

Production Transcript for 25INTCUTCH - HOAG CLASSIC.mp3

[00:00:37] >> The PGA Tour of Champions loves coming to Newport Beach, California and the Hoag Classic, one of the premier events on the PGA Tour of Champions schedule. And once again, Newport Beach Country Club will play host. Par 71, one of the shorter courses that the PGA Tour of Champions will play this year, just under 6,800 yards. But when the wind blows, this golf course can have a lot of danger on it. Take a look at some of the highlights. David Duval started his day at the 10th. This was his third into the par-5 18th, and Paul Eisinger, slam dunk.

[00:01:13] >> Yeah, I would always say to my buds, where did that go? I lost it in the sun. It's right in the bottom of the cup. Great start.

[00:01:20] >> So, he'd make the turn at 3-under par. Fred Couples, a two-time champion rolls in this birdie. He putted at the 6th. This would get Fred to 4-under par. Couples a winner here in 2010 and 2014. Miguel Angel Jimenez the winner this year on the PGA Tour of Champions in Morocco, rolls in this birdie putt at the 6th that would get him to 2-under par. Ernie Els, who's won this event twice, his second at the 6th. And everybody taking advantage of the 6, Zinger.

[00:01:53] >> They sure are, and it's playing short wedge shots like that, and the greens are perfect right now.

[00:01:58] >> That'd get Ernie to two under. Now the 8th is traditionally one of the hardest holes on the golf course, the par 3. Not for Miguel Angel Jimenez, on the front of the green, knocks that in for birdie.

[00:02:08] >> And Freddie loves it.

[00:02:10] >> You get a fist pump from Couples. Roger going about his work. Jimenez gets to 4-under par. Freddie Jacobson on the PGA Tour of Champions, playing his second shot into the 7th, his 16th hole of the day. Went out in 32 and hits this in tight. He'd go on and knock that in to get to 6-under par on his round. Over at the 11th, Retief Goosen for birdie. Goosen winner here in 2022, a four-shot win over K.J. Choi. He shot 63 in the final round to win the Hoag Classic.

[00:02:48] >> Well, that's a great feeling when you can make some of those long range and what a steady round.

[00:02:57] >> At the 9th, his final hole of the day, Kirk Triplett, who won this event in 2019, made an eagle on the second playoff hole to defeat Woody Austin, rolls in that birdie putt.

[00:03:09][ Applause ] Vijay Singh, a winner here in 2018, playing his second in the 14.

[00:03:23] >> Putting miles in the air and a good shot for Vijay. Over at the 9th, Michael Allen playing his third shot, final hole of the day. Bingo, Michael.

[00:03:38] >> Wow. There's still some magic in that hat. Look at that.

[00:03:42][ Applause ]

[00:03:52] >> Up at the green, Vijay Singh even for his birdie.

[00:04:05] >> The libations are pouring, and people are having a great time, as they always do.

[00:04:10] >> Well, I think that's what we're going to start doing here in the booth on Fridays. We're just going to have a little happy hour our own selves. Don't you think, Bob, we should do that? And then start the show with the low lights, all the sorriest shots, and then go to the leaders.

[00:04:25] >> Well, let's give a toast to Pdraig for that birdie.

[00:04:28] >> Yeah. Good job, Pdraig.

[00:04:30] >> Retief Goosen, his second in 14.

[00:04:39] >> Well, well, that's the Retief Goosen that I expect to see. Well, he works hard on these as much as he works on his power, trying to drill it, and he likes to fight these down sometimes. He liked that one, Cookie. That that was just textbook stuff.

[00:05:11] >> Goosen for birdie at 14. So, he makes his. Jason Caron, who lost in the playoffs to Steve Alker in the last event in Tucson. Jacob for birdie at 18. And this would get Alex in with a 5-under par, 66.

[00:05:46] >> What a nice putt that was to finish. He's playing good every week now.

[00:05:53] >> On the tee at 17, this is playing as the sixth hardest hole on the golf course.

[00:06:03] >> I guess the hole is right over that sand trap. Oh, no problem, slung it right in there.

[00:06:16] >> Very difficult bunker shot for Jimenez at 17.

[00:06:21] >> Well, he took a big time chance, didn't he? He landed that into the fluffy, rough there. Elbow straight out, seen a couple guys do that in the past, but it's tiring. You know? If you were trying to practice that at home, your left arm will get so tired sticking it out there like that. It works.

[00:06:45] >> So, Jones makes the birdie at 7. He has two holes to play, and he gets back to 7 under. This'll be a really nice par for Ernie Els after the errant tee shot at 16.

[00:07:04] >> It sure would. He hit it right in the right spot. And he just drilled it. That's fist pump worthy for Ernie. He knows how important that is.

[00:07:22] >> Now, let's see if Jimenez can make his par. Pulled it, oh, and it went in.

[00:07:26] >> It never stopped. That was one of the -- then he got a little.

[00:07:29][ Cheering ]

[00:07:35] >> Richard had a fantastic year last year on the PGA Tour of Champions, and opens with a 3-under par, 68 here in Round One of the Hoag Classic. Alker for birdie at 17.

[00:07:53][ Cheering ]

[00:07:55] >> That'll make you a good player, I can tell you, all those mid-range putts he made.

[00:08:03] >> Stewart Cink knocked it over the green in 2, and Stewart had a good chance to win at the Cologuard Classic two years in a row now.

[00:08:11] >> Yeah. His big mistake was on the 12th hole when he came up short. He chips cross handed, and this is a work of art. You know, you go try to practice with left-hand low pitching, there's some great players that have done it. You know, I'll give Cam Smith that category. So, this is unusual. He must have had something going on in his head with the other technique. And that keeps that left hand firm, the club face stays open, and in it goes just like that.

[00:08:46] >> Oh boy, feels like every time we show him -- he did it in Cologuard too.

[00:08:49] >> Yeah.

[00:08:51] >> Pitches in for eagle, fist pump from the Hall of Famer. Steven Alker playing his third into 18. Hit a poor tee shot because he's got the firepower to get home in two.

[00:09:05] >> Yes, he does. He's got the wedge game that everybody dreams about, and that was a beauty.

[00:09:11] >> It's an area he has definitely improved upon. You know, it just shows you, really, isn't it that -- like Bryson started it. I'm going to hit it as far as I possibly can, and then Padraig, well, Padraig's out here, and he's doing it. Now Freddie Couples wants to do it. He's 66 or seven years old. Freddie wants to swing harder at it. We all strive to get better at golf. Go for it. You know? That's right.

[00:09:45] >> Do you do it?

[00:09:46] >> I don't, but I'm going to start. I'm going to start all the stuff I see out here. Although, I will say, I really set my club short at the top now with my driver and my club. That speed's dropped, but I let my hands drop the other day, and I could see the club at the top of my back swing, four more miles an hour.

[00:10:02] >> There you go. And you know, Michael's out there and plugging away each and every week. And a very nice opening round for him with that 6 under, 65.

[00:10:09] >> Isn't that cool? Because he has struggled. He's getting up there now, and that's awesome. And there's Retief right there. That great rhythm, he and Ernie both possess it, and it's something to behold.

[00:10:23] >> Twenty-ninth year, PGA Tour of Champions has been coming to Newport Beach, California. Miguel Angel Jimenez putting on a show. Fred Couples lives in the area, two-time champ. Padraig Harrington, your defending champ. All the stars are out in Newport Beach. So, for Paul Azier, John Cook, and our entire crew, Bob Papa saying so long from the Hoag Classic. A field with seven World Golf Hall of Famers in it. Padraig

Harrington is the defending champ. Twenty-ninth year of the Hoag Classic and Newport Beach Country Club has been along for the ride for all those years. Par 71, just under 6,800 yards. Fred Couples started the day three shots off the lead. How about Stewart Cink? He made a run early, birdied the 1st, a bogey at the 2nd, then eagle the 3rd. And Stewart Cink keeping the pedal to the metal, knocks this close at the 6th. He'd go on to make that. That would get him to 7-under par. Mentioned Fred Couples. This was his birdie at the 5th to get him to 7 under, 3 under on his round, and comfortable on these green, Zinger.

[00:11:41] >> Yeah, it's like old home week for Freddie, and we'll go to Freddie Jacobson now. Do you see how low that left, perfect trajectory on that little pitch shot, great speed?

[00:11:51] >> Yeah. That was at the par 5, 30. He'd go on and make that to get to 8-under par. Brendan Jones, a PGA Tour of Champions rookie playing in his second event, and had the overnight lead, rolls this putt in for birdie at the 3rd. That would get him to 8-under par. Then how about Fred Couples? Just completely dialed in. This was his second into 7.

[00:12:14] >> Well, he jumped on this hole location down in that low area at the back of the green and just stoned it, and that's one of those I'll finish.

[00:12:24] >> So, Fred couples is 5 under through his opening eight. He's at 9-under par. Go over to the 7th and Alex Cejka for birdie to get to 6 under. Let's go over to the 8th. Cameron Percy for birdie. Cameron, a bogey on the scorecard today. That was at the 5th.

[00:12:54] >> Let's see what kind of touch he has on this putt. It's down the hill for sure, all the way, and that's the gift of the tour player.

[00:13:06] >> Freddie Jacobson to tie Freddie Couples at 9 under.

[00:13:11] >> Freddie Jacobson putts really, really well. He's got kind of that pop stroke.

[00:13:18] >> Michael Allen, who was bogey free yesterday and at 66 years of age shot a 65. And he pours that in, so Michael 2 under on his round. He's within a shot of the lead. John Cook, very familiar with this golf course, having lived in this area for a long time and playing in this event for many years. John, what's the tee shot here that Miguel needs?

[00:14:01] >> Yeah, the fairway slopes from right to left. There's those bunkers up on the right-hand side. So, it's just basically free swing it. It's downwind, one of the tougher holes on the golf course, but if you get the tee ball in play, turns it into a birdie opportunity.

[00:14:20] >> Over at the 12th, this is the third for Stewart Cink. Had a good look at birdie at 11.

[00:14:29] >> How good is that speed on that shot?

[00:14:33] >> The third for Brendan Jones, missed his tee shot left, played his second to here.

[00:14:38] >> Beautiful bunker shot, wow.

[00:14:47] >> The second for Ken Tanigawa and in for birdie.

[00:14:55] >> Perfect distance. Flew it right on the mark.

[00:14:58] >> He's 2 under today.

[00:15:09] >> Could he make this be in contention again? And yes, perfect speed.

[00:15:17] >> Charlie Wi for birdie at 12.

[00:15:20] >> Yeah, so--

[00:15:22] >> Two birdies -- two birdies, two bogeys on his card today. And he hit a golf shot in there that actually took a look at the pin.

[00:15:41] >> Jones for birdie at 10 and for a share of the lead. So, Brendan Jones's second birdie of the day. Let's go over to 18, Jay Haas. Poor tee shot at 12 and 13, but he's making pars as Jacobson plays at the 11th.

[00:16:11] >> Same thing with Freddie. You know, he's got kind of -- you can get in survival mode.

[00:16:23] >> Jay 3 under today.

[00:16:24] >> Well, he shoots his age again, or quite a bit better for -- isn't Jay 71 now?

[00:16:31] >> Yeah. I mean, he's beaten his age two days in a row. Over at 15, Stewart Cink for birdie, coming off of birdie at 14, and Stewart Cink gets to 9 under.

[00:16:45] >> Uh oh, watch out for long hitter Stewart. Good putt. Alex.

[00:17:04] >> Yeah. Miguel hit a good one here yesterday, and a nice four-iron right in the middle of the green, a nice two-putt birdie.

[00:17:10] >> Boy, he took a lash at that, and this is 480 yards. They were 498 yards today, very reachable.

[00:17:25] >> Y.E. Yang for birdie.

[00:17:27] >> Come on, Y.E. Yeah, man. He took down the great Tiger Woods up there in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

[00:17:41] >> Now, Jimenez's second at the par 5.

[00:17:45] >> He torched this drive, guys. He took it right around those bunkers, and now he only 186 for a 218 hole, went in slightly out of the right.

[00:18:08] >> What a shot by Jimenez.

[00:18:09] >> Well, is that ever well-timed, back to back, great shots. Here's Chalmers now with an eagle chip here at 18. Well done. That'll get him to 7-under par.

[00:18:38] >> That's a lie of Fred Couples as he gets set to play his third at the par-5 15th. Again, this hole playing is the easiest hole on the golf course. So, coming off of a bogey at

the last, you got to figure everybody's going to make a birdie coming through here. And Couples is in the fourth to last group. John, is it pretty straightforward?

[00:19:02] >> Yeah. Pretty straightforward. It's a perfect lie. No issues at all, a lot of green to work with. Way easier shot than he had yesterday, that he did get up and down from the right side, down below the green. So, zero issues here. It's all about the strike and the contact.

[00:19:20] >> Yep. Can he get the speed right? Is this fast or slow going this way?

[00:19:27] >> It's going back into the hill and away from the water, so it should be fairly slow. It's on the upslope. So, he's got to -- he does have to keep his body speed up. Drives it in there pretty low.

[00:19:40] >> There you go, Freddie. That is beautiful speed.

[00:19:43][ Applause ] So, this is Charlie Wi putting for eagle, John Cook. I wonder if he still uses that weird grip from the long range.

[00:20:00] >> I don't know, Paul. I kind of question this play. I think you and I would, even in our later, I think, days, we would pitch this ball. There's a lot of kikuyus around here, and I think he's going with it. He's going to slam this thing.

[00:20:24] >> Well, he's showing me something. I'm going to be trying that grip again tomorrow morning.

[00:20:31] >> Freddie Jacobson now playing his third at the par-3 13th.

[00:20:36] >> Boy, up and down for bogey for Freddie. He really needs to play a nice shot. And he did. Oh my, what a nice shot that is.

[00:20:51] >> His first birdie since the 9th. Gets him to 9 under.

[00:20:58] >> And a little -- kind of just a frustrated little fist pump.

[00:21:02] >> Couples about to move into his share of the lead. We know that Jacobson is going to make bogey. So, good bounce back for Fred.

[00:21:16][ Applause and Cheering ] Ken Tanigawa on the tee at 17.

[00:21:37] >> You can barely see the ridge.

[00:21:38] >> Look at this.

[00:21:39] >> You can barely see it.

[00:21:40] >> Best one we've seen at 17. Jimenez coming out of the rough at 16, his second, John.

[00:21:52] >> Yeah. Not a good angle, but a really good lie from 133 yards, 125 clears that bunker, and that took a look.

[00:22:01] >> Boy, did it ever?

[00:22:07] >> Fred Couples sizing up this birdie putt. And John, before you tell us about the putt, it looked like he got a kind of weird kick again.

[00:22:18] >> Yeah, a kick really, really firm. The wind was kind of going left to right, maybe a slight bit of hurt. So, I think that wicked, big bounce is a little surprising. Now, he's got 30 feet down the hill, should move a little left, but not as much as you think. But it is quick.

[00:22:36] >> It is [inaudible] for Freddie down the hill.

[00:22:41] >> Let's go, Freddie!

[00:22:42][ Applause and Cheering ]

[00:22:48] >> So, Fred Couples back-to-back birdies after the bogey.

[00:23:01] >> Hole high.

[00:23:02] >> That I learned.

[00:23:04] >> The best iron -- best iron players were all hole high.

[00:23:14] >> Well, John Cook got a lot of great knowledge and wisdom from the great Ken Benteri.

[00:23:18] >> Jacob for his eagle at 15. Oh. Richard Green playing with Stewart Cink for birdie. 4- under par, 67, has him three off the lead. You get to within three of the lead--

[00:23:51] >> Don't count Ernie Els out. Not yet. Yep, that's a nice putt. Got a par 5 left.

[00:23:58] >> Let's go, Ernie. Michael just 1 under today.

[00:24:15] >> Oh boy.

[00:24:16] >> And Michael Allen is going to have a chance for the second eagle of the day at 15. John, Fred Couples for birdie.

[00:24:24] >> Yeah, big breaker from left to right.

[00:24:26][ Cheering ]

[00:24:34] >> Three in a row for Couples, and he's got the outright lead, and they're loving it in Newport Beach.

[00:24:39] >> Freddie, Freddie, Freddie, Freddie, Freddie, Freddie, Freddie, Freddie, Freddie!

[00:24:48] >> This is the last opportunity, because Michael Allen is playing in the last group with Brendan Jones and Freddie Jacobson. Eight wins on the PGA Tour of Champions.

[00:25:01] >> He sure did have a great run out here, a real strong run. Never a solid tour player. You know, he played the tour a while, but he wasn't a prolific kind of money maker or anything like that. Now at this age -- oh, so pure.

[00:25:21] >> So, Michael Allen with an eagle at 15, and now he's moved to 9-under par, two off the lead of Couples and just one behind Jimenez.

[00:25:48] >> This'll get him within three of Fred Couples. He just drilled that and caught the edge, beautifully done.

[00:26:06] >> Hey, Joe, and a left bunker frozen up against the left. Just had to play out in front of Fred's tee shot, his third to here. Pretty straightforward pitch.

[00:26:16] >> Yabba-dabba-doo!

[00:26:16] >> Get in the hole! Get in the hole!

[00:26:17] >> Should check and release a little bit.

[00:26:19][ Cheering ]

[00:26:24] >> That was pure. You never know when the 60 year olds are going to step up and give you some trouble. This is -- I'm looking forward to this shot, John Cook. He's got pretty good hands. Hundred percent, Paul. This is one of the best that's ever played this game at this shot right here, semi-long bunker shot off an upslope.

[00:26:53] >> Well, that's pretty tasty. You know, we had audio on that. You could actually hear that little bit of a slap.

[00:27:01] >> Let's go, Freddie!

[00:27:05] >> Second to last group, if he makes this putt.

[00:27:07] >> Right, because there's a lot others at--

[00:27:10] >> That's a disaster at 16.

[00:27:20] >> Just off that left edge right there. Got to keep some speed up.

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

[00:27:29] >> That is a deserved, well-deserved birdie. What a finish by Michael Allen. Eagle at 15, double at 16, the two-shot penalty, and then birdies at 17 and 18.

[00:27:45] >> I put the early call on Him having no chance, and I regret it now, but he really, you know, he just didn't let it phase him, did he? How often have you heard of a fella chipping out and hitting -- chipping the wrong ball?

[00:28:01] >> Two-shot Penalty comes right back with birdie, birdie. This for birdie for Jones, good putt.



[00:28:07] >> That Michael Allen, I think he showed us all something today. He is really some kind of player and overcame the double bogey and the careless error. That's awesome.

[00:28:20] >> Bogey free 64 for Jimenez. Couples shoot seven-under 64. They'll have a one-shot lead over Freddie Jacobson in the final round, who shot a four under par 67.

[00:28:33][ Music ]

[00:28:39][ Music ]

[00:28:45] >> Gorgeous Newport Beach, California, area in the 29th year of the Hoag Classic, one of the premier events on the PGA Tour Champion Schedule. We started the day with Couples and Jimenez in a share of the lead. You see where he stands on this leaderboard, three off the lead of Miguel Angel Jimenez. Fred Couples even through his opening six holes. This is Jason Caron up at the seventh playing with Stewart Cink, and that one gave it a look. Now on the team, John, yesterday, he was brilliant. He shot a bogey-free 64.

[00:29:32] >> He was very efficient yesterday, Bob, and trying to take driver start at that left bunker and cut it back.

[00:29:50] >> Stewart Cink for birdie.

[00:29:51] >> Perfect speed. Let's go over to the ninth par four. This is David Duval playing his second. David has pulled out twice for eagle this week. Eight straight pars to start his final round and--

[00:30:11] >> Crosshand grip, his shoulders are so level. Look how level those shoulders are. He makes clutch playing on Sundays. There's one right there.

[00:30:29] >> John, what about this shot for Jimenez?

[00:30:34] >> Similar to what Freddie Jacobson just had from 102, but he's going to use some slope out to the right. This could get close.

[00:30:48] >> Jacobson's third at the seventh.

[00:30:51] >> Yeah, this is very doable. You can hit it out to the right, use some slope little check and hold and let it release.

[00:31:03] >> Jason Caron has two top 10 finishes this year, lost in a playoff, the Colorguard Classic to Steven Alker. Rolls in that putt for birdie, finished tie for ninth Jimenez for his birdie and the outright lead.

[00:31:17] >> Oh boy, he is not -- he's on a mission. John Cook kind of pointed it out.

[00:31:32] >> Charlie Wi for birdie. Charlie is right there this week, after going out in 31. I see if Ernie Els can make a birdie here after making bogey at The eighth. Ernie birdied three of his first four.

[00:32:02] >> Little dog leg left to right. Miguel with driver out trying to skirt those right bunkers.

[00:32:22] >> Stewart Cink start of the day three back. This to get him to within two of the lead and go out in 32.

[00:32:30] >> Beautiful putt, perfect speed.

[00:32:42] >> Now, Couples who missed his tee shot right yesterday, John, managed to scratch out a par.

[00:32:48] >> That he did, and he needs to get something going right here with a good tee ball. And this was smashed.

[00:32:59] >> He flew it where Jimenez's ball stopped.

[00:33:01] >> About 121 yards uphill into the breeze a little bit, back right hole location, tough to get it close, to get all the way back there. Always thought this was a tough pin to get the ball close to, because the green slopes a little bit right to left. Wind is always into you. Plays a lot longer than the number.

[00:33:30] >> I heard English, "I pulled it." I heard him say that in English.

[00:33:44] >> Hundred and eight yards for Fred. Trying to figure out exactly what the wind is doing, he could take a chance try to send it out to the right, use some slope. That's a little bit dangerous though, you can't miss right or long. He's taking it on.

[00:34:09][ Cheering ]

[00:34:11] >> In a mirror turn.

[00:34:12][ Applause ]

[00:34:20] >> Back of the Hoag Classic, Jimenez for birdie at the ninth, just off the green left.

[00:34:28] >> Up the slope, really slow putt. No doubt about it, and you need to know this putt. It doesn't break as much left as you think it does.

[00:34:50] >> Well, that hurts. You know, you guys, you talked about it a little bit in the break, how important this putt was for Fred. He came up short.

[00:34:59] >> He's got this for par.

[00:35:03] >> Yeah, no doubt about that, Bob, and this doesn't do a whole lot. If you can play it straight with some speed, it'll you'll make it.

[00:35:12] >> Hasn't made a bogey since the 16th hole in round one.

[00:35:26] >> Well, look at Stewart Cink here, quietly, just climbing up the leaderboard, has this for birdie to get to within one.

[00:35:42] >> There's no easy four-footer, not on Poa Annua grass.

[00:35:48] >> Very nice.

[00:35:50] >> Cink with his fourth birdie of the day, made a couple of nice par saves, his second at the par four 11th.

[00:36:01] >> I was surprised how high he hits his short irons. Oh, my goodness, here he goes.

[00:36:11] >> So, only one birdie on his card, a bunch of par saves, and Alker is holed out for eagle.

[00:36:31] >> He's practicing a huge low hook.

[00:36:35] >> A lot of times, out of the rough you try to hit that quick snap hook, and you make that motion and you hit it dead straight. I see it happen time and time again. So, he's just enough rough, it's really going to try to snap hook it, John.

[00:37:00] >> Yeah, you're right about that. A lot of times it goes dead straight, just comes flying out of that rough. But he's got such great hands and got around the bunker maybe.

[00:37:12] >> He did.

[00:37:15] >> He over hooked it and hit it too far, but yeah.

[00:37:25] >> Miguel Angel Jimenez playing his third shot here at the 10th.

[00:37:34] >> Yeah, he's got some options. He could bump it into that slope or go upstairs. Looks like he's going to go upstairs. He's so good at this stuff. That is outstanding. My goodness.

[00:37:46][ Applause and Cheering ]

[00:37:52] >> Wow.

[00:37:55] >> Oh, what a mock anger. He's not mad at all.

[00:38:05] >> This would get him within one of the lead.

[00:38:06] >> And that was a cool little pitch shot that he hit. Yeah, absolutely Bob, and this is one he can make, too. Doesn't have to worry about speed a little bit left to right. It does go up uphill a little bit.

[00:38:21] >> Well, I like how he stares at the hole when he makes his practice stroke. He doesn't do that when he putts. He'll keep his head down.

[00:38:39] >> Oh boy, right on the money.

[00:38:42] >> Third birdie of the day for Jacobson, and he gets to 12-under and within a shot of the lead.

[00:38:54] >> It's kind of what we saw the last couple of tournaments with Ernie Els. I mean, knocking flag sticks down and not able to get anything to drop.

[00:39:10] >> Corey six-under for the week.

[00:39:12] >> He's got some wedge skills even at his age now.

[00:39:27] >> Jay playing his third into 18.

[00:39:38] >> Into the wind, taking it way up in the air.

[00:39:47] >> That is a beauty. That is a big time shot with a one-shot lead.

[00:39:52] >> Steven Alker at 15 for his birdie, playing with Ernie Els. Pours it in. So, Alker gets to within a shot of the lead. Now Couples to play his second.

[00:40:17] >> From 119, if there's ever a time that he needs to stack one, it is right here.

[00:40:23] >> Should be a great yardage for Fred, and he's just missed it by that much. One more big hop would've have been all he needed, but he's still just two shots back.

[00:40:37] >> It's like on repeat, Y. Yang for birdie. This time he makes it.

[00:40:53] >> Good birdie For Ernie Els, there's--

[00:40:56] >> Fred Couples with the same putt.

[00:41:00] >> No magic for Fred, not this Sunday.

[00:41:13] >> John, what about this putt for Jimenez?

[00:41:17] >> Doesn't have to worry about speed. It goes uphill and moving pretty good right to left when it slows down.

[00:41:36] >> Always watch their head, their chest to see if he moves on it or if he stays like that, in that practice stroke. There's a good look. Drilled it.

[00:41:50] >> Two-putt birdie for Cink. He moves to 13-under and a share of the lead.

[00:41:56] >> Two twelve front, 228 hole, good lie, no problem. Carries a seven-wood.

[00:42:12] >> Well, with his short game, that's a really good shot, I have to say. Now we take you back to 15, and this is the third for Jimeneth, and John, when he has wedge in hand and hidden little pitch shots like this, you almost expect him to make half of them.

[00:42:31] >> No doubt. This is where he shines, right here, guys, and this is about as easy a pitch shot as you can have: back in the stands, hands ahead, pinch it in there low, check and release.

[00:42:42] >> Is that right? Hello.

[00:42:46] >> Pretty obvious who's the most comfortable, that guy. He's feeling great. He hasn't missed a shot, really, has he?

[00:42:55] >> Come again.

[00:43:08] >> Yeah, downhill, down green, down everything here, so really difficult shot, and that kind of rode up the club face, I think. You know, he just can't give away two or two and a half shots here at the 15th. So, I think Fred's day is basically done, but we've got a lot of players up there near or on the lead.

[00:43:36] >> Well, he bogeyed that hole number three, and that's a great par in the end. You know, not a great par in -- at the start of the hole, but-- 0 Appears to be just a tap in. I'm not giving it to him, but doesn't look like much.

[00:44:00] >> He can catch these off the heel, though, so we'll see where -- where this heads.

[00:44:05] >> Oh, it was off the heel. That was definitely inside the sweet spot. But in it goes, and one-shot lead.

[00:44:20] >> Thought Ernie was going to be able to really pull a rabbit out of his hat today. That's a good putt. Never know, maybe a nice little three at the last.

[00:44:32] >> Jimenez getting ready to play his second. John, the live from at least here seems okay.

[00:44:39] >> Yeah, it's fine. And the angle's actually okay. No tree trouble, no issues at all; 145 yards, which means he's got 136 to the front, which is all he needs. I think a ball if it flies to the hole high it might get towards the middle back of the green, and that's not an easy two-putt. So, trying to keep it short of this flag I think would be wise.

[00:45:07] >> No.

[00:45:08] >> Good job.

[00:45:15] >> Good shot.

[00:45:16] >> I know Couples hasn't won since 2022. Would love to have been able to pick up that 15th win Jimenez also firing for his 15th win. Jacobson in his fourth start since turning 51--

[00:45:35] >> One se-- Perfect angle right there, Bob, 117 hole. He can go flag hunting all day long.

[00:45:52] >> Well, how do you do? Freddie Jacobson.

[00:45:56] >> Well, they came to watch Freddie, a lot of them Couples, but it's Jacobson putting on a show.

[00:46:02][ Music ]

[00:46:14] >> Miguel Angel Jimenez for birdie at 16. Jacobson with the birdie at 16, and he is now at 14-under and in a share of the lead. Y. E. Yang for yet another birdie.

[00:46:48] >> You say it every single hole. He's so happy that went in.

[00:47:00] >> Missed his tee shot at the par-5 15th left, which cost him a chance to go for the green and to wound up having a scramble to make his par. John, biggest tee shot for Jacobson of his young PGA Tour Champions career.

[00:47:23] >> No question about it, Bob. With a good tee shot, he'll have just a long iron or just a lofted fairway wood, but must put it in the fairway.

[00:47:46] >> Jimenez has piped every single tee shot for the most part.

[00:47:52] >> And now some heat on Miguel.

[00:47:56] >> You said that right, Bob. Let's see if Miguel can answer. He has answered the call most of the day.

[00:48:10] >> Nice.

[00:48:11] >> Wow, that's nice.

[00:48:16] >> Quite the answer, right down the middle. Hello, there you are.

[00:48:25] >> Stewart Cink has this for birdie and a share of the lead at the 18th.

[00:48:37] >> Well, good job. Stewart Cink came up big the last two holes.

[00:48:49] >> He's got plenty of length. He's got a three-wood, a five-wood, and a seven-wood. I would imagine he's going to take three-wood out just try to roast it.

[00:49:00] >> Oh, whiplash finish. He loves it.

[00:49:06] >> Good.

[00:49:07] >> That's a good shot. Now, that's a pretty good leave as it trickles away, it's getting tougher and tougher, but how about that follow through.

[00:49:18] >> Two thirty-three front, 241 hole, just a couple of yards shorter than Miguel, and Miguel has it in a really nice place that is very holeable from there. Now, let's see if Freddie Jacobson can answer.

[00:49:38] >> That's where you can hit it.

[00:49:50] >> Degree of difficulty, 12 plus.

[00:49:53] >> Yeah, I've seen him hit some crazy looking flops, so there's a, you know, he's going to go for a miracle maybe. Maybe you can pull it off.

[00:50:00] >> He had to do that right there. That's the only play he had to give himself a chance.

[00:50:07] >> Yeah.

[00:50:20] >> This is the shot, though, John. You think he's got a -- he's going to love this?

[00:50:28] >> I think he does. It's on the uphill, upslope a little bit as good as he is with this club right there. Just let it trickle out.

[00:50:35][ Cheering ]

[00:50:39] >> Miguel Angel Jimenez will have a tap in birdie to post 15-under and be the first two-time winner on the PGA Tour Champions this year.

[00:50:54] >> Well, unless Freddy can make a long putt.

[00:50:57] >> But this putt does break pretty good from right to left, the low part of the golf courses to his back, and it goes uphill. It's pretty slow going into the grain, breaking left.

[00:51:22] >> You can't do that, can you? He just left it short and--

[00:51:29] >> No.

[00:51:30] >> That's a nightmare. That's a bad, bad par, really, for him. And he has just handed it over. Looks like to Jimenez.

[00:51:38] >> Miguel Angel Jimenez has won the Hoag Classic, his 15th win on the PGA Tour Champions in the first player this year to win twice on the PGA Tour Champions.

[00:51:53] >> He played great today. He showed that most confidence and just felt like he was leading all day while he was tied. He just came up big time at the last.

[00:52:04][ Music ]