

Production Transcript for 25INTCUTCH - STIFEL CHARITY CLASSIC - MASTER.mp3

[00:00:46] >> PGA Tour Champions proudly presents the year-long race for the Charles Schwab Cup. And today, from St. Louis, Missouri, it's live first round coverage of the Stifel Charity Classic. Downtown St. Louis is just off in the distance. The 21st tournament of the season could provide an early gateway to the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs, with just five events remaining in the regular season. Norwood Hills Country Club comes calling. Rich in history, dates back more than a century, but it's also shaping a new tradition being staged here for just the fifth year with a brand new title sponsor in place this week, with Stifel proudly stepping into that role. Just a gorgeous day here in the American Midwest and some fancy scoring happening right now. Paul Stankowski, David Bransdon, 5-under par, the early co-leaders here on day one. Four others just a shot off the pace here. Y.E. Yang is the defending champion. Stewart Cink there at 2-under par, the most recent winner. He successfully defended his title 2 weeks ago at the Ally Challenge in Michigan. I'm John Swantek. Thanks for hanging with us. Always a treat to be alongside seven-time PGA Tour winner, Peter Jacobsen. And our man on the ground, 11-time PGA Tour champion John Cook will be walking with Stewart Cink, Justin Leonard, and Jerry Kelly in today's opening round. And we'll look in on the defending champion for birdie here at the 9th.

[00:02:26] >> That was a pretty exciting finish last year for Y.E. He made some big putts coming down the stretch, and then he nipped Langer in that one hole playoff. No surprise though, former major champion.

[00:02:42] >> To the 8th, second on the way for Stewart Cink, John Cook.

[00:02:46] >> Thank you there, Johnny. Two-twenty-two front 245 hole for Stewart. Laid the ball back as he could go through the fairway. And that's a nice shot right in the center of the green.

[00:03:03] >> Go to the 8th. Check in on Jerry Kelly. Getting this one worked out here, Cookie.

[00:03:07] >> Yeah, he's trying to get it worked out. He actually hit a good tee shot. A wonderful hybrid right at the flag. The only problem was it needed to be 5 feet to the left. He'd had a tap in for three. Went down into this little collection area. Now, he's choosing to putt it, which I think is the wise choice. Really can't pitch it. He does have a couple sprinkler heads in his way. So he's got to --

[00:03:46] >> Birdie and a bogey on Jerry's card so far.

[00:03:52] >> Key here, John, I think you would agree is just get it on the surface, get it up that slope.

[00:03:58] >> It would have come all the way back to his feet there, Peter. Got stuck in the sprinkler head.

[00:04:10] >> Another eagle chance coming at the 8th for Stewart Cink.

[00:04:15] >> Well, that is correct. And hit a really nice little hybrid in here, center of the green. Nice speed read off of Justin Leonard's putt. Should move gently to his right.

[00:04:40] >> It's kind of what he needs. Just like to make eagle. As long as Stewart is, he can reach every par 5 and two. But walking away with a four, that's just fine. He's playing about a half stroke under par for the field anyway, so playing like a par 4.

[00:05:05] >> Back to 8. And Kelly will just take relief from the sprinkler head there, just off the edge. He's going to have an issue here trying to keep the ball, you know, in that relief spot. And I'm not sure it could stay on the side of slope.

[00:05:24] >> Yeah, he's going to try to put it there. And if it doesn't stay, he's going to have to put it in the closest spot to where it will stay. He's got to take full relief from that sprinkler head, however, so. See how good he is.

[00:05:53] >> He may have to go into the -- might have to go into the rough cut.

[00:05:58] >> Yeah. At some point.

[00:06:01] >> Kind of interesting, John. I was looking at this pairing, Cink, Kelly, and Leonard. These are the only three Americans who have won an event on the Champions Tour this year, which has been -- It's quite surprising. The Champions Tour this year has been dominated by players other than Americans.

[00:06:27] >> I'd have lost that bet.

[00:06:29] >> Yeah.

[00:06:30] >> But you are correct. The only three US Players.

[00:06:34] >> Yeah. First year no major winners from America two. Stewart Cink has one twice, obviously. Jerry is one time at the Mitsubishi Electric Classic. And Justin won his first Champions Tour event earlier this year at the Chubb Classic in Naples. You know what's weird about this? That ball's sitting right there. I wouldn't take that much time with this because --

[00:07:12] >> No.

[00:07:12] >> Get up there and hit it.

[00:07:15] >> It's a funny game. He was literally a couple feet away from maybe tapping in for a three. Now, he's got a 20-footer for four.

[00:07:38] >> Coming off a bogey at number 7. So he would love to bag this one. Birdied 6, bogeyed 7.

[00:07:46] >> Wow.

[00:07:48] >> Well, the great equalizer, Peter.

[00:07:50] >> The one thing that I love about Jerry, John, and you and I watched and played with him a lot, he is so resilient. It almost seems like nothing bothers him. Whether it's really good or really bad. He kind of just shrugs it off and moves on.

[00:08:09] >> Yeah, he was kind of like me. The only thing that bothered him was him. The only thing that bothered me was me.

[00:08:16] >> That seems to be an ailment that a lot of you guys have been stricken with in your careers.

[00:08:23] >> It can happen when you want it so badly that it can sometimes boil up inside.

[00:08:33] >> Leonard takes care of that one. Birdie for Justin. So they all take care of the 8th.

[00:08:47] >> Steve Flesch birdied the opening two holes of the round. Hasn't had one since. Now, he does. That's a pickup at the 10th for the 2023 champion.

[00:08:56] >> Back to 9 for the Kelly birdie putt. Ye

[00:09:05] >> , good wedge shot in here from Jerry Kelly. And now, pretty straightforward putt. Not much to it. Might move slightly to his left, but it is uphill.

[00:09:15] >> Steps that one in with a little --

[00:09:17] >> Little.

[00:09:17] >> -- little English at the end of it.

[00:09:19] >> I think we have to quit calling it English. We have to call it Kelly, Kelly. Get in there, Little Kelly.

[00:09:26] >> So Jerry birdies three in the last four. And we'll hop up to 12. Langer has a birdie putt here.

[00:09:32] >> Yeah, from down in that low. Up over the slope. I was just going to say not hard to judge the read. It's the speed that'll get you from that distance.

[00:09:45] >> So Bernhard rattles one in. Second birdie of the day. Bogey-free card to start the week for last year's runner up. Short one for the Els' birdie here at 11.

[00:10:02] >> This hole is playing as expected. Very easy today. Playing a corner stroke under par. So, again, kind of like a, a long par 3, but if you miss the mark, if you get it off the green, you can get into big trouble.

[00:10:23] >> Birdie putt on the way here at 14 for Angel Cabrera.

[00:10:28][Applause] Cink for birdie number five of the round. Went back to back in Grand Blank, Michigan. Looking to go back to back on the Champions Tour. So Cink at minus-4 within touch here. Arjun Atwal sets the pace at 6-under through 13. Ernie looking ahead to 15 at 3-under par.

[00:11:15] >> Should move just to his right. Key is speed here.

[00:11:26] >> With conviction, Els preserves a bogey-free round, remains at 3-under. Par 5 to come. Y.E. Yang up on the hillside there on 15 green. Just kind of dumped it onto the surface.

[00:11:50] >> Now, this is great. This is spectacular for Yang. That was not an easy shot.

[00:11:59] >> Just to tap-in for birdie number seven of the round. It's going to get Yang to minus-6. And what a start to the title defense here of this week.

[00:12:09] >> And this reachable par 5, dogleg left, it's slightly downwind, so just about everybody's giving this a go in two.

[00:12:20] >> And Thomas Bjorn patrolling. This birdie putt back at the par 5.

[00:12:30] >> You mentioned that he and his partner, Darren Clarke, won the American Family Insurance Championship at the team event. And they just seem to have fun the whole time. There was -- Obviously, when you're playing with a buddy of yours and you're kind of laughing and joking, but they seem to be just in great spirits all week long and led them to the victory.

[00:12:54] >> Thirty-two-under par is fun. They should be laughing along the way.

[00:12:57] >> That is fun. And it actually sounds easy too, 32-under.

[00:13:01] >> Angel Cabrera bogeyed his opening hole of the day. And he has put a fifth birdie on the scorecard now. So Cabrera hanging around. Just a couple off the opening round pace.

[00:13:15] >> It's a great birdie at the par 4.

[00:13:21] >> Thomas Bjorn sneaking into the Friday picture here. Chance to move to 5-under at 16.

[00:13:29] >> Not a difficult putt. Yeah. Made it look easy. Just one bogey on his card. You see right there at 10. And 10's playing about as easy as it can play all week.

[00:13:48] >> Just off the 17th green. Third shot for Leonard.

[00:13:51] >> Yeah. Nice tee shot or nice line to work this.

[00:13:54] >> Moving gently to the left. Kind of like that.

[00:14:01] >> Pretty easy.

[00:14:03] >> Why not?

[00:14:04] >> Wow, what a day.

[00:14:05] >> What a wild ride. Takes the turn. Look at that.

[00:14:08] >> Just one par on the back. Just all kinds of geometry.

[00:14:13] >> It's a cool look from the grandstands, and circling the 18th green here. Checking out this Stewart Cink birdie putt.

[00:14:25] >> From the just off the front edge of the green.

[00:14:31] >> Goes uphill. Pretty slow putt.

[00:14:34] >> Come on. Up and down he made --

[00:14:38] >> Looked like a three all the way, didn't it, guys?

[00:14:40] >> The up and down he made at 10, John, and then that after that tee shot, kind of makes you think, wow, this may be my week again.

[00:14:57] >> Justin Leonard has had just one par on the back nine. It came at 13. He would like to keep that attack.

[00:15:03] >> Yeah, he does not want to make another par here, John.

[00:15:10] >> Yeah, pars are overrated. This will go to his left. He's got some speed to it.

[00:15:19] >> What a finish. What a day, especially the last couple of hours of it. I mean, that was as adventurous round of 68 as you'll ever see.

[00:15:31] >> Well, he's going to look back on this round after making that double and those two bogeys and think, wow, what could have been.

[00:15:38] >> Let's go ahead and make it a hat trick here, Jerry. Why not?

[00:15:42] >> Yup.

[00:15:44] >> Yeah. Why not? Going uphill, moving to his left.

[00:15:48] >> Keep the speed up, Jerry.

[00:15:52] >> These three put down a show, huh? This is some entertainment and some terrific golf being produced here.

[00:15:58] >> They're thinking, hey, are there any hard holes on this golf course?

[00:16:01] >> That was awesome.

[00:16:05] >> Three at the last for all three in the group.

[00:16:11] >> All three producing under par rounds.

[00:16:13] >> Sixty-seven has him three shots off the lead, which belongs to Stewart Cink. Pretty satisfied with his opening round. And he should be as he looks to go back to back on the Champions Tour after winning 2 weeks ago in And Grand Blanc, Michigan at the Ally Challenge.

[00:16:44] >> Today from St. Louis, Missouri of second round coverage of the Stifel Charity Classic. Yeah, the Gateway City is the backdrop for the 21st event of the season. Brand new

title sponsor in place this week as Stifel has stepped to the plate in this great sports town to present the fifth edition of this tournament here at Norwood Hills Country Club. Seven-under par was the overnight lead set by Stewart Cink, who opened with a round of 64 on Friday. Cink, ranked second in the Charles Schwab Cup race, is trying to win for the second consecutive start after successfully defending his title at the Ally Challenge a couple of weeks ago. So let's look in on the leaderboard with Cink and Thomas Bjorn in the final group of the day, along with Arjun Atwal, who was one of the qualifiers into the event earlier this week. And Cink trying to win for the fourth time in his 30th start out here. Thomas Bjorn, the winner of the American Family Insurance Championship, the team event alongside Darren Clarke earlier this season. Right there, they're the co-leaders at 8-under par. Good scoring today. Tim O'Neal making a little bit of a move. Alongside Peter Jacobsen, seven-time champion on the PGA Tour, I'm John Swantek. Great to have your company. Thanks for hanging with us today. John Cook, 11 times a winner on the PGA Tour as our guy on the ground walking with the final group of the day today. Quickly out to the tee at the 8th with Thomas Bjorn and John Cook.

[00:18:22] >> Good to be with you. Beautiful afternoon here in Norwood Hills. Thomas Bjorn, two birdies, no bogeys on his card. Dogleg left par 5. Easily reachable, and this should be just fine.

[00:18:35] >> Yeah, this is the easiest hole on the golf course today so far in this second round.

[00:18:40] >> To the 9th. And Cameron Percy trying to grab a share of the lead.

[00:18:44] >> Here's a man who is close to notching his first win out here.

[00:18:52] >> Seven Top 10 finishes on the season for the Aussie. So he is stationed one shot off the lead here.

[00:19:11] >> They got a lot of chatter going on, Chris and Stewart, but that's kind of their MO. They like to get everything taken care of. But Stewart, right rough, 227 front, 239 hole. He can hit it anywhere, but anywhere left. Cannot barely green the ball from anything left.

[00:19:31] >> John, I might hazard a guess and say this is the biggest green on this golf course. It's massive. So putting the ball on the putting surface. We saw a lot of three putts yesterday when the ball got on the green. So we'll see what Stewart does.

[00:19:48] >> Into the right, caught a tree. I think it came out down into the left.

[00:19:58] >> Not very enterprising in there. Potentially some big trouble and some issues for Cink here at the 8th. We'll keep it right here.

[00:20:17] >> Thomas, 200 yards to the front, 212 hole, right side of the fairway. Just wants it up the gap.

[00:20:27] >> Let's head it a little bit to the right as well. And short -- You can play from there.

[00:20:30] >> I like his strategy so far yesterday and today. He's not being too aggressive. He's hitting a lot of fairways, a lot of greens.

[00:20:40] >> Up to 10 we go. First look at Ernie Els today. One-under for the round, minus-5 for the tournament.

[00:20:48] >> Yeah, another huge green this par 3. This hole location, back right. Lag putting. I always talk about lag putting. If you can do that consistently from long distance, you're going to be in great shape.

[00:21:04] >> No drop shots for Ernie yesterday. On the way to a 67. Couple of bogeys at 4 and 7 so far today.

[00:21:11] >> I've been so impressed with his putting the last couple of years. We know how good a pitcher and chipper of the golf ball he is. But his putting has been spectacular.

[00:21:26] >> Ernie, the runner up to Stewart Cink in the playoff at the Ally Challenge a couple weeks ago, stays at minus-5.

[00:21:43] >> Always up for a chat.

[00:21:44] >> Yeah, always up for a chat. Yeah. This golf course, Norwood Hills, by the way, this was where Tom Watson and the late, great caddie, his caddie, Bruce Edwards, first worked in 1973, which then started an incredible run between those two.

[00:22:06] >> And Tom did such fine work for so many years for the ALS Foundation on Bruce's behalf.

[00:22:11] >> Yeah, Bruce Edwards is one of the great people. We meet a lot of people out here on the PGA Tour and the Champions Tour, and Bruce was one of the greats.

[00:22:21] >> So Charlie Wi at 6-under, trying to draw within one of the lead here.

[00:22:27] >> This is going to have a little bit of speed to it. Coming down off the backside of that green, is well judged. Greens are stimping at 11, today maybe a little bit quicker. We had some rain yesterday, which a lot of the players talked about how the greens slowed down. But beautiful weather today. No rain in sight. Are we going to see another spectacular finish here for Stewart on the 8th?

[00:23:26] >> OK, 98 yards. We'll be pitching on a little bit of a down slope. Misses it to the right and short. It'll come back off the green. So has to be very precise with this.

[00:23:42] >> It's hard to be precise out of this tangled rough.

[00:23:50] >> That's way up in the air hitting on that down slope. And easy now. There's a little bit of fall off.

[00:24:12] >> Fancy work.

[00:24:13] >> This is pretty handy.

[00:24:15] >> Indeed.

[00:24:17] >> Yeah. That's a straightforward pitch, John. That's what as a Tour player at this level, that is an automatic. You have to get that up and down.

[00:24:26] >> Up to the 9th. And Stankowski for bounce back birdie. Just ducks under the hole. So out in 34. And Stankow 6-under to the turn. Thomas Bjorn did tap-in that short one for his birdie, Peter, and he's at 9-under. Thomas echoed that same sentiment. He said if you don't get off to a quick start on Friday, on this Tour, you're toast. All right, chance for a six and avoid any further damage here.

[00:25:06] >> Yeah. Hate to say that on this hole because basically it's a hybrid, hybrid for Stewart. But a little out of position with his tee shot. Going to end up costing him a couple.

[00:25:19] >> Yeah. This hole, John, is playing a half stroke under par, playing to an average of 4.5. So that stings just a little bit more than the seven on the card.

[00:25:38] >> Three shot swing right there.

[00:25:42] >> Birdie for Bjorn. A double for Cink, who drops into third place, a share of third right now. Cameron Percy slips up to second.

[00:25:55] >> Arjun Atwal has played all over the world, the European Tour, the Asian Tour, the PGA Tour. He said this by far is the hardest tour to get your full card on. He's played sparingly, of course, a couple of senior majors this year, but now that he's getting a taste, Peter, he really wants to hang in there and maybe even crash the playoffs in 5 weeks.

[00:26:15] >> Yeah. The one thing about the Champions Tour is it is partially a reward for what you've done in your career, on your resume. And he's right. It is hard to break through and get out here onto the circuit.

[00:26:32] >> We're at the 10th now with Angel Cabrera.

[00:26:36] >> Yeah. This hole location, that back left shelf, or excuse me, back right. And it's really easy from down there. Putting up over that slope, yeah, it's really easy.

[00:26:47] >> Angel, that was with him.

[00:26:49] >> Second two on his card.

[00:26:52] >> Back at 10. Cabrera just rumbled in a long putt playing with Paul Broadhurst today.

[00:26:59] >> Yeah. Broady's back to looking at the hole when he putts. And it works.

[00:27:06] >> Long par putt for Percy here at the 12. Got it.

[00:27:13] >> What a save. I think sometimes a save like that is almost better than making a birdie because it keeps your momentum.

[00:27:22] >> Left hand low for Charlie Wi back at 12. He's got a share of the lead at 8-under.

[00:27:28] >> Yeah, he's got a unique putting style. Left hand low, kind of just on his fingers, and he just rocks his shoulders.

[00:27:35] >> And Charlie Wi looking for another birdie.

[00:27:38] >> Just four birdies here at the difficult 13th today. The location, all the way in the back.

[00:27:48] >> That would have been for three in a row.

[00:27:49] >> Yeah.

[00:27:54] >> Trying to position himself for his first victory on the Champions Tour. Charlie Wi, with six birdies on the Saturday scorecard, has gotten into 8-under par, and he's got himself in the pole position alongside Thomas Bjorn.

[00:28:28] >> We welcome you to Norwood Hills Country Club outside of downtown St. Louis, Missouri, and Golf Channel's final round coverage of the Stifel Charity Classic. Let's get you right out to the golf course. We're live with Stewart Cink and the final group of the day. John Cook is down there with eyes on this long birdie putt.

[00:28:47] >> Good to be with you on this sunny championship Sunday. Stewart Cink from left of the hole. Huge breaker left to right coming off a bogey at the 6th. Eagle at the second hole. Well, he's got work to do here.

[00:29:03] >> He made birdie here on Friday. But, John, this is one of the most difficult par 3s on the golf course. It's playing as the hardest hole for the three rounds. And it's all because of the tilt on this green, wouldn't you say?

[00:29:18] >> No doubt about it. It's playing well over 200 yards each day and, you know, big front to -- The back to front tilt on this green like you said, Peter, and it's a big green, it's a wide target, but it's not easy to get it in the right position.

[00:29:36] >> Some good par 3s here at Norwood Hills.

[00:29:40] >> Birdie back at the 2nd earlier in the round for Alex Cejka. All pars the rest of the way.

[00:29:49] >> Yeah, this for par. He had basically the same putt that Stewart Cink had from a little bit shorter up the green. So he had to go into the slope, and then big breaker from left to right, and misjudged it. So now, he's got a good 12 feet now for par. Big breaker from left to right.

[00:30:09] >> Like he does, he keeps his flagstick in.

[00:30:12] >> Look where he's aiming this. Wow.

[00:30:19] >> A little overborrowed. So Cejka will suffer the first bogey of the round and dropped back to minus-9. Things are very congested on the first page of the leaderboard. We got a couple players trying to sneak into contention here. One is Cameron Percy, who's gotten it to 9-under. Another is Soren Kjeldsen, who's got a 4-under par round going.

[00:30:41] >> I liked him coming into the week. He's been playing so well in his short PGA Tour Champions career. Didn't get started out here until May.

[00:30:51] >> So Kjeldsen stays at 8-under, two off the lead. Back to 7. A little bit coming back here for Stewart.

[00:30:57] >> Yeah, big putt here for Stewart coming off bogey at the 6th. Well, he's been rock solid on those, Peter.

[00:31:04] >> Yeah.

[00:31:04] >> Anywhere from 4 to 6 feet, he's been solid.

[00:31:07] >> It seems to me, and watching Stewart over the years, he's staying more still over the ball with those short putts. His head is down, his body is quiet, and he's rolling it nicely.

[00:31:22] >> Paul Stankowski, third member of the group, has started his Sunday with six straight pars.

[00:31:30] >> Yeah. Missed hit his tee shot here, well short of the green, and a nice pitch to this point. Got it up and down at the sixth hole for par. Kind of treading water right now, but he's got a par 5 coming up.

[00:31:41] >> He's the only player in the Top 15 on the leaderboard who is not in red numbers right now. All pars on the card for Stankowski, but just two shots off the lead. We're on the move to the 10th. And the birdie putt of Kjeldsen just slipped past about 5 feet here.

[00:32:00] >> These greens are picking up the speed that we normally see here at Norwood Hills.

[00:32:17] >> Three putts for Kjeldsen. That will cost him a shot. Fall another stroke adrift of the pace here. So the winner 2 weeks ago at the Ally Challenge in Michigan, Stewart Cink, looking to go back to back, leads by one on championship Sunday in St. Louis. Slocum is at 7-under at the par-5 8th. And joins the others at 10-under par. And a birdie look up here at the 10th for Bjorn.

[00:33:00] >> He's been good with this club all year long. Today, it's been a little bit of a struggle until right there.

[00:33:11] >> Birdie number five of the round, offsetting the drop shots earlier. And Bjorn at 11-under, has his nose in front.

[00:33:19] >> Alex taking the flagstick out. I don't see that very often with Alex. Left to right breaker, catches the left edge of the hole.

[00:33:35] >> It's one closer, cuts that Bjorn advantage in half.

[00:33:44] >> Up to 14. Fabulous delivery earlier into the par 4 from Slocum. And there's the payout. So Heath to 8-under par and solid position inside the Top 10 pointed toward Sioux Falls next week.

[00:34:01] >> Look how far above Stewart's feet? This golf ball is laying right on the edge of that bunker. Now, this is an interesting shot. Because of the loft of that wedge, he's going to have to aim probably 5 yards to the right of this hole, because that -- when he makes contact, that ball's going to come directly left. Not a hard shot. It's just all about making contact like you're playing baseball there.

[00:34:50] >> Cink with about 5 feet for his par here at 13.

[00:34:53] >> This is huge right now at this point. Oh, man.

[00:35:08] >> Third bogey of the day for Stewart Cink. And here's Cejka for birdie.

[00:35:15] >> Well, this is slow, up the hill. Again, it's all about just getting the proper speed. How about that?

[00:35:23] >> Alex Cejka not going anywhere. He will keep his nose in the fight. He's been fired up all day long. He's got a share.

[00:35:36] >> But one thing about Cejka is he's always close. He's kind of always on the leaderboard.

[00:35:42] >> Charlie Wi was looking good until a grizzly triple bogey back at the short par-4 11th. Then he kind of has tumbled out of it. Four shots off the lead.

[00:35:53] >> A good tee ball here and a nice second just through the left part of the green. Delicate little putt down the slope.

[00:36:00] >> Well, he got two of them back.

[00:36:05] >> Wow, that ball looked like it was going to stop 5 or 6 feet short, and it just kept moving.

[00:36:13] >> Wow, what a turn of events. An eagle at 15 for Charlie Wi. And he's suddenly back within two.

[00:36:22] >> Three, seven, three, four.

[00:36:24] >> Crazy stretch. Back at 18, Cameron Percy for a round of 64 to post 12-under.

[00:36:35] >> Yes.

[00:36:36] >> He's got It.

[00:36:37] >> That's clutch right there. I think he thought that tee shot at 18 was in the fairway. They just crept into the rough and played a beautiful approach.

[00:36:48] >> Seven birdies and an eagle for the Aussie. A fabulous final day. Paul Stankowski had to wait until the 14th hole for his first birdie of the round. It was from long range. He's got a chance for another at 16.

[00:37:02] >> Look at the break on this. I know we've been saying that all week. Can it get there? Yeah. How about that? How about that?

[00:37:14] >> I'm not even sure he saw it go in. He was tapping down the spike mark as that thing just curled in there.

[00:37:20] >> Gorgeous shot into the 18th for Heath Slocum. Three at the last.

[00:37:28] >> Well, that's going to punch his ticket to next week.

[00:37:35] >> And Stewart Cink back at 17.

[00:37:45] >> Stewart could have used a few more of those earlier in the day. The Sunday of what could have been for the Champions Tour's most recent winner. Thomas Bjorn, first cut abrupt at 18.

[00:38:00] >> Good angle. One-eighty-one front, 196 all the way to the pin. Ball slightly above his feet. Wind blowing in from the left. It's a good strike. Center of the green.

[00:38:17] >> Jets creeping up there.

[00:38:18] >> That would get him to 13-under, when we get back to 18. Of course, we got things brewing with Cejka back here at 17. He's in there close. Stewart Cink going to make three at 17. At 17, Cejka just needs to take care of this one, and does. What a birdie. So we've got three at 12-under now. Up at 18. Bjorn will go to work on this long one. Looking to dislodge from Cameron Percy and punctuate his weak in dramatic fashion here if he can hole it.

[00:38:57] >> Yeah. Very makeable putt, in my opinion. About 25 feet. It has some pretty good right to left break, but, Peter, it's one of those it hits its apex, it'll try to find the hole. Once it gets by the hole, though, it's really quick.

[00:39:13] >> Yeah. This 18th green, it's not that deep. Not as deep as a lot of the greens here, but it's wide from left to right.

[00:39:30] >> Got to pick that high line right here.

[00:39:43] >> All right. So that's going to get Bjorn in at 12-under, if he could take care of what's left of it there.

[00:39:55] >> Four-under par, round of 67 on the final day. And we've got two in the house at 12.

[00:40:05] >> And we've got Cejka potentially in some trouble after what looked to be a wild tee shot a little bit Earlier. We'll check in on Alex in a moment.

[00:40:12] >> You don't really know where that ball ended up. It could be -- It's a sharp drop off to the left of that bunker at 18, but he could find an opening as well. He won't have a good angle to that left side hole location. But Tim O'Neal now.

[00:40:49] >> Slightly downhill.

[00:40:50] >> A good finish there for Tim.

[00:40:54] >> Yeah. Kind of like he had a couple years ago here. Big smile comes across Tim's face. Sixty-nine 69 on the final day. Finished tied for eighth here 2 years back. And it's going to be another Top 10 here in St. Louis.

[00:41:12] >> Only Cejka for a chance to get to 13-under and win this thing. The final group of the day.

[00:41:32] >> Clean strike going up the right-hand side. Actually might get a little better. Pretty good from there.

[00:41:48] >> And so, Cejka is going to have a chance for the victory here in short order. But first, we'll see the third of Cink over here. Left of the green.

[00:41:58] >> Yeah. In between the two bunkers and not a very good lie. Shortsighted. Also has to pitch into a little bit of an upslope. Tricky little shot right here. He's pretty good with this left hand low technique.

[00:42:22] >> Yeah, that was predictable.

[00:42:27] >> He's kind of, as we mentioned, just kind of gotten away from him today. And on this back nine, three bogeys and just two birdies. And, now he's got a long putt to keep from making the fourth bogey.

[00:42:48] >> Sixty-four for Cameron Percy. Thomas Bjorn with 67. They're in at 12-under. Alex Cejka, if he can rumble in a long one here, would steal the victory from those two.

[00:43:06] >> Also has to guard against hitting this a little too firm because once it gets by the hole, it can wander. So he would take two putts right now. If it just falls in, he would certainly take that. But he wants no part of about a 5-footer around this hole. That's got to go.

[00:43:47] >> Good call, Cookie. He was very defensive with that one. A little wary of running it by. And now, he's got work to do, Peter, just to send it to extra holes here.

[00:44:01] >> Paul Stankowski down the slope. To get to 11-under.

[00:44:19] >> It's going to be a 2-under par round of 69 for Paul Stankowski. Very productive week. Very valuable week for a guy without full status out here. Going to be a Top 5 finish.

[00:44:35] >> And a real confidence booster. Got his son on the bag out here having a blast.

[00:44:47] >> Fathers and sons have fared well here in St. Louis. Remember Griffin Flesch caddied for his dad when Steve shot 62 to win here a couple years ago. Alex Cejka has his boy on the bag. Will be a winning Cejka family combination.

[00:45:01] >> We'll see. Here's Cink for par.

[00:45:05] >> Moving right to left.

[00:45:11] >> Peter, you --

[00:45:12] >> For Stewart, no doubt.

[00:45:14] >> Yeah, a little out of organization.

[00:45:18] >> Yeah, it was for sure a Cookie. Even back on Friday, he said he felt a little anxious. He shot 64 in the opening round. He never really looked settled or comfortable all day long.

[00:45:27] >> Yeah, I was surprised. After that round, he talked about how things just didn't feel, what do they call it, in sync.

[00:45:36] >> There you go.

[00:45:38] >> But he's got the right attitude. He'll shake that off, go to work on it, and come back. Now, there's Thomas Bjorn, and Rules official Brian Claar out there on the range just yacking it up, waiting to wait for the playoff, find out if Cejka will be a part of it.

[00:45:58] >> Well, no reason to leave this one short, Cookie.

[00:46:01] >> No, he's got the flag stick in, 8 feet. This does move to his left slightly. Not a ton.

[00:46:17] >> To join the playoff. Three putts at the last, bogey on the 54th hole. And Alex Cejka's week is over.

[00:46:32] >> Struck it beautifully all day long. Sixty-nine is what he will sign for. Not the ending that Cejka had anticipated when he stepped to the tee at 18.

[00:46:50] >> Back with you outside of St. Louis. Final round coverage of the Stifel Charity Classic. Fifty-four, not enough to determine the winner. The 21st event of the season. Sudden death playoff on the way between that man, Cameron Percy, who shot 64 today, and Thomas Bjorn. Both players have signed their scorecards. And there's the Dane being whisked back to the tee. We will play 18 as many times as necessary here. The mood is loose and light, at least on the outside. I'm sure the nerves are turning on the inside a little bit. And the two combatants exchange words.

[00:47:40] >> So extra holes here for the second straight year. Y.E. Yang, the champion, over Bernhard Langer. And a playoff that lasted just one hole here at 18 when Yang birdied to win.

[00:47:56] >> You know, and taking a look at these two, this continues the international players' dominance on the Champions Tour this year. Just three Americans have won tournaments out here on the circuit this year.

[00:48:13] >> And Aussies have won two of the last three events on the Champions Tour. Cameron Percy would love to make it three out of four. John Cook, driver out for Cameron here.

[00:48:25] >> Yeah. And he is a flusher of the golf ball, Cameron Percy. He can really strike his golf ball. You know, 300 through on the right. Widest part of the fairway is about 290. Into the wind, out of the left.

[00:48:45] >> Smashed.

[00:48:46] >> He can smash it.

[00:48:51] >> Yeah, 312-yard driving distance average of the week for Cam Percy. And that one torched down the left-hand side. Bjorn has driven it beautifully --

[00:49:01] >> That was torched.

[00:49:02] >> -- all week long as well, John.

[00:49:05] >> That he has. He has to dial up a good one here because Cameron Percy hit it right between the bunkers at about 305. Be in the left bunker, first left bunker.

[00:49:29] >> Yeah. We saw Cejka just about 10 minutes ago. Same bunker, same position, John. And tried to hit a running draw, running hook, and did get it on the green, which is what his first objective was.

[00:49:53] >> Easy to catch this. A little bit heavy with the ball sitting down. It's almost like you're going to have to absolutely pick it clean. Towards the center of the green. Great contact. Great strike. He's going to have the same putty have in regulation.

[00:50:25] >> Just four birdies here at the 18th today.

[00:50:43] >> From 146. Kind of let it leak to the right. It's going to be a putt off. Yeah, pretty much the same vicinity. Same flavor putt coming up for both players here.

[00:50:59] >> Now, Thomas, really almost identical putt he had in regulation here, Peter.

[00:51:15] >> It looks promising. Oh, yes.

[00:51:17] >> Wow. He learned. He learned, Cookie.

[00:51:18] >> Thomas Bjorn puts the pedal down and drops the hammer.

[00:51:30][Applause] Going to have to match him now.

[00:51:37] >> Very similar putt.

[00:51:38] >> It was a bold run at it from Cameron Percy who played brilliantly today. But in the end, Thomas Bjorn is the last man standing in St. Louis, the champion.

[00:51:56] >> Thomas Bjorn and Cameron Percy have kind of a bull and a bear there, weren't they, tangling at 18. But in the end, Thomas Bjorn, highly accomplished champion, 19 international victories all around the world in his competitive career, wins for the first time as an individual on the Champions Tour.