

Production Transcript for **26INTCUTCH - THE ALLY CHALLENGE – MASTER**

[00:00:43.819]>>Just a gorgeous Friday afternoon in southeastern Michigan as we welcome you to Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club here in Grand Blanc and the opening round of The Ally Challenge presented by McLaren, the 20th events of the PGA Tour Champions season. A couple of co-leaders through 14 holes, both finishing up on the front side here. Vaughn Taylor, Tim Petrovic.

[00:01:05.889]>>Share the lead at 5 under. Michael Block off at top 5 last week in Calgary is a shot off the pace. Great to have your company. Thanks for hanging. Good to be with Paul Azinger this week. John Cook is our man on the ground. Both Cookie Azinger played here well over 12 times during their PGA TOUR careers. OK, OK.

[00:01:30.730]>>And there's your US Senior Open champion, Aldrich Harrington.

[00:01:34.900]>>I played here 14 times, Swanny. I loved it here. Uh, the players love it here. The grass is just perfect bent fairways.

[00:01:45.440]>>And it's gotten to be quite tight this week, especially. The fairways will average 30 yards wide. Pdraig, after hitting a terrific tee shot.

[00:01:59.599]>>Back to 6 and Vaughn Taylor to grab the lead here at 6 under. Oh, Vaughn Taylor, that's some silky stroke. There you go.

[00:02:09.380]>>Been playing well the last couple of weeks. He was in the final group at the Boeing Classic outside Seattle a couple of weeks ago, so it's Taylor.

[00:02:18.050]>>With his nose in front, back to the 9th, but last week's winner up in Calgary, Steven Alker.

[00:02:24.720]>>Uh, he's heating up at the right time. Got his 2nd win of the year last week. As we've come to, you know, we're getting close to the end of the season, you know, and boy, if you can peak late in the year, it always pays big dividends.

[00:02:40.990]>>It's free beers if you make a birdie for 17 minutes, \$2.02 dollars beers. Nothing's free, bud. Nothing's free practically.

[00:02:51.710]>>And then if you get a couple of birdies in the same group, they tack out another 17 minutes right on top. That's great. Keep those taps flowing. Well, they've got a birdie position there at 17. This putt now down the hill for Padraig after a really a beautiful tee shot and a great second.

[00:03:11.169]>>Seriously, 3 in a row.

[00:03:15.009]>>Great drive, terrific iron shot, and then wow.

[00:03:20.050]>>That'll put a smile on anyone's face, won't it, especially this guy. Smile comes to his face easily.

[00:03:25.460]>>Beautiful drone camera work here this week in Grand Blanc, 17th down there on your left. That's 8th green. And we swoop down to over here.

[00:03:36.779]>>This beautiful little course is tight property, right, Singer? It is. And a lot of those trees were really skinny when, when Cookie and I first started playing here in the 80s, and they've grown up to be pretty mighty elms and oaks and even some apple trees.

[00:03:51.770]>>Once in a while they'd be in season. Just left of 5 Fairway snatch that little hook, get that little hook over there and get an apple.

[00:04:02.289]>>Yes.

[00:04:03.770]>>Beautiful birdie pick up there at the 8th for Zach Johnson. Gets him a couple under.

[00:04:11.529]>>Vaughn Taylor to get it to 7 under here.

[00:04:15.639]>>He had been caught momentarily by John Rollins, but uh he's back up top by a shot.

[00:04:22.160]>>7-under with a bogey on the card, 2 to play. Good scoring. It's not playing super long, just about 7,069 yards to be exact.

[00:04:34.299]>>Up to 11, Stephen Ames currently in 1 under par.

[00:04:45.540]>>Make it 2 under par. Well, yeah, I had a sneaky feeling that might go in.

[00:04:52.920]>> Vaughn Taylor from the lower level down there at the 8th.

[00:04:56.820]>>Well, it had Jason Bone's attention as it went down to the bottom.

[00:05:01.239]>>Look at this scorecard, birdie 9 of the round with the par 4 9th to come for the leader.

[00:05:08.239]>>3rd for Michael Block at 18, his 9th hole of the day. These are tough ups and downs, a lot of room here, and he just rattles it right off the stick. That's lucky it hit the stick, but certainly was right where he was aiming.

[00:05:23.880]>>Harrington, looking for birdie back here at the 9th.

[00:05:29.339]>>A familiar left hand low or crosshand or whatever. Padraig puts so much time and practice into putting.

[00:05:37.440]>>Pays off.

[00:05:39.410]>>They asked him why he played 8 weeks in a row, and he said, why wouldn't I play 8 weeks in a row? I love to play. I love to compete. There you go.

[00:05:55.649]>>Back to 17, Ken Duke for a 2.

[00:05:59.709]>>The right side of the green I had big breaker from right to left.

[00:06:04.829]>>It's pretty slow as well. I gotta give it a pretty good wrap up that slope.

[00:06:12.369]>>We haven't had a birdie here in a while. People are thirsty.

[00:06:17.260]>>That'll get them going. Oh, look at the first guy up. He ought to get 2 beers. Mad, mad dash to the bar. Here they go. First guy up before Ken Duke got the ball out of the hole.

[00:06:30.019]>>Look at all these tight wads.

[00:06:34.140]>>They were in close proximity, by the way, you know, it's what a great, what a great thing. It, it makes the players happy to do that for the fans.

[00:06:43.959]>>Taylor's final hole of the day. How about one more birdie?

[00:06:48.239]>>Come on, Bond.

[00:06:50.739]>>Oh, how about this guy, huh? What a round of golf. Birdie number 10 for 63. Congratulations. That is something special for Vaughn Taylor. Tight golf course, playing fast. What a score, and they're all smiles, and why wouldn't you be? Awesome round from Vaughn Taylor blazing out of the blocks here today.

[00:07:13.250]>>I'm gonna check in on Alker here at the 12th.

[00:07:16.839]>>Well, he was 2 under earlier or early in his round and uh hasn't done much since.

[00:07:24.250]>>Digging it out of there.

[00:07:30.679]>>Well, that's not a fluke, you know, these guys.

[00:07:33.799]>>They tend to have great ball control and, uh, great distance control. Caron at 17.

[00:07:42.480]>>Ryan Armour missed his birdie putt unfortunately, but Jason Caron.

[00:07:48.279]>>That'll get him run to the bar again.

[00:08:01.720]>>We'll verify that. We'll show you that as well. Harrington's long range.

[00:08:09.700]>>today.

[00:08:11.119]>>Off we go to 17 with Flesch.

[00:08:14.799]>>Beers for birdies. We've got a 2 for 1 in this group.

[00:08:20.730]>>And here's O'Neill for 2 at 17.

[00:08:25.899]>>Just short left of the hole, swing to the right. See if he can get back to level par.

[00:08:34.658]>>Let me get it just on that left edge.

[00:08:40.010]>>Birdie number 10 of the. The mad rush.

[00:08:44.390]>>Well

[00:08:45.609]>>All right, Flesch to cap the day with a birdie here at 18.

[00:08:53.500]>>Uh-huh. Have you ever seen a lefty that couldn't putt? Truly, it's like a left-handed baseball, like a batter. They all look so silky.

[00:09:03.820]>>Steven Alker won for the 2nd time this season up in Canada last week. That's his 2-putt birdie. He had another, he had a beautiful iron shot in here as well.

[00:09:13.679]>>Back to 12 here, Azingers, we welcome in the newest official member of the PGA TOUR Champions, Henrik Stenson, having just turned 50 years of age in April, and

after a long layoff, played a few senior majors, but first official start here this week. Hey, welcome back.

[00:09:30.880]>>Welcome back, Henrik Stenson, one of the great players of our generation, decided to go to live.

[00:09:39.030]>>And, uh, Liv's kind of folding shop. And so these guys are starting to get their eligibility back and we're gonna get an influx out here on the Champions Tour of some household names.

[00:09:50.460]>>We have tons of them already. If you're a golf family, these are household names out here for the most part. Good birdie.

[00:09:59.489]>>The first of the round for the Swede has got it back to even par.

[00:10:05.840]>>I saw Stewart Cink hit his tee shot right on the in the middle of the green on that left side here, but what do you think this putt does? It should be pretty straight, kind of coming up the hill like that, straight in the middle, straight in the middle. I'm gonna put it in the tumble. All of a sudden you start putting double circles up there, that'll run by some folk pretty quick.

[00:10:27.400]>>No.

[00:10:32.250]>>Yes

[00:10:33.900]>>Well, his routine never breaks, does it? It's always kind of the same, same pacing out to the right, nice putt there, putt there.

[00:10:50.700]>>Hate to let that one get away from you. Yeah, 3 plus for pars that no fun. That's why we can gray hair, right.

[00:10:59.419]>>Yes, sir.

[00:11:02.510]>>That was Pappy in there. He just had to finish it up. He had to finish it up.

[00:11:07.229]>>Birdies all around for this group.

[00:11:12.799]>>John Senden for birdie from the right side of the green, big old breaker from right to left.

[00:11:22.849]>>And that's what you heard behind us right there. It sure was.

[00:11:29.869]>>Oh.

[00:11:33.650]>> Steven Alker for birdie here at 16.

[00:11:37.849]>>Just on top of that ridge, pretty straight pot.

[00:11:42.219]>>Oh

[00:11:43.840]>>Good catch hole. It caught, caught the right hand, yes, sir.

[00:11:47.960]>>It's a good comeback birdie there for Steven after a bogey there at 15.

[00:11:56.770]>>Boo, I was checking out your stats. You're driving it the straight. You, you're driving it the straightest anybody out here this year, Boo.

[00:12:06.929]>>What's that now? I said I checked out your stats. You're driving it the straightest of anybody out here right now.

[00:12:13.090]>>Well, I'm driving it pretty good right now. It's just that the ball's been hiding from the hole though.

[00:12:21.049]>>When you play with Stewart afraid of heights, right, afraid of heights, it won't fall at at 8 to 10 inches, 8 inches in or whatever it is.

[00:12:31.030]>>Is there a big difference in distance between you and Stewart?

[00:12:35.679]>>A couple of

[00:12:39.760]>>Yeah.

[00:12:41.979]>>Good. Nice 2 putt there from the front of the green.

[00:12:48.650]>>Trying to birdie 5 of the last 7 here today, Cookie.

[00:12:53.190]>>Yeah, what a nice shot he he in here from the buff rough, judged it brilliantly.

[00:12:59.390]>>And I know you guys have seen this part. It's got some right to left to it, and it does have some speed.

[00:13:17.030]>>Nice finish. Nice incoming 9 holes for Henrik. Sure was 31 on the second side for Stenson. It's interesting that you picked up on possible nerves, uh, earlier. You wouldn't think so, Zinger, but he is a rookie after all.

[00:13:32.969]>>Just putting the finishing touches on our first round coverage of The Ally Challenge presented by McLaren.

[00:13:39.500]>>Interesting mix of players on the first page of the leaderboard. Down on page 2, you see the name Henrik Stenson in his official Champions Tour debut this week, very productive.

[00:14:03.780]>>Saturday in southeastern Michigan, we welcome you back to Grand Blanc and Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club for our second round coverage of The Ally Challenge presented by McLaren, the 20th event of the PGA TOUR Champions season. Michael Block off to a cracking start today. 3-under through his opening 6, good for his share of the lead with Vaughn Taylor. He was the overnight leader. Taylor's 63 was the low round of the day on Friday.

[00:14:30.690]>> Padraig Harrington in the final group of the day, just 2 shots off the lead. Zach Johnson, 4 victories on the season, hanging around, 4 off the pace.

[00:14:41.369]>>2 par 5s on the front, the 1st and the 7th. Michael Block eagled the 1st and has this one for birdie at 7.

[00:14:52.419]>>This guy is really some kind of special player.

[00:14:55.890]>>You know, we, we always wonder, you know, when a guy has his big moments and all that, you know, how fun that must have been for him, but.

[00:15:04.489]>>He sustained some real good game and now he's in front here leading on the Champions Tour, playing some high-quality golf. Finished 5th up in Calgary last week. That got him into this event. He's making the most of his limited opportunities, just his 5th start of the season. I love it. I hope his members are tuned in. You know, they ought to be all, especially on a Saturday. I don't know if they're gonna watch the digital, but I bet you they're gonna be watching the regular.

[00:15:31.239]>>Playing with Ricardo Gonzalez.

[00:15:37.799]>>You'll be watching on the Golf Channel for sure.

[00:15:41.159]>>Good putt.

[00:15:43.979]>>The 3rd easiest hole on the golf course, that's worthy of a fist bump. 15th birdie from the field already at 7 today.

[00:15:51.500]>>Back with Rollins, needs one.

[00:15:54.340]>>After that nice pitch shot, now straight up the hill from about 6 ft, and needs this one.

[00:16:01.729]>>That's it.

[00:16:03.679]>>Taylor looking to follow Rollins in here.

[00:16:06.919]>>Yeah, it's a little slight left to right, maybe just inside that left edge.

[00:16:21.039]>>It's the 2nd hardest hole.

[00:16:24.000]>>Padraig Harrington, a little left to right. There we go, that breaks the ice. Vaughn Taylor had one of those that actually got closer, the closer you got to the green. That doesn't happen very often. She getting further away.

[00:16:39.989]>>One of your Ryder Cupper at Valhalla in 2008, Chad Campbell, a true hero. He went out last on Sunday.

[00:16:47.539]>>And uh, you know, he just embraced that. There you go, Chad.

[00:16:52.119]>>He's yet to really get comfortable out here, get his normal game back. You know, he dominated way early in his career, the, I think it was even the Hooters tour back then. It was just.

[00:17:02.479]>>The scores he was shooting.

[00:17:04.420]>>Fifty-nines and stuff, he, he can really go.

[00:17:10.469]>>Michael Block hit it right over the flag.

[00:17:15.390]>>Is that any good? Is that any good? Yeah, it was any good. Shakes another one in here. Birdie at the 9th for block. How about that opening 9 out in 31 and he's caught Taylor again.

[00:17:33.290]>>Trying to sneak into the movie here. There's a pickup at the 12th for the Texan, and he's just 3 off the pace now. He's capable, you know, very capable.

[00:17:44.329]>>The Aussie at 11.

[00:17:47.189]>>Terrific cutter, always has been. Greg Chalmers handles that one for the first birdie of the round.

[00:17:54.000]>>We'll scoot over to 13. Ángel Cabrera is aboard the par 5 and 2.

[00:18:00.819]>>And he's down in 3.

[00:18:03.520]>>He slowed down a little this year after that great year last year, 2 majors.

[00:18:11.619]>>Great opportunity here for Vaughn Taylor, straight up the hill, nothing to it.

[00:18:24.369]>>Beautiful. He made his only bogey yesterday and then birdie the next 4 holes, so maybe he'll get on a little run.

[00:18:32.510]>>We go to 13. Y.E. Yang lost in a playoff in Calgary to Stephen Alker last week.

[00:18:38.709]>>He did, but he beat Tiger down the stretch to win the PGA. So we'll give him that.

[00:18:45.869]>>You know, isn't it amazing? It took 13 years for Tiger to, well, maybe he missed one on pain in '99, but

[00:18:53.239]>>It took a long time for Tiger to miss a putt on the seventy-first hole of a major.

[00:18:58.650]>>You know, it's like some, it's like he always did something, Tiger. If you look back at his career at the 71st hole or 2nd to last hole, all the fist pumps, it seems like came from there, a lot of them. But this remains the only man to beat Woods in a major championship when Tiger was the 54 hole leader. That's right. Big scalp at Hazeltine here in the Midwest back in 2009 for Y.E. Yang.

[00:19:31.119]>>And that's a birdie at the 12th floor. That's so beautiful. Ricky Gonzalez, he's at 7 under.

[00:19:42.530]>>A little bit to deal with here for Block. I agree.

[00:19:46.420]>>I was waiting for you to chime in, Cookie.

[00:19:51.790]>>First time I hit a wedge with a yellow ball, I felt like I hit a flyer.

[00:19:59.420]>>There's a birdie for a block. Confidently pops that one in. That was confident. He wastes no time. This is really kind of admirable golf, isn't it?

[00:20:09.689]>>Ahead of Vaughn Taylor, Vaughn wisely laying up. All right, up at 14, Michael Wright came through the qualifying school a couple of years ago in the Aussie. He's got it to 7 under. Meanwhile, up at 16, Ángel Cabrera, looking for his second eagle of the back nine.

[00:20:32.890]>>He's fun to watch play.

[00:20:37.989]>>So Alker looks like he's gonna pick up birdie at 16 if he can take care of this one.

[00:20:45.219]>>Just quietly ascending the leaderboard, 5 birdies on the card today.

[00:20:51.449]>>Gonzalez drove the green at 14, this for Eagle.

[00:21:07.239]>>So he'll pick up 1 to move it to -8, get a shot closer to Michael Block's lead.

[00:21:21.920]>>2 of the last 3 for Gonzalez.

[00:21:29.790]>>We'll go to 17 where Alker found the green side bunker.

[00:21:34.329]>>There's just no room here. He's gotta hit a good one. And he has done it and the place will go crazy. The 2-dollar beers will flow. Oh, fist pump, hats on crooked.

[00:21:50.290]>>Oh.

[00:21:53.989]>>So it's Alker now in sole possession of 2nd place, 2 back of Block.

[00:22:03.920]>>Padraig Harrington, who has not possessed his best stuff by any measure today.

[00:22:09.170]>>Suddenly here, Paul, with an opportunity to get it to 90 and right back into it. Well, yeah, what a tee shot he hit.

[00:22:17.890]>>305 yards, he's got a 4.5 footer for Eagle to get to 90 and right back into third place.

[00:22:34.300]>>Yeah, that's the kind of day it's been.

[00:22:39.229]>>If there's ever such thing as a disappointing birdie, that was it.

[00:22:47.089]>>To 18 with Alker, who just birdied 16 and 17.

[00:22:54.010]>>One more? This guy.

[00:22:57.689]>>How about Steven Alker and just like that. Well.

[00:23:05.989]>>All right, Rollins can get it to 7 under back at 15.

[00:23:16.489]>>It does.

[00:23:18.760]>>A nice little turnaround after those 3 straight bogeys on the front, a couple of birdies, no bogeys.

[00:23:26.750]>>Gonzalez trying to get it to 9.

[00:23:33.640]>>Yeah, not much to this.

[00:23:37.369]>>After a terrific pitch shot from just over the green. Gosh, it looked like the screen froze or something there for a second. He stood there frozen in one spot, great putt. It's another good tournament going.

[00:23:51.290]>>Now the Block birdie putt to get it to 13.

[00:23:56.680]>>Yeah, he hits these with authority. He did not waste any time and.

[00:24:00.589]>>Yeah.

[00:24:04.069]>>Also 2 putt birdie, yeah, where's a log he can fall off of for a challenge.

[00:24:11.040]>>With their play, 7 under par round for Block as he heads for 17. We'll go to the green now. Greg Chalmers for a deuce.

[00:24:20.869]>>Open the taps.

[00:24:22.780]>>Oh, they love him.

[00:24:25.910]>>You.

[00:24:27.760]>>Back 1 to the par 5 and Rollins to move to 8 under.

[00:24:33.359]>>There you go. Back to even par for the day. He's really dug deep to get, uh, the 2nd round back on level ground.

[00:24:43.180]>>Back at 16.

[00:24:46.810]>>There's the Taylor birdie.

[00:24:50.069]>>And Vaughn's got it back to 10.

[00:24:55.900]>>And here's Chalmers at 18. This one can get fast. Oh, unless it hits the back of the hole, good finish.

[00:25:07.199]>>And just a formality after a cracking 2nd shot in there from Padraig, 3 at the last.

[00:25:14.069]>>That will be a big difference maker for a guy like Michael Block, you know, that little bit of emotion that he showed. I wonder if Michael Block.

[00:25:22.459]>>Is going to be ready for those two tomorrow. Can't wait to watch this final group go out there.

[00:25:29.550]>>And see how it all unfolds. Well, we're set up for a blockbuster tomorrow, no pun intended.

[00:25:36.719]>>It could be really fun to watch these guys go at. I know it will be. Alker won last week. He's gonna be the most confident player. Padraig's got a senior major under his belt this year. I don't wanna look down the list any further than that final group.

[00:25:56.420]>>Through the first two rounds this week, 50-year-old Michael Block has put himself at the top of the leaderboard with a dynamic performance that has delivered both high quality and high entertainment.

[00:26:08.010]>>But he will have some heady company in the final group of the day. Steven Alker is a proven champion, whose 12th career Champions Tour victory came just last week.

[00:26:18.729]>>And World Golf Hall of Famer Padraig Harrington, as always, will put up a formidable fight.

[00:26:26.030]>>It has been a storybook week so far for the leader, but can he write the final chapter of what could be a blockbuster finish in the final round of The Ally Challenge?

[00:26:46.239]>>PGA TOUR Champions proudly present the year-long race for the Charles Schwab Cup.

[00:26:53.890]>>And today from Grand Blanc, Michigan, it's final round coverage of The Ally Challenge presented by McLaren.

[00:27:03.030]>>Had a little bit of a wait before we got championship Sunday going, and that's because about 1 inch of rain saturated historic Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club early this morning. But the superintendent and the crew here has done yeoman's work getting this place in prime condition here for the final round. 2-hour delay is the official total that we were set back, but we are off and rolling here on the final day in southeastern Michigan. Michael Block, Steven Alker, Padraig Harrington.

[00:27:32.829]>>In the final grouping of the day. They're at the 3rd hole right now. Block led by 2 to start the final round. Alker just made birdie at the 3rd, trim into the lead.

[00:27:45.030]>>That is the group that John Cook will be walking with. It's a pleasure to be alongside Paul Azinger as well this week. I'm John Swantek. Great to have your company. Thanks for hanging for what promises to be a scintillating final round here. Out to the 4th here, Paul, and the 2nd on the way for Harrington at the par 4. Padraig launched his tee shot to get it all the way out here, turned it into a simple wedge, and he's.

[00:28:11.609]>>Gotta be aggressive, 4 behind. Michael Block's played really well so far. Up to the 7th, and here's Stephen Ames for birdie.

[00:28:23.260]>>This is one of those courses. The greens are so nice you can walk them in if you want.

[00:28:37.810]>>There's the 1st birdie of the round for Harrington, who has got it to 10 under par. Michael Block, the leader by 1.

[00:28:48.239]>>Up the left hand side should be fine.

[00:28:56.930]>>Michael Block hasn't had to hit 2nd very often in the last couple of days. It, it can be a little unnerving watching Alker pipe it down every fairway ahead of you.

[00:29:07.900]>>Yeah, and then watch Harrington just smash.

[00:29:12.760]>>Yeah, he hadn't hit in 3rd. He hasn't hit 3rd in a while either.

[00:29:17.810]>>Big tee shot here I think for Michael. Tough golf hole. Gotta start it right here.

[00:29:24.800]>>tap the left hand side.

[00:29:32.469]>>He's got some serious pop in the bat, 309 yard driving distance average this week, and Block able to locate the fairway here at 5.

[00:29:43.410]>>Scooch up ahead with the group here. Vaughn Taylor looking to move it to -8.

[00:29:48.300]>>Started the day at 9 under, a couple of bogeys. It's Vaughn Taylor.

[00:29:57.680]>>Stewart Cink has certainly enjoyed his time in Grand Blank, he's uh was the winner here the last two years. Birdie there at the 7th gets Stewart to 9 under, so 3 in a row has him within touch 4 off the pace.

[00:30:10.449]>>Here's Alker, he's ready back at 5.

[00:30:13.430]>>176 yards straight into the wind, about a 185 shot. This is 6 iron, plenty of club I think for Steven, trying to bring it in from left to right, just kind of hanging straight with solid strike.

[00:30:35.540]>>Padraig from 151 left rough, not a great lie.

[00:30:42.369]>>It's.

[00:30:43.780]>>Yeah, that really proves what an advantage being, uh, you can be, if you're that much farther ahead, that's a good 20 yards or more.

[00:30:53.250]>>It's a really an amazing era we're living in in golf. We've got analytics to confirm what we've always known, or what we weren't sure was really the case. A couple of birdies on the card for Greg Chalmers. He's got it to 9 under.

[00:31:09.130]>> Stewart Cink, who has birdied his last 3. Is that the 8th?

[00:31:14.589]>>You certainly cannot count the 9 unders out of it at this point.

[00:31:19.380]>>They definitely have a chance to thoroughbred 900s right now sinking Goosen.

[00:31:32.010]>>It doesn't mean you waste any time. Heel off the ground here, Little John.

[00:31:36.459]>>Yeah, very Steve Stricker-like. Didn't waste any time and, you know, he got up and out of that. It's the first kind of unconfident stroke I've seen him make in a couple of days, so.

[00:31:48.819]>>We'll see how he handles a little bit of stress right here.

[00:31:57.790]>>So a nervy little putt reveals maybe the first little crack in the armor for Michael Block.

[00:32:04.380]>>Perfect 14 for 14 and scrambling, but.

[00:32:07.810]>>One gone here at the 5th, and now it's Block and Alker, the co-leaders at 120.

[00:32:17.430]>>Week. Stewart Cink looking for a 4th straight birdie up here at the 8th.

[00:32:23.140]>>Look who's coming. Well, I'll tell you, he's coming. He look at the 3 guys sitting on 10 under.

[00:32:33.900]>>Big putt here for Michael, and that's a great up-and-down.

[00:32:39.459]>>We've said that a lot this week. Make it a perfect 15 for 15 and scrambling. That's a crazy number. There's a nice smile out of him. He knows he kind of stole a par out of that.

[00:32:55.280]>>And Harrington is about to snag a birdie here after a dazzling approach shot in here.

[00:33:06.310]>>But like with every shot with Padraig, it will get, uh, its full attention here, even this little two-footer.

[00:33:14.319]>>Hold up, thank you.

[00:33:16.250]>>Padre's a closer. He knows how to close. He just closed out the Senior Open and, uh, Cookie.

[00:33:24.160]>>I'd be scared of having him breathing down my neck.

[00:33:27.469]>>I'll tell you what, he is driven, he is motivated, and he's hit two really nice wedge shots in a row.

[00:33:37.780]>>Stewart Cink for a 5th straight birdie here.

[00:33:45.300]>>No. Oh, so good for so long.

[00:33:51.390]>>That's gonna be an opening 9 and 32 for the two-time defending champion. Very much in the picture here.

[00:34:02.430]>>Ángel Cabrera trying to sneak into it here, looking for birdie at 7.

[00:34:09.040]>>There it is.

[00:34:12.219]>>First one on the Sunday card for the man who won 2 senior majors last year, the Argentine within 3.

[00:34:38.040]>>Kind of off the right-hand side. Yeah, that didn't roll 10 ft. That would have rolled 30 yards yesterday.

[00:34:47.320]>>Yeah, it was Warwick Hills in its purest form, the first couple of days, that's for sure. A little bit of a different test here today.

[00:35:04.060]>>Never static, is he, Zinger, that's he, everything is over the ball. Keeps moving. He plays from an open stance, drops the club underneath like his chip shots. It's kind of an anti-hook move, but he likes to draw it.

[00:35:16.939]>>Retief Goosen looking for a share of the lead up here at the 12th.

[00:35:23.909]>>Oh Goosen connects from long range. Look out. Look at that scorecard.

[00:35:32.139]>>Birdie 8 of the round for one of the World Golf Hall of Famers and looking every bit the part right now.

[00:35:46.500]>>John's headset's down here for just a sec.

[00:35:53.250]>>Coming through the, the fringe here for Harrington.

[00:35:57.510]>>You mentioned earlier in the week these are tough to kind of figure out. Well, you know what, some guys really work on fringe putting and look about this that one.

[00:36:06.409]>>Way out of position after the 2nd shot, not a problem for Harrington, who's tucked away 3 out of the last 4.

[00:36:14.860]>>So Block has been joined by two Hall of Famers, Harrington and Goosen.

[00:36:20.409]>>And Alker, who is as steady and consistent as they come out here. So some very heady company atop the leaderboard right now with Stewart Cink, the two-time defending champion also breathing down their necks.

[00:36:33.699]>>This is really shaping up, isn't it? Crazy. The best players are right here on top of this board.

[00:36:42.520]>>Mm, I guess mine is Zach Johnson. That's about it.

[00:36:49.340]>>Coming off a win last week.

[00:36:52.250]>>Alker's confidence soaring. Probably the most dangerous guy on top of this board.

[00:36:58.949]>>Trying to get it to 13 under.

[00:37:02.949]>>And then the race is on.

[00:37:11.889]>>All, all the show ponies are showing up today. They are. And I just want to say, hey, Michael Block, welcome to the big time. You know, these guys are just so polished and so good on Sunday. And Michael Block now in a respond mode here. He's a clutch putter cookie.

[00:37:35.790]>>Yeah, after seeing those two, yeah, this is a must-make.

[00:37:39.850]>>Yeah, full respond mode, just like that. Started with a two-shot lead.

[00:37:55.649]>>And has not relinquished the lead. Michael Block with the reply. All 3 in the final group take care of the par 57.

[00:38:06.050]>>He did that one.

[00:38:09.840]>>First we'll see the Harrington birdie putt. Can the underdog have the last word? There you go, right.

[00:38:18.699]>>Pretty good breaker left to right here from Harrington to answer and needs it and made it.

[00:38:24.979]>>Big answer from the Hall of Fame.

[00:38:28.570]>>Like, just thoroughbred, you know, confident.

[00:38:31.959]>>So after the bogey at 15, here's Goosen trying to grab one here at the par 5.

[00:38:38.580]>>And does so Goosen back to 12 under with 2 to play, right when you think he's out of it, he's right back in it.

[00:38:50.840]>>Chalmers, can he get it to 10 under?

[00:38:53.750]>>You bet.

[00:38:55.689]>>How to get to 13 under now.

[00:39:02.070]>>Very similar putt to what Padraig just had, so he got a nice preview, does break a little right to left.

[00:39:08.679]>>Right in the center.

[00:39:10.780]>>Was it ever? Michael Block got an up close and personal look. He's about to walk across the line and stop to watch it go in. Alker had to move out of the way to see it go in, I think. Now Block to match him.

[00:39:26.679]>>Also going down the hill a little bit right to left, will the answer? God, another cruel trick that was so good.

[00:39:35.429]>>No, I thought we had it, brother.

[00:39:46.189]>>So par at 12 for block and it's Alker alone for the minute. Alker in command has an eagle putt here.

[00:39:55.649]>>Yeah, it's a long distance up the slope, it's really slow. And once it gets up that slope, it's gonna turn hard to the left and maybe pick up some speed.

[00:40:05.840]>>Had a similar putt the other day. This is outstanding, really good.

[00:40:13.479]>>Go ahead and tack on another birdie after the one back at the 12th. Alker's gonna nudge it to 14 under.

[00:40:23.320]>>You said at the outset of the show, Paul, he has a 54 hole mentality. He's filled with patience. He never hits the panic panic button and knows that he's playing the endgame.

[00:40:34.610]>>He's the biggest threat I felt starting the day, Block taking the pin out. He can make this for par. Wouldn't that be something?

[00:40:43.060]>>Oh, I don't know if there's an advantage to taking the pin out. I mean, guys are taking the pin out to putt, but they're leaving it in the putt.

[00:40:53.189]>>All right, first look at Zach Johnson today, 4 victories on the season. This for birdie at 17. A rare quiet week for Zach, and a nice birdie.

[00:41:03.479]>>They love him at 17 now. It's about to get a little louder over there at 17.

[00:41:08.750]>>Seen a couple of triples on that first hole this week. There's a birdie for Chalmers at 15, and the Aussies got it to 11 under.

[00:41:17.530]>>To 16. Just a moment ago, Stewart Cink had this one for birdie to get to 11 under.

[00:41:29.459]>>Just another ho-hum week for Stewart Cink.

[00:41:34.320]>>Alker

[00:41:37.270]>>47 yards gonna try to play the same type of shot, drive it in there alone. I'm gonna check on your knees, goes, knees to go a little bit, but that's OK. Yep, two good ones.

[00:41:47.239]>>5 under par, final round going for sink.

[00:41:51.379]>>2 to play. back-to-back wins here for Stewart. No, come on down, that'll be a dicey putt now, some big left to right, pretty fast.

[00:42:10.530]>>Back with the final group, 3 birdie putts to come here at the short par 414.

[00:42:19.050]>>Alker looking to close the door just a little bit more here, Cookie.

[00:42:23.020]>>Yeah, and put some uh checkmate into a couple of other players, so trying to distance himself from.

[00:42:29.989]>>You know, those players, players in his group still have outside shots, and they have birdie putts as well, but.

[00:42:37.090]>>Right here

[00:42:39.510]>>The rest of the whole playing kind of downwind and not too difficult.

[00:42:48.159]>>3 in a row, nice catch hole.

[00:42:52.120]>>Perfect speed, John. You know, he seized the moment back there when Michael Block missed left.

[00:42:58.989]>>Alker stepped up there and hit a magnificent shot, dangerous shot right on the green, and he just,

[00:43:07.129]>>He just seized the moment. I don't know how else to say it, and then to make that birdie there that.

[00:43:11.719]>>That might just seal the deal.

[00:43:14.510]>>I think so. There's everybody else is starting to run out of holes.

[00:43:23.689]>>There you go. OK, answers the call.

[00:43:26.360]>>Still a lot goes a long way, his top 10 seeking that top 10 that he so desperately wanted, but he's in good shape be disappointed when he goes over this.

[00:43:39.020]>>Hasn't been quite as much dancing and gyrations as there was on Saturday. No, he's good though. He's, he's.

[00:43:46.780]>>Really a showman. That's all. He, he just, you know, he wants everybody to have a good time.

[00:43:53.929]>>So a couple of birdies, can we make it 3?

[00:43:59.020]>>Really nice bunker shot there for Padraig and.

[00:44:02.320]>>Bounced back after 2 bogeys.

[00:44:05.639]>>Active Sunday scorecard for Padraig Harrington, a steady Sunday scorecard for Steven Alker. What else is new?

[00:44:23.070]>>Pass half the putt does run away to the right side of that green.

[00:44:29.800]>>How much do you like that?

[00:44:32.169]>>Do I see shadows out there?

[00:44:35.870]>>Yes, welcome sight.

[00:44:38.540]>>Beautiful. I you must think we're in the clear, knock on wood.

[00:44:50.090]>>Uphill to start, then downhill about right there. Needs to slow down. Just, uh, it's a good effort, but yeah, that second half of that putt was gonna be so slick.

[00:45:03.540]>>Stephen Ames for birdie at 18.

[00:45:15.439]>>Drips it in there. 3 at the last for Ames in a Sunday 69. It's sort of nice to make the last putt of the day, always, and then to break 70 and do it, that's even better.

[00:45:29.870]>>Back with our final group on what's turning into a lovely.

[00:45:35.209]>>Late afternoon slash early evening, Midwestern day.

[00:45:40.689]>>I have to shield my eyes. I'm looking right into the sun. I never thought I'd say that today.

[00:45:46.669]>>Difficult two-putt here. Last half of this puck goes straight downhill like you said there, Paul.

[00:45:51.969]>>Not much break to it.

[00:45:54.590]>>Easy.

[00:45:56.850]>>

[00:45:58.659]>>Easy, easy! exclamation point.

[00:46:06.030]>>Look what I found.

[00:46:08.239]>>Another birdie for Alker. Yeah. How about that run? You know, Alker, truly the most confident player coming off a win last week.

[00:46:19.300]>>Padraig with the resume and, and the club pro with the lead.

[00:46:23.709]>>Did himself proud, I think.

[00:46:26.540]>>Alker not wasting any time, but that's gonna dry up a good 10 ft short. Yeah, it sure is big breaker, a really slow putt and.

[00:46:36.939]>>Sometimes your mind gets to wandering a little bit on 18, you know, you're thinking of things, maybe what you're gonna say, and maybe not Steven Alker, I think he's.

[00:46:48.340]>>And it's pretty to the point, but.

[00:46:52.500]>>He, he's got a few to play with.

[00:46:57.750]>>This is the 5th start for Michael Block. If he makes 7 starts, he becomes an official member of the Champions Tour. So then.

[00:47:08.239]>>He will have accrued official Charles Schwab Cup points. He'll have a good chance to play his way into the playoffs.

[00:47:15.719]>>In St. Louis, where he's got some roots where he grew up, that would be at the Steel Charity Classic, but the next stop will be in Sio Sioux Falls, South Dakota in 2 weeks. He's played his way into that event.

[00:47:26.479]>>You can't ask for a, a better putt, a little uphill right to left. Let's finish it out here, Michael Block.

[00:47:36.979]>>Those are two good putts to close that do not go in.

[00:47:41.489]>>There are going to be a lot of coin if he'd have made that putt, but still, he's gonna be in a tie for 3rd. That's a huge finish for him.

[00:47:49.260]>>Michael Block might be well on his way, Swanny. Yeah, 65 yesterday to establish the 36 hole tournament scoring mark. 74 on the final day, not the blockbuster finish that he had hoped for, but very productive. He's into the Sanford International in two weeks. Yeah, that putt was worth about \$44,000 or so.

[00:48:18.959]>>Harrington trying to scratch one out for par here at the last.

[00:48:25.580]>>He's very colorful scorecard. He's got a lot of, a lot of geometry on this one.

[00:48:33.760]>>He's missed a bunch of putts to the right.

[00:48:40.429]>>Another one, 6 bogeys on the final day against 5 birdies for the Irishman, he'll sign for a disappointing 73.

[00:48:54.280]>>If Aler can hold this, he will match Stewart Cink for the largest margin of victory in ally.

[00:49:01.550]>>Challenge history, this being the 9th edition of the event.

[00:49:06.370]>>He can win it by 4 if this goes down.

[00:49:16.399]>>Just off the right edge with some speed.

[00:49:21.860]>>No damage done, a comfortable 3-shot win. It's Alker at The Ally. 2 victories in as many weeks, 3 on the season, 13 in his Champions Tour career.

[00:49:36.260]>>Don't go anywhere. We will be presenting our trophy and we invite everyone. That's a lot of wins in a short amount of time. He's just showing his championship DNA today. I think it's just in Alker. He's a closer too.

[00:49:51.560]>>So patient throughout the 54 holes of competition.

[00:49:58.530]>>Plenty of highlights provided by Steven Alker during the final round, including, uh, his 1st birdie of the day at the 3rd.

[00:50:07.020]>>Bang, got him to 12 under. He was too back of block to start the day, came to the 7th, par 5, took care of that one as well.

[00:50:17.330]>>He made a bunch of these mid-range putts today. That's what it takes. The putter is always a difference maker, especially on Sunday. A putter can save a balky swing.

[00:50:28.040]>>Gave one back at the 8th, but then a beautiful shot here to start the back nine. Yeah, John Cook said it was a terrible lie. He dug it out of there with all his strength. That's as hard as you could ever see Alker swing. He was able to make that.

[00:50:44.330]>>And this was the run of 4 straight birdies starting at the 12. Yeah, this is another one of those mid-ranger that changes everything. Michael Block right in his steps. Alker at 13 under was starting to.

[00:50:59.310]>>Maybe distance himself a little bit, and this was the turning point of the entire day, Zane for sure. Cinderella heard the midnight switch go off and drove it wait or hit a 2nd shot to the left and then, uh, the veteran Alker played a dangerous shot. You heard him say the yardage was perfect.

[00:51:15.939]>>And why not? He's swinging so well, he thought his miss would be in the bunker, but he put it on the green. Two putt birdie.

[00:51:22.879]>>Hit a great drive on 14, a sweet little wedge and perfect touch here. Got it to 15 under. Block had bogeyed the previous hole, so there was some separation, and then at 15, just trying to get it down to 2, and as you just said to Cookie during that interview, that putt at 15. How about them apples?

[00:51:41.399]>>Kind of funny that he said that there are apple trees on the left-hand side of some of these fairways, maybe that one. And then, uh, 3 putt bogey at the 8th. The only thing it cost him was a share of the largest margin of victory in tournament history, but a comfortable 3 shot.

[00:51:57.074]>>Win for Steven Alker, a hug from Michael Block, who was a worthy combatant today. It was a worthy performance here this week. He's proven that, uh, he can be an impactful player out here. This will be the 3rd time with a top 10 that he's played his way into the next event. But there's your champion, a winner for the 13th time on the Champions Tour. Steven Alker is the man.