

Production Transcript for **26INTCUTCH - JEFFERSON LEHIGH VC - MASTER**

[00:00:41.510]>>We welcome you to Lehigh Country Club in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Brand new event on the PGA Tour Champions this week. It's day one of the Jefferson Lehigh Valley Classic.

[00:00:55.430]>>Right out to the tee at the tee at the 7th. It is a serious drop off down below for Retief Goosen.

[00:01:03.110]>>Up to a bad start.

[00:01:05.980]>>Couple bogeys early in the round loves this golf course. He said before the tournament that he's a big fan of old school type designs like this here at Lehigh. Up 1 to the 8th, Steven Alker, 3 time winner of the season.

[00:01:24.550]>>Yeah, didn't play in the pro-am yesterday. Had a bad back.

[00:01:28.460]>>So he's, uh, well, it doesn't look like he's got any problems right now.

[00:01:34.050]>>Back to the 7th. Charles Schwab Cup points leader Stewart Cink in this group with Goosen and Justin Leonard, and they will have the company of John Cook today.

[00:01:43.230]>>Good afternoon, gentlemen. Beautiful afternoon here in the Lehigh Valley.

[00:01:48.590]>>211 yards, cool looking hole here downhill, almost 30 yards.

[00:01:55.140]>>Stewart coming off a short miss back at the par 5 6th.

[00:02:04.350]>>I would imagine this ball will stay in the air forever as high as he hits it as much downhill and what a nice golf shot right at hole high. Up to the 8th, Jerry Kelly and Boo Weekley, the other two guys in the group with Steven Alker here.

[00:02:22.360]>>Jerry Kelly has been

[00:02:24.500]>>Really playing well of late, won the senior British.

[00:02:29.080]>>But earlier in the year he was struggling with some

[00:02:32.160]>>Issues with his body.

[00:02:36.160]>>Peter, he was the last player to win on this tour not named Cink, Johnson, or Alker, and that was in late July. You said that to me yesterday, and I had to look it up because I couldn't believe that. But you're right, it's been Alker, Johnson, and Cink since July.

[00:02:57.350]>>And that man in the red you see, Boo Weekley, he won.

[00:03:01.070]>>His first earlier this year at the Insperity.

[00:03:05.500]>>David Toms is at the 6th, looking to dip into red numbers here. David Toms also a winner earlier this year in Naples.

[00:03:13.860]>>Naples, Florida at the Chubb Classic. Back to the 8th. Here's Boo for Birdie.

[00:03:20.220]>>One of the most entertaining people I've ever been around. So much fun.

[00:03:27.510]>>I mentioned that he got his first win on the Champions Tour.

[00:03:31.680]>>In Houston this year at the Insperity, I thought he was going to come out on tour and

[00:03:37.480]>>Win very quickly. He's such a dependable ball striker. Got his first taste of announcing at the Ally Challenge where he joined John Cook in the crowd there at 17. He was a natural, much like the way the man plays the game. Boo Weekley at 1 under par, 3 shots off the early lead here on day one of this brand new event, the Jefferson Lehigh Valley Classic. Beautiful old William Flynn design that's been around for a century here in Eastern PA.

[00:04:12.390]>>A gorgeous day in eastern PA. We welcome you to

[00:04:16.780]>>This brand new event on the Champions Tour. All the players, everyone involved really pumped up to bring you coverage of the Jefferson Lehigh Valley Classic.

[00:04:28.430]>>John Swantek, Peter Jacobson alongside some highlights from earlier today. Stewart Cink, Schwab Cup points leader at the 4th.

[00:04:35.860]>>Really cool golf course here. William Flynn design old style.

[00:04:41.490]>>A lot of elevation change, but

[00:04:44.780]>>Stewart Cink seems to handle just about every golf course that he plays. May birdie got to one under par.

[00:04:52.840]>>It's Darren Clarke.

[00:04:54.940]>>Look at this action here at the 6th for birdie. Yeah, almost looks like he's a little more upright with that putter than we normally see. Normally he's got it a little bit closer to his chest. Got Clarke to -2. Justin Leonard would get to that 2 under mark as well here at the 6th. Kind of what we're used to seeing.

[00:05:13.400]>>From Justin Leonard making long putts. Justin is a brand ambassador for Jefferson, our title sponsor this week, so he's been heavily involved in the promotion of this event. Y.E. Yang here at the 9th.

[00:05:29.220]>>Mention so much elevation change here at Lehigh Country Club.

[00:05:35.940]>>A lot of tilt on these grains as you see that right there, not a lot of undulation, not a lot of ripples on the on the grains, but a lot of tilt.

[00:05:45.920]>>From back to front. Yang picked up a birdie there to get some -3. He's within 1 of the lead here on day one of a brand new event here on the Champions Tour.

[00:05:56.420]>>And we'll go to the 7th. Stewart Cink for birdie. We say good day and happy birthday to our man John Cook. Oh, you are too kind. I forgot what number it is. I'm so old now. We left that out intentionally.

[00:06:10.760]>>A beautiful tee shot in there for Stewart and takes advantage of it. John, it's just called experience. You're, you're the experienced John Cook up to the 8th and Alker with a look at Birdie here.

[00:06:24.770]>>There we go.

[00:06:33.820]>>Dicky Pride, he's got a long one on the way here at the 10.

[00:06:37.940]>>About Dicky

[00:06:41.750]>>Look at that scorecard. 4 circles through the opening 10, and there's your new co-leader along with Tim O'Neal.

[00:06:48.580]>>Jerry Kelly, here he is to get the 3 under.

[00:06:59.840]>>Beautiful start through the opening nine.

[00:07:03.210]>>Tim O'Neal is the co-leader. He's up at 11. Must be something about the name Tim O'Neal because Tim O'Neall's also the general manager here at Lehigh Country Club.

[00:07:15.770]>>Not the same guy, obviously different spelling. That would be a busy week if that were the case. That'd be a tough week.

[00:07:23.340]>>Alker looking for birdie here at the knife.

[00:07:29.500]>>Mm, got a little something going at the tail end of the opening nine, got 3 of the last 4 there.

[00:07:35.980]>>Here's uh Thongchai Jaidee.

[00:07:41.490]>>And we saw Tim O'Neal just miss his birdie, but nope, JD.

[00:07:47.300]>>3

[00:07:51.130]>>Not seeing Ernie Els in the winner's circle this season. That's a

[00:07:55.230]>>That's a bit of an outlier, I would say. He's had a solid, consistent campaign, 8th in the money race, Peter, but no trophies in Ernie's hands. Yeah, which is surprising, as you said. I think his putting has improved so much the last couple of years.

[00:08:10.450]>>And he's still a wonderful ball striker, maybe just talking about it.

[00:08:15.920]>>It's going to get him going. Maybe this kind of course, this test will be the right fit for the Big Easy here this week.

[00:08:31.770]>>Well, that's a bonus. Drive it in the rough, that thick stuff.

[00:08:37.550]>>Come out with a birdie.

[00:08:39.890]>>Yang for birdie, #5 of the round to join O'Neal and pride at the top.

[00:08:48.910]>>And slips that one in. The champion in Saint Louis a couple of years back.

[00:08:56.300]>>Tim O'Neal at the 12th trying to be the first player to touch 5 under today.

[00:09:09.120]>>Dodging the leaves dropping to the bottom. Well, these greens are beautiful.

[00:09:14.850]>>Just running so nicely.

[00:09:22.730]>>But he has been spectacular with that putter all year, John.

[00:09:30.120]>>That he has, you know, the weeks that he hasn't putted well, well, he still finishes in the top 10.

[00:09:37.550]>>Jaidee looking for Birdie to get it to 4 under.

[00:09:42.820]>>Yeah

[00:09:44.840]>>Solid stroke.

[00:09:52.290]>>2017 Charles Schwab Cup champion Kevin Sutherland is for birdie at 12. You see him sitting just outside.

[00:10:00.230]>>Number 77 on the Schwab Cup list right now.

[00:10:05.280]>>We're heading to the 12th and Y.E. Yang trying to get it to 500, grab a piece of the lead here. Kind of interesting to see the leaves blowing around when you're trying to focus in on an 8 or 10 ft putt, trying to do what that right there. It's hard when you got leaves blowing across your line.

[00:10:29.130]>>Here's Boo trying to get it to 2 under back at 11.

[00:10:46.680]>>There's another one for Alker, birdie tucked away there at the 11th. Nice work through the middle of the round there for Steven.

[00:10:56.870]>>Let's go to 12. Ben Crane pops that one in.

[00:11:02.130]>>Nice little run going for Ben. It's a hard hole. It's a hard. It's a hard, it's, and he's in an impossible position right now. Take a look at that green.

[00:11:12.820]>>It's got a lot of up-and-down. Oh, look how easy that is. See, we talked about how easy this one was. Easy game this is.

[00:11:24.260]>>That was just the perfect lead, you know, short right of the green. I mean, we have seen it all now we know at the 11th.

[00:11:32.620]>>Back 1 to 15, Yang to join O'Neal at the top.

[00:11:41.620]>>Yeah. Boy, he was so steady on that.

[00:11:49.480]>>Alright, here's Jaidee behind the hole at 18 to cap the day with a birdie.

[00:11:56.570]>>What a fine day it was for Thongchai, the man from Thailand in with 65.

[00:12:06.250]>>The 11th, the only par 5 on the back nine here at Lehigh Country Club. Michael Block grabs a birdie. You know, he has a real casual way about the way he plays, and I like that.

[00:12:18.690]>>Alker from close range again at 17 gets that one gets it this time.

[00:12:28.210]>>400 par round going with the 18th to come.

[00:12:37.280]>>Jerry Kelly tucks away another birdie at 17. That's 2 in a row after bogeys at 14 and 15. Yeah, he's making some putts today.

[00:12:47.550]>>Uh, we're at the 13th here, par 3, and Robert Karlsson, first look at the big Swede today outside 50 ft. Oh.

[00:12:57.730]>>Hello.

[00:12:59.430]>>Yeah, rashes one in. I'll take it. Carlson with a blazing 31 of the opening nine. All the Robert Karlsson fans rejoicing. He's at 6 under. Good for his share of the lead.

[00:13:15.630]>>Y.E. Yang in the clubhouse with a round of 64 today.

[00:13:22.170]>>Really fun day here at uh the Jefferson Lehigh Valley Classic year one of this event here in Allentown, PA.

[00:13:38.750]>>We've reached the weekend in Eastern Pennsylvania. We welcome you back to Lehigh Country Club and second round coverage of a brand new event on the champion tour. It's day two of the Jefferson Lehigh Valley Classic, a late season event along the road to the Charles Schwab Cup, but a brand new era here.

[00:14:00.730]>>In the gorgeous Lehigh Valley, first edition of this event.

[00:14:06.280]>>On this stunning William Hill.

[00:14:10.280]>>William Flynn design here, which is, uh, the backdrop for this brand new tournament on the schedule. Players certainly would have made some adjustments from day one, but scoring was pretty strong yesterday. 6 under par was, uh, the overnight figure. You got a couple of players who have gotten it to 7, including Robert Karlsson, who's trying to win for the first time on the Champions Tour, and Richard Green, the champion in Calgary in 2025.

[00:14:39.640]>>Steven Alker, who won that event in Canada just about a month ago, is lurking as always, and the rest of the scores on page two.

[00:14:53.900]>>Karlsson filled up the scorecard with the birdies yesterday, 7 of them on the day. Grabbed 1 at the opening hole today and looking for another here.

[00:15:06.730]>>I know these players, Swanny loved this golf course. This is.

[00:15:11.710]>>It's a bit of a change for

[00:15:14.710]>>These players on the Champions Tour, John, were not used to playing these old style golf courses, and boy this is a gem.

[00:15:30.510]>>Good afternoon boys. We got a little different wind today, a little cooler.

[00:15:35.260]>>A beautiful shot Robert hit in here, use the bank, use the slope 208 yards a day into the wind. Good golf hole now a great opportunity down the slope, a little right to left.

[00:15:54.000]>>He has 7 birdies.

[00:15:56.160]>>One bogey

[00:15:58.190]>>For Robert yesterday.

[00:16:02.110]>> Y.E. Yang has won around the globe, certainly. He, he has a couple of victories on the DP World Tour. 5 in his native Asia, and then of course in Saint Louis on this tour 2 years ago.

[00:16:18.230]>>Great look for birdie here. We'll move to his left and pretty slow. Gotta keep the pace up.

[00:16:24.620]>>The second week in a row, John, that he opened with a 64. His last tournament played was the PURE Insurance Championship at Pebble, shot 64, and then yesterday backed that up with another 64. So he's been a little bit inconsistent. I was checking his scores. He seems to maybe go a little too much up-and-down from first to the third round, but

[00:16:47.150]>>Maybe this is his weak.

[00:16:49.270]>>We'll see

[00:16:53.220]>>Great opportunity right here at the 7th after a beautiful tee shot. Now this will move to his left, so a slice putt here for Richard. I'm gonna say just outside that right edge.

[00:17:16.980]>>Good look at it. Good read by Cookie and a good stroke from Richard Green. Everything came together there. That looked so easy, didn't it?

[00:17:27.150]>>It's an easy game. That's one thing I've always, yeah, yeah, confidence, another elusive thing.

[00:17:36.870]>>Michael Block working from off the 10th green.

[00:17:40.460]>>Yeah, big slope played it.

[00:17:43.870]>>Wonderfully. Oh, I guess he played it well.

[00:17:49.530]>>Just giving the people what they want. There he is. Now that's Michael Block, makes a great shot, stares at the camera.

[00:17:57.630]>>Points at somebody.

[00:18:00.250]>>No, you know, you'll watch, he'll go over there, give the ball away. Carlson with a look at Birdie here at the 8th.

[00:18:16.600]>>Got a little helicopter going over top, but

[00:18:20.210]>>Didn't back him off, so just past hole high here Peter means he's got to go right to left and have a little bit of speed, so he has to be careful.

[00:18:30.790]>>That was a beautiful stroke, beautiful stroke.

[00:18:35.010]>>Let that toe

[00:18:36.900]>>Turn over just a bit. Put a nice roll on that.

[00:18:43.420]>>JD looking to push it to 6 under.

[00:18:52.990]>>About it

[00:18:54.500]>>Yeah, JD 3rd birdie of the day.

[00:19:00.470]>>16

[00:19:05.170]>>Good up-and-down for Ryan.

[00:19:07.990]>>Yeah, he's got 11 birdies on the week on this brand new golf course through uh almost 2 rounds. That's pretty, it's pretty solid.

[00:19:16.970]>>Michael Block birdied the 1st 2 holes of the round and takes care of the 1st 2 on the back nine as well.

[00:19:23.750]>>And at 8 under up to the green, another quality chance for Alker.

[00:19:33.960]>>That almost slipped out. Wow.

[00:19:37.210]>>I tried to get out of there, but couldn't help itself. It's got Alker within one of this man.

[00:19:47.920]>>Just so hard to keep the golf ball in the fairway, you have to hug that left-hand side to barely keep it in or hit some sort of shape shot into that left-hand side, but this starts to the right and that will find the right rough.

[00:20:05.520]>>It's been a very snappy start to the back nine for Michael Block, birdied the last couple of holes. This for the outright lead.

[00:20:14.770]>>I just have this weird feeling Michael Block is ready to win.

[00:20:22.290]>>All right, Ryan Armour here, Peter, to cap the day with the birdie.

[00:20:26.570]>>Yeah, for a long time yesterday there were no birdies on this hole until late in the day. How about Ryan Armour? That's his 12th birdie of the week. Birdie machine today, 7 of them on the card, and Armour will sign for 64, and he's in the fight once again. Back to 11 with Carlson.

[00:20:49.390]>>Well, this has got a little movement to it from right to left, going uphill, but he had a nice little pitch shot kept in the right spot.

[00:20:58.840]>>And we've been talking about his punting stroke, when it's on, it's a, it's a thing of beauty.

[00:21:03.940]>>Your right edge here, Peter. He releases the toes so nicely.

[00:21:13.930]>>Birdie pickup, 3rd of the day. Carlson back into the red for the afternoon and 7 deep for the week.

[00:21:27.850]>>Pretty nifty shot earlier for Richard Green. Looks like he's gonna get to 9 under here and join Block at the top.

[00:21:35.010]>>Yeah, that pitch shot was not that easy. He just eliminated a lot of variables and flew it about halfway.

[00:21:41.700]>>And it checked up

[00:21:44.190]>>Well deserved birdie.

[00:21:46.780]>>He's only missed 5 greens on the week. He's managed to get up-and-down each time.

[00:21:54.640]>>Up to the green here and a birdie putt for Alker.

[00:22:01.400]>>Yeah, there you go. He's been hitting great putts all day long. He's just been running the edges.

[00:22:11.160]>>Up to 14 and Block looking for his 4th birdie in the back nine. He didn't waste a moment. Never does.

[00:22:20.340]>>6 under par day going.

[00:22:23.680]>>These last 6 holes here at Lehigh Country Club are tough. Those are some of the toughest holes on the golf course, so it doesn't get any easier coming to the house. Oh, you just pick up birdies like David Duval did at 16. Double D on a little heater, 3 in a row to get to 4 under. Back to 13. Tim O'Neal in search of the first birdie of the round. There it is. Finally, he says, take a look at that 6.

[00:22:52.630]>>At 11

[00:22:54.650]>>Two birds in a row.

[00:22:57.270]>>Great opportunity here for Richard Green to add another birdie to his scorecard.

[00:23:02.540]>>Really nice

[00:23:05.630]>>Maybe a little 9 iron shot from

[00:23:09.390]>>The fairway just past the hole straight downhill, not much to this.

[00:23:24.010]>>Great.

[00:23:28.200]>>6 birdies in the opening round for Richard Green. He's tacked on 4 more today and he has joined Michael Block atop the leaderboard.

[00:23:40.060]>>A great, great view here, John, from

[00:23:43.780]>>Behind the hole as he makes this stroke, watch this putter head.

[00:23:48.600]>>It just closes down a little bit. He releases the toe. He's got a wonderful stroke.

[00:24:02.380]>>Here it is, nice bounce back to there for Robert Karlsson.

[00:24:07.150]>>He has really been stroking the ball nicely today. A little bit of an up-and-down scorecard, but uh a level par Saturday going for Carlson.

[00:24:18.420]>>Like one of the co-leaders looking to touch 11 under here at 16.

[00:24:27.120]>>You do it? You did it.

[00:24:29.700]>>Yeah

[00:24:30.770]>>Did it again.

[00:24:33.320]>>Just had that feeling with Michael Block before he teed off today.

[00:24:41.090]>>To 16, and we've said it so often today, another quality birdie look for Alker.

[00:24:50.130]>>Yeah, slips that one in there, curls that one in. It's a 2nd curl in. Look at that back 9.

[00:24:57.950]>>Let's go to 16. Beautiful shot in there from Tim O'Neal to par 3. Here we go.

[00:25:08.430]>>One closer

[00:25:16.050]>>Wow.

[00:25:18.250]>>He in there just enough. That ball took a long time to get to that cup. Finally figured out it was gonna go in.

[00:25:25.650]>>That was a beautiful putt right there.

[00:25:31.080]>>Much needed birdie opportunity here for Robert Karlsson.

[00:25:36.350]>>Bogey back there at 15 should go to his right slightly.

[00:25:41.090]>>Nice bounce back for Robert. Who is it in there? Easy hole.

[00:25:46.310]>>Active scorecard. A lot of geometry going on there.

[00:25:52.590]>>Cookie enjoyed it as always my friend. Enjoy the uh Ohio State Iowa game. All right, how do you know where I'm going? I think Ohio State scored in the car 7-0, right? Yeah, strip sack. I understand strip sack went in for the tea.

[00:26:11.090]>>They got to answer that field goal though.

[00:26:14.420]>>Part to last for Karlsson.

[00:26:17.410]>>69 for the big Swede 7 under. He'll start the final day 4 shots back in pursuit of his first victory on the Champions Tour. Michael Block trying to win for the first time. Steven Alker has won more than a dozen times out here, including.

[00:26:36.610]>>3 this season

[00:26:38.820]>>Shaping up to be a terrific final round tomorrow of this brand new event in Allentown, PA, the Jefferson Lehigh Valley Classic.

[00:26:56.940]>>And we welcome you to Lehigh Country Club in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Final day of a new event on the Champions Tour. Been such a fun week here at the Jefferson Lehigh Valley Classic.

[00:27:10.400]>>Final round leaderboard taking shape. Steven Alker has been on a heater. He's won two of his last 4 starts out here looking for victory number 4 of the season in the final group of the day with 50-year-old Michael Block making just his 7th start on the Champions Tour and Richard Green trying to win for the 2nd time. Some good scoring from, uh, a few of the Chasers.

[00:27:36.250]>>As we pick up the final group, they've reached the 8th year. Alker has driven it into the rough and John Cook, walking with this group for us today.

[00:27:45.930]>>Oh, good afternoon guys. Championship Sunday here. Good crowd out here even with the overcast conditions. That's Steven Alker from Not a Very Good Lie and that left rough. You've missed the rough, you missed the fairways here at Lehigh Country Club and you're gonna pay the price.

[00:28:04.330]>>And that is how he plays. He makes a decision and he goes. I like that.

[00:28:11.070]>>147 does play uphill 6.

[00:28:15.440]>>He's taken on this pin in that left corner.

[00:28:18.380]>>Got a control spin, I don't think it quite got up there. Yeah, just hit into that fringe and stopped quickly. Alker had a sensational up and in to preserve par back at the 7th, and he'll need to lean on the short game again here, Cookie.

[00:28:34.510]>>Well, this one is a 10 out of 10.

[00:28:37.350]>>That last one was pretty, I'm going to say a 9.8 out of 10 on number 7, but this one.

[00:28:45.440]>>It's even more shortsighted than he was on 7, and this will be out of the fairway, so he's able to place it.

[00:28:51.680]>>We'll be on an uphill lie, so that will help.

[00:28:55.360]>>It has to be a perfect catch, and I don't think he got it.

[00:28:58.740]>>No.

[00:29:01.410]>>Oh, he's going to have 30 ft now for par.

[00:29:04.520]>>It's an interesting putt here, he's gonna have to putt through some fringe, and that's gonna, that little shoulder is gonna kick the ball to the right.

[00:29:13.170]>>Really slow putt too, he's gonna give it a pretty good wrap. There it is through the fringe.

[00:29:19.790]>>Gonna keep it below the hole, but that's just.

[00:29:22.290]>>Got through the fringe and just lost all its energy.

[00:29:27.270]>>Back to 8. Alker from long range to save his par.

[00:29:32.690]>>Yes, this would be moving to his left a little bit up the slope.

[00:29:38.210]>>And he's going to pay the price for missing the fairway, and he doesn't miss many fairways.

[00:29:57.920]>>Mike's gotta keep the pace up on this one.

[00:30:02.420]>>Oh, that was a big one. Birdie had bogeyed the 5th, hasn't made a birdie yet today.

[00:30:09.430]>>Personality.

[00:30:11.950]>>This is the Yang Birdie putt at 9.

[00:30:17.110]>>I had a feeling about Y.E. this morning.

[00:30:26.050]>>Cracking shot into the 10th earlier from Karlsson and the birdie pick up there. The Swede tucks one away and he's got it to 9 under and within just 2. And we're out at the 9th. John Cook and Steven Alker for birdie to get it to 12 under par.

[00:30:43.190]>>Well, good afternoon guys. Championship Sunday here.

[00:30:47.730]>>Good group of people out here supporting this event.

[00:30:50.640]>>Steven Alker, birdie opportunity going up the hill. 3 birdies, 2 bogeys on his card, coming off a bogey at the 8th where he drove it in the left rough. Got to keep the speed up.

[00:31:03.500]>>Yeah, solidly played hole here at the 9th, very difficult hole.

[00:31:09.590]>>Just what he needed after making bogey back there at the 8th.

[00:31:16.890]>>3 wins on the season for Alker, 13 in his Champions Tour career, and he's a tough front runner, Peter, on Sundays. This week's been a little bit.

[00:31:27.300]>>A little bit off, but that's to be expected. This is a brand new golf course for all these players.

[00:31:34.460]>>There's no prior knowledge or course knowledge that they have, so they're all learning as they go. Now Block with a big par save ahead of him.

[00:31:44.740]>>Yeah, drove it in the right rough, short of the green in the left rough, hit a pretty good pitch that kept wandering, and that's a big putt for Michael Bock right there. That's 2 in a row, up-and-down at 8, and uh.

[00:31:57.260]>>Classic up-and-down right there at 9. Several players right now mounting a little Sunday charge trying to emerge from the pack, including Mark Hensby just picked up another birdie there at 11. That's 4 of them on the day.

[00:32:16.130]>>148 here for Steven Alker, left side of the fairway looking straight down on the flagstick slightly into the wind. Looks like he likes it just to the right of the pin, good shot. You know, I mentioned that uh 77% of the Champions this season have come from the final grouping. Peter, only 5 men have won.

[00:32:39.140]>>From outside of the final group it was either this guy Stewart Cink or Zach Johnson or Steven Alker. That's it. Keep your eye on this guy today.

[00:32:50.330]>>OK, Michael getting in there quick. Good 5 ft here. Should move slightly to his left.

[00:32:59.490]>>Man, what a compliment another one of those.

[00:33:02.900]>>Man, I don't know if it's sustainable, Peter, but what he's done the last 3 holes, it has kept him in the fight. Billy's top 5 in scrambling stats for this week.

[00:33:14.620]>>Just a one footer for Stewart Cink to tap in for another birdie at 13. It's got him within a shot of the lead, and that is just the 2nd birdie today at 13.

[00:33:28.140]>>Par 5, 11 Tag Ridings for eagle and the lead at 12 under par. First look at Tag all week long.

[00:33:40.890]>>All right, this, this 11th is playing as the easiest hole as you would expect. It's like a par 4.5 average.

[00:33:53.680]>>Well, Ridings started the day at

[00:33:56.340]>>7 under par, 4 shots off the lead, and he has erased that deficit.

[00:34:06.090]>>And now shares the top spot as he heads to 12.

[00:34:14.110]>>The Wind's picked up a little bit right here.

[00:34:17.400]>>Going at a pretty good clip now, probably close to 10 miles an hour.

[00:34:21.780]>>Needs a good strike. Looks like a pretty good strike towards the center of the green if it's enough. Oh, it is.

[00:34:28.420]>>Yeah,

[00:34:30.760]>>Michael Block laid it up at 11, 3rd shot coming.

[00:34:35.180]>>And after laying it up, I thought he had a decent line back there, but he laid it up to 93 yards and well.

[00:34:42.250]>>Smart, very wise. Now he's got a 3 footer for Birdie.

[00:34:46.290]>>3rd for Richard Green at the par 5.

[00:34:49.750]>>Yeah, missing that green to the right out of the rough, just running it up that slope, and this is pretty well done. Oh, Peter, that was a little sand belt special for the Aussie. Oh, Tag Ridings got some issues over here at 12.

[00:35:06.920]>>Would that be a loose impediment in front of him? Maybe we could call Tiger's friends. He could have moved it. It wasn't Phoenix for the big cat, was it? It was amazing. Well, he needed a few breaks to win, you know. Yeah, I remember Fluff was on his bag. Mike was on his bag, and

[00:35:22.360]>>When they started moving that rock, he thought, Whoa, it's a big rock to move. Zach Johnson, idol this week, having won his last two starts, he's a 6-time winner. Stewart Cink chasing victory number 6 has a still pretty comfortable lead over Zach with Alker a distant 3rd in the current standings.

[00:35:47.580]>>It's Alker now for an eagle.

[00:35:50.440]>>That he did, and now this is a good look for Eagle going straight up the center of the green, doesn't have to worry about speed and not a lot of brake to this.

[00:36:03.400]>>Good look, good try.

[00:36:06.760]>>That's the other thing we've learned about Alker in his short career out here is he doesn't hit a lot of bad putts. Putts he hits, whether they're from 3 ft or 30 ft, if they don't go in, they look like they should go in.

[00:36:21.250]>>Michael Block still trying to secure the first birdie of his Sunday. Yeah, very patient move back there. I thought he had a decent enough lie that he would take a go at the screen, but just chipped down the fairway. Beautiful shot in from 93 yards, controlled his spin.

[00:36:40.070]>>I try to make 4 the old fashioned way.

[00:36:43.740]>>It's a really good observation by Cookie Peter, and I want you to pick up on that because this is a, this is an up tempo guy, right? He gets energy from the crowd. It would have been easy to kind of take on this par 5. That was very calculated. Yeah, one thing that he doesn't identify with is his scoring, as you can tell, that's his first birdie of the day and

[00:37:02.840]>>He's tied for the lead, so he doesn't identify with a bad shot or a good shot. He has fun the entire time, which I think is important for Michael Block. Just stay up. Just stay as he said in his little sound bite. Just keep being you.

[00:37:22.590]>>Well, his, uh, share of the lead may be short-lived because Alker can get it to 12 and does.

[00:37:31.600]>>Back up top with the 1st birdie of the back nine.

[00:37:36.310]>>Back out to 12, Michael Block.

[00:37:40.000]>>Preferred lies in effect, uh, today's gonna be able to get a, a blade on this one down there, Cookie.

[00:37:46.780]>>I believe so.

[00:37:49.390]>>He's definitely gonna putt from about 10 ft off the green. Has to go up a pretty steep slope.

[00:37:58.040]>>Moving from

[00:38:03.910]>>A little bit from right to left to right.

[00:38:06.980]>>And now back right to left.

[00:38:10.980]>>And we've seen him make a few of those too, so.

[00:38:15.460]>>As Alker looks to pop this one in to get it to 13.

[00:38:19.920]>>And this is about the time of day on Sundays that Stephen Alker can take some control. He's done it in the past.

[00:38:28.870]>>He had an opportunity there. Boy, he's hit a lot of putts just like that with that result.

[00:38:38.790]>>He said of Michael Block, he's a little different. He likes to talk a lot and we're so we're different personalities, but I like watching him play, Alker said, and how he goes about his game and

[00:38:51.020]>>Yeah, I'm just gonna kind of do my thing on Sunday and see where we end up. Well, that's what you learn when you wanna play at this level. You have to play as yourself. You can't try to be, you can't try to be, you can't try to be like Tiger or Jack or or Scottie Scheffler. You just gotta be you. It's another really sporty up and in for Block to keep him at 11 under. Ridings can get it to 12 here.

[00:39:16.360]>>Yeah, oh man, that looked good.

[00:39:24.010]>>Comebacker 13 for ridings. Keep it at 11.

[00:39:30.780]>>Yeah, big Putt.

[00:39:35.450]>>Solid work, challenging par 3, 13 Block.

[00:39:43.140]>>178 yards downwind of that pin cut in that right corner. Michael Block takes just left of the flag, good shot. A really good shot, bold play.

[00:40:02.840]>>Can't take your eyes off him. He's going to go talk to somebody. He was looking for somebody to point to or high five over there.

[00:40:08.720]>>Son Ethan was kind of standing them up.

[00:40:17.720]>>Steven Elkert just doing his thing.

[00:40:24.030]>>Yeah, that familiar routine, Peter, that never gets out of that routine. Same pacing, so key on Sunday that everything is the same.

[00:40:38.460]>>Oh, this is a pretty aggressive line.

[00:40:42.550]>>Little right of the flag, and I'm not sure if it got to the green or not.

[00:40:46.760]>>All right, back up at 14. Karlsson, can he move to 11 under?

[00:40:53.070]>>Yeah, there you go.

[00:40:57.260]>>He has been putting really well all week long. Stewart Cink is at the 16th trying to grab a share of the lead. You can see the hole right there between his arms and his leg.

[00:41:10.990]>>Here he comes.

[00:41:15.910]>>As Alker gets back to work.

[00:41:18.770]>>Yeah, this is not a very good lie. It doesn't have to go very far though. It just has to move it a couple of feet.

[00:41:24.970]>>Something like that

[00:41:27.660]>>It just was very tangly. It wasn't very far, didn't have far to go, but.

[00:41:33.490]>>Tough to get good contact with that.

[00:41:36.640]>>Back to 13 where Block can push it to 12 under and grab a share.

[00:41:41.470]>>Very makeable putt here moving right to left.

[00:41:46.440]>>Oh, looked good the entire trip.

[00:41:50.040]>>Speed too could have cut that lower lip and gone in.

[00:41:57.490]>>Still impressive.

[00:42:02.170]>>Wow.

[00:42:04.030]>>It's pretty good on these par threes. Wow.

[00:42:10.550]>>It

[00:42:11.970]>>We got a ridings birdie putt here at the 14th.

[00:42:19.490]>>Oh

[00:42:21.020]>>would have been to forge a three-way tie for the lead. Riding's in position for his best ever finish out here on the Champions Tour.

[00:42:33.130]>>Michael Block said he doesn't look at leaderboards.

[00:42:37.150]>>That's interesting. I think everyone looks at leaderboards, whether they say they do or not. Peter, he said he took a peek after he finished his round yesterday. He had just shot 63, the low round of the week, and he said, Oh man, I'm at 7 under for the day. That's pretty cool. That's the first time I saw it. I think you have to look at the leaderboard when you get to at least the last 6 holes so you know where you are, because that's going to determine your

[00:43:01.000]>>Your strategy, are you gonna play aggressive to try to make up some shots, or are you gonna be a little bit more conservative and focus on fairways and greens?

[00:43:11.130]>>I think everybody looks.

[00:43:13.230]>>And leaderboards. I think that some may say they don't, but I think they may not look at the leaderboard, but they'll ask their caddie, how we doing?

[00:43:23.310]>>Cookie would concur, I bet. Well, Peter, oh my, absolutely. I mean, how do you know what you need to do to win a golf tournament if you don't know? You have to know, and I agree with you kind of late in the round, you know, back nine, I wanted, always wanted to know. I always try to set a score, always wanted to know.

[00:43:41.730]>>Good opportunity here for Steven Alker and

[00:43:44.890]>>He's let a couple slip away.

[00:43:48.640]>>But yeah, how, how, how do you know? I can see it on Saturday or Friday or whenever, but come Sunday.

[00:43:56.140]>>I need to know what to do to win, and you don't have to do, that doesn't mean you have to do anything at all or change anything, but you need to know what to do.

[00:44:05.900]>>Let's go to 17 and a par putt for Cink that he has to have.

[00:44:10.930]>>How good is that?

[00:44:15.330]>>This guy, he just can't, can't count him out.

[00:44:20.380]>>16th has been stingy here this week.

[00:44:24.410]>>All right, Richard Green with an important, uh, pick up for par on the previous hole. Maybe he can get it back to 9 under here.

[00:44:33.190]>>Yeah, it'd be a bounce back birdie here for Richard.

[00:44:36.670]>>Really needs it

[00:44:44.150]>>Just saw two pretty good previews.

[00:44:46.990]>>It doesn't do a whole lot.

[00:44:52.640]>>There we go. A little bit of good fortune and a nice fight back from Richard Green. Got it back to level par for the day.

[00:45:07.970]>>Mm, can't take these for granted right now.

[00:45:13.230]>>He has handled them throughout the day, and that one keeps Michael Block one off the lead.

[00:45:20.220]>>Now ridings drove it just a step into the higher cut over there.

[00:45:24.610]>>Not many birdies here.

[00:45:27.360]>>Today

[00:45:29.520]>>Oh, he's gonna have a great look at one right there. That would get tag rating ratings tied for the lead.

[00:45:36.910]>>So here's what's happening next week on tour. The PGA Tour will be outside of Tokyo for the Baycurrent Classic. We'll be on Florida's first coast for Furyk Friend's events here on the Champions Tour. Korn Ferry Tour contesting its season ending Tour Championship, and the Spanish Open is next week's stop on the DP World Tour.

[00:46:05.110]>>This has really gotten fun. The last few holes just matched birdie for Birdie.

[00:46:11.600]>>No, we pulled it in, just got into this left bunker on a downhill lie. No, it looks like.

[00:46:17.730]>>It's on the downslope as well in that sand.

[00:46:24.430]>>Just two birdies here all day today.

[00:46:30.560]>>40 playing into the wind.

[00:47:02.030]>>Mm, started down the middle hitting a little cut.

[00:47:07.230]>>Yeah, I don't know if it got into that primary cut or not. It did. It looks like it's too bad though, possibly sitting up.

[00:47:18.440]>>And again that may help him with that hole location in the back center of the green.

[00:47:25.170]>>Might be able to have a bit of a jumper coming out of that rough.

[00:47:30.070]>>Just the thirty-eighth career start on the Champions tour for.

[00:47:34.250]>>Tag Ridings, then the runner-up a couple of times, has a chance to post 14 under in the clubhouse.

[00:47:45.810]>>Oh

[00:47:49.440]>>Mm

[00:47:53.460]>>Terrific day, couldn't add to what has been a very scarce birdie total at 18, but, uh, Tag made more than his share today. 7 birdies on the final round scorecard. He'll sign for 64.

[00:48:07.840]>>Yeah, I love his golf swing. He's got power.

[00:48:11.350]>>He's got good rhythm, as you mentioned, his left heel comes off the ground in the back swing.

[00:48:16.750]>>Why not? Back at 18, Block drove it in the bunker.

[00:48:22.780]>>Yeah, on a down slope, not a great lie. 187 all in.

[00:48:27.930]>>Gives him 163 to the front. Tried to hit like a low chaser but started at left.

[00:48:36.420]>>That's OK. It's not bad from there. That was not an easy shot. I would expect he will chip that.

[00:48:45.760]>>Drives it in there low, good strike.

[00:48:48.720]>>Going a little left.

[00:48:51.030]>>Oh, what a shot. Well, that landed softly, John.

[00:48:59.570]>>Good motion, kind of easy to check that up quicker than you think.

[00:49:04.560]>>Uh, it's gonna have about 10 ft for now for par.

[00:49:07.850]>>And he handled so many putts of that length in the middle of the opening nine where he kind of held the round together until he found his footing, put a few birdies on the board since the turn. And we talked about.

[00:49:21.360]>>His difficulty in the final round, Peter, when he's been in a big spot like this this year, this felt like a turning point for Michael Block. It looked like he was swinging with freedom while under pressure today. Yeah, there's so much to learn when you jump into a new league. This is his.

[00:49:38.640]>>This is the best circuit.

[00:49:40.860]>>In the world for over 50, and Michael Block belongs. There's no question about that, but

[00:49:47.480]>>Today was, as you said, a turning point. He's, he's 2 under. He's gonna, if he makes that putt, he'll shoot 68.

[00:49:59.280]>>Just making a nice progression to

[00:50:02.460]>>To the winner's circle out here eventually.

[00:50:05.250]>>A season that has been dominated by the big 3.

[00:50:09.990]>>Stewart Cink, Zach Johnson, Steven Alker combining for 14 victories in the 1st 22 events of the season, and Alker looking to put the finishing touches on his 4th win of 2026.

[00:50:28.870]>>Not much to this other than just being a little uphill.

[00:50:37.590]>>That's all you needed

[00:50:41.190]>>I believe that would be called a lag.

[00:50:45.820]>>Professionally done.

[00:50:48.060]>>He will spot it and wait for the stage to clear for the winning putt.

[00:50:58.330]>>Well, it's gonna be a drop shot at the last.

[00:51:02.390]>>Block has not had a bogey since the 5th hole, but it's an under par Sunday.

[00:51:08.810]>>As he navigated his way through the final group, Steven Alker.

[00:51:14.320]>>New event, very familiar result. 3rd victory in 4 starts, and Alker takes down the title at the Jefferson Lehigh Valley Classic.

[00:51:33.550]>>Victory number 4 of the season and the 14th of his Champions Tour career, and Mr. Steven Alker has gotten hot at just the right time, hasn't he? A torrid run with 3 victories in his last 4 starts to firmly

[00:51:50.190]>>Position himself at 3rd in the season-long race for the cup. Terrific week for Michael Block. It's as comfortable as he has looked under the heat of a final round in his brief Champions Tour career. He'll be bound for the playoffs as well. 64 for Tag Ridings, who came up just short by not being able to birdie the 18. Stephen Alker, last man standing.