ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTE
November 14, 2026

STEWART CINK (-17)

Q. Stewart, heading into the final day tomorrow, you had yourself in a couple uncomfortable positions today but you managed to stay steady. Take us through, how did you feel about your round?

STEWART CINK: I think it was an efficient round. I mostly saved myself, got out of jail a couple times and I didn't have a whole lot of offense going. I played pretty good golf tee to green most of the day, but just the ball wasn't really going in the hole much. We chalk that up to just sort of like you're tossing a coin out there. Sometimes you come up heads and sometimes tails, today was a lot of tails. So we'll just be patient, Chris and I, and wait for our heads to show up.

Q. Was the driver acting a little funky today?

STEWART CINK: I missed a drive early on, but my driver was behaving pretty well. I hit a couple of 3-woods a little off today. It wasn't quite the clean round off the tee that I have been, but it's just golf. I mean, I wish I was the same person every day. Actually, I don't. I'm glad I'm not because I don't know if I like that person very much.

You just don't know what you're going to get every day. It's impossible to be completely consistent off the tee when we're doing so many things and there's a lot of speed involved.

I managed it pretty well. The shots that I was off on are easy to diagnose, it's just a question of not doing it and focusing a little bit more on the things you want to do. That's something I learned about today and take it into tomorrow.

I'm going to compete tomorrow, I'm going to be a good competitor out there. I fully expect somebody from the pack to throw a low one. Today Scott Hend shot 9 under par, and that's going to happen again. So I'm going to go out there and have to compete, I'm going to have to earn this.

Q. When will you start looking to see what's going on behind you?

STEWART CINK: Well, I don't really ever not look. I won't be studying it. It really won't affect any of your game plan or your strategy you take on any particular shot until you get down to about the last four holes. Then maybe you start kind of changing up some of your lines or a different club off the tee.

But this course here's not really heavy on strategy and decision making, it's pretty much executing. Down the stretch you just keep doing what you're doing. If you take advantage of

the 18th hole, it's a hole where eagles are possible, but you just have to execute shots.

Q. You were clear before this tournament that it was not going to be a match play thing or one on one with you and Zach. The difference between him being in the final group with you or being one ahead of you, what is that for you going into tomorrow?

STEWART CINK: I don't know that there's a big difference really. It's probably easier for Zach to be not in the last group. I don't know where he's going to be because I haven't had a look at the scores yet. But it's probably easier if you're the chaser to be one group ahead, seems like that's just the way it feels easier when you're playing.

All I know is I can control my own self. Coming into this tournament, if you told me I could take a three-shot lead going into the last day, I would have taken it in a heartbeat. So that's what I have. I'm pleased, and I just know I have an uphill battle tomorrow. It's going to be a serious contest out there.

Q. When you're playing 72, do you feel that at all any differently, that last round?

STEWART CINK: No, not really. Maybe on the day after 72 holes you feel a little bit more, but this course is a fairly gentle walk, it's a pretty compact place. It's not the kind of place that really wears you out physically.

An extra round, lot of adrenaline, a lot on the line. Maybe on Monday I'll need some recovery.

Q. You're in the lead right now. What would it mean to you to win not just the tournament title but also the season-long points title back to back?

STEWART CINK: It would mean a whole lot. It's been a goal of mine since the start of 2025, and I've been talking about it and putting it out there and sort of putting the pressure on myself in a way. I know what it feels like to win, so I just have so much respect for all these players that to finish on top is something I would be really proud of. It's just such a great collection of golfers and they've got so much experience. To be in contention to win a tournament against these guys, I'm honored just to be in the position.

Q. And how do you balance defending your tournament title and also competing for the season-long Cup?

STEWART CINK: It's not really a balance. I can't imagine really a scenario where the Charles Schwab Cup will really change a whole lot of strategy tomorrow. I mean, I guess we would have to know exactly what Zach Johnson's doing on the last hole and exactly where I am. There is a scenario, but if it comes to that, we'll all know it.

Q. And then you've had an incredible year with five victories. What has been the biggest key to your consistency?

STEWART CINK: Well, I came out on PGA Tour Champions with quite a bit of power and I think I've been able to maintain that, but also I've learned how to be a lot more efficient driver, keep the ball in play and use my driver as a weapon a lot more. When you drive the ball well and keep it in play and you have power, it just makes the golf courses play easier. It just gives you like a half a step ahead of the field. I feel like that's what I've been able to take advantage of for the last right around 12 months or so.

Q. And what does it mean to return to the season finale as defending champion?

STEWART CINK: It's so far in the past, it really doesn't mean anything. I'm proud my name's on that trophy, but it really doesn't mean anything. If anything, good memories from before. I feel confident in my game plan and that's about it. Maybe I'll draw on some of that experience tomorrow.

Q. Any goals for next season?

STEWART CINK: Yeah, I'm hoping I'm here talking to you again next year with a three-shot lead on Saturday, that would be a good goal.

Q. Stewart, pretty efficient round. I know you would have liked to birdie the last hole. Pretty good Saturday round with a six-shot lead.

STEWART CINK: It was a good round, but it's not the kind of round I really wanted to really give myself a lot of distance between myself and the rest of the field. We have a lot more of a contest tomorrow and I expected that.

You're right, it was pretty efficient. I think the key to the round was when I got out of position, except for the fourth hole, I managed pretty well, made some good saves. I left myself a fairly easy recovery for the most part and that's the key to saving shots.

Q. No doubt about it. You talked about being comfortable in uncomfortable situations. I always learned that from my old mentor, Ken Venturi, always said something like that. Did you feel comfortable out there today?

STEWART CINK: I did, I felt really comfortable. I'm not sure there's ever a time in golfer's career where you feel completely at ease when you're leading the tournament, but you're just making friends with it, that's what we do.

Instead of getting all thrown by the feeling of adrenaline and all the cortisol and all this stuff going on, you just learn to embrace it. You realize that you can play good shots, great shots, bad shots and you're still going to survive. So I think there was a little bit of that out there today, but all in all, every day's a learning experience and today was one of those.