

Production Transcript for **26INTCUTCH - ROGERS CC - MASTER**

[00:00:40.880]>>And we welcome you to Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, the backdrop for our opening round coverage of the Rodgers Charity Classic, 13th edition of this event and the 19th PGA TOUR Champions stop of the season.

[00:00:57.680]>>Quick early peek of the leaderboard. A couple of players through a dozen holes on different sides of the golf course. Michael Wright, Mark Hensby share the lead at 5-under. A host of players there, including the Senior Open champion, Jerry Kelly, lurking just one shot off the pace. So good to have your company. I'm John Swantek. Thanks for hanging with us here today. Peter Jacobson is alongside. John Cook is our man on the ground here this week.

[00:01:28.750]>>There's the 2003 Masters champion kids. Mike Weir, one of three Canadians in the field here this week looking for par seven, and you know he's got everybody in the field.

[00:01:39.150]>>Every spectator on the property pulling for Mike.

[00:01:46.819]>>Always loved his putting stroke, John, he just.

[00:01:51.139]>>He just goes about it just fundamentally correct.

[00:01:58.209]>>Back to 16 with Goggin here.

[00:02:04.349]>>Yeah.

[00:02:06.019]>>Thanks to birdie, this walk up music hole.

[00:02:14.339]>>And then, 4 birdies in the opening 9.

[00:02:19.000]>>And 1 more to start the inward 9.

[00:02:24.039]>>Over at the 10th here, Kelly from above the hole for birdie.

[00:02:32.029]>>There it is, more like it.

[00:02:39.660]>>Eagle putt at the 11th for Retief Goosen.

[00:02:48.250]>>How about it? How about it?

[00:02:51.190]>>So these screens are running at 12.5, but they sure look to me like they're a little faster.

[00:02:58.589]>>That ball just kept trickling.

[00:03:08.520]>>Vijay tucks one away for a birdie there at the 10.

[00:03:14.130]>>OK

[00:03:22.250]>>Up a hole for Jiménez.

[00:03:27.949]>>Birdie's the 11th, he's at 6 under par.

[00:03:31.619]>>The 11th easiest hole in the golf course, already two eagles. We saw Retief make that long one for Eagle.

[00:03:39.759]>>Victory here for Jerry, 2022, part of a three-win season for him.

[00:03:45.289]>>His Senior Open title a couple of months ago was victory number 14 out here.

[00:03:54.479]>>Oh

[00:03:57.350]>>Birdied the first playoff hole here, 2022, at the 18th to defeat John Houston. Victory number 11 at that point for Kelly. And he and Eric are giving this one the full treatment.

[00:04:15.570]>>It's a complicated putt. Peter. It looks like it's running down a little spine there. It is. And whenever you've got a complicated putt like this that has double break, I always try to figure out where I'm gonna putt it.

[00:04:28.820]>>To a point which then would allow me to have that second break go down in the direction I want. In other words, I break it into two putts. I putt the first one to that one spot and then allow the gravity and the speed of the putt to take it down to the hole. So I don't find putts like this to be that difficult because you're only hitting it, say, half, half the speed, half the distance.

[00:04:55.970]>>That's a good tip for recreational players. So pucker to the apex of the break is what you're saying, correct? And then let it, let the gravity take it from there.

[00:05:04.510]>>There she comes. Nicely worked out for speed. People freak out when they have like a 30 footer with a double break. Now you break it into 2 15 ft putts, putt it to the apex, look to see where it's gonna break to the hole, and then just put it on that first

spot, and then uh let it do its thing. Birdie number 6 of the round for Kelly, back within a shot of the lead.

[00:05:31.269]>>Good start to the back nine for Jerry.

[00:05:36.429]>>Hm, Richard Green was considering his options, just gonna chip this one. Yeah, smart, he can make this.

[00:05:42.470]>>Can you just hopefully carry it over the edge of the fringe right there.

[00:05:51.299]>>I think it's smart play when you're gonna go through two cuts of rough from the main cut through that fringe and then onto the green. It's, it's too bobbly. You can't putt it. I know a lot of people would putt it, but they shouldn't putt it.

[00:06:06.690]>>Eliminate whatever variables you can, right?

[00:06:12.899]>>We'll take you back up ahead for the Alker eagle putt.

[00:06:18.359]>>Last week's tie for 4th for Stephen ended a drought of 4 straight events without a top 10. Doesn't seem like much, but this man's consistency has been so remarkable over the last few years. He had never gone 4 straight tournaments without a top 10. Yeah, it was a surprise to me too.

[00:06:36.399]>>How he just, he, but, but to be fair, if you have a long career and a successful career in professional golf, you are gonna have your highs and you're gonna have your lows. And even though we marvel at the fact that he missed the top 10 4 weeks in a row, it's not like he dropped off and started shooting 80. He was still, he was still playing and still in contention.

[00:07:02.220]>>It was the 79th career top 10 for Alker.

[00:07:08.290]>>Now, he, he likes it here too, Canyon Meadows. He averages.

[00:07:12.720]>>66.6 strokes in his three previous appearances, so.

[00:07:20.010]>>This is a golf course that he likes.

[00:07:33.429]>>Zach Johnson kind of milking that eagle putt down there at 11. He'll spot that one. That's the 2nd putt we've seen him leave.

[00:07:41.480]>>3 to 4 ft short. surprised.

[00:07:50.070]>>He was asked this week about his.

[00:07:53.410]>>Relationship with Stewart Cink. They're very good friends and whether this is a rivalry, if he would describe that as such, and he said it depends on your definition of it. It's a, it's a healthy competition that we all have, uh, Stuart and I in particular, but we're also the first to congratulate the other when something good happens.

[00:08:12.609]>>I think the golf gods have proved that you can't pull against anybody else, just have to pull hard for yourself. And if somebody plays better than you, then it just makes you go out and work harder.

[00:08:27.359]>>Yeah, he said they are definitely making each other better. 9 wins between the two of them, 1 and 2 in the Schwab Cup standings.

[00:08:36.710]>>All right, back at 12 and green for a birdie too.

[00:08:44.770]>>Yeah, I was staring that for a long time, 2 in a row for our defending champion.

[00:08:54.429]>>Ken Duke, 2023 winner in Calgary for his breakthrough on the Champions-Tour. Always loved his golf swing. Not a long back swing, but he's got a beautiful turn and a good release through the ball, and that ball's need to release.

[00:09:12.210]>>It does have a little bit of speed to it as well.

[00:09:26.260]>>Oh

[00:09:28.359]>>So that'll be the 3rd bogey on the scorecard for Kelly through 17.

[00:09:35.690]>>And now it's a 5-way tie at 5 under.

[00:09:39.859]>>Over at 7, where Rob Laritz just holed out to take the lead here. Here's Michael Block to get to 5 under.

[00:09:47.520]>>Michael Block 4 under making some noise.

[00:09:51.549]>>That to 5 under.

[00:09:54.659]>>Michael Block in on an exemption. Zach Johnson in the dead center of the fairway at 17.

[00:10:13.390]>>Bring that.

[00:10:17.289]>>I hammered it, but I got a gust caught a little gust as if it wasn't difficult enough to press it all the way back to that hole location.

[00:10:25.099]>>At 17, but it's been a monster rookie campaign for Zach with those 4 victories, the first coming in his debut at the James Hardy Pro Football Hall of Fame Invitational. He had just turned 50, finished at 11 under par, got the trophy in his hands, and oh, there would be more to come, including this one at the Principal Charity Classic in his home state of Iowa.

[00:10:52.150]>>With a birdie at the 18th there at Wakanda to finish 17 under, good for a 4 shot win over Goosen and Richard Green.

[00:11:01.460]>>Lots of home state fans for the kid from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, then, uh, senior major at the Firestone Country Club at the senior Players. It was a dominant performance, winning by 6 over Boo Weekley, earning an exemption into the Players' championship at TPC Sawgrass next spring. And then the 4th came at his most recent start 3 weeks ago at the Portugal Invitational at the Els Club Vilamoura.

[00:11:28.229]>>Voted the 18th with a 65 on Sunday to hold off uh his good buddy Stuart S Si.

[00:11:35.919]>>All right, one final birdie chance at 18 for him Metnett. It's for 64.

[00:11:52.599]>>Well, he is bold with his putting this week.

[00:11:58.260]>>How about that card?

[00:12:01.900]>>Same number he signed for in the final round last week to push himself into a playoff with Stewart Cink. Kamene makes birdie Goose and does as well.

[00:12:12.840]>>Clean scorecard for Retief.

[00:12:17.409]>>Time now for the, uh, performance of the day presented by Second Swing, and it has to be this shot, right, Peter? Well, this is his 2nd swing on 18 and the this bounce, it wasn't a swing, but it almost looked like somebody pitched it out of the, the grandstands, and that was an incredibly fortunate break.

[00:12:45.640]>>You get a massive break like that, you capitalize on it. That's exactly what he did with an eagle conversion to follow. What I liked about it is a lot of times you hit a shot like that and you're lamenting the fact that you lost it to the left. He didn't. He came up and thought, wow, I've got a really good look at eagle here, and he took advantage of it.

[00:13:10.049]>>Richard Green had, uh, 6 runner-up finishes in his 1st 70 starts out here on PGA TOUR Champions before finally breaking through for that maiden victory last year, and he put forth a fabulous opening round to start the title defense. Rob Laritz birdies his final hole of the day to match Greene for the low round of the day.

[00:13:40.460]>>The 2nd round of the Rodgers Charity Classic is underway as we welcome you to Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club, the host venue for this event for all 13 years of its existence. 19th stop of the PGA TOUR Champions schedule.

[00:13:55.750]>>We've got two players share the lead at 10 under par. Ryan Armour through 9 holes today. Rob Labritz, the club professional in on the sponsor invite, is also at -10. Some big names, proven winners lurking. Jerry Kelly, Steven Alker within touch here. I'm John Swantek. Good to have you along. Peter Jacobson is here. John Cook is on the ground walking with the Armor Kelly and Michael Block group for today's 2nd round.

[00:14:24.000]>>Another beautiful day here in the great white north.

[00:14:29.200]>>As we take you to the 8th.

[00:14:31.609]>>And the 2nd on the way for Rob Laritz.

[00:14:41.820]>>Had a birdie back at the 4th and an eagle hole out at 6 today.

[00:14:47.809]>>Well, he's swinging well. He's hitting a lot of great shots right at the flag. That one just came up.

[00:14:55.150]>>On that ridge didn't kick forward.

[00:15:03.320]>>Zach Johnson trying to sneak into the picture with a birdie at 16 could pull within 3.

[00:15:24.250]>>Now his pre-shot routine is always so precise. He sets the blade, makes sure it's square. Up to the 10th here for the Kelley birdie.

[00:15:35.739]>>3 birdies going out for Jerry Kelly, so this group, not a bogey on the cards so far. That was a pretty good breaker from left to right.

[00:15:47.320]>>All right, we're off to the 8th Met.

[00:15:50.950]>>It's a 7 under.

[00:15:53.750]>>He was 3rd last year.

[00:15:57.700]>>He likes this place

[00:16:01.559]>>Auer looking to follow Zach Johnson in at 16.

[00:16:06.239]>>Showed him the line.

[00:16:10.229]>>A couple of big names making their presence felt on this Saturday.

[00:16:17.080]>>Par 5, 11, this first year of the lead.

[00:16:22.320]>>Yeah, this is, uh, you love to play holes like this.

[00:16:26.909]>>You can't believe it says par 5.

[00:16:30.919]>>Close.

[00:16:37.900]>>During his PGA TOUR winning years, he won 4 times out there. Brian Gay was always regarded as one of the best in the business with this club in his hand.

[00:16:48.349]>>Doesn't have a great record here at Kenyon Meadows, played here twice, with the best of tied for 12th, so. And a little bit of a heater, that's 6 birdies in a 9 hole stretch right through the middle of the golf course for Gay, and he's got it's to 9 under.

[00:17:06.790]>>Over at 16, nice tee shot from Gogel. There's the payout.

[00:17:12.989]>>A birdie too. I would have bet that he would make that.

[00:17:17.770]>>He's a good putter.

[00:17:20.060]>>OK

[00:17:22.938]>>So back at the 10th here, 3rd shot, Michael Allen just off the edge of the green. Go in, yeah, it did.

[00:17:30.719]>>For the 67 year old.

[00:17:33.900]>>Is.

[00:17:39.390]>>Going downhill, moving to his left.

[00:17:42.959]>>Hm

[00:17:45.069]>>I was gonna say a nice, nice run. If he made that, I would have said it was worth the wait.

[00:17:52.449]>>So Kelly's gonna pick up 1, had a chance to join the 3 others at 10 under.

[00:18:00.280]>>Stress-free birdies are piling up here at 11, but they kind of feel like pars, don't they? Scoring average right around 4, as Peter was mentioning, so.

[00:18:09.599]>>Yeah, right. You want nothing higher than 4 here at the 11. 8 eagles so far today here at 11.

[00:18:23.709]>>And armor to be the first to touch 11 under par, just a couple feet to deal with.

[00:18:31.130]>>For the 1993 United States Junior Amateur runner-up.

[00:18:38.619]>>All right, par 5, 18. Steve Flesch looking to eagle both of the par 5s on the back nine here at Canyon Meadows. He took care of the 11th earlier.

[00:18:48.839]>>To get it in the house at 8 under.

[00:19:01.910]>>Yeah, Flesch was in the mix last week in Seattle at the Boeing Classic, had a chance.

[00:19:12.040]>>Tied for 4th last week for the 4-time champion out here.

[00:19:18.569]>>He's gonna birdie the last for a round of 64. So Flesch is in at 7.

[00:19:27.359]>>Got another eagle pluck up here at 18 for Tom Lehman. He's 4 under today. Clean card, all, all pars and 4 birdies. How about an eagle? Yes, yes, sir.

[00:19:40.540]>>Classy finish for Tom, and he matches Flesch with a 64.

[00:19:46.150]>>All right, Steven Alker for an eagle in a round of 60 to get to 12 under.

[00:19:52.290]>>But, he's gone quietly today.

[00:19:56.449]>>Needed to take the putter cover off of that one.

[00:20:01.260]>>But that's 3 birdies over the, the final 3 of the day.

[00:20:06.510]>>Little 29 coming in for Alker.

[00:20:11.290]>>61, yeah.

[00:20:14.839]>>Like it was nothing.

[00:20:16.739]>>It looked easy

[00:20:20.030]>>Well this one getting the full treatment from Zach. So Alker's in at 11. Johnson can get in the house at 10.

[00:20:30.060]>>And serve notice to the other players on the golf course that uh these two big names will not go away easily this week. This is a slow putt. We saw Alker leave it about 1.5 short.

[00:20:41.880]>>Zach is going to be aware of that. I would.

[00:20:45.920]>>I would think he's going to get this.

[00:20:48.760]>>At least to the hole.

[00:20:53.119]>>How about right to the bottom? How about right, right to the bottom.

[00:20:57.609]>>Boy, he hit a lot of good putts yesterday, Peter, that just burned edges. Today they were going down. 7 birdies and an eagle to close out a round of 62 for Zach Johnson.

[00:21:11.189]>>In the group ahead, Petrovic, just off the front edge of the green.

[00:21:17.839]>>His walk-up music. The Doors. He's a big Doors fan, loves Furry Morrison. How about that?

[00:21:28.770]>>Sparkling iron shot into the 13th for Brian Gay.

[00:21:37.390]>>He doesn't miss many of those. Birdie number 6 of the round, gets Gay to 10 under par.

[00:21:43.930]>>All right, Miguel's ready just about.

[00:21:46.880]>>6 or 7 ft here.

[00:22:00.000]>>Mm

[00:22:01.790]>>Aggravated

[00:22:03.900]>>Has scoring opportunity at hand here at the 11 for the players today.

[00:22:11.430]>>Just a 4. Yeah, just a, just a 4, just a birdie.

[00:22:17.569]>>I love that call on the Chesterfields as well with Ben Hogan. That's right. He's throwing those Chesterfield darts out there.

[00:22:25.390]>>Yeah, you don't see any pictures with PGA TOUR players smoking anymore. That's a no no.

[00:22:33.989]>>Ryan's got a very makeable pot here moving left to right.

[00:22:39.489]>>Pretty flat.

[00:22:41.479]>>Yeah, what a great camera angle that was.

[00:22:46.439]>>Yes, sir.

[00:22:56.430]>>This for the 4th birdie of the round for Block to get him to 9 under.

[00:23:01.319]>>Yeah, pretty straight putt, very similar to Jerry Kelly's.

[00:23:06.250]>>Too casual.

[00:23:08.359]>>No problem.

[00:23:17.510]>>There's the bounce back birdie for Labritz at 11.

[00:23:25.670]>>Ryan Gay, just about 5 ft away from another birdie.

[00:23:33.810]>>Seem straddling the line for that aim point. I still have not.

[00:23:38.339]>>Figured out aim point like.

[00:23:41.479]>>Well, if you haven't figured it out, then I'm giving up on you. Well, it's, I have to have someone explain it to me.

[00:23:50.750]>>I don't know how you can feel the.

[00:23:54.520]>>The slope from 3 ft.

[00:23:57.880]>>I

[00:24:00.689]>>Well, and Brian Gay has been an exceptional putter for a long time, well before aim point came into the, the narrative of professional golf. Yeah, it's an excellent point. One thing about putters like Brian Gay or Brad Faxon or Ben Crenshaw.

[00:24:22.760]>>Up 12 and Labritz would be satisfied to get this one down in 2.

[00:24:27.589]>>Yeah, you've got some big grains here. This one here.

[00:24:31.660]>>At 12 will get your attention. The whole location is way in the back, 37 steps.

[00:24:40.030]>>Onto the green. So just trying to get it in the hole from there. Satisfied to get it down in 2, but overjoyed to get it down in 10, those are just, those are just gifts when you do something like that.

[00:24:57.619]>>Yeah.

[00:25:01.119]>>Up to 18 eagle opportunities abound. Here's J.J Henry.

[00:25:13.060]>>For a 62.

[00:25:15.930]>>Of course, not this easy. That was the, that's the 9th eagle here at 18.

[00:25:24.780]>>Armor to drop just one.

[00:25:27.430]>>Yeah, slow putt up the slope.

[00:25:30.949]>>Uh, just

[00:25:32.530]>>T-ball out of position and cost him 2 there.

[00:25:39.520]>>So that leaves Alker and Labritz as the co-leaders at 11 under.

[00:25:47.130]>>Brian Gay can join the leaders here at 16.

[00:25:51.199]>>And does with a birdie at the par 3. So we've got 3 at 11 under. Oh, Labritz is in there close at 14.

[00:26:01.569]>>Wow, pops another one in. He looks good. He looks good. He's hanging. I, I thought he would.

[00:26:10.560]>>Just a moment ago here at the 17th, Peter, 2nd shot from Michael Wright. Yeah, from Queensland, Australia. 52-year-old, get in there.

[00:26:21.290]>>Yeah, just that easy, just that easy.

[00:26:26.040]>>Michael Wright to 9 under in a hurry with Big Bird at 17.

[00:26:37.390]>>What a 3 this would be.

[00:26:42.109]>>A little right to left after that incredible fairway bunker shot. Yeah.

[00:26:48.579]>>A little comeback here for Ryan Armour. No kidding, Cookie. What a pick up there at 17. Yeah, that's impressive.

[00:26:58.000]>>Uphill, left to right here for Ryan.

[00:27:01.709]>>Yes, get in there that finish.

[00:27:05.439]>>Out of position with the drive and he makes 4 nonetheless. 63 for Ryan Armour. Miguel's got a chance to birdie the final two to get into 10 with the others, Peter. This hole is playing to an average of about 4.3 on this par 5, so you gotta get this.

[00:27:25.609]>>Didn't seem like much was happening for the better part of the day for Jiménez, but lo and behold, it's a 66 and he's right in it.

[00:27:34.410]>>You know, players are going to go low tomorrow and somebody that's not on that board you see right there.

[00:27:40.810]>>Could very, very easily pop up.

[00:27:44.319]>>And win this thing.

[00:27:49.030]>>Go ahead and add one more to the group at 10 under. Richard Green with a 31 on the second side today.

[00:27:58.750]>>Always a factor here.

[00:28:02.979]>>And the title defense is in very good shape through 36 holes. I don't think I've ever seen a leaderboard like this, either on the Champions-Tour, PGA TOUR, or the LPG Tour, when you have so many players. There's 17 players right now within 4 shots of the lead, and as low as they go, anybody can win.

[00:28:30.930]>>It's championship Sunday in Calgary. We welcome you to Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club in our final round coverage of the Rodgers Charity Classic, 19th event of the PGA TOUR Champions season. And we got ourselves a Sunday shootout here in the Stampede City. 19 players within 3 shots of the lead. Jerry Kelly just shot 30 on the front nine today to zoom right to the top of the leaderboard and take command by a shot.

[00:28:58.500]>>3 players are 1 shot back. John Swantek, Peter Jacobson, John Cook, great to have you along for our final round coverage here. The 13th edition of this event.

[00:29:11.550]>>Now to 11 with the leader at the par 5. Hello, John Cook.

[00:29:18.339]>>Good afternoon, boys.

[00:29:20.550]>>Jerry Kelly, 5 birdies, no bogeys, 223 hole gives him 197 front, and that will be effective. Yeah.

[00:29:30.660]>>Let's see what's happening over on the other side of the golf course. Par 316. Tim O'Neal currently at 5 under.

[00:29:39.790]>>Go in, yeah.

[00:29:42.380]>>Tim O'Neal currently at 60.

[00:29:47.790]>>And we're back at the par 5 with.

[00:29:50.390]>>This year's Mitsubishi Electric Classic champion TPC Sugarloaf in Atlanta.

[00:30:01.900]>>Stapleford scoring format they have in place for that event is fun, and the goose has now won, uh, on this in the PGA TOUR career and, uh, out here since turning 50. Cookie, same course that he, that he has.

[00:30:14.400]>>He loves TPC sugarloaf. That was a fun format this year because he can smash it and he can make a ton of birdies.

[00:30:26.319]>>OK, not a great approach putt, but a good second putt, yeah.

[00:30:33.750]>>He eagled this 11th hole, both Friday and Saturday. I was kind of hoping he'd make 3 in a row here at 11.

[00:30:48.930]>>Not much here for Jerry.

[00:30:51.260]>>For his 6th birdie in the 1st 11 holes.

[00:30:55.750]>>And rattles that one in, so Kelly 2 clear with an immaculate scorecard so far today.

[00:31:06.780]>>Steven Alker, in the final group on Sunday for the 2nd consecutive week. Last Sunday outside Seattle didn't go as Steven had hoped for, trying to stay in the thick of it here.

[00:31:27.979]>>Oh, that was good.

[00:31:30.920]>>How about that?

[00:31:35.390]>>So how could you see that birdie at 3, then they're at 82 bogeys in between. He had the lead heading into the final round last week at Boeing, gave that up.

[00:31:46.650]>>Let's go to 10. That's the defending champion, Richard Green.

[00:31:52.180]>>He got the greatest break I've ever seen. First day, 18 hole flared a 3, went up into the bleachers, bounced out to about 25 ft, and he drained it for Eagle.

[00:32:05.579]>>Ricardo Gonzalez trying to get it to 12 under here. Yeah, first look at Ricardo this week. There he is.

[00:32:17.780]>>Zach Johnson looking to land on that mark as well.

[00:32:23.660]>>There you go. Just got to get a few of those to drop.

[00:32:28.050]>>Get him going

[00:32:32.400]>>Armor looking to follow Zach Johnson in at 9.

[00:32:37.760]>>And it does.

[00:32:41.589]>>That hole's not that easy. It's just the 5th and 6th birdie of the day at 9.

[00:32:48.439]>>Let's take you to 11, and the birdie putt of Jiménez.

[00:32:52.729]>>Its leaderboard is something else.

[00:33:00.219]>>First look at the 18th and Paul Goydos looking to close out the week with a birdie. He's having a good run today.

[00:33:10.869]>>65.

[00:33:14.949]>>J.J Henry trying to get within 3.

[00:33:18.459]>>Here's another one if it goes in crowded leaderboard.

[00:33:23.339]>>My gosh, first birdie of the day for J.J and he is within touch.

[00:33:30.260]>>Y.E. Yang looking for a 3rd straight birdie to start the back nine here.

[00:33:37.000]>>How about it? He's at 13 under, just going back.

[00:33:42.959]>>Tangly little eye for Zach Johnson here at 10.

[00:33:48.270]>>Not an issue

[00:33:50.979]>>Yeah, make a putt or two.

[00:33:53.880]>>Get it going.

[00:33:56.579]>>Alker at 11.

[00:34:01.449]>>Pops that one in for a birdie, so he's back within 2.

[00:34:06.180]>>I mean, forget what a dominant player Tom Lehman was when he won 12 times between 009 and 2019, and Cookie, he won every year but one in that stretch.

[00:34:15.959]>>That he did and we went head to head quite often and he got me more times than not, that's for sure. Beautiful tee shot in here for him and he capitalizes coming off a bogey back at 15.

[00:34:27.800]>>And the 67 year old back to 8 under.

[00:34:33.428]>>Just a mere formality as Alker brushes that one in.

[00:34:38.340]>>Let's go to 15 and Wai Yang trying to get in here with a share. The tough 15th. How about it? Yang with a birdie at 15, tied for the lead.

[00:34:55.540]>>Relief, after a beautiful tee shot, just a little wedge in here underneath the hole.

[00:35:00.820]>>Absolutely needs this one.

[00:35:04.649]>>And he gets it, oh, be an eagle 18.

[00:35:10.439]>>So Goosen's still with Hope, looking for 3 at the last to post 14 under.

[00:35:16.560]>>Mike Weir up on the hillside there at 18.

[00:35:20.129]>>That's not ideal, but as good as Michael is with his wedge game, that's gonna be a tap in 4.

[00:35:32.020]>>Terrific week for Mike, he eagled the 18th yesterday, gonna birdie the final two of the round today for 66.

[00:35:46.840]>>He was in a grouping of 3 Masters Champions in the opening round along with Zach Johnson and Vijay Singh, and concludes his day with a 4 at the last.

[00:36:00.649]>>Swept along by the Canadian faithful all week long. We're as weak as complete. We've got a lot remaining still to settle here in Calgary.

[00:36:14.280]>>Goosen to get it in the house at 13 under not going to be quite enough this week, but a very productive showing from the South African this week. Yeah, the 3 putt back there at the 15th hole really kind of took the wind out of his sails, but great effort from the fairway, had to hole it to have a chance and took a peek now.

[00:36:33.899]>>Uphill, moving slightly to his right.

[00:36:37.949]>>Another good finish for Retief. Yeah, possibly a top 5, we'll have to wait and see, but.

[00:36:45.879]>>One of the best players on this tour, certainly a world golf Hall of Famer.

[00:36:52.320]>>And one of the most respected gentlemen in the game.

[00:36:55.889]>>Heck of a shot from Kelly, and he's got a chance to get it in at 15 under.

[00:37:01.360]>>Yeah, that pitch shot came out absolutely perfectly and aggressive putt right in the center.

[00:37:07.669]>>Yeah, he's been wrapping him in all day, hasn't he? How about 63 on Sunday, and Kelly's in the house. We'll see if it stands up. Auer, one of the players trying to run him down.

[00:37:22.629]>>Yeah.

[00:37:24.060]>>It's getting crowded.

[00:37:26.159]>>It's been crowded all week. This leaderboard has been incredible. Alker within one. Y.E. Yang is also one off the pace.

[00:37:41.629]>>How about that peppering flag sticks today.

[00:37:47.550]>>Picture perfect delivery into the 17th for Y.E. Yang. There was another birdie. Yep, he ties Jerry with.

[00:37:54.590]>>The reachable, birable, eagleable 18th. We'll head there now. 2nd shot coming for Jason Bone.

[00:38:06.290]>>He's looking at it. He's watching it and he shows.

[00:38:11.639]>>Oh my gosh, baby.

[00:38:16.169]>>That close to an albatross. All right, here we go, Yang at 18.

[00:38:22.629]>>That's good.

[00:38:24.199]>>Looks good. Should catch the slope if it misses the fringe. Oh yeah, here it comes.

[00:38:32.409]>>Smart play played to the middle of the green. Michael Block, not out of it yet. There's a 3 at 17, needs another at 18.

[00:38:42.149]>>There it is. And yes, Peter, it is officially a block party. Yeah, it is.

[00:38:50.580]>>Alker back at 15, which has been stingy today, just a dozen birdies surrendered here.

[00:39:04.699]>>Every week this guy turns up in position to win, doesn't he?

[00:39:09.060]>>Yeah, he does. He's just a.

[00:39:12.530]>>He's a, he's a machine, he's a top 10 machine, and here he comes. 4 birdies in his last 5 holes, and now he has a share of the lead.

[00:39:25.250]>>Back at the 18th and Rob Laritz aboard the par 5 and 2.

[00:39:30.520]>>Even par on the round, coming off bogey at 17.

[00:39:35.199]>>How about an eagle?

[00:39:37.610]>>Another there is.

[00:39:40.679]>>More dance moves from Rob, we've seen everything this week. Alright, 2 putts from here would get Yang into the clubhouse with the lead.

[00:39:51.060]>>Good visual

[00:39:52.879]>>After watching Rob's Putt go in.

[00:39:56.360]>>OK.

[00:39:58.090]>>Boy, he just quietly plodded his way up the leaderboard all day long and really turned on the Jets on the 2nd 9, Peter, 6 birdies.

[00:40:07.469]>>Since the turn 29.

[00:40:10.300]>>For 63 today and it's Yang in the clubhouse at 16 under. Will it hold up?

[00:40:31.479]>>That putter has been molten on the back 9 4 birdies in the last 5 holes.

[00:40:39.699]>>I'd love to bag this one. This would be a bonus.

[00:40:44.989]>>Yeah, good. She's got plenty of length to reach 18 and 2, that's for sure.

[00:40:52.270]>>Look at that Sunday's scorecard. He shot 29 on this side yesterday. That's 8 birdies and an eagle on the back nine in the last two days, and he's not done yet.

[00:41:09.270]>>Now a must-have to keep Zack within touch, 2 back.

[00:41:21.439]>>Yeah.

[00:41:23.959]>>Going through his whole routine, like he never wavers from it.

[00:41:31.030]>>All right, takes care of that one, the 17th to come.

[00:41:40.540]>>Just a short one for armor to clean up for his Ford. This is going to be his best finish so far in his.

[00:41:47.429]>>Rookie season out here on the Champions Tour.

[00:41:53.679]>>All right, final group of the day heads for the final hole.

[00:41:58.389]>>Goes through that meticulous.

[00:42:00.689]>>Three shot routine.

[00:42:02.750]>>Square changes, does it, Peter, squares that put her face to the line on the ball.

[00:42:14.389]>>For a share of the lead and it comes like that shocking. Yeah, that's shocking to me that he left that short right in the, right in the center. He did that all day, John. He just could not adjust to the speed of the greens today. Hit a lot of good looking putts, but.

[00:42:33.429]>>So many pulled up short.

[00:42:36.489]>>12th start of the season, still no finishes outside the top 10.

[00:42:50.090]>>Perfectly positioned tee shot. That is disappointing.

[00:42:55.959]>>That's, that's literally a bogey. It's the easiest hole on the golf course, pointing to an average of 4.2 today, so that's essentially a bogey.

[00:43:10.590]>>Par at the last 65 for Alker, and we showed you Y.E. Yang getting loose in a hurry over on the range for an impending sudden death playoff here. Second consecutive week we've had extra holes on the Champions Tour.

[00:43:28.389]>>Last week it ended in one hole. Stewart Cink beating Miguel Angel Jiménez.

[00:43:36.110]>>How many holes will we go this week?

[00:43:40.899]>>Ryan Armour birdies the last for an under par final round. Last week was a reachable par 5. This week he had the playoff hole. This week, same thing.

[00:43:54.090]>>So we are not finished just yet. We still have to settle things. Steven Alker, Y.E. Yang will soon commence a sudden death playoff. We will head back to the par 5 18th at Canyon Meadows. Alker perfectly positioned in the fairway at the par 5.

[00:44:13.969]>>Walked away with a 5, a little shake of the head as he exits the green there. More work to do before we determine the season's 19th champion. Sudden death coming up, Alker and Yang from Canyon Meadows.

[00:44:33.830]>>Everyone hanging around the perimeter of the 18th green, awaiting the 2nd shots of Steven Alker and Y.E. Yang, the combatants in this.

[00:44:41.770]>>First hole of sudden death, Alker is 2-3 in his career in playoffs on the Champions Tour. In fact, his victory earlier this season in Tucson at the Cologuard Classic came in a playoff against Padraig Harrington that lasted only 1 hole after Stephen made birdie.

[00:44:58.580]>>That would do today. There you go. Y.E. Yang, the winner in Saint Louis two years ago, took down Bernhard Langer in sudden death. And it was only one hole, the 18th hole.

[00:45:20.500]>>Oh, I think that's gotta go. I don't think he cut it solid. It's gotta go.

[00:45:25.419]>>Oh.

[00:45:28.260]>>Yep, that's in the penalty area. I think it kind of drop kicked it a little bit, that's what it sounded like, Peter. Yeah, it, it was a weird follow through. He, he had no balance, it looked like.

[00:45:40.879]>>He knew it was chunky.

[00:45:45.209]>>Does that change the Alker strategy now?

[00:45:48.870]>>Add to that. A one more to that. That was tough. Well, I still want to make a 4. There's no doubt the 3 would be a bonus.

[00:46:00.719]>>But you don't want to put it in position to.

[00:46:04.629]>>To make 5.

[00:46:07.530]>>Yeah, to your point, John.

[00:46:11.000]>>If if Y.E. takes a drop 3 pitches it up close 4, makes a 5, so I don't think Alker's strategy changes at all. Middle of the green, not at all. I want, yeah.

[00:46:24.750]>>I want to beat the golf hole. If I beat the golf hole, I'm going to win this golf tournament. It's what Steven Alker is thinking right now.

[00:46:32.320]>>Just under 2:30 at 2:29, this is that 5 iron that he hit earlier that was plenty of club.

[00:46:44.189]>>No, this is not hit very good either, and this is low left.

[00:46:49.639]>>Well, that's OK though. The wide side. Yeah, he's got more room.

[00:46:55.709]>>He hates the shot, but he's in position.

[00:47:01.770]>>Asking for some help from some of the gallery that may have seen where it made its descent in there. They're in the vicinity.

[00:47:10.679]>>Alker is in there helping with the search as well.

[00:47:20.510]>>Well, it's nice. Steven Alker and his caddie Troy Martin are down there helping.

[00:47:26.239]>>That's great sportsmanship.

[00:47:29.889]>>Yeah, John, the focus for Steven right now is this is just a boiler plate pitch and run play at about 10 ft out to the left.

[00:47:43.580]>>Make sure you hit it hard enough. Oh, he did.

[00:47:50.800]>>OK, well,

[00:47:53.919]>>Door's still a little bit open for Y.E.. If he can make a 5 from here, he's gonna go in and play it. It's.

[00:48:01.500]>>But it is, it's not good.

[00:48:13.729]>>That was just a lot to ask for.

[00:48:21.419]>>There's just so much in his way.

[00:48:24.419]>>That's what I mean, he's gotta keep trying to play the golf hole, beat the golf hole.

[00:48:46.770]>>That came out a little hotter than he thought, but good effort.

[00:48:54.030]>>Birdie putt ahead of Alker, Yang for par, and we'll see how it all shakes out here.

[00:49:08.000]>>It looks like Yang is still outside here, huh, Cookie?

[00:49:14.649]>>I believe he is.

[00:49:18.659]>>Straight down the slope here, not much break.

[00:49:24.919]>>I might move it slightly to his left, slightly.

[00:49:37.679]>>Well, 6 does him no good. Has to have this.

[00:49:42.820]>>John always, whenever I had these downhill putts where you have to hit so softly.

[00:49:48.179]>>You're worried so much about speed that you kind of go to sleep on the line, but

[00:49:53.479]>>This has to go.

[00:49:56.060]>>Yeah, maybe just on the right edge.

[00:50:04.629]>>Go ahead.

[00:50:09.810]>>Troublesome trip down the 18th on the 1st hole of said and death and costly for Y.E. Yang. He makes 6.

[00:50:18.020]>>And Steven Alker just needs 2 putts from inside 10 ft for the victory here.

[00:50:25.080]>>Brilliant round of 63 from Y.E. who shot 29 on the back nine, but looks like he's come up just a little bit short here today.

[00:50:35.169]>>I said that before the playoffs started last week, the weight hurt Jiménez, and I think the weight today hurt, hurt Yang.

[00:50:47.189]>>be a little bit careful with speed here. Sorry there, John.

[00:50:57.310]>>Only needed one, and it's Alker again.

[00:51:02.139]>>2nd victory of the season, career win number 12.

[00:51:07.770]>>Wins in 2026 for the Kiwi coming on the first hole of sudden death.

[00:51:14.330]>>Took down the title in Tucson.

[00:51:18.189]>>And he will leave Calgary, a champion again. That was his wife Tanya, walking out onto the green.

[00:51:29.750]>>After the disappointment of only making 5 on the 54th hole, he was 1 better than that when he needed it.

[00:51:38.600]>>Just puts himself in the hunt to win all the time and talked about his meteoric rise a lot, Peter, but it bears repeating. He Monday qualified at the Boeing Classic 2021, and here we are just 5 years and change later, and he's got 12 victories under his belt. What impresses me about Steven is he played.

[00:51:58.800]>>Like he is been a proven tour champion his entire career, which isn't true. He didn't play much on the PGA TOUR, but he has taken this Champions Tour by storm. Congratulations to Steven.