

Production Transcript for REWIND_26TRAVELERS_HOVLAND

[00:00:24.719]>>The PGA TOUR is proud to bring you.

[00:00:28.440]>>The season-long race for the FedExCup.

[00:00:32.250]>>Now coverage of the 2026 Travelers Championship.

[00:00:40.709]>>A summertime stop in New England dating back to 1952. It's the 26th event of 2026 PGA TOUR Season and the eighth and final Signature Event on the calendar here at TPC River Highlands. Nine of the top 10 players in the FedExCup standings are here, along with eight of the top 10 in the world golf rankings.

[00:01:03.450]>>84 degrees right now, exceptional scoring on day 17 under is the best score going. Eric Cole atop the leaderboard. Rookie of the Year on the tour a few seasons back opens with a 63 today to set the pace. Matt Fitzpatrick continuing his high level of play, as part of a pack of players just a shot back right now. Aaron Rai, the winner of the PGA Championship just a month ago with a 65.

[00:01:32.440]>>And a good looking leaderboard shaping up some of the highlights from earlier today, including this beauty from the leader Eric Cole from off the green at 13. Chipping for eagle. Just had it on a rope here and in she drops.

[00:01:48.440]>>Absolutely perfect.

[00:01:51.940]>>Then on the par 4 17th, this one down the hill, gently moving left.

[00:01:58.720]>>Perfect speed.

[00:02:06.199]>>Echavarria over to the 11th, 162, plays downhill, tough pin this back right pin, hard to get to.

[00:02:14.960]>>Come on now.

[00:02:17.589]>>No, not for this man, dead aim, lovely shot.

[00:02:22.050]>>That's a a champion earlier this season in South Florida on the PGA TOUR, Ben Griffin at the 4th early in his round.

[00:02:33.029]>>Perfect weight with that one. It's a move to minus 2 coming off his breakout season of a year ago, and it's been a wonderful 2026 for Matt Fitzpatrick. Oh, it certainly has, and this for birdie at the second hole. This is a.

[00:02:46.940]>>Short par 4 that the players expect the birdie, so a nice start for Matthew.

[00:02:52.910]>>15, Large drivable par 4. Yeah, love a drivable par 4, and look at the shape, he's shaping it to that back right pin.

[00:03:00.899]>>Or front right pin I should say, and absolutely superb, wanted nothing to do with the water down the left and,

[00:03:07.330]>>Lovely eagle chance for him. Reitan the winner of the Signature Event just a month ago at Quail Hollow in Charlotte at the Truist Championship. Brian Harman, feisty competitor, he was a couple under when he came to the 17th.

[00:03:24.970]>>And he would leave the 17th at 4 under par.

[00:03:30.600]>>Shot of the day delivered by the former champion golfer of the Year, Brian Harman, 63, matching the low career opening round score for Eric Cole.

[00:03:45.350]>>It was the oldest winner of the Rookie of the Year award a few seasons ago since Todd Hamilton in 2004, the year that Todd won The Open Championship.

[00:03:59.000]>>Out to the 6th and 2nd on the way for Scheffler.

[00:04:03.550]>>The par 5.

[00:04:05.850]>>276 to the hole.

[00:04:09.570]>>Just trying to get a little glimpse of it that crawls up onto the putting surface and

[00:04:15.970]>>Probably running at 30 ft for eagle.

[00:04:25.880]>>Corey Connors working from off the green here at 7, put some air underneath that one.

[00:04:35.559]>>Superb. Elite ball striker, the Canadian, when the short game cooperates, he's usually a factor.

[00:04:43.600]>>Up to 18, and here's Jonathan Vegas. Big tee shot, 112 yards left.

[00:04:52.100]>>Just a little touchy-feely with the wedge.

[00:04:57.440]>>Nice.

[00:05:03.079]>>Off to the 8th and Justin Rose to push it to 2 under. Uh, just the perfect spot to putt from on this par 3 back up the hill.

[00:05:14.899]>>Just a few feet for the Vegas birdie here at 18.

[00:05:21.149]>>Nice little bounce back after the bogeys at 6 and 7, coming home in 33.

[00:05:26.690]>>To the 9th and 2nd to come here for Viktor Hovland.

[00:05:33.209]>>Yeah, just 127, gotta watch out for the spin.

[00:05:38.500]>>Yes, nice, really good judgment.

[00:05:41.559]>>One of the signature winners from this season at the Arnold Palmer Invitation, Akshay Bhatia.

[00:05:48.529]>>Yeah, that was really nicely done, that looked like a very hefty lie. Good club head speed, controlled it nicely.

[00:06:00.290]>>Nice little run through the teeth at the golf course there, picking up 6 birdies.

[00:06:06.149]>>Sam Burns for birdie at the 7th.

[00:06:10.399]>>Oh, lovely. Effortless.

[00:06:15.779]>>Now just a chance to make the turn in 3 under, tiny bit of just fall at the end, from the left, oh just bolted in.

[00:06:24.350]>>Yeah, he does well, doesn't he, 45 year old playing some of the best golf of his life.

[00:06:37.040]>>Wow.

[00:06:38.660]>>That's not supposed to happen. That was an aberration. That was rude.

[00:06:46.220]>>Scottie Scheffler, 2nd shot, just 14 3. Go. Go. Has he popped it a bit.

[00:06:53.850]>>that's a poor shot. For the rest of us we'd be quite pleased.

[00:07:00.000]>>A man generally lives a flag high. Here's the Hovland birdie putt on its way at 11.

[00:07:09.890]>>Well, nicely done, bolted in, that's the 11th birdie here of the day, so they are getting some and there's those guys rowing away, they've seen right hand, they've now gone out to see Viktor play.

[00:07:22.019]>>This one back on 8, he'd really like to make this one.

[00:07:27.670]>>There you go, that's more like it.

[00:07:30.649]>>And a cruise to the turn in 4 under.

[00:07:35.869]>>J.T. Poston really has.

[00:07:39.170]>>Found his best version of his game over the last few weeks, winner of the memorial tournament, a factor last week, and he does that a lot. Bolts him into the red.

[00:07:49.720]>>Yeah, poor start, come back strong.

[00:07:52.959]>>Whole location right on the front.

[00:07:56.670]>>Birdie put in 25 ft and just rattles it home.

[00:08:01.820]>>So he moves to -4.

[00:08:04.829]>>We jumped to 11 with Scottie in the bunker. Is there any magic here?

[00:08:10.880]>>Nice.

[00:08:12.559]>>A nice up-and-down.

[00:08:19.250]>>And here's Clark on the tee at 11.

[00:08:23.739]>>Oh, that might be it.

[00:08:30.519]>>I don't know who it was. Somebody called it. Yeah, beautiful. You heard Wyndham say didn't you, that might be it, what a, what a shot.

[00:08:39.359]>>Fleetwood at 11.

[00:08:43.510]>>Awfully straight this punt. Go on, go on. Straight in.

[00:08:50.010]>>Now over to Rose at 13 for birdie.

[00:08:55.859]>>Gets him to 5 under and 2 back of the lead. Something about that part he didn't like, even though he holed it, he still wasn't happy. Big smile now.

[00:09:04.489]>>Andrew Novak, long way from the target at 16.

[00:09:10.059]>>You can see it go through a little bit of a low area. Boy, is this perfect for speed and line.

[00:09:15.950]>>How about that Putt?

[00:09:18.200]>>Never a doubt

[00:09:21.729]>>Let's go to 14. Rose looking to keep it rolling here.

[00:09:26.450]>>About twice the length that we saw Cauley make his, but it must be a pretty easy putt to read because they are absolutely filling it up from that side of the hole. Slow putt up the hill at 16 for Connors.

[00:09:41.109]>>Overall, very little movement.

[00:09:45.450]>>Oh, well done.

[00:09:49.909]>>After round one, Eric Cole is your leader with the pack nipping at his heels. What a day in Cromwell, Connecticut.

[00:09:58.840]>>Round 2 is next.

[00:10:10.909]>>Second round of the Travelers Championship, high drama unfolding at TPC River Highlands. World number 1, Scottie Scheffler on the precipice of recording the 16th sub 60 round in PGA TOUR history. 26 ft away for birdie and a round of 59. Gary Christian is down there to help describe the scene at 18. It's a pretty special scene, John, there's sort of there's, feels like a 1000 people just collectively holding their breath.

[00:10:40.340]>>You get a sense they may be trying to whirl this one, not much break to this, up hill all the way. Let's see if Scottie can do something magical.

[00:10:55.789]>>Not to be, a little late movement toward the hole, but it'll be a par at the last and a scintillating round of 60 for the world number 1 who delivered something.

[00:11:07.429]>>Truly special today and uh Billy Cratcher, he does it time and again every time he tees it up, this man. He certainly does, and uh we certainly received a sample of where his game was yesterday in the opening round, and then it was a continuance today in the second round.

[00:11:25.210]>>Started his day with a bang here. Birdie at the opening hole from just outside 12 ft.

[00:11:33.239]>>2024 champion here loves this place and understands the recipe, stack up the birdies and he would grab another one at 5. Yeah, you've gotta put well if you're gonna do it, aren't you haven't you, so pops one in, just ran it in the front door.

[00:11:54.320]>>This is a shot at the par 38.

[00:11:58.049]>>Playing 200 yards today and.

[00:12:03.039]>>Pretty much flag high once again with an iron.

[00:12:07.849]>>Dirty putt at the 10th year. This is a good read. A lot of people, a lot of players won't, won't factor in that much break. Good job by Scottie. Best putter in the field today, Lord, to no surprise. Yeah, but they would look at the pace they were going in, it's so lovely to see after the struggles last week, a lot of these players out on the greens, they're enjoying this.

[00:12:28.640]>>145 ft of putts converted along the way and that one got everyone's attention at 15, but then watched the tee shot at 16, set him up for another year. Yeah, big money tee shot, hole location front right, and as Laura said, perfect speed, perfect line.

[00:12:46.440]>>Wow.

[00:12:48.309]>>Missed the green at 17, but managed to get it up-and-down, and then this was the birdie putt at 18 for a slice of history.

[00:12:56.849]>>Yeah, just a little wide but good fairway bunker shot.

[00:13:03.820]>>Pretty tidy 36 holes, Swanny. Yeah. Yesterday was his 83rd bogey-free round on the PGA TOUR, and with that slip up today, still had a run at shooting 59 and breaking that magic number for the second time in his career, and he has zoomed to the top of the leaderboard at 16-under with a two-shot lead on day two here in Hartford.

[00:13:29.140]>>Let's show you how Viktor Hovland got it around in '61 today. It was a blemish free day that started with an effort drive at the first. Yeah, he's really hit that one hard, hasn't he, trying to get it way up in the air, land it as soft as he can. Lands it on a sixpence.

[00:13:48.580]>>He.

[00:13:50.429]>>Birdied the 1st and the 2nd, he was just getting going. He got 5 of the opening six, in fact. Really good tee shot, looking right down at the flagstick from 156 yards and.

[00:14:02.960]>>3 holes in a row where he's hit it right inside 10 ft.

[00:14:09.440]>>Then the 4th

[00:14:13.010]>>I'm kind of thinking everyone's birdieing 4.

[00:14:18.960]>>And then a string of pars after shooting 30 on the front nine, till he came to 13, had a look at an eagle here.

[00:14:28.380]>>A little Bo English to help coach that one in. 2nd best putter in the field today, only Scottie Scheffler was better on the greens. Yeah, this at 15, just from behind the hole, a little left to right, and at that point he was just seeing nothing but nets, so another birdie.

[00:14:46.479]>>And the last birdie of the round, coming here at 16. Come on.

[00:14:51.419]>>row another one in.

[00:14:57.520]>>Over 100 ft of putts converted for Viktor Hovland on the way to that beautiful round of 61 today, and he's gonna secure a late tee time, perhaps the final pairing of the day on Saturday.

[00:15:12.719]>>Let's go to 16. Denny McCarthy has to play 162. Yeah, I think you're gonna see a lot of action here on this par 3, as you said, 162, really no win. Oh.

[00:15:26.320]>>There's your action.

[00:15:31.530]>>Matt Fitzpatrick playing with Justin Thomas. They're early in the round after the 4th.

[00:15:38.770]>>Good par 4. It moves gently from left to right.

[00:15:43.429]>>This is an excellent work.

[00:15:47.159]>>Um, stepping that one in. Opened with 64 yesterday, already with 3 wins under his belt this season.

[00:15:55.599]>>Cole, a little tangled up, all 14 green.

[00:15:59.130]>>Yes, be a little careful right there going straight down the hill.

[00:16:03.859]>>Catching that right side of the cup took a lot of speed off of it.

[00:16:08.169]>>Back at 11, Patrick Cantlay. 160, lovely pin this, especially for the right handers just let it drift down the hill at the pin.

[00:16:16.849]>>Oh

[00:16:18.190]>>Very nice.

[00:16:21.539]>>Now Reitan at the 4th.

[00:16:25.549]>>You can see he lined up left, trying to get this shot to drift a little bit to the right. Oh yeah.

[00:16:32.080]>>Yesterday, the 4th hole, the most difficult.

[00:16:36.179]>>Not so today. Over to Brian Harman to get to 5 under. He's going to give Reitan a slight read. Taking advantage of the good iron shot.

[00:16:46.219]>>A little bit different angle, but certainly not a mystery inside left.

[00:16:53.340]>>Good looking young player, this 28 year old from Oslo, who won twice on the DP World Tour a season ago.

[00:17:00.710]>>Funky one here for Thomas, just a little bit of an awkward stance here for Justin.

[00:17:07.229]>>Tough to get it all the way back there.

[00:17:12.800]>>You know, he's one of the best in the game.

[00:17:16.438]>>Now Thomas to clean up for birdie and get to 3 under.

[00:17:28.520]>>All right, we're at 14 here. Here comes a birdie putt for Shane Lowry. Oh, what a putt it is.

[00:17:36.280]>>Rattles home

[00:17:39.949]>>Now MacIntyre, first time we've seen the Scotsman today, and a little chip and run on the par 5. Go on, go on, yes, there you go. Well, he's forcing his way in there. Superb round of golf.

[00:17:56.349]>>Lowry for 3 straight.

[00:17:59.050]>>Moving a little bit to the right. There you go.

[00:18:03.599]>>Now over to Matt Fitzpatrick on the par 4 10th, 181 yards.

[00:18:10.979]>>Ah, what a gorgeous swing that was. Best swing he's had in a few holes, that's for sure.

[00:18:16.160]>>Beauty. Great swing again.

[00:18:19.319]>>I mean, that's inside 4 ft.

[00:18:24.500]>>Echavarria just plopping one onto the green there at 14. That was clever. Yes it was, pretty special.

[00:18:32.979]>>Very fancy work from Nico. Perfectly done.

[00:18:37.979]>>Now Shane loves to move the ball to the flag, so he might try and hit a cheeky little cut in here.

[00:18:46.670]>>Oh, it's delicious.

[00:18:49.489]>>The big man's rolling now.

[00:18:53.069]>>Maybe the best iron strike we have seen from Fitzpatrick, and he's in good shape to get to 9 under here.

[00:19:01.430]>>It's a green light day out there, isn't it?

[00:19:04.859]>>Shane Lowry steaming for home today, he's birdied his last 4 as he deals with the 18.

[00:19:12.079]>>A lot of good bunker shots, fairway bunker shots.

[00:19:16.719]>>And you can add that one to the list.

[00:19:20.359]>>Let's go over to the 15th and see what Hideki's gotten himself into.

[00:19:25.010]>>It's gonna jump heavily left on him, but this is absolutely superbly played. Oh wow. Imagination at its best. And Billy's got up and clapped him in the cos box there, that's how good that was. Standing ovation. That was unbelievably good, look at the smile on his face.

[00:19:43.969]>>Fitzpatrick just off the edge at 12.

[00:19:50.510]>>You got an outside look here for the birdie.

[00:19:54.199]>>Oh, don't you dare.

[00:19:59.750]>>Little brother back at 16 looking for a 2.

[00:20:03.079]>>Yeah, trying to get something on the last 3 holes, and that's a nice start.

[00:20:09.939]>>We're off to the 17th, and Hideki Matsuyama's found a little something deep in the round here. He'll only have eyes for this pin.

[00:20:21.170]>>Yeah, lovely shot.

[00:20:26.540]>>And there's another one for Matsuyama at 17. How about this finish in the works here? Finishing with a wet sail, he'd like one more, wouldn't he?

[00:20:36.089]>>No Ludvig, he's got a very good chance of getting this closer in the fairway, nice high ball flight.

[00:20:44.560]>>Nice.

[00:20:46.829]>>A beautiful shot sets up Birdie.

[00:20:51.619]>>Now Justin Thomas on 14. This is his 3rd shot on the par 4. It's got chipping written all over it.

[00:20:59.390]>>Good man.

[00:21:06.000]>>High above the 15th as Fitzpatrick gets back to work.

[00:21:10.310]>>Just in front of the green now at 15 for Fitzpatrick. Boy, this man chips took that one in really low, kind of like that tee shot on the last hole.

[00:21:20.260]>>Beautiful.

[00:21:24.869]>>Very classy.

[00:21:31.619]>>Good for a share of 3rd place at 12 under.

[00:21:42.969]>>Good 2nd shot for Aaron.

[00:21:45.449]>>and finally converts to birdie.

[00:21:50.209]>>First one to solve the puzzle on that putt, it's a 68 for the PGA champion.

[00:22:00.719]>> Kristoffer Reitan, he's got plenty of power, and this is on a sensational line.

[00:22:06.689]>>And he's landed in

[00:22:09.160]>> Schauffele's did it, come on, let's have the one. Lovely shot.

[00:22:16.239]>>That's what we wanted, yeah, look, not bad, I'll take that.

[00:22:25.290]>>And this is just the wedge here for Matt.

[00:22:28.660]>>Once again, 145, a little bit of a backstop, long and right here that he can use.

[00:22:36.410]>>Exactly where it's headed to, get a little check from there.

[00:22:41.989]>>That'll work.

[00:22:44.180]>>He would make par

[00:22:47.229]>>Kris Reitan and chance for an eagle from just beyond the hole.

[00:22:55.729]>>He would settle for birdie.

[00:23:00.449]>>And after a very gettable day, Scottie Scheffler leads by 2, but with the likes of Hovland, Bhatia, and Fitzpatrick lurking, moving days should give us some fireworks. Round 3 is next.

[00:23:20.410]>>Back at TPC River Highlands, which has been under serious duress this week, especially on Friday when preferred lies were in effect and they absolutely took this place apart. Scottie Scheffler came within a whisker of breaking 60 for the second time in his PGA TOUR career. And at 16 under par, Scheffler, who sets the pace by 2 as we start the day here and start the weekend. Another glorious early summer stop here.

[00:23:49.449]>> Hovland to start his afternoon.

[00:23:55.089]>>3rd best putter in the field this week. How about that start for Hovland, Perfectly played opening hole.

[00:24:06.229]>>Now, Bhatia up at the green, straight back up the hill.

[00:24:12.989]>>Easy looking putt. He makes it look easy. Birdie birdie start, up to 14. What a weapon that club has been the last couple of seasons for the 24-year-old.

[00:24:24.910]>>To the 3rd

[00:24:26.979]>>Gorgeous opportunity. Gap wedge.

[00:24:36.510]>>There you go. Beemer is spot on, he's gonna open his account and start moving further under par.

[00:24:46.500]>>First cut of rough for Viktor.

[00:24:48.579]>>Yeah 2 yards closer. Also got gap wedge.

[00:24:52.969]>>Gonna hit a lot higher, that's for sure.

[00:24:57.660]>>Looks very much in control of things in the early going here.

[00:25:03.839]>>Kurt Kitayama's ready over here at 8.

[00:25:07.959]>>This par 3, 206 yards. Looks like he tried to maybe save that a little bit, but.

[00:25:15.569]>>Let's go

[00:25:17.839]>>Oh, that close to an ace.

[00:25:23.270]>>Hovland to join Scheffler at the top for the moment.

[00:25:32.650]>>Mm, there's another for Viktor. Dream start to the weekend.

[00:25:37.500]>>He's feeling it.

[00:25:39.599]>>His fans are loving it.

[00:25:43.949]>>Now Scottie for his birdie.

[00:25:50.180]>>All right, Scottie has opened the account, 1st birdie of the afternoon. 2 on the card for Hovland.

[00:25:57.579]>>Now we'll uh catch up with Cantlay. He's over at the 7th. Lovely shot into this back pin and straight in the middle.

[00:26:06.060]>>Maybe he's gonna be the man from outside, the leaders that can post a number to get interesting on Sunday.

[00:26:13.520]>>I've seen a few putts from this vicinity today at the 4th.

[00:26:18.209]>>Well, he makes this. That'll be 3 of the 1st 4.

[00:26:23.920]>>There you go.

[00:26:26.050]>>It's a hot, hot start for Hovland.

[00:26:33.290]>>Lowry's left it in a good spot underneath the hole at 16. Seems like every player's made it from here, Laura.

[00:26:40.650]>>And there's another one, it's automatic.

[00:26:44.349]>>Akshay Bhatia with a 3 under par round going through his opening 7, got the par 3 8th ahead of him to deal with.

[00:26:57.739]>>Keep it a little short of the flag. Oh, almost jumped in the hole. Almost jumped in.

[00:27:09.760]>>Didn't seen much of Matt today, this to get to 12 under. And he's putting well, these are automatic.

[00:27:17.010]>>Yeah, they have seemed automatic this year en route to those 3 Viktories.

[00:27:23.089]>>You know, Bhatia.

[00:27:24.869]>>Par 38

[00:27:27.319]>>Beautiful iron shot to here. Beautiful pluck.

[00:27:32.140]>>Moves it to -16. What a start, he's birdied half of the opening eight.

[00:27:40.770]>>Here's Keegan, our defending champion here this week.

[00:27:48.150]>>How about a 2 at 15. Here we go.

[00:27:53.290]>>Chelsea in the nick of time for the gallery, that's a horrible start to his day, turning in 37, but turning it round on this back nine.

[00:28:04.189]>>Back at 10, and Viktor has left himself a bunch here to keep the card clean.

[00:28:11.109]>>That is a really, really poor bogey. First slip up of the day and uh Scheffler's gonna exit 10 Green with the lead if he can handle his par putt coming up there.

[00:28:25.630]>>But again, you hate to see somebody mess almost on the exact line.

[00:28:32.430]>>Inside left's all it is.

[00:28:40.599]>>Couple of bogeys at the 10th for the final pairing.

[00:28:45.790]>>I did not see even par through 10 holes for Scottie Scheffler.

[00:28:53.079]>>This is an awkward one for for Viktor, cos his, his sand wedge goes 123, his gap wedge 136, and it's playing at about 128, although the actual number is 142.

[00:29:04.780]>>OK.

[00:29:06.579]>>Yeah, definitely.

[00:29:08.729]>>trying to land, correct, yeah, exactly.

[00:29:12.109]>>Oh, it's nicely done, it really is and.

[00:29:17.160]>>Yeah, the same exact club here for Scottie.

[00:29:20.699]>>Take me up.

[00:29:25.660]>>That's a good looking line as well, and that's gonna be even closer and.

[00:29:31.989]>>You were looking for a little spark, Swanny?

[00:29:35.329]>>He may have gotten it. We may have just found one here at the 11th.

[00:29:44.540]>>Rose coming out of the intermediate cutback at 14.

[00:29:48.829]>>They liked it in the air.

[00:29:51.050]>>Now he's really gonna like it with that little bit of release.

[00:29:54.959]>>He would make birdie

[00:29:59.310]>>All right, now the chance for Hovland to get him going here.

[00:30:05.640]>>And straight in

[00:30:12.209]>>A proper bounce back, bogey at 10, birdie at 11.

[00:30:20.130]>>And there should not be anything in this one either, but it all must be done, and I promise you, this one goes in, there's gonna be a lot of USA chants.

[00:30:32.270]>>You know you love a good USA chant, Laura, come on.

[00:30:38.770]>>Yeah, a pair of 2s after those 5s back at the 10.

[00:30:49.849]>>Galla taking absolute dead aim.

[00:30:54.619]>>Thank you very much.

[00:30:57.170]>>Now to the 13th.

[00:31:03.349]>>Back up the hill, right to left, it's right-handed, you love this look.

[00:31:12.780]>>You're not gonna waste it.

[00:31:15.790]>>In she goes, 11 and 13. Birdie's tucked away for Scheffler.

[00:31:25.699]>>Certainly Viktor has put it very well this week, and this seems to have his full attention, he knows the importance of it.

[00:31:35.819]>>Mm, with authority too, just wrapped it in there.

[00:31:40.660]>>Very similar pattern for both of these players since the turn. Both bogey the 10th, birdie the 11th, and the 13th.

[00:31:50.520]>>Go to Cantlay at 18, this for another birdie.

[00:31:56.040]>>And he does push it to -15.

[00:31:59.060]>>Finally someone made that putt. No one's made that putt.

[00:32:05.369]>>Back to 14 though, just 87 yards and this should be danced around the hole.

[00:32:12.550]>>No tree trouble whatsoever.

[00:32:17.869]>>Mm

[00:32:19.780]>>You are so correct, Beamer.

[00:32:22.910]>>That's gonna be

[00:32:24.890]>>Another birdie for Scottie and.

[00:32:29.510]>>To the 15th.

[00:32:35.420]>>He has to maintain the speed.

[00:32:38.640]>>Right up on the green, a little spin in it.

[00:32:47.130]>>So many before have cutted from there and not done well, that was beautiful from Scottie.

[00:32:52.869]>>He would make birdie.

[00:33:00.000]>>Now Hovland playing his 2nd.

[00:33:08.439]>>He would make a birdie of his own.

[00:33:19.329]>>Let's go to the green now and Cole to birdie for the last 60, how about it, oh.

[00:33:25.739]>>What's that, 5 of the last 7?

[00:33:28.969]>>Nice fight back after a, a sluggish start to the day and an opening nine without a birdie made the turn in 37 and just came storming home.

[00:33:39.810]>>That's a sand wedge again, hit it long and right.

[00:33:43.099]>>I get that thing to spin back below the hole.

[00:33:53.800]>>Perfectly played.

[00:34:02.010]>>Let's see if Scottie can get it in at 20 under here.

[00:34:10.229]>>Mm.

[00:34:14.709]>>67 on the heels of nearly making history yesterday.

[00:34:26.418]>>To take the lead into Sunday.

[00:34:35.510]>>Bang

[00:34:39.370]>>And they're up on their feet.

[00:34:44.209]>>What a performance from Hovland capping off at 64 with 3 at the last.

[00:34:51.979]>>The Norwegian has eyes on his 8th PGA TOUR title as he sits atop the leaderboard at 20 under par. The final round is next.

[00:35:05.379]>>We are here and we are playing for history and we're playing for the players that came before us.

[00:35:11.199]>>I've worked since I was 2 or 3 years old to have a chance to play professional golf for a living. The, the guys that win the most, they're in contention so much, they're up there all the time. That's where I want to be.

[00:35:38.189]>>We've been greeted by another gorgeous weather day here in New England, and this golf course has been under serious duress this week. The scoring has been exceptional, a sea of red numbers and scores in the, the low 60s. In fact, a 60 for Scottie Scheffler on Friday to put himself in the hunt to win here for a 2nd time.

[00:36:01.669]>>Glad to have your company. I'm John Swantek, Billy Kratzert, former champion in Hartford, is here. Dame Laura Davies, World Golf Hall of Famer along as well. Rich Beem, Gary Christian on the course for us today for the final round here.

[00:36:19.169]>>Get things started at the 2nd here with Collin Morikawa.

[00:36:26.229]>>He gets to 13 under.

[00:36:32.189]>>We jump ahead to the par 3/5th with Morikawa putting for birdie.

[00:36:43.889]>>Just another putt made. Yeah, nothing to it.

[00:36:50.709]>>Bhatia at 2, just 91 yards, nice little backstop you can use here. Oh here it comes. This is beautiful right here. We'll probably lead to a birdie. All of a sudden Bhatia will get to -16.

[00:37:06.120]>>Matt Fitzpatrick pitching this one back at the 4th.

[00:37:09.840]>>Oh, he's just so good with this method. He's just so good.

[00:37:23.000]>>So the 3rd

[00:37:25.669]>>Fairly straight putt here.

[00:37:29.489]>>Opportunity, good pace.

[00:37:34.659]>>Look back to yesterday, got off to the quick start, Laura. Yep, clever, clever play there as well. Gary highlighted it, couldn't go at the pin, didn't get frustrated, left himself a chance, good stuff.

[00:37:46.649]>>And this is just what the chasers needed, and this man is the man that's trying to hunt them down. This for an impressive front nine. Go on reach, reach, 50 at the turn, he's turned in 30.

[00:38:00.909]>>You never know, it's a funny old game, this.

[00:38:06.290]>>Back to the 4th with Scheffler putting for birdie.

[00:38:11.090]>>I had this thing kind of move in both directions, where Ted Scott was pointing out, I need to get my eyes checked again.

[00:38:19.540]>>And I just paid a lot of money to get new lenses put in last year.

[00:38:26.189]>>Does it, does it shift any to the right? Yeah, I mean, it looks like it initially goes right, but it looks like the last couple of feet, you know, it looks like it wants to come back to the left. I had it maybe just outside the left edge.

[00:38:40.800]>>Much-needed Beamer, I'm gonna tell you, that was a heck of a read. That was spot on.

[00:38:48.590]>>both of these greens are soft enough where especially if we get it on that up end of the bunker, it's not the end of the world. Oh, I love the aggression here. You can get just enough on the back of it.

[00:39:01.110]>>In the front of it, it's pretty gnarly and the stance is not doing him a whole lot of favors, but

[00:39:06.489]>>I just, I mean, this is exactly the club I thought he'd be taking, try and take this hybrid out and just gouge it through that.

[00:39:13.209]>>That hay in front of them and just give her a rip.

[00:39:22.030]>>Oh man. Oh boy, that came out horrible. It is out to the right.

[00:39:27.959]>>Fans sprinting for the golf ball, look at that, go get it, guys. Hm, very dodgy start for this man right here, just trying to get things on track at the par 5, but working hard. Hovland working hard at 6.

[00:39:41.820]>>And 129, not a very good lie. Trying to get a gap wedge out of here and then it came out flat, soft. He would make bogey from there and drops to 18 under to 7. Scheffler up near the lip here. Yeah, 153, 141 front. That's kind of the number he's looking for, and this is a pitching wedge trying to max this thing out.

[00:40:04.699]>>Decent contact, but I don't think it's gonna get there. OK, yeah, good job. It's really good out of that line.

[00:40:16.100]>>Viktor, he has taken his time looking at this one. He is trying to dial this one, and this is pretty straightforward. You gotta believe he's gonna scare the hole somehow here. He's been a little aggressive with chips around the green.

[00:40:31.659]>>Nice one, aggressive as well. He just didn't carry it far enough. He hit the downslope and shot it forward. He would make bogey, dropping to 19 under.

[00:40:43.590]>>For the first birdie of the round here.

[00:40:46.870]>>And almost kind of feel like you need it. Give yourself just a little bit of spark.

[00:40:52.729]>>After that bogey at the par 5.

[00:40:57.820]>>Any momentum

[00:40:59.540]>>Wouldn't be a welcome sign.

[00:41:06.979]>>There it is.

[00:41:09.199]>>And his fans are gonna enjoy that one, the Norwegian shirts.

[00:41:20.239]>>145 for Hofland.

[00:41:26.229]>>Viktor, can he birdie this?

[00:41:39.850]>>Now 12

[00:41:47.310]>>Oh, Fitzpatrick, oh, Laura said, watch out.

[00:41:53.610]>>Gotta get it to 18 under. Fitzpatrick is about to be within 1.

[00:41:59.139]>>And Hovland with a chance for a share.

[00:42:02.340]>>Yeah, pretty good chance at that. Just, uh,

[00:42:05.510]>>14 ft, 2 inches away, which shot length is just, it's gotta be just outside the left edge, depending on pace.

[00:42:25.939]>>There you go, Viktor.

[00:42:28.209]>>Well I think if you'd have told him you're gonna shoot one over on the front nine tomorrow, but you'll still be tired, he'd have laughed in your face. He would never have thought that was a possibility, but that's the facts of the matter. And he'll feel a whole lot better now. Needs to string 3 or 4 good swings together.

[00:42:44.729]>>No, here's where Morikawa drove it at 18. No, this is, this is a big fairway bunker shot right here.

[00:42:52.510]>>142 yards, heels up against the edge of the bunker.

[00:42:58.090]>>Mm. Oh, and you couldn't play it any better. A fine chance to get it in the house at 20 under.

[00:43:04.209]>>And back to the scene here at 18. What a day it's been for Morikawa, who is 9 shots back to start this final round. If he can birdie the last, he'll be in the house, high and dry at 20 under. Well, he's looking for this putt to move gently to his left.

[00:43:25.810]>>61 on the final day. Career low round on the PGA TOUR for Collin Morikawa. And that was 3 years ago at the TOUR Championship where he shot 61. He made up 9 shots with that effort today. Incredible.

[00:43:44.020]>>Back with the final group now at 14.

[00:43:53.110]>>Being told there was an electrical strike not far from the property here, so they're gonna whisk players, spectators off the golf course here, so this may not be a short one.

[00:44:05.699]>>All right, Ken Tackett will officially get this final round restarted here. It was a lightning strike within 15 miles, along with the, the heavy rain, combination of those two things forced them to shut it down just before 6 o'clock local time here.

[00:44:29.689]>>Yeah, he's got 146 yards.

[00:44:34.110]>>Earlier, you picked out 9 iron.

[00:44:37.600]>>I can actually see this being wedge. I haven't gotten any indication as of yet. There's some folks.

[00:44:44.919]>>Up in the houses not too far away that are really enjoying the afternoon.

[00:44:50.060]>>I'm in your camp, I think uh.

[00:44:53.610]>>I think it's a hard wedge for him. It is, yep, I just got the indication it's a hard wedge.

[00:44:58.790]>>Now then, how soft are these grains?

[00:45:03.679]>>How do you play this? Throw it behind it and try and spin it back down the hill?

[00:45:09.250]>>It's gotta be what he's thinking, Beamer.

[00:45:13.149]>>And he gets to 2 under.

[00:45:18.699]>>And now to the final group playing 18.

[00:45:22.620]>>I can't tell if the spotter's telling me 6 iron or 7 iron, and the light is fading quickly.

[00:45:30.179]>>All made possible by getting a good line in the rough. We've, we've seen guys just have to just kind of take 100 yards and work, move on from there. Pitching wedge. If you're doing it, Viktor. Now's your moment, buddy.

[00:45:52.699]>>Mm, it looked like it was gonna be stone dead before it just fizzed away there.

[00:45:58.929]>>These players, in another 10 minutes, you're not going to be able to see much of anything.

[00:46:03.239]>>Sometimes that helps when trying to make a putt of his length down the hill with some pace.

[00:46:14.939]>>Mm, it just wanders by that uncomfortable distance.

[00:46:20.110]>>If this goes down, there's a massive Norwegian contingent back right. He'd be hard pressed to keep him from storming the storming the castle.

[00:46:31.929]>>Uh, I mean, it, it's just been a, it's been a great two days for fans. I mean, these guys have put on a show. I know everybody else has done their part, but the amount of energy this, uh, pairing has, has carried with them has been a, a treat to be alongside and watching. He was the best putter in the field through the 1st 3 days here this week. Now this is for PGA TOUR Victory, number 8.

[00:46:58.629]>>Oh, just dipped under the hole, the last few revolutions.

[00:47:07.530]>>Beautiful drive down the 18th, pure strike with the 2nd.

[00:47:13.389]>>And he's in for 4. Ted Scott has been very involved in helping his man read the greens all week, and especially at this moment in the fading daylight. Every bit of 6 ft here. 8 ft and 8 inches. It's a force a sudden death playoff tomorrow morning.

[00:47:34.429]>>No doubt about it.

[00:47:37.000]>>Fist bumping that one in.

[00:47:39.820]>>4 at the last for both combatants.

[00:47:44.729]>>Mano a mano, they battle down the stretch after play resumed about an hour or so ago, and that's gonna be it for this evening. We still have some unsettled business, and we'll take care of it tomorrow morning here at TPC River Highlands.

[00:48:01.699]>>And we welcome you to TPC River Highlands. The first hole of sudden death back at 18 is about to begin.

[00:48:09.879]>>With Laura Davies, Bill Kratzert, I'm John Swantek. Viktor Hovland was a different guy after the resumption of play following a 90 minute rain delay late yesterday,

Billy. Well, he certainly was, and uh Laura and I were just talking about before coming on air, uh, just what a difference that little timeout made to this guy right here.

[00:48:32.760]>>Oh, he's, he's just driven it well all week long, Laura.

[00:48:49.459]>>2 and 2 playoff record for Scheffler, winner in sudden death here at the Travelers over Tom Kim two years ago. Lost the playoff to Matt Fitzpatrick at the RBC Heritage this season.

[00:49:03.409]>>Now that Viktor has found the fairway.

[00:49:07.370]>>Scottie needs to find it as well.

[00:49:10.679]>>If you don't, I don't think you can be that lucky like he was yesterday, 2 times in a row.

[00:49:25.250]>>No luck required there, and he gets to hit him first. Billy, you were saying you might like that. If you're the guy hitting first and you put it in there close, then the pressure goes up twice as much.

[00:49:37.959]>>All right, both players right in the neighborhood of 152 yards or so. Well, I think with the ball in hand, soft conditions, uh, once again, the players.

[00:49:49.260]>>Trying to control the spin.

[00:49:51.939]>>Should be a 9 iron for Scottie Scheffler.

[00:50:03.840]>>Mighty fine. Well, there's that advantage, Billy, that you were talking about. Now, he has to hit a good shot. 149 for Viktor, and he knows what he's gotta do. You cannot see Scheffler missing that, so he's probably got the same club, the very same 9 iron. Just go ahead and knock it inside that and say let's go again.

[00:50:33.370]>>How about those 2 shots? Stellar. The 2 drives, the 2 iron shots, 2 great looks at birdie.

[00:50:42.169]>>Now this guy was the best putter in the field through 54 holes. The flat stick cooled off yesterday at times for Viktor. You have to believe this is a must conversion with Scheffler in there close. Classic match play, first in normally wins. Doesn't matter who's hitting the next putt, if this goes in. I fancy Viktor's chances, and vice versa.

[00:51:04.000]>>Can the Norwegian strike first.

[00:51:12.439]>>Get

[00:51:15.070]>>He can indeed.

[00:51:20.560]>>And an emphatic fist pump to follow when that went down.

[00:51:26.929]>>So the pressure shifts to Scheffler. Same situation that he had yesterday. Because he has to make this, he might put a bit more pace on it, take that little bit of potential breakout, so if this misses, it might miss by a lot. Nervy times, Viktor has done his bit to send it back to AT&T once again.

[00:51:48.350]>>Oh, and a misfire from Scheffler from short range, and it's gonna be Hovland in Hartford. PGA TOUR career Victory number 8, that's his mom Jelina. She's never seen Viktor win on the PGA TOUR before. And sudden death ends suddenly with the Norwegian at the top. Superbly played hole from tee to green for the champion.

[00:52:13.669]>>Hey

[00:52:15.530]>>Well, it certainly was, and you called it Laura, first in. Yeah, we see it so much, don't we, in Ryder Cups and Solheim Cups. So important and partly opponent. He's given himself a much shorter look than you, and those boys are delighted.

[00:52:35.870]>>And that's gonna do it from here in Hartford, where it's Hovland, a winner again on the PGA TOUR. This concludes the PGA TOUR's coverage of the Travelers Championship from TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, Connecticut.