

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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STEWART CINK



Q. Stewart, welcome to the Stifel Charity Classic, first playoff event of the 2026 season. Five wins, how are you approaching this week and the Playoffs overall?

STEWART CINK: I don't see any reason to change how to approach the week. I have had some kind of close calls at this course, so I think maybe there might be some slight tweaking to my golf course approach here.

As far as the way I'm going to approach the week, I think it's still just keep the right pedal down and keep going and keep trying to shoot low scores and stack up good rounds. That means a lot of good decisions every day.

Golf at this level comes down to choice after choice after choice. Just continuing to make the right choice usually leads to good things, so I'm going to keep doing that.

Q. How does this golf course suit your game?

STEWART CINK: Well, I think it's one of our bigger courses. If you look at the guys in the top of the power list driving distance, I'd be up there, so it's a course where you can gain a little bit of an advantage with power.

There's one really long par 5 out there I remember on the back nine. There's also a couple of par 4s that are pretty stout. This golf course has some strength to it, some backbone.

I thought maybe when they moved it to this late in the year that it would be a little cooler and a little more wintry, but it's summery. It's a great week for weather, the golf course should be in mint condition.

Q. You had some time off. Do anything exciting? Changes? Anything like that?

STEWART CINK: No.

Q. Nothing? Sat at home and barbecued?

STEWART CINK: Oh, that would be exciting. No. I did have a week off. We had a wedding up in North Carolina mountains which was really nice. We had a big cold snap so it felt like the middle of winter for the first time. Great time. Good family friend of ours got married so got to spend some time with friends and actually get away from gridding and practicing golf for a couple days there, which is nice.



At the same time, it's always also nice to kind of get back in the routine of preparing for a tournament. I've been looking forward to playing here ever since they moved the event into the Schwab Cup Playoffs.

Q. Is there any different mindset now that it's the Playoffs? I mean, like you said, keep the right foot down, I get that, but mentally it's like, OK, I know who the other guys are that can catch me. Is there any strategy to that? Do you scoreboard watch more, anything like that?

STEWART CINK: I don't avoid the scoreboards. I don't think it's really all that beneficial to dwell on what anybody else is doing. You don't have any control over that. I'm pretty disciplined about controlling what I can control and letting everything else go.

I'm 53 but I'm still kind of new at this Champions Tour golf, I only played my first full season last year. This is a new territory for me being in the lead in the standings coming into the Playoffs. I had to make a pretty good comeback last year. I played well at the Playoffs last year, I really did, especially Phoenix.

I don't know, I don't know what to expect really out of myself. I do know that scoreboard watching to see what other guys are doing is really just not all that beneficial.

I want to treat these like tournaments, not like a Schwab Cup standings race that ends in Phoenix. I want to treat this Stifel Charity Classic like it's its own event and try to win this. Playing on the Champions Tour is always about winning and I haven't won since -- I only won one tournament since earlier this year, so it's a feeling I'm kind of yearning for again. Looking forward to it.

Q. Goals the same I would imagine as last year's goal?

STEWART CINK: Yes. Last year I made it a point to talk a lot about the goal to win the Charles Schwab Cup. This year I haven't done quite as much as that, but I've been in the lead most of the year and then Zach's just been on a tear winning everything and now he's closed the gap where it's race. That's great, I'm happy for Zach. He's my good friend and it's his first year playing out here, so I think he's happy with his decision to move over to PGA Tour Champions certainly. But I think it's also good for the Tour and good for golf to have a good race at the top. I'm fully expecting Zach to play well and probably at least win a couple of these things, maybe one, but he's going to have to beat me to do it and it would be awesome if we came down to the wire.

