



Stewart Cink
Pre-Round Interview Transcript
May 7, 2026

Question: We're joined by defending champion Stewart Cink here at the Insperity Invitational. Just to start, how good is it to be back here at The Woodlands?

Stewart Cink Answer:

Well, any time you've won the tournament in recent times, you know, to come back always feels really good. You've got good memories. And it was good to be back and see the new green complexes and how the grass has grown in and the improvements they've made, which is really cool. So, it feels great. And I got to play with some of the Insperity folks and a couple of clients, too, today, which was really good to hear the story about a company. And even though my main sponsor right here, Venture, is their direct competitor, we can still, like, agree to be friends.

Question: Got done playing the Pro-Am and mentioned the new green complexes. Can you just speak to the course as a whole?

Stewart Cink Answer:

It's going to be the the number one deciding factor on the golf course this week because of the firmness. It's just the way it is with Bermuda greens, when you replant, they're firm for the first year or two. And they are very firm. So it's going to be interesting, I think. Everybody's wondering what the setup guys are going to do. Our rules officials are really smart, and I have a feeling they'll probably take it into account. But there's going to be some of the traditional hole locations that you just can't see out there. You're not going to use them this year.

Question: Stewart, did you play this course. I think you probably did.

Stewart Cink Answer:

I did some. But when it moved to the week before the Master's, I didn't that often because I live in Georgia. So it was just too much to go from here home and then Master's. But I played at least, I would say, three or four times, probably. And I played in college here. There was a big college event. So I've got a history here at this course. But I like the history I made last year at this course a lot more than all that previous history.

Question: So you didn't play that well?

Stewart Cink Answer:

Oh, I don't know about that. But I don't remember taking home any trophies.

Question: I guess, like, defense out here, you know, there is water out here. But the wind, when it really picks up, it makes this course really pretty tough, doesn't it?

Stewart Cink Answer:

Yeah. It's a combination of the wind and the trouble, the water. There's some OB out there. So when you got that combination, you know, it just makes it harder to keep the ball in your desired target area. And the nature of that is, you know, you end up with balls in hazards and penalty areas and out of bounds and stuff like that. So there is that factor here for sure. And this year I don't think it's going to be a really windy year. I think it's going to be more wet. But still, you know, the golf course has some teeth. It's not usually one of the courses that we take it really, really low on. Like, if I remember right, last year was only in, like, the 11-under range to win, maybe 12. So it's not a course where you have to go out there and shoot 20-under. There's a lot of defense out there. And I like this kind of course. You know, it makes you really think and execute good shots. And this year, with the firm greens, you're going to have to figure out a way to hit the ball in you know, into the greens very softly. And that's hard to do when you're coming in from quite a ways back.

Question: You're definitely in your prime right now in golf, and, you know, even more so with the Champions Tour. When we look at a guy like Langer and you see what he's done, not too far away from 70, actually, right now. Is it one of the things where, you know, like, I don't have to press, and I only got a four-, five-year window that I really have longer?

Stewart Cink Answer:

Yeah. It's inspiring to know that you can do that. Bernie is just, like, amazing. I mean, he's indescribable, the way he's continued to play great. But when you really break it down, it's all about fitness and his heart. You know, he loves playing golf. He loves it. I think if he didn't love it, he would have stopped. And he's in great shape, you know, so he can continue to do it. He's built himself a great frame. And he just hasn't slowed down. It's impressive. And it's inspiring to all of us out here.

Question: Who do you hang around with on tour, like, away from the golf course. Do you have a few buddies here?

Stewart Cink Answer:

Mostly Lisa Cink, my wife. She travels almost everywhere. So we get plenty of time out here. But it's great to have her. And, aside from my wife, there's a few other couples. We're very good friends with David Toms and his wife, Sonya, and Joe and Tracey Durant and Zach and Kim Johnson and Ben and Heather Crane. And I could keep going. But those guys are the ones that oh, and Chris DiMarco and Amy, his wife. They're the ones that we really logged all the miles with because our kids not Zach, necessarily. Zach's just my friend on his own. But the other ones, our kids are almost the same ages. So they were in the same classes at the Tour childcare center. We were experiencing the same stuff, driver's license, proms, graduations, all that stuff at the same time. So that's the kind of miles you log when you play golf for this long is you get

very close to people. I'm not the same age as those guys, but our kids are the same age, and that's what ties us together.

Question: Just add in there, just last weekend being the fourth victory of this year for you, what is there something that's worked, for you, do you think has been linked to the amount of success you've had?

Stewart Cink Answer:

I would say really what led to it was some failures. And that's, you know, a lot of times what happens when someone goes on a little bit of a run is that they figure out, like, what was costing them and holding them back, and they address it. And that's what I did. You know, I had a couple of near-misses when I first came out on the PGA Tour Champions that hurt because my expectations were kind of in the wrong place. I just expected to just mow everybody down every week. It didn't happen. So I had to address some issues in my golf and my heart. And I wouldn't say I have done that, but I've tried to do that; and I'm inching in the right direction. So, you know, I'm very peaceful out here playing. It's a blessing to be able to play on the PGA Tour Champions. I've said that so many times, and just, I can't say it enough. It's just such a great blessing to be able to sort of sunset your career like this, except for Bernhard Langer, who doesn't seem to have a sunset. He's like a Swede in the middle of summer. And it's a great place to play. I'm enjoying it. And, yeah, winning is awesome. But, you know, just competing out here, you know, if you play well, you're going to get some chances to win each season. And I've taken advantage of those chances this year. And I hope to keep doing that. But it's just been a fun run. But it really was born out of some failures and some, like I had to look in the mirror and figure out, like, what my expectations were.

Question: What's it like kind of going into a tournament, when you're streaking the way you are?

Stewart Cink Answer:

Well, it's good for confidence. But I'm not looking at this like any kind of a streak. I'm trying to take it a day at a time, even one shot at a time and focus on what I can control and let the results kind of sneak up on me in a way, you know. I mean, I got some good advice a long time ago in my career that winning is not a goal. It should be a reward for your goals. And so I'm trying to stick to my goals. They're really boring, very small-picture goals that are pretty effective in golf. And, you know, if I can do a good job with that, then I get some rewards occasionally, which is trophies and winning. And that's great. But I don't like to see it as a streak or anything. It's good feedback. But we have a pretty good formula right now for trying to pick golf courses apart. And if I can do my part, Chris, my caddie, he and I, I know we're going to do our part together, that if I could just execute, then I know I'm going to be around at the end. And sometimes golf is just about waiting around and letting other people lose.
