver for me so we're just backing down to a 3-wood and playing a draw against the wind. That's a game plan decision that we're making. Most guys are probably hitting driver there. That's the way when we look at a course, we try to choose the easiest shot we can on every hole, every shot no matter where the ball ends up. Try to make golf as easy as you can. It's a hard game, so we're trying to take some of that difficulty off.

Q. And you said earlier that you're not sure how many double eagles you had, you can't remember. Have you ever had a walk-off hole-out on 18?

STEWART CINK: I don't recall ever having a walk-off in a tournament. I did it one time I know when I was playing at home in like a little benefit tournament, a walk-off with a 5-iron, par 5. Not one that ever counted. That was a really cool moment.

