

REGIONS TRADITION PRO-AM STEWART CINK

Q: Just overall thoughts on the course being here in Alabama this week, obviously, you're from Alabama. So just being back in overall thoughts.

Cink: The best part about this tournament to me, being from Alabama, it's the first time I've played a tournament since 1996 in my home state, so to be back here, I'm seeing a lot of familiar faces. And it just feels literally like home. I'm not from Birmingham, but from the state. And I've spent a lot of time here. The golf course is really good. I played it one other time. I don't remember that much about it. But it's in great shape. And it'll provide a good backdrop for the competition this week.

Q: Talk about the smoker on 14 since you are a big barbecue guy. Did you get any?

Cink: No, I didn't because there was such a frenzy going on there with Coach. And we had a lot of cameras around. And there was things being handed out and just a lot of mayhem on the tee. So, in all the madness, I missed the barbecue. So, I might take the next few minutes and go out there and try.

Q: How was it playing with the new Alabama Football Head Coach DeBoer?

Cink: It was great. And the crowd is, as you can imagine, just insane out there for him. And I'm sure it's the same way for Coach Saban. But I just love that part of this state. You know, they love their college football so much they showed up and they don't care at all about what I did out there. They wanted to see him. They wanted to talk to him into the picture and get autographs and enthusiasm is just like immeasurable.

Q: How was it knowing that people do follow you and you know, sometimes you're in the spotlight, but then to see just his presence and you get to take a step back. Was it just relaxing for you just like off today?

Cink: It was relaxing. Because yeah, the focus is all on Coach DeBoer and he is just good guy. He's just settling in here in Alabama. It's quite a big change for him and his family. But it's part of the job. And he's a professional. He knows exactly what he's doing. We didn't talk shop out there. But I know he'll pick up right where Coach Saban left off and Alabama's going to be in a good place.

Q: He was telling us that he hasn't played too much golf. What did you think of his game and did you give him any tips?

Cink: Oh, yeah, I gave him a couple tips. I'm not a great teacher. But there's certain things there. We'll call it low hanging fruit that you can help somebody with. He said he plays just a few times a year but he's enthusiastic about golf and he really likes to learn. There's a lot of teacher in every coach. And I think a teacher also appreciates being taught. So, he seemed to enjoy being told things about the greens and about the way you play a shot or the way you can just see the way the ball is gonna react when it lands.

Q: Did you tell him what's really special about this state and what it's like to be here?

Cink: I don't have any right to say what it's like to be here because I haven't lived here for over 30 years and it's changed so much. The last time I spent much time in Birmingham, there was still a tiny little road coming out this way. And you went out in the sticks to go play at Shoal Creek before Greystone was even here. I'm just happy to be out here this week. And I am so excited about competing here in Alabama. As the Alabama football fan, it's rare to have the outgoing coach and the new coming coach here at the same time. There's a lot of firepower and as a fan, you got to appreciate that. Probably the most firepower you could assemble in Alabama right now, between two individuals would be those two individuals. It's pretty cool and to be in in the group with the coach out there today was really, really fun. I haven't gotten a chance to play with Coach Saban yet, but maybe one day we'll make that happen.

Q: This state, they had Korn Ferry, they lost it, we don't have a major. This is the biggest thing that we have in the state. How important if you represent the state and have this tournament here in Birmingham?

Cink: It is important because I know Alabama is a great golf state. It's been that way since I was a kid. I learned by playing, not on this course, but a lot of these courses that are still around here, that still host Junior tournaments and amateur tournaments. All day today, the fans out there are some of my old friends who recognized and were reminding me "I played

with you in the state and in Hoover back in 92” Things like that bring back memories. I'm honored that they come out here to watch us play and to see the coaches and just the support for this event. It's really got a lot of energy behind it.