

Production Transcript for 25INTCUTCH â€“ MITSUBISHI EC - MASTER.mp3

[00:00:43] >> The PGA Tour of Champions, eighth of 28 events on the season schedule. It's the Mitsubishi Electric Classic, 12th year at TPC Sugar Loaf in Duluth, Georgia. Take a look at some highlights. Ernie Els, who won the Mitsubishi Electric Championship in Hualalai to start the year. Rolls in this birdie putt at the 8th. This would get him to 4-under par. Els 3rd in the season-long race for the Charles Schwab Cup.

[00:01:09] >> That's kind of the start of the theme here early is these long putts. I think they're long putts, 25 feet plus, just going in right and left for these guys. Boo Weekley with a big birdie putt.

[00:01:21] >> Yeah, that was at 16. He started his day at the 10th. That would get into 4 under. And Retief Goosen's birdie putt at 7.

[00:01:27] >> And another one and this just tells you the greens are perfect, like putting on a pool table

[00:01:33] >> Rolling about 12 and a half on the stint meter. Bernhard Langer with a long one at the par-3 11th. Langer won the inaugural Mitsubishi Electric Classic back in 2013, nearly made the cut at the Masters. His game is in fine form. That got him to 4-under par. How about Jerry Kelly at the drivable 13th? Elected to lay up, but plays a perfect wedge shot.

[00:01:57] >> Well, this isn't the easiest wedge shot either, because it -- you know, you count on that spin. And we saw it, but then it released out nicely, and that was a good decision. And really, we saw some long putts, but that's just a tap in.

[00:02:08] >> He would get to 7 under. That would be four in a row for Jerry Kelly, and he's opened up a 2-shot lead over Ernie Els, Bernhard Langer. Vijay Singh. We got seven World Golf Hall of Famers in the field here this week. The PGA Tour of Champions proudly presents the yearlong race for the Charles Schwab Cup. Today, from Duluth, Georgia, it's 1st round coverage of the Mitsubishi Electric Classic. And once again, TPC Sugar Loaf rolling out the red carpet for PGA Tour of Champions. Hosted the PGA Tour from 1997 to 2008. Since 2013, the best in the PGA Tour of Champions trying their hand at this difficult Greg Norman layout, a par 72, just under 7,200 yards. Bob Papa, Paul Azinger, so glad you can join us. John Cook out on the golf course. They moved the tee times up early today because of some impending weather expected later in the day. Retief Goosen, at the difficult par-4 12th for birdie. John Cook is with this group.

[00:03:23] >> Good to be with you boys. Retief Goosen, four birdies, no bogeys on his card from a difficult position on the left side of the green, but that's a good effort. [Inaudible] perfect. They are fast. Guys really have to be careful.

[00:03:41] >> Jerry Kelly, who's on a roll, not having any trouble on the green so far today. Oh, hello.

[00:03:51] >> That's five birdies in a row for Kelly. Look at that scorecard. You mentioned Bernhard Langer, laying up at 13. He has this for birdie to get to 6 under.

[00:04:07] >> Langer's had a really good record here. He won in 2013, runner up to Miguel Angel Jimenez in 2014. Lost by a shot to Olin Brown in 2015 when Sunday got washed out. Was a runner up [inaudible] in 2017. Lost in a playoff to Flesch in 2018. So, Langer and this golf course have always meshed well, which probably is kind of fitting, since he's a two-time Masters champion. He likes playing in Georgia.

[00:04:38] >> It feels like Augusta on these greens a little bit, I got to say. And I believe that coming out of the Masters, Bernhard Langer got a big dose of confidence. He clearly should have made the cut, and another putt goes in for Langer. So, hey, I'll tell you what, that confidence is a real thing, and he loves this golf course now.

[00:04:56] >> Now, Padraig Harrington at 13.

[00:04:59] >> Yeah, buckle up here. Padraig is going to put the full treatment on this. Yeah, he's got birdie, a bogey, and a double at the 9th. This ball flew to the front of the green. This could end up being really good. There's a slope there it can catch.

[00:05:16] >> Let's see if he catches it, and he's right on the edge of it, and there it goes. That is the convergence of math and science and art with that. Padraig Harrington, he studies how to hit it the farthest. He trains to hit it far. Give him a chance to drive 13 and he did it.

[00:05:35] >> Ernie Els playing his 2nd into 15.

[00:05:37] >> He just looks like he's playing underhand golf, tossing it up there to the flag stick, and a great result. Beautiful technique, perfectly controlled distance, easy tap in.

[00:05:50] >> Steven Alker, who's 2nd in the Schwab Cup standings. Steven, a winner at the Cologuard Classic. Finished solo 2nd in Morocco, tied for 3rd at the Gallery, tied for 5th at Hualalai, tied for 5th at the Hogue. Add it all up, five starts. Everything has been top five or better.

[00:06:14] >> He's incredible. I had never seen him play golf or hit the ball in person until we went to Hawaii this year, and I was very impressed. You can only be impressed by a guy like Steven Alker. He's coming out here and just whipping all the guys he admired his whole life.

[00:06:32] >> Let's see if Jerry Kelly can get to 9 under.

[00:06:35] >> It's an emotional game. And these are little -- emotional little putts, believe it or not, and he got it. That is a grind there. Make a putt to get to 9-under par is not that easy to do, and that was pure.

[00:06:53] >> Els for his par at 16.

[00:06:55] >> He's going to have to play some break. That left arm hangs down so relaxed and it lines up almost perfectly with the shaft of the putter, not quite. And you can tell he's going to play some break here. Watch and see if his head stays still. No, it moved up and back and Drano, perfect speed. Beautiful, beautiful putt. What a par save, 6 under-par.

[00:07:22] >> Up at the green, Miguel Angel Jimenez for birdie.

[00:07:25] >> He's just kissing the lip on every single hole, but not this time. Kiss the front lip dead in the center. Go over to 17. Jerry Kelly was very defensive with that birdie putt, has this for par. Good job, Eric Miller, getting out of the way so we can see it.

[00:07:46] >> Yeah. Speaking of eagles, Freddie Jacobson has an eagle putt. It's a long one.

[00:07:55] >> He already took off walking the 2nd he hit it, like he loves the line. Did you see that? No way. No way. The 2nd he hit it, he took off walking to watch it. Boo Weekley spun it back to here. This for birdie at the 6th.

[00:08:16] >> Oh, hello, Boo, that a way. Couple injuries for Boo, A little hip replacement action. Did an outing with him several months ago now, and boy, he went into character, and he just brought the house down.

[00:08:28] >> This would be a heck of a par for Ernie Els at 17. Remember he missed his 2nd shot left down in that valley and then played a little pitch shot. What an up and down for Els. Kelly, who laid up playing his 3rd into 18.

[00:08:47] >> He has been in complete control of his swing today, and he's hit a lot of these sand wedges right at it and closing another one. And can he will that putt in to shoot 10-under par?

[00:08:59] >> Take you over to the par-4 17th, 2nd for Bernhard Langer.

[00:09:04] >> I like those bunkers. They're good, hard, sharp edge, but they're not so deep you can't play from them, and I kind of like that. This is not a hard hole location. It is in the front, though. If you come up short, you got to be careful here. Oh no. Oh yes. Well, that's an emotional ride for Bernhard Langer, who doesn't ever get emotional. Now, how's he going to two putt from there, Bob? That's one of those putts you and Cook and Happy would have practiced.

[00:09:38] >> Oh, absolutely. I always go -- I always go worst case scenario.

[00:09:42] >> Well, he got to will this in. Can he knock it in to get to 10-under par? No problem. He buried it.

[00:09:49] >> Jerry Kelly shoots 10 under, a 62. That is his lowest round ever on the PGA Tour of Champions. He had a 63 at the Sanford in 2022, and he's broken the tournament record by two shots. It was 64. Now to get to 7-under par. What a round of golf for Ernie.

[00:10:17] >> Ernie Els, bogey free, 7-under par, 65, and Ernie three off the lead of Jerry Kelly, who shot 62 today.

[00:10:26] >> He will take it, and this is a very makeable birdie putt from underneath the hole. Be stealing one if he made this.

[00:10:35] >> He would. He needs one. He's been on 4 under for a while.

[00:10:41] >> Hasn't made a birdie since the 11th.

[00:10:43] >> Did he hit it? Yes, beautifully done. That is a -- that's the unexpected pleasure. Alker, tasty.

[00:10:54] >> So, Alker finishes with birdie at 18, 4-under par, 68, 6 off the lead of Jerry Kelly, who shot 29 coming in birdies at 10, 11, 14, 15. Can he make another here at 16?

[00:11:10] >> Oh, hello.

[00:11:11] >> That gets him to 4 under.

[00:11:14] >> What a run.

[00:11:18] >> Cink's birdie tap. You know, I was thinking Jerry Kelly shooting 10 under in 2019, it was cold. It was really wet. 7 under won, and it was Jerry Kelly, Scott McCarron, and Bob May that had the only sub-par rounds in round 1. The scoring average was 74.97.

[00:11:39] >> That's the kind of course it is. You know? You can obviously destroy the golf course and get way under par, but the conditions have to be perfect. If you get any weather, any elements on this golf course, you will really struggle here.

[00:11:52] >> Vijay Singh for birdie at 17. Remember, they played earlier today, because they moved the tee times up because they're expecting some weather in the afternoon. And that comes up short for Vijay. Jerry Kelly shot 7 under, 29 coming in for a 10-under par. 62 leads, Ernie Els by 3, who was also bogey free today. PGA Tour of Champions in Duluth, Georgia for the 12th playing of the Mitsubishi Electric Classic, the eighth of 28 on the PGA Tour of Champions schedule. Some heavy overnight rain. About an inch of rain on the golf course. Greens have slowed down a little bit, but perfect conditions on this moving day, a Saturday from TPC Sugar Loaf. Jerry Kelly set, not only the tournament record, but he broke the course record on Friday. He shot a bogey-free 10-under par 62 and headed into the day with a 3-shot lead, but Ernie Els, 3 under today, is a shot back. Vijay Singh is just 2 shots back. Angel Cabrera, a winner earlier this year, is in the mix, so is Retief Goosen. We've got seven World Golf Hall of Famers competing this week on a demanding golf course that's playing just under 7,100 yards for the PGA Tour of Champions and the Mitsubishi Electric Classic. Bob Papa along with Paul Azinger, so glad you can join us. John Cook is on the golf course, and John Cook is with this final group. Jerry Kelly missed the green as he gets set to play his 2nd shot here at the difficult 8th, John.

[00:13:44] >> Everyone hold still, please!

[00:13:51] >> Well, I think John Cook's mic is busted. Something's wrong. The battery died or something. But now Jerry Kelly, hands on hips. When I see that, I think one of two things. He's trying to make it look harder than it is. He knows he's going to show off. Or it's a really hard shot, and he's not too happy. He's down there, kind of a medium ranged bunker shot. And he -- you got to decide how hard am I going to spin it? He went for a spinner. That's pure. Wow. See, I think he was acting like he didn't like it, Bob, because he knew he was going to hit a pearl.

[00:14:31] >> Miguel Angel Jimenez has this putt for birdie to get to 7 under. And Miguel, who won wire to wire here in his PGA Tour of Champions debut in 2014, birdied three of

his first four on the incoming nine, and he's in the mix. Go over to 18. Love that hole location at 18, can see a lot of things happen. We've had three eagles already at 18. Can he parry? Make that four. Now, back over to the 9th. Vijay has this putt for par. Cookie, did the lie dictate Vijay using the putter there with his 3rd shot in your opinion?

[00:15:17] >> Yeah, he had a couple options. He had a 3 wood out at the start, then chose that putter. Just was a bad spot to be. There was no real shot from over there at all, you know, just off the edge of the green, Ernie was giving me a play by play. So, getting a lesson out here while I'm talking.

[00:15:38] >> Should put him on.

[00:15:39] >> Yeah.

[00:15:40] >> Let him call the shot.

[00:15:40] >> He's got to keep the speed up.

[00:15:43] >> Oh, that's the way.

[00:15:44] >> Yeah.

[00:15:45] >> Yeah. I was right. That's -- I called him show pony for years, because he was 1st, 2nd, or 3rd every week.

[00:15:59] >> For Steven Alker on the tee at 11.

[00:16:06] >> Tricky little shot. Stewart Cink hit it in close earlier and missed the putt.

[00:16:10] >> Very nice. Well played.

[00:16:11] >> That is fantastic.

[00:16:16] >> Scott McCarron, who won over on his round today, his 2nd in the 12th. Scott won the Mitsubishi Electric Classic in 2019 on the regular tour. He won twice on this property. So, he has un-Azinger-like vibes about this place.

[00:16:32] >> You got that right.

[00:16:35] >> Cookie, what's Jerry Kelly have left here?

[00:16:40] >> 136 all the way back to that pin. He can use the whole length of the green and to the right trying to come back.

[00:16:48] >> That's a good shot, good birdie chance.

[00:16:56] >> This is the 3rd shot for Ernie Els at the par-5 10th. John, how you think he's going to play it?

[00:17:02] >> Yeah, he'll go in there pretty low, with a little check and release. He got a good preview off of Vijay Singh, firstly, the same shot. Drives it in there low, little check, release, up the hill. This is going to be better even than Vijay. It's really well done.

[00:17:15] >> They work hard on those shots. You know, it's not a -- excuse me, it's not a full shot. So, you have to really work hard to get in that little kind of touchy area to be good at it.

[00:17:27] >> Ernie is going to have that for potentially a share of the lead. Goosen on the tee at 11.

[00:17:36] >> Yeah.

[00:17:37] >> Great shot by Retief. Back to back birdies, three in his first four holes on the second nine. He's bogey free, and Stewart Cink is within 3 of the lead.

[00:17:51] >> Yeah.

[00:17:51] >> A lot of golf to play. Jerry Kelly, who's normally spot on with his wedge game, Cookie. That was from a Jerry Kelly standpoint. What would you say that was, about a C?

[00:18:04] >> Yeah, that would definitely be a C. Chatted with him just a little bit ago. He says he's fighting his swing a little bit, and he's trying a couple things here and there, and they're not working. So, he's got to figure out something. He's got that dangerous 11 coming up.

[00:18:21] >> Well, yesterday, this club cured any ill, and Jerry Kelly with a birdie at 10, and he goes to 12 under. Now, Langer for birdie at 11.

[00:18:40] >> And most have missed it left. Not the great one though. Couple birdies in a row.

[00:18:52] >> Short birdie putt for Ernie Els to stay now within 1.

[00:18:55] >> Yeah, to keep pace with Jerry Kelly.

[00:19:08] >> Steven Alker from just off the back of the green at 12.

[00:19:12] >> He had some fringe practice on number 9. Oh, there he is. You know, he'll sneak up on you. He's just sitting there, laying in the weeds, as usual.

[00:19:23] >> All right. John, we've seen this putt missed to the left a lot.

[00:19:34] >> Yeah. It looks -- it looks like it wants to go to the right, towards the water. They're sitting in a little low spot. It doesn't really go to the right, so you -- that catches left edge.

[00:19:45] >> Ernie's big, old head was in the way. We didn't even see it, that big, old hat he's got on. Good putt. It lipped in, did it?

[00:19:56] >> Well. What's this going to do for Vijay?

[00:20:00] >> Yeah, this has definitely got some right to left in it. Going down that slope, it's got some speed too. Good catch.

[00:20:09] >> Yeah, that's a good putt. That's a little bit of a panic putt for him, I think. at this point in the tournament. He doesn't want the tournament to get away from him.

[00:20:21] >> Paul Broadhurst, who was a runner up last year to Stephen Ames for birdie at 13, and that gets him to 7 under. Well, now this is kind of an important putt for Ernie.

[00:20:37] >> Basically, the same putt that Jerry Kelly just had.

[00:20:40] >> How about two Hall of Famers looking at Jerry Kelly and saying, hey, buddy, we're going to go ahead and cover you up and see what you got for us on 12.

[00:20:49] >> Scott McCarron for his birdie at 13 to get back to even for the day. Scott's been playing better. Good to see him playing better. John, what about this shot for Vijay Singh?

[00:21:12] >> Yeah, Vijay and Ernie have the same number 181 to the hole. Right side of the fairway for Vijay. He's downwind, lot of room up there with that back pin.

[00:21:23] >> You can see the slope left of the green if you miss it way the heck over there. But this has got to be about a 7-iron for Vijay, I would think. And that is really another very good shot, if you ask me, Bob, from that far back.

[00:21:40] >> Cookie, how good is this view here for Ernie?

[00:21:45] >> Yeah, right down the center of the green from the same number, 181. You can't use that left slope.

[00:21:53] >> There he goes, just like Bernhard Langer.

[00:22:01] >> Steven Alker now for his par at 13.

[00:22:05] >> Wouldn't this be crazy if he made a 5 here? Yeah, no way. He's too good for that. He putts too well. You know, he's close to the lead, consummate grinder. Vijay, really, he's relying on his caddy now, big time. That's a lot of pressure on a caddy, because I know if he gets it wrong--

[00:22:33] >> Smart from Jerry Kelly.

[00:22:33] >> Sorry, John.

[00:22:50] >> Yeah!

[00:22:53] >> That's awesome, I think.

[00:22:54] >> [Inaudible], Vijay!

[00:22:54] >> Back to back birdies for Vijay Singh. Paul Broadhurst for birdie.

[00:23:07] >> Looks like he's got a 33-inch putter.

[00:23:16] >> This is the 2nd of Steven Alker at 14.

[00:23:18] >> Look at this guy go. I'll tell you what, you can say, what you want. I called him the best player at this level yesterday. Doesn't have the best record, but he might be the best player.

[00:23:30] >> Retief for his birdie at 13, and he's at 8 under and in the mix. Tee shot of Stewart Cink at 16, 5 under today.

[00:23:42] >> Another pin tucked on the left side on the par 3. Right about at it.

[00:23:51] >> Jerry Kelly in some open space at 13 as he chose to lay up.

[00:23:56] >> Oh, I thought he'd hit a great shot off that down slope of the green.

[00:24:01] >> Oh, look at this. Jerry Kelly, zipping it in there.

[00:24:04] >> I tell you, something else.

[00:24:09] >> Now, Els is away for birdie.

[00:24:15] >> He saw with his [inaudible] as it got by the hole. So, this has to go uphill a little bit and moving to his right.

[00:24:28] >> Right edge just caught it.

[00:24:30] >> Man, he played that significantly outside the hole. Brett Quigley has this putt for birdie at 18.

[00:24:46] >> He's known for that putter. It's a different putter. Never seen him use that one before. Quiggs with a 6 under, 66 today. What about this putt, John, for Jerry?

[00:25:02] >> Yeah, not much to this at all. As his ball was spinning back, it kind of got right underneath the hole. So, this is just straight uphill, maybe left of center.

[00:25:13] >> Yeah!

[00:25:15] >> Well, now that's a good break, because he did not like his shot at all. I bet he was shocked to see where it ended up.

[00:25:24] >> Alker with a short tap in for birdie. Now, Vijay Singh.

[00:25:40] >> That long, fluid swing.

[00:25:47] >> Look at that thing roll.

[00:25:49] >> Oh, it hit Ernie's ball.

[00:25:50] >> Oh, it cost him 20 yards. Wow. Let's see if this putt looks -- it looks like it might be a pretty straight putt, John.

[00:26:02] >> Yeah, it's pretty straight, Paul. It does go uphill. He doesn't have to worry about speed. If anything, hitting this putt earlier, it might fall a little to the right, but not much.



[00:26:19] >> The best part about his round today, he's getting away with mis-hits, but he's made a lot of putts this length. His speed, John, under pressure, yeah, you know, you're leading the tournament, his speed's been great. Yeah, that's where it'll show up. No doubt about it. If you get a little nervous, but we know Jerry Kelly, he's not -- he doesn't back down from a fight, and that's for sure. He's not afraid to win.

[00:26:55] >> Wow, walk it in, Jerry. Walk it in.

[00:27:01] >> This is Greg Chalmers' 3rd at 18. He drove it left to the cart path, left into the trees.

[00:27:08] >> Well, this is almost an impossible shot. Yeah, that's--

[00:27:11] >> Come off that hill now.

[00:27:12] >> That's where you want to hit it. Oh, boy, see what am I thinking? It's impossible to go right at it, but it's not impossible if you hit it 30 yards right of the green. Of course, we're in Jacksonville, so I didn't get to study that.

[00:27:23] >> John, my question to you--

[00:27:26] >> [Inaudible] is straight up the hill. Nothing to this.

[00:27:28] >> John, we're going to get that front location tomorrow with the false front, you think?

[00:27:33] >> I think so. They tried to use it yesterday, but it was a little further to -- up the green than normal. So, they'll use that little, short one tomorrow.

[00:27:45] >> Now a chance for Ernie to put the pressure on Jerry Kelly one time, and now Ernie strikes first.

[00:28:05] >> O'Neill for eagle, this would be the 6th of the day, and he makes it.

[00:28:10] >> Wow. Isn't that nice? That'll make dinner taste really good.

[00:28:19] >> Jerry Kelly, after shooting that 62, has the lead, playing the 18th, and they are going low here at TPC Sugar Loaf. TPC Sugar Loaf has been hosting the PGA Tour of Champions since 2013. An illustrious list of winners. PGA Tour played here from 1997 to 2008. On Friday, Jerry Kelly set, not only the tournament record, but the course record, shooting a bogey-free 62. Ernie Els shot 64 yesterday. They headed into the final round and a share of the lead at 15-under par. Kelly, 4 under today. He's at 19 under. Els made an eagle at the par-5 6th to get to within 2. Seven World Golf Hall of Famers in the field here this week. Past champion Scott McCarron on that first page of the leaderboard as well. Bob Papa, Paul Azinger, so glad you can join us for the 12th playing of the Mitsubishi Electric Classic. John Cook out on the golf course. He is with this final group, and Ernie Els with a putt for birdie at the difficult 8th.

[00:29:42] >> Yeah, hit a beautiful 4-iron back there. Now, 15 feet right at hole high. Not much to this. Might drift a little to the right.

[00:29:53] >> Get in the hole.

[00:29:59] >> Putting has been a real strength this week for Ernie Els. All his putts have been good speed. He's been rock solid on all the shorter ones.

[00:30:09] >> John, Jerry Kelly has this putt for par here at the 8th. This is the 11th time leading or co-leading. Entering the final round, he's converted five of 10 into wins. So, Jerry is not scared to be in that last group and close it out.

[00:30:26] >> Yeah.

[00:30:28] >> No, you're exactly right, Bob. He's comfortable in this position. He does not back down no matter who he is playing with. Like the conditions are, he had a nice little pitch shot from short right of the green. Couldn't go directly in the hole. Had to go to the left and hit a little cutter in there. Now about 4 feet for par.

[00:30:59] >> That a way.

[00:31:00] >> That's big time stuff. He started out the year in Hawaii with a different putter, because when he got home, his starter was broken.

[00:31:16] >> There have been three birdies at the 9th today. Alex Cejka, Miguel Angel Jimenez, and John Senden. Again, split tees, so half the field is just coming through, but it's the guys who are all playing well.

[00:31:29] >> Yeah. And you know, you did say it looks like a two-horse race. Boy, this Alker can make birdie from anywhere, but you know, Alker and Vijay are 6 shots behind Jerry Kelly.

[00:31:45] >> Four from the left, so.

[00:31:46] >> Yeah.

[00:31:48] >> Okay.

[00:31:50] >> John, what's Jerry facing here?

[00:31:54] >> Yeah, this is a really tough hole location. It's on that back left, protected by a little bit of a downslope. Really tough to get it close, especially from just under 200 yards. 199 for Jerry. He's looking at something. Anything up the center of the green, something low could chase back there. Can't go right, penalty area there.

[00:32:14] >> No, [inaudible].

[00:32:16] >> He commented. He's tried to shade the safe side of every flag stick. Just play sensible. You can make big numbers on this golf course. And that's something he can handle, I think. He's definitely got some slope to deal with, but looks like a pretty good lie.

[00:32:35] >> Jimenez trying to bounce back for a birdie at 11.

[00:32:37] >> Yeah! Tim O'Neill is one of those who won for the first time in the PGA Tour of Champions last year, and--

[00:32:52] >> Oh boy.

[00:32:53] >> Knocks it in tight at 11.

[00:32:55] >> Good judge of the shot.

[00:32:59] >> Let's go over to the 9th as Jerry Kelly gets set to play his 3rd. And John, let's get your assessment here, from Ernie's ball in the bunker to Cabrera's short side of the Jerry Kelly's which one has the hardest degree of difficulty and the easiest degree of difficulty?

[00:33:19] >> Well, I'll go with Ernie as the hardest. He will be pitching on a downslope. It's a -- it's a clean lie. There's no problem there. It just depends on how he wants to play this shot. Now, Jerry Kelly has got plenty of green to work with and a pretty decent lie on the upslope, but Cabrera is very holdable, and he could give that, you know, just a clean contact. He can make that little pitch shot, but Ernie's got his hands full. Jerry's got just a pretty stock, standard little pitch and run. He's perfect scrambling this week.

[00:33:57] >> Yeah.

[00:34:00] >> He's going to have -- he's going to have to make one of those again, and he's made a bunch of them.

[00:34:04] >> Yeah, that's the trusty putter he won a couple tournaments with in his career. It sat in the closet for a long time. It was in Purgatory, maybe on restriction. But inevitably, those things they make their way back into the bag, and he's made a lot of those little putts this week, fantastic. And Ernie Els has done the same, John. I don't know, John, this looks pretty bad. I'm going to try to show you just how severe this thing is. Pretty good look from behind. This is one of the great bunker players of our time, and if anybody could pull this off, it would be him. Well done.

[00:35:03] >> He's been making these all week. He's been perfect scrambling so far this week. So, and he's got some sort of feel from inside of 5 feet that is really good right now.

[00:35:14] >> Watch his hands. His elbow's out, and he's got a little pop stroke. Watch his hands here. Just a little pop. Oh no, a bad J ball. Big time lip out, the first one we've seen him miss. Might have been a hair too hard, Bob.

[00:35:33] >> Might have -- yeah, it looked like he popped it just a little too hard.

[00:35:35] >> He's got that pop. His hands pop. Like his hands won't get past his leg when he putts.

[00:35:48] >> Ernie Els, after that great par save, at the par-5 10th, his tee shot.

[00:35:56] >> Yeah, par 5 here, downhill pin in the middle, tucked left right up against the corner.

[00:36:04] >> Oh, that took several yards off that drive. He's going to be on a downslope and may be reachable from there for sure. We've seen several players reach. I would imagine he'll reach from there, but that's not an easy lie. It'll be below his feet.

[00:36:28] >> Now, Jerry Kelly, who, in route to shooting that 62, Cookie, on Friday, shot 29 on the back nine, including birdie in the first five holes of this incoming nine.

[00:36:44] >> Yeah, just didn't see it on Friday. But here, Jerry Kelly, we always talk about, let's see, the first sign of a little bit of stress and how you respond to it, and Jerry hit a beautiful tee shot.

[00:37:04] >> How aggressive will he be? It's a sucker pin. If you go long, you're going to have big problems. So, we'll see what he does here. John Cook, what's his yardage?

[00:37:13] >> Yeah, he's right in about 60 yards here, Paul. So, he is going to pitch like straight into a little bit of a slope. If he does that, drives it in there low, it should take like one check and then a hold. He has to drive it in there low though.

[00:37:38] >> I feel like--

[00:37:39] >> He hit it right into this slope. It needs to go.

[00:37:46] >> Let's see if Stewart Cink can cash in for his birdie here at 12. Stewart currently 8th in the Schwab Cup standings in his five events, four top fives.

[00:38:03] >> Nice.

[00:38:05] >> Continues to push up the leaderboard. Kelly will be first for his birdie.

[00:38:20] >> Yeah, did not get it up that slope all the way. So, it's right on the crest of the slope. Good 20 feet. It has to move a little bit to his left, I would think, not much though.

[00:38:35] >> John, I'm surprised it stayed there and didn't roll back more.

[00:38:38] >> [Inaudible] Yes.

[00:38:38] >> Yeah, it definitely could have. It easily could have come back to, you know, another more -- 10 or 12 more feet. It's a pretty big putt right now. I have a sense of feeling for Jerry. After that short miss at nine, he got up and out of that, and that was not good at all. He left a good 3 feet short and to the right.

[00:39:05] >> Anything can happen at 18, and this is a huge par putt for Jerry Kelly to stay at 18 under and in the lead.

[00:39:13] >> Yeah. He just missed one of this length back at 9. So, let's see how he handles this.

[00:39:31] >> Now over at 11, Miguel Angel Jimenez for birdie. Excuse me. 13 for birdie.

[00:39:43] >> 13 is the drivable hole, and that's a good birdie. He claimed 303 yards today.

[00:40:03] >> You can put some confidence back into yourself with a good swing here.

[00:40:10] >> This is the last group to play 11, and there have been only 10 birdies here. Scoring average is 3.1. Middle of the fairway of the 2nd, Steven Alker.

[00:40:32] >> Boy, how do you not love that swing? This guy is really something.

[00:40:39] >> Good shot.

[00:40:40] >> Okay.

[00:40:40] >> Jerry Kelly now stalking his birdie putt. Angel Cabrera still has a putt for birdie.

[00:40:53] >> Jerry Kelly's been impressive, I have to say.

[00:40:55] >> I think [inaudible] very--

[00:40:57] >> Sorry, John. I just feel like the way he jumped out of the gate today with all the questions in his head about how he was going to feel, and you know, his body and his aches and pains, he's not comfortable with his iron swing, for him to still be in the lead, John Cook, is very impressive to this point. Now, he's got to pull it together.

[00:41:19] >> Yeah, no doubt about it. He is a battler, like we've talked about, and I think that that tee shot there was not nearly as bad as he thought. This was a quality golf shot, just 20 feet going down that same slope that Ernie just put it across.

[00:41:37] >> Yeah.

[00:41:38] >> Now, that was a good try, that's for sure, better than the previous two holes.

[00:41:43] >> Kelly had it to 19 under through 8, but made bogey at 9, and has this putt for par here at 11.

[00:41:55] >> Yeah. Not much to this, dead straight.

[00:42:05] >> Now for the tough number 12 coming up.

[00:42:13] >> Another short birdie putt for Stewart Cink. He's had so many of these.

[00:42:23] >> Ernie Els to play his 2nd here, John. What's he have left?

[00:42:30] >> 173 into the breeze. Ball sits on a little bit of an upslope, so he's going to have to be careful that it's going left. Good contact though.

[00:42:42] >> Wow. Wow. That is probably the shot of the day so far.

[00:42:46] >> Didn't figure that was going to [inaudible].

[00:42:52] >> Jerry Kelly, with a 1-shot lead, will be first to putt here at the par-3 16th.

[00:43:00] >> Little unfortunate it didn't get closer to the hole being up that right-hand side. It just hit just off the green, and usually that would come down to the -- to the left, but it stays up on the -- just on the fringe cut. No real issues with that, other than the ball is not completely clean. Downhill, moving left to right, has to be a little careful with speed here, Paul.

[00:43:23] >> Yeah. I could see that. You know, you can tell if the ball would have just come onto the green, he might have picked up another 3 or 4 feet, and he's just going to have to dink it down the hill, I'm afraid, John.

[00:43:41] >> Yeah. It's easy to come out of these and miss it -- miss your target to the right. So, if he stays in this putt, it's just a little left of the hole, just kind of let it slide in.

[00:43:58] >> Boy, he'd love to make it. With a 1-shot lead, this would just about signal a win. And now he just dinked it, tapped it down there, kind of like you'd expect, especially with the ball not being clean. It's all right.

[00:44:15] >> Yeah. You could see, as it was rolling, the mud on the ball.

[00:44:21] >> What a difference. You know? If that ball is actually on the green, he's licking his chops because he's making a lot of putts. And there, this is the putter that he's won tournaments with that's been in the -- it's been on the rack at home for several months or years even.

[00:44:38] >> And John, that's a function of the rain on Friday night, because in the past, we've seen that ball come off that hill.

[00:44:48] >> Yeah, no doubt about it.

[00:44:52] >> Alker for his birdie here at 18. He's right now solo 3rd. 5 off the lead, 3 behind Els for 2nd. Steven Alker with yet another birdie.

[00:45:24] >> What a great putter he is.

[00:45:29] >> Made eight birdies today, made the one bogey at 10, shoots 65 today. Cookie, smart play with a 2-shot lead for Jerry Kelly, layup.

[00:45:42] >> I believe with a 2-shot lead, absolutely, maybe a 1-shot lead, I might go at it, but it's 225 front, 250-263 to the hole.

[00:45:54] >> That's the all-time [inaudible]--

[00:45:55] >> I like that play [inaudible]. Yeah. It just takes every -- the big numbers out of play there, Paul, and it actually adds more pressure to Ernie to hit him a golf shot.

[00:46:04] >> Yeah, it sure does. Boy, today must be a Beautiful day to fly, as we do sure have some airplanes whipping around above us. There's a little knee knocker for Quigley to get in in a couple of weeks. Good job. Good job.

[00:46:28] >> 7 to 1 for Brett Quigley, solo 10th. Every dollar counts in the season-long race for the Charles Schwab Cup, but Ernie Els is in 3rd spot. It's been a tough year for Jerry Kelly, dealing with injury. Had the arthritic condition last year, the shoulder injury. He's got a 2-shot lead laying up here at 18, and John, he's so good with this wedge. You got to think that about 20 feet right of the hole, hole high, is what he's looking at?

[00:47:06] >> Right there's the target.

[00:47:07] >> I think he's looking at Angel Cabrera's ball. 117 yards, it gets its perfect little pitching wedge. He can take something off of that. He can go at a gap wedge, not spin it too much, but right at Cabrera's golf ball would be perfect.

[00:47:44] >> Now, that's a great shot under the circumstances. He hasn't felt good about his swing the whole week, and he hits a little sawed off punch.

[00:47:55] >> Yeah. We talked about Jerry Kelly when leading or co-leading going into the final round, he's converted five of 10 opportunities, and he's closing in on six of 11 and win number 13 on the PGA Tour of Champions. Jerry got a win last year at the SAS Championship despite this arthritic condition he's dealt with and then the shoulder injury that forced him to withdraw from the Cologuard Classic. And he stared down a Hall of Famer in Ernie Els and a multiple major champion, and Angel Cabrera has not backed down. So, two putts for Jerry Kelly to win for the 13th time on the PGA Tour of Champions, almost wire to wire. They were tied through 36, he and Els.

[00:49:17] >> He'll count this as one of his best wins, coming off injury, not having his best stuff, and still shooting the tournament record.

[00:49:25] >> Stephen Ames held the tournament record at 19 under two years ago, but Jerry Kelly is going to tap that in, or he'll mark it. But when he does tap it in, a new tournament record. So, he set the course record and tournament record shooting a 62 on Friday, and he's going to set the tournament record at 20 under with that par plot. Now Els for his birdie and only one birdie on the back nine after playing the back nine 8 under through the first two rounds.

[00:50:09] >> I like this putter for Ernie. He changed. He won at Hualalai with a heel shafted. This is a straight shaft right into the dead center, this putter, and it's made a difference for him.

[00:50:21] >> Yep.

[00:50:21] >> Makes one bogey all week, but he's going to finish a shot off the lead.

[00:50:33] >> Now Jerry Kelly, par at 18 and the win. Sets a new tournament record, 20-under par, and Jerry Kelly has won the Mitsubishi Electric Classic.

[00:50:49] >> Hard fought, I mean, hard fought.

[00:50:52] >> [Inaudible] your 2025 Mitsubishi Electric Classic champion is Jerry Kelly.

[00:50:56] >> I am really impressed with those two. They scouted their way around. It was almost surgical.

[00:51:06] >> Jerry Kelly gets the win here at TPC Sugar Loaf, and hey, listen, he sets the tournament record, sets the course record on Friday. Well-deserved effort against some major champions and Hall of Famers he had to stare down.

[00:51:24] >> Yeah. Oh, Jerry Kelly's so happy right now, and he should be because he was grinding. I mean, he's calling his son. He's asking his wife, help me get through this round

tomorrow, because he was so lost yesterday. And to not win with your best stuff, that's not easy to do, and he knows now that he's capable of that as he gets a little older. Jerry Kelly, the winner. What a gut check that was for him. Great player, hockey brain, winner.

[00:51:50] >> PGA Tour of Champions heads to the woodlands next Friday, 12:30 PM Eastern as we bring you the Insperity Invitational. Stephen Ames thrilled them with that double eagle at 18. A lot of name brands made a charge, the great Bernhard Langer, Steven Alker all right there, but in the end, Jerry Kelly survives them all and wins the Mitsubishi Electric Classic.