

Production Transcript for **26INTCUTCH- TROPHY HASSAN II - MASTER**

[00:00:41.360]>>The PGA TOUR Champions proudly presents the season-long race for the Charles Schwab Cup.

[00:00:49.240]>>Today from Rabat, Morocco, it's live first round coverage of the Trophy Hassan II.

[00:00:57.490]>>PGA TOUR Champions has traveled across the Atlantic over 5000 miles to exotic Morocco on the northwest coast.

[00:01:05.730]>>Of Africa, the capital city of Rabat offers a unique backdrop, the latest stop of PGA TOUR Champions, 4th consecutive year here in Rabat, and the gorgeous Royal Dar es Salaam, 44 hole golf complex, the Red Course par 73, designed by legendary architect Robert Trent Jones Senior, the host, over 7300 yards.

[00:01:31.440]>>The 50th anniversary of the Trophy Hassan II Championship.

[00:01:39.529]>>50 years, so many great Champions have been crowned here in Rabat, and the weather on this opening round Thursday here in Rabat, Morocco, 97 degrees, just a bluster of wind, 4 MPH.

[00:01:56.220]>>This is the 10th of 28 on the PGA TOUR Champions schedule. Bob Papa and John Cook, so glad you could join us. Longtime European Tour player, Jamie Spence, who won the Morocco Open back in 2020, is here with us on the property.

[00:02:12.539]>>Always a star-studded field, including the defending champion, Miguel Angel Jiménez. He hadn't won in 2.5 years until he broke through here in Morocco last year, went on to win 3 times last year on the PGA TOUR Champions.

[00:02:29.190]>>World Golf Hall of Famer, Ernie Els, Ernie in 7 starts this year, 5 top 10s looking for his first win here in 2026.

[00:02:41.020]>>Justin Leonard, a major championship winner.

[00:02:44.779]>>2 wins on the PGA TOUR Champions, testing his skills at Royal Golf Dar Es Salam and Vijay Singh also in the field here this week.

[00:02:55.509]>>Another global player who won the trophy, Hassan II on the DP World Tour.

[00:03:02.940]>>Take a look at some highlights from early here in round one after a couple of bogeys to start the day. Ernie Els rolls in this birdie putt at the 3rd. This would get him to +1.

[00:03:18.110]>>Vijay Singh.

[00:03:21.520]>>Playing his 2nd at par 4 6th, and John Cook, Vijay worked so hard, never stops hitting balls, and it paid off right here. You see how flexible he still is and still hits the ball a long way and pretty straight as well.

[00:03:36.690]>>George McNeill off to a fine start this year, looking for that first win.

[00:03:43.369]>>He's a guy that is going to be in contention. So is this guy, Søren Kjeldsen. This birdie at the 6th would get him to 3 under par. And then at the par 5 8th, Kjeldsen reaching the 8th in 2. They're using the 8th to start rounds for those with the split tees and Jus this fairly well and easy 2-puttt birdie for Søren Kjeldsen. This would get him to 4 under par.

[00:04:13.440]>>Well, over at the 5th, George McNeill.

[00:04:17.619]>>John, you feel like this is a guy that's gonna win pretty soon and does not make the eagle at the 5th, but a tap in birdie would get him to 4 under par. Yeah, I just really like his golf game. He hits it far, hits it high, and this is Hunter cooperates. He'll, he'll, he'll be in the winner's circle soon. And this is another game, Scott Hend.

[00:04:38.070]>>Nearly won the Senior PGA Championship.

[00:04:42.100]>>Finished

[00:04:44.190]>>In the top 5 at the region's tradition in his only 2 starts, a 2-puttt birdie at the drivable 17th, didn't make birdie at 18, but John, a spot of bother here at the 1st, but he recovers quite well. Yeah, drove it in the left rough, but use some slope. You see how complicated these greens can be. A lot of slope, a lot of sections, and he just handles it perfectly.

[00:05:07.679]>>Scores are very good. Scott Hend at 60 through 14 holes. Matt Gogel, our former colleague, is at 4-under along with Søren Kjeldsen. George McNeill made a lot of, uh, birdies today, but he's also made 4 bogeys. He's at 3 under par.

[00:05:27.070]>>And now we take you live to the 8th, and Miguel Angel Jiménez has this putt for Eagle and John. We were out earlier today trying this pot and, um,

[00:05:38.950]>>There's not as much break as you think. Now, around these holes, uh, today, Bob, we, we found out within about 10 ft, there's not a ton of break to any of these, but they're running at a speed where, uh, they can use some hole locations. They get them much faster than this. They're gonna lose a lot of hole locations and being about 3 months later in the year, uh, golf course is playing a little firmer than it had in, in the end of February. So the 8th hole, uh, very reachable by a lot of these players.

[00:06:06.529]>>Yeah, just kinda see how they just kind of flattened out.

[00:06:10.350]>>So Jiménez will have that for birdie to get back to even.

[00:06:15.130]>>As the defending champion. Last year, Jiménez beat Steven Alker by 2 shots. He shot 11-under and it was the eagle at 17 that catapulted him to victory. Through 36. He was tied with Alker at 7-under. But I think, John, we're seeing dramatically lower scores across the board. And I think it has a lot to do with the fact that we're playing this tournament several months later than it's been played in the past.

[00:06:42.829]>>Vijay Singh taps in for his birdie.

[00:06:47.029]>>At the 8th. So that gets VJ in red figures at 1 under here in round 1.

[00:06:54.359]>>Tommy Gainey for his birdie at the 11th.

[00:06:58.790]>>Another.

[00:07:00.450]>>Difficult hole location, but.

[00:07:03.320]>>Gainey pours that in. Yeah, what a quality second shot he hit in there to make, make Birdie have that short opportunity. Scott Hend playing his.

[00:07:13.649]>>2nd into the par 4 6th, his 17th hole of the day.

[00:07:18.880]>>Yeah, beautiful golf swing, long, fluid. He plays with a fairly strong left-hand grip, but that one got out there to the right and.

[00:07:29.470]>>Well, Scott had a long birdie putt here at the 6th cross the green, go down a slope.

[00:07:40.529]>>It gets it way out there to the left, now down that ridge.

[00:07:46.399]>>Wow, Scott Hend. Why not an unlikely birdie.

[00:07:55.179]>>We

[00:07:57.829]>>Ernie had a chance to play with His Royal Highness Prince Malay Rashid.

[00:08:14.820]>>Uh, Tommy Gainey after a gorgeous shot into 15, has this for birdie to get to 6 under.

[00:08:21.809]>>Playing with a lot of confidence.

[00:08:26.390]>>This will try to wiggle to his left a little.

[00:08:31.019]>>Oh, she's walking right after it.

[00:08:34.640]>>Good round of golf there for Tommy Gainey.

[00:08:37.049]>>Could it be back-to-back weeks that a guy with two gloves wins? Aaron Rai won the PGA Championship.

[00:08:47.770]>>Can Ernie Els get a little something going has a good look for birdie.

[00:08:52.770]>>Here at 15, blasted a tee shot.

[00:08:56.619]>>Just had a little flip wedge in there from about 60 yards.

[00:09:01.719]>>Played it perfectly. Now this does have a little wiggle to the left.

[00:09:09.710]>>Nice over there.

[00:09:14.469]>>He's got a couple of birdie opportunities. He gets through 16. He's definitely got a couple of birdie opportunities at 17 and 18.

[00:09:28.770]>>Caron for birdie.

[00:09:37.900]>>At 17 to get to red figures. Jason pours that in, get there for.

[00:09:43.229]>>Jason.

[00:09:46.609]>>Little work left for him.

[00:09:49.900]>>And his paw

[00:09:51.880]>>Let's go over to 18 and Y.E. Yang has an eagle putt. Jamie, still no ruling yet?

[00:09:58.099]>>No, not yet. He's just turning up.

[00:10:02.549]>>Really quick putt down that slope there, Jamie. Turn, turn and go. Yeah, pretty good effort. So Y.E. who usually plays well here. I mentioned he was a co-leader through 36 2 years ago. He's gonna be in at 2-under.

[00:10:19.210]>>And at least within shouting distance of hen.

[00:10:22.830]>>And potentially Gainey depending on what Gainey does here.

[00:10:26.690]>>Justin Leonard on the tee at 17.

[00:10:31.630]>>Probably anxious for this day to end.

[00:10:34.770]>>Yeah, maybe he can end with a couple of birdies.

[00:10:39.119]>>It's not a nice line.

[00:10:42.309]>>Easy.

[00:10:48.210]>>Easy right there.

[00:10:52.719]>>And it finally will come to rest at eventually.

[00:10:58.760]>>That's the problem with driver. Look at this thing.

[00:11:02.260]>>It almost stopped. Yeah, you're better off playing from, you know, 5, 10 yards short of the green.

[00:11:10.710]>>Justin Leonard for Eagle, similar putt.

[00:11:29.179]>>I see, OK.

[00:11:32.619]>>Stephen Ames won the first year that we played here at Royal Golf Dar es Salaam.

[00:11:38.549]>>Has this for birdie at 18 to shoot 3/76. Yeah, he 3-puttted 17 for par as well.

[00:11:47.070]>>Uh, Justin Leonard for his birdie.

[00:11:53.030]>>Go through the same routine every single time.

[00:11:57.510]>>It's wiped a couple putts to the right.

[00:12:08.609]>>But he's at even.

[00:12:10.799]>>Drove the green here at 17 and makes the birdie to get.

[00:12:16.450]>>To one under

[00:12:19.530]>>With the par 5 still to play, Scott Hend sets the new 18-hole record here, trophy Hassan 2 for the PGA TOUR Champions with that 7 under 66. Tommy Gainey you shot back. Cameron Percy bogey free on a day in which scoring was very good here at Royal Golf Dar Esallo.

[00:12:55.429]>>The 50th edition PGA TOUR Champions for the 4th consecutive year, making the trip across the Atlantic to the gorgeous capital city of Morocco, Rabat.

[00:13:09.309]>>In 1956, Rabat was named the capital of Morocco and a rich tradition at Trophy Hassan II. So many Hall of Fame winners have participated. Royal Golf Dar El Salam, the red course, par 73, just over 7300 yards.

[00:13:26.539]>>Is the venue for the 10th event of the PGA TOUR Champions schedule here in 2026. Not as hot as yesterday, more humid, 95 degrees, humidity at 33%. Wind did pick up yesterday afternoon. Will it do the same today?

[00:13:48.239]>> Bob Papa along with John Cook, so glad you could join us. Jamie Spence, who won the 2020 Morocco Open, is out on the golf course.

[00:14:00.000]>>So let's get you caught up on what's transpired already on this 2nd round Friday. Greg Chalmers trying to make a move. Chalmers playing his 2nd shot at the par 4 3rd, Jus the distance perfectly and the spin. That's an eagle, and that would get him to 4 under par.

[00:14:19.590]>>Little fist pump from Dougie Lloyd, his longtime caddie.

[00:14:23.809]>>And then he'd back it up with a birdie at the 5th and this would get Greg Chalmers to 6-under. Really a struggle this year, has not been in top form.

[00:14:34.250]>>Scott Hend had a magical round in round one, but got off to a disastrous start. His tee shot wound up in the trees and winds up missing this putt for double bogeying.

[00:14:45.770]>>And he would lose 3 shots on the opening hole and drop all the way to 4 under, but he battled back. This was his birdie putt at the 4th.

[00:14:58.929]>>And just drips it in. So, knowing that he's got some opportunities to get back in the game, Scott Hend, who played beautiful golf yesterday with just one bogey, rolls this one in at the 5th.

[00:15:12.039]>>And he's not done yet. Over at the par for 6th.

[00:15:18.119]>>Able to make this putt for birdie and the hand that makes up that triple on the opening hole and gets back to 7 under.

[00:15:26.580]>>Tommy Two Gloves loves the property. The 5th is a par 5.

[00:15:31.369]>>Reachable for Gainey and he rolls this in for eagle, and this would get him to 8 under par. He'd wind up making a bogey.

[00:15:40.140]>>Coming back in. So, uh,

[00:15:43.969]>> Darren Fichardt

[00:15:46.039]>>He rolls in an eagle putt at the 8th.

[00:15:50.159]>>Or leaves it just a little bit short and then he taps it in for his birdie that would get him to 7 under par. How about this run for Jason Caron? Jason Caron,

[00:16:02.380]>>Over at the 2nd.

[00:16:04.630]>>John Cook, we've been waiting for Jason Caron to make some noise and this was pretty special. Yeah, taking advantage of this, uh, great start here that he and his

wife, Lizzie are over here. They love this, uh, this area and the beautiful 2nd or beautiful tee shot there at the 2nd follows it right back up to the tough 3rd. New hole location over there on the right-hand side.

[00:16:27.080]>>Take it right at it. Yeah, so birdies at 2 and 3, and that would get him to 4 under par. He'd make birdies at 4 and 5.

[00:16:38.010]>>And for a career-best 5 in a row.

[00:16:42.020]>>Scott.

[00:16:46.049]>>So Jason Caron gets to 7-under with a career-best 5-under.

[00:16:51.830]>>And this was just a moment ago at the 8th. Tommy Gainey giving himself another look.

[00:17:00.450]>>And he knocks it in for birdie at the par 5 8th, and that gets him to 8 under par and Tommy Gainey has the lead. Jason Caron, red hot today. Darren Fichardt, 4-under, Greg Chalmers, 4-under. Søren Kjeldsen, 20. Look at, he's locum. He's 5-under today. Tag Ridings is at 4-under. Don't count out Steven Alker, who's always a factor.

[00:17:26.969]>>Here in Morocco, losing to Miguel Angel Jiménez down the stretch last year. He's 3-under on his round today.

[00:17:35.569]>>So we're seeing really good scoring conditions. The tournament being played in May as opposed to in the past when it has been in February.

[00:17:45.410]>>And this is Darren Fichardt who won on the European tour.

[00:17:51.589]>>Has had wins all around the world playing on the PGA TOUR Champions here in Morocco and that is welljud. Yeah, left-hand rough front left hole location. Take it right at it. Well played.

[00:18:05.729]>>Cameron Percy was the only player in the field yesterday.

[00:18:10.339]>>To play bogey-free golf. He made bogeys at 5 and 6 today.

[00:18:18.489]>>Did birdie at the 8th and now at the 9th.

[00:18:32.500]>>That's a little run there for.

[00:18:34.920]>>Cameron Percy got the tough 10th and 11th coming up, then a very reachable par 5 for Cameron at the 12th.

[00:18:48.109]>>Gainey to stay at 8 under. Yeah, not a great pitch shot, but handles that with a par.

[00:18:57.060]>>Well, Jason Caron has a birdie tap-in.

[00:19:01.869]>>After nearly holding out a 2nd and 11, so that is Jason's.

[00:19:06.869]>>6th birdie of the day. He's bogey-free, had a career-best 5 in a row, holes 2 through 6.

[00:19:18.969]>>Over at the 12th, Alex Cejka for eagle.

[00:19:23.689]>>I couldn't put it in a better spot. Bob straight up the hill, moving slightly to his right.

[00:19:29.989]>>Yeah, you hit a few of those this morning.

[00:19:34.869]>>Jake is gonna have a stress-free birdie.

[00:19:38.589]>>Uh, for Alex Cejka, that is his 6th birdie of the day against two bogeys. He's 2 under on his round.

[00:19:51.270]>>Tommy Gainey for birdie at 10 and the outright lead.

[00:19:55.530]>>Beautiful approach in here.

[00:20:04.369]>>Quite sure he's looking down the fairway, but

[00:20:14.589]>>Cameron Percy for par here at the 11th.

[00:20:20.250]>>Trying to stay at 6 under and drove his tee shot out of play.

[00:20:24.790]>>Didn't get his

[00:20:26.790]>>Recovery shot to the fairway, now struggling for par here at 11.

[00:20:32.209]>>So that's a couple birdies. 3rd bogey of the day. He's even.

[00:20:38.060]>>For the day, but.

[00:20:40.920]>>We'll lose a shot there.

[00:20:46.040]>>Does have the reachable 12th coming up the par 5. He's got plenty of length to reach the green.

[00:20:54.430]>>You could see the par 5 11th fairway in the background. Tommy Gainey flirted with a little disaster, but.

[00:21:03.430]>>Has an uphill putt here, John, for birdie. You can't say that we actually tried this putt. We didn't think anybody would be left of this flagstick, but uphill does move slightly to the right. Oh man, he's just walking it in.

[00:21:16.709]>>Tommy Gainey, that's.

[00:21:19.760]>>Two in a row, back-to-back birdies at 10 and 11. He gets to 10 under. Remember, the winning score last year was 11-under. Well, this is as good a look for Eagle as you're gonna get for Scott Hend.

[00:21:32.449]>>Beautiful 2nd in there with a, with an 8 iron.

[00:21:36.689]>>Just smashed that tee shot 340 yards, Jamie was saying and.

[00:21:42.050]>>Nice little run after that horrible start.

[00:21:46.349]>>John, when we were out there and Jamie this morning.

[00:21:50.579]>>Uh, the maintenance staff, the woman that was handling the stimp meter, we pulled up, she said, this hole is more 11, the others more 11.5. Yeah, they said to keep this one a little bit slower.

[00:22:04.530]>>Yeah, I'm not surprised, it's got quite a slope on it left to right. This, keep it inside the hole. Left, a little bit of left to right. It's one of those, if you hit outside, it won't come.

[00:22:22.400]>>Nice little bounce back after that bogey at 11 for Cameron, birdie at 12 and 13.

[00:22:31.709]>>Birdie for Alex Cejka at 17. Had a short right of the green with his tee shot pitched to here.

[00:22:38.739]>>This has a little bit of movement to it.

[00:22:41.890]>>Back to the augers for.

[00:22:44.800]>>Mr. Cejka

[00:22:48.630]>>Tidied up the hair today too, yeah, he did. He's got a little man bun underneath that cap, right, Cameron Percy.

[00:22:59.229]>>Ready to play for par. Yeah, he had a tricky putt there from the back of the green. It just wandered by. He's got this now for par.

[00:23:07.430]>>It's a tough one to read. Yeah, we were hitting those putts earlier today, Jamie, from the back of the green, and it goes up a little slope onto a plateau, but if you got any speed going, you're gonna hit it 6 8 ft by just like Cameron did, so.

[00:23:21.780]>>After a nice tee shot, that's.

[00:23:25.520]>>Bit of a mistake.

[00:23:28.060]>>Well, the up-and-down day for Scott Hend continues, and this is the up, Jamie. This is for Birdie.

[00:23:41.300]>>Love watching this scorecard.

[00:23:44.900]>>Yesterday he had one bogey. Today he's got a triple.

[00:23:51.930]>>That was a great round of golf Darren played even with a bogey.

[00:23:56.209]>>From the middle of the fairway at the 11th.

[00:24:14.599]>>This will move to his left here. You gotta keep the speed up here, Scott.

[00:24:21.280]>>Well, we'll call it a 2 putt. It was a working 2 putt.

[00:24:33.010]>>You know, Gainey's got to get up-and-down here.

[00:24:36.650]>>To stay at 120, you got to assume Hend is gonna make his.

[00:24:42.959]>>Can't be giving away any shots with.

[00:24:47.849]>>18.5 holes left in the tournament.

[00:24:54.819]>>Jamie, what about this pitch here for Gainey?

[00:24:58.500]>>Well, the lie's, the lie's OK.

[00:25:01.199]>>But it's up the hill and then down the other side here for Gainey, it's not easy.

[00:25:06.500]>>He's OK, he's just gonna play a little low runner.

[00:25:15.469]>>It's gonna wander by a few feet there.

[00:25:20.380]>>Still got some work to do.

[00:25:39.739]>>Percy's birdie Putt not high enough, high enough.

[00:25:44.500]>>So it loses speed, it's gonna snap off to the left.

[00:25:49.319]>>So he's gonna be in that group tied for 8th with Heath Slocum, Tag Riding, Steven Alker.

[00:25:56.099]>>And Cameron Percy, they're going to start the day.

[00:26:00.449]>>Most likely 7 shots back.

[00:26:03.750]>>Hend for birdie.

[00:26:06.020]>>And to get to 12 under.

[00:26:11.729]>>Yeah, it just doesn't go left.

[00:26:14.599]>>Still, what a battling round of golf there with a triple, a bogey on a par 5, and a bogey on one of the shortest par 4s on the golf course, and he still still shoots 4 under.

[00:26:29.969]>>Jamie, uh, in your opinion, how big is this putt here for Gainey? I mean, from just an emotional standpoint, you, you, you came to the,

[00:26:39.000]>>Tee with a one-shot lead, you hit it right down the middle of the fairway, um, to be able to.

[00:26:44.989]>>Get in there with the lead and not a co-lead. Yeah, it's proving it to yourself, isn't it, and also he wasn't very happy the way he played the par fives.

[00:26:53.040]>>He's 3 under for them so far today, so this to stay 3 under. I think if he misses it, he's bogeyed it like 18th twice. So it's quite a big put mentally for this hole. Yeah, his only bogey of the day yesterday was here at 18th.

[00:27:13.459]>>Big confidence move there, absolutely.

[00:27:17.010]>>He has his, he has his caddie read his putts for him, and I think he just kind of listens and then gets up on top of it and makes it. So back-to-back 67s, Tommy Gainey has set the new 36 hole scoring record for the Trophy Hassan II in year number 4. 12-under. The previous record was 9-under by Stephen Ames. Again, we're playing in May for the first time. The 1st 3 editions.

[00:27:44.010]>>Where in February course conditions were different.

[00:27:47.599]>>But Tommy Gainey's gonna have an opportunity for his 2nd win on the PGA TOUR Champions, one in Jacksonville last year at Tijuana.

[00:27:56.349]>>At the Constellation Furyk and Friends. All right, so here's Tommy Gainey's day in a nutshell. Pars at the first two holes, then he rolls in this birdie putt at the 3rd and caught that left edge.

[00:28:12.150]>>Then over at the 5th, he had this putt for eagle, reachable par 5 and gave it a good run.

[00:28:19.969]>>Just missed it, tapped in for birdie, so that was 2 under.

[00:28:24.270]>>Then he would make a bogey at the 6th and.

[00:28:27.609]>>Cookie then over at the par 5 8th rolls this birdie putt in. Yeah, I gotta take advantage of the par 5s, and he did there at the 5th hole and the 8th hole on that outgoing 9.

[00:28:38.770]>>This is a heck of a run because 10 and 11 are not easy holes, but when you hit the fairway, it gives you an ability to attack and he did hit a 10. Yeah, easy hole location here at the 10th compared to yesterday, hole playing a little bit easier, but uses that slope and that pitch perfectly, gets it in there a couple of feet, and he'd make that. That'll be his 4th birdie of the day. He wasn't done.

[00:29:01.770]>>Got a little lucky here that it stayed up on that left side at 11 and then rolled this in for birdie. Almost beat the ball to the hole.

[00:29:11.040]>>And then at the par 5 12th over the green in 2, and this is a heck of a bunker shot. It is pitches on the downslope, was carrying some speed.

[00:29:21.719]>>Got lucky, got fortunate catching the flagstick, but that's OK. Yeah, that would have gone 20 ft by, made bogey at 14, then.

[00:29:29.939]>>16 is played as the hardest hole, but not for Tommy Gainey. I'll tell you what, this is my favorite shot of the day for Tommy Gainey right here, taking the downslope out of play, just flying it all the way, spinning it. Beautiful shot. And he drove it on the green at 17, had a long eagle pot, and this left for birdie.

[00:29:49.420]>>And Gainey knocks it in.

[00:29:53.050]>>And then I think an emotional lift here, saving par at 18. Drove it perfect, kind of fanned a 5 iron over there in the right bunker, played a poor bunker shot, not a great pitch shot, but a nice par save.

[00:30:07.270]>>So Tommy Gainey will head into Saturday's final round. That's right. Trophy Hassan II ends on a Saturday after shooting 67. Darren Fichardt sets a new 18-hole scoring low by shooting 8 under 65 on this par 73. Scott Hend, who started the day with a one-shot lead, shoots 4 under despite a triple bogey. He'll be in the last group and just a shot back. Jason Caron with a fantastic day, a 6 under 67.

[00:30:44.250]>>PGA TOUR Champions traveled across the Atlantic to Morocco. The capital city is Rabat, and it is the 4th consecutive year the PGA TOUR Champions has made the trip. What a historic city. First named capital in 1956.

[00:31:02.050]>>Royal Golf Dar Es Salam, the red course par 73, playing just over 7200 yards on this championship Saturday. Gorgeous conditions. It has been hot all week long

for the PGA TOUR Champions here in Rabat. First time it's being played in May. 93 degrees, humidity at 42%. Winds 4 MPH. They've tended to pick up later in the afternoon.

[00:31:31.969]>>Bob Papa along with John Cook, who early in his career played on this golf course, Jamie Spence has as well. Jamie won the 2020 Morocco Open.

[00:31:45.140]>>Well, let's take a look where we stand right now. Tommy Gainey started the day with a one-shot lead. Darren Fichardt, who's won on the European Tour.

[00:31:58.069]>>Sticks the landing at number 1 and goes on to make a birdie, and that would get him to 12 under par. Gainey made par. Scott Hend made a bogey. After a bogey at the 2nd, Fichardt misses this putt for par. So back-to-back bogeys, dropping him back. Gainey made a bogey at the 2nd and then rolls this putt in confidently at the 3rd for birdie to get him back to 12 under par.

[00:32:30.290]>>Then over at the 5th.

[00:32:32.719]>> Fichardt trying to bounce back and pours in this birdie putt to get him level par for the day.

[00:32:40.180]>>Playing with Gainey in that final group, Tommy Gainey, John Cook has been very confident. He just walks this thing in. He has been walking a lot of putts in so far that, uh, birdie at the 3rd was a key birdie there for Tommy, and that birdie at the 5th to go, uh, head-to-head there with Darren Fichardt. Scott Hend had the lead after round 1, had an up-and-down day after a bogey at the 1st, all pars, and then rolls in this birdie putt at the 6th.

[00:33:07.130]>>Gets him back to 11 under.

[00:33:10.959]>>And then over at the par 47, Gainey and Hend made pars and Fichardt.

[00:33:17.699]>>With another par putt that does not drop, catches another edge. So that would be his 3rd bogey of the day. So here is the leaderboard as we stand here in the final round. Tommy Gainey, a 2-shot lead over Scott Hend. Steven Alker is trying to make that run as John talked about in the on-camera. He's 4-under. He's bogey-free so far today. Did not birdie the par 5 8th, which is one of the holes you have to get.

[00:33:44.500]>>Did birdie the 9th and is headed to that tough stretch with 10 and 11 and then the par 5, 12th. Alker.

[00:33:52.349]>>Was tied for the lead through 36 last year, only to lose to Miguel Angel Jiménez. Ernie Els 2-under today, Y.E. Yang 2-under today, along with Alex Cejka.

[00:34:08.939]>>All right, let's take you out to the par 5 8th and Darren Fichardt in a spot of bother, Jamie.

[00:34:23.600]>>All right, he's got 262 yards.

[00:34:27.479]>>Missing the fairway, right, yeah, wide right with his tee ball here at the reachable par 5, but didn't seem to have too much trouble there. Had a good lie, one of those little jumpers, and what a golf shot this is.

[00:34:41.000]>>How about this golf shot, Bob? So Fickert's gonna have that for eagle.

[00:34:51.290]>>Darren Fichardt

[00:34:53.050]>>That right rough and that brilliant 2nd shot takes advantage of it.

[00:34:58.139]>>That'll run you up the board quick. They just picked up 2 shots and pulls to within 1.

[00:35:04.100]>>Of Gainey. Keep it inside the hole here, Scottie, to this right half.

[00:35:15.689]>>It's pretty this hole every day and play this hole in 6 for the week. You might look back on this hole and go, yep, it's just won me the golf tournament, but long way to go. 3-shot swing though for Scott Hend.

[00:35:31.530]>>Uh, Steven Alker has a putt for birdie here at 13. Yeah, seemingly has to run the tables now and that's a great start.

[00:35:42.750]>>He's got a pretty much birdie to the house. He has his chances there at 17 and 18.

[00:35:54.570]>>Hend

[00:35:58.899]>>Has this short putt to get to 14 under.

[00:36:05.110]>>So, Scott Hend.

[00:36:08.060]>>It is now 20 today.

[00:36:11.850]>>And leads by 2.

[00:36:15.580]>> Søren Kjeldsen.

[00:36:17.760]>>Coming off a.

[00:36:20.879]>>Bogey at the last birdie's 14.

[00:36:24.939]>>Ernie El's for birdie at 15 to get to 7 under. And that left fairway bunker hit a brilliant bunker shot to here.

[00:36:34.959]>>Are making a little run.

[00:36:38.540]>>It gets to 7 under.

[00:36:41.179]>>And Alker with this short putt for birdie back down the hill, this would get him to 9.

[00:36:48.830]>>Who shall putt here for Steven Alker.

[00:36:52.030]>>Not much to it

[00:36:55.570]>>Jamie, with this leaderboard now kind of where it is and with Alker 4 behind hand and running out of holes.

[00:37:03.899]>>Hend misses his birdie. Like this now becomes match play a little in a lot of ways, doesn't it? It feels that way, no doubt about it, and this is just left half of the hole. Should be a tap in for Gainey.

[00:37:18.669]>>Yeah

[00:37:20.479]>>He's really settled in after that little bit of a hiccup there at, at 9 and 10.

[00:37:27.469]>>back-to-back birdies at 12 and 13.

[00:37:32.360]>>Gloves are coming off. Scott Hend.

[00:37:35.070]>>Won 10 times on the Asian tour, 3 times on the EP World Tour, 3 times on the European Seniors tour. Can he win for the first time on the PGA TOUR Champions?

[00:37:53.629]>>Colin Montgomerie, who won Trophy Hassan II on this property back in 1997, nearly made an eagle to finish things off.

[00:38:11.969]>>Uh, Monty.

[00:38:14.310]>>Finish off with a birdie here at 18 after a poor.

[00:38:19.590]>>Thursday

[00:38:21.570]>>played Friday, Saturday, and.

[00:38:24.199]>>About 10 under par.

[00:38:26.629]>>And right now he's in a tie for 13th.

[00:38:29.909]>>Finishes the week at 4 under.

[00:38:33.409]>>Uh, he's just got to play his own game, but you're absolutely right, I mean, it's begging to be a bit closer, from just over 70 yards per game, he drives in low, so he should use the slope just behind the pin here and maybe get a bit of spin on it.

[00:38:52.429]>>Needs to use that slope. There it is. That'll come around. It'll come back to the right. Yes, it will toward the hole.

[00:39:00.000]>>Pretty much give me birdie. Nicely done.

[00:39:06.149]>>Nope.

[00:39:07.310]>>Gotta get the right contact here, and he's got to keep the concentration. Pitch it just on the front, it's gonna bounce.

[00:39:14.050]>>He can use that little backstop as well, but he doesn't want to skip it through.

[00:39:19.030]>>Yeah, well done.

[00:39:21.540]>>He's shown us a lot here, Jamie. He is, he was impressive tough class. Well, not impressive, uh.

[00:39:31.479]>>He's gonna just finish up here and.

[00:39:34.010]>>Put that 14 under on the board.

[00:39:39.229]>>So for the moment his lead is 3.

[00:39:42.469]>>Barring a disaster, it'll remain at 2 when Gainey putts out.

[00:39:49.229]>>But we're running out of time.

[00:39:51.679]>>For Tommy Gainey.

[00:39:57.000]>>Ernie El's for Eagle here at 17.

[00:40:03.320]>>We're gonna hit this way up to the right, then it starts to go down slope. That's pretty nicely done there, Bob.

[00:40:16.959]>>Alker with

[00:40:19.050]>>A putt for eagle to get to 11 under. He has to absolutely smash this.

[00:40:26.139]>>Going up the hill, then moving a little left. How about this? Oh my, if that goes in, we have a different ballgame.

[00:40:35.330]>>So it's a tap-in birdie for Alker. Again, the double bogey at 11.

[00:40:40.689]>>Really curtailed his run.

[00:40:44.909]>>He's got one hole to play.

[00:40:50.729]>>2 Ernie Els to match Steven Alker with Birdie at 17.

[00:40:56.580]>>And Ernie gets to 8 under and right now is in solo 4th.

[00:41:11.340]>>Jacob for his birdie. Good to see Alex healthy.

[00:41:23.659]>>He had been dealing with some injury two years ago.

[00:41:27.929]>>Back and neck.

[00:41:30.139]>>Putting with the flag stick out, he normally has it in.

[00:41:34.260]>>But nice 2 putt from down in that lower bowl.

[00:41:37.560]>>Well, Ernie Els hit a gorgeous pitch shot.

[00:41:41.969]>>To here. Remember he had to punch his 2nd shot up to short of the green.

[00:41:47.689]>>No

[00:41:49.169]>>Excuse me, this is for par.

[00:41:52.530]>>So Ernie Els finishes with a par at 18.

[00:41:57.659]>>Good week after a slow start there for Ernie, so he could be proud of himself.

[00:42:02.820]>>Thanks guys. Thank you very much.

[00:42:08.840]>>So the final group now on the tee.

[00:42:13.120]>>At 17 with hand leading by 2.

[00:42:19.790]>>There is a case for laying up here. I don't think he's gonna do that. It looks like an iron though glinting in the sun to me from down here. It certainly is. It's that 2 iron, but it's 265 to the front, which he, he's fine with it, just short of the green. Fairly easy pitch shot. Yeah, I don't think he's got a club for this shot, John. I've got a, I think that's a good play. Well, yeah, I, I, I agree.

[00:42:46.969]>>I think a 3 wood was too much or it brings that left water into play and driver certainly was too much. Driver's too much, it's into quite a bit of breeze now, so I don't think 3 wood's gonna make it and it didn't want to get in those bunkers, so I, I.

[00:42:59.500]>>It's not like Scott Hend to lay up, but he has. Now Gainey can't lay up. He's got to have a crack at it. Well, Jamie, you were following him yesterday. I mean, he's got a driver. He hit this low running driver.

[00:43:12.459]>>That's gone airborne, that is miles up in the air. 289 all up, can he get it there? Yes, he can, down, now down. That's gonna go into the penalty area. Oh, that is so unfortunate. I don't think he knows that it got over the green and then into the penalty area. Scott Hen.

[00:43:38.199]>>Laid up here at 17, Jamie, and really a smart play because the last thing he needed to do was what Gainey did. Yeah, you've, uh, sometimes you've got to resist the temptation, and he did that at a crucial time and he's got a lovely angle here for this pin, 59 yards, does slope off to the right past the flag, but he's played these great all week, low and short.

[00:44:02.209]>>Yeah, he's got to get it out to the right. There's a little bit of a pretty good break from right to left.

[00:44:10.290]>>OK, not too bad.

[00:44:12.810]>>I like the play off the tee. It was kind of an aggressive layup, not back there where it was like a full shot, but he, he wasn't gonna bring the left bunker into play or the right bunker into play.

[00:44:23.560]>>So well played. That's a, that's an experience.

[00:44:36.219]>>Take you over to 18 Tag Ridings.

[00:44:40.189]>>Having a nice week. His 2nd shot into the 18th. John Senden has the only eagle today.

[00:44:47.340]>>At 18. Beautiful tee shot way down there's just an iron into this green and way in the back and what a golf shot here for Tag Ridings.

[00:44:58.139]>>So we should have our 2nd eagle of the day, and that's huge for Tag because that's gonna jump him out of a tie for 10th.

[00:45:08.090]>>And move them all the way up to 6. Now Jake his tee shot at 18.

[00:45:14.929]>>He's a good one. He can

[00:45:16.909]>>Certainly reached this green in 2.

[00:45:20.320]>>Takes out that left bunker, goes down that slope, you might have to work it a little bit left, right to left.

[00:45:32.120]>>Now Gainey playing his 3rd shot at 17.

[00:45:36.709]>>Yeah, the ball way above his feet as well, it doesn't make it easy. Mind you, you can pull it into the slope, that left-hand slope, he's going to kick it to the right. Got to pitch it a long way up there.

[00:45:45.820]>>Come out dead. Yeah, it's gonna have to go.

[00:45:52.389]>>I should mention that Kjeldsen made par tapping in for par. That was his birdie putt. So he is in at 7-under and a tie for 6.

[00:46:11.889]>>So Jamie, you used your famous um pigeon call, didn't you?

[00:46:18.080]>>You like that, Bob, don't you? Yeah, I didn't know if that was an actual pigeon or the pigeon sisters from the odd Couple. There's enough of them, there's enough pigeons near my house waking me up at 5 in the morning, thanks very much. Uphill slow up for Fichardt, for the eagle.

[00:46:35.070]>>It's one of those it's got a bunch of different brakes, brakes to the right, goes up the hill, now back to the left.

[00:46:42.679]>>And

[00:46:45.409]>>you just can't hit it hard. You can't, you just can't. We were, we were down there trying to hit that putt.

[00:46:51.629]>>And without, you know, knocking it in the other bunker, it's just hard to get it close from down there. Tells you how good a putt Steven Alker hit and almost made it.

[00:47:02.639]>>Hend now for birdie.

[00:47:07.070]>>Well, he's had chances, hasn't he? Coming in, this was a great chance just to get it a little bit further ahead, a little bit right to left down the slope for Hendy.

[00:47:24.120]>>Yeah, once they start losing speed, they can really snap off.

[00:47:30.030]>>And he'll have at least a 2-shot lead going into 18.

[00:47:34.159]>>A hole that he can easily reach.

[00:47:38.300]>>You might be thinking hitting 3 wood off that tee.

[00:47:43.899]>>Let's go up to 18. We saw that second shot for Tag Ridings.

[00:47:48.409]>>As this pot for eagle.

[00:47:54.149]>>And he pours it in. 2nd eagle of the day. He and John Hend with the Eagles at 18. And Tag Ridings shoots a 2 under 71 in this final round and now moves up to a tie for 6.

[00:48:08.739]>>198 the front, 236 all up, so big 5 iron, just smash it.

[00:48:16.139]>>Turn it from right to left.

[00:48:19.189]>>If you do anything, overturn it.

[00:48:23.340]>>OK. He'll get, he'll get relief from the grandstand there. There's some drop zones around that. Looks like Michael Peet is already up there and it's going to help him with that drop.

[00:48:36.709]>>Now, Tommy Gainey's 2nd.

[00:48:41.120]>>Yeah, that was from 2:30 and he's missed it left, it's hit the hospitality area and just come back between that and the bunker.

[00:48:48.699]>>So he'll need a drop as well, I think.

[00:48:51.350]>>Maybe hospitality stands.

[00:48:55.060]>>Right around the green.

[00:48:59.709]>>Scott Hend, cool as a cucumber from the drop area. Yeah, I went to the nearest drop area. He said that's the best job ever. I agree with him.

[00:49:08.889]>>Yeah, that little bit of a slope right there, why not?

[00:49:15.879]>>All right, so it's customary you got a three-shot lead. I mean, you normally mark to have the final putt like, but that's so close you can't, you really can't. I don't know what he's gonna do. All right, Jamie, what would you do?

[00:49:30.379]>>He's got a market, has he? I think he's got a market. He, yeah, he's got a market. He's got to move it. I mean.

[00:49:39.570]>>fell in. Yeah, the marker almost fell in. It did. It's hanging on the edge.

[00:49:46.500]>>Tommy Gainey, who won Constellation Furyk and Friends.

[00:49:51.679]>>At Timuquana in Jacksonville.

[00:49:54.679]>>Last year, his birdie putt wanders by.

[00:50:00.000]>>So if he makes that, he finishes solo 2nd. Alker is in a 10-under. Steven has shot a 5-under 68, upended by that double bogey at the 11th.

[00:50:11.860]>>Boy, I'm sure Fichardt can't wait, Jamie, for this round to end.

[00:50:25.050]>>Just off the back of the green in 2.

[00:50:28.439]>>And

[00:50:30.510]>>Yeah, this thing just fell apart from the 9th hole on for Darren.

[00:50:37.389]>>Drops them into what?

[00:50:40.040]>>Tied for 11th.

[00:50:47.820]>>Fichardt shoots 80.

[00:50:51.919]>>Gainey for his par and to ensure a solo 2. Yeah, big putt here for Tommy.

[00:50:58.850]>>This does have slight movement from right to left. Came into the week 11th in the Schwab Cup standings, so a solo 2nd will put a lot of dollars in his pocket.

[00:51:10.719]>>Also making bogey from just off the green in 2.

[00:51:17.659]>>Tommy Gainey shoots a 2/75.

[00:51:22.629]>>The finish is tied with Steven Alker for a second. Now, Scott Hend.

[00:51:27.780]>>About to tap in for his first win.

[00:51:31.649]>>On the PGA TOUR Champions, Scott Hend has won the 2026 trophy Hassan II in the 50th edition.

[00:51:45.750]>>Sets the new 54 hole scoring record.

[00:51:50.439]>>As he shoots 15 under to win by 5, Scott Hend.

[00:51:56.209]>>Taps in for another birdie to shoot a final round 4 under 69 and capture the 50th edition of Trophy Hassan II. He has punched his ticket to the PGA TOUR Champions.