

ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES
August 1, 2026

STEWART CINK (-13)



Q. Stewart Cink joining us here at the Portugal Invitational, second round 64 tying the course record. You were 6 under through five holes, two eagles on the round. Just take us through the day.

STEWART CINK: Well, it's weird to come off a round like that with that kind of score and be a little dejected because I shot minus 8, but I was 6 under par like three and a half hours ago for the day. I settled back into normalcy after that.

The start was just like laser focused. I mean, it was almost perfect shot after perfect shot for the first really six holes. I didn't birdie the sixth hole, but, you know, par 3, including an eagle from short range and another almost eagle on the par 5. Just really kind of fun. Then came back down to earth a little bit and got, like I said, a little bit more normal. All in all, a really good day.

Q. When you get off to a start like that, do you allow yourself to think ahead?

STEWART CINK: I don't know because I've never had a start like that. We're constantly coaching ourselves with self talk and planning for things, but you can say you've got to be ready to be 6 under through five and 6 over through 5. You can say that all you want, but when it really happens, it threw me just a little. It definitely put me in kind of a weird sort of vibe. I think anyone would have felt the same way.

I had a lot of forgiveness for myself. I was still hitting good shots. I had a bogey on a hole where I kind of was in an awkward spot in the fairway bunker. For the most part, played really well and scrambled myself into the holes and hustled when I needed to. Took advantage of another short par 4 out there, made a 2 on that one on 12. You know, it was a really pleasing day all in all.

Q. With those three par 5s in the first five holes, you can get off to a hot start like that. Is that something you might look for tomorrow?

STEWART CINK: Well, of course I would hope for that tomorrow but I'm just going to try do what I can do and hit the shots that I want to off the tee and then hit the second shots, make good putts. The same old thing, just do the same thing I can do. I'm going to do the best I can on every shot to be in the right place with my heart and focus on my process, what I can control. If that leads to being 6 under through five again tomorrow, then I'll be really pleased with that. But there's a pretty good chance it won't and I'll have to do a little bit more later in the round.



Q. It's the first Portugal Invitational. How do you feel to be here?

STEWART CINK: It feels really good to be here, to be back. I've been here before, I played the World Cup here at this same course. It feels good to be back, I love Portugal. The fans have been great. There's quite a number of people out there watching and it's really good. I feel like it's a tournament that's going to be a real important part of the schedule in the years to come.

Q. Stewart, you have a quiet healthy lead in the Charles Schwab Cup. You're taking the right steps towards winning it. So do you feel extra motivated for the rest of the season?

STEWART CINK: I feel motivated by Zach Johnson really. It wasn't more than about one calendar year ago when the guy that was in first place with four wins, Miguel Jimenez, didn't win. I'm in a similar position to where he was last year, so I'm well aware of that. I can't cruise on to the end here.

I didn't play very well from around -- from around May through, really through last week. Just was scrambling, trying to find a little bit of something that I had lost. So my coach flew over on an impromptu visit to Scotland for a couple days and we got to work on a couple things and get back to a couple things that I departed from. It's been fun to sort of reenergize my attitude and challenge myself out there. When you get a good round going and you're in contention, to trust the new things you're working on in your swing is really challenging. It's one of the things I love about golf is that challenge.

Q. Talk to us about the eagle on the par 4 on the 12th.

STEWART CINK: Well, on the par 4, Dicky Pride hit before me and he hit a really good drive. Because I'm old and my eyesight's starting to fail, I thought I saw his ball land up near the green and go just into the left rear bunker. So it made me doubt whether driver was the right club or not because I'm a little bit longer than he is.

My caddie and I decided it was still -- all the numbers worked out where it was still a driver. I actually mishit it just a little, which is probably a good thing, but it landed where it ought to land just short of the green and hopped up there on the front fringe.

When I got up to the green, Dicky Pride's ball was not in the backup bunker, it was about 20 yards short of the green. My eyes deceived me there and tried to fool me. Luckily I trusted my caddie and trusted the numbers in the yardage book and the wind and all that. The putt was a pretty simple putt actually. For a 25-footer it was relatively straight and uphill, but to make it was a real bonus.

Q. Speaking of trust, you said that you and Chris decide after you post a score if it's a good fit. I'm guessing after five holes today you felt like you were a pretty good fit?



STEWART CINK: Yeah, we were a really good fit, we were a really good fit out there on the first five. That was really something. We were just -- I noticed no one was talking to me in the group.

Q. What can you tell us about the comfort about what you're going through? You're clearly in a very happy place right now.

STEWART CINK: I am, but it's less about the circumstances leading to the happiness. It's like a choice I'm making. It's sort of in reverse. I had some good play, had some not good play, but I'm choosing to be in a really happy and peaceful and grateful place and that just leads to a better Stewart Cink on the golf course.

Q. I know you said that the driver is a big key to your success, but your numbers putting-wise have been phenomenal as well. Have you done anything differently over the past 18 months?

STEWART CINK: No, I really haven't. I have not done anything differently. For me, putting boils down to like commitment and trust. I know what I'm committed to and it's really challenging to commit to the process when the results are pulling at you. It's hard work. So on my good days I'm able to really disengage from the results and just focus on the process and let it happen and trust and wait for the run. And the runs today happened. Some days they don't.

Q. Just one more. Tied for 11th last week was your worst outing of the year. Is it hard to keep that in perspective? Those are crazy numbers to say, oh, yeah, I sucked last week, I was only 11th.

STEWART CINK: Well, I can put that in perspective real easy. The week before that I shot 8 over par and beat about nine people at The Open Championship at Birkdale. At the PGA Championship I missed the cut by, I don't know, four shots as well.

In my mind, tied for 11th isn't the worst finish of the year. I've had a couple of finishes that I did not like at all.

I didn't play great last week. I had a really good back nine on Sunday, I had a nine-hole tournament. I played awesome, 6 under par on the back nine to finish at minus 2. Other than that, it was pretty ordinary.

To come here and play well, I've had pretty good command over the ball and made a lot of really good decisions and our game plan is always really good, so it's led to a couple good rounds.

Tomorrow, hopefully keep going. But it's going to take another really low round. I think the scoring's lower than anyone thought it might be. When we were playing our practice rounds and the pro-ams, the scoring's been lower than we thought.



Q. Looking forward to tomorrow, do you have any plans for tomorrow, how to shoot, how low you can get, or do you say OK, just like today, good start, set on fire your driver, putting as well?

STEWART CINK: You got it. Boring answer, but you already answered the question. I wish I could say there's a strategy to go out there and shoot as low as you can, but you would just do that every day and just every day would be a 64.

But that's not the way golf is. You've got to go through the emotional battles and the difference in the variability in the wind and the hole locations. There's just no programmed way to go out and say this is what's going to happen. You have to be ready for it all.

Tomorrow I'm going to just try to be at my best. I know the version of myself that can play really well, I'm going to try to find that version between now and tomorrow and rekindle it. I know if I can do that, I'll be hard to beat.

