

Production Transcript for REWIND_25SONY_TAYLOR.mp3

[00:00:28] >> The PGA TOUR is proud to bring you the season-long race for the FedExCup, and now coverage of the 2025 Sony Open in Hawaii.

[00:00:40] >> Waialae Country Club, nestled along the gorgeous coastline, just six miles from the hustle and bustle of Honolulu. Beautiful old-school Seth Raynor design which opened in 1927, for 60 years the host of this tournament. And as this tournament week began on the minds of everyone, last year's champion, Grayson Murray passed away last May just four months after winning this tournament. His memory lives on. Got the ribbons on the all of the flags on the pins throughout this golf course.

[00:01:15] >> Checking on some of the other highlights we mentioned that Hideki Matsuyama was 1-under in the early going par at the first four holes before we took aim here at the par-4 5th with his second. We saw a lot of this last week at The Sentry. So Hideki poured that in to get to 1-under. Show to the 64s already on the board, including one by Eric Cole, the PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year, back in 2023. Still has not won out here on the PGA TOUR, a birdie drop to 16-par of his first round of 64. Harry Hall had a good week last week in his first Sentry Tournament. He shot 64 today as well. Drops in a nice second shot there at 16. He tied for eighth last week at the Sentry. Trying to keep it going. Adam Schenk, another one of those players with the opportunity to break through for the first time this week, birdie at 17 for Schenk. And he's also tied for the lead with that 6-under 64; as is Denny McCarthy, finishing up on the par-5 9th for a birdie. He's one of the best putters out here, and this is a golf course which really benefits a good putter. So we've got a bunch jammed in at 6-under 64 in the opening round of the Sony Open in Hawaii.

[00:02:34] >> Seventeen, this is Emiliano Grillo. Oh, wow, from 50 plus feet.

[00:02:45] >> Little skin there with Zach Johnson, former champion here as well. And so Grillo turned it around with 15 and that long one landing at 17.

[00:02:54] >> At the 9th, Matsuyama playing his third at the par-5.

[00:03:12] >> Over at the 8th, Nick Taylor for birdie.

[00:03:15] >> Really nice look, just not a ton of break in this putt.

[00:03:18] >> Maybe Nick Taylor can put some pressure on those 6-unders.

[00:03:24] >> Tom Hoge is over at the 9th. Remember, Hoge had the first round lead at the Sentry last week in an opening round 64, still heading into the good week.

[00:03:34] >> That's a beautiful 3 there for Hoge.

[00:03:39] >> Jesper Svensson is playing his third over at the par-5 9th.

[00:03:44] >> And just a little pitch up the hill and straight into the hole.

[00:04:02] >> Boy, this is unbearable hole today at the 4th, the Biarritz green, 50 paces on from the front.

[00:04:12] >> Cam Davis, beauty for 204.

[00:04:17] >> Out to the 14th here, and Russell Henley.

[00:04:21] >> After laying well back he's left 192. Something in the middle of the green would be a very good shot.

[00:04:33] >> Boy, that was pretty riding that down and off the right wind, which appears to be gusting up. Great shot from Russell.

[00:04:43] >> And here we go with Theegala again from the rough.

[00:04:46] >> Well, he went with driver off the tee and just came within two or three yards of pulling it off beautifully, but he's got a super angle here all sitting okay. I think he's just going to fly something several yards into the green, and let it run on a little bit. I don't think this will be a shot unless the one he played on 12. I don't see him flying this too far back there.

[00:05:04] >> Until he does.

[00:05:06] >> Got those hands on; let's see.

[00:05:10] >> Yes, taking it down a little bit you're looking at the trundle.

[00:05:13] >> Yes, good call there, Bones, play it in the back of the stands and give yourself plenty of room with that downwind to get yourself under the hole.

[00:05:20] >> I don't see him taking it too far back down. There's only --

[00:05:22] >> No, he's good.

[00:05:22] >> Just the heck of it. Again, this is just more evidence of Theegala's beautiful touch. Up at the 4th, Davis for birdie to get to 3-under.

[00:05:33] >> One of the best shots of the day here at 4.

[00:05:38] >> Yes. Henley's birdie goes down at the 14th.

[00:05:42] >> With that hole perfectly. His ball striking really is starting to look nice. Pair that up with a putter, it seems to be pretty hot.

[00:05:53] >> Theegala now.

[00:05:55] >> Right under the hole; just the five- or six-footer you'd love to have.

[00:05:59] >> Hey, you can't afford to miss this. This is a very simple putt.

[00:06:03] >> Theegala turns it into a birdie of his own. So couple of birdies at the 14th by Henley and Theegala. Cam Davis is at 5.

[00:06:16] >> Yes, that putt is going to turn a little bit left. It is down the hill and then back up once you get down toward the hole, and -- oh man, it was in, it was out, it was in. That is a bonus there, total bonus.

[00:06:28] >> Seems like it just kind of froze on the --

[00:06:30] >> Yes.

[00:06:30] >> -- edge of the cup there.

[00:06:32] >> You make birdie at 4 and 5 you're picking up some strokes. Those are not easy holes.

[00:06:39] >> This is Kensei Hirata for eagle at 18.

[00:06:42] >> He's got some speed.

[00:06:44] >> Right into the stick. He was second on the Japan Golf Tour Money List; 24 years old, six wins on the Japan Golf Tour. This guy knows how to win.

[00:07:02] >> Back over at the 14th, and the second for Tom Hoge.

[00:07:05] >> He hit it far enough through the fairway into the rough where it will be okay on an angle, trees not in his way. Oh, look at this. Oh.

[00:07:16] >> Did you hear him say, "Stay right?" It stayed right and then it went straight to the bottom.

[00:07:23] >> Unbelievable shot from that position. You're praying to make a par.

[00:07:28] >> Two eagles. Over at the 16th, the palm trees forming a W letter to aim this hole behind the 16th. This is the long coast here at Waialae.

[00:07:43] >> You' think he had to have missed it off the tee. He's left with 174 minute hole location on the right side of the birdie. And he should use the left side wind if he wants to cut something from the middle green towards the flag.

[00:07:58] >> Looking for that cut.

[00:08:04] >> Use the wind to your advantage; and that was nicely done, Hideki.

[00:08:09] >> Justin Lauer is over at the 9th for eagle. Can we see another one drop?

[00:08:15] >> Well, there's got to be a reason why we went over here, and that is why.

[00:08:20] >> Rolf, you've been doing this long enough to know.

[00:08:22] >> Had a feeling there.

[00:08:29] >> Ben Martin looking for eagle at 18. Really? I had a feeling that was going down, too.

[00:08:41] >> Matsuyama putting for birdie at the par-4 16th.

[00:08:58] >> Not much in this putt.

[00:09:08] >> He gets to 2-under.

[00:09:13] >> At 18 Russell Henley squinting into the set, Bones.

[00:09:17] >> Yes, some kind of powerful right now, Dan, he's got 253 front edge. Let's see if we can listen in here. Helping the wind is going a little less right. He tried it in the fairway here at 19 looking for the absolute worst.

[00:09:46] >> And Bones, with this -- it be would interesting to see what type of shot he plays. He can spin these and try to get it to land softly or does he play a run-up shot?

[00:10:00] >> He played a run-up shot on the last hole and it didn't work out very well for him. He had this end towards the left green side bunker. Good angle, though.

[00:10:14] >> Matsuyama, Bones, what about his placement?

[00:10:17] >> Sitting down and because of that he's got the fairway wood in hand. He's just looking to pop something. I couldn't quite tell if this is some kind of high rack. I think it's his fairway metal, looking to pop something up in the air and have it just run on.

[00:10:23] >> Is this tree at all in the way?

[00:10:24] >> Should not be -- the lie.

[00:10:25] >> You could see how choked down the shaft he is, almost to the grab bite.

[00:10:32] >> Wow, look at this. He's getting kind of a lot higher up than I thought he did, Bones.

[00:10:38] >> To the 18th, Henley playing his third from the bunker. Let's see what -- happens here. See if he flies about halfway and get to roll out. Trying to do that.

[00:10:53] >> Ooh, yes, going to have a good chance to post 4-under 66.

[00:10:57] >> Matsuyama playing his third at 18 from the rough.

[00:11:07] >> Actually came out a lot hotter than I expected to see him. He looks a little befuddled as well.

[00:11:13] >> Matsuyama putting for birdie at the 18th.

[00:11:24] >> Putting back up the hill. Dealing with a little bit of right to left wind right now.

[00:11:32] >> Not bad, nice up and down.

[00:11:35] >> On a day on which I don't think he was very sharp at all to be able to go out and shoot a 3-under round. I think the field is put on notice because you know he's going to go out and play well tomorrow morning.

[00:11:49] >> Henley for birdie at 18, up and down from the bunker. Well done. Straka at 18; finally to putt.

[00:12:04] >> His putting stats actually it was negative in that category. Ball striking, on the other hand, was really nice. Approach to the green stats were really good.

[00:12:17] >> As you look down the coastline we head back down the fairway at 18. And Curt, bring us up to date here.

[00:12:24] >> Brice Garnett, great opportunity here to knock it on at 2. This is his most lofted fairway wood, 44. He's looking for something around 234 to that front edge.

[00:12:35] >> Just landing in the fringe and softly. That could have easily landed firm and especially downwind bounding over the green. But this is a nice break and has a -- will have a good look for eagle.

[00:12:48] >> Tom Hoge in the meantime laid up. Tom's dad said he hardly touched a club in December back in Fort Worth between his newborn, the weather. And he also said he needed some time off to recharge.

[00:12:59] >> I'm sure he'll land this three or four steps short of the hole with some spin.

[00:13:05] >> Green's just receptive enough but still work to be done to make birdie.

[00:13:26] >> All right, Curt, what do you have here?

[00:13:28] >> Well, Garnett, he did get a good break here for this ball to stay here. It's uphill lie. We're going right to left, but he only put one finger up for any point express, so shouldn't be a lot.

[00:13:38] >> Good speed.

[00:13:39] >> Little tap-in for Brice to end things off. He's right there, just two off the lead. Two PGA TOUR wins for Brice Garnett now at the age of 41, one in Corales Puntacana Resort Championship, so seven years ago, and then the latest breakthrough in Puerto Rico, as we mentioned, last year. Now Hoge the breakout of the pack, Curt, at 7-under.

[00:14:02] >> Yes, this is very make-able. There's just enough break I think from left to right, which is a good thing. And I don't think he wanted a dead straight putt uphill into the green, so very make-able chance to finish his day here.

[00:14:13] >> And he's got to wind up about two and a half cuts out to the left. And that is exactly where he hit it.

[00:14:26] >> So still no one able to get it to 7-under. But this is one tight board. Sixty-four players in the field of 143 are within four shots of the lead. So we take one last look at the leaderboard. Look at all those 6-unders, including Tom Hoge, the only guy in the afternoon to be there at the moment. Round two is next. It's another beautiful aloha Friday at Waialae Country Club on the island of Oahu for the second round of the Sony Open. First full field event of the PGA TOUR season, so the first cut of the season as well is on the line. But no problem for Kensei Hirata making the cut, as he just hit this third shot into his final hole of the second round, his third of the par-5 18th. He's got a very make-able birdie putt to get to 9-under and take the lead by himself, because this is how close he is away. He has not

tapped in yet for that birdie to get to 9-under. But he's a 24-year-old, six-time winner on the Japan Golf Tour, including four wins last season. And as Kensei Hirata put the finishing touches on a fantastic round here, he sponsors exemption, one of 11 sponsors exemptions into this Sony Open in Hawaii. And Hirata in just his sixth PGA TOUR start has done a lot of winning, but all of it has come over in Japan. And he shoots a 63 in the second round. Just 24 putts today for Hirata, as we check in with Tom Kim over at the par-4 6th.

[00:16:11] >> Location on the left side of the green. That wind out of the left. You can see just letting the wind drift in. And a beauty right there.

[00:16:22] >> Jim with a good chance to get to 4-under within five. Let's give it a little taste of what has already happened in this second round. After a PGA TOUR record-scoring week with a win at the Sentry on Maui, Hideki Matsuyama has cooled off this week. He was hovering on the cut line as he played his last hole at par-5 9th, with a beautiful third there, gets him to 4-under for the tournament, and Hideki is safely into the weekend. So is Lee Hodges. This was his second at the 8th, part of a second-round 64 which featured seven birdies today, just one bogey for Lee Hodges. Sepp Straka with another fine round of 66 today. This was his eagle putt from some 25 feet as he made the turn. Sixty-six for Straka. He hit the tie for 15th last week at the Sentry in the season opener. Zach Johnson will turn 49 years old next month. He's in his 20th Sony Open. Birdie at the 9th there at the turn. Zach is at 8-under par and looking to win this tournament again. He set a number of other high finishes in it. And then we talked about Hirata. He got off to a horrid start. Hirata with a flurry of birdies to start his round. And Ian taking full advantage of it just tapping in to get to 9-under. And then there's Fishburn, and this him at the 14th. This was his third birdie in a row with Hirata on top of the Sony Open in Hawaii at the moment.

[00:17:59] >> So Tom Kim lining things up here, making his 2025 season debut. Again, he's just 22 years old, already with three PGA TOUR wins under his belt. There's a look at the cut probability to go to 3-under. It's almost 100% that it will get there, as we've got a lot of players left to go here this afternoon.

[00:18:19] >> And a birdie for Tom Kim.

[00:18:24] >> Kim at the 13th playing his second from the bunker.

[00:18:31] >> Tom Kim here. Ooh, this is very difficult. I imagine, Bones, that we're going to expect to see some type of big slice here.

[00:18:38] >> I think so, Smiley, 204 total. And shouldn't have a lip issue unless he hits it a couple grooves low. Ball sitting very nicely. I don't think he's going to sink it down because it seems to be very uneasy on that left to right wind. Just have to bring it back towards the flag.

[00:19:00] >> What club do you think he's got here, Louie, 500, 500 or 600? It's a pretty big lift for one of those clubs.

[00:19:06] >> I know.

[00:19:06] >> His eyes are looking at the right center.

[00:19:07] >> Hmm, good swing left.

[00:19:08] >> No issues at all. Paul Tesori seems to like it.

[00:19:09] >> Now, Bones, did he just hit some type of six or five hundred under those palm trees?

[00:19:11] >> I believe he did.

[00:19:11] >> That is an unbelievable shot for Tom Kim.

[00:19:19] >> Fishburn at the 5th, that hole location middle right. Oh my gosh.

[00:19:25] >> Look at this.

[00:19:26] >> I mean, you're not expecting to get it even up and down from that spot. He had some room but still this could be the rough around the green so challenging.

[00:19:32] >> Yes. These guys make it look pretty easy, I'll be honest with you. That ball is 25 feet gone if it doesn't go --

[00:19:39] >> So you're just saying he got lucky and he aimed it well.

[00:19:42] >> No, he's pretty good at golf. I've seen him play and it's a pretty awesome watch. He hits it a mile.

[00:19:47] >> At the 11th, Cole hitting his tee shot at the par-3.

[00:20:00] >> And that was a beautiful shot from Eric Cole.

[00:20:02] >> That will lead to birdie. Kim now putting for birdie at 13.

[00:20:09] >> It's Tom Kim. What a birdie this would be.

[00:20:11] >> This would be incredible.

[00:20:12] >> I don't think people realize how good this birdie would be.

[00:20:20] >> Get it to break.

[00:20:21] >> Get there. Oh my goodness.

[00:20:22] >> Oh, come on, what a birdie from Tom Kim.

[00:20:24] >> This guy is perfect.

[00:20:25] >> That's how you do it.

[00:20:26] >> I'm not going to lie, this guy is really special.

[00:20:29] >> Hey, Bones, how good was that birdie?

[00:20:31] >> Luke said it perfectly, you just can't relate to the folks at home how difficult this hole is, especially with the wind direction today. That is one heck of an effort from Tom, especially considering he plays from that right fairway bunker.

[00:20:42] >> We are back to 11 to see if Eric Cole can clean up that incredible iron shot he did and right down to the bottom.

[00:20:46] >> What a birdie.

[00:20:54] >> Hoey for eagle at the 9th.

[00:20:56] >> Yes, he doesn't need this to make the cut, but boy, this would help.

[00:20:59] >> Whoa.

[00:21:00] >> Rico.

[00:21:00] >> Get him to minus-7. How about a -- what a finish that is.

[00:21:04] >> Rico Hoey, 64. And he is right there headed into the weekend. Tom Kim now getting tutored by Tesori, one of the best in the business.

[00:21:28] >> Having played with Keegan most in the last two days they certainly would have an idea of how far they hit the ball as compared to him. So this club selection should be far less tough to pull off.

[00:21:41] >> He's a wise man, that guy, Paul Tesori.

[00:21:46] >> Still a very good player, Mark; plays in Northeast Florida Amber events. Once played on the PGA TOUR some years ago for a year or so.

[00:21:57] >> Think it's a nice combination too, this dynamic between the young Tom Kim and an experienced guy like Tesori, Bones.

[00:22:03] >> Yes, that's well said.

[00:22:20] >> Turning a draw and you're another good-looking shot. This could be really good if it runs out just a little. Come on.

[00:22:27] >> It's running, Bones, and --

[00:22:30] >> Come on.

[00:22:30] >> -- Tom Kim gets a smile on the face of this guy, Tesori. It's great when it all works out. This is Fishburn finishing up over at the par-5 9th after the lay-up. This is his third.

[00:22:43] >> It's probably his most lofted wedge there, trying to get a lot of spin on it.

[00:22:48] >> Carried it all the way past the hole, and that's a good one.

[00:22:55] >> Okay, Fishburn here to get to 10-under and take the lead.

[00:23:01] >> Boy, there is not a whole lot to this putt, but you've got to keep the pace up. Got it. Beautiful roll there.

[00:23:09] >> He's looking to be the 36th hole leader in his second consecutive tournament. You go back to the season ending RSM Classic he had the lead halfway through that tournament last November. He eventually finished in a tie for eighth, but Fishburn taking that play late in the fall right here to the islands. McCarthy over at the 14th.

[00:23:33] >> Again, another fairway, so another opportunity with a short iron here at 14.

[00:23:38] >> McCarthy with a good chance to catch Fishburn, maybe pass him. Got some holes left here.

[00:23:47] >> All right, Tom Kim here to get to 6-under. Not much left here, Bones.

[00:23:51] >> No, that's payoff, that wonderful tee shot here.

[00:23:56] >> This is kind of --

[00:23:56] >> He's been watching this.

[00:23:57] >> Yes, kind of the perfect putts you'd like to have here at 17.

[00:24:02] >> Just about straight up; 5:00, magic hour. Tom Kim pushes it to 6-under, four back with a beautiful birdie.

[00:24:11] >> McCarthy to try to get to 10-under. Oh, yes. He's typically a dive in there kind of speed guy, but that almost didn't get to the hole.

[00:24:34] >> And back over at 18 there's a good angle of what Tom Kim has left here with his 3rd.

[00:24:41] >> He's got plenty to deal with, Dan. He's got to go up top and get the ball to stop. It's going to be running away from him. And this will test your hands. Let's see what he's got for us late on a Friday afternoon.

[00:25:01] >> These surround areas are most very closely. And there is some green, it's a Bermuda, but they're in great condition which really helps being able to clip this one. Bones is right, this will show you what you've got. Clipped it nicely. I'd say that's pretty well done. Oh, man.

[00:25:13] >> Eric Cole is at 16, right in the heart of the fairway. Wedge left for his second shot, gap wedge. Good look for Cole. Tom Kim to finish it off. Ooh. High quality up and down, though, Curt, but it had a little drama there.

[00:25:47] >> It limped in there.

[00:25:51] >> Really good up and down. Cole for birdie at 16. Yes. Back over to 17 you see Eric Cole on that tie for fourth two back. Couple holes left for him.

[00:26:07] >> Yes, the wind has definitely lessened in velocity as the afternoon has gone on here. Shots getting a little bit easier. Plays it off the knob on the front right of that green, the Redan green, and has himself a good look at it, too.

[00:26:26] >> And we go over to 17 to see if Eric Cole could make another one.

[00:26:29] >> Right at about ten feet; and a whole lot of break to this one.

[00:26:34] >> Oh, yes. Well, this run by Cole he didn't have the problem holes that developed at the 7th. I mean, this would have really been low; only five pars on his card.

[00:26:46] >> After this round, we caught up with Seth Straka to get his thoughts about round two.

[00:26:51] >> Yes, played pretty nice, especially on the front nine. Gave myself a lot of chances and made some putts, which was really nice to see. And yes, back nine it got a little tricky. Wind got up a little bit and was not really steady out of one direction so it was hard to kind of figure out exactly where it was coming from; and yes, thankfully I got some red numbers on the board early.

[00:27:12] >> Kensei Hirata been high up on that leaderboard all day long after this round of the week thus far with a 63, and a lot of players with a chance here in the first full field event of the '25 PGA TOUR season.

[00:27:26] >> The third round is next.

[00:27:36] >> All you need to see are those palm trees forming a famous W and you know exactly where you are, Waialae Country Club. As we fly right through them out onto the coast, take a look down to the right, another famous landmark out there, Diamond Head, and on this clear gorgeous day, you can even see the buildings down there about six miles away at Waikiki Beach.

[00:28:04] >> Henley at the par-5 9th. Seems like he likes this.

[00:28:07] >> And again from the left full location over on the right-hand side. So tough to get your second shot that far over to the right, but that's a pretty good one there.

[00:28:18] >> Keegan Bradley for birdie at the 6th.

[00:28:20] >> Guys love it when they split tees and you can go off first, like he did at the 10th; work your way up the leaderboard.

[00:28:27] >> Oh, man, that's exactly what he's doing, Smiley. How about this one, a birdie is by Keegan, as we shift over to the par-5 9th. And Russell Henley coming across for an eagle to fall within one.

[00:28:41] >> And this putt would do it. Oh, boy, what a time to make that one.

[00:28:43] >> Henley in the mix again. It must be the Sony Open in Hawaii.

[00:28:53] >> Back to the 8th for Fishburn.

[00:28:55] >> Just 131; great angle from the right side of the fairway to a left hole location. Wind sitting down for just a moment. Makes you feel like you can get after it just a little bit more. Sliding one down. Left to right wind's got it. It's also right of the flag. This is Spaun at the 10th. Back left hole location, and maybe J.J. Spaun can break out of a tie with Patrick Fishburn at the top. Back at the 8th, Fishburn for birdie. There are 25 players within four shots of the lead right now. Fishburn just made another one. To 13-under he goes. J.J. Spaun, tied over here at the 10th for birdie.

[00:29:51] >> Was able to get it on top of this ridge plateau here; beautiful birdie.

[00:29:57] >> Over at the 9th, Keegan Bradley for birdie.

[00:30:00] >> Longer birdie attempt than what he had in mind when he teed off here. But no matter.

[00:30:05] >> That's a 64 for Keegan Bradley, finishing up over on that front side. Keegan Bradley continuing to play well. Spaun's over at 13.

[00:30:22] >> Yes.

[00:30:23] >> J.J. Spaun keeps doing his thing to 13-under, solo second.

[00:30:31] >> Stephan Jager at the 8th finishing up over on the front side.

[00:30:34] >> Having a good day, 6-under on his round. Maybe he'll get to seven?

[00:30:41] >> Yes. Wow, Jager joining the group at 11-under, headed by Bradley who's in with his third round 64. Eight birdies, that one bogey for Jager coming back at the 15th hole.

[00:30:53] >> That was a Jager bomb there.

[00:30:58] >> Harry Hall looking to get to 12-under.

[00:31:01] >> We've had five eagles at 18 today; easiest hole on the golf course. Nice finish to his round, too.

[00:31:08] >> Yes, this is going to be a really nice finish. It's going to be four birdies in the last five holes for Harry Hall. Nineteen birdies so far for the Englishman; that's most in the field. Over at the 9th, third for Jager.

[00:31:33] >> Wow, good chance for him to get it at 12-under. Back over at the 13th for the second for Eric Cole.

[00:31:42] >> Good drives for Eric here, just 193 to the hole over on the left side. Okay, nice smart safe shot.

[00:31:57] >> Over at the 9th Jager with a good birdie look here.

[00:32:01] >> From about four feet and a little left-hand break. That's a beautiful round there.

[00:32:05] >> And Jager is 62. That's the low round of the week, and it also matches the low round of his PGA TOUR career.

[00:32:15] >> Ahead at the 13th, Cole putting for birdie. He gets to 12-under par.

[00:32:36] >> This was just earlier at the 16th, Russell Henley 2nd.

[00:32:39] >> It's like a classic jumper, kind of come out like a knuckleball with no spin.

[00:32:44] >> Just kind of hit it short and watch it roll up, Smiley?

[00:32:46] >> Yes, and judge it just like this. That's the advantage for a guy who grew up in Southeast Georgia, you know how to play out of Bermuda rough, able to predict where to land it and how it's going to come out.

[00:32:56] >> Spaun at the 16th playing his 2nd from the bunker.

[00:33:04] >> I think the challenge on this back side is that the wind direction, you know, for instance, on the 11th hole and 13 and 16 that we see here, all left to right winds and left hands, which I think has made the challenge for why you've seen so many bogeys on this backside.

[00:33:20] >> Yes, off the tee at 15 as well it's a little left to right, and hard dog like right to left.

[00:33:24] >> So you have to challenge it if you're going to get it close.

[00:33:28] >> This looks pretty good in the air.

[00:33:31] >> That's a pretty good look. We'll have birdie.

[00:33:38] >> Ten separate putts here, just slightly uphill into the green to begin with and then it tops out, and it's actually slightly downgrade in the last third.

[00:33:56] >> Let's see if he's able to knock this own.

[00:33:58] >> Oh, J.J. Spaun bounced back indeed from that bunker, which has left the rest of the field when they found it over par. Not Spaun, he turns it into a birdie. Echavarria is in the bunker at the 18th trying to get it up and down for birdie.

[00:34:13] >> Man, did he put some spin on that one; downwind, cut the legs out from underneath it, and keeping it short in the hole.

[00:34:18] >> Henley trying to get back on track.

[00:34:36] >> Boy, he picked up on it.

[00:34:37] >> He needed that. And Echavarria trying to finish up the up and down from the sand to get to 11-under, join the crowd of players in contention for tomorrow's final round. Nico Echavarria from Colombia, 30 years old, 2 PGA TOUR wins already for him.

[00:34:56] >> And let's keep in mind on this incredible drive he hit here at the 14th, it's not straight downwind by any means, it's right to left and helping but knocked down the ball. He's just a human. He has 46 yards left.

[00:35:10] >> Let's see if he's going to play a little bomb shot short and flies it all the way on. Going to the bump.

[00:35:15] >> Oh, just about golden. But this is Fishburn lined up with a solo lead.

[00:35:27] >> Not an easy read here, Dan. Certainly back the hill you will respect the speed. But if you respect it too much, it can get away from you and turns it right.

[00:35:36] >> His has birdied this hole every single day.

[00:35:41] >> Just touched it. Beautiful stroke.

[00:35:44] >> Excellent.

[00:35:46] >> Hodges at 16.

[00:35:47] >> This is what you can do at 16 downwind. Lee Hodges hit driver if it only has a flipped wedge left. Out of that first cut, got a little trundle out of it and well judged.

[00:35:59] >> Hodges kind of reenergized now, a good chance to get another couple.

[00:36:04] >> And over at 15, Eric Cole for birdie. Up from down below the hole here, just over 20 feet, might break a little to his right. Nicely read, nicely struck

[00:36:14] >> You see Hodges there in a tie for fifth, trying to break out of that.

[00:36:19] >> But the aggressive play off the tee to give himself just a short wedge, and to pay it off, too.

[00:36:24] >> We'll go back to the 18th for Spaun's third. Yes, definitely in the Bermuda rough. Goes up and over and this ridge. It's on the left side. Really well done. Beautiful touch by Spaun. Henley at the 18th. He's really good short sight out of bunkers.

[00:36:48] >> Shown it today as well. Long backswing, short follow-through, here you go.

[00:36:52] >> And it goes down.

[00:36:53] >> That's how you do it.

[00:36:56] >> And that's going to be a birdie to end it for him; and still right there going to get to 10-under. And now Spaun to finish off beautiful up and down and post 13-under.

[00:37:08] >> He's been putting it so well today, only 22 putts to this point. But this is tricky, it's left to right.

[00:37:14] >> Got it. J.J. Spaun, leader in the clubhouse, looking for PGA TOUR win number two. This is up ahead, third shot for Eric Cole; awful.

[00:37:31] >> It's just no angle, no wind to work with, downwind. It's a far looking right from about 50 yards. Looks like he's opening it up a little.

[00:37:55] >> That ends with a full flap, and it was another flip away.

[00:38:03] >> Now, Cole, who nearly pulled off that beautiful flap shot, now with his fourth, he has it still wide open.

[00:38:12] >> I wouldn't be surprised if he's thinking, "Make right" here.

[00:38:15] >> Yes, we had a great view of it, Curt. Stabbed it just a little bit.

[00:38:19] >> And now just a little par putt here to get in at 12-under. One back of the clubhouse leader, Spaun.

[00:38:22] >> You know what's going to be fun tomorrow, too, Dan, is that it's going to be windy tomorrow. It's going to be 15- to 25-mile-an-hour winds. We always knew Saturday was going to be breezy, but fun Sunday is going to have the same type of challenges that we've seen today.

[00:38:29] >> At 18th, Fishburn playing his third from the bunker.

[00:38:36] >> He can just splash this right around the fringe and let it roll in from there.

[00:38:41] >> Really open setup, low hands.

[00:38:47] >> Ooh, took a little peak.

[00:38:50] >> Now, this is the beginning of it. Patrick Fishburn's a player who's not in the signature events. When you look down this leaderboard, there are plenty of guys who are trying to get their season started off right.

[00:39:01] >> So this to tie Spaun with a 54-hole lead.

[00:39:08] >> Didn't get it out there. That thing just snaps.

[00:39:11] >> And he needed that to be in the final group, and now he'll be the one chasing tomorrow.

[00:39:16] >> Maybe not the worst thing for a guy that doesn't have a whole lot of experience at the top of the leaderboards in the PGA TOUR.

[00:39:21] >> Yes, don't disagree with you. I still like Patrick Fishburn tomorrow. He's third last year on tour in bogey avoidance, and I think that's going to be an important stat.

[00:39:30] >> Yes, you know, there's no doubt in your mind, Smiley, when you went over to watch him hit balls he came back and said, "This guy left."

[00:39:36] >> Because he got moxie. He reminds me of Gary Woodland, he changes trajectories, he's hit stingers. He's fun to watch play gold. And tomorrow could be his day, but he's going to have a lot of guys chasing him.

[00:39:47] >> Could be Gary Woodland's day. He's just three back --

[00:39:50] >> Spot on.

[00:39:51] >> -- and you name it. Take your pick, anybody for the potential of taking this Sony Open in Hawaii, even all as far back as Nick Dunlap, 8-under. Five back at the 54-hole leader J.J. Spaun. The final round is next.

[00:40:13] >> The game's best return to Hawaii --

[00:40:15] >> It all starts here.

[00:40:16] >> -- where the 2025 race for the FedExCup begins with the PGA TOUR's opening drive.

[00:40:23] >> It all starts here.

[00:40:26] >> Starting here, testing your game against the best players on the PGA TOUR is what it's all about.

[00:40:35] >> This is the best of the best. It's fun being here. I think it's the best competition in the world.

[00:40:48] >> There's no place like starting in Hawaii. It's special.

[00:40:50] >> It starts now.

[00:40:51] >> And it's the final day of the two-week Hawaiian swing to start the PGA TOUR season. And as always, the Sunday leaderboard at the Sony Open in Hawaii is as crowded as a beautiful day at nearby Waikiki Beach. Fifty-four hole leader by one was J.J. Spaun. He parred the first two holes before staring at this one from just under 30 feet for birdie at the 3rd, his longest putt of the week thus far. He's got the lead by two. Jager now for birdie trying to get on track like he was yesterday, Bones.

[00:41:23] >> Yes, after that very aggressive second shot with the 9-iron. This guy plays with a lot of confidence.

[00:41:33] >> There we go, first one of the day for Stephan Jager. Nico Echavarria is at the 7th for birdie.

[00:41:40] >> So many players at this 10-under number just want to see something happen like that.

[00:41:48] >> Jager now at the 6th.

[00:41:53] >> From just 128, most gettable hole location on this green front left.

[00:41:57] >> He's going after it. Now, Jager with a good look here, Bones, to tie for the lead.

[00:42:07] >> Yes, left it under the hole. Certainly would like to be a little bit closer, but this is a putt he can take a swing at here. Especially with last night's rain there's virtually no chance this putt can get away from him.

[00:42:17] >> Also, remember, Spaun has tied in and they can see his coin just to the left of the cup.

[00:42:27] >> But Jager continues to apply the pressure to Spaun.

[00:42:31] >> Yes, this guy is not scared.

[00:42:34] >> This is Echavarria at the 8th for birdie.

[00:42:44] >> At the 8th hole putting for birdie at the par-4.

[00:42:56] >> And he's going to continue to wear that as long as he keeps rolling them in.

[00:42:59] >> That hit the middle of the flagstick. A really beautiful putting stroke Harry Hall has and he's come out 2025 and looked really sharp.

[00:43:10] >> Echavarria's at the 9th for birdie. About has to make this one right here. Oh, which he does, barely creeps in the front edge.

[00:43:19] >> That's a nice little way to end his opening, 9, 2, 3, 4.

[00:43:25] >> Spaun at the 8th playing his second from the right.

[00:43:29] >> Looks like the lie is decent.

[00:43:32] >> I'm going to call it terrific. He's got a chance to get at this flag. It's very exposed today. From just 129 he can take it right at it, landing a few yards on the green, have at least to the hole. He does have a chance to make 3 from here. Taking it very high in the air. Let's see if he can slice it the requisite distance.

[00:43:51] >> And he has it to go just a little bit. Maybe the lie was too good, Bones.

[00:43:57] >> At the 8th, Jager playing his second from the fairway.

[00:44:02] >> And as -- mentioned the kind of distance that Stephan's picked up in the last couple years and he was on full display here, very long drive left of just 94 yards.

[00:44:09] >> Yes, you play aggressive, you can get rewarded, it sounds like.

[00:44:13] >> There they go. Yes, backs it up. Great chance to push it to 15-under.

[00:44:19] >> He's not going away, Dan.

[00:44:21] >> You get that feeling, huh? Spaun for birdie at the 8th, and that one is headed in.

[00:44:29] >> Heading into today, Dan, we felt like it was going to be ten to 15 guys have a chance, but it's starting to look like a two-horse race with J.J. Spaun making that long one at 8th.

[00:44:41] >> Jager putting for birdie at 8th.

[00:44:48] >> Getting over this one with an excellent chance to stay within one.

[00:44:53] >> Did not like what he saw in terms of his reason for bringing Henry in for a looksie here.

[00:44:57] >> You often don't see a putter like Stephan Jager bringing in his caddie for a three-and-a-half footer, so there must be some confusion with the slope and the grain, Bones.

[00:45:07] >> I agree. I also -- I can't tell completely from this angle, but I think his shadow at the very least is going to be over par of the hole, making it that much harder to pick things up.

[00:45:16] >> Should just have anything a little left in this putt.

[00:45:21] >> So both Spaun and Jager 3-under in the first eight holes.

[00:45:26] >> Echavarria playing his second into the 16th.

[00:45:37] >> Get in the hole.

[00:45:38] >> Get in the hole.

[00:45:51] >> Echavarria from close range; got to feel like he's got a birdie to a house.

[00:45:58] >> Come on.

[00:45:58] >> That's a -- Curt. And you can see how pumped he is. We go back to the tee at 16 for Jager.

[00:46:09] >> Lot of helping wind at the moment. This tee shot is going to play very short.

[00:46:12] >> Well, he was out of bounds left, and he took an aggressive line.

[00:46:16] >> Once again, there's that shot to the left, Smiley. I'm not sure where that ended up.

[00:46:20] >> I could not pick it up in terms of it being in the fairway. I assume it's in the left rough, but not positive, guys.

[00:46:25] >> I don't know, that was dark big time left, and again had that velocity on it that Jager's been showing us.

[00:46:32] >> And he's currently marking up another ball to hit a provisional.

[00:46:34] >> Yes.

[00:46:41] >> And now, Spaun. This doesn't look like any bargain.

[00:46:46] >> Not at all, Dan. In fact, he's got to be careful this ball doesn't jump up in the air and into the tree that he is playing from underneath. He's got one 17 front end. You

would think this ball's going to come out and lean over once it gets on the ground; 148 total. Comes off with some over-spin. Let's see if he flies to the right putt.

[00:47:09] >> Oh, my God.

[00:47:11] >> Aw.

[00:47:11] >> What a shot.

[00:47:13] >> And now he's got a big-time advantage over Jager here, fourth shot. Hoping for bogey and up and down from there. All right, so you've got Jager here for a bogey, you've got Spaun for a birdie.

[00:47:38] >> A little tough to pick up the read here; back to the shadows. Not a whole lot in this uphill putt.

[00:47:49] >> Oh, my goodness, he's got a saved bogey.

[00:47:52] >> This guy just will just not go away. If you're J.J. Spaun, you just kind of think to yourself, "Man, what do I have to do?"

[00:48:05] >> How many long big putts have these guys made? Jager just added to it. He's made it for birdie, he's made it for par, he's made it for bogey, and now Spaun trying to add another lengthy one for birdie.

[00:48:24] >> What a huge moment this is for JJ; just looking for some kind of significant separation.

[00:48:32] >> Showed you all those long ones for birdie, this another ten-footer to make it a two-shot swing. And we still have a golf tournament, thanks to Jager up and down after hitting it out of bounds at the 16th.

[00:48:54] >> Did a good putt, too; thought he was just looking for a little bit of the grade to push it to the right.

[00:49:01] >> Echavarria's up at 18 with a second.

[00:49:04] >> Big-time shot.

[00:49:05] >> He cuts up to this back right hole location. Ah, just landed so softly and oh it's a back break to end up in the green side bunker. That's going to be a long bunker shot.

[00:49:22] >> Nick Taylor's at the 18th.

[00:49:23] >> And after a perfect fairway medal, this will be his longest iron in his bag with the middle of the green. Just doesn't fit his shot -- a guy who likes to hit it right to left. The shot really requires a fade.

[00:49:40] >> Third shot par-5 18 for Echavarria. He's got a -- but a lot of green to work with. Tough to get it all the way back there. What a cool shot that was. He drove it in there low.

[00:50:19] >> Yes, that looked to be what was maybe his 56th degree, Curt.

[00:50:24] >> Taylor after a ruling here got relief, got a good lie. Going to have to putt it in. And Taylor dumps it home at 18 after the short misses for 30 to get it at 16-under. Are you kidding me? It just got wider at Waialae. Unbelievable finish for Nick Taylor.

[00:50:41] >> Echavarria's been waiting a while to just take care of this little tap-in for birdie. How good was this up and down, Smiley?

[00:50:44] >> Unbelievable, one of the cooler shots we've seen all week. Had to make birdie, was able to do it.

[00:50:46] >> We pick up with Taylor on the second playoff hole playing his second shot.

[00:50:48] >> Nick does not like it, one-arm finish.

[00:50:49] >> Kind of in that no man's land. That's going to be about a 50 or so yard shot upcoming.

[00:50:56] >> Opening here for Echavarria, Curt, same club, 254 to the hole, or a couple yards closer, trying to play that cut. This is a little further along. If it lands on the green, it might go through.

[00:51:18] >> Yes, looked a little flatter curve, but still two incredible shots Nico's hit at 18.

[00:51:22] >> Okay, Bones, what about this third for Taylor?

[00:51:24] >> It's a lot grassier lie than he had for his third shot the first go-around in his playoff, so he can go ahead and open up the club face if he wants to here, hit a bit of a spinner. It's all going to be about judging that first bounce. Firm greens playing straight downwind. Where do I need to find this ball to get it to check up ultimately released to keep it around the flag?

[00:51:43] >> This is going -- left.

[00:51:43] >> That was unbelievable. That landed right on the front of the green; just perfect.

[00:51:55] >> Echavarria putting from the fringe for eagle.

[00:52:01] >> Oh, man, that's a poor effort. Oh, gosh.

[00:52:02] >> Echavarria putting for birdie.

[00:52:09] >> Par for Echavarria. And it opens a door for Nick Taylor to step right through in another dramatic playoff victory.

[00:52:31] >> Taylor putting for birdie and the win.

[00:52:33] >> And it's another playoff victory for Nick Taylor.

[00:52:37] >> Clutch play, Nick Taylor gets it done again. And it is a family affair here on Oahu. Nick Taylor does it again in a playoff over Nico Echavarria.

[00:52:42] >> This concludes the PGA TOUR's coverage of the Sony Open in Hawaii.