

Production Transcript for **26INTCUTKF - UTAH CHAMPIONSHIP FV**

[00:00:32.659]>>Your first round coverage of the Utah Championship presented by Zion's Bank and InterMountain Health.

[00:00:39.470]>>One of three events still on the schedule for that first ever Korn Ferry Tour season back in 1990. This is the second year. We've been at Ogden Golf and Country Club, fifth club to be a part of the Utah Championship over the years. Old school spot, been around for a long time, par 70, and players are ripping it up today in these warm conditions. Balls go far in Utah. That's what they tell me. Take a look at where we are in the state.

[00:01:07.190]>>Just about 35 minutes or so from the Salt Lake City International Airport.

[00:01:12.620]>>It's a great part of the country and as I mentioned, it has been dry and hot in this area.

[00:01:28.010]>>Yeah, past 70, and you said it, Shane, with these hot and dry conditions, just a shade over 7000 yards isn't really gonna cut it. These guys are gonna get an extra at least 7% in the air, that means a 300 yard drive is gonna go closer to that 320. 2nd shot golf course, beautiful conditions, but more about the approach and, and the small greens. They will get firm towards the end of the week as well.

[00:01:53.059]>>Well, we got 4 regular season events left on the schedule before we get to the finals, including this week in Utah. Doc Redman, what a year he's having atop the points list, a couple of wins already. Not here this week, Ian Holt 2nd, just a few points back.

[00:02:11.520]>>Opening round of the Utah Championship, Korn Ferry Tour, getting late in the season. How about Ross Steelman? Been red hot as of late, that a birdie at the seven. Steelman would shoot 61, and over his last 13 rounds on the Korn Ferry Tour, scoring

average 65. 7 for the man with all the flair and more, Tommy Morrison coming off a win last week, just at the 9th. Slow start this Thursday, but.

[00:02:38.229]>>Morrison rolling that in, been electric since he's turned professional.

[00:02:43.720]>>Get into that in a bit. How about Mason? Nobody hotter than this guy on the golf course right now. Part of the afternoon wave. This at 9. This would be one of 8 birdies. Yes, 8 birdies on his 1st 9 holes, par 70. So Mason Andersen, an outside opportunity to post the first sub 60 round this season on the Korn Ferry Tour. This one, the 15th, the alone par 5 on the back nine, easiest hole on the golf course, so.

[00:03:12.860]>>Real opportunity here. Oh, how about it? Corte around and in. Yeah.

[00:03:29.259]>>Last year, the first time we shifted from 30 cards to 20 at the end of the year, same this season, Potgieter in their tight.

[00:03:38.229]>>Hey, somebody read that puck correctly, good birdie.

[00:03:49.119]>> Dylan Menante.

[00:03:51.570]>>There we go.

[00:03:56.110]>>Had the tee shot, thanks for the 2.

[00:04:03.979]>>Morrison putting from the highest point of the green. This is pretty much all downhill.

[00:04:10.990]>>That's a good line. There we go. Oh, he loves these par threes at Ogden.

[00:04:18.489]>>Well, no poor lie here for Blades Brown. He can go ahead and clip this. It's still a tough one with this front hole location that landed on the green. He chose to land it short. I think that was the right play.

[00:04:30.480]>>I.

[00:04:32.480]>>Come on, Macey, you can do it.

[00:04:35.220]>>You can do it.

[00:04:39.149]>>Some would say the perfect round of golf. Might be the perfect scorecard.

[00:04:48.739]>>Oh, you're not kidding. It looks like it wants to go right to left, but the tilt of the green is against the natural terrain, so.

[00:04:58.559]>>That is a lot of patience from the 21 year old. On the hole, you feel like you got a birdie.

[00:05:07.470]>>Let's go to Blades at 16, coming off really nice, 2 putt birdie.

[00:05:17.950]>>Oh yeah.

[00:05:25.160]>>Pull the string here at 17.

[00:05:29.320]>>I think Andersen said it with, you see just the Greens bumping a little bit.

[00:05:38.579]>>Now Morrison for birdie.

[00:05:42.760]>>That's a good look here downhill, a little right to left at the end. Yeah, buckets, great speed.

[00:05:55.190]>>Blades, a chance to tap in another one. That is a great birdie.

[00:06:04.750]>>Is to get 4 under.

[00:06:08.250]>>He's missed his fair share of shortish putts in this opening round.

[00:06:13.899]>>OK.

[00:06:15.329]>>But really great bounce back, you think about the short he missed at 12, able to make birdie there.

[00:06:28.829]>>Well, not a great lie here for Morrison.

[00:06:35.079]>>So Morrison, that just a moment ago, and now Menante putting for birdie, sure.

[00:06:44.820]>>You're thinking make, but you have to have a little defensive thinking in there as well.

[00:06:54.140]>>He has put together a round of golf, hadn't he, on this back nine? Real slow start to the day.

[00:07:03.589]>>John trying to save par out of that right green side bunker, this would be a heck of an up and in, but never hit it.

[00:07:11.920]>>That has been the theme on this back nine, James. Yeah, I think cause the slope around some of these cups.

[00:07:20.049]>>And this is a bad rake job here, Shane. This is a really tough shot way below the level of the green.

[00:07:27.459]>>Yeah, you saw the way that released. He got unlucky with the rig job.

[00:07:39.410]>>Quick putt downhill.

[00:07:41.529]>>Is to get the 4 under.

[00:07:44.450]>>There we go, wasn't happy with the 2nd, but walks away with the birdie.

[00:08:03.549]>>The fringe to his left is higher than the cup.

[00:08:07.359]>>I don't think it's gonna affect it, but I think you want to take some of the right to left out of it. I'm not sure you want to give the hole away.

[00:08:32.510]>>Beautiful, all three of these guys, taking a little extra club here and just fashioning some sort of punch shot.

[00:08:41.739]>>Beckert the 9th, Solomon across the green. Come on now, come on now. Oh.

[00:08:52.979]>>Well, Hitchner with a good look.

[00:08:57.010]>>Not a lot of players pushing it all the way back to this hole location in 9, so if you could pay it off. Yeah, that is a professional 2.

[00:09:08.570]>>It's gonna be right around that 6 under number.

[00:09:13.159]>>Which is where Chris is trying to get to just a tap in left for a clean round of 6 under 64.

[00:09:22.979]>>That group was the one to go watch today. Those boys made a boatload of circles, just one bogey amongst them.

[00:09:31.500]>>Getting it done early in Utah, 2 more rounds to go, and you gotta be stretched out and ready to sprint. That is what everybody in the field is doing right now in Ogden, making birdies, going low and not looking back.

[00:09:53.729]>>Second round of the Utah championship, a little history earlier in the day. Rarely does the PGA TOUR beat the Korn Ferry Tour for the first sub 60 round of the year. We saw it last week at the 3M.

[00:10:05.919]>>Fast forward to this week, Chris Francoeur, and he started to fill it up, a chip in eagle at the 4th, Matt birdie at 5, Shane Bacon alongside James Nitties and Francoeur with a lot of opportunities, James, late in this round to go sub 59, especially when he had that size.

[00:10:24.690]>>Hit it that close, already at 17 under for the tournament.

[00:10:29.570]>>So then he goes to the 7th, hardest hole on the golf course. It's seen just 2 birdies from the field on this Friday, and Francoeur just taking dead aim. I mean, one of the better approaches we saw at 7 all day long. So another opportunity, Parson.

[00:10:44.864]>>70 here at Ogden Golf and Country Club, so already at 11 under par, just needing pars on the way home, not his best stroke there, but settle for 4. Now at 8, caught a flyer, but how close is this?

[00:11:01.169]>>This is also when you're starting to think, I need to get this down in, 5 ft out, you're like, hang on a second. It nearly went for fan call. So a tap in there at 8, now at the 9th.

[00:11:15.630]>>This shorty, 459, 1st of the season and Chris Francoeur needing something special late in the year, gets it.

[00:11:26.340]>>Seen a 59 at the Utah Championship, but that was on a different golf course and for Chris Francoeur, the 59.

[00:11:42.150]>>So as we mentioned, 1st 59 here in 2026 on the Korn Ferry Tour, just a reminder, we have seen sub 59 rounds over the years. Del Solar, that 57 back in 2024, Capan a 58, that same season, Jaeger with that 58 back in 2016.

[00:12:12.789]>>Picking up all those tees, Jeff. I think this is it. Back at 6.

[00:12:18.159]>>And this guy is dialed right now. Excellent shot from Dougherty.

[00:12:33.349]>>Carr now at 2 under par.

[00:12:36.289]>>He's got to start going.

[00:12:41.679]>>Steelman just going in the wrong direction now, this is Dougherty for birdie to get the 14 under.

[00:12:58.840]>>Yeah, left to right, uphill, pretty good look.

[00:13:06.840]>>And this is just a glorified, lengthy par 3 for most of these players.

[00:13:11.940]>>At 318 at elevation.

[00:13:16.539]>>Oh man, you gotta maybe wait a minute on that one.

[00:13:28.080]>> Del Solar getting that one to go, rattles it in the back.

[00:13:36.049]>>It was like a.

[00:13:40.460]>>Back here with Filip Jakubcik.

[00:13:45.000]>>Good spot to leave it at this par 4, ripping straight up the hill for Eagle.

[00:13:50.760]>>To touch there.

[00:13:54.820]>>Now Ishikawa

[00:13:58.989]>>Very good lie, great angle here, though he slipped the club underneath it.

[00:14:04.760]>>He just tried to play a no spin shot. It's a good result below the hole, but you've got to get it closer than that.

[00:14:21.059]>>See if Ross can

[00:14:23.340]>>Build some momentum

[00:14:38.320]>>There we go.

[00:14:50.849]>>There's Del Solar at the 18.

[00:14:55.099]>>Just hangs in there, great finish.

[00:15:03.619]>>Comfortably into the weekend, now he's Ishikawa, there we go, puck drops, take that after now that uh approach shot came out that.

[00:15:23.609]>>Neither one of those guys double digits under par. Sandy's got, 24 of them right now. Sewell after the bogey at 7.

[00:15:41.429]>>Now surely one's gotta go, right? If you're Steelman, one of them's gotta go, gotta go, finally got one to go.

[00:15:51.070]>>Bye.

[00:15:59.820]>>Earlier in the day, this for the 1st 59 of the season.

[00:16:03.710]>>Got a 59 last week on the PGA TOUR. Get one this week on the Korn Ferry Tour.

[00:16:14.489]>>And now the real work begins for Francoeur. We talked about it a moment ago. James, 120th on the points list, needs a big few weeks to finish up his season to give himself an opportunity, not just to get a PGA TOUR card, but give himself an opportunity to play next season. Yeah, that's where it becomes tough at a course like this, you know, everyone is chasing you.

[00:16:33.320]>>There's gonna be a ton of birdies on the weekend and, and just those points matter so much. He's currently projected, if he were to go on and win the tournament, still outside of those top 20 cards that would get you to the PGA TOUR, he's projected 23rd, but it's still a long way to go, especially with two days at this golf course, with the way the scoring has been trending.

[00:16:52.520]>> Kevin Dougherty, great round of golf, matching 63. Same for Mason Andersen, who had that wild day on Thursday. Those players gonna make a real push, experienced players out on the Korn Ferry Tour. And I'll tell you this, James, a really good leaderboard, Tommy Morrison in the hunt, plays Browns.

[00:17:08.099]>>Right there, Docherty having a great season, a lot of those big names just chasing a man atop the board that hasn't really felt this before. That's what we wanna see, we wanna see a lot of action going into the weekend, Shane, I think we're gonna get it here at the Utah Championship. It's gonna be a fun Saturday and Sunday.

[00:17:32.390]>>One of the oldest events on the Korn Ferry Tour schedule here in Ogden, Utah, about half an hour or so from Salt Lake City for this great championship, winding down the season, and it has been.

[00:17:44.890]>>Hot and warm and dry in this area over the last few weeks and much of the same this week as the Korn Ferry Tour descends down on this golf course over 100

degrees for the second straight day, not much wind to speak of. I mean they are short par 4s guys hitting at 350, 370, up to 400 yards at times with elevation. We've seen some.

[00:18:07.939]>>Eagles all over the place at this golf course through two rounds. Shane Bacon alongside James Nitties, Jay Townsend down on the ground following our final pairing today. Chris Francoeur and Mason Andersen outlast, but they're a boatload of guys with an opportunity to make a move on this Saturday, James, at a golf course we saw last year for the first time. Well, scoring has been hot, as you have said, Shane, and it's because it is only a shade over 7000 yards and playing at elevation, these guys will eat that up.

[00:18:44.800]>>Kevin Dougherty

[00:18:47.130]>>Really nice approach, see if you can pay it off.

[00:18:52.439]>>Yeah, just the 10th birdie at 7 today.

[00:19:00.969]>>12

[00:19:06.189]>>This hole's played tough today, James.

[00:19:18.530]>>Kyle Westmoreland.

[00:19:20.709]>>Los playing golf in Utah. I feel like every time we get to the Utah Championship, he is somewhere hanging around.

[00:19:28.790]>>This putt's just a little uphill left to right. I think if you hit it firm, you can keep it inside the hole.

[00:19:35.989]>>Just a great putt, great birdie.

[00:19:42.510]>>This man's been on offense most of the day, around trying to get to 16 under.

[00:19:47.380]>>Tied for 3rd, did he hit it?

[00:19:51.739]>>Part of the game that Blades could improve, 126 this season insane save percentage, just 39% of the time getting it up-and-down Sandy Scott trying to save his par.

[00:20:02.619]>>Oh,

[00:20:07.479]>>Low lips, typically not very kind. Another 64 for Sandy.

[00:20:17.890]>>Just left to right, just outside the left edge if you're gonna hit it soft.

[00:20:25.719]>>Really nice bounce back

[00:20:30.239]>>Move up the board. Here's Brown, much more than he thought he'd have here at 13 for birdie.

[00:20:36.979]>>Doesn't get easy from here, really quick around the cup.

[00:20:41.040]>>Good looking, good looking, there we go.

[00:20:44.439]>>No issues for the 19-year-old.

[00:20:50.119]>>Take it straight out here, just right of it with a little bit of spin.

[00:21:00.469]>>Soded lovely.

[00:21:05.119]>>Beautiful, right below the hole there, that is exactly what you want out here, putting as straight uphill as you can get.

[00:21:24.319]>>Beauty, he plays a par 3 as well on the corn-free tour, and that is ideal right there.

[00:21:33.530]>>See that projected number next to his name could potentially with a win, move just outside that top 20.

[00:21:40.939]>>Good looking Putt, great role.

[00:21:44.079]>>And Derek Hitchner now to 9 under on the day.

[00:21:51.699]>>Let's go to 15, 1st part of it done, out in the fairway.

[00:21:56.260]>>Very attackable here at this par 5, lone par 5 on the back, front, right hole location, and that is just so good from Brown, an opportunity.

[00:22:08.589]>>Now Francoeur really far, doesn't he?

[00:22:14.800]>>Once again, you, you never make that putt, he just watches Andersen on a, a fairly similar line miss it.

[00:22:24.869]>>And the teenager making a push, big step.

[00:22:28.829]>>As he moves within one of the lead.

[00:22:45.479]>>Pretty good line, really good line. There we go.

[00:22:48.890]>>Andersen coming alive.

[00:22:51.709]>>Let's go to 18. Hitchner trying to save par.

[00:22:55.099]>>Mhm.

[00:23:00.000]>>Very quick from here.

[00:23:02.839]>>Good look, but the mistake was with that 2nd, good tee shot.

[00:23:10.390]>>Back at 15, Dougherty, at center of the fairway, trying to get aggressive iron play has left him in this 3rd round, trying to dial one up. Typically when the arms are waving for a player, that's good, and that is very good. Yeah, that for Eagle now.

[00:23:34.680]>>I'd be a day away from.

[00:23:37.130]>>A life changing victory.

[00:23:39.359]>>And all but securing that PGA TOUR card.

[00:23:46.380]>>Up at the green Dougherty.

[00:23:48.680]>>I just need something positive. Big tee shot, great approach.

[00:23:52.760]>>Trying to pay this off.

[00:23:55.689]>>There we go.

[00:23:57.920]>>OK, Dougherty, gets within 3.

[00:24:00.910]>>I

[00:24:10.060]>>Great 2 putt.

[00:24:16.280]>>This is a great chance to pick up 2 here.

[00:24:20.390]>>Clearly these were going in yesterday.

[00:24:28.329]>>It's going to be a simple birdie and he needed one, all pars on this back nine at this point.

[00:24:33.189]>>Going to move him.

[00:24:35.150]>>Back to red figures in this 3rd round.

[00:24:47.890]>>Just hangs in there, great birdie.

[00:24:51.540]>>Travis Trace making a late run up this leaderboard.

[00:24:55.400]>>already this

[00:24:57.479]>>Just short of the green at 17.

[00:25:00.000]>>His 3rd

[00:25:04.130]>>Look out, there we go.

[00:25:12.660]>>Now Jay Card.

[00:25:16.099]>>Hasn't had the day that he was looking for.

[00:25:19.180]>>Toppled down to 11 under. This would sweeten the deal. That was wonderful. You think about the putt he made on Thursday when he shot that 61 at the 18th, walked that in.

[00:25:36.959]>>Back at 18, 2 lengthy uphill putts, and as we've mentioned, players James struggling to get this to the hole all day. 3-foot circle wouldn't be ideal, but,

[00:25:48.630]>>That has been a common occurrence from that lower level.

[00:25:54.949]>>Unfortunately this just a little bit softer in the middle of the green. Now Andersen.

[00:26:02.790]>>And much less break here also from the lower level. This is one you can make.

[00:26:11.439]>>Just about did.

[00:26:13.719]>>I mean, he's had some real close calls over the last few holes.

[00:26:24.619]>>A horseshoe from a chip shot and all these missed putts, not taking advantage of being in good positions off the tee.

[00:26:31.680]>>We've seen a lot of chatter from Andersen.

[00:26:34.270]>>But still right there.

[00:26:38.209]>>Well, he certainly is. There's no doubt about that. And this is virtually straight up the hill. I mean, I was shocked that this one came up as short as it did.

[00:26:50.550]>>Just keep it inside the hole nice and firm.

[00:26:56.300]>>Good save.

[00:26:58.280]>>And for Chris Francoeur, the dream is still there, still an opportunity, even par 70 today, James, and I guarantee you if you'd have told him he was going to shoot 70 in this 3rd round on this golf course in these conditions.

[00:27:10.050]>>He'd have thought he'd be more than just a single shot back. I think he'll be quite happy, considering he's the only player inside the top 25 that didn't shoot under par, and he's still within one shot of the lead.

[00:27:40.520]>>Here we are, final round of the Utah championship opportunity for the 19-year-old to become the 5th teenager ever to win on the Korn Ferry Tour. Blades Brown entering this final round tied atop the leaderboard at Ogden Golf and Country Clubs played excellent the 1st 3 days. Blades started the day tied with Derek Hitchner, a man needing a great Sunday. And how about this start? Hitchner at the 1st, right out of the gate, perfect roll.

[00:28:10.040]>>And a dream birdie to begin his march up this leaderboard. Hitchner obviously overshadowed in that final pairing with Blades Brown, but he is showing some resolve early. Brandon Berry at the 3rd, this for Eagle, this is a man.

[00:28:27.069]>>That desperately needs a high finish, just his 4th cut made of the season here in Utah.

[00:28:34.209]>>Rolls that in for the 3. Mason Andersen off to a ridiculous start. This for birdie at the 5th, be his 4th birdie in his 1st 5 holes, so making a big move on this Sunday after a disappointing 3rd round.

[00:28:48.800]>>And talking about big moves, Ross Steelman, he shot 61 on Thursday, fell off a bit the last couple of days. This is 16, that get him to 8 under in this final round. So a lot of those players out early making a move.

[00:29:02.339]>>But the focus right now on this kid right now, Blades Brown at the 3rd, 2nd shot missed left, delicate little pitch shot to that point.

[00:29:11.699]>>And he would kick that in for birdie, first birdie of his day, and now to our final pairing, Shane Bacon alongside James Nitties, Jay Townsend down following Hitchner and Blades Brown on the Sunday.

[00:29:26.949]>>It's gonna be a fun day, Shane, it is gonna be an absolute shootout. Just a matter of the greens can hold up. Driver for Hitchner, trying to hit it over the hill, get a little run out.

[00:29:43.260]>> Hitchner to the 26-year-old from Pepperdine, finished 6th on PGA TOUR America's last year, had that crazy late run, James, to move up the board, get himself an opportunity to play on the Korn Ferry Tour this season and putting himself in an excellent position. Blades splitting his time on the PGA TOUR and the Korn Ferry Tour this season, best opportunity to this point to win on the Korn Ferry Tour.

[00:30:11.339]>>And gonna play his cut shot. He's got a lot of ball speed. Watched them both tee off first hole, and it was amazing how much further blades flew the ball.

[00:30:30.319]>>Andersen at 10.

[00:30:32.489]>>You're one heck of a bogey, that is.

[00:30:39.040]>>Here's Jackson at 15.

[00:30:41.890]>>Paying off that sensational pitch shot.

[00:30:46.089]>>Hasn't had really any of the experiences that Blades' had in high level golf, he looks pretty calm and collected, he's kind of chill out there. It's gonna be 4 clear of Blades as well.

[00:30:58.209]>>Hitchner, 3 under in this round is just.

[00:31:01.770]>>Here's Hitchner

[00:31:06.829]>>Yeah, a big swing from the left here. It's not a slow putt, but just a big break.

[00:31:17.959]>>Back here at 16, Troy Merritt out of position.

[00:31:22.290]>>Some of the thickest rough on the golf course left at 16.

[00:31:25.959]>>But listen, I mean, what are we showing you? Well, he's gonna make it, come on. It's not in the conversation till now.

[00:31:33.069]>>You knew I missed it on purpose. I knew you.

[00:31:37.579]>>Of the difference there now Hitchner.

[00:31:42.189]>>He's got a terrible lie here, just has to chop the ball out.

[00:31:48.469]>>Pretty good.

[00:31:52.349]>>Must have started outside right.

[00:32:00.630]>>Oh

[00:32:02.489]>>Well,

[00:32:14.239]>>Straight up and in with authorities saving par at the 9th.

[00:32:19.579]>>Hitchner will head to the back nine with an opportunity to

[00:32:23.420]>>Changed the course of his season, changed the course of his career.

[00:32:29.680]>>Peeked in for the 2, see if he can convert it for the 3, I mean, this would tie him for the lead, even with that bogey at 10, that los ball finally won, circles the wagon and drops.

[00:32:48.020]>>He's in now, oh what a shot from Morrison.

[00:32:52.489]>>Yeah

[00:32:55.400]>>That'll be a par at 16, Brown.

[00:32:59.189]>>Nice 2 Putt of 10

[00:33:05.739]>>You're gonna tie for the lead for the moment. I mean, that's 63, birdied 4 of his last 5 holes. He's played 20 rounds since he turned pro on the Korn Ferry tour. 11 of the 20 have been 65 or lower.

[00:33:25.040]>>17th player in Korn Ferry Tour history to break 60, has struggled since then, that's pretty there at 13.

[00:33:40.359]>>If he's got a good enough lie, there is a backstop too.

[00:33:46.380]>>Get it on the green, release it out.

[00:34:02.060]>>Needed it. Got it.

[00:34:04.199]>>Still in this

[00:34:15.060]>>What about Hammer. This is from distance at 18, great effort.

[00:34:25.080]>>Hammer trying to finish off a round of 64.

[00:34:32.219]>>Third round of 64 this week for Cole Hammer.

[00:34:36.010]>>The best finishes of 2026. with you.

[00:34:42.820]>>Kinda like, blades on the front nine, nothing really going, he's turned it around on his back and Hitchner has to make it a lot on the front, pulling off of the putter on this back nine, back-to-back for Brown.

[00:34:56.760]>>Let's put 18. See if Mason could take advantage.

[00:35:00.000]>>Land this on the front. Go, go, go, go.

[00:35:03.979]>>Big big call.

[00:35:06.129]>>I, that is the worst lie I've ever seen. Look at how matted down this is, dude. This is where everybody's been walking.

[00:35:23.040]>>Little babble

[00:35:24.790]>>I'd have kicked it off it's line, I think you're right, Shane, that was a big hop through the middle there. That's the first putt in a long time he's been able to actually go out and be aggressive with and,

[00:35:41.459]>>So get him within 3 of the lead. Oh, you can.

[00:35:48.639]>>Oh, here we go. Brown.

[00:35:53.010]>>By informed way.

[00:35:55.909]>>Yeah.

[00:36:02.270]>>Or it goes a long way. Easy now.

[00:36:07.479]>>Really aggressive.

[00:36:11.159]>>I don't think he was trying to make that 44 swings in a row dating back to that wedge at 17. Francoeur pouring it in, and he's now in the conversation. Here we go, Francoeur.

[00:36:24.790]>>Big pot. Much to this.

[00:36:28.250]>>Left or right.

[00:36:37.199]>>Well, Travis Trace, this for Eagle.

[00:36:41.250]>>Up ahead, you know, good run at it.

[00:36:45.350]>>2 putt birdie gonna get him to 20 under par.

[00:36:53.370]>>So 5 to close for Andersen.

[00:36:56.110]>>Allowing a lot of names in, you see it on his face, in the body language, disappointing.

[00:37:06.090]>>Clearly when you've just made the run of birdies he's on right now, the hole starts looking big.

[00:37:16.070]>>On a good line, on a really good line.

[00:37:20.260]>>Man.

[00:37:21.780]>>Blades nearly.

[00:37:25.310]>>Trace this to join the crew at 21 under.

[00:37:30.919]>>What a birdie. Travis Trace, welcome to the show.

[00:37:46.659]>>Around and in, fun way to finish.

[00:37:50.060]>>He's fired up.

[00:37:53.969]>>Aim it a little right at those bunkers, just play your hard cut shot. It's a setup for both players. Easy tee shot for them from an elevated tee.

[00:38:03.209]>>Right there, right there.

[00:38:06.750]>>This is a, a beauty.

[00:38:09.449]>>That has been the club he has been able to lean on all day long.

[00:38:19.050]>>235 today to cover.

[00:38:22.739]>>Sent.

[00:38:26.179]>>Big swing, 184 ball speed, that one's in the fairway as well, gonna sneak past.

[00:38:50.729]>>As far as their pitch point, that's well short of the hole, that's 13 yards short of the hole.

[00:38:57.100]>>Sit, sit, sit.

[00:39:00.219]>>Get down. Just over the back, James, gonna be a tricky putt. It's a good shot though.

[00:39:15.219]>>I'll leave it short

[00:39:17.360]>>That close

[00:39:21.179]>>All he needed was a little more pace.

[00:39:25.560]>>So it'll be a playoff and it's going to be a big one. The question is,

[00:39:29.989]>>Will Blades Brown be a part of it? Right now, 5 at 21 under.

[00:39:35.459]>>Hitchner, a 67 to close. Birdie at 17, got him back to that number.

[00:39:48.879]>>Not to be

[00:39:50.560]>>Valiant effort from Blades on this back nine, but it's going to come up 1 short, another high finish for Brown.

[00:39:58.290]>>Another push closer to that PGA TOUR card for 2027. We got 5 guys and extra golf late on a Sunday. You thought the day was gonna end right now? Come on.

[00:40:13.669]>>Tommy Morrison trying to go back-to-back. Cole Hammer trying to pick up a victory. Mason Andersen, late bogey, potentially might not matter. And Travis Trace.

[00:40:24.989]>>Birdie at 17, near birdie at 18, but Derek Hitchner.

[00:40:29.840]>>In a position he's never been in before, we got a 5 player playoff coming your way.

[00:40:39.969]>>Or like.

[00:40:42.090]>>We got 5, they're all gonna play together. We're not splitting them up. Why would we do that to you on a Sunday?

[00:40:47.360]>>Fivesome

[00:40:49.620]>>To take home this Utah Championship.

[00:41:01.320]>>Party. It's a massive party. This guy is one of the best players I've seen in a long time, Morrison those bunkers are not in play for him.

[00:41:13.679]>>Must find the fairway. Oh, that's a nice kick.

[00:41:20.649]>>It is almost we haven't seen a lot of players find the green after being in that right rough, so Fairway's such an important place to be.

[00:41:28.219]>>Talked about Cole Hammer and his journey to this point.

[00:41:34.370]>>Interesting that you guys said that, you know, no one's hit the green from that right rough. Right half of the fairway is a bonus. Anywhere in the fairway is good. It's just a wedge in.

[00:41:47.879]>>good balls.

[00:41:51.209]>>You pop it on that.

[00:41:54.790]>>Good one there.

[00:41:56.620]>>These guys have been sitting on the range for around about an hour and a half, so.

[00:42:02.110]>>Obviously warm now Andersen.

[00:42:07.620]>>I followed Andersen yesterday. I was really impressed by his game. He had some things go against him, just kind of hung in there the whole time.

[00:42:14.870]>>He's a left to right guy.

[00:42:16.879]>>He'll be aiming just inside those left bunkers and just let it eat.

[00:42:25.760]>>Well if you remember.

[00:42:29.580]>>Obviously, Andersen was the only player out of this crew to bogey this hole, to finish the tournament. It was a terrible drive, he found that right raft too, so huge improvement for him.

[00:42:51.790]>>You know, it's pretty impressive, 3 out of 3 in the fairway, 2 out of the 3 in perfect position on the right.

[00:43:09.600]>>This one headed right, dangerously right, needs a kick.

[00:43:17.409]>>It's lie dependent. I mean the guys it looks like that settled down. Yeah, it looked like it settled down, James.

[00:43:28.370]>>Now, here's a guy that he had it all in his own hands and left it short. That just tells you nerves, but who wouldn't be nervous?

[00:43:37.239]>>He hit so many good tee shots today. I expect him to hit another one here.

[00:44:05.000]>>I stop.

[00:44:06.790]>>Been a machine today with the driver.

[00:44:10.179]>>Lone Fairway miss was the 15th.

[00:44:17.820]>>4 in the fairway, 1 off it.

[00:44:21.139]>>Five-person playoff, late on Sunday in Utah.

[00:44:26.500]>>Somebody can make birdie and steal this thing.

[00:44:29.330]>>We're gonna be playing golf well into the evening, we shall see.

[00:44:49.969]>>Good looking shot. What a shot from Derek Hitchner. Stones at 18.

[00:44:57.129]>>Pressure mounts quickly.

[00:45:02.500]>>3 yards closer, the nice thing for everybody else is they know that someone's in close. This is just a little trappy draw shot in there. You've got to take advantage.

[00:45:11.850]>>Of being in the fairway

[00:45:19.000]>>How about these shots?

[00:45:22.570]>>Pulls the string. Hammer going to have a look as well, aggressive up the hill.

[00:45:45.489]>>OK.

[00:45:47.629]>>Yep, that was the line he needed to take, if it did go deep enough into the green, he could use that slope once again, not a lot of guys hitting the green from that right raft, so still a chance, Knows that read. Yeah, Mason was in that right rough, could not get it to the surface, much better tee shot in this playoff.

[00:46:05.399]>>Great angle here, Shane, 123, taking dead aim right here. He's a left to right guy, so not a comfortable shot.

[00:46:17.840]>>Right up there.

[00:46:20.379]>>A beauty.

[00:46:24.860]>>School.

[00:46:26.959]>>Only 110 great angle here. He knows what's laid out. At least one of those guys that's close is going to make it.

[00:46:37.979]>>I think he likes it. I think he likes it a lot, he should.

[00:46:42.189]>>4 beauties from the 5 guys in the playoffs.

[00:46:47.310]>>Birdie likely not going to be good enough.

[00:46:52.020]>>But if you can be the first guy to get it to go, that's when it just, the hole becomes a little bit smaller for the rest of those guys all in there tight.

[00:47:22.030]>>All right, here's the first one. This is uh swinging from the right.

[00:47:28.090]>>You have to assume someone's going to make it, so you've got to give this a run.

[00:47:35.590]>>On a good line on a great line, just like the one in regulation.

[00:47:41.389]>>Over that right edge, heck of an effort from Trace. That was a great putt.

[00:47:48.760]>>I mean he gave it enough speed to get there, 10 ft out, he was getting the big eyes, he thought he'd made it and,

[00:47:57.350]>>Gave it a really good run.

[00:48:04.169]>>Trace unable to make the lengthy one. Cole Hammer going to be next up, understanding the situation.

[00:48:16.620]>>Shane, he probably has the easiest read.

[00:48:21.199]>>Just a hint of left or excuse me, right to left. There's so many out here I'm getting them mixed up. There's not much in this. This is an easy putt.

[00:48:30.270]>>Should make most of the time.

[00:48:36.530]>>It just dips low.

[00:48:39.159]>>So Hammer.

[00:48:42.100]>>He can sneak around all the marks. We'll tap in for his 4.

[00:48:47.260]>>And then there were 3 left.

[00:48:50.719]>>It's when the nerves just start getting.

[00:48:54.209]>>A little more apparent for the guys in their tight, when you're like, OK, that's 2 that have missed.

[00:49:00.340]>>Yeah, this one looked like it was just a little left of his line early, running out of speed.

[00:49:09.139]>>So 24s and Mason Andersen, the lone bogey in regulation here at 18, an opportunity to correct that quickly and put the pressure.

[00:49:20.350]>>On Hitchner and Morrison.

[00:49:24.919]>>A little right to left and it's also a little downhill which helps when the nerves are frayed.

[00:49:34.479]>>And that one goes right.

[00:49:38.729]>>And then there were 2.

[00:49:42.520]>>Oh

[00:49:46.370]>>He learnt nothing off Trace. I mean, I, I could, you could see it just then that he looked like he was aiming for a lot of break.

[00:49:54.110]>>And I mean Trace thought he hit a good putt, he's missed high.

[00:50:00.310]>>Now once again, a heartbreaking finish on this 18th hole for Andersen.

[00:50:05.969]>>So you're thinking maybe 34 birdies from the crew. Hitchner, who made this putt on 17, about half an hour ago to get to 21 under par, confident stroke, needing a birdie over his last two holes.

[00:50:25.580]>>You know, Shane, it is crazy how similar this putt is, and it is downhill. Helps you get it there, just get it started on the right line. Gravity will get it there.

[00:50:35.229]>>I definitely believe he has to start it outside the hole because it's going to be rolling pretty slowly.

[00:50:55.570]>>OK, got our first birdie. Hitchner.

[00:51:00.600]>>Whose best finish this season on the Korn Ferry Tour was outside the top 30, clutching up down the stretch.

[00:51:08.139]>>Big birdie at 17 in regulation, and he's the first birdie in this playoff, meaning there is one man left.

[00:51:16.399]>>And he's a big man at that, a birdie in regulation, Morrison's gotta make this or Derek Hitchner is your champion.

[00:51:26.600]>>There's nothing in this. This is dead straight.

[00:51:30.989]>>That's left and shocking to see him miss and out of nowhere, your champion Hitchner outlasted 4 huge names in a playoff and just like that, a champion on the Korn Ferry Tour.

[00:51:50.110]>>Would you believe it, the amount of shots we saw pepper that flagstick and the guy that had a chance to win the last putt in regulation to take the tournament home, is the man.

[00:52:01.540]>>That battled the nerves and made that downhill slider to take the victory, very impressive.

[00:52:12.899]>>I want him on my right if I could on your right.