

Production Transcript for REWIND\_253MO\_KITAYAMA.mp3

[00:00:26] >> The PGA Tour proudly presents the season long race for the FedExCup. And now, coverage of the 3M Open. Seventh edition of this event here. A critical late season tournament on the PGA tour. That's the 35th of 36 regular season events. So pressure is on for those players with their backs against the wall in hopes of qualifying for the start of the FedExCup playoffs. In two weeks' time, only 70 will make it to Memphis for the first leg of the playoffs. Eighty two degrees right now, very little wind for the players to contend with. Optimum scoring conditions today. I'm John Swantek. Great to have your company. Two-time DP World Tour champion Andrew Coltart is alongside. Two-time PGA Tour winner Matt Every is here as well. Inci Mehmet is on the ground for us this week, patrolling the fairways of TPC Twin Cities. We are in Blaine, Minnesota, the midwestern part of the United States. It is the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Twin Cities area, what they call it, the 16th largest metropolitan area in the United States. About 3.7 million people call it home. Minnesota, known as the Land of 10,000 Lakes. And it seems like there might be a couple dozen right here on the property. Two hundred ninety one balls in the water here a year ago, more than any course on the PGA Tour. Matt, if it's tame and the wind is laying down, you know you've played there a handful of times, they'll tear this place apart.

[00:02:11] >> Yeah, not too many balls in the water today here.

[00:02:19] >> And we're out at the 9th here, Andrew.

[00:02:23] >> Absolutely. Yeah. Chris Gotterup, what a summer he's had over there on the other side of the pond. Continuing over here. Golf goes a little bit like a dartboard to a lot of ring. 211. A good player, Olesen, former Ryder Cupper, of course, trying to find his feet over here. Get a little bit closer to it. Mitchell. Let's see, he's got one of those putters. Very easy for the toe to wrap over the heel, but goodness me, the sweet swinging, Mitchell finding the bottom of the cup once more.

[00:03:07] >> Gotterup up next from the left side of the fairway. And look, he's done the hard part here, folks. This is a birdie hole now.

[00:03:18] >> Gotterup moves to 4-under. Olesen for birdie at the 14th. And Olesen goes through 7-under par.

[00:03:38] >> This is an equal putt for Gotterup up at the 12.

[00:03:46] >> Boy looks good. Looks promising. How about this guy?

[00:03:52] >> You got to ride that wave, boys. You know it.

[00:03:55][ Applause ]

[00:04:07] >> Nice. Really nice for Olesen.

[00:04:13] >> Eagle putt of Haotong Li earlier just slipped by about four feet. No problem there.

[00:04:18][ Applause ] Well, check in on the defending champion back here at 14.

[00:04:26] >> Yeah, back down the hill here for Johnny. It's an easy one to leave out to the right.

[00:04:31][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:04:42] >> This was our leader, Adam Svensson earlier on 18, closing out his round.

[00:04:48] >> In style, I would say.

[00:04:52] >> Yeah, career low.

[00:04:57] >> Sam Stevens.

[00:05:02] >> The Canadian Adam Svensson tops the leaderboard in Minnesota after the first round, while Thorbjorn Olesen is just two shots off the pace. The second round is next.

[00:05:22] >> Number of players in the field here this week with their backs up against the wall in hopes of qualifying for the FedExCup playoffs. On the horizon just two weeks away. We welcome you to TPC Twin Cities in Blaine, Minnesota. Just about 15 miles or so outside the downtown metroplex area of Minneapolis-Saint Paul, 86 degrees on day two. A little bit warmer than it was in yesterday's opening round with the winds potentially shifting coming from the opposite direction. Blowing out of the south, southwest today. Off to the 5th we go.

[00:05:59] >> Incredible young talent, this man, Clanton. Body putt left to right. Finding it.

[00:06:05][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:06:18] >> All right. My old college teammate, Camilo Villegas right here rolling one in. Looks like the milkman today. Even the numbers at the top of the board right now. I mean, they're not as low as they were yesterday morning. I think it has something to do with the wind direction as the gala finds the bottom of the cup here at the 10th.

[00:06:52] >> 179 for rough up, front left. What a bad position that is and what a shot that is.

[00:07:01] >> Back at 10 and the birdie putt for Max Homa.

[00:07:06] >> Well, that stroke had some conviction. All right, Svensson here looking for a birdie at 18, 11-under yesterday. That's to get to one over today. Never easy backing up a low one.

[00:07:31] >> Just reached out to the founder of LAB Putters asked if there's anything worth noting with Ricky Fowler's LAB Putter he's got and apparently he craves a really light head, which is quite interesting because it looks good quite heavy to me.

[00:07:44] >> That was the right weight.

[00:07:47] >> That'll work. Gets him one closer to that cut line.

[00:08:05] >> Chandler Phillips, a little crack at this front left breeze. Pretty much straight into what breeze that is, that is.

[00:08:19][ Cheering ] Oh, Max stepping one in at 13. That's two in a row.

[00:08:34] >> Max. He sure did step that one in. Feeling it.

[00:08:38] >> Max has got it on go.

[00:08:40] >> Oh, Ben Coles.

[00:08:43] >> Here at 18 all the way in the back bunker. What's he going to do with this one? Just dump it out of the green, get a chasing toward the hole. Looks like he's got it worked out pretty well. Look at this one.

[00:08:57] >> Oh.

[00:08:57] >> Oh, hello.

[00:08:58] >> Wow.

[00:09:00][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:09:12] >> Here's Tom Kim over on the bunker on the right hand side here. Just one shy of the cut mark. He can't ill afford any mistakes. Oh, that will get it done. You lucky, lucky boy.

[00:09:26] >> Sadly it's not quite been the day for Tony Finau. Couple of double bogeys on the scorecard. Not a great front line either. He's still trying but thankfully a bit of a smile on his face. This is kind of hooking right to left to start off with and flattens out in that second half.

[00:09:52][ Cheering ]

[00:09:55] >> Why is it always easier when it doesn't matter.

[00:10:00] >> What they say that is sugar on what?

[00:10:09] >> At 16, Adam Hadwin for birdie.

[00:10:28] >> This would move Adam Hadwin onto the cut line. There you go, 30 at 16. Rickie Fowler eagle putt here.

[00:10:43] >> Yeah, and he had a good look at what Tony Finau's putt did at the end, I mean kind of held its line for the majority of his journey. Just at the end it tried to creep off the right and from this angle it is a slightly straighter one. I reckon no more than outside that right edge, to be honest. It was a superb second shot and some finish this would be.

[00:11:10] >> Well, the first order of business if you're hovering around that 70 number coming into the week, just survive the cut here and just pick up some points over the weekend and alleviate a little stress next week if you're in that field.

[00:11:24] >> Yeah, make it easier on yourself. You don't have to do it all. This would be great if you did, but you do technically have one tournament left. Regardless how he plays

this weekend, he should be in the playoffs. I think he's got enough cushion but this guy said -- There we go, 70 today for Fowler.

[00:12:09] >> Thorbjorn Olesen takes the outright lead after a 66, but smooth swinging. Jake Knapp right on his heels just one shot back. The third round is next. The second to last tournament of the PGA Tour regular season. We welcome you back to TPC Twin Cities in Blaine, Minnesota, the American Midwest. About 15 miles from the downtown metropolitan area of Minneapolis-Saint Paul. They call it the Land of 10,000 Lakes in this part of the country. And the water is well represented here in this Arnold Palmer design hosting this PGA Tour stop for the seventh year. Very similar weather conditions and patterns to what we've seen first couple of days. Scoring has been exceptional. I'm John Swantek. So good to have your company. Andrew Coltart, Matt Every alongside Inci Mehmet will be on the ground for us walking with the final pairing of the day here. Seventy five professionals and one amateur made the cut at 5-under par from a field of 153 to start the week. Minneapolis-Saint Paul metropolitan area, the 16th largest in the United States, where roughly 3.7 million folks call home. And we're about 15 miles outside the downtown area out here in the suburbs of Blaine, Minnesota. And this Arnold Palmer design dating back to 2019. PGA Tour Champions played this golf course for many years, but it was 40 years between PGA Tour events until the advent of this tournament in 2019. Par 71 plays 7,400 yards and change. And we have got a 59 watch going on Saturday here at the 3M Open. Thorbjorn Olesen was the overnight leader.

[00:14:10] He's in the final pairing of the day along with Jake Knapp. But, guys, the story of the day being written by Kurt Kitayama. This was moments ago at 16.

[00:14:19] >> And, John, obviously Kurt on fire today. Not the easiest bunker shot here. A ton of green to work with, but he handled that rather nicely. The heat is on him now for sure. He knows exactly where he stands. He'd go on to make birdie. And we just need one more to get to that magic number, boys.

[00:14:39] >> Yeah, Andrew would be the 16th sub 60 round in tour history.

[00:14:42] >> Well, it's incredible. Now they're coming sort of ten a penny, isn't it? Took quite a while since Al Geiberger won way back in 1977 but.

[00:14:52] >> Yeah, Kitayama. Jake Knapp, the last man to do that. That was last year. No, this year for the 59.

[00:14:57] >> That's right.

[00:14:57] >> Yeah.

[00:14:58] >> Kitayama started the day tied for 44th. He has ascended to the top of the leaderboard. Just about 40 minutes or so away from the final pairing of the day that Inci will be walking with Olesen and Knapp. Yeah, look. I mean, these last two holes, Kurt's face in relatively easy pin on 17 all the way in the back water. Won't be in play. Obviously, he's got his good stuff today, so we'll see what he does there. But 18, a very reachable par-5 if you just find the fairway. Really got to like his chances there at making a birdie. Who knows, maybe even we'll, maybe we could even see a 58.

[00:15:32] >> We've seen one of those produced by Jim Pierre.

[00:15:34] >> Yeah. Yeah.

[00:15:34] >> I mean, technically 50, it's 56 still in play, 57 is in play. Birdie eagle.

[00:15:44] >> That's birdie eagle at 11 on. He's at 11-under right now. He goes birdie eagle. He gets to 14-under. That's 57.

[00:15:49] >> You're oozing with optimism.

[00:15:50] >> Come on, Kurt. Come on.

[00:16:03] >> Back at the opening hole here. That's how Wyndham Clark will begin his Saturday. Nice gentle handshake of an opening hole for the players.

[00:16:16] >> Well, goodness me. Golf is just such an easy game for Chris at the minute. Starting out as he means to go on, that is no surprise.

[00:16:39] >> Massive putt here, Andrew for Kitayama to keep the aspirations of 59 alive.

[00:16:43] >> Yeah, it sure is. It's going to break a little bit from the left hand side as well. Just under one in every three. Come on. Kill. Not this one in. He powered it through the break. He'd made up his mind that he wasn't going to dribble it.

[00:17:25] >> Drops to 10-under for the day. Wyndham Clark birdie. The opening hole of the day.

[00:17:36] >> Beauty off the tee here at the second. And this should fit his eye nicely. Been cutting the right side. How about it, Wyndham?

[00:17:51] >> Matt Wallace, lot to play for. Ryder Cup on his mind. And also moving up that FedEx rank. You see that projected at the minute 117.

[00:18:02] >> Oh, this is a pretty juicy flag for Gotterup here at the second.

[00:18:07] >> It should be. He's no stranger to bending the ball. He's just dialed in right now, guys. I mean these field players, when they have it going, you're in store for some special stuff. You really are.

[00:18:23] >> Matt Wallace at the first to go to 11-under.

[00:18:36] >> That was a really good look here for Chris at the second, 200 through two off and running downhill. Going to work a little to his left. We've seen those hands kind of creep up high. Keep the heel off the ground as much as he can. Well, that thing is hugging the ground and it is working. OK, let's just, I mean, let's call what it is. It is history. I mean, 59's history in the game of golf. It is. You have a chance at history here, but you're also two in the lead. Decent line, the primary cut. And it looks like we're laying up here. Take our chances with a wedge.

[00:19:25] >> Little surprise of that. I know he's powerful. I can't tell with a lie. You know, about a foot further to the left.

[00:19:31] >> Sure.

[00:19:31] >> And it absolutely taken that on. No problem at all.

[00:19:34] >> Right, at 224, we're looking at 220 carry. I mean pretty much every guy in the field's got that with an iron out here.

[00:19:40] >> Yeah, yeah. Yeah, with that opportunity to get it in the green. The greens are soft. He's got the power. I thought he might have taken that on.

[00:19:50] >> Little peek into the mindset of Kurt Kitayama there. Adhering more to the game plan of trying to win the tournament than making history.

[00:19:56] >> Yeah.

[00:19:56] >> Sure.

[00:19:56] >> Yeah, I mean, potentially, had he knocked it in the water there, you know, two shots gone, perhaps that would stink on Sunday afternoon down the stretch. Here's Perez. A safe, smart approach to this point, 112 to move him up a little and it goes very nice. That'll help.

[00:20:34] >> Still a chance for 59 if he holds it. Who knows?

[00:20:41] >> Good effort.

[00:20:41] >> Back a hole.

[00:20:52] >> Goodness me, Zac, with the little hybrid in here.

[00:20:55] >> What, 213? It's only like 180 carry over the water.

[00:21:01] >> I see.

[00:21:01] >> Maybe he's just not feeling it.

[00:21:03] >> No, he loves it.

[00:21:05] >> Just a little bit.

[00:21:08] >> Oh, what a shot.

[00:21:09] >> You got a question, Zac Blair?

[00:21:12][ Applause ]

[00:21:27] >> OK, so Kitayama for the 13th birdie of this Saturday, man. Adam Svensson opened with 60 on Thursday and Kitayama an opportunity to match that and equal the course record here. There's another player who when he gets into the race, generally does not spit the bid.

[00:21:50] >> Yeah, I mean, when he won API, I think he double bogeyed nine --

[00:21:54] >> Yes.

[00:21:54] >> -- in the final round and a lot of people would just have sort of fallen off. Then he dug his heels in and stuck it out, which was great indications to what kind of character he is. Yes.

[00:22:15] >> There it is. Phenomenal round, 25 putts to get it around at 60 strokes. Kurt Kitayama is one of the co-owners of the course record and he is the owner of the lead by three. So Gotterup chance to get to 14-under within three of this man. Kurt Kitayama.

[00:22:38] >> Yeah, off and running here at the first. Kurt, no stranger, low scores.

[00:22:44] >> Friendly handshake with the opener. He's up at the seventh. Had to dig that one out. And you hold one of those early in the round, maybe you get a sense that it could be a special day.

[00:22:57] >> Yeah. What's this one? This one nine down at the left. Couple of little grain changes. That is out in 28. Now he's starting to think about 59.

[00:23:08] >> Birdies at 11 and 12. And then he came to 15. Chance to get to 10-under for the round and missed the fairway. Left here at 15. But look, receptive greens, rough, not super thick. Handled that one nicely. And then kind of a bummer. Out of position off the tee on 18. Had to lay up. Needed to hold this for 59. Gave it a scare. Gave it a real scare. He would settle for 60 and the clubhouse lead.

[00:23:44] >> Ben Silverman, 97 again. Pin over there on that right hand side. It's funny, isn't it? The old days before you saw these tracks that players with. Oh no, he's going to try and fade this one into that right hand pin.

[00:24:04] >> Birdies have been piling up at the opening two holes on the golf course. There's another at the second for Kanaya, getting him to 13-under.

[00:24:16] >> All right, over to four, Bhatia from the center of the green. This is makeable and work a little to his left. Touch them all.

[00:24:35] >> Wyndham Clark has the tee at the eighth here.

[00:24:50] >> Right pin at seven. Again, just back on that top shelf. Right there. That is absolutely fabulous.

[00:25:05] >> And back at 6, couple of birdie putts for Olesen and Knapp to follow.

[00:25:14] >> Got to knock this one down here for Olesen. There we go, there we go.

[00:25:24] >> Kanaya coming out of the bunker here at 9, did a fine job of it. Fantastic. I mean, this has been an impressive nine holes. We've gotten to watch out of Kanaya. Little downhill live for Bhatia to manage at 11.

[00:25:46] >> Boys burn the edge on the last two. Going to be slightly frustrated right now. That makes up for it.

[00:26:03] >> Yes, it does. Gotterup in search of one more birdie here at the 10. Had five on the front side.

[00:26:15] >> Wake this guy up. Here comes Olesen's tee shot at the 8th. Find it. Oh, come on. Well, jumpstart your round in a hurry.

[00:26:38] >> Wow. I mean, I'm not kidding, Swantek. That might be the first quality shot he's hit today. It's a hole in one at the 8th. What a game.

[00:26:48] >> And it happened so fast, like a lightning strike. It just disappeared and dove into the hole.

[00:26:55] >> We've seen guys just painting the stick here at the 8th today. It might have to do with the wind direction, kind of feeding it in there to this hole location. But Thunder Bear.

[00:27:05][ Cheering ]

[00:27:09] >> Oh, there's life in the old Thunder Bear yet.

[00:27:12] >> Oh, yeah, in his life. It couldn't be a shot better right now. I mean, that pitch is one step shorter. Catches the downslope and probably runs past the hole, maybe even off the back of the green. What level of the game you play at? How many you got?

[00:27:39] >> Zero.

[00:27:41] >> Come on.

[00:27:42] >> Touche.

[00:27:43] >> Really?

[00:27:43] >> Yes. But in my defense, Matt, I've only been playing for 45 years.

[00:27:51] >> You get one one of these days.

[00:27:52] >> Oh, that is awesome.

[00:27:54] >> It really is. My favorite part was when they patted each other's abs in celebration.

[00:28:08] >> Bhatia at 15 coming from the rough down there on the left hand side. Not a lot of room to the front left pin. Oh, he's what? That went out really well though.

[00:28:25] >> Bhatia for birdie at 15.

[00:28:29] >> Not much has happened for him. Is it going to happen here? Indeed it is.

[00:28:46] >> Kanaya here as well. Well, we are back on track. The Kanaya train keeps rolling here at the 14th.

[00:29:03] >> OK. So it doesn't come from the right as much as he thinks. Oh, well read. He learned the lesson.



[00:29:13] >> Those Danes are quick learners.

[00:29:14] >> Yeah.

[00:29:16] >> Bhatia looking to swoop on into the 18.

[00:29:21] >> Coming in with a hybrid, that's swooping all right.

[00:29:24] >> Oh, wow. Almost got our guys.

[00:29:29] >> We got to back up.

[00:29:35] >> Now to the green with Bhatia. I don't know if he took relief or not. This may have been where it came to rest.

[00:29:42] >> I'm pretty sure he took relief. This is fairly straightforward almost by design from the fairway, if you ask me. Plenty of green to work with here for Akshay.

[00:29:57] >> Oh, isn't this clever? Really well worked out still right there though. Back at the 18th, William Mouw just trying to dump that one out of the green. About all you can do if you want to get it in there close.

[00:30:14] >> Tell you what, that's pretty good mount right there. No one has reached 18 under just yet, but now they have Akshay Bhatia with his nose in front. Sixty three.

[00:30:33] >> That's not really set up for the draw. This shot. That looks healthy. That looks healthy.

[00:30:58] >> Sparkling.

[00:31:05] >> Olesen to follow. Matt with a birdie here at 14.

[00:31:10] >> It's back down the hill here for Thorbjorn. Here we go.

[00:31:15] >> So Bhatia's lead was short lived as Olesen joins him at the top.

[00:31:20] >> Yes. Yeah.

[00:31:25] >> Kitayama's 60 launches him up the board, but a hole in one from Olesen gives him a chance for his first win on the PGA Tour. The final round is next.

[00:32:14] >> Sunday here at TPC Twin Cities, the penultimate event of the PGA Tour regular season. We will crown a tournament champion at day's end and also have a clearer picture about the FedExCup playoffs, which are just two weeks away with only 70 men headed for Memphis to start the playoffs. It is cooking here in the American Midwest, 90 degrees right now. Maybe the winds will kick up and be a real factor for the first time this week. It's been great to have your company all week long. I'm John Swantek. So much fun being alongside Andrew Coltart. Matt Every as well. Inci Mehmet on the ground for she'll walk the fairways with Akshay Bhatia and Thorbjorn Olesen, the final two of the day. Ten players bottled up within two shots of the lead and the final three pairings of the day, all gunning for the victory. Sam Stevens will play alongside Jake Knapp. Both of those players tied for third. Takumi Kanaya coming off at 65 yesterday. Kurt Kitayama shot 60, his career

low round to put himself into the next here. And then the final two of the day. Akshay Bhatia, 23-year-old, seeking his third victory on the PGA Tour. And Thorbjorn Olesen trying to become the first player from Denmark to win on the PGA Tour. That is what is up for grabs today. Five hundred FedExCup points, 1.5 million US dollars to the champion, entry into the century, the Players Championship, next year's Masters, next year's PGA Championship as well, and fully exempt status on the PGA Tour for two full seasons. It is out there today, a lot to play for. All kinds of storylines bubbling up. And that's the way the first page of the leaderboard is stacking up here. And William Mouw, young player who just won a few weeks ago on the PGA Tour, is out early having birdied his opening hole to get to 16-under par.

[00:34:14] >> A lot of work left for Max. Also has the impending birth of his second child, he and his wife.

[00:34:31] >> Nice putt for Mouw.

[00:34:33] >> Come on Mouw. Like it, like it. Maybe just a touch of a trailing breeze off the left here.

[00:34:46] >> Inside 95 yards. He's trying to get it inside 10 feet. He's done it. Good shot.

[00:35:06] >> Mouw for birdie at the 4th.

[00:35:20] >> Kitayama for three at the 1st.

[00:35:22] >> Yeah.

[00:35:23] >> Now the heels of that 60 yesterday. Thank you very much. And here's Knapp looking to drip one in at the second.

[00:35:37] >> Cool as a cucumber, that Jake Knapp. Kitayama at the second with a missile off the tee. Just 120 in and this is most definitely a birdie hole at the moment. Or an eagle hole.

[00:36:01] >> Finally, Pierceson Coody watches one go down.

[00:36:04] >> Feels like it's been a couple days.

[00:36:07] >> What you reckon, is he going to break a little bit from the left?

[00:36:13] >> It's got to be with Olesen's breaking right to left. But initially actually it might go to the left and hold its line that second half.

[00:36:31] >> It just paid the price there for a poor tee shot.

[00:36:33] >> Yeah.

[00:36:39] >> Just about five feet for the Kanaya birdie at number two. He steps that one in.

[00:36:56] >> Joking.

[00:36:57] >> No. Give him the trophy now.

[00:37:00] >> Right. That was full on theft right there. What a start for Kitayama. I mean, 60 yesterday, we're saying it was tough to back up those low rounds. So much for that.

[00:37:09] >> Who said that?

[00:37:10] >> So much for that.

[00:37:15] >> We jump to the fifth now with Kitayama fighting the fairway with a drive of 300 plus.

[00:37:24] >> Now, he certainly looks like he's absolutely feeling it today. He's just cruising along at the minute. It's one of those days. There's a tremendous amount of lucidity. It's see the picture. Just the game is just very, very easy at the moment. It's somebody to put a little bit of heat on them from behind and maybe that will force them to change tact slightly.

[00:37:47] >> Green means go. Look at this. Put one more on the card for Kurt Kitayama. Going to be four birdies in the first five of the day. Bhatia to avoid another lost shot at 4. Played in the final group on Saturday at the Players Championship. And it was a big spot in a big event. Shot 75 and kind of unraveled and fell out of it. He referenced that before the round today. He was trying to learn from those experiences. Matt had to lay it up at the 6th and 69 yards for his third. And that is nicely done. Matt Wallace shot 31 on the front side today. This for birdie at 12. Reachable par five the 12th. Really need to knock this one down. And he delivers. Matt Wallace moving to 18 under par. A lot to play for today for Matt. Jake Knapp is in the group ahead of Kitayama here at the 6th. Pops that one in for birdie.

[00:39:02] >> I reckon this is playing about 112. You can pitch it past, spin it back or pitch it pin high and get it to stop dead. Depends on the sort of kind of spin control you're feeling through your hands.

[00:39:41] >> Dialed in.

[00:39:43] >> He's in control, isn't he?

[00:39:46] >> In command right now of his game, some motions and the leaderboard. And now up to the green.

[00:39:56] >> Kurt Kitayama looking for his fifth birdie in the opening third of the round here.

[00:40:00] >> Here out of position off the tee, but played a beautiful wedge behind the hole. Should peel just a little bit to his right. Look out, boys.

[00:40:08][ Applause ] Knapp trying to remain 19 under. Appear at the 8th.

[00:40:19] >> Boy, that tee shot got swallowed up by the wind. Well, short. We'll just throw a blanket over it.

[00:40:29] >> If you feel it into, then maybe just play for that 110 shot. Pins on the left hand side to a bit of buffer room. To be honest, this pin five on.

[00:40:53] >> Well, actually, they figured out.

[00:40:58] >> You know, struggling back here. This is actually Bhatia here for birdie at the 7th. First one of the day, and boy, did he need it.

[00:41:16] >> A couple of short birdie putts here at the 8th from Kitayama and Kanaya.

[00:41:21][ Applause ] Twenty eight on the front side yesterday. He might equal that today. Wyndham Clark. Chance for an eagle here, number 12.

[00:41:39] >> He has to get him all the way up to seventh place. How about it?

[00:41:44] >> How about it? Wyndham Clark to 17-under 211. And William Mouw to 19-under. Yeah. Come on, Mouw.

[00:42:06] >> Here's Gotterup to start the back nine with a birdie.

[00:42:10] >> Let's see if he can do something special on this final nine holes. It's got to start here, though. Got to start here. There we go.

[00:42:21] >> So Gotterup not going away easily.

[00:42:34] >> He's just got such a great momentum going. It's very cliché, one shot at the time, but initially this might try and nudge to the right, but overall I'm seeing this as a right to left putt, especially in that kind of final three foot or so. It will curve in right to left.

[00:43:06] >> Nearly, nearly. But still 13 birdies on the front nine on the two days of the weekend for Kitayama. Twenty eight on Saturday, 29 here on the final day. And the lead remains three.

[00:43:29] >> Mouw for birdie at the 12th.

[00:43:36] >> Now, nice birdie pickup for William Mouw, fifth of the round. There's Knapp trying to cash one in, 20-under.

[00:43:51] >> Lookout.

[00:43:52] >> Par-5 12. Stevens will have a lash at it. Well, I'll tell you what, it's starting to get dark out. Well, it's on a pretty good line. Looks like it's bleeding back towards the pin. Oh, baby. Sam Stevens.

[00:44:10] >> Sam.

[00:44:11] >> Stevens would make birdie. You know, he's elite with the driver. And he's, you know, you'd be hard pressed not to say he's elite with the putter and the stats too. And it's like with a guy like that, how does he ever play bad?

[00:44:26] >> Yeah. As well when you -- I mean, that's lovely. Makes that look easy. Such a sweet. Just a nice rhythm with everything, you know.

[00:44:32] >> It matches up.

[00:44:33] >> In everything.

[00:44:33] >> Yeah.

[00:44:33] >> Everything.

[00:44:42] >> All right, Inci, pretty straightforward here.

[00:44:45] >> Yeah, it's an excellent leaf. Just shipping up to an elevated green. There's three sprinklers in front of him. He has to play over the right one. This will curve right to left. How's that for delayed spin? Love it.

[00:44:59] >> Up to the green.

[00:45:03] >> Big putt here for Kurt. Looks like he's got it lined up on that left edge. Uh-uh.

[00:45:11] >> Yeah.

[00:45:12] >> Yeah.

[00:45:14] >> Up a hole where Stevens split the fairway.

[00:45:18] >> Yeah. Needs to make birdie here. This is a good look. So is that.

[00:45:29] >> Stevens would make birdie and jump to 20-under.

[00:45:35] >> There we go.

[00:45:36] >> Kitayama's second at the 14. Any questions?

[00:45:52] >> Ball game. Yeah, that is absolutely outstanding. The offlay would get a chance to have a look at it again. He picked it off beautifully. You just see the connection, you know, looking to try and pick up any.

[00:46:08] >> It's such an intimidating shot, too. I know it's a perfect lie, but any kind of miss there just gets magnified 10x and he pulls it off. And his most important shot he's faced all day. First time he's really been in a serious spot of stress. And he delivers.

[00:46:26] >> Kanaya will have the tee at 17 in a moment once Stevens finishes up his work down below.

[00:46:31] >> He still has a chance, but this has got a drop. That's good. That's brilliant. Boy, what a putt that is. Personally, I would really be trying to put a bit of draw spin on this because I think any bit of left to right spin, the ball's just gone with this strength of the breeze. So I'd be aiming. I know it sounds crazy. Maybe a couple of yards to the right and just try and draw it, hold it up against that breeze.

[00:47:09] >> Just got to keep it simple at moments like this. He struggled on this hole so far this week.

[00:47:27] >> That's what I would have done every single time in this situation. Yeah.

[00:47:32] >> Job done.

[00:47:32] >> Yeah. That's all he needed to do there.

[00:47:45] >> One final birdie chance to close out the week here for Gotterup. Here it comes. Oh, no, you didn't. Knapp going for the green in two. He is just three back of the league.

[00:48:08] >> Oh. Would have looked good to him for a long time. And he's --

[00:48:13] >> Boy, you know, he loved it.

[00:48:14] >> With disbelief.

[00:48:15] >> You know he loved it with that reaction.

[00:48:23] >> He's been given a reprieve by those two. Oh. Even with that miss back at 17.

[00:48:28] >> Oh, and if you're Sam Stevens right now, I mean, you got to be sick to your -- he has no clue this is going on, but you -- oh.

[00:48:36] >> That was a push. Blade open. There's nothing Stevens could do, though.

[00:48:41] >> No, nothing he could do.

[00:48:43] >> A horrible lie. A couple of yards left, totally different scenario. Bad lie. And then it's like you said, it's a tough layup.

[00:48:50] >> Yeah. And look, that's a signature miss right there under pressure, leaving the blade open to the right. Usually under the pump. Guys either leave putt short or to the right.

[00:49:03] >> To the tee with our leader.

[00:49:11][ Cheering ]

[00:49:13] >> Certainly good.

[00:49:16] >> Or just flush it down the middle.

[00:49:17] >> Yeah.

[00:49:28] >> Stevens playing his fourth shot.

[00:49:31] >> Come on.

[00:49:33] >> How good is this? How about how cool is this? Come on. Oh, four.

[00:49:38][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:49:42] >> Knapp to safe par.

[00:49:57] >> Six in the end, it is for Knapp.

[00:49:59][ Applause ]

[00:50:11] >> Very much looking at the eight, I reckon, of the TV tower. High fade is ideal.

[00:50:19] >> Well, I can tell you right now, 5-iron for 219 dead down wind. If he connects at all, this thing is going to be 40 or 50 feet past, which is the safe play here. There's the connection.

[00:50:43] >> Oh, my.

[00:50:46] >> That's why I clubbed up. That was a little hairier than it should have been. It's very hairy. Oh, man. On the downslope in that bunker over there.

[00:51:03] >> It is steep. I still think it helps him here a ton, guys.

[00:51:07] >> Playing a little bit further back in the stance.

[00:51:13] >> Yup. Kicking that right knee in to level things out. Really good.

[00:51:23] >> Just inside that 20-foot range that Inci was describing. All he was looking for, two putts from there for the title.

[00:51:30] >> That's a good look there. He had to get pretty steep on that one. Obviously not even thinking about getting close to that ball.

[00:51:39] >> Yeah. I mean, I was surprised at how far forward he played in the stance. It was easy to hit a lot of sand behind the golf ball there. Look how well forward that is.

[00:51:48] >> Yeah. There's so much relief with the first win. Right. And the second brings validation --

[00:51:55] >> Absolutely.

[00:51:55] >> -- among other things.

[00:51:56] >> Absolutely. And it's been a couple of years since his first one in 2023. It's been a heck of a weekend.

[00:52:07] >> And he won Arnold Palmer's event a couple of years ago. Of course, Arnold, the designer of this golf course, the King's Corners, down there at 17. He got through there cleanly all four days and taps in for five at the last. And that will bring Kurt Kitayama his second victory on the PGA Tour. This concludes the PGA Tour's coverage of the 3M Open from TPC Twin Cities in Blaine, Minnesota.