

STEWART CINK PRESS CONFERENCE

SANFORD INTERNATIONAL – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

We're now joined by Stewart Cink, who's making his debut here at the Sanford International. What are your initial thoughts on Sioux Falls and being here this week?

Sioux Falls seems to be really nice town. It kind of reminds me of the town I grew up in. It's a smaller town, feels very homey, so it's nice to be in a new town. It's of the things I like about PGA Tour Champions golf is that I'm getting to visit a lot of new places and meet some new folks and just see venues that I haven't been to. You know, when you play the PGA Tour for a long, long time, it's nice to change it up and see new places, new faces and new courses.

This is your 16th start of 2025. You're coming in off five consecutive top 10 finishes, including a win in that stretch. Just talk about how you're feeling about your game right now and the last week.

Well, I feel pretty confident in my skill set out here and, you know, I feel like I'm my own worst enemy at times and really, for the top players, that's the case for everybody that there's really only one thing that keeps you from being in or very near the winner circle, and that's yourself. It's no secret, it's the biggest battle in golf between the ears and, you know, your heart gets in the wrong place. But, I've been working really hard and always do and I love competing and playing and so, you know, I've been mostly pleased with the way my game's been, but any true perfectionist will never be pleased until you just win everything.

What do you think of the field out here? And how do you stack up against the rest of the competition?

Well, we don't really look at the fields that closely most of the time. Recently, I've been looking to see if there's one specific guy and that's Miguel Ángel Jiménez. *laughs*

He's been not playing the last few, I don't know if he's been just on break or whatever, but he's the guy that's in first, I'm in second. So, I needed to make some hay while he was off. And I did get one win, and I could have gotten a win last time, but I didn't play very good on Sunday, so I let one go there. But he's the one guy I'm kind of focused on right now, I want to win the Schwab Cup and I can't do it unless I pass him.

Have you got a chance to get out and see the course yet?

Yes, I've gotten out to see the course. I've yet to play it. I played it in the skins game thing [Wednesday] night, so I've played four holes and a few holes that don't really exist, that are cross country and skipping shots and stuff like that. So, I have been out there. I took a cart around late on Tuesday evening and just did a little bit of homework, charting stuff, I'll

compare notes with my caddy game planning. But as far as hitting balls and playing on the course, this is going to be my first go of it this [Thursday] afternoon.

Have you talked to the other players about what it's like being out here on this course at all. Have you gotten a chance to talk to them?

I heard a little bit. Billy Andrade's a good friend of mine and he told me a little bit about it, you know, and he was right. It's tree-lined and there's a little bit of elevation change and the greens are the course's primary defense, and he was dead on when I saw it. There's a pretty substantial waterway that bisects the property that a lot of holes kind of just go back and forth across it. Most of those holes, you have to lay up short. There's very few that you can actually take an attempt to go over it. So, the course limits your distance a little bit, you know, as far as being an advantage.

But all in all, I think it's a course, you got to play smart and aggression on this course means how close do you want to lay it up to the end of the fairways as opposed to how far can you hit it off the tee? So, it's just a different style of aggression, but we still play a type of golf I would call 'measured aggression.' It's the way that the data all says the play. I've learned on the PGA Tour that you can't be too conservative or too aggressive, you have to blend your styles and the key is to know when to do that. So, I'm using my experience to try to figure that out every day.

Back in early January, if someone told you up to this point: two wins, number two on the money list, consistency throughout the year, would you have thought, "awesome, I'll take it?" or think "I want to be on top of money list?" What would you have thought?

I would have probably thought I would hope to be first because that's my goal. You know, all year I've been saying it and watching that list, I've been closing the gap a little bit, but I want to win it and I'm not going to be all that satisfied if I don't. So, I'm going to really give it everything I have and see what we can do and we'll start over in a new calendar year next year and I'll do the same thing.

What's it going to take to be successful for you this week?

Well, I haven't played yet, so I only know a few shots out there. I know that there's a place where you go from right behind number 3 green to 15 that's about a 150-yard shot that will probably not come into play. In seriousness, it seems to me like a lot of the holes are oriented where a south wind direction requires kind of a draw against the wind because the holes bend into the wind, which is a really good design feature. It takes a lot of discipline off the tee to hit the right club and shape your ball the right way when you've got wind going the opposite way of the curve. That and the waterway that crosses the course is kind of the main features strategically on this course is to figure out the tee balls and how you're going

to get that ball to sort of hold the wind and curve into the direction of the wind so it straightens it out and fits into those curves.