

Production Transcript for 25INTCUTCH - KAULIG COMPANIES CHAMPIONSHIP - MASTER.mp3

[00:00:41] >> PGA Tour Champions 43rd playing of the Kaulig Companies Championship Senior Players. Firestone Country Club, famed South Course playing host. This is the 14th of 28 events of the PGA Tour Champions Schedule. Take a look at some of the highlights from earlier. Steven Alker rolled in this birdie putt at the 7th. And this would get him to 3-under par. Alker in his three starts here at Firestone is 100under. Now, Ernie Els playing his second at the 8th.

[00:01:17] >> This turned out to be a great shot. The weather looks a lot nicer right about here, doesn't it? The wind was really blowing though and a tremendous bounce forward for Ernie. And that's just a gimme and he's got the strength, Bob. This rough is pretty deep. It's going to grow while we're here this week. And he's got the strength to get it out. And then, red hot Jimenez, three wins already this year. Holy cow.

[00:01:41] >> Started his day at the 10th. So that got him to 2-under par. We'll go back to Steven Alker, his second at the 9th. Out of the rough.

[00:01:49] >> This is really an incredible golf shot. The bunker between him and the flag looks so ominous. And look how uphill it was from where he was. And that is another gimme.

[00:02:01] >> That would get him to 4-under par. Justin Leonard, watch this at 11. Knocked it on the green and --

[00:02:08] >> Yeah, you couldn't even see him down there, Bob. Sorry about that. But what a great shot. He didn't even know if it's in.

[00:02:15] >> It's in. Yeah, it's in. You made it, birdie. Four-under leads the way. Alker with a one shot lead over Jimenez. And Vijay Singh just a shot off the pace. Vijay, one of six World Golf Hall of Famers in the field this week. The PGA Tour Champions proudly presents the year-long race for the Charles Schwab Cup. Today, from Akron, Ohio, it's first round coverage of the Kaulig Companies Championship. There has been PGA Tour golf here in Akron and Firestone for 72 consecutive years. This is the 43rd playing of the Kaulig Companies Championship. And earlier in the day, the wind started picking up and a storm came blowing through. They blew the horn at 150 local time. It was a quick storm because they had the players back out on the golf course in exactly 1 hour. This is the radar throughout the Akron area.

[00:03:29] >> I think a 1-hour turnaround is like an all-time record. Usually, when you bring the players off the course, it's a 2 hours. But the storm did come through quickly.

[00:03:40] >> Bob Papa, Paul Azinger, so glad you could join us. John Cook, John McGinnes out on the golf course. This is the third major of the year for the PGA Tour Champions. And Ernie Els now playing his second at 12.

[00:03:56] >> Yeah, another awkward lie. Very similar to what he had on the 11th hole. But this one came out really nice.

[00:04:04] >> It's not one you really practice, Bob. That's just kind of all instincts. Great touch.

[00:04:15] >> John, Jerry for birdie here.

[00:04:17] >> After a beautiful hybrid in here. Is that a skin there, Bob?

[00:04:22] >> It might be. We have to check on the computer for that one.

[00:04:29] >> Stewart Cink has this putt for eagle. Stewart finished tied for seventh in his first start at the Kaulig Companies Championship last year. Shot 4-under. You would think with his length he could be a factor.

[00:04:46] >> Yeah. And he drives it straight. Stewart is one of those guys with all the power he possessed when he was on the PGA Tour and really, maybe even more accurate than ever.

[00:04:57] >> Jason Caron playing his third shot at 17. Jason, 14th in the Schwab Cup standings, currently at 1-over. And now, he's even.

[00:05:06] >> What a player this guy is. You just got to love it. You know, he has a job.

[00:05:14] >> This would be an all-world par for Miguel Angel Jimenez at the 2nd.

[00:05:23] >> That is some scrappy, scrappy stuff, but that's the way he, isn't it?

[00:05:27] >> Bernhard Langer after that 208-yard second shot, just short of the green. But he's thinking make here with the putter out.

[00:05:40] >> Yeah, putting up that slope, that false front slope a little over 50 feet. Going to have to slug it. Get up that slope and then kind of runs away from you. So he's got to be careful with this.

[00:05:53] >> Actually, Zinger and Cookie, did I misspeak? Is he thinking make if you're putting it, or are you thinking, let's just get out of here with par?

[00:06:02] >> Let's just get out of here with par, which he will do. That was really good effort there for Bernard.

[00:06:10] >> It could go either way on that one, Bob. I mean, I feel like Cookie says, you just want to get out of here with par anyway. Choosing putter is the safest play. Jack confessed in an interview recently on the internet about putting from off the green for him was a tip from Arnold Palmer, and he ended up using that.

[00:06:34] >> Cameron Percy to end his day with a birdie after a bogey at 17. Cameron, 12th in the Schwab Cup standings. He's having a nice year. He's got four Top 10 in his 12 starts.

[00:06:48] >> Now, Cabrera to save his par.

[00:06:53] >> Yeah. This would be a great save here for Angel. Twelve feet, straight up the hill. Not much to it. Just have to keep the pace up.

[00:07:02] >> Awesome look at it.

[00:07:09] >> Errant tee shot cost Cabrera a shot. So he's a plus-1. The thing you have to remember, this is a major, and it's 72 holes. A lot of the PGA Tour Champions events, 54 holes. So you got to get out to that -- you know, shoot that 4-under in Round 1. Here, you can kind of grind your way through a day that you're off a little bit.

[00:07:35] >> Yeah.

[00:07:35] >> Just make sure it doesn't go bad.

[00:07:36] >> Everybody knows how hard the course is. That's for sure. And then, come Sunday, everything certainly changes when you're trying to pull off a major title. And this is a major for these guys. The winner gets to play in the Players Championship on the regular tour if they get in. And this is a huge purse, so they're on a championship golf course trying to win another championship. That's basically what it is, so.

[00:08:01] >> Jimenez for par at the 3rd.

[00:08:06] >> Third's a tough little hole. You have to hit a good tee shot. And it gets Jimenez. So he'll drop a shot.

[00:08:19] >> If you miss the fairway at 3m the water is pretty scary, even with the hole cut in the middle of the green. Next three days, the hole will be, eventually, it'll get down there close to the water.

[00:08:32] >> Langer's third at 14. And scares the hole.

[00:08:38] >> Yeah, did. It was pretty good lie. Not really too much difficulty, that bunker shot. But Bernhard played a beauty. That's a good, solid effort. He's missed two just a little bit longer than that today.

[00:09:12] >> Jimenez For his par. That birdie by Stewart Cink gets him to 3-under. And a tie for the lead.

[00:09:31] >> This is a real grind, this putt, you know, to save two putt.

[00:09:38] >> You know, the thing about Stewart Cink, you know, he won on this property in 2004 here at Firestone at the WGC. Alker and Cink at 3-under. Mention Ernie, 21-under in his five starts here. Unfortunately, Steve Stricker, who's won twice and is 250under in his six starts here at Firestone, again, dealing with a whole bunch of injuries. And that's a nice par save for Els. Stewart Cink for his birdie at the 5th.

[00:10:23] >> See, so many players out here go to this saw grip or claw grip. Makes me really want to get home and just work on it. Look at this going in. Attaway.

[00:10:35] >> Stewart Cink to 4-under. Back at the Kaulig Companies Championship. John McGinnes, par putt for Soren Kjeldsen.

[00:10:50] >> Uphill, moving left to right. Goodness.

[00:10:57] >> Great save.

[00:10:58] >> How's about that par?

[00:11:00] >> And a 3-under 67 for Soren Kjeldsen. Bernard Langer will be first to play here at 18.

[00:11:15] >> Barnard, 179, pin in that left front corner. Wind -- Wind also blowing in out of the left makes this really difficult. And that tree is definitely in play. Trying to hit a draw up against the wind. And that was a really nice strike. And what a golf shot.

[00:12:01] >> Oh, man. He --

[00:12:02] >> Held it right there, Paul, right there.

[00:12:04] >> He sure did. What a shot. He took his time. Look at Terry Holt looking at him. Nice shot, my man. Had a way to do it.

[00:12:17] >> Now, Ernie Els.

[00:12:21] >> You know, these caddies get the front row seat, John Cook, every week. And they get to see a lot of great shots.

[00:12:26] >> Yeah, that one was an absolute pearl. And now, Ernie, from the right side of the fairway, doesn't really have to contend with the tree, although the wind has picked up and coming in and out of the left. One-sixty-nine for Ernie. Slightly downhill, but into a pretty good clip of wind.

[00:12:51] >> Perfect setup. See if he hits some kind of draw into that left flagstick.

[00:12:57] >> He loves to shape the proper shots. He takes it in there low with a little hold up against the wind. Got to go, though.

[00:13:04] >> Wow. That's such a cool looking shot at Ernie Els.

[00:13:11] >> Over at the 7th, Jimenez for par to stay in red figures. The leader in the Schwab Cup standings.

[00:13:21] >> That's a big part of the reason why too, Bob. He holds a lot of putts. And there's the rhythmic swing of Cabrera.

[00:13:28] >> From 166. Caught --

[00:13:31] >> Caught off a tree.

[00:13:32] >> I don't know if it clipped the tree, but it --

[00:13:34] >> It did.

[00:13:35] >> -- got over it onto the left corner of the green, I believe.

[00:13:38] >> No, just, John, it's in the rough. You could see the ball, but it definitely you heard that click sound.

[00:13:44] >> Well, I wondered after the great drive if the tree was going to be an issue. And he decided to go maybe right over it. John, do you think he pulled it a little?

[00:13:53] >> Definitely going over top and pulled it just a little bit.

[00:13:55] >> Yeah.

[00:13:55] >> Yeah.

[00:13:56] >> There's the hit against the tree. It kicked forward.

[00:13:59] >> It's a great break for him to end up there. That could have buried in the bunker. Anything could have happened. Now, he's got a birdie chip.

[00:14:06] >> Stewart Cink for bogey at 7.

[00:14:14] >> These are so huge.

[00:14:19] >> His second bogey of the day. He falls back to 3-hree under. Soren Kjeldsen shoots 3-under 67. Has the lead in the clubhouse.

[00:14:47] >> Third major of the year, the Kaulig Companies championship. Firestone Country Club, the South Course, has been holding PGA Tour Golf for 72 consecutive years. Three-under led the way after Round number 1. Take a look at some of the highlights. And Steven Alker got off to a fast start. Started his day at the 10th, rolled in this birdie putt at 15. This would get him to 6-under, 4-under on the day. He'd make a bogey at 18 and making the turn. Miguel Angel Jimenez rolls in this birdie putt at the par-4 9th. And this gets Miguel, three-time winner this year, to 3-under par. Only nine players were under par in Round 1ne. Steven Alker playing his third shot at the par-5 2nd. And has it dialed in. Setting up a birdie opportunity to get him back to 6-under par. And not that long ago, Ricardo Gonzalez playing his second shot into the par-4 10th. And Gonzalez hitting it past the flag, using the backstop and the slope, setting up easy birdie opportunity. Nearly made it. And that would get him back to 5-under par. Take a look at the leaderboard here in Round 2. Steven Alker, Ricardo Gonzalez each at 5-under par. Tim Petrovic is at 4-under. Jimenez at three. Stewart Cink is three shots back. It is the 43rd edition of the Kaulig Companies Championship. Akron, Ohio playing host in Firestone since 2019, has been the host venue. This golf course with such steep tradition and the South Course. Take you back over to the 12th. Retief Goosen won the Kaulig Companies Championship in 2019, the first year that it was contested here at Firestone.

[00:16:54] Goosen shot 6-under for the week to win by two.

[00:16:59] >> We got off to a good start yesterday, that's for sure. A little bit of a struggle today. He's not putting it on the fairway. No real good putts have gone in yet.

[00:17:09] >> Three putt at number 10 as well. But a good look here for him. There we go. Retief with a couple of birdies, a couple of bogeys, and a double on his card.

[00:17:21] >> I just opened my phone to a text message from Dan Rooney, Colonel Dan Rooney. So invite go to one of his fundraisers, August 25th at American Dunes Golf Club.

[00:17:36] >> You're the best.

[00:17:37] >> Why not?

[00:17:38] >> Good birdie for Jerry. Got him an even. Jimenez has not necessarily fared well here at Firestone. Sixteen-over in his six starts, but has another good look for birdie.

[00:17:57] >> That he does. It's an incredible shot from the left rough. I didn't think he'd get it anywhere near this pin, but how about that three?

[00:18:04] >> Oh, boy. I really like the way he walks into these putts.

[00:18:08] >> Took advantage of the pretty good break in that left rough. Now, Retief just about 6 feet. This does move to his left, though. Two good birdies on a tough hole.

[00:18:29] >> You're picking up some shots on the field to birdie 14, which is traditionally one of the harder holes out here. Four is playing as the second hardest hole. And 8 is playing as the hardest.

[00:18:43] >> Well, no doubt. There's plenty of really hard holes out here. That was a big birdie for Retief to get back under par. Started the day 2-under. So he's 1-over on his round. Stewart Cink missed one earlier about this length. Almost a 360 on him, John.

[00:19:00] >> Yeah, he's got to pay attention to this one. Now, this one goes uphill just a little bit. Not a lot of brake to it. But it's -- if it doesn't have enough speed, it'll break off to the left.

[00:19:23] >> Good par for Cink.

[00:19:24] >> Yeah, he tapped it in with perfect speed as well. You know, he didn't drill it. It was just a nice comfortable putt.

[00:19:34] >> Let's see if Retief can knock another one in here, John.

[00:19:38] >> Yeah, he hit a beauty in here. Two really good iron shots in a row. This one does have some right to left movement to it.

[00:19:49] >> Buries it.

[00:19:50] >> Yup, he paid that off. And now, he's back to 2-under par. Even on his round. That's a good little run after the double bogey at 8, the bogey at 9 or 10. Goodness.

[00:20:01] >> Last hole of the day for Steve Flesch. Currently 4-over today, but makes a birdie at 18. Shoot 73. Again, 72 holes, a full weekend on a difficult golf course.

[00:20:29] >> Now, Ricardo made bogey at 13, made a great par save at 14.

[00:20:33] >> Has to make another save here at 15. So the stress level has got to be a little high.

[00:20:41] >> This putter can make or break you, you know. And you just are always going to be required to make a putt at the end of this of every golf tournament. And that is one

heck of a save. Big smile. Who knew after such a poor tee shot that he could come out of there with a three?

[00:21:00] >> Go over to 16, and the third for Miguel Angel Jimenez.

[00:21:04] >> From 136 yards, downwind, out of the left, and back in that center part of the green on that little tiny shelf back there. Guarded by the rough, and also that back left bunker can come into play in a hurry.

[00:21:19] >> Is he going to flight it or can he hit his normal?

[00:21:21] >> I think it's just a normal little pitching wedge. Should not overspin it.

[00:21:26][Applause]

[00:21:33] >> Got a piece of the flagstick. Back over to 8, and Jerry Kelly's birdie putt.

[00:21:41] >> Really hard read. You wanted to break toward the front of the green because that's what logic tells you. But the putts behind the green. He figured it out.

[00:21:52] >> Let's go over to 8, and Soren Kjeldsen for his birdie, John.

[00:21:57] >> I mean, 8's the hardest hole on the golf course, and we could have three birdies in this group. Just a right lip putt up the hill. There you go. There's two of them.

[00:22:12] >> Very nice.

[00:22:13] >> That is pressure on Alker.

[00:22:15] >> Yeah, you know what? That's a real thing, too. I think MaGinnes and I could both attest. If the two guys make birdie in front of you, you definitely know what you're putting for, don't you, John?

[00:22:26] >> Yeah. You're putting to not hit last off the next tee.

[00:22:33] >> Yeah. You want it -- You just want to make it. You want to leave here feeling like those other two guys. Chance for the whole group to birdie this hole. Holy cow.

[00:22:45] >> And they were all at 210 or more into this green. I grant you, the hole location's probably as easy as they'll see on this green, but still. Yeah, you feel bad about that one.

[00:23:20] >> I like the way he walks into these putts. You know, this club's going to go into his right hand, and then, he's going to get that long left arm, John. Watch the way he walks in. It so much -- It really matters how you walk into these putts. So that putter is in his right hand and he lets his left arm just drop way down low. This looks good.

[00:23:42] >> Yeah, sure does. I think they got a good read on him. It doesn't do much.

[00:23:49] >> Tiger always walked in with club in his right hand. Beautiful putt.

[00:23:55][Applause]

[00:24:00] >> So Jimenez now in a share of the lead at 5-under. Petrovic's bunker shot at eight wound up here. So he has this putt for par to stay one back.

[00:24:19] >> Wow.

[00:24:20] >> That's awesome. What a nice save. Terrific round.

[00:24:25] >> John. What about this lie here for Stewart Cink?

[00:24:30] >> It's not very good. It's sitting down even in the first cut.

[00:24:35] >> Definitely saw it drop in a notch. He's going with that left hand, low pitch technique. We saw that in the practice to swing. But will Miguel go first it looks like?

[00:24:45] >> Yeah, I think so. Maybe just outside of Stewart. Now, this goes uphill as well, moving to the left. So he's got to give this a pretty good wrap.

[00:24:54] >> I wonder how smooth this will because this is where everyone leaves the green. See if it hobbles up the hill or if it runs. Just hugging the rug. A couple bounces.

[00:25:12] >> Yeah, it was struggling a little bit. He had it on line, though. Still a nice round of golf. Sixty-six around here is -- That is some good shooting.

[00:25:27] >> Yup. Two rounds to go, John. He's in great shape. Just one shot behind Steven Alker and Ricardo Gonzalez.

[00:25:48] >> What makes this little pitch shot here for Stewart even more difficult is the combination of rye and bluegrass. Makes it real sticky. You have to keep a little bit of speed up, but you don't want to goose one.

[00:26:11] >> Everything determined here, you know, really on his setup. He's just going to get in a spot where he can pop that thing, have the club hit the bottom. The bottom of the club hit the ground first.

[00:26:23] >> So well done. That was not that easy to shot. That was not a very good lie.

[00:26:28] >> Yeah. He's relieved, I tell you that.

[00:26:32] >> Yeah. Missed the fairway left and he's going to get out of here with a par.

[00:26:37] >> That's a good start. Only four back going into the weekend on a golf course. It really kind of suits Stewart, I think. He hits it nice and straight off the tee. He's got the power. This is one of those hands down little. He screwed the face open at the bottom. That was beautiful.

[00:26:56] >> Well, he's got to feel confident to winning on the regular tour here back in '04.

[00:27:01] >> Yup. You know he likes it.

[00:27:03] >> Now, this is a putt here, John, that we feel like it's kind of hurt Goosen.

[00:27:10] >> Yeah, he calmly knocked that one in though. But I know what you mean. That was a little tickler, a little right to left.

[00:27:16] >> So Retief shoots even par 70, and he's right in the mix going to the weekend. Gonzalez for his birdie at 17 to join the party at 5-under.

[00:27:30] >> I already looked at the computer and I think this goes in. It did. I did. I saw the computer like, all right. So that was on tape. But what a birdie.

[00:27:42] >> Ricardo Gonzalez now in a share of the lead as he goes to 18. Alker in. That 5-under after shooting 67 today.

[00:28:03] >> Third major of the year for the PGA Tour Champions. Akron, Ohio, Firestone Country Club, the South Course playing host to the Kaulig Companies Championship in its 43rd year. Ernie Els, the defending champion. The sun is out. Temperature's up in Akron on this Saturday. Since 2019, the Kaulig Companies Championship has been contested at Firestone. Sixteen holes going north to south, two east to west on this famed venue. They've had professional PGA Tour golf here for a 72nd consecutive year. Firestone is the 14th venue to host the Kaulig Companies Championship. Bunched up leaderboard on this move in day Saturday, Round number 3. Steven Alker, Ricardo Gonzalez, and Tim Petrovic shared the lead after the opening 36 at 5-under par. Jimenez, Alker, Michael Wright all at 6-under par. With Freddie Jacobson, Richard Green, and Ricardo Gonzalez at 5-under par. Defending champ Ernie Els 3-under today. He's at even for the week, along with Steve Flesch and Michael Allen. Jerry Kelly, a two-time champion here, currently sits at 1-over par. Bob Papa, Paul Azinger, so glad you could join us. John Cook, John MaGinnes out on the golf course. And after some wet conditions over the first two days, things starting to dry out. The sun is out, warm and humid. Stewart Cink for birdie at the 9th.

[00:29:39] >> He really likes it here, just as every other pro does. One of the greatest golf courses in the history of the PGA Tour. Stewart Cink won here when he was on the regular tour.

[00:29:49] >> Yeah, back in 2004. Let's go over to the 8th. Miguel Angel Jimenez to play his second. John MaGinnes with this second to last group.

[00:29:58] >> Well, thank you, gentlemen. That's from 160 off the downslope.

[00:30:03] >> His confidence is sky high and rightfully so. Three wins this year.

[00:30:13] >> Hole high. You want everything to break toward the front of the green, but not here. And he knows that. He strokes that.

[00:30:22] >> There we go. That's two in a row that you didn't have to make.

[00:30:31] >> Alker for birdie.

[00:30:33] >> Now, let's see if Steven Alker can bag one. Really good opportunity. Just off the left edge.

[00:30:44] >> Alker at 6-under.

[00:30:48] >> Watch how he walks in on these little lefter to righters with that right hand only. See any movement in this?

[00:30:56] >> Yeah, this is outside the hole. This is going to turn a lot. But he saw that from Freddie's putt.

[00:31:06][Applause]

[00:31:11] >> Look pretty confident, huh?

[00:31:14] >> Now at 9-under. Remember, he had a great look at birdie at 9 and it didn't fall.

[00:31:27] >> That is something.

[00:31:30] >> Why not?

[00:31:31] >> Why not. Indeed. That is the unexpected pleasure. You don't expect to see that go in.

[00:31:39] >> Alker's third birdie of the day gets him to within one of the lead.

[00:31:43] >> What a great putt.

[00:31:46] >> Now, Jimenez playing his third at 14.

[00:31:51] >> It's quite an awkward shot. Ball's not all the way down in the flat of the bunker. A little bit on the down slope. He's going to have to create all of his own elevation. The ball's going to land on the downslope and kick to the right. And that may be the best shot I've seen this week.

[00:32:11] >> Wow.

[00:32:12] >> Talked about his prowess pitching the ball around the green and his bunker play. And once again, a brilliant shot by Jimenez to stay at 8-under.

[00:32:27] >> Well, that is some real magic, you know. That's a veteran player who knows - still knows how to use his hands.

[00:32:44] >> Stewart Cink for birdie at 17.

[00:32:52] >> Oh, yeah. Stewart Cink is on the move.

[00:32:56] >> Fourth birdie of the day at 17. Cink now at 4-under and just four off the lead.

[00:33:08] >> Boy, Richard Green, John MaGinnes, really could use one.

[00:33:12] >> Well, he got a good read from Miguel. He had a beautiful wedge shot in here. He rattled his tee shot around off the tee and it kicked back into the fairway. So, this group has had their fair share of good fortune.

[00:33:28] >> Yeah. Remember, he got a good read from Jimenez at 15 and didn't make it.

[00:33:33] >> Had to bring that up, didn't you, Papa?

[00:33:41] >> That's what I do.

[00:33:42] >> There we go.

[00:33:47] >> Yeah, he drilled it.

[00:33:49] >> So Green is four back. And Freddie Jacobson just cleaning up to move to 6-under and two off the lead of Jimenez.

[00:34:00] >> Yeah, when I talk about a ball landing soft, you know, he's got enough of those dead hands. You could probably have read the logo on the ball that was going up in the air. Just really nice to see that.

[00:34:13] >> Let's go back to 17. Alker has this putt for birdie and a share of the lead.

[00:34:17] >> Yeah, he just got a preview from Ricardo Gonzalez. Knows it's quick. Knows it goes a little left.

[00:34:33] >> A little different of angle, John?

[00:34:35] >> Maybe a little deeper into the green. But he got an idea.

[00:34:39] >> You know, MaGinnes --

[00:34:42] >> Speed wise.

[00:34:42] >> Sorry. MaGinnes made the comment yesterday standing over at Alker, looks like he's going to make everything. And he does, but he hasn't. He hasn't run the tables. He has hit it so well. Attaway.

[00:34:59] >> Only the fifth birdie of the day at 17. Steven Alker has now moved into a share of the lead here near the end of Round 3 of the Kaulig Companies championship.

[00:35:33] >> Firestone Country Club, the South Course. Seventh year it's hosting the third major of the year for the PGA Tour Champions, the Kaulig Companies Championship in Akron, Ohio. Winner punches his ticket to the Players. Steven Alker, Miguel Angel Jimenez started the day tied for the lead, but Alker --

[00:35:56] >> Three-under on his round today, and has this putt for birdie to get to 12-under John Cook.

[00:36:01] >> Yeah, good to be out here. And good look here for Steven Alker. Came off a monster 30-footer back on the sixth hole. So a great start for Steven. This putt is breaking right and really quick. And he got part of it right.

[00:36:16] >> Over at 10, Stewart Cink had a good look at 9, didn't make it. Has this to get to within four of the lead. Clean card for Stewart. Looking for his first major on the PGA Tour Championship.

[00:36:42] >> Super slow putt. How about that? Remember that one, ladies and gentlemen.

[00:36:48] >> And the one on the hole before at 9. Two beautiful putts in a row. That for bogey. That is a lot of heart.

[00:36:59] >> Steve Flesch. This for birdie to get to within three of the lead. And he's in the mix.

[00:37:05] >> Look at old Fleschy go now. He's been out here long enough. He's won several times out here.

[00:37:16] >> Over at 13, Stewart Cink to get to within two of the lead. And he pours that in. Birdies at 1, 3, 10, and now 13. He's 4-under on his round today with no bogeys. Back over at 14, Tim Petrovic, who's made a birdie at 13, has this for par.

[00:37:42] >> And this is similar. It's outside left. It missed the green long and left and played to here. Rather indifferent shot. That's not an indifferent stroke right there though. That was awfully good. They got a cross-handed stance, I mean grip. And the good news is that landed right into a hill and killed it.

[00:38:16] >> Oh, man. See, what a gift. Is that any good? Did he have anything? Easy as pie.

[00:38:26] >> Over at 15, Richard Green, his second. Richard, 4-over today. And now, he's 30over today as he holes out for birdie.

[00:38:44] >> This putt, it's kind of a must make, John Cook.

[00:38:47] >> Oh, no doubt about it, in his mind.

[00:38:50] >> You don't want to be too down with one to play. Here's your chance.

[00:38:55] >> This is a quick little putt too. It's got some right to left in it. If it gets going by the hole, it can wander off pretty far. But it's a good opportunity.

[00:39:05] >> Miguel missed birdie putts at 9, 10, and 11 to kind of grab control. Started with birdies on the 1st and 2nd. He's not made a birdie since. This to pull within one on the 71st hole. And he buries it.

[00:39:26] >> That's Ryder Cup pedigree is what that is. And now, as probably the most confident player you could possibly have out here. Three wins this year. He's going 18 with the tee and a one shot lead. If he can put this in the fairway.

[00:39:42] >> One-twenty-nine. Great angle. Wind little out of the left and helping. This has to be right of the hole and shoulder those right bunkers.

[00:39:54] >> This is going to maybe be a big pitching wedge, you think? Or the normal pitching wedge?

[00:40:00] >> I think it's a normal pitching wedge.

[00:40:01] >> Does he have to go over the tree or right of it?

[00:40:05] >> He can go right of it.

[00:40:07] >> This is his like 50-degree pitching wedge. Turned it right in there. Nice. Going to use that slope. Beautiful shot. Great shot. Now, show me what you got, Miguel.

[00:40:26] >> So Alker will have a putt for birdie at 18.

[00:40:32] >> Pretty textbook stuff from Steven Alker coming in here the last few holes.

[00:40:44] >> Miguel, 128.

[00:40:49] >> He came up big on the last shot, last hole, John.

[00:41:00] >> Trying to hit a high draw.

[00:41:02] >> Right over it. Well, it comes down to the putt once again.

[00:41:16] >> Steven Alker, he's so disciplined in his sequence. And the way he goes about his pre shot, everything, it never changes. I think it's so -- It's easier to play on Sunday when you have the same routine, and it doesn't waver at all. And that goes from yourself to your caddie, how you walk, all that.

[00:41:38] >> No doubt about it. Well, he's made some big putts in his career out here. This would end it, Cookie, if he could make this.

[00:41:48] >> Steven Alker at 10-under, has this putt for birdie to win the Kaulig Companies Championship.

[00:42:05] >> Yeah, just respected the speed a little too much. It broke a little bit left. That was a really good effort though.

[00:42:14] >> No mistake. We'll just put it that way. Perfect tee shot. Beautiful iron. A no mistake putt there. He's played the last four even par. He forced Jimenez to make this putt to shoot 2-under to catch him.

[00:42:28] >> They started the day tied at 8-under. Alker post 10-under. And now, let's face it, the ultimate showman on the PGA Tour Champions, Miguel Angel Jimenez, has center stage and has this putt for birdie to tie.

[00:42:50] >> Yeah. Doesn't do much. It may try to wiggle to the right a little, but I think if he hits it straight with some speed, he can make it.

[00:43:00] >> I don't know how much attention you ever paid to your shadow, but if you look where his shadow is going to end up in relationship to the line he's going to putt on, it's not going to -- it might cross over his line a little bit.

[00:43:18] >> That can be a little distracting at times.

[00:43:20] >> Jimenez for birdie and to force a playoff.

[00:43:35] >> I've got an ISO camera on Alker. He's taking some big deep breaths.

[00:43:39] >> And he pours it in. Miguel Jimenez has closed the playoff with a birdie at 18. Birdies at 17 and 18 to match Alker at 10-under.

[00:43:57] >> Pretty awesome. Alker's over there breathing heavy, waiting, thinking maybe this is it. You don't root against your opponent. You expect him to make it. Those two both shoot a phenomenal 68. But Jimenez had to birdie the last two holes to catch Alker.

[00:44:12] >> Center cut.

[00:44:19] >> What a big time finish. The most confident player on the Champs Tour at the moment comes up big time the last two holes, Bob.

[00:44:29] >> So numbers 1 and 3 in the Schwab Cup standings will sign their scorecards, and then head to the 18th and do it all over again. Jimenez birdies 17 and 18 to track down Alker and force the seventh playoff in Kaulig Companies Championship history.

[00:45:03] >> John Cook, you played in a playoff for the Kaulig Companies Championship at Westchester Country Club. You lost to Fred Couples. What's Miguel thinking right now as he has the honor?

[00:45:13] >> Yeah, just keep doing what I was just doing. Put the golf ball in the fairway. Let's just make a good swing. What's that one swing key? And just let it go.

[00:45:24] >> And he's driven it beautifully all week.

[00:45:27] >> He doesn't seem too worried about this one, is he, right?

[00:45:32] >> Right up the right hand.

[00:45:37] >> That's fine.

[00:45:40] >> Now, Steven Alker.

[00:45:50] >> Tell you what, one thing I was thinking in that playoffs, if I win this, I get to go back to the Players. I was jazzed. You know, in your mid-50s, get a chance? Absolutely. Sign me up for that. Up the right-hand side. Totally a match play mindset. He's first to go, Cookie. You won the US Amateur.

[00:46:46] >> What kind of match play decision? What do you -- What is he thinking? Just what you said, I've just got to put it on the green somewhere.

[00:46:51] >> Yeah, absolutely. This is 8-iron. It's going to hit a big old slinging hook. Yeah, just put this on the green. Give yourself a chance. Put a little pressure on Miguel to hit a golf shot.

[00:47:11] >> I think --

[00:47:13] >> It's high and it's drawing. And it hit the other tree and drops straight down in the fairway.

[00:47:19] >> There you go. That's the big miscue. He tried to swing it around the corner. He didn't just try to get that on the green, Cookie. He tried to hit that close. He absolutely tried to play a big time sweeper in there, I think.

[00:47:36] >> So, John MaGinnes, what is Miguel staring at here? He's just in that first cut, but perfect angle.

[00:47:44] >> It is a lot less complicated. Hundred and fifty yards and he's staring right at it. The question is, now, how aggressive do you want to be? He has to assume that Alker will figure out a way to get that up and down.

[00:48:08] >> Wonderful shot by Jimenez. He'll have that for birdie.

[00:48:22] >> He did. There's that check, and then he'll release down that hill. This is pretty good -- really well done.

[00:48:33] >> Beautifully executed by Alker. He'll have that left for par, but Jimenez can end it. He has a putt for birdie. Miguel Angel Jimenez has this putt for birdie on the first sudden death playoff hole to win for the fourth time this year and punch his ticket to next year's Players. Just dove on him a little.

[00:49:12] >> So now, the pressure on Alker to make his par. They'll go back to the tee at 18, if he does.

[00:49:24] >> Alker does not have a gimme, I don't think either. That's definitely a 3-footer or so, John.

[00:49:30] >> Yeah. I mean as terrific as that pitch shot was, couldn't have played it any better.

[00:49:34] >> He still has to make this little tickler. Doesn't move a whole lot. Slightly to his right, but he can hit it with speed. That takes a lot of the breakout.

[00:49:48] >> You know, Player of the Year could be riding on this playoff too. These guys are Ranked 1 and 3 in the standings at the moment. And they look back at this week. This was the week where you really, you know, got the Player of the Year. Even with Cabrera's got two majors.

[00:50:07] >> Alker to extend. And a great up and down by Steven Alker. And they'll head back to the tee at 18.

[00:50:18] >> Alker for birdie on the second playoff hole.

[00:50:26] >> He played that --

[00:50:27] >> Knocked out of turn.

[00:50:28] >> He played it way high and hit it definitely too hard.

[00:50:33] >> Yeah, that's a good 3.5 feet by.

[00:50:35] >> Sixty-one-year-old Miguel Angel Jimenez has this putt for birdie to win his third major in his PGA Tour Champions career and earn a spot in next week's -- next year's players.

[00:50:57] >> Just don't feel like he's going to let another opportunity slip by.

[00:51:07] >> And he's done it. Miguel Angel Jimenez birdies the second playoff hole here at famed Firestone and has won the Kaulig Companies championship, his fourth win of the year. And he's going to Sawgrass.

[00:51:39] >> That's pretty impressive, isn't it? He birdied 17 and 18 to get in the playoff. And there he goes again.

[00:51:49] >> And Miguel Angel Jimenez lighting that victory cigar. And the red wine will be flowing tonight as Miguel Angel Jimenez has won for the fourth time in 13 starts this year, and has captured his third major.

[00:52:03] >> One of his majors, the Senior Open Championship was at St. Andrews, and now he wins at famed Firestone.

[00:52:05] >> Well, he's really the most prolific, most confident guy on the tour right now, even though Cabrera is kind of maybe a little better, but not yet. Not with Alker or Jimenez winning four times already.