

Production Transcript for 25INTCUTCH â€“ AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE - MASTER.mp3

[00:00:43] >> PGA Tour champions in Madison, Wisconsin for the ninth playing of the American Family Insurance Championship, 13th of 28 on the PGA Tour Champions schedule. But this year, it is now a team event. Angel Cabrera, second in the Schwab Cup standings, and a three-time winner this season on the PGA Tour Champions, at the par-5 7th, teamed up with Ricardo Gonzalez. Reachable green. Reaches it and does even better. Knocks it in for a double eagle 2. The third albatross of the year on the PGA Tour Champions. Steven Alker knows how to pick a partner. Hall of Famer Bernhard Langer rolls in this putt for birdie at the 8th. That gets that team to 3-under par. Tournament host, Steve Stricker, teamed up with his brother-in-law, Mario Tiziani. His second at the par-3 8th. Steve, always with a great short game, knocks that in for a birdie to get the team to 3-under par. Maybe an unlikely pairing, Ernie Els and Tim Herron. Els for eagle at the 7th. And this would get the team to 5-under par. Justin Leonard, who has a win this year, along with Jerry Kelly, rolls this putt in for birdie at the 10th. And that we get the team to 6-under par. We mentioned Angel Cabrera has teamed up with Ricardo Gonzalez. Here's Gonzalez's third at the par-5 11th. A little pace, flat stick in the way, and that goes in for eagle. That gets them to 6-under par. Darren Clarke teamed up with Thomas Bjorn, his second at the par-3 14th. Little pitch and run, and holding speed. Clarke and Bjorn get to 8-under par. All here in Round 1. Playing best ball on this first round Friday. Jaidee and Jones shots 62 today.

[00:02:44] They're in at 9-under. Clarke and Bjorn at nine 9-. Good scores out on the golf course, with the weather conditions perfect in Madison. The PGA Tour Champions proudly present the season-long race for the Charles Schwab Cup. Today from Madison, Wisconsin, it's first round coverage of the American Family Insurance Championship. This is the ninth playing of the American Family Insurance Championship. New venue though. TPC Wisconsin redesigned by Steve Stricker. This original layout opened in 1963. Par 71, just over 7,000 thousand yards. The wind, not a big factor right now. Ideal weather conditions, and we're seeing that in the scores out on the golf course. Bob Papa along with Peter Jacobsen. So glad you could join us. John Cook handling commentary on the ground. He is with the group of Ernie Els, Tim Herron, and the team of Jimenez and Olazabal. Bernhard Langer has this putt for par at the 14th. Alker has a par putt as well.

[00:04:02] >> Now, this is the hardest hole on the golf course, so that's why we're seeing a little bit of a struggle here.

[00:04:15] >> Let's go over to 13 and welcome in John Cook, who is with the team of Els and Herron.

[00:04:20] >> Thank you there, guys. Beautiful afternoon here, Madison, Wisconsin, TPC Wisconsin. Tim Herron has really held his own today. That eagle that Ernie made back there at the 7th, he headed in there about 6 feet for eagle. So I gave him that. He's got three other birdies. Little left of the flag. Dangerous hole location here on that front right. Anything hits to the right could go in the penalty area.

[00:04:47] >> There's a lot of problems left and right on this golf course, John.

[00:04:52] >> Let's go over to 17, par 3. Mark Hensby teamed up with Richard Green for birdie.

[00:05:00] >> How about it? Yeah, Mark Hensby, with his length, he's a pretty accurate driver.

[00:05:06] >> Steven Alker is a teammate of one of them, Bernhard Langer. He makes the par putt, so no harm, no foul over at 14. They remain at 5-under. Darren Clarke has a birdie putt. But this is Bjorn's bid for birdie. And he says, Darren, pick up your coin. That gets them to 10-under in the outright lead.

[00:05:35] >> Cookie, Tim Herron got a nice read off his partner, Ernie Els' putt.

[00:05:42] >> Exact same putt, just a tiny bit shorter. He knows it goes up that little ridge down the backside. But Ernie in there with a look at par. Tim has really played well. He's hit every green. He's hit a lot of good shots. Like I said, at the seventh hole, he had it in there about 6 feet for eagle.

[00:06:08] >> Cookie, I was looking back and Tim Herron's bio. He played on the Walker Cup Team in '93, and he went undefeated. In one of his matches, he beat Padraig Harrington. So Tim Herron is no joke. He can flat hit it, as we know.

[00:06:26] >> Yeah, he can. Yeah, he can. He's won four or five times on the PGA Tour.

[00:06:33] >> He won the Charles Schwab Challenge, the Arnold Palmer Invitational, the La Cantera Texas Open, and the Honda Classic back in '96. His first win, he was staying with Ernie Els.

[00:06:46] >> Yeah. How about those wins at the Honda at Colonial at Bay Hill? Those are pretty quality wins.

[00:06:54] >> Yeah. He's always had a little bit of a challenge with this club, but he can drive it as good as anybody. He still got his length.

[00:07:02] >> I hope he makes it just so we can watch him take the ball out of the hole. I bought Lanny Wadkins one of those. He didn't use it though.

[00:07:17] >> Why bend down when you can use a suction cup to get it out?

[00:07:27] >> This is the tee shot of Thomas Bjorn at 17. Taking a chance and setting up another birdie opportunity.

[00:07:34] >> Wow.

[00:07:35] >> Fred Couples teamed up with Jay Haas.

[00:07:44][ Applause ] Couples and Jay Haas, longtime friends. This to get the team to 5-under.

[00:07:58][ Applause ]

[00:08:06] >> Bjorn for birdie at 17.

[00:08:09] >> That's fun.

[00:08:10] >> Pours another one in. Richard Green, who's not having the kind of year that he had last year, 21st in the Schwab Cup standings, rolls that in for birdie. So, he and Mark Hensby birdied the last three holes, bogey-free, 10 under 61.

[00:08:35] >> Let's go over to 18. And this is the second of Stewart Cink.

[00:08:45] >> And this is a -- Wow, go in. Go in. It does.

[00:08:50] >> Stewart Cink holes out for a two at the par-4 18th. David Toms is pumped. Over at 18, Thomas Bjorn to finish the team off --

[00:09:14] >> Tell me.

[00:09:15] >> -- with five birdies in a row. They shoot 59.

[00:09:18] >> And that's four in a row for Bjorn. How about that round?

[00:09:25] >> Jay Haas, his third at 18.

[00:09:28] >> Watch this. Oh, yeah.

[00:09:30] >> Yeah. Wow, said Fred. They shoot a 6-under 65 today.

[00:09:37] >> Fred said, thank you.

[00:09:40] >> Scott Verplank has this putt for birdie to get the team of he and Davis Love III to 4-under for the day.

[00:09:47] >> Oh, wow. That is Verplank's sixth birdie of the day.

[00:10:00] >> Last hole of the day for Corey Pavin playing with Paul Stankowski.

[00:10:06] >> You mentioned Corey just earlier, the 1995 US Open champion at Shinnecock Hills. What a shot maker Corey Pavin is.

[00:10:18] >> Well, after Cabrera rinsed his tee shot, Gonzalez trying to pick him up his birdie putt.

[00:10:26] >> Yeah. That's what you want to see. When one partner is out, the other one comes through.

[00:10:32] >> It's been quiet for this group. Haven't made a birdie since the 11th. Now would be a good time to make one.

[00:10:42] >> Yeah. It's just about when I showed up, so I'm blaming myself.

[00:10:47] >> They don't call you the cooler for nothing.

[00:10:50] >> Mr. Freeze is doing his job, unfortunately. Yeah. Needs to break hard. It does.

[00:10:56][ Applause ]

[00:11:00] >> Let's go over to the 9th. Final hole of the day for Scott Parel playing with Woody Austin. Good to see Scott back and healthy. Had a chance talk with him in Birmingham.

[00:11:11] >> How about that pairing? Scott Parel, so quiet and reserved. You got Woody Austin, the most fire up guy on the Champions Tour. Pretty good combo. Sixty-four today, 7-under.

[00:11:23] >> Cabrera for his par. So, they finished, Cabrera and Gonzalez, at 7-under. Olazabal for the team birdie.

[00:11:37] >> And very little to this. Nothing to this at all.

[00:11:59] >> There we go.

[00:12:03] >> Olazabal birdie.

[00:12:06] >> It feels so good when you do that. When your partner's already done and they need you and you do that, oh, yeah.

[00:12:15] >> Ernie has really good look at birdie here. Very similar putt to what he'd made it back at 16. Just has to keep the speed up. It's going to move a little to the right.

[00:12:49] >> Had it right online.

[00:12:51] >> He's disgusted right now. Perfectly red. Just not enough oomph.

[00:12:59] >> They started out with three straight birdies. Eagled the 7th. Four birdies over the final 10 holes. I mean, 9-under 62 is great. They're only three off the lead. Obviously, they're right in the mix of this thing.

[00:13:16] >> I think tomorrow is going to be a big day, especially with Els and Herron are and having a frustrating back nine. You can go really low in the scramble format.

[00:13:31] >> Jimenez for par.

[00:13:41] >> Well, there he made one.

[00:13:44] >> Look at that. Takes a lot of -- Almost like, all right, I don't have to make.

[00:13:50] >> That's fine.

[00:13:54] >> So at 66 for the Schwab Cup leader, 5-under 66. What a day for Thomas Bjorn and Darren Clarke as they made 12 birdies today and shooting 59 at the American Family Insurance Championship. American Family Insurance Championship, Madison, Wisconsin. A new venue, TPC Wisconsin. A new format. Team competition here in Year number 9. And today, they're playing a scramble. Steve Stricker and his brother-in-law, Mario Tiziani, shot 7-under yesterday in best ball. And right now, they are 14-under par. And they have this putt for birdie to post 22-under. John Cook is with this group.

[00:14:55] >> It has been a lot of fun to watch this group right here, Mario Tiziani and Steve Stricker. And Mario's hanging in there with Steve's helping him. He's driving the ball good, hitting some nice iron shots. He had a beauty in here at 18 from 155 yards. Now, a great opportunity to go 15 under for the day. Little right to left. Got to like the look of this putt, Peter.

[00:15:19] >> Yeah. Tiziani's been making a majority of the putts here on the back nine for this team. It's good to see because Mario is a really good player. And it just takes a format like this to free him up.

[00:15:37] >> Nobody beats the Tiz as he pours that in. And the team of Tiziani and Stricker in a scramble shoot 56, 15-under par today. And they're in at 22-under. They'll have the lead for now. But obviously, there's some teams out there with a lot more holes to play. But for the Madison, Wisconsin natives and tournament host, Steve Stricker, his wife Nicki on the bag this week, what a day today. Let's go over to 17. Steve Flesch partnered with Paul Goydos for birdie to get to 20-under. And Steve Flesch knocks that in.

[00:16:27] >> Yeah, we expect to see low scores, especially when these PGA Tour Champions players, they get to see their partner putt first, show them line, and then, boom. It's almost automatic. Thomas Bjorn and Darren Clarke shot 12-under to have the overnight lead. And there is another one that goes in.

[00:16:48] >> That's what Thomas Bjorn's been doing. He has been making a ton of putts these first two days.

[00:16:56] >> Well, let's take a look at some of the highlights from earlier today. And Steve Stricker for eagle at the 7th. And par 5s are reachable. And of course, Stricker with the great putting stroke, knocks that in. That would get them to 13-under par.

[00:17:12] >> We talked about Mario Tiziani and his contributions today. This was his second into the par-4 10th.

[00:17:18] >> He's got a beautiful golf swing and he's got some length. And you said earlier, this is the kind of format that's going to free up a player like Mario to show what he can do.

[00:17:30] >> So that would get them to 16-under. How about Ernie Els, partnered with Tim Herron? They shot 9-under yesterday.

[00:17:39] >> Well, you know what kind of player Ernie is, Hall of Famer. Yeah, just enough.

[00:17:44] >> Tim Herron giving a fist pump. Darren Clarke, part of that team with Thomas Bjorn. After Bjorn's eagle putt just missed at 11, Clarke gets that last roll. And that's in for three. That got them to 19-under par. Tiziani made the birdie putt at 13, and then, again, here at 15.

[00:18:06] >> Yeah, this was Mario's approach. And he makes the putt. That gets them to 20-under. And then, here at 16, the reachable par 4. He's got another chance for birdie. And this takes him to 21.

[00:18:25] >> And either one hit a good second shot at the drivable par-4 16th. And then, of course, we saw them make birdie at 18. So they shoot 15-under today, a 56 in the scramble format. For now, they have a two shot lead here in Round 2 of the American Family Insurance Championship. As we go over to 17. And David Duval teamed up with Matt Gogel, couple of former broadcasters. And Duval pours that in. So that gets them to 18-under. Steve Flesch was supposed to team up with Colin Montgomerie. He withdrew. Paul Goydos stepped in. And this for yet another birdie. And Flesch pours that in. So he makes birdies at 17 and 18. They shoot 57 today. Langer for birdie. He's first to go for he and Team Alker to get to 19-under. And this to shoot 57 for the team.

[00:19:30] >> Wow.

[00:19:30] >> There we go.

[00:19:32] >> Talk about a comeback.

[00:19:36] >> Bernhard's like, listen, I'm not starting on 10 again. We're starting on one tomorrow, Steven, and we're going to go after this thing. Tim Herron for birdie at 15.

[00:20:02] >> How about it?

[00:20:03] >> Yeah. Bob, I said earlier that, Tim won TPC Heron Bay. He didn't. He won at TPC Eagle Trace in 1996. So I wanted to clean that up.

[00:20:24] >> David Bransdon for birdie. And they get to 19-under.

[00:20:39] >> Thongchai beat Tom Pernice by a shot back in 2022. Miguel Angel Jimenez led through 36 then.

[00:20:49][ Applause ] Not a good second shot by Thomas Bjorn. And great shot by Darren Clarke. So they have a lengthy birdie putt here at 15.

[00:21:06] >> Yes, it's fairly holeable. It does go uphill, moving from left to right. Have to keep the speed up or it will peel across the hole.

[00:21:21] >> There we go. That change of order, and it's working. Thomas Bjorn has been making so many putts. And now, Clarke joining the party.

[00:21:39] >> Hensby and Green sizing up their birdie putt.

[00:21:43] >> This definitely has some speed. It's moving from left to right. A lot of times, these putts are a little straighter than you think.

[00:21:57] >> Straight in.

[00:21:58][ Applause ]

[00:22:03] >> So they get to 18-under.

[00:22:10] >> Brendan Jones for his birdie.

[00:22:11] >> Now, there's some space there with Jones' left hand at the top of the putter.

[00:22:27] >> Nicely done. His intent is to make sure you see space.

[00:22:34] >> You want to see space? Yup.

[00:22:36] >> Let's go up to the green. And Tim Herron will be first to putt after Ernie Els had a wonderful second shot in. If he makes this, they'll shoot 12-under and get to 21-under.

[00:23:05] >> Tim uses that popular claw grip. He went to that few years ago. And he can fill it up. And with the added suction cup, it kind of counterbalances the putter.

[00:23:26] >> They shoot 59 here in Round 2. And Darren's been really good today when he's putted second.

[00:23:37] >> Well, they shared the duties yesterday. I think they both made six birdies each.

[00:23:52] >> Darren really looks good over the putter. Letting his arms hang, letting them swing, releases the putter head.

[00:24:05] >> How about it?

[00:24:09] >> Darren Clarke with the birdie at 18. They get to 25-under as they shoot 58.

[00:24:22] >> Thomas Bjorn and Darren Clarke, they shoot 58 today in the scramble, and lead by three heading into tomorrow's final round. PGA Tour Champions in Madison, Wisconsin. Ninth playing the American Family Insurance Championship. Team competition for the first time. Darren Clarke and Thomas Bjorn started the day with a three shot lead. They actually bogeyed the first hole. But then, they got things back in order. They made a birdie at the 2nd, a birdie at the 4th. And then, how about this shot by Darren Clarke at the 5th?

[00:25:06] >> Well, you knew that bogey at 1 was kind of a slap in the face, guys. You got to lead, but you just gave one back. Almost makes a hole in one there.

[00:25:15] >> Steve Stricker and his brother-in-law, Mario Tiziani, in this final group. Tiziani rolls in the birdie at the 8th. That would get him to 26-under par. Alex Cejka and Soren Kjeldsen started the day nine back. This was Cejka's second at the par-4 16th. Knocked it in for eagle. They'd birdie 18, finish at 28-under after shooting 59. But Darren Clarke with a birdie at the 10th. And they have been the best team all week.

[00:25:47] >> Yeah, they have. And other than that slip up at 1 today, they have been sharing the stage. They've both made the same number of birdies. They've had one eagle. And Thomas Bjorn here at 12. Just off the edge of the green. He's done this a few times this week. So this team is in command.

[00:26:06] >> Shot a 59 in best ball on Friday. And right now, they've gotten it to 31-under par. Again, Cejka and Kjeldsen have already posted 28-under par. Stricker and Tiziani just 4-under on their round today. Let's go over to 15, where Steven Alker is playing his second.

[00:26:28] >> Here's a stat for you. Alker has finished outside the Top 5 only twice since October. That was at the Insperity Championship in Houston, and the Senior PGA at Congressional a couple of weeks ago. Right now, they are sitting sixth, but that's certainly going to help their cause right there.

[00:26:48] >> Well, Cookie, at this point for Steve Stricker and Mario Tiziani, if they want to apply any pressure, this one's got to go.

[00:26:57] >> Absolutely. Mario just made a about a 25-footer for par as he drove it in the penalty area to the right. So that might free Steve Stricker up a little bit. But, yeah, you're right. I mean, they have to make a huge run to the house. They need to make a two at 16. And then, there's some pretty good par 3 -- two good par 3s with some wicked hole locations coming in. So, they're going to have to really dig deep.

[00:27:27] >> So far today, John, two birdies for each, Tiziani and Stricker. So just kind of one of those days.

[00:27:38] >> Steven Alker for birdie.

[00:27:49][ Applause ]

[00:27:51] >> Tiziani now for birdie.

[00:27:55] >> Yeah. Along the same line as his partner, Steve Stricker.

[00:27:57] >> He did.

[00:27:59] >> There we go.

[00:28:00] >> There we go. He did that yesterday. He made a ton of putts.

[00:28:06] >> I had a great view right from behind the hole. Once it started breaking, I made the early call, but it was perfect.

[00:28:15] >> Doug Barron at 18 for birdie. Doug Barron and Dicky Pride with a really nice week. They eagled 16, birdied 17, birdied 18. They shoot 60. And now, they're in a tie for second with Cejka.

[00:28:36] >> Paul Goydos for birdie. Ernie Els has missed his birdie putt. Nicely done for Paul.

[00:28:42][ Applause ]

[00:28:51] >> This is a par putt for Ernie Els.

[00:28:57][ Applause ]

[00:28:59] >> They're at 24-under, but only 3-under today.

[00:29:03] >> It's interesting. Mario walked over and asked Steve if he had a play, which he does. He's in the penalty area, but the ball is sitting up. He has to shoot way out to the right. Cannot go with the flag. Mario knows what he needs to do. He needs to stack one right here.



Hundred and forty-four yards. Big pitching wedge or a comfortable nine. Wind out of the right.

[00:29:26] >> He's been good at this all week long, John. Been so impressed with his game.

[00:29:34] >> Yeah. Just got a little out of sorts about middle of the round. He's hit a lot of shots like that.

[00:29:42] >> Yeah. On Friday, coming down the stretch, they were using his approaches, and then he was making the putts.

[00:29:50] >> Now, Bjorn got a little help from that golf cart.

[00:29:55] >> Yeah, he's got a good lie. Can't go with the flag, but he's probably going to anyway. Well, 136 yards.

[00:30:04] >> Yeah.

[00:30:05] >> Why not?

[00:30:06] >> Yeah. Partners in good shape. Take a right over the top, the flag. John, this seems kind of thick. It looks thick.

[00:30:18] >> Yeah, it's sitting up. It's in the wispy little fescue in the native area here, but it's doable. He's got to shoot way out to the right. Came out low left, and heel grabber right there. Unfortunately, stayed in the rough.

[00:30:36] >> Now, that's when you turn. That's when Steve says to Mario, knock it in. Take a look. Watch how when the club gets into the grass, it's going to grab the shaft and turn the face directly to the left. And that thing comes out low, smother hook.

[00:30:58] >> Darren Clarke for birdie at 15.

[00:31:01] >> Yeah. Thomas Bjorn has already putted and missed. Pretty good breaker from right to left. Just cozy it in there.

[00:31:14] >> Nobody else is really making a move close to these two. Good scores we saw earlier.

[00:31:22] >> Hello.

[00:31:23] >> Oh, my.

[00:31:25] >> Wow.

[00:31:28] >> That's the only --

[00:31:32] >> The plot has thickened.

[00:31:34] >> You can't do that. You got a comfortable lead. Just make sure you get your pars.

[00:31:41] >> I mean, Bjorn still has a par putt. But --

[00:31:46] >> That he didn't think he was going to have to make. Now, he --

[00:31:48] >> Right. So now--

[00:31:48] >> -- he got click back into mode.

[00:31:51] >> Yeah. I mean if Mario can roll this in, get him to 28-under.

[00:32:01] >> Yeah. Not much to this. Just a little from his right to left. Wonderful shot in there.

[00:32:09] >> Didn't hit it.

[00:32:10] >> Had to cover his brother-in-law there. But maybe a little nervy.

[00:32:16] >> John, how much rain did we get during that -- the rain delay? Do you know?

[00:32:22] >> It didn't rain a whole lot. It was more of a dusting. I can ask a tour official. I'll have that info in a minute. But it was -- It didn't rain much. Just kind of wetted things down and moved through pretty quick.

[00:32:34] >> That missed birdie putt certainly, I would think, makes this par putt for Bjorn a little less stressful.

[00:32:49] >> He's been so good with this putter. Finished second, tied for second at the Senior PGA a couple weeks ago. He's been hot with this club.

[00:33:00] >> Yeah, that was a little longer than he really wanted. It's in that uncomfortable range.

[00:33:07] >> He's going to say, thanks, partner.

[00:33:11] >> Bjorn is ninth in the Schwab Cup standing. So he's having a good year.

[00:33:15] >> Sorry.

[00:33:16] >> Yeah. So Darren will probably knock it right on the green at 16 and make an eagle. Speaking of 16, Steve Flesch and Paul Goydos, both players have birdie putt. Steve Flesch has won four times on the PGA Tour Champions. His last win in 2023 at the Stifel Charity Classic. Also won at Pebble Beach. Won twice at TPC Sugarloaf and the Mitsubishi Electric Classic.

[00:33:56] >> The team of Flesch and Goydos had to count a bogey on Friday. Fleschy made three birdies. Paul made five on Friday, first round.

[00:34:09] >> Meanwhile, Paul Goydos has won five times. But his last win came in 2017 in Minnesota at the 3M, which is now a PGA Tour event.

[00:34:25] >> That's Steve's fifth birdie of the day on his card.

[00:34:31] >> Remember, this isn't a -- you know, it's a team event, but it's a counter as far as the money's concerned. And this could be a big boost to both players as far as Schwab

Cup standings are concerned. Ernie Els is in fourth position in the Schwab Cup standings. Of course, won the season opener at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai. Solo second at the Mitsubishi Electric Classic. And he's had numerous chances to win this year. Playing in the final group, hasn't been able to pick up that second win.

[00:35:15][ Applause ] Steven Alker, who won the Cologuard Classic in a playoff earlier this year for his ninth win, his second on the way at 18. And he sticks the landing. And they're going to finish most likely with a birdie at 27-under. Final group up near the green at 16. Four pitch shots coming up here.

[00:36:04] >> Yeah. Four very similar pitch shots from the same position. Just waiting for a camera person to either stop or move out of the way, one of the two. There you go. They'll learn. Yeah, but a very easy pitch shot here. Perfect lie, even on a little downslope, which actually helps a little bit. He can just kind of throw it in there nice and low into that little slope, into the wind. Got to keep speed up, though. You have to hit this a little harder than you think. Drives in there low. Check release.

[00:36:38] >> Go in. Oh, my gosh, what a shot. What a shot. Notice there was no divot on that. He just sweep it right off the grass. Pitches like that, John, you do not want a downward strike. Put the club in the grass. You don't need that. You just need to sweep it. That's going to put the spin on like that. That's a wonderful shot. I'm going to give it to him. Pick it up, Thomas.

[00:37:14] >> Yeah, yeah.

[00:37:14] >> In the scramble format, he'd have to mark that.

[00:37:23] >> That's right.

[00:37:26] >> Steven Alker has this putt for birdie for the team.

[00:37:31][ Applause ]

[00:37:38] >> Tiziani will be first to putt here for birdie.

[00:37:42] >> I know it hasn't gone the way they wanted in the hometown team. They started off quick. They birdied 1 and 2. But then they made four straight pars. Followed that up with birdies at 8 and 9. But then, they made five straight pars. It's just not going to get it done when you're starting four back starting the final round.

[00:38:14] >> Yeah, they just hit that little bit of a lull middle of the front side. And Mario made a really good birdie at 8 after both of them had really close birdie putts at 7. But Mario, a great birdie at the 8th. And then, from there on, it just -- they couldn't make anything. And they had their chances. And that's where Team Clarke and Bjorn just kind of put the pedal down.

[00:38:42] >> I said it earlier, John, there's just some emotion that happens when one player starts going good, it kind of brings your partner along. And conversely, if things start going the wrong way, it can have an effect. But there we go. Quick turnaround.

[00:39:02] >> Go over to 17. And Ernie Els for birdie.

[00:39:11] >> Looking for two in a row. Coming off the birdie at 16. He gets it. Gets it. Just enough.

[00:39:19][ Applause ] Mario Tiziani, brother-in-law to Steve Stricker, he's in the Wisconsin Golf Hall of Fame. Was inducted last year. He joins his father Dennis, his uncle Larry, and Steve Stricker in that prestigious hall of fame. Ernie Els at 18.

[00:40:16][ Applause ] Tiziani's on the tee at 18.

[00:40:23] >> Yeah, tee ball made a little bit easier with the wind blowing out of the right. It was uncomfortable when the wind was blowing in out of the left, that's for sure. That's a good one for Mario.

[00:40:34] >> Yeah. Relatively straight par 4, but there's trouble left and there's trouble right. The one thing Stricker said about the TPC Wisconsin, when he and Steve Wenzloff with the PGA Tour Committee, when they were designing this golf course, they wanted to make sure that they sand capped all the fairways. And Steve said it's the driest course in town after a rain -- after a squall goes through.

[00:41:09] >> Yeah, really. It's handled the weather nicely.

[00:41:16] >> That's not where I put the target.

[00:41:21] >> So pretty much with a four shot lead at this point. As long as Bjorn and Clarke, at least one of them puts a ball in the fairway, I think with 98% of the precincts in, I think we can call this one, Peter.

[00:41:38] >> I think we can call it.

[00:41:40] >> I think you're right. I'm putting a target in just to help Thomas out. Yeah, he paid attention.

[00:41:57] >> It's been a fun event this week. Getting a chance to see guys play in team competition. Haven't had team competition in a few years on the PGA Tour Champions.

[00:42:12] >> I love the different formats. Look at that. Wow, is that a beautiful shot? I love the change of formats. Just adds a little spice, a little bit more interest to these pairings and to the competition.

[00:42:31] >> Ernie Els makes a birdie. Gave it a run. Just only made one birdie on their opening 10 holes. And then, they started the day four off the lead. So they didn't go low early. Not able to put any pressure. You know, should mention the team of Stewart Cink and David Thoms. I thought with Stewart's length, David Toms' accuracy, even though David has struggled this year a little bit. They shot 11-under today. I thought they might play better. But they did finish up on a positive note. Now Steve Flesch, if he can knock this in, maybe get his team out of that tie for second.

[00:43:21] >> Made a long putt here on Friday for birdie.

[00:43:27] >> Goydos still has a putt for birdie.

[00:43:30][ Applause ]

[00:43:54] >> This guy could roll it.

[00:44:15] >> Great week though. Paul Goydos and Steve Flesch, they shoot 64 today. Sixty-four in Round 1 in the best ball. In the scramble, they shot 57. And they are currently in a tied for second.

[00:44:32] >> Goydos taking advantage of that withdrawal by Montgomerie to get in.

[00:44:41] >> Ernie Els for par.

[00:44:48] >> Els and Herron currently in seventh place all by themselves.

[00:45:04] >> So Els makes the cut. They shoot, at this point, a 66 here in the final round. Currently in a solo seventh. Which for Ernie, that's just another Top 10. It'll be his worst Top 10 finish of the year, seventh. That's how good a year he's having. Now, Thomas Bjorn.

[00:45:42] >> One-sixty-four hole. Really not much protecting this hole location in that back center. Just can't miss it to the right.

[00:45:54] >> Yup, perfect. Middle of the green, John. Just going to walk it in.

[00:46:11] >> This is going to jump Thomas Bjorn potentially all the way up to sixth in the Schwab Cup standings. And this win is going to move Darren Clarke inside the Top 10.

[00:46:35] >> Mario from 146, just out of that first cut of rough. Take it right at it, Mario. He didn't catch it. That sounded like high on the face.

[00:46:56] >> Perfect tee shot for Darren.

[00:46:59] >> Yeah, aggressive. He went with driver. Drove it way down there. And he's only got 138 yards.

[00:47:04] >> You know he's going right at it.

[00:47:06] >> Nothing in his way.

[00:47:07] >> Going right at it, John. Wants to make birdie.

[00:47:19] >> Tiziani is going to have this long putt for birdie, which would give team Tiziani and Stricker solo second. Cookie, what's it going to do here?

[00:47:30] >> Yeah, it's all of 80 feet. He just is absolutely looking at a little ring around the hole, about 2 feet. Just cozy it up there somehow. He would take two putts from here. Absolutely. And run.

[00:47:50][ Applause ]

[00:48:06] >> In the hole.

[00:48:08] >> Pretty good breaker from left to right.

[00:48:12] >> You knew he wasn't leaving that one short, John. He's going to give that a good go.

[00:48:17] >> Yeah, he gave it a pretty good effort today. He really is struggling with his body. But, you know, getting that last group, you have your brother-in-law feel it. You know, he felt it today. And he'll learn from it.

[00:48:33] >> And Tiziani played great all week. Hit a lot of great approach shots, followed it up making the putts. I think Steve would be the first one to tell you that his brother-in-law really held his own. Now, we just saw this putt from Paul Goydos. It's going to go left. And it's kind of slow, John.

[00:49:03] >> Yeah. You can see it's going back uphill, Peter. Moving off the right edge of the green. So going to the left.

[00:49:23][ Applause ]

[00:49:27] >> Well, that's it. That is it.

[00:49:36] >> Mark and Bjorn are your winners of the American Family Insurance Championship. And Thomas Bjorn getting his first win on the PGA Tour Champions. Mario Tiziani has a putt for par to keep the team in a tie for second. But Bjorn is going to give his birdie putt a go.

[00:50:02] >> That he is. This has got his full attention. I think he put his ball down and said, mate, do I even want and need to putt this? Now, he's got into his full routine. Why not?

[00:50:28] >> Well, it's pretty obvious these two played the best all week. They deserve to win. Congrats to Thomas on his first victory out here on the PGA Tour Champions.

[00:50:40] >> To your exemption, he's going to Hualalai. Now, Tiziani for par to stay in that tie for second.

[00:50:55] >> He's got to keep the speed up or this will snap off to the left. So maybe just on that right edge with some speed.

[00:51:09] >> How about it?

[00:51:10] >> Attaboy. Good for you.

[00:51:15] >> Sixty-five for Team Stricker and Tiziani. And they finish at 28-under in a share of second place.

[00:51:26] >> Thomas Bjorn gets his first win on the PGA Tour Champions. Darren Clarke, his sixth. Doug Barron, Dicky Pride shoot 11-under. Cejka and Soren Kjeldsen, they shoot 12-under today, finishing that tie for second. Cameron Percy, David Bransdon finished solo 10th. How about that team of Cink and Toms? Shooting 11-under par 60 today. Didn't get off to the great start, but obviously got things done. Schwab Cup leader Miguel Angel

Jimenez, teaming up with Hall of Famer Jose Maria Olazabal, shoot up 68 in the final round, finishing a tie for 23rd this week. Well, a lot of fun having a team event on the PGA Tour Champions. Bjorn and Clarke, your winners.