

Production Transcript for 25INTCUTCH - COLOGUARD CLASSIC MASTER.mp3

[00:00:41] >> PGA Tour Champions back in action, the fourth of 28 on the season schedule, the 11th playing of the Cologuard Classic from the Westin La Paloma Resort and Spa in Tucson, Arizona. Four World Golf Hall of Famers in the field here this week, including Retief Goosen. Rolls in this birdie putt at the 7th. This would get him to 4-under through his opening seven holes. And then, trying to finish the front nine with another birdie. And Paul Azinger, this was a gorgeous pitch by Goosen, even though he didn't like it.

[00:01:16] >> No, he looked disgusted. He's going to show us why here in a second. Watch him turn the face. He caught that little high. Not he wanted on the toe side, but not that high up. Doesn't matter though. He's just so silky on the greens. That's just beautiful.

[00:01:30] >> Five-under through his opening nine holes for Retief Goosen. He'd add a birdie at the 11th. Speaking of the reachable par-5 11th, this was Pádraig Harrington for eagle to get to four under and within a shot of the lead. So a couple Hall of Famers right in the mix. Bernhard Langer just two shots back. The PGA Tour Champions proudly presents the season-long race for the Charles Schwab Cup. Today from Tucson, Arizona, it's first round coverage of the Cologuard Classic, PGA Tour and the PGA Tour Champions with a rich history here in the Tucson area, La Paloma Country Club, the second venue used for the Cologuard Classic. Fifty-four degrees, but the temperatures are starting to drop. Windy, cool. There was some precipitation earlier in the day and the players are all bundled up on this opening round Friday. Joe Durant, the defending champion here at the Cologuard Classic, won last year by two shots over Steven Alker and Jerry Kelly, the Cologuard Ambassador. Bob Papa, Paul Azinger, so glad you can join us. John Cook out on the golf course. Let's go over to 13. Retief Goosen trying to save his par. John Cook is with this group.

[00:03:06] >> Thank you there, Bob. A little chilly out here. Retief laid it way back at over 190 yards. Plugged it in the front bunker. That's second bunk -- second bogey in a row now for Retief.

[00:03:20] >> Yeah, it's cold out there and getting colder, actually. It's been a very tough day for these guys up there in altitude, but dealing with kind of rainy this morning, Bob. And, you know when it gets cold, it'll neutralize the guys' hands. Get a little chilly, you lose touch. So it's definitely taxing. It's exhausting actually for these players.

[00:03:59] >> So now, Goosen for bogey here at the 13th.

[00:04:08] >> Oh, boy. Well, that's a real shame. I mean, he had it going big time. Retief was 6-under par after 11 holes, the bogey at 12, tough par 3. But this was all brought on by himself, and that'll shake you to the core. I mean, it's been really tough conditions so far, Bob. And he had it going. And just like that, it just all goes away.

[00:04:35] >> Now, over at the 12th, Miguel Angel Jimenez, who won the season opener at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai, or actually won in Morocco, was a runner up to the man standing back there, Ernie Els at Hualalai, has this for birdie.

[00:04:51] >> Ernie with hands in pockets watching his good friend. He's starting to play better. He had a rough start him, Jimenez did.

[00:05:00] >> Greg Chalmers has this for birdie at 17. This gets him to 6-under par if it goes. And Greg Chalmers with a birdie at 17. And he now has the outright lead. Now, Ernie Els hit a wonderful tee shot in here, Zinger. He has this one for birdie and probably got a pretty good read off Jimenez's putt.

[00:05:20] >> He sure did. This is the 12th hole, plays 182 yards today. A little downhill. Kind of cold, though, so it plays a little longer. Probably hit 7-iron to here.

[00:05:31] >> Ernie won at Hualalai, and that one stays left. Then finished solo third in Morocco and was in the last group at the Chubb Classic and played 18 holes without making a birdie. Wound up finishing solo 11th that week. Greg Chalmers trying to finish his day with back to back birdies after the birdie at 17. This at 18, and he pours it in. So Chalmers shoots 64.

[00:06:00] >> Oh, wow.

[00:06:10] >> Chris DiMarco rolls in a putt for birdie to shoot 2-under 69 today.

[00:06:15] >> Good start for Chris in tough conditions.

[00:06:19] >> Good look for Langer. Birdie here at 15, John.

[00:06:25] >> Yeah. Three good looks in this group right here. Bernhard will lead it off. Little right to left breaker. Needed to hit it. He did. So birdie there for Bernhard.

[00:06:39] >> Another \$1,500 goes to the Birdies for Survivors with that birdie at 15.

[00:06:45] >> Fifth birdie on the day for Bernhard.

[00:06:53] >> Jerry Kelly, who is the spokesperson for Colouard, tournament host this week, he birdied the 15th hole all three days last year. Remember, \$1,500 goes for every birdie at 15, Birdies for Survivors. And Jerry is just filling up and he's going into his own pocket for \$1,501. Over at 18, Ricardo Gonzalez trying to finish his day up with a birdie. Gets him to red figures. And there you go, Ricardo.

[00:07:33] >> He'll take under par Day 1.

[00:07:37] >> Let's go over to 14, and one of the best shots that we've seen this afternoon into 14 by Ernie Els. Use the contour of the green and the wind, and he's got this putt for birdie.

[00:07:48] >> Well, he hit it close on 12 about this length and missed it on the left-hand side.

[00:08:04] >> This club has really been the difference maker for Ernie, this nice stretch of golf he's played. He doesn't let these chances get away very often. That's pure.

[00:08:17] >> Great bounce back for Ernie Els. After the bogey at 13, he's at 2-under. Stephen Ames at 17, playing his second shot.

[00:08:29] >> Well, saved by the flagstick. He was in a very tough spot. Bernhard Langer is honoring colon cancer caregiver Jim Reichbook this week. Jim's wife Liz has been battling stage four colon cancer.

[00:08:58] >> Weird three putt there for Langer to come up that far short. That second putt really broke.

[00:09:05] >> Ernie Els has this putt for birdie at 15.

[00:09:10] >> Got to hit it right back where it came from. Straight up the hill, see if he can get the speed right. He just about made that putt.

[00:09:21] >> That would have been nice.

[00:09:24] >> Over to 16, defending champ Joe Durant for birdie. Joe playing in memory of Deysi Aparicio. Joe met Daisy's daughter Jasmine at the Cologuard Classic media day a few weeks ago. And honoring Deysi here this week.

[00:09:51] >> Oh, go in, Joe. Good putt.

[00:09:59] >> Stephen Ames trying to finish with a birdie here at 18. He's bogey-free. And down the hill and pours it in for a 5-under par 66. That puts Ames in a tie for second.

[00:10:19] >> Over at 15, Ted Purdy for birdie.

[00:10:22] >> I knew someone stole my granddaughter's putter. It's this fellow.

[00:10:25] >> What's he doing with that little putter? That thing must be 31 inches, 28-inch putter.

[00:10:32] >> Ernie Els has the flagstick out, playing his third.

[00:10:38] >> Oh, he wants to make it so bad.

[00:10:41] >> Perfect speed.

[00:10:42] >> Ernie Els with the flagstick out. And we talk about how good his short game is. Pitches this in for eagle.

[00:10:51] >> Well, they all have figured out the magic move. Everybody that plays this Tour are out here mainly because of their short games, not in spite of them.

[00:11:02] >> Langer now for his par.

[00:11:04] >> Had it over the back of the green. Didn't hit a very good pitch shot. Had a decent lie. But now, this is save par, same line as Jerry Kelly.

[00:11:23] >> Bad second shot. Cost Bernhard there. Anything under par, I would think be pretty satisfying for most of these players today, though.

[00:11:34] >> 2020 Cologuard Club Classic Champion Bernhard Langer with a 1-under today. Els for birdie.

[00:11:52] >> Oh, wow. How about that? That's the unexpected pleasure, you know? He's just kind of hung in there and hung in there, and all of a sudden, eagle birdie, just like that.

[00:12:02] >> And Ernie Els is two off the lead, heading to 18.

[00:12:13] >> Justin's going up that little slope here, Paul, that kind of goes into the grain and down the backside. Very similar putt to what Retief Goosen made 00

[00:12:23] >> Yeah.

[00:12:23] >> -- just a little while ago.

[00:12:25] >> And actually, Justin did not actually get off to a great start. He kind of pattered along there, made an even par in the front, got it to under par, and then the double bogey at 16 after all that hard work. Oh, settle down. And just a little bit harder than he wanted. Big win for Justin down there in Naples. Just rewarded for all his hard work. You know, he could have stayed in television if he wanted, but he decided he wanted to be a player still. Jimenez, not a very good day. John Cook, 4-over par. It's been a struggle on the greens. He really in a poor putt on the last hole. I was bragging about his left to right or his low hand -- left hand, low stroke.

[00:13:34] >> Yeah, that's something new. Well, he just walked that one in.

[00:13:42] >> Yeah.

[00:13:43] >> It'll make that first glass of wine taste a little better.

[00:13:50] >> Yeah, good release. And he did walk it right in there. It was a no doubter for him.

[00:13:57][Applause]

[00:14:03] >> Miguel never gives in, even though he's having a rough day like he has today. Now, Ernie Els for Birdie here, John, to get to 6-under and just a shot off the lead of Greg Chalmers.

[00:14:19] >> And this is exactly where you want it. Straight up the hill. Not a lot of break to this. You can be aggressive with it. I think we have seen that these greens have really started to run out. Aggressive putt. I like the way that he hit that. He hit that with authority.

[00:14:40] >> Yeah, that was real purposeful putt. Good stroke. Just trickle to the right there. Nice round for Ernie Els. I mean, they played in probably the worst of it today, I would think. Cold when they started, then got halfway nice. And boy, this finish has been, you know, really cold. The temperature dropped probably 6 or 7 degrees.

[00:15:03] >> Greg Chalmers, his lone misstep came at the 12th today. His lone bogey, but he shoots a 7-under 64. Ernie Els, 5-under 66. Ames and Pampling went bogey-free today.

[00:15:22] >> After a cold and windy day on Friday, the sun is out in Tucson, Arizona. Temperatures in the low 60s for the 11th playing of the Cologuard Classic from La Paloma Country Club, Jack Nicklaus designed. The fourth of 28 this season on the PGA Tour Champions schedule. We take you out to the 12th. Stewart Cink, who had the lead with nine holes to play last year, not able to close it out for a birdie at the 12th. And Stewart Cink not able to make his fourth in a row. Stewart is 7-under on his round through his opening 11 holes with birdies at the 9th, 10th, and 11th to get to within a shot of the lead. Let's take a look at some of the highlights on today. Ernie Els, a winner earlier this year on the PGA Tour Champions, leading in the Schwab Cup standings, using the putter from just off the green and draining this long birdie putt at the 7th. And that would get Ernie to 6-under par. Retief Goosen was in the mix last year here at the Cologuard Classic, rolls in this birdie putt at the 9th. This would get him to 7-under par. And with the ball traveling, Paul Azinger, Stewart Cink able to use his length at the par-5 9th. This was his third.

[00:16:41] >> And Stewart Cink still hits it longer than the average Tour player by several yards. He has a great touch too, but he likes this course. He had a great chance last year to win here.

[00:16:53] >> He'd go on to make the birdie at the 9th, and then rolls in this birdie putt at the 10th.

[00:17:00] >> Now, you see those putts go in. I mean, that is just the greatest feeling. Seven birdies today for Stewart Cink, no bogeys.

[00:17:07] >> Greg Chalmers birdie at the 10th. He shot 7-under 64, his lowest round on the PGA Tour Champions. Then, how about at the par-5 11th? After a 348-yard drive with just a wedge, Cink on the green, two putts for birdie, and that gets him to 11-under par and just a shot off the lead. Greg Chalmers, who had one win on the PGA Tour, that was at the Barracuda in 2016, holds a one shot lead over Stewart Cink. Hall of Famers Ernie Els and Retief Goosen are just four back. And Retief Goosen has this putt for par at the 12th. Pulled his tee shot. Had a long putt for birdie and a little work left for his par. But Goosen remains four shots off the lead. Ernie Els for birdie at the 12th.

[00:18:10] >> Ernie's got to be careful not to let him get too far away. Chalmers four shots ahead of Ernie at the moment.

[00:18:22] >> Last year when Joe Durant won, Durant and Goosen through 36, started two behind Stewart Cink.

[00:18:32] >> You know, the way the front sides playing this week, if you are three or four, even five shots back, you feel like you can make a statement on the front nine. Tomorrow, I'm sure these guys know that.

[00:18:46] >> Rod Pampling, it's been a quiet day, but not there at the 11th. That's for eagle three. Birdie's at 2 and 3, and now the eagle at 11. And that moves him to within three of the lead and gets him to 9-under. Retief Goosen, John, has a great look at birdie here at 13.

[00:19:08] >> Beautiful approach there from Retief with 9-iron from 142, now just about 4 feet. Putting this one earlier today. This has got some speed. These greens are a little bit

quicker than they were yesterday. Not much break to it. Just has to stay nice and steady here, Paul, and let that putter swing.

[00:19:28] >> Yeah, no doubt about it. And he was always been one of the best at it. He's got this interesting grip now. The elbows more out than they used to be. He's been a great fast green putter. We can recall that US Open. That was a delicate little tap down the hill. And a good birdie all the way around. Thirteen is playing pretty difficult.

[00:19:59] >> Now, Fujita for his par.

[00:20:00] >> Bernhard Langer shooting his age yet again, right? Sixty-eight-year-old shooting another 66. And how about that? Well, he had no chance from the sand to get it anywhere near the hole. It didn't matter.

[00:20:15] >> Well, now, Ernie's got a pretty fast little shot here. You can tell, very narrow stance. And he's just going to try to pop it up in the air. I'm not even sure if he wants to land this all the way on the green or not. Oh, yeah, nicely on. He's got such great hands. Did he do it? Good try.

[00:20:44] >> It will take all of his powers here, John Cook, at 14 to get this close.

[00:20:52] >> Yeah, just has to land it just on the green, then just let the slope do its thing. Looks like it's not going to get there, but I promise you, this has got plenty of speed. Really well done.

[00:21:04] >> How about it?

[00:21:08] >> He made it.

[00:21:08] >> Oh, my goodness.

[00:21:13] >> Stewart Cink pitches in for birdie at 14. And now, he's in a share of the lead.

[00:21:29] >> Well, Matthew Goggin brought the sweet flow of hair with him out here to the Champions Tour, huh? That's like regular tour hair.

[00:21:42] >> That he did, Paul. He brought his youth out here with the -- got the flow going.

[00:21:47] >> He does. That's like Cookie style. But me and you had the -- we had the do going back in the day.

[00:21:55] >> We had the flow going. No doubt about it.

[00:21:58] >> Hey, we --

[00:21:59] >> We had it.

[00:22:00] >> Me and Cookie were -- We were Rickie Fowler before Rickie Fowler.

[00:22:04] >> Goggin turned 50 last June.

[00:22:09] >> Oh, nice.

[00:22:09] >> Good save there for Matt Goggin. Yeah, didn't have much at all from that bunker.

[00:22:24] >> Cejka for birdie at 18. This to get to 9-under.

[00:22:28] >> Wow, what a round. What a round, 63. He just busted out of the gate. Birdied the first hole, 3, 4, 5, 6. Unreal. Chalmers now the outright leader. Cink one shot back.

[00:22:50] >> Cink made two bogeys yesterday. And that's his first bogey of the day today. And Goggin for birdie after that wonderful second.

[00:23:02] >> Yeah. This only gets him two shots out of third place. And, yeah, he's got a chance to play next week if he keeps this pace going.

[00:23:15] >> After that spectacular pitch, Padraig Harrington makes birdie. And he's at 7-under and only five off the lead. Well, I mentioned Ken Tanigawa with the lone eagle. And this was a moment ago. This is what it looked like to get to 8-under and right in the mix.

[00:23:34] >> Yeah, that gets him definitely in the mix. The way the players jump the front nine, you can get yourself right up by the lead tomorrow.

[00:23:45] >> Boy, Ernie Els birdied the 9th and the 10th to get to 8-under. Didn't birdie 11. He's had some good looks. Made a great par save at 13. This for birdie at 15.

[00:23:59] >> Well, this is his stretch. It's going to get him back in the golf tournament. If he could make this, he's got an eagle chance at the next. And he's got the first part of that equation done. Nice birdie here. And another cha ching for the charity.

[00:24:17] >> Fifteen hundred dollars, Birdie for Survivors.

[00:24:21] >> Harrington for birdie.

[00:24:24] >> Oh, yes.

[00:24:30] >> Padraig Harrington to within four of the lead.

[00:24:33] >> Yeah, just get within striking distance. That's all you're thinking about right now.

[00:24:38] >> Tim O'Neal has a birdie putt. Tim shot 4-under in his opening round, but just 1-under today. Started the day with a couple bogeys. Added birdies at the 3rd, 6th, 11th, and 16th. Had a bogey at the 10th. Catches the left edge and it drops.

[00:25:12] >> That's a great feeling. Make the last putt.

[00:25:24] >> Chalmers after a perfect tee shot, his second into 18.

[00:25:29] >> A real chance now, Chalmers. You got to take advantage of this tee shot. Go right at it. You got a one shot lead. Try to build a little cushion. He can't do it. He's got to make a nice putt now. Well, it's not a real familiar territory for him, is it, Bob? He's not one

out here. He's got one win on the PGA Tour. You know, I would say maybe a journeyman career at this point for sure. But he's been all over. Won a couple Australian Opens. He's quite a player. But he's got some good players to beat tomorrow. Padraig Harrington, Ernie Els breathing down his neck. Cejka, red hot. Stewart Cink stumbled at the end, but still right there.

[00:26:16] >> Check out the leaderboard now. Get to see some of these names.

[00:26:20] >> Chalmers, 4-under today. Cink shot 6-under, including playing his last four holes, 2-over. Ernie Els in at 9-under. Cejka had a bogey at the 9th, still shot 8-under. Harrington is right in the mix. K.J. Choi, Steven Alker, Retief Goose, these are all proven winners. Rod Pampling, it's been a little bit of a struggle today, 2-under on his round. How about Kirk Triplett? He went out earlier in the day and shot a 64 today to jump to page one of the leaderboard.

[00:26:50] >> These guys at-6 under, I think, do have a chance. Maybe it's a snowball's chance, but the front nine, the way it plays, I think somebody could get out there, jump the front nine, Bob, and really just have a legitimate chance to shoot a good score on the back nine and win this tournament from back of the pack.

[00:27:05] >> Joe Durant, the defending champ, came from two back last year to win. Good to see Scott McCarron play well. How about Willie Wood? Three-under as a Monday qualifier. Just got into a hall of fame in Oklahoma. Congratulations to Willie. Tad Ridings, he got in via that qualifying, shot 2-under today. Good to see Scott Parel in red figures. Jeff Maggert shoots even par today. Doug Barron with a 3-under par 68 today. Billy Mayfair and Rocco Mediate shot 68s today as well. Today from Tucson, Arizona, it's final round coverage of the Cologuard Classic. PGA Tour first started coming to Tucson back in 1945. This is the 11th playing for the PGA Tour Champions of the Cologuard Classic. The Westin La Paloma Resort and Spa in Tucson playing host. Par 71, just under 6,900 yards. Jack Nicklaus designed, the Santa Catalina Mountains in the back train. A gorgeous day on this championship Sunday. Greg Chalmers started the day with a one shot lead. He's 1-under on his round today. Rod Pampling making a move. He's 4-under par. Ernie Els is even, a winner and the leader in the Schwab Cup standings. Ernie winning the season opener at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai. Bernhard Langer, past champion, in the field here this week. Who will take home the Conquistador helmet? Bob Papa, Paul Azinger, so glad you can join us. John Cook out on the golf course. And we take you over to the green at the 7th, par-3 7th. And Greg Chalmers has this for par.

[00:29:06] John Cook is with this final group.

[00:29:10] >> Beautiful afternoon out here, guys. Championship Sunday. Greg Chalmers, par save. Really good up and down from left of the green.

[00:29:19] >> No doubt. He was in a really like a bit of a pickle it looked like over there. Had to deal with a hump and hit some kind of spectacular pitch. And a nice way to walk off 7 green, headed to 8.

[00:29:35] >> Let's go over to 8. Padraig Harrington has a putt for birdie. You see Ernie Els standing there. He's got a birdie putt as well as Harrington pours that in. Padraig Harrington, couple bogeys early at the 2nd and the 5th, but picks up his third birdie of the day, and is just three off the lead. John Greg Chalmers went with a risky second shot with that wedge playing for the spin and it paid off for him.

[00:30:09] >> Yeah, it did. He kind of brought that back of the green, the back rough into play, but mastered it. Now, just a little 3-footer straight up the hill. Nothing to this but pace. Keep your head steady, let that putter swing.

[00:30:27] >> You know, Chalmers has always been a pretty accurate player from the tee, decent iron player. Can he make these big putts? Oh, boy.

[00:30:37][Applause]

[00:30:44] >> Over at the 9th, K.J. Choi for birdie to get to 9-under.

[00:30:52] >> There's one going in. He's not out of it.

[00:30:59] >> Cejka makes his first birdie of the day. And he gets to within four of the lead. Let's go over to 11. And Steven Alker for eagle. Stephen Ames and Stuart Appleby have the Eagles today at 11. And I guess if your last name ends in an A, you can make an eagle. Add Alker to the list. Let's go over to 17. Par 3, Hiroyuki Fujita. Could it? Yeah.

[00:31:38] >> What about that now?

[00:31:42] >> Fujita with an ace at 17.

[00:31:44] >> Sports Center moment.

[00:31:46] >> Twelfth ace in Cologuard Classic history. And for the second year in a row, the 17th has been aced. Mario Tiziani did it in Round 2 last year. And now, Fujita here in the final round.

[00:32:00] >> That's awesome. What a great shot to get that ball to go in.

[00:32:04] >> Take you over to 11. This is the third shot for Padraig Harrington at the par 5. And in for eagle. And Harrington is back in the mix.

[00:32:18] >> Well, now, what about that?

[00:32:27] >> Hiroyuki Fujita after that ace at 17 to finish with a birdie at 18. And he gets it.

[00:32:35] >> What a finish for Fujita. Oh, that's a cha ching special for him.

[00:32:49] >> Cejka, as is his custom, does not take out the flagstick. So, has this putt for birdie to get to 1-under for the day and get to 10-under within three of the lead.

[00:33:07] >> There's still a bit of trouble out here to have to contend with. So, important little putt.

[00:33:15] >> That was a no doubter. He definitely used the stick. You know, that was the intent there. Let the stick deaden the hit.

[00:33:23] >> Ernie Els hasn't made anything today. Did make birdie at 11. This for birdie at 12th. Missed four in a row to close out the front nine. And pours that in. And now, Ernie Els is within two of the lead as the plot continues to thicken. This is the third for Harrington at 13. Drove it in trouble. So again, we kind of talked you through the stretch of holes here. And wow, what a shot by Harrington. He'll have that to save his par.

[00:33:58] >> Up at 18, Kevin Sutherland, who's dealt with some injuries the last year and a half, has this putt for birdie at 18. Kevin won the Cologuard Classic in 2021. Beat Mike Weir by two shots.

[00:34:12] >> Back at 13, Stewart Cink for birdie. Coming off a triple at the last.

[00:34:22][Applause]

[00:34:29] >> Probably wishes he would have made that birdie at 13 last year, John.

[00:34:35] >> Steven Alker has a putt for birdie at 15. All birdies recorded at 15, they up the ante 10 today to \$3,000 per birdie. And Steven Alker adds to that total, Birdies for Survivors.

[00:34:55] >> Scott McCarran's play has gotten better here over the last couple weeks as this putt for birdie here at 18, and drops it in. Finishes with a 1-over 71. Let's go over to 16. All the par 5s Pampling can get home in two. This is his third. And he's going to have that tap in birdie to move into a share of the lead.

[00:35:22] >> Oh, man. That might be solo lead here with where Chalmers just put it. Rod Pampling, he's out in front, too, by a couple of three holes on these guys.

[00:35:33][Applause]

[00:35:40] >> Let's go over to 17. Jason Caron, 3-under today. His tee shot at 17, coming off birdie at 16.

[00:35:47] >> That's a good shot right there, 178 yards and a chance for another birdie.

[00:35:59] >> Steven Alker for eagle at 16. And this is for a share of the lead.

[00:36:04] >> I'll tell you what, 11-under, 10-under, all those 10-unders that are discouraged, like Ernie Els, he can't hang his head. Neither can Padraig. Felt like it was going to come down to those two. And then, shockingly, they both bogeyed 14.

[00:36:20] >> And this is Jason Caron's birdie putt at 17 to get him to 11-under.

[00:36:25] >> Oh, how do you do? Wow.

[00:36:28][Applause]

[00:36:34] >> Steven Alker, his tee shot at the par three comes up a little bit short. Going with putter from just off the front of the green. And how about that? Steven Alker drains it.

That's three in a row for Alker. And he's in at 12-under with a hole to play. Let's go over to 16. Ernie Els has a lengthy eagle putt. This would get Els to 12-under and a share of the lead.

[00:37:23][Applause]

[00:37:26] >> That's a good putt. You know, when you're not making the 5-footers, it's hard to lag it up. He's just one shot off the lead with two holes to go, just like that, with all those missed putts.

[00:37:38] >> Yeah, Ernie's missed five birdie putts. What would you say? Inside about 8 feet?

[00:37:44] >> Yeah, at least. At least five.

[00:37:45] >> And then, he had the three putt bogey.

[00:37:47] >> Yup.

[00:37:48] >> He missed about a 3 footer for par.

[00:37:53] >> Jason Caron, formality here, rolls in the putt for birdie. So Jason Caron has posted 12-under.

[00:38:00] >> What a score. What a player.

[00:38:02] >> A 5-under par 66 today for Jason Caron. Steven Alker is in a share of the lead. Can he birdie 18 and post 13-under?

[00:38:16] >> He hit a beauty, I tell you. He is in complete control of his distance.

[00:38:22] >> The reigning Schwab Cup champion has not won since Hualalai of 2023. Steven Alker for birdie at 18 to post 13-under. This for his fourth in a row.

[00:38:44] >> He was out to break some hearts at the Mill River Club. But it looks like a possible playoff.

[00:38:54] >> Well, we've never had a playoff in the history of the Cologuard Classic. This is year 11. But if Alker knocks this in, he'll join Caron in the clubhouse at 11-under -- 12 under. Long birdie putt for Cejka at 16 to get to 11-under. Think about his opportunities --

[00:39:24] >> Yup.

[00:39:24] >> -- here down the stretch, leave you scratching your head.

[00:39:33] >> Yeah, you can't count him out. He can get red hot at the right time. Two holes to go. That's a tall order. And it looks like it may be Chalmers first. John Cook, he got to watch it go by the hole, so at least he knows what it should do.

[00:39:53] >> Yeah, very similar to the last putt, I think, Paul. He did watch it roll out, so he got it by the hole. He knows it goes a little bit right to left. Does go back into the mountain a little bit, so he's got to keep some speed up.

[00:40:10] >> Ernie Els missed --

[00:40:11] >> Must make.

[00:40:12] >> Ernie Els missed a similar putt for par.

[00:40:25] >> Clutch.

[00:40:25] >> Yeah, that was clutch.

[00:40:35] >> Had to make it. He knew he had to make it, and he made it. So a little boost of confidence going to the last.

[00:40:46] >> Stewart Cink for par.

[00:40:47] >> Tough day for Stewart, 2-over.

[00:41:08][Cheering and Applause]

[00:41:11] >> Stewart Cink started the day a shot off the lead, but shoots 2-over par 73.

[00:41:18][Cheering and Applause]

[00:41:22] >> A chance to win here last year and was right in the mix here this year.

[00:41:32] >> Steven Alker and Jason Caron ready for the playoff. They'll play 18 until we get a winner here in Tucson at the Cologuard Classic.

[00:41:58] >> Back at the Cologuard Classic, Jason Caron, Steven Alker ready for the playoff. Jason Caron has the honor.

[00:42:13] >> Well, he's going to be loose, there's no doubt about that. He spent his time waiting, hitting balls. Had enough time to hit a couple of chips and putts. And we have a club professional in a playoff on the Champions Tour. I think this is pretty awesome, even though he's an exempt player.

[00:42:44] >> Jason Caron birdied the final three holes to post 12-under.

[00:42:51] >> That was just roasted right down the left side. Nice start.

[00:42:55] >> Well, the Mill River Club folks on Long Island in New York get a chance to watch a little prime time playoff golf. Steven Alker, less than driver. Alker had a putt for birdie from about 15 feet away at 18 to post 13-under after Alker played the incoming nine, 5-under par 30. Eagled 11, birdie 15, 16, and 17.

[00:43:28] >> Well, you want to see a beautiful golf swing, this is it. See if he hits a beautiful shot or not. He twirled the club. I think he likes it. Oh, yeah. That's a good shot. Man, those two guys both swing it really nice.

[00:43:53] >> Take a look at how we got to this spot. And Jason Caron started the day four shots behind Greg Chalmers. Talked about his finish after the birdie at 16. Wonderful tee

shot at 17. And then, hits a great tee shot -- second shot into 18. And just like that, Jason Caron has got an opportunity to close with three straight birdies.

[00:44:19] >> Yup, those were three good shots. He made a couple of nice putts, too. We saw some of the big, when I would call them the show ponies out here on this Tour, miss all the putts they needed to make. Alker came up big on 11 with this three on the par 5 here, Bob.

[00:44:38] >> Yeah. I mean, he was another one who started the day four off the lead, played the front nine even par 36. So you're not really talking about him in the movie. And then, he makes the eagle at 11, rolls in this birdie putt at 15, and suddenly, Alker's keeping up the leaderboard. But you didn't think it would be enough. Maybe too little too late. And then, after a birdie at 16, this putt for birdie at 17.

[00:45:05] >> Yeah. You never expect a make this one. Just hoping to get it up there close. If it goes in, great. It went in, and all of a sudden, he had the lead.

[00:45:25] >> And Steven Alker, you know, all the big Monday qualifying Top 10s getting into next events. John Cook has joined us playoff group. John, what does Jason have in here?

[00:45:40] >> Hundred and fifty-nine yards all in. Ball slightly below his feet. Got some extra advice from veteran tour caddie Derek Sanders who's also a good player. Good strike, little right of the flag.

[00:45:53] >> Yeah, beautiful distance control. That's the one thing we saw from the guys trying to win that didn't get in this playoff that struggled. Yeah, Jason hit a nice shot there. Alker with a shorter shot, it looks like, John.

[00:46:11] >> A little bit shorter. One-fifty here for Steven. Ball also below his feet, which I think helps right here, Paul. With that pin kind of in the center, you want to hit maybe a little cut drop shot in there. This is a little 9-iron.

[00:46:26] >> In previous attempts, I think, Bob, we've seen him try to hit hard wedges. I know one thing in the off season, he was trying to take a little bit off of some of his clubs and not overspin it.

[00:46:40] >> And it may cost him a little bit last year.

[00:46:42] >> It's a beautiful looking shot. A little ride of the flag as well.

[00:46:46] >> Yeah, two good shots, one a little better than the other. But I've always felt like first in wins. So, Jason gets to go first. So, if you live by the first in wins philosophy, he's got a good chance.

[00:47:11] >> Steven Alker trying to join this group of winners this year on the PGA Tour Championship. Ernie Els, a winner at Hualalai to start the year. Miguel Angel Jimenez, a winner in Morocco. And Justin Leonard got his first win on the PGA Tour Champions, winning the Chubb Classic in Naples, Florida. So will it be Steven Alker, who has won eight times on the PGA Tour Champions, or Jason Caron, who earned his spot on the Tour by finishing in the time top 36 last year?

[00:47:51] >> Such an enthusiastic fan base since the Cologuard Classic came to Tucson, Arizona, now in its 11th year. The Conquistadors have done such a wonderful job as far as being involved in this event. The Conquistador helmet, one of the coolest trophies you're going to find, goes to the winner. That helmet was first awarded in 1968. The members saw it on a trip to Spain, and it was shipped from Toledo, Spain until 1994. And then, the Tucson Metal Company Works started producing the helmet since then. And obviously, on the regular tour for many years. And now, the PGA Tour Champions.

[00:48:33] >> I like the helmet for the trophy. I just don't think I'd ever put it on my head like some of those guys have in the past. Like my favorite was when Mickelson put it on. If you could Google that picture of Phil with that helmet, it's hilarious.

[00:48:45] >> My favorite was one -- You know who it looked natural on was Miguel Angel Jimenez a couple years ago.

[00:48:50] >> Really?

[00:48:50] >> Yeah. Of course, with the cigar, the whole deal.

[00:48:53] >> Totally. Total.

[00:48:55] >> And winning in Morocco, he's got the dagger now. So he can go full throttle with the gear.

[00:49:01] >> Get him a shield.

[00:49:03] >> So it's interesting. Steven Alker was an unknown. And late in the summer of 2020, Monday queued, then he finished the Top 10, kept finishing in the Top 10. Then lo and behold, he won the TimberTech, get status on the Tour, won four times in 2021 and winning the Schwab Cup. Two thousand twenty-three, he continued winning. Two thousand twenty-four, he won the season opener at Hualalai, but had some missteps, even though he won the Schwab Cup. So for him, you know that he's got to be really anxious to get back in the winner's circle.

[00:49:41] >> Oh, yeah, desperately. He wants to win. And, you know, all the players that I've talked to about Alker and his game are just blown away by how good he is.

[00:49:53] >> Caron to go first. John, what's in this putt?

[00:50:00] >> It's got some right to left in it. It does go up against the mountain, so he can get it way out there to the right and let it get on down that slope.

[00:50:07] >> That was left all the way. We had a good angle on it. Needed to swing it out there high.

[00:50:16] >> Yeah. Those slower ones, Paul, when -- Yeah, you got to get it swung way out there.

[00:50:25] >> So now, Steven Alker has a putt for birdie to win.

[00:50:31] >> And this one goes more down the slope. It will have some right to left in it, but this also has some speed. Got to be a little aware of the speed.

[00:50:43] >> What do you think of his personality type? How do you think he feels right now, John? I know you've watched him a lot.

[00:50:50] >> I've spent a lot of time around Steven Alker, covering him, being in the same groups as him. And he doesn't waver. He's very consistent. I think he knows his breathing technique. He knows how to relax himself.

[00:51:09] >> Steven Alker --

[00:51:09] >> Wouldn't be at all surprised if this goes in.

[00:51:12] >> Steven Alker on the first playoff hole has this putt for birdie to win the Cologuard Classic. There you have it, Steven Alker. Start of the day four shots back. Shoots 66 in the final round and birdies the first hole of the playoff to defeat Jason Caron and win for the ninth time on the PGA Tour Champions. And the reigning Schwab Cup champion has done it again to win in the first ever playoff in Cologuard Classic history. And congratulations to Steven Alker. Great week by Jason Caron. You got a feel for Greg Chalmers. His chances were there. Hopefully, he gets another opportunity.