

Production Transcript for REWIND_25VAL_HOVLAND.mp3

[00:00:26] >> The PGA Tour is proud to bring you the season-long race for the FedExCup. Now, coverage of the 2025 Valspar Championship.

[00:00:42] >> Palm Harbor, Florida, the site of the Innisbrook Resort. And it's the 24th edition of this Valspar Championship. The Innisbrook Resort opened to the public. They've got four great golf courses here, including the one that features that statue and this hole. It's right at the beginning this 16th. The finishing stretch they refer to as the Snake Pit. It's going to get nasty in the Snake Pit later today. The wind manageable right now at about 15 miles an hour. It's going to blow a lot harder than that by the time we get finished with this opening round.

[00:01:22] >> The bar hasn't been set super high. It's sometimes the toughest course in the Florida swing. This was the morning wave. Earlier today, the Australian on the tee at the 8th, Ryan Fox. Beautiful shot in there. Sometimes that could be a fairway wood, Brendon.

[00:01:42] >> Yes, it can be. This is one of the easiest holes on the golf course here, BK. Number one straight downwind. Got to take advantage of it. Jacob Bridgeman does with an opening eagle.

[00:01:52] >> He would get in 4-under par. Then at the second, Keith Mitchell taking dead aim here, Jay.

[00:01:59] >> Wind helping him from the left over the top of the tree uphill. And it's a wonderful second shot. And as you can see, very difficult to judge that uphill shot.

[00:02:10] >> He has won on the Florida swing before. Germany's Stephan Jaeger at the 18th. Tough green to read unless you just do this. He dunks it. Jaeger puts the finishing touches on a 4-under par round. He's up at the top of this leaderboard. And Jordan Spieth getting things started in style.

[00:02:30] >> Well, Spieth is one of the great long range putters in the last 20 years. Fabulous start to the round. Always nice to hit happy hour early.

[00:02:40] >> We saw him over at the 3rd. And then, moments ago over at the 15th, we just saw Castillo clear the water at 16. Barely comes in with some momentum. Holes that at the 15th to start the Snake Pit at 4-under par. The mark has been set. Castillo, the tail end of that morning wave. And the guys that played this morning seem like they're going to have a distinct advantage.

[00:03:08] >> Over those that are playing this afternoon.

[00:03:19] >> Corey Connors is going to try a long iron. This is a lot lower. And he got it there. Success at the 4th.

[00:03:28] >> Yeah. Connors is a ball strike. And Jesse, that was a wonderful shot right there.

[00:03:36] >> Onishi for birdie.

[00:03:45] >> We go back over to 4. Corey Connors got it on here. We got mark on the left. We got a mark on the right.

[00:03:52] >> Split the difference. A little right to left.

[00:04:00] >> All right.

[00:04:00] >> Here is Castillo at 18. Good tee shot here, Jay.

[00:04:05] >> Just a wedge up the hill. Trying to keep it under the wind even with a lofty club. And great distance control. He'll have a good look.

[00:04:21] >> Viktor Hovland on the tee at 4. Can he pick the right club?

[00:04:24] >> Well, he's got the ability to flight that cut shot that he likes to play down. But, so he has his start at a little right. Oh, kicks off the back of the bunker. Great bounce.

[00:04:45] >> Now, Ricky Castillo. This would tie him for the lead.

[00:04:53] >> A wonderful finish. Birdieing the final hole today.

[00:05:07] >> You want your self-talk to be a little bit more positive than we have heard out of Viktor Hovland the last couple weeks. I'm sure you can be brutally honest at times, but you need to be nice to yourself.

[00:05:18] >> Have a birdie. Gets it there.

[00:05:21][Applause]

[00:05:35] >> Back at 6. Birdie putt for Ryo Hisatsune.

[00:05:38][Applause]

[00:05:49] >> Sahith, center of the fairway.

[00:05:51] >> And a wind to switch. This is more downwind now. All releasing. Wonderful shot.

[00:06:00] >> He would make birdie from there.

[00:06:01] >> This is Luke Clanton's third now at 18. Yeah. Clanton with the hole out birdie at 18. Into the Snake Pit, third shot for K.H. Lee. How about this one? Well, I told you there had been as many birdies at 16 as there have been doubles today.

[00:06:44] >> A pair of internationals, Sami Valimaki and Stephan Jaeger, are tied at the top, while Nico Echavarria sits one shot back. The second round is next.

[00:07:01] >> It is a beautiful look down at the Innisbrook Resort, the Copperhead Course, host of this Valspar Championship, the 24th edition, the only course they have ever played this event on. It is the final event in the Florida swing, and it is oftentimes the toughest of the courses in the State of Florida the PGA Tour plays. A little chill in the air this morning, 60 degrees. We're just a mile or so away from the Gulf. That's our broadcast team, PGA

Tour veterans Jay Townsend, Brendon de Jonge, and John MaGinnes on the golf course. Here's how things have gone so far already today. Shane Lowry was the early leader. He's over at the 12th, taking advantage of fairly calm conditions. Stuffs that, went in there. Shane Lowry would make that. Now, over at the 16th. At this point, tied for the lead at 4-under par. And you got to make some long ones if you're going to win, Jay. And he's making them.

[00:08:10] >> He's just rolling them in. When he gets the feel, he is really good. Makes fewer putts than what he gets credit for. But this is for back to back birdies at 16 and 17. And that is a wonderful stretch right there, going three, two in the Snake Pit.

[00:08:26] >> He would par the 18th. Played the Snake Pit 2-under par, two bogeys on the back or the front nine, his back nine. Over at the 11th, Viktor Hovland. You never know where his game is. Even Viktor doesn't know where his game is. He would make that to get to 1-under on the round, 2-under on the week. Later on in the round, his back nine, the tough par-3 4th. And Brendon, this was awesome.

[00:08:49] >> And this is what we've come to expect from Viktor Hovland. Always one of the premier iron players in the game. Beautiful shot in there.

[00:08:56] >> He would make that. Wind up shooting 4-under par. He's 5-under for the week. Ryo Hisatsune, who is wonderful 22 year old Japanese player, makes that one, and he is not done yet. Hisatsune just making this one not too long ago over at the 8th from long range. Gets him to 5-under bar for the round, end the day. And he just finished up with a par at the 9th. Sixty-six for Hisatsune. Tied to the lead with Viktor Hovland.

[00:09:36] >> Echavarria for eagle.

[00:09:37] >> Well, a slowish putt putting into the dark grain. And this one goes right in the middle.

[00:09:42][Applause]

[00:09:48] >> We'll move up to the 5th. Jacob Bridgeman, who was a part of the mix yesterday. This is for birdie.

[00:09:54] >> Yeah, beautiful putt there from Jacob Bridgeman.

[00:09:59] >> Echavarria to take the lead alone.

[00:10:01] >> Putting from exactly where you would like to, going straight up the hill. Can be aggressive with it. And pays off the beautiful iron shot. Great start to his second round there for Nico Echavarria.

[00:10:18] >> Over at the 9th, Kevin Velo. This is his final hole of the day.

[00:10:24] >> Playing from the left side of this fairway, going up the hill, blind second shot.

[00:10:33] >> Echavarria is part of that afternoon group. Here he is at 4.

[00:10:35] >> Yeah. Left hole location, little breeze from the right, which should help. But hanging that out to the right. That's John MaGinnes middle of the green there, so that's OK, but --

[00:10:51] >> You can see Kevin Velo here at number 9 trying to put the finishing touches on that round. That is a 1-under par 70 and 36 very solid holes from Kevin Velo.

[00:11:05] >> Our leader, Echavarria has this for birdie at 4.

[00:11:09] >> Should have a little right to left swing in the middle, and then straighten out towards the end. Are you kidding me?

[00:11:18] >> We're making everything today. Four-under through four for Nico Echeverria.

[00:11:22] >> That wasn't a hard putt. It was just a long putt. Making it look easy.

[00:11:30] >> Over at 15, Matthieu Pavon for birdie.

[00:11:33] >> Putting down the hill from right in the heart of the green. Pretty quick around the hole here. Oh, just catches the right side. Beautiful putt there for Pavon.

[00:11:48] >> See if he can get rid of that seed of doubt that was planted.

[00:11:50] >> We tend to plant those ourselves. Get down. Oh, do that. OK.

[00:12:02] >> Pull that string. Wow. Good result now.

[00:12:15] >> To 5, and Ben An.

[00:12:17] >> Needs to land something short of the green. Get it to bump into there.

[00:12:21][Applause]

[00:12:26] >> And we'll go to the tee at 15 now. Harry Hall.

[00:12:30] >> Wind down out of the left today on 15. Very difficult to get over there to the left side of the green, unless you're Harry Hall.

[00:12:38] >> That's a birdie for Hall.

[00:12:41] >> Here's Ben An now. Back at 5.

[00:12:51] >> Not a difficult putt here for Ben. Just needs to start it on the right edge. And he does that. Beautiful birdie.

[00:13:03] >> Xander's third birdie in the first seven holes. This would also get him on that first page of the leaderboard. That's a name that you have to pay attention to now when it's on the first page of the leaderboard. He has proven what he can do from the front. Question now is, can he get there?

[00:13:26] >> Back to nine. And Scott for birdie.

[00:13:28] >> Big swinger.

[00:13:31] >> That's what Adam Scott needed. Needed to see something good happen.

[00:13:38] >> Over at 9, Tom Kim for birdie.

[00:13:41] >> Tom Kim going with the claw grip now. This is a change. Hasn't been making a ton of putts, and he needs to see more of that. Needs to see the ball go in the bottom of the hole.

[00:13:49] >> Over at 11, Straka's fourth.

[00:13:54][Applause]

[00:14:00] >> We'll go to the fairway at 12, and Xander Schauffele.

[00:14:04] >> Easy pin location today, front left. Just trying to turn something into it. And, well, Xander's missed a couple short ones at 10 and 11. That won't be the case at 12.

[00:14:18] >> Ben An in the group with Echavarria. This is for birdie at 10. He got it to the hole.

[00:14:25][Applause]

[00:14:33] >> We got 18, Victor Perez.

[00:14:37] >> The optimist in me said 500 holes.

[00:14:39] >> And Perez, after a terrible Y for his second shot at 18, makes an unlikely birdie.

[00:14:52] >> To 17.

[00:14:54] >> Steven Fisk here on the 17th tee. Currently plus-6. These guys still just making the turn. They have a lot of golf in front of them. OK.

[00:15:03] >> OK.

[00:15:04] >> OK. Plus-6 will quickly become plus-4.

[00:15:08] >> An ace at 17 for Stephen Fisk.

[00:15:15][Cheering and Applause]

[00:15:34] >> Harry Hall over at 4.

[00:15:37][Cheering and Applause]

[00:15:42] >> Castillo out of the bunker at the 1st.

[00:15:48] >> Bunker shot here at the par-5 1st. Oh, yeah. Now, we're talking. First non-par of the day is an eagle.

[00:16:07] >> Tom Kim for his birdie at 14. And that's perfect.

[00:16:10] >> That gets him to 6-under on the day.

[00:16:14] >> We'll go back to 16.

[00:16:21] >> And Scott, his go to shot is a high draw and trying to play a cut shot with a 7-iron.

[00:16:30][Applause]

[00:16:34] >> Up to the green now.

[00:16:39] >> Birdie for Adam Scott.

[00:16:46] >> Xander on the tee at 17.

[00:16:54] >> See if Xander can fit something into that back right corner.

[00:16:58] >> Well, that is a beautiful half fade right there.

[00:17:03] >> Second best shot we've seen here today.

[00:17:09] >> Schauffele moves to 4-under.

[00:17:13] >> Back to 17, and Adam Scott.

[00:17:16] >> This one's got to go here for Adam. Putting out of that fringe.

[00:17:21] >> He knows that.

[00:17:23] >> Yes, he did. That one just rattles into the flagstick.

[00:17:30] >> Hovland, 67, charges him up the board. He sits one shot back with Ryo Hisatsune and Ben An. The third round is next.

[00:17:45] >> From the Innisbrook Resort, which is seeing around like it hasn't seen in a while, Justin Thomas putting together the round of the week right now. The Copperhead Course coiled up, ready to strike. Probably a little bit upset right now at what just happened with Justin Thomas, who is now one shot off the lead. The winds are down, the temperature is up. Everything is ripe for a great day of scoring here on a wonderful moving day Saturday. Along with John MaGinnes on the course, Jay Townsend, who you already heard from, and Brendon de Jonge from Zimbabwe. I'm Brian Katrek. And it's a beautiful look down at this beautiful golf course, which has been the only host course in the 24 years that they've been playing here. The very first edition, John Huston won by three shots over Carl Paulson. We have continued to come here year in and year out. And watch the best players in the world get tested. Here's how it's gone so far today. Matti Schmid at the tough 8th. It's only 197 today. They're going to get it tomorrow.

[00:18:48] >> It's a tough hole location. Right in the front part of the green, narrow portion of the green. And no problem for Matti Schmid. That was a great shot. Going to be a tough green to hit.

[00:18:59] >> Patrick Fishburn, who went to the gym this morning, had this for birdie at 10.

[00:19:04] >> One of the early starters.

[00:19:07] >> Making hay while there was no wind.

[00:19:11] >> Matti Schmid shot 3-under par. Fishburn would make that one. And we told you all about Justin Thomas and the back nine that he had, started with this one for eagle at the 11th. At that point, he was 3-under par in the round. He would birdie the 12th, and then this on the tee at 13.

[00:19:29] >> Just an absolute beauty of an iron shot. He's been dialed in with the irons. That one takes a good look at the hole, just about off the sand. And that would be another birdie there at 13.

[00:19:40] >> That's 4-under in a three hole stretch. Jordan Spieth playing with them, trying to keep pace. Spieth not having a bad day either, as we just saw. Jordan Spieth would make that, get him to 3-under par on the round. And then, an innocuous drive here at 16. This is not always good, but the result was exceptional.

[00:19:59] >> Yeah, out of the long rough.

[00:20:01] >> Left of 16 pair. We got a good bounce off the shoulder of the bunker. And that led to, well, we'll call that a tap in on a day like this for Justin Thomas.

[00:20:11] >> It was a bounce back and he is 6-under par with one left for the round. Over at 15, the hole before the Snake Pit, it's Tommy Fleetwood for birdie.

[00:20:21] >> Beautiful putt there for Tommy. Needs a fast finish. Try and get himself back in this tournament.

[00:20:28] >> Just look at what this man has done today, Justin Thomas. He has found himself in this green side bunker though at 18, John.

[00:20:38] >> He's on a bit of an upslope. But I don't think he can see where he wants to land it. And oftentimes, when you have a shot like this and you can't see where you want to land it, end up coming up a bit short. This is also going to hit into a pretty severe slope, this green. From front to back has a lot of elevation change. This looks like pretty good shot though.

[00:21:04] >> He would make that for par.

[00:21:08][Applause]

[00:21:14] >> Back to 1.

[00:21:16] >> From short right on number 1 here for Ben An. Had a nice lie, and takes advantage of that good lie.

[00:21:25] >> An gets to 6-under.

[00:21:28] >> Back over to the 1st. And Ryo Hisatsune for birdie in the lead.

[00:21:33] >> Giving this one his full attention. Should go a little to his left.

[00:21:36] >> Lovely stroke there. Nice tempo to that.

[00:21:44] >> Viktor Hovland still has a putt for birdie here to tie for the lead.

[00:21:50] >> But certainly, outside 20 feet. Not the effort he was hoping from inside of 100 yards down there. It's slightly uphill. It'll work off the back of the green from his left to right.

[00:22:11] >> This looks pretty good. Yeah.

[00:22:13] >> Absolutely.

[00:22:14] >> It was a four all the way.

[00:22:16] >> Kevin Velo trying to add his name to the list here at 3.

[00:22:24] >> Realistically, just trying to get down in two from the front left corner of the third green. Very slow up the hill.

[00:22:35] >> Or just do that.

[00:22:37][Applause]

[00:22:43] >> To 2. Jacob Bridgeman to take the lead back.

[00:22:48] >> This is going to swing down to his left.

[00:22:58] >> Go over to the other side of the golf course. Find Tom Kim. Just knocked that in.

[00:23:11] >> Eleven, Kevin Yu, his third shot at the par-5 11th. And it's an eagle for Kevin Yu.

[00:23:21][Applause]

[00:23:28] >> Echavarria for birdie at 13. He moves to 5-under.

[00:23:37][Applause]

[00:23:41] >> Ben An trying to join Jeremy Paul at 7-under par.

[00:23:47] >> That's a nice up and down there.

[00:23:52] >> Here's Nico Echavarria over at 15 for birdie.

[00:23:59] >> Leaving the flag in that will bounce right in the middle. But it doesn't matter.

[00:24:07] >> Shane Lowry is two back.

[00:24:10] >> Very different ball flights. Lowry likes to move it left to right.

[00:24:19][Cheering and Applause]

[00:24:24] >> Tee at 17, Sam Ryder.

[00:24:27] >> Sam Ryder likes to move it left to right. This starts out on a good line. Oh, he switched it. Right in the bottom.

[00:24:39][Cheering and Applause]

[00:24:48] >> Let's go to 7, Ben An.

[00:24:50] >> Much quieter over here at number 7 for Ben An.

[00:24:54] >> An to 7-under par.

[00:24:59] >> But he's got to go into the Snake Pit. That's where Nico Echavarria is. This to put him at 7-under.

[00:25:05] >> Yeah. Good break from left to right to tie the lead.

[00:25:16] >> We haven't seen Ricky Castillo in a while. He's three shots back here at 12.

[00:25:23] >> Cut way in the back right corner of the green. Wind coming from the right.

[00:25:28] >> Castillo would make birdie.

[00:25:36] >> Right in the middle of the Snake Pit, we find Nico Echavarria here. He likes to move it left to right.

[00:25:44] >> He's one back.

[00:25:53] >> To 9.

[00:25:55] >> And we teed off that side, so we can go right at it.

[00:25:58] >> Yeah? All right.

[00:26:01] >> Dial it in.

[00:26:05] >> The weapon is the leader.

[00:26:09] >> You heard Justin York say dial it in. Trying to flight something down a little bit. Get it to this back right flag.

[00:26:17] >> And he may be patting the lead.

[00:26:27] >> Go to the tee at 8. And Viktor Hovland.

[00:26:31] >> That's a big 7-iron.

[00:26:41][Cheering and Applause]

[00:26:50] >> Seventeen, Echavarria for his birdie.

[00:26:54] >> Should have learnt a little something from Billy Horschel. And he learned a lot.

[00:27:03] >> Pulled a one shot back. I'd say everything is going to plan today for Viktor Hovland. Moving a little away from him, left to right.

[00:27:16][Cheering and Applause]

[00:27:24] >> Shane Lowry trying to keep the leaders within his sights here. This at the 10th.

[00:27:29] >> Second half of this putt, once it reaches that dark shading a little bit downhill and breaking from the right. About like that. He does make it look easy.

[00:27:51] >> Let's go over to 18, where that ball was just headed. Too far from where this one was. Echavarria.

[00:27:56] >> That's pretty good. We've seen some really poor lies on 18 today. Going up the hill.

[00:28:03] >> Back to 10. Free drop for Ben An, the leader, second shot.

[00:28:08] >> He's got a clean line here after missing the fairway.

[00:28:11] >> Back right hole location.

[00:28:14] >> Yeah, good shot. I mean, that was not a hard shot.

[00:28:20] >> Back up at 18 while they deliberate. Echavarria for 66.

[00:28:27] >> That was a good putt. He made it look easy. That wasn't an easy putt.

[00:28:36] >> Grillo is 3-under. That's five back. Jacob Bridgeman is all of a sudden four off the lead here in the fairway at the 10th. This is our final group of the day. And he's going to get one back here.

[00:28:56] >> Ricky Castillo here at 15, continues to hang around. Three shots out of that lead from long range.

[00:29:03] >> Just two behind now.

[00:29:07][Applause]

[00:29:17] >> Ben's third here at 11.

[00:29:19] >> Back in position now, 108 yards. And far enough back where he was able to spin that. Beautiful shot.

[00:29:32] >> So Ryo with that one, gets up to 5-under.

[00:29:37] >> We'll go back to 11. Our leader to pad the lead.

[00:29:44] >> This would be a little bit of an unlikely birdie after the tee shot. But not a difficult putt. Coming slightly down the hill. Doesn't break a whole lot. Continues to look very, very comfortable with that long putter.

[00:30:06] >> Thirteen, Xander Schauffele for birdie.

[00:30:09] >> Got to make one. And he does.

[00:30:18] >> He's done every method he knows. Trying to get a beat on this. I've got an inside left.

[00:30:28] >> It's a good spot to putt from. And it does it so perfectly. Good read. Matches up line and speed. And that's his third birdie of the day against no bogeys.

[00:30:41] >> Back over to 11. And Jacob Bridgeman for birdie. The final group try to strike back here, John.

[00:30:48] >> Indeed. This would be back to back birdies. He didn't have back to back hit greens in regulation on the front nine. He's like a bad penny. Just won't go away.

[00:31:02] >> That's exactly what you want out of the last group. The 13, Ryo Hisatsune.

[00:31:14] >> Just kind of hanging around. Going about his business very, very quietly. Beautiful putt there. Lovely read.

[00:31:27] >> Water in play on a lot of holes here, including the next one. Not really in play today. Bridgeman trying to stay within earshot of the lead here, John.

[00:31:37] >> I mean, he hasn't made a par since 7. You got to figure this is going in. right?

[00:31:44] >> This one's for birdie.

[00:31:45] >> Not an easy one. Quick one down the hill, going right.

[00:31:54] >> Putter continues to work for Jacob Bridgeman.

[00:31:57][Cheering and Applause]

[00:32:03] >> Hovland moves up a spot into a share of the lead. He'll contend with a stacked leaderboard for his seventh PGA Tour Victory. The final round is next.

[00:32:49] >> It's the most colorful stop on the PGA Tour, the paintbrush with the golf ball as the trophy, and some great names here in this 24th edition of the Valspar Championship. We've played them all right here, Copperhead Course, Innisbrook Resort. And this is why Palm Harbor, Florida this time of year is spectacular. Seventy-three degrees, the winds are calm. It is very scorable. Here's Thomas in the green.

[00:33:23] >> Pretty clean lie here at number 1. Shouldn't be too difficult for Justin Thomas. Well handled there.

[00:33:30] >> Thomas starts with birdie in the final round.

[00:33:33] >> Billy Horschel is not left-handed.

[00:33:36] >> Pretty good swing left handed, though.

[00:33:39] >> How about that shot at 5?

[00:33:43] >> You kidding me?

[00:33:45] >> Back to 1.

[00:33:51] >> Viktor Hovland with that big left to right breaker as well. Let's see if he learned something here.

[00:34:01] >> And that's a very important putt there for Viktor Hovland. You got to birdie the first hole.

[00:34:07] >> Let's go to 5.

[00:34:11] >> Well, this would be quite some birdie from Billy Horschel. We saw the left handed shot. Quick putt here.

[00:34:18] >> Come on. Oh, yeah. Oh, we got to ask him about that.

[00:34:24] >> One-seventy-five here today with a wind off the left, 170 to cover the front fringe. Great line. And a good shot. Excellent shot from Thomas.

[00:34:45][Applause]

[00:34:49] >> Take a look at the 5th, Ryo Hisatsune.

[00:34:53] >> Looking straight down the green. Trying to skip something back to this flagstick.

[00:35:00] >> Hisatsune moves to 6-under.

[00:35:03] >> And this is where you want to putt from. Going straight back up the hill. Doesn't have to worry about the speed. Doesn't break too much.

[00:35:11] >> This is Hovland to move this lead to two.

[00:35:22] >> Yeah. Perfect holing speed right there. And Viktor Hovland moves it to minus-9.

[00:35:27] >> Uh-oh.

[00:35:28] >> Justin Thomas probably needs to start making some of these to keep pace.

[00:35:43] >> What a show we're seeing here on Sunday.

[00:35:47][Cheering and Applause] Back at 4, Echavarria to 8-under.

[00:36:00] >> And just pours it right in there, Echavarria.

[00:36:07] >> Plenty of green to work with here. He can take this in a little low downwind if he wants, take a skip, get it to stop.

[00:36:21][Cheering and Applause]

[00:36:29] >> Hisatsune.

[00:36:30] >> Good approach shot in here. Very makeable look. And takes advantage of it. That moves Ryo just two behind the lead.

[00:36:40] >> Looking left. Should slide a little left to right. I was getting ready to say it lacked the pace, but it didn't.

[00:36:51] >> The hole collects it.

[00:36:56] >> Par-3 8th, Ryo Hisatsune.

[00:36:58] >> This is a tough lie right here. Uphill lie. Going to throw it up in the air quite a bit.

[00:37:05][Cheering and Applause]

[00:37:12] >> Justin Thomas trying to save par now at 7.

[00:37:16] >> Not an easy one here. There is a grain change right in the middle of this putt.

[00:37:23] >> Oh, yeah. With some emotion.

[00:37:29] >> Hisatsune.

[00:37:35] >> Just rams it in.

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

[00:37:45] >> From this angle, it gets a little bit light color just before the hole. So it's going to get slow and go left to right at the hole. Shades of the grain tell you so much.

[00:38:05] >> Our final group of the day is on the 8th. Jacob Bridgeman trying to get back in contention here. Oh, yeah.

[00:38:14] >> This guy just doesn't go away.

[00:38:18] >> Billy Horschel has this for birdie at 13.

[00:38:22] >> Trickling it down the hill. Beautifully done there for Billy Horschel.

[00:38:26] >> Cauley trying to save par at 16.

[00:38:29] >> Still a terrible line. Not much to work with for Bud. Are you kidding me?

[00:38:34] >> Back at 10. Viktor Hovland's part of this tie for the lead.

[00:38:41] >> Nice little uphill lie. Going to help him with that pitch shot. And wow, the hole helped a lot.

[00:38:52] >> Davis Riley's only one shot off the lead. Here is his third at the par-5 11th.

[00:38:57] >> Trying to throw his name in the hat right here.

[00:39:03] >> Now, Thomas third here at 11.

[00:39:06] >> Made a lot easier by the fact he's in the short cross.

[00:39:11] >> Thomas gets to 9-under.

[00:39:14] >> Billy Horschel has this to tie at 14.

[00:39:17] >> Quick putt down the fall line. Horschel pours it in the middle.

[00:39:24] >> The lead is up to nine, but Bud Cauley can make this. And there's eight. Great round for Bud Cauley, 5-under par 66.

[00:39:38] >> Hovland at 11.

[00:39:40] >> This is at it. He's asking for it to go. It almost listened.

[00:39:49] >> That's another one of those out of that first cut where it just came out a little bit spinny. Didn't get that full compression on the back of the ball, and he's going to need to draw a good lie there short of the green.

[00:39:58] >> Justin Thomas wanted it up in that fairway cut. He got it up and down. Viktor Hovland is not in that fairway cut.

[00:40:05] >> He's pointing at his goals, and they are usually lofty ones. This was the third for Justin Thomas at 11. It didn't go in, but it was enough to put him into the lead. And now, does he have to lean on that putter, or will the rest of his game get him all the way to the finish line? To 12.

[00:40:41] >> The wind has totally changed from 45 minutes ago. This is now into the breeze. This was downwind, left to right for most of the day. We saw a lot of balls releasing, hitting hard. I think it's going to land soft now into the wind.

[00:40:59] >> In the hole.

[00:41:03] >> Yeah, much different. Keep it blow the hole. Good look coming up for Thomas.

[00:41:13] >> This is Hovland to tie for the lead.

[00:41:17] >> Good look here for Hovland. And feeds it in there.

[00:41:25] >> This would get him to 10-under par.

[00:41:28] >> That's pretty claustrophobic. With so many people around, you don't want to be putting the same time somebody else is. Not much break in this one. Maybe a little from the right. It can be a little slow too. Give it plenty of hit. To be the first to get to double digits.

[00:41:43][Cheering and Applause]

[00:41:48] >> He's a man on a mission. Justin Thomas, 5-under today. Back in the lead alone again.

[00:41:57] >> You know, what a journey it is after to this point on Sunday.

[00:42:11] >> It's almost two reads, the first two feet and then the rest of it.

[00:42:24] >> Thomas playing his second at the par-5 14th.

[00:42:34] >> Would have been a much easier shot if been more in the left side of the fairway, but that wasn't the case. That's an excellent shot.

[00:42:43] >> Now, up to the green.

[00:42:47] >> I was just going to say Jay, if there's ever a time to chip one in.

[00:42:50] >> Oh, maybe. Just that close.

[00:42:59] >> He would tap in for birdie.

[00:43:07] >> Ryo Hisatsune here at 16.

[00:43:10] >> Not a great lie. He's going to have to run this up a little bit, I think. And he does. Gets a nice bounce. Gets it up there just beyond hole high.

[00:43:19][Cheering and Applause]

[00:43:25] >> All right, Johnny, what are you feeling?

[00:43:27] >> It's downhill, about 4 or 5 yards.

[00:43:39] >> That's just another exceptional iron shot. That would have been exactly where Justin Thomas was aiming that ball.

[00:43:48] >> Ryo Hisatsune has got to run the table here. This for birdie at 16.

[00:43:54] >> And he does run that one. Billy Horschel just eats these for lunch. You just don't expect that from Horschel.

[00:44:11] >> Justin's not quite as deep in the green as we've seen a lot of guys today. Let's see if he gets a little more influence from that shoulder off the bunker here.

[00:44:24] >> First guy to make the putt. Justin Thomas, he takes control of things at the moment, but the Snake Pit's coming.

[00:44:32] >> Has run out to a three shot lead.

[00:44:38] >> Just matches up line and speed beautifully there. Drops it over the front edge and --

[00:44:46] >> This is a huge putt here for Hovland. Downhill, right to left at 14 after being forced to lay up. And he walks it.

[00:44:52] >> The shots that Justin Thomas has hit at 16, and honestly, that third one may be the one that does him in here. It leads him to this spot, John. What do we think?

[00:45:05] >> I think the third one was by far the worst.

[00:45:14] >> Thomas would drop a shot.

[00:45:17] >> Twenty-two-year-old Ryo Hisatsune has a very good week here.

[00:45:26] >> Back to 16, and Hovland.

[00:45:28] >> This is a green light special for Viktor Hovland. A little bit of helping breeze from the right, but it's a back right hole location. Just suits his shot shape. I wouldn't be surprised to see him hit this close.

[00:45:42] >> One-eighty-six.

[00:45:45] >> He got it going right. Is it enough? It is. What a shot. Uh-oh. Looks like he's setting up left, John.

[00:46:05] >> Yeah. I mean, how good is that shot right there?

[00:46:15][Cheering and Applause]

[00:46:22] >> Hovland, who stuffed it in there at 16. Behind him, here's Jacob Bridgeman in the final group of the day at 15. This guy just won't stop.

[00:46:33] >> This to tie for the lead. A two shot swing to start the Snake Pit.

[00:46:49] >> Really a tough read. I mean, I don't think you can get the whole way. The hole is leaning to his right, but the ball feels like it's above his feet. Commit to straight.

[00:47:15] >> Nobody has been able to read that putt. We've seen it missed right and left.

[00:47:30] >> Even better. Exceptional shot. Can he be the first one to read that putt correctly?

[00:47:44] >> This is left, left of the bunkers.

[00:47:58] >> Putting into the slope there. You're going into that back corner where you're actually a little bit uphill. Hit it inside right and firm.

[00:48:05] >> I love the firm aspect. Take any type of little minute break out. He starts it inside the hole, he makes it.

[00:48:25] >> Hovland with back to back birdies, the first two holes of the Snake Pit. And he leads alone with one to play.

[00:48:34] >> Well, Justin Thomas would have heard that roar up in the 18th fairway. And he's going to know exactly what he's going to need to do as we take another look here. Had just enough speed to hold on to that left side.

[00:48:48] >> Just a beautiful two from Viktor Hovland.

[00:48:51] >> You know Hovland won the FedExCup. Last time he's won, tried to get better, went backwards. It looks like he's back.

[00:49:03] >> Looks like he's playing out to the right. He's got the strength and clubhead speed.

[00:49:07] >> They just couldn't do it. That's going to just barely get into the front of that bunker.

[00:49:15] >> That's a wicked bunker shot.

[00:49:19] >> Only good news about this is you have to hit such a hard bunker shot that it's going to have spin on it when it lands. So it's doable. It's longer than you normally practice, but he could pull this off. Ball start a little farther left than you're thinking. Just because it's a different angle.

[00:49:57] >> All the way across the hole.

[00:50:00] >> Like he hit the putt he was trying to hit.

[00:50:02] >> Bogey at the last for Justin Thomas. He bogeys 16 and 18, still shoots 5-under par today.

[00:50:12][Applause] Now, Viktor Hovland.

[00:50:20] >> Bogey's going to be enough.

[00:50:22] >> Yeah. Don't bury it in the front bunker. Right is the miss, if you're not going to get it on the green.

[00:50:28] >> That's from 164, that uphill lie.

[00:50:32] >> Got it cleanly out of the trees. And that was the right miss.

[00:50:41] >> Well, he's so good. I think a lot of people don't realize how good this man is, OK? Even when he's not at his best, even when he's being hard on himself, he's still better than most. And this right here, he gets this -- he doesn't have to get it up and down, OK? Get it on the green, two putt, make your five. No one cares how you finish, OK? All that matters is who wins. Five is a winning score, OK?

[00:51:12] >> Hovland only needs to find the green and two putt for the Valspar Championship.

[00:51:27] >> Viktor Hovland's third at 18. Five will win it. And that is probably going to be enough.

[00:51:34] >> That was far from an easy pitch off a downslope into a bank. And, you know, he knew all he had to do was get it on the green. It wasn't time to be a hero. Try and play something right up next to the hole. Get down in three from where he was, and he's a winner.

[00:51:55] >> Two putts to win.

[00:52:04] >> He's got it a cup out on the right.

[00:52:12] >> Perfect.

[00:52:14] >> He's going to wait. Oh, yes, he is. He's going to wait and soak it all in.

[00:52:20][Cheering and Applause] Viktor Hovland taps it in. A bogey at the last, but a 67. And 11-under par looks good enough to win the Valspar Championship.

[00:52:37] >> This concludes the PGA Tour's coverage of the Valspar Championship from the Innisbrook Resort, Copperhead Course in Palm Harbor, Florida.