

Production Transcript for 25INTCUTKF - NATIONWIDE CHILDRENS HOSPITAL
CHAMPIONSHIP.mp3

[00:00:20] >> First round coverage of the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship from lovely Columbus, Ohio. Second of four finals events for this season on the Korn Ferry Tour. Nineteenth year playing this event here at the Scarlet Course, the Ohio State University Golf Club. They know champions. Go back to 2007, Daniel Summerhays, an amateur at the time, the first winner here. Frankie Capan III, the latest champion, two shot win back in 2024. Smack dab in the center of this great state of Ohio. One of the premier golf courses on the Korn Ferry Tour each and every season. It's tough, it's difficult. But the weather this week, ideal for scoring. It's warm. Winds are down. Expecting that most of the week, if not had a lot of rain in the Columbus area over the last month or so. Golf course a little firmer, a little faster.

[00:01:16] >> Chandler Blanchet having himself an excellent season, James. A couple birdies in a row. Four-under quickly on this leaderboard. A man that is looking to secure his PGA Tour card. What a shot here. Look out.

[00:01:42] >> OK. Flirting with the penalty area in the air now. So a tap-in birdie.

[00:01:50] >> Tee's center of the fairway here at 9.

[00:01:53] >> Just 98 yards. Even with the wedge in hand, this green does seem skip.

[00:01:58] >> Yeah, that's the, the signs of a good wedge player being able to put something back in your stance to a soft-ish greens into the wind and get it to skip a couple times like, Emilia said, and stop.

[00:02:08] >> Back to 8. Blanchet, who we mentioned having himself an awesome season, having a great, great Thursday. Another birdie after nearly the one here at the 8th. That's three birdies in a row and four of his last five.

[00:02:34] >> Ortiz, good look here.

[00:02:39] >> A good look, and has been great with the putter. This will be for his fifth one putt in a row.

[00:02:42] >> The confidence, James, on the greens for this guy. He could make anything earlier in the season.

[00:02:48] >> He's had a nightmare this season with the putter like you just said, Shane. So the last two weeks, I'd like to pick his brain about what he's changed to be that good on the greens.

[00:03:09] >> Fischer.

[00:03:12] >> Fischer going along nicely. This is a beautiful shot.

[00:03:20] >> Back to 18. Zach Fischer showed you the approach.

[00:03:25] >> See projected 78 on the points list. This will improve on that number if this can go down.

[00:03:37] >> Yeah. Nice opening nine holes for Fischer. Came to the week 91st on the points list.

[00:03:49] >> We'll go back to 13.

[00:03:55] >> Well, it definitely came a shot on field if he was able to make this. Fact that he's left it below the hole, such a friendly putt compared to some of the putts you can get on this 13th green. This will turn left.

[00:04:11] >> Now, right in the middle. A lot of confidence, James, has come with the putt starting to disappear for Alvaro Ortiz.

[00:04:17] >> Yeah. Talk about a guy that wasn't inside the Top 10 one time in his first nine events. So he's just really turned it on. And it's all due to that club right there and the improvement of finding more greens in regulation, which has been incredible for him this year.

[00:04:35] >> Pierceson Coody here at the 14th.

[00:04:38] >> Really difficult green to find in two.

[00:04:41] >> OK. Or it's not when you're Pierceson Coody.

[00:04:45] >> I mean, it's the third hardest green in regulation.

[00:04:48] >> And if you're Coody, like we've seen now a couple times, just go ahead and get it to kick in. I mean, who needs to worry about putting?

[00:04:58] >> Now, Ortiz, see if he can control the spin.

[00:05:09] >> Like you said, Shane, you can spin this off the backstop. This needs to go, though. Here we come.

[00:05:16] >> Look out. Can he do it?

[00:05:18] >> That close. That would have been much needed bounce back. That would have been the old seven two.

[00:05:27] >> Going bogey, triple eagle.

[00:05:31] >> OK. Now, Teater for his second shot.

[00:05:33] >> What they call that the Carlton Fisk when you go 72. Now, Teater.

[00:05:40] >> Got a great picture of exactly what to do. Take it up the left side, use that slope, 103 yards. This one is higher.

[00:05:56] >> OK. It's going to get closer.

[00:05:58] >> It's going to be lightning fast. It's going to be the quickest 6-footer on the course.

[00:06:04] >> Go back over to 16. And if anybody knows how quick this putt will be, it's Josh Teater.

[00:06:10] >> Well, that's what's the hardest part about trying to make this birdie. Given the distance inside of 12 feet, you expect to make it. You just got to get it started on line, though.

[00:06:19] >> That's a great positive stroke from Teater.

[00:06:25] >> Couple of really positive moves. I mean, that was in the speed, James.

[00:06:28] >> And for a guy that's hit nearly every fairway, he's played very patient today.

[00:06:37] >> This is important for Ortiz.

[00:06:40] >> Yeah, that is very nice. After the triple back at 15, good bounce back there at the par-4 16th.

[00:06:48] >> Go back to 16. Blanchet living in the fairway once again. And James, you see the caddie bibs there? Really, really cool. The Nationwide Children's Hospital has some of the patients kind of create the caddie bibs every year. That one with the butterflies you see there, Emilia, nine years old designed that one. All the players wearing the bibs or all the player's caddies wearing the bibs this week, rocking one of the great designs from the youngsters in and around the hospital.

[00:07:30] >> It's a beautiful view of the angle and how much room you do have it where you can see that backstop. It's back far enough where you won't have to worry too much about the spin.

[00:07:47] >> If this rips, it could be close.

[00:07:50] >> Didn't get the rip he wanted. That is going to be very tricky.

[00:07:57] >> Here's Blanchet at 16. Quick down the hill.

[00:08:03] >> Good looking. Good looking. What a birdie. This guy continuing to impress on a Thursday.

[00:08:11] >> Just so impressive, like you said, Shane. And I tout him as one of the best putters on the Korn Ferry Tour, and he's probably sick of hearing it.

[00:08:20] >> Got his Korn Ferry Tour victory in late July at the Price Cutter Charity Championship to really vault him into that Top 20 position with an opportunity to PGA Tour card. And he has continued to play fantastic golf. Blanchet you see there now projected fifth on the points list. Sixty-four, just two off the lead. And James, really the story this morning, John VanDerLaan, what he was able to do. Ten birdies in this opening round.

[00:08:42] >> A crazy, crazy opening day at one of the hardest courses on the Korn Ferry Tour. And a man that led the 54-hole situation at the first event of the year, so he's going to be in that position again. It's going to be an exciting week to watch unfold.

[00:09:01] >> The Korn Ferry Tour Finals. Second round coverage of the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship. Nineteenth play into this event. One of the toughest golf courses the players on the Korn Ferry Tour will face all season long, the Scarlet Course from the capital of Ohio, Columbus, Ohio. Seventeen state admitted to the Union. No football this week for Buckeye fans. So all the attention locally right here on the Korn Ferry Tour as we get into the final, second event of four back to back weeks for these players. Zach Bauchou, a champion last week at the Simmons bank. And this, of course, plenty to play for with more points in these finals. An opportunity for one of 20 cards in the season and head to the PGA Tour 2026. Weather, great all week long. You see no wind really to speak of. Golf course is tough enough for these players. Warm balls going far.

[00:10:00] >> Second round of the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship from Columbus, Ohio. Billy Tom Sargent needing a good week. Came into the week 110th on the points list. That at the 6th. His back nine in the second round, Tom Sargent is playing excellent golf after a really, really solid opening round. Shot 67 on Thursday. That got him to 5-under today. And he is now tied for the lead. John VanDerLaan, who lit the golf course up a day ago, 62 with 10 birdies. Just getting his Friday going. Marty Dou played great today, 64. Made bogey on his 17th hole today. Still right there. And Kyle Westmoreland, who always seems to be hanging around in these finals, good round of 66 today. He is right there two off the lead.

[00:10:46] >> Back Here at the 7th, Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship. Billy Tom Sargent tied for the lead. This his second nine in the second round.

[00:11:02] >> Good opportunity here after missing the fairway. Got it back in position. This is a short par 4.

[00:11:09] >> Front nine tends to play a little easier than the back. Good moment for Sargent. Pole vaulted himself into contention this week.

[00:11:20] >> Played his collegiate golf at Western Kentucky University. Five times a champion. What a putt. How about Billy Tom catching a little fire late in the second round? Outright leader.

[00:11:32] >> Missed his last three cuts and he's missed six of his last seven cuts. So they are leading.

[00:11:40] >> Sargent at the 8th, 6-under on the day. Tough par 3. That is another great iron shot.

[00:11:57] >> Perfect angle here. This is right where you want to be at the 10th. How about the first cut? Is it going to affect his contact and spin? I don't think so.

[00:12:28] >> Just take dead aim. That's what we're used to seeing. How about that low finish, Shane? I think it's a bit of his lacrosse days. Played up until he was around about 18, and I love it. It's what helps him be so straight and have that power.

[00:12:40] >> Go to the 12th, easiest hole on the golf course today. Trent Phillips for eagle. Already seen four today. Make it five. In the middle for Phillips.

[00:12:50] >> Last week through the first two rounds at the Simmons Bank Open, so riding that form. Nice to pick up two there.

[00:12:57] >> Go back to 8th. Seventeenth hole of Billy Tom Sargent today. This for three birdies in a row, James.

[00:13:02] >> It's as big as a bucket for him right now. I mean, that is so good. My goodness it is rolling end over end. Dead center for Sargent.

[00:13:11] >> Once again, he's coming off three missed cuts in a row, 110th on the points list. He's never had full status out on the Korn Ferry Tour.

[00:13:27] >> Now, Keefer also, impressive with the flagstick this season. Top 10 in that department. Yeah, I like that fairway green birdie. Thank you. Really good start for the top ranked player this season.

[00:13:56] >> Precision is really important on this second shot, where Keefer is across the green on the right side. That's a difficult two putt because there's a ridge in the middle of the green that makes it break a ton if you're putting from one end of the green to the other. Trying to hit a 197 shot, just covers the false front. This is drawing nicely to the flag.

[00:14:19] >> Got to sit down. This is perfect. You could hear him clicking. Is it going to stay on that shelf? OK. Yeah. Usually a click from a professional means he's a little left of his target and he thinks it just needs to settle a little bit. But that is perfect.

[00:14:32] >> Back to the 12th. Not as good a look as you're going to have for eagle.

[00:14:39] >> An opportunity where you need to use the putter to reward your great ball striking. Back up the hill, turning slightly left. A perfect place to be putting from.

[00:14:52] >> Good eagle there for Austin Smotherman after a three putt at the last. A good look at the 10th. Bogey at 11 and a double circle at par-5 6th. Eagle of the day at the 12th.

[00:15:06] >> Always love being back in Columbus, Ohio. Best events all season long on the Korn Ferry Tour. We'll go to Trent Phillips as he makes the turn, second into the 1st.

[00:15:14] >> I couldn't have walked it down there any better. Left side of the fairway. Great angle. Now, that for birdie.

[00:15:22] >> Let's go to VanDerLaan.

[00:15:26] >> Sounded thick over there. He gets something going. Beautiful shot here for VanDerLaan. Judged to perfection from that thick lie over in the left rough.

[00:15:40] >> Now, Smotherman.

[00:15:41] >> In great position, 127 yards, this right hole location. You have to be left of this flag. If you come up a little short right, there's a fall off on that part of the green. This is a nice flighted trajectory. Fading it into this flag.

[00:16:01] >> What a great shot. Emilia set that up perfectly. That is difficult getting it close to that back right hole location. There's not a lot of real estate to land it in. And you need to either have a short club in and a perfect yardage or be very confident in that yardage.

[00:16:17] >> Not the toughest two hole stretch of his season. Here's Phillips at the 1st. And he curls that in. I'll tell you this, Phillips making a real run up this board. Impressive play. Made that long par save at 18. Birdie here at the 1st.

[00:16:38] >> Over to 1. Important putt here, John VanDerLaan. We mentioned so many birdies yesterday. That's his first in the second round.

[00:16:49] >> At 16.

[00:16:52] >> Smotherman, grown man in this group with a little bit of momentum, trying to keep that going. See if we can knock this in for birdie. There we go. That's a positive.

[00:17:10] >> Go to Kim at 4.

[00:17:12] >> This his third, the par 5. OK. Well, that's how you get it done. Just lay it up and nearly jar it for your third.

[00:17:21] >> Bio Kim, I gave this to him earlier.

[00:17:24] >> Yeah, I mean that one now. Good birdie.

[00:17:30] >> Back to Phillips. A little run for Trent Phillips, James.

[00:17:40] >> Well, if you remember last year, he was a bubble boy coming in to the second event at the finals to get his PGA Tour card. Heartbreakingly just dropped out of the Top 30 in the last event at the Tour Championships. And he talked about it. Now, when you think of it, it's a great season turned into, you know, the negativity of not getting your PGA Tour card.

[00:18:03] >> But Phillips trying to bounce right back after the short miss of the 2nd. Yeah, nice one for Phillips. Currently in a tie for fourth at 7-under par.

[00:18:22] >> Go back to Suh at 11.

[00:18:24] >> OK. So it can be done. Now, visually, you can't see the base of this hole location. You know it's firm. He doesn't know that Austin hits ball. Had a ton of spin and stayed there. You push it too far, you can go over the back.

[00:18:44] >> Got a little bit of a slope, but you should still have enough room.

[00:18:47] >> He'd had enough room, all right. That is not bad at all.

[00:19:16] >> Here's Suh. Good look for birdie.

[00:19:18] >> If you have the opportunities, take advantage.

[00:19:23] >> Just like that. Great role from Suh. He's in the mix.

[00:19:29] >> Those players that plays tough golf courses extremely well. Billy Tom Sargent, 64 today. Great finish to his round. Opportunity to really improve his season, potentially his career.

[00:19:48] >> The Korn Ferry Tour finals. And from Columbus, Ohio, the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship. A fixture on the schedule each and every year. One of the great golf courses on the Korn Ferry Tour schedule. And a very quiet Columbus, Ohio this week in terms of college football. The Buckeyes, with the week off, they're 3 and 0. They're the top ranked team in the country, and they've combined to win their last two games 107 to 9. That is not a mistake. I actually did football research this morning. One-o-seven to 9 after that win against Texas to kick off the year. But right now, in this area, the focus on golf and the Korn Ferry Tour and getting through these finals with a very busy bunch leaderboard as expected, around the Scarlet Course. As we mentioned, one of the toughest each and every season. I'm Shane Bacon by the way. Joined by my good pal James Nitties. Sitting right next to me, he's in green today, looking just amazing. Emilia Doran down on the golf course following our final grouping today. And James, I mentioned the golf course. You've played it. It's tough. It beats up some of the best in the world. It presents a PGA Tour test.

[00:21:00] >> I never enjoyed playing here, Shane. But these plays certainly do. They've been talking all week about how good the course conditioning is.

[00:21:10] >> Third round of the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship, Korn Ferry Tour Finals rolling along. How about John VanDerLaan, 18-hole leader after that sizzling 62? Nice little pitch here at the par-5 4th. He would kick that in for a birdie. And VanDerLaan making a move after 71 on Friday. Playing alongside VanDerLaan, Billy Tom Sargent, 36-hole leader. That is yucky and mucky and nasty. Billy Tom had to get in there. Actually made a pretty good swing at it. Took the hat off. I mean, this can ruin your day. Get in mud on this pack. It's pretty impressive to pick a clean. It would lead to bogey though. A hole you expect to make birdie on, left a par putt right in the middle short. Billy Tom Sargent going the wrong way on this Saturday. A man that is moving up the board. Jeffrey Kang played excellent golf last couple months on the Korn Ferry Tour. That at the 12 moves Kang to 6-under on the day. And he's now in solo second at 10-under par well ahead of the final groupings. And we mentioned VanDerLaan and how well he has played, especially on the front nine around the Scarlet Course. This at the par-5 6th. And that now his 13th birdie on the front nine this week. This golf course not supposed to be that easy. VanDerLaan, who had struggles to start his second round, not the case today. He is too clear, making a move. Got off to such a great start this season. Had an opportunity to win the opening event of the year. An opportunity, the word of the week. Bio Kim, one of those players trying to move inside that Top 120, get to Oklahoma, just his fifth start this season. Bio Kim right in the mix.

[00:22:56] >> As we go out to our final grouping, We got Billy Tom Sargent, John VanDerLaan, and Trent Phillips a part of the last three.

[00:23:09] >> Phillips made a really nice birdie on the last hole. Is exercising a lot of patience as John VanDerLaan has been making a ton of birdies. He's going to move a little left.

[00:23:23] >> Roll there. Phillips one of those players, James, needing a good week. Came in here to Columbus, Ohio 53rd in terms of Korn Ferry Tour points, the 25-year-old out of Georgia.

[00:23:42] >> Another opportunity for VanDerLaan here at 7.

[00:23:48] >> Yeah, for four birdies in the last five holes. When he made 10 birdies in Round 1, shot of 62, he said all but two of his birdies were inside of 6 feet. The ball striking has been superb so far.

[00:24:02] >> We'll go to Jeffrey Kang at the 14th. Low round on the golf course the day. What a shot. I mean, this guy is dialing it in right now.

[00:24:16] >> Kyle Westmoreland, third on the Korn Ferry Tour in terms of driving distance. Just bombs it and has always bombed it. And that, a nice roll there for Westmoreland. Came to the week 31st on the points list. Plays well here too. Top 10 last year.

[00:24:35] >> Marty Dou, plenty of success on the Korn Ferry Tour in his career, walking that in. The man that has won three times on the Korn Ferry Tour, 2017, 2019, and 2022.

[00:24:47] >> Speaking of good opportunities, about as good a look as you're going to have at 14. Righty's dream putt here.

[00:24:54] >> Slightly right to left. Greens are quite fast. You have just get your stroke right.

[00:25:05] >> Never doubt there. Kang gets to 7-under on the day. How about that card, James?

[00:25:09] >> Seven-under. One of the toughest courses on the Korn Ferry Tour on a Saturday.

[00:25:20] >> Yeah. Just 90 yards into this green. It's amazing when you hit the ball in the fairway how much more of an advantage you have with the shorter distance. You can't go to sleep on these wedge shots at the Scarlet Course. Even out of the fairway, the greens are only getting firmer and faster. Still need to land this a couple paces short.

[00:25:47] >> Yeah. Like 5 feet right of this hole location with a lot of spin.

[00:26:01] >> Like that.

[00:26:02] >> What a shot.

[00:26:04] >> Exactly like that.

[00:26:06] >> Now, Phillips, just a couple feet left for his birdie.

[00:26:22] >> The iron shot was exceptional. And Phillips on a run. See those three birdies his last four holes as he gets set to make the turn.

[00:26:31] >> To the 11th, Chandler Blanchet. Guy is playing great golf this season. Nice roll here at the most difficult hole on the golf course, Blanchet. Bit of a slow start to the day. Catching fire as of late. Those are birdies at 10 and 11.

[00:26:56] >> I mean, you cheer for cheap beer, right? Don't you cheer when it's almost free?

[00:27:01] >> Dropping it in.

[00:27:01] >> Yes. I was going to say, look, it won't take too much to get everyone excited here at the 13th considering dollar beers for a birdie. But I didn't know it was going to be about a 40-foot putt for Westmoreland.

[00:27:12] >> That's golf, isn't it? Missed a short one, then make a long one on the next.

[00:27:15] >> OK. So they're running to the bar right now. That's the sound you hear.

[00:27:26] >> It doesn't get any easier at 17.

[00:27:29] >> Getting easier for this guy. What a swing. What a bounce back. Nearly a one at 17 for Chandler.

[00:27:38] >> Back here at the 17th. This has been the hardest hole all day long at the Scarlet Course. And that is a tap-in two for Chandler Blanchet. It's the seventh birdie at 17. Nearly the second ace of the week at the par 3.

[00:28:03] >> Here's Marty Dou at 17.

[00:28:04] >> Marty Dou knows how to get it done on the Korn Ferry Tour.

[00:28:14] >> Beautiful shot here at the most difficult hole.

[00:28:19] >> We'll go back to 16.

[00:28:23] >> One-thirty-seven hole for Sargent. Got to hit a 130 shot to cover the front bowl.

[00:28:29] >> Another mistake. Another weak shot to the right.

[00:28:34] >> Speaking of opportunities, how about this one for Dou at 17?

[00:28:38] >> Breaking from left to right.

[00:28:40] >> Burying it. Good two.

[00:28:42] >> Going to pick up about a shot and a half on the field. Making birdie here at 17. Now, he gets within five.

[00:28:54] >> Here Sargent back at 16. Another tricky bunker shot.

[00:29:01] >> Yeah, just very difficult to get spin on it because the green pitch is away from the hole.

[00:29:08] >> And really, he's just leaving himself in positions where he has no chance of just get even recovering.

[00:29:16] >> Sargent now to save his par.

[00:29:20] >> Just Sargent has left himself a lot of these 12 to 15 footers for par. Just not really giving himself opportunities to even make up and downs because he's put himself in such difficult spots. He is, though, going to give VanDerLaan a good look at this putt. Should turn a little right to left.

[00:29:43] >> That'd be another bogey. Sixth of his day. Two bogeys over the first two rounds for Billy Tom Sargent.

[00:29:56] >> But when things go south around the Scarlet Course, those squares start to pile up quickly. VanDerLaan's going to go ahead and go. He's going to miss the green, James.

[00:30:15] >> He's going to miss a green for the first time today.

[00:30:17] >> Now, it was the tree's fault off the tee. That was heading down the fairway and he would have been just fine. I'm going to give him a full allotment of 18 greens.

[00:30:27] >> But the tree didn't like jump out of nowhere. It was there.

[00:30:29] >> It did. It grew really quickly.

[00:30:32] >> Now, Phillips. I mean, we hadn't seen somebody here all week.

[00:30:38] >> Well, Phillips just got a huge break with scoreboard relief. He was deep in some thick rough on the right side and able to take relief in this other fairway. Hundred and forty-five yards to the hole. He cannot see the flag. Just needs to hit a 130 shot to clear those bunkers though. And the iron play has been exceptional.

[00:31:00] >> Creates decent angle here too.

[00:31:09] >> He likes it.

[00:31:12] >> I think he does. Pretty good shot.

[00:31:20] >> Back here at the 18th. Our leader just off the green. Tricky position.

[00:31:27] >> It is so difficult. Just need to get it onto the green. Even then, it's going to be hard to stop.

[00:31:36] >> Plays it kind of a decent shot. Into the grain. Cannot get that ball to spin. You just can't miss it over that green. And from our angle, it looks like quite simple. But being below the surface of the green, got to cover that false front. It was a smart shot. He didn't -- No need to make a mistake there.

[00:31:55] >> The man trying to chase him down, and Trent Phillips. Phillips has just played really, really solid golf despite not finding a lot of fairways today. I think before Phillips goes, VanDerLaan's going to be up first for his par.

[00:32:13] >> Regardless if VanDerLaan makes his putt or not, he has to be really proud of the way he's played. Really good ball striking and great decision making to difficult hole locations.

[00:32:27] >> Really big opportunity here for a two shot swing. A tie at the top of the leaderboard if this misses.

[00:32:34] >> First missed green of the day. First bogey of the day for the 29-year-old. Still a solid round of golf from John VanDerLaan. Going to have an opportunity, like he did in the first event of the season, to pick up a win.

[00:32:46] >> Entered the week 52nd on the points list. So needed great play and he's got it to this point. The question is, is it a one shot lead or is he going to be tied with Trent Phillips?

[00:33:00] >> It's been unbelievable to watch Phillips in the approach play given that he's been wayward off the tee. This is not an easy putt to make. Going to break a ton from left to right.

[00:33:18] >> Still really good work in this third round for a guy that only hit five fairways. And he goes on to shoot 3-under par, and he's one back.

[00:33:28] >> Phillips has really played solid golf as of late. Two of his three Top 10s this season come in his last five starts. Played well last week. Opened the finals up. And now, Sargent, you talk about finishing off a really rough day with something positive to lean on. Important to see this go. Come on, Billy. Let's see this one go down for a positive finish.

[00:33:52] >> There we go. Nice birdie to close. And all in all, a huge birdie to finish his round on a guy that's just trying to solidify his pathway all the way through to the Tour Championships.

[00:34:06] >> John VanDerLaan, a lead by one over Trent Phillips. Opportunity for both those players. Chandler Blanchet, who has been so impressive this season, solid finish, and he is just three off the lead. Opportunity for Blanchet as well, James, to pick up a second win.

[00:34:20] >> You would think kind of a three horse race. But Blanchet, he's chasing them down. Then you got VanDerLaan. Felt like he left a couple shots out there and you're still at the top of the leaderboard, that's got to be positive. A very exciting Sunday coming up with that three on top of the leaderboard.

[00:34:39] >> The Korn Ferry Tour Finals. And from the Scarlet Course in Columbus, Ohio, final run coverage of the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship. A staple on the schedule, a staple to these finals on one of the great golf courses all season long on the Korn Ferry Tour. Downtown Columbus, Ohio. Ohio State off this week. So all the sports fans focusing on the golf in the local community. Nineteenth playing of this event. You go

through the history of the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship, you see names like Justin Thomas and Scottie Scheffler. Frankie Capan III, a champion here a year ago. It is a golf course that tests every part of your game. Movement from the tee, both directions, challenging greens. Not a lot of rain in the area over the last month or so. And the golf course has been firm. The greens especially such this week. It is challenging with a little bit more wind in this final round than what we have seen over the course of the first three days.

[00:35:33] >> Final round of the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship. Some highlights from earlier in the day. Chandler Blanchet is going to secure that PGA Tour card. Awkward spot here at the par 5.

[00:35:43] >> Cut the legs out front of that one to a couple of feet. Would make birdie there for his first of the day. Blanchet been playing some really solid golf this season to finish in the Top 3 of this leaderboard. How about Marty Dou? Leaning on a hotel putter in this final round. This at the 6th. Curls that in the left side. A run of birdies to close out this front nine. Dou with three wins in his career on the Korn Ferry Tour, looking for four. How about one of the most consistent players this season on the Korn Ferry Tour?

[00:36:13] >> Seungtaek Lee, this at 9. Watch this one dance around the hole. Fifty, nearly drops. That'd be a front nine 31 for Lee moving up the board as well. And one of the best putts we've seen all week around the Scarlet Course, our leader, John VanDerLaan. Some 6, 7 feet left. Watch this one. Ripping, ripping, dripping, disappearing. VanDerLaan with an excellent read and a good birdie there. Seventeenth birdie on the front nine this week for VanDerLaan. Got himself in trouble at the par 5. This for par at the 6th. He's been the cash in these like a friendly ATM. VanDerLaan, the putter hot in this final round. The ball striking has been so impressive this week.

[00:36:58] >> Difficult holes coming up. This is one of them. You can't be long of this flag. Yesterday, VanDerLaan hit 17 greens. The ball striking was superb and was able to back it up with some great putting. Has done something very similar today. Has hit five -- six of seven greens. And the one green he missed made a great up and down. This is a 7-iron.

[00:37:25] >> Beautiful as far as 54-hole leads go.

[00:37:30] >> Check in with Jeffrey Kang here at the 9th. Had a rolling day ago, James. Bogey, bogey finish, still posted 66.

[00:37:39] >> He knows how to get hot on the weekends. Knows how to make birdies in bunches.

[00:37:45] >> And now, VanDerLaan with another opportunity for a birdie on this front nine.

[00:37:49] >> Felt like a turning point on the front nine was the sixth hole. Was the one green he missed. He was in trouble pretty much the entire hole, and then, made a 10-footer for par. Those are the kind of putts that settle you in when you're trying to win for the first time. This putt will turn left.

[00:38:09] >> Another great punt there from VanDerLaan. And another birdie. Extending this lead.

[00:38:14] >> Good birdie right there from Kang. Go to Marty Dou. This for four in a row to finish out the front nine. No doubt about it. Marty Dou, birdie at 6, 7, 8, and 9. And he is now in the conversation.

[00:38:35] >> Now, VanDerLaan, who has lived in the fairway this week.

[00:38:39] >> One of the skinniest greens on the golf course. Hundred and forty yards back into the wind. Always difficult to judge an into the wind shot with the firm green on the bounce. This is a soft nine.

[00:38:49] >> Yeah. This will show --

[00:38:51] >> Leaking a little right. Needs a good kick.

[00:38:53] >> -- where his confidence is. Wow.

[00:38:55] >> Goodness. Go in.

[00:38:56] >> Look out.

[00:38:57] >> Go in. How about that shot from our leader?

[00:39:03] >> Go to Kang at 10.

[00:39:06] >> Can he skip it back there with a little spin? Yeah. That's a really good shot.

[00:39:12] >> Now, all the while, VanDerLaan picking up another on the field. Go to front nine from our leader.

[00:39:30] >> A couple guys trying to secure Tour bound status, as in S.T. Lee and Jeffrey Kang, like we have right here.

[00:39:36] >> Great read and an excellent effort right there from Jeffrey Kang. Another birdie.

[00:39:43] >> If he was 5 yards or so farther left, he would have an opening. Looks like they're trying to look at the front number. He's going to have to carve it around the tree just in front of him. Out to the left. Got to make sure you keep it low as well under these trees.

[00:39:57] >> Knows how to hit that hard hook out of the trees. The spectacular one yesterday on this back nine.

[00:40:06] >> Yeah, that was on the 11th hole. And how about this shot?

[00:40:09] >> Oh, my goodness. He's done it again. Come on. How good is this golf shot?

[00:40:14] >> That is incredible from over there. Now, you got to make this if you're Phillips. I mean, you hit that shot out of the trees. This has got to disappear. Got to disappear. Got to disappear. It disappeared. What a birdie.

[00:40:35] >> Blanchet needs a couple and gets one here. Nice birdie.

[00:40:40] >> This is an opportunity to make sure, yes, Only way to get it close is to just carry that bunker. But don't get too cute with it. That would be the one mistake is if you just come up short. Even if you're a little long, it's OK. This is doable, though, to get close. You got probably 20 paces between the bunker and the flag. Got to land this about three to four paces past the bunker.

[00:41:03] >> Just take the trouble out. Give yourself an opportunity with how good you are putting in this final round.

[00:41:09] >> Oh, my. Lay the sod over it.

[00:41:11] >> Gosh, that's the one thing he couldn't have done.

[00:41:15] >> That's a really big miss. That could have plugged.

[00:41:17] >> Plug lies is a lot different when you're trying to get it up and down for par. And when you're not trying to drop two shots and make a double bogey, it just -- it's hard to negotiate it in that kind of mind frame.

[00:41:31] >> You think about, on Friday, we followed the top ranked player on the Korn Ferry Tour. Johnny Keefer had a plug lie at the 15th. Hit that out of bounds, made triple. I mean, the benefit he's got is green to work with, and it's on the upslope. But VanDerLaan now. Six is in play here at 11.

[00:41:50] >> It does help him that he's on the upslope. Breathing is the most important here. As a player, it's so easy to be kicking yourself because you made the one mistake you know you couldn't do. Just got to hit 2, 3 inches before the ball with a lot of speed.

[00:42:06] >> Playing pretty quick.

[00:42:07] >> He's only missed two greens in regulation. The other one, he got up and down. And this one now, you're like, it's outside chance to save your bogey.

[00:42:20] >> Putter saved him back at 6th. See if the putter can save him once again. That is going to be a double bogey here at 11 for John VanDerLaan. He made two bogeys in his last 37 holes. First double of his week. Kind of leader shrink kind of from nowhere too. Even he left it in a great position to get up and down for par after catching the tree in his second. So very surprising.

[00:42:52] >> We go back to our leader. VanDerLaan from distance.

[00:42:56] >> Almost an identical putt to what VanDerLaan had on the last. About 30 feet, putting up the hill, over a slight ridge. Just a matter of finding the apex on this putt, when it's going to turn to the left. Always difficult when you have quick putts out here on the Scarlett Course to get yourself to hit it with enough pace on some of these uphillers. You'd rather leave it below the hole, though, to give yourself an uphill putt for the second.

[00:43:18] >> We just had Kang, the three putt from this position. So very slow putt from here. Easy to leave it 3, 4, 5 feet short.

[00:43:27] >> It's on a good line. Kind a really good line.

[00:43:29] >> There we go. How about the bounce back after the double bogey? Cash City at 13.

[00:43:34] >> You know why he's leading putting this week.

[00:43:37][Cheering and Applause]

[00:43:41] >> Back here with Kang at 15.

[00:43:43] >> He's going to have to sweep something at least 15 yards to get it to the mouth in the front of this green.

[00:43:53] >> That was a Keffer treat, wasn't it?

[00:43:55] >> Yes, it was. Johnny Keefer tried to hit a similar shot. Made a triple bogey. Would have gladly invited a putt from 10 feet for birdie.

[00:44:08] >> Kang, good one here at the 15th.

[00:44:12] >> OK. That's what we're used to seeing from Kang.

[00:44:14] >> There you go. Wow, birdie. Thank you.

[00:44:19] >> Now, Marty Dou, a chance to ruin Blanchet's party today, if this goes. And it does. Great birdie at the last. Sixty-six for Marty Dou.

[00:44:28] >> Marty Dou, now into outright second with that putt.

[00:44:34] >> Last group on the tee at 18.

[00:44:38] >> We hear raindrops. Really the last thing that's going to mess with John VanDerLaan on his opportunity. We got fans trying to get out of the weather. Looks like a caddy might have forgot the umbrella. The horn's blowing. How about that?

[00:45:01] >> Must be weather in the area. That is lightning. OK. Would continue to play. And now, it's just going to be a little more time for VanDerLaan to get his first Forn Ferry Tour victory, and a little more stress to Chandler Blanche and Trent Phillips to fight -- try and finish off this event. One hole.

[00:45:21] >> I would have seen it. It's been coming in for quite some time. But this is torrential rain.

[00:45:28] >> Everybody headed back to the tee. We're going to resume playing about 9 minutes. So, a short weather delay.

[00:45:41] >> It's a tricky hole location to make birdie. Flag tucked on the right on a small plateau. Hundred and three yards for Blanchet. Needs to carry it at least a hundred to get it on the back shelf or that right shelf rather. But the fact that we just had some rain definitely will help with softer the bounce on the greens. Even with wedges in hand all week, there's been pretty big skips. This probably will be less.

[00:46:12] >> Yeah. It's really easiest shot to force not knowing if it's going to spin back. Yes, you've got to believe there's a little bit of rain and it might have softened the greens a little bit. You've just played 17 holes of firm and fast greens.

[00:46:28] >> This one's going to be left, I'd guess, Emilia.

[00:46:33] >> Yes. It better be. A lot of space on that left side. Just 79 to the hole.

[00:46:53] >> Very smart indeed. Exactly how he has been this entire back nine after that small mishap with the double bogey. But since then, he has been precise with his game plan that he has stuck to. It's going to be the real major winner of this victory.

[00:47:11] >> Now, Trent Phillips.

[00:47:12] >> Birdie here.

[00:47:14] >> Up into a tie for second with Marty.

[00:47:20] >> Phillips has the best angle into this flag. He can carve something in close. Sixty-two yards. Just needed to land it a couple paces short.

[00:47:27] >> He's had this shot a couple times today too. Made light work of it. He's been great with his wedges.

[00:47:48] >> All right. We just saw Mighty Dou make that putt.

[00:47:51] >> Trent Phillips can get one to go here at the last and earn himself some more points and race up that points list.

[00:48:00] >> Almost left his run a little late. And it doesn't help when a guy like VanDerLaan bursts out of the blocks with those birdies on the front nine. So he's played good. It just he's run out of holes as far as tracking down VanDerLaan. And he looks good with this club in his hand. One of the best putters on the Korn Ferry Tour. Really does everything great. And although this wasn't his best approach shot, this would go a long way. If this putt could go, getting his PGA Tour card.

[00:48:31] >> It would lock it in if it goes. Yeah. Just not enough speed on the saturated greens. Still work left to be done.

[00:48:55] >> It's not something you go on practice is 45, 50-footer right before set to go back out on the course. You would have been envisioning something a little closer from the fairway.

[00:49:08] >> Now, VanDerLaan. And if this birdie putt goes, it would be the scoring record here at the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship.

[00:49:15] >> It was probably very helpful for VanDerLaan to see how much slower the putt for Blanchet was than he thought, given this is also uphill and also curling right.

[00:49:24] >> It's been amazing from long range today.

[00:49:38] >> As Emilia said, that's predictable. Good slow putt back up there.

[00:49:44] >> Now, Trent Phillips best look at the bunch.

[00:49:47] >> Best look at the bunch. And two looks at the speed of this putt. Very difficult to get it on this small section where this flag is located. So he has the easiest look at it break wise. Still got to play it foot and a half out to the left.

[00:50:04] >> There we go. What a putt from Phillips. That moves him up to 31st on the points list. That putt worth eight spots.

[00:50:14] >> Blanchet just been so, so solid this season on the greens. Easy to lose a little bit of concentration right now. See if he can keep the speed up.

[00:50:24] >> Yeah, it's rattling, especially the last part of this back nine. Been super good on the greens.

[00:50:30] >> Nice putt. Good week once again for the 29-year-old. Going to be his 12th Top 25 and fourth Top 10 of the season to go along, of course, with that win at the Price Cutter Charity Championship.

[00:50:43] >> A step closer, James.

[00:50:45] >> And he looked impressive. Once again, he just kind of ran out of holes and opportunities to trace -- to track down VanDerLaan. And he's looked fantastic this year. Very deserving of this week. Well played this week.

[00:51:00] >> Yeah. John's wife, Hannah, watching on. See if he can wrap things up with a two putt par.

[00:51:09] >> And John VanDerLaan, so impressive this week, tee to green, a champion on the Korn Ferry Tour.

[00:51:20] >> Truly impressive the way he handled himself under the pressure. How good he did it in this final round. Not having a Korn Ferry Tour victory. Almost the belief finally comes true.

[00:51:32] >> Wife's out, bunker's out, everybody's out.

[00:51:37] >> Big congratulations on VanDerLaan. The happy young man right there. Impressive stuff from VanDerLaan.

[00:51:43] >> I told you.

[00:51:44] >> So proud of you.

[00:51:46] >> Hi, buddy.

[00:51:46] >> Scarlet Course delivered this week. And a fine champion. Only hit six fairways today. Was a veteran the way he recovered. Almost looked unstoppable on the ground greens. It's going to just get more exciting as the finals go with 120 players going to the next event in Oklahoma.

[00:52:04] >> Fifteen cards left to give out. That the final leaderboard.

[00:52:08] >> John VanDerLaan, ball striking the first couple days. So good off the tee, the driver, the iron play. And today, leaned on the putter heavily on that front nine.

[00:52:17] >> Dominant win.