

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
April 29, 2026



STEWART CINK

Q. So it's Wednesday, celebrity pro-am day here in Birmingham, Alabama. Stewart Cink, you're coming out here, you're seeking your second now senior major. What are you looking forward to this week?

STEWART CINK: Well, this week, because of what we've been doing, the Senior PGA two weeks ago and then last week I was the host in Atlanta at the Mitsubishi Electric, this week believe it or not, even though it's a four-round tournament and it's a major championship, is about like conservation of energy and rest.

I only got here last night. Today was kind of a casual pro-am, not a lot of grinding, and just some light practice this afternoon.

Then the rest of this week I think is just going to be play golf and put my feet up, just try to -- it's a blessing that I won the Senior PGA, but now I'm in the PGA Championship the week after In斯perity next week, so it's quite a long stretch. A lot of majors, a lot of four-round tournaments in there, so I'm just trying to maintain and manage this whole energy level for these next couple weeks and do the best I can.

But it's fun. Being back in Alabama, my home state, is awesome to have all the supporters out there, see some vaguely familiar faces and say hi to a lot of folks.

Q. And today you got a lot of steps in I'm sure just with the cart path only, with the grounds. How was the course playing today with those conditions?

STEWART CINK: Well, as you can imagine, it's really wet, but not as bad probably as I might have thought considering we had three inches of rain overnight.

This place gets rain, it's used to receiving these downpours, and it's warm enough out there where there's some evaporation going on. If it doesn't pour too much again the rest of the week, then it will be getting back to normal by Sunday.

I've yet to see this course anything other than wet in my short career playing here. I would like to because I think it would be a lot of fun to play this course when the ball's rolling, but I don't think that's going to be this week.

Q. I wanted to ask what Commissioner Sankey was like as a golf partner.

STEWART CINK: He was great. I had no idea that he used to be a golf coach. He was the golf coach I think at Northwestern Louisiana, he said. He said he only got the job because



he had the best set of clubs among the staff when they let the other coach go.

But great guy to play with. First time I've ever been around him. He had some interesting things to say about the SEC and conference athletics in general. We had a good conversation, enjoyed having him in the group.

Q. As a Georgia Tech guy, Coach Key's obviously a local guy from Trussville just up the road. Just the job that he's done at your alma mater so far and how much did you enjoy the chance just to meet him?

STEWART CINK: It's awesome to see his success over there. At Georgia Tech, it's not just a straightforward coaching situation because there's a lot of constraints like (indiscernible). It's just really great to see him implementing a system and the players buying into it and navigating all the new waters that we have in college athletics. It's awesome to see and I'm pleased that it's an Alabama boy doing it.

Q. Have you ever seen a quarterback tougher than Haynes King the last few years?

STEWART CINK: He's tough, a warrior. If there was ever a team that had like a one-man leader that was a wrecking ball, it was Georgia Tech these last couple years. It was fun to watch him. We're going to miss him, but hopefully Coach Key can backfill, we'll see what QB1 looks like in the fall.

