Production Transcript for 26INTCUTCH – SAS Championship

[00:00:43.410]>>The regular season, which began in January out in Hawaii, comes to a conclusion this week. We dropped the curtain on the regular season here in Cary, North Carolina, first round coverage of the SAS championship.

[00:01:00.710]>>Highlights from earlier in today's opening round. Vijay Singh looking for birdie at the 5th.

[00:01:08.470]>>Got it to a couple under par hovering up near the top of the Friday leaderboard. So is Soren Kjeldsen inside the top 20 in this Rob Cup points race, having another solid season. Tucks away a birdie there at the 9th to get to -3 for Chief Goosen.

[00:01:25.880]>>At the 6th, 2nd shot into the par 4.

[00:01:30.770]>>On a warm day, a little breeze kicking up, and that one was flag hunting. Birdie pickup for the South African got him to -3. David Duval at the 18, a couple under at this point in the round and about to get it to 3 under.

[00:01:47.290]>>That one straight out of the top drawer over the top drawer over the top of the flagstick and there is your leader in the opening round, just one top 10 on the season, but David Duval flashing the form. Former number 1 ranked player in the world atop the leaderboard here at 500 par in Carey, North Carolina.

[00:02:11.260]>>The PGA Tour Champions proudly present the season-long race for the Charles Schwab Cup.

[00:02:19.860]>>And today from Cary, North Carolina, it's first round coverage of the SAS championship.

[00:02:26.060]>>It is the regular season finale on the Champions Tour, the 25th tournament stop of 2026 brings us to the Tar Heel State. Prestonwood Country Club has been.

[00:02:37.550]>>The home of this event since day one dating back to 2001. Charles Swantek. Good to be with Paul Azinger, and John Cook is our man on the ground here at Prestonwood this week.

[00:03:01.450]>>Elton to the 3rd. Duval was out of position trying to salvage par here.

[00:03:06.730]>>First bit of trouble here for Double D and he answers.

[00:03:12.350]>>Oh, he's putting nice. I like that putter in his hands. BJ's made some nice putts already. This is a little knee knocker.

[00:03:20.200]>>Tucks one away at the 9th, Birdie there for Veach, and he's at -3. The cookie Retief Goosen said his putting has really carried him this season.

[00:03:32.260]>>Yeah, that it has. His ball striking has just been kind of average for Retief.

[00:03:37.650]>>3 birdies, 1 bogey on his card. Now on the other side of the little bit of a ridge, now going downhill and quick.

[00:03:45.480]>>And there it is disappearing right on cue, Swanny.

[00:03:50.810]>>Great putt again for Retief. He changed his grip in the middle of the year, maybe at the beginning actually. He had that prayer grip going where.

[00:04:01.440]>>Back to 11. Heath Slocum is, uh, in the group with Harrison Frazier. Heath was 71st in the Schwab Cup race coming into the week. A little bit more of that's gonna help.

[00:04:13.700]>>Beautiful tee shot into the par 3 11th for Ernie Els looking for the payout here.

[00:04:30.540]>>Yeah, 2s on par 3s that'll get you going up the leaderboard, especially that par 3. big putt to see what David Duval feels like here.

[00:04:43.000]>>After that bogey at the last, no problem here. He still putts nice, doesn't he? That's a confident roll. Gets it right back. 7th birdie of the round for Duval back within 1 of the leap. Yeah, nice bounce back.

[00:04:57.420]>>It's for Eagle John Cook.

[00:05:01.790]>>Got a pretty good read of Retief's bunker shot. Can you hit it hard enough? Oh, I had it online.

[00:05:12.870]>>Well, maybe that'll give him a spark.

[00:05:15.800]>>It takes a little spark to start a fire, so.

[00:05:20.120]>>Maybe that's the one he needs, just a simple two-putt birdie, really nothing for for Padraig to this point.

[00:05:28.610]>>After a 3 putt par, the par 5 12th, Ernie Els trying to birdie the 13th.

[00:05:37.590]>>Oh yes, Ernie hung in there. He couldn't take his eyes off it.

[00:05:45.430]>>Alright, here's the Goydos birdie putt at the 5th. Look how far the top of the putter is from his chest.

[00:05:53.380]>>Good pot. Man, that's spooky.

[00:05:58.500]>>Brushes it in to get it to 7.

[00:06:03.420]>>Off to 15 we go. Vaughn Taylor looking for Birdie.

[00:06:07.470]>>Yeah, you can see the wind blowing there, all the shirts and stuff that.

[00:06:11.210]>>Wu might switch, do a full 180 on these players tomorrow.

[00:06:23.250]>>Just one birdie on the Friday scorecard for Padraig Harrington, but a clean look here.

[00:06:28.790]>>That it is for for Padraig, not much to this. You feel like you want to make it go to the left, but it doesn't do much.

[00:06:48.850]>>He takes care of that one. Birdie at 12 and 15 and Harrington. Yep, way to capitalize on a great shot.

[00:06:57.860]>>And I can goose capitalize on that great shot, Cookie. Not much in it. Yeah, not much in it. No, very flat around a lot of these holes.

[00:07:08.350]>>Beautiful approach like you said.

[00:07:12.140]>>I think if he hits it, if he just plays it straight.

[00:07:17.170]>>He would catch any part of the hole if you were going to pick a guy in this group to put a putt of this length, which one of these three would it be? Uh, can't go wrong with this guy right here. I'm agreeing with you. Swan techs up here. Putts at Shinnecock and

[00:07:36.160]>>Heath Slocum, one of the guys hovering around the 72 number in the Schwab Cup race coming into the week. Yeah, he really is. These putts are all huge for these guys that are on the bubble.

[00:07:53.160]>>And Goggin looking to birdie the last for an under par round. Yeah, all these putts are huge when you finish up come Sunday, you know, you play an entire season.

[00:08:03.460]>>And the likelihood that it comes down to one putt for somebody is pretty much assured almost. Swanny. Birdie's on the last two holes for the Aussie. This is the length of putt that uh.

[00:08:16.070]>>Ernie has struggled with time or two today.

[00:08:26.800]>>Don't see the plum Bob too often anymore, do you? I was going to bring that up actually.

[00:08:32.000]>>The best plum bobbers. Our own John Cook was one if I remember, I think he plum Bob quite a bit and so did, uh, Crenshaw. He had the best plum Bob going probably. I believe Crenshaw when he was plum Bob and I was like, oh.

[00:08:47.140]>>Went away, Ernie. OK.

[00:08:52.450]>>Party number 4, the round with the 18th to come. Alright, let's go to 16. Richard Green just kind of quietly humming along, that's what this guy does, he's always right in the thick of it, it seems.

[00:09:06.100]>>Here's another one

[00:09:08.580]>>He's got it to 5 under.

[00:09:17.230]>>So pure.

[00:09:21.040]>>Two beautiful strikes into 17 and Goosen cashes in with an eagle and he has the lead headed to the 18th.

[00:09:33.290]>>Minor please

[00:09:35.530]>>Birdie putt of Kelly just outside 3 ft or so.

[00:09:41.170]>>Little pop this one also, yeah, she'd move slightly to his right.

[00:09:47.630]>>First birdie the back nine for Jerry. A chance to birdie the last for 72.

[00:09:54.440]>>I

[00:10:01.220]>>Back at 17, just a formality here for the Richard Green birdie to get to 6 under.

[00:10:12.240]>>And Jerry Kelly put it from down below in that bowl and left it about 4 or 5 ft short. Easy to do from down there now.

[00:10:20.670]>>Padraig after that really well controlled approach from that left rough.

[00:10:26.170]>>Now this doesn't have a whole lot. If it does anything, it's going to slide to the right.

[00:10:32.740]>>He hasn't really made much today.

[00:10:38.820]>>This would be a nice one.

[00:10:44.640]>>Mm mm.

[00:10:46.310]>>That is 11 way to finish straight opening rounds of par or better for Harrington this season. That's the 3rd longest active streak on the Champions Tour.

[00:10:58.890]>>Goosen for one more birdie to get to 7 under and take the clubhouse lead.

[00:11:06.420]>>And this will have a little movement from right to left.

[00:11:10.520]>>Maybe just on that top edge.

[00:11:17.260]>>No mistake by Goosen at all there. That was strong. What a round of golf. Cool customers, Inger. Well, yeah, he is. He carries such a he carries a quiet demeanor, but he's a fierce competitor.

[00:11:33.060]>>It's been a little bit of a wait for Tongchai Jai Jaidi, but trying to birdie the last for a 3 under 69.

[00:11:42.410]>>A couple of victories out here.

[00:11:46.250]>>PURE Insurance Championship at Pebble Beach 3 years ago was the most recent for Tongchai. Played a lot of golf in Asia in his early years as a professional, was a prolific winner, 19 international victories to his credit.

[00:12:04.150]>>10 of them coming on the European Tour, now the DP World Tour.

[00:12:08.440]>>It's a gamer. He is a gamer, you know, if you walked up to him.

[00:12:12.910]>>He's so little

[00:12:15.190]>>You just can't believe that guy is is a champion golfer.

[00:12:21.090]>>Just, just look at him. He's one of the best players out here.

[00:12:29.640]>>Par at the last for JD and he will sign for 70.

[00:12:38.040]>>Richard Green just polishing off a 6 under par round of 66.

[00:12:44.420]>>Retief Goosen with some lighter irons in the bag as he disclosed to John Cook, fabulous today. 4 under par over his final 4 holes of the day to shoot 65.

[00:13:07.580]>>We have reached the weekend in the Tar Heel State and the weather has turned. It is the final regular season events on the Champions Tour and second round coverage of the SAS Championship.

[00:13:21.750]>>Mother Nature has, uh, made her presence felt. It is a complete shift in the conditions that we had in yesterday's opening round. Temperatures dropped about 25 degrees. There was a lot of overnight rain soaking Prestonwood Country Club.

[00:13:37.750]>>Wins are up along with the pressure trying to qualify for the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs in the first of three legs next week in Saint Louis. Only 72 men will punch their ticket. So a lot on the line here over the final 36 holes of the week.

[00:13:56.000]>>55 degrees right now and it's, uh, all you want out there and the difficulty of the scoring reflects the difficulty of the conditions. A couple of columns to keep an eye on where the players started the week in the Schwab Cup standings, where they are projected. All green on page one.

[00:14:15.910]>>That means you're in good shape. Tell his attack ridings at 7 under par, the leader by 1.

[00:14:28.580]>>Matthew Goggin making a big move in the projections from 74th to 69th coming off a top 10 finish last week at the constellation Furyk in France. Great to have your company. Thanks for hanging here this week. I'm John Swantek. Paul Azinger is alongside.

[00:14:44.630]>>John Cook battening down the hatches is on the ground walking with the final group of the day.

[00:14:52.080]>>And here is Matthew Gogginsinger looking for birdie at 13.

[00:14:59.100]>>Nice time to get hot, I guess, for him right here at the very end of the year, totally on the bubble of whether or not he will have privileges for next year at all.

[00:15:12.240]>>But he's hot at the right time. He's given himself a chance, but

[00:15:17.330]>>He's got a whole another round tomorrow. Look, he's actually in 16th.

[00:15:25.590]>>Matthew Goggin, birdie on the 9th, all pars the rest of the day. This is a really productive round going in these conditions with the field scoring average up over 74 right now.

[00:15:40.590]>>Yeah, 2 under. That's one of the best rounds of the day going, in fact. And it's got Goggins solidly projected inside the top 72 in the Schwaab Cup race.

[00:15:54.530]>>To 12. George McNeill having a nice season, 7th in the Schwab Cup race. That's my man George McNeill having a great year.

[00:16:03.530]>>Came out of the gate, you know, with everything to gain and, uh, a lot of pressure on him.

[00:16:10.680]>>Birdie, look for Duval and a good one up here at 11, so he makes his practice stroke looking at the hole.

[00:16:18.180]>>See

[00:16:20.520]>>No, he's not gonna look at the hole, is he?

[00:16:23.780]>>Good job, David. He put it great yesterday and had kind of a bad finish, but boy, doubling the par 5, that's a killer.

[00:16:35.300]>>Alex Cejka, the defending champion, won the title in similar conditions to these last year.

[00:16:42.390]>>Just the way this man likes it.

[00:16:47.380]>>Making quite the move, just a couple under par.

[00:16:55.570]>>33 putts followed by a 1 putt. Heck of a birdie. What a pickup at 11. He's got Richard Green back to 4 under.

[00:17:03.930]>>Up to 18, Ricardo Gonzalez trying to get it in the house at 4 under.

[00:17:13.130]>>Just birdied the 17th and go ahead, tack on 1 more.

[00:17:18.110]>>That's Saturday 69 for Gonzalez.

[00:17:23.350]>>Stank out. Paul Stankowski can make a huge leap up the board if he taps this in.

[00:17:29.630]>>It's for eagle here, Shawne. Get it to 4 under within 2 of the lead.

[00:17:38.100]>>Stanko at 39th in the Schwab Cup race, so he'll be in the field next week in Saint Louis.

[00:17:45.120]>>He's got his sights set on the top 36 in the Schwab Cup championship. He went under par Saturday. Saturday, that'll do today.

[00:17:57.870]>>Ernie for Eagle at 17. Yeah, we got one. Yeah, that should be fist pump worthy for Ernie now just one shot back and he's trying to give it the Retief Goosen finish from yesterday.

[00:18:16.130]>>Tim O'Neal storming to the finish, Birdie at 16 and 17, looking for another and a share of the lead.

[00:18:30.720]>>Yes sir. What a finish. What a round. 68 for Tim O'Neal.

[00:18:37.140]>>6 shots better than the field average today. And Langer can't be considered out of it either, in my opinion.

[00:18:45.950]>>Well, especially now.

[00:18:48.380]>>You would be foolish to exclude this man from the conversation. He just turned 69. That's crazy.

[00:18:56.560]>>That's where we saw a very sporty little pitch shot from Vijay earlier.

[00:19:00.760]>>But an uncomfortable distance as we've seen a few times already today. It's so mental too, isn't it, you know, all of this is mental.

[00:19:10.130]>>Shouldn't we all be able to repeat our, our little strokes from at this point in our life on all these, we should make them all. And if you don't, it's just in your head.

[00:19:21.050]>>Well done, bud. That's, that's overcoming. I guarantee you mentally you're overcoming something when you make that putt and there he is. Look at those eyes. He knows right where he stands.

[00:19:33.260]>>Another chance for Freddie Jacobson to grab a share of the lead here at 16.

[00:19:44.830]>>Come on, Freddie, Sweden needs you right now.

[00:19:51.280]>>There it is.

[00:19:53.480]>>Hello Sweden. Heck yeah. Turn the lights on. He's got 2 holes to go.

[00:19:59.070]>>Let's go back to 17. They've been absolutely blitzing this par 5 today.

[00:20:08.330]>>There's another birdie. It's got George McNealy to -4 and within 2. He's trying to get his first win.

[00:20:16.490]>>Chad Campbell to get it to 6 under at 17.

[00:20:20.550]>>Should move left quickly and then down the slope.

[00:20:25.360]>>Down to the bottom.

[00:20:27.710]>>It looked like it was gonna.

[00:20:30.470]>>Sneak away. Yeah, it was wiggling, wasn't it? A good putt.

[00:20:35.440]>>Closing birdie attempt for Ryan Armour.

[00:20:43.910]>>He's got it.

[00:20:45.750]>>He's put himself in position to win a few times.

[00:20:53.120]>>David Duval looking for Eagle back here at 17.

[00:21:00.590]>>Got a chance.

[00:21:04.230]>>It had David's attention for sure.

[00:21:07.210]>>A little run to the house here perhaps Birdie at 16, another one coming here.

[00:21:14.130]>>Well, he needed a 3-3 finish would have been really nice, but uh.

[00:21:19.280]>>4-3 finish wouldn't be bad.

[00:21:24.610]>>Birdie's piling up at 17 today. You know, he had it to 7 under par at one point in this tournament, day one. Here we are. I got a couple of birdie chances. Green trying to get into it, maybe birdie the final two.

[00:21:38.430]>>Roddings has a chance to tie the lead if he can birdie 18.

[00:21:42.920]>>Who else is Iceman? Can'tley Patty Ice, right? We call him Patty Ice. Goosson's Iceman, and now maybe.

[00:21:51.380]>>Who knows, maybe Richard Green will.

[00:21:54.580]>>Start winning tournaments, we can lock, lock him up to mini ice, lefty ice.

[00:22:01.060]>>We'll go lefty ice on him. There you go. All right.

[00:22:05.900]>>It's been a brutal day, but you could just never tell. Exasperating day at times, but, uh, a birdie for Richard Green, just 3 off the lead.

[00:22:16.500]>>All right, a little tap for Birdie here. He missed one earlier, just a little bit longer than that, missed the entire hole. A proven winner around the globe, the 51-year-old from Denmark, 4 victories on the DP World Tour.

[00:22:31.030]>>Yeah, he's definitely legit.

[00:22:34.610]>>Uh, he'd be small but fierce. Is that what they say? He'd be little but fierce. That's him.

[00:22:44.110]>>They've won the European Masters. Check out the Spanish Open, the Irish Open as well. Look at the Langer grip. That's really kinda.

[00:22:52.120]>>Nostalgic

[00:22:53.810]>>Hello. I'll just tap it right in to get to within a shot. 3 at the last for Soren Kjeldsen. Thank you very much.

[00:23:05.300]>>And Richard Green, he 3 putted 4 out of 53 putted 3 holes in a row.

[00:23:11.020]>>And you can go an entire career and never do that.

[00:23:14.720]>>So

[00:23:16.130]>>A real anomaly.

[00:23:41.850]>>It's only 3 back if he can tap this in.

[00:23:46.320]>>And stranger things have happened, Swanny.

[00:23:49.800]>>I'll tell you what, probably felt like he's miles from the lead after that exasperating day has finally mercifully come to a close, but Richard Green just 3 shots back come Sunday.

[00:24:02.560]>>Just one of those veterans, you know, he's gone through a rough patch, but he survived it.

[00:24:07.120]>>Tag Ridings this unbelievably for two putt.

[00:24:13.770]>>What it is, is to just stay within a shot of the lead, Swanny, this is huge for him.

[00:24:20.820]>>Still hasn't won out here, looking for his 1st. Yeah, this would put him in the 2nd of the last group of the day tomorrow.

[00:24:34.940]>>Another short miss. There have been a few. He didn't make a bogey through his opening 27 holes of the week, but there have been 4 since the.

[00:24:43.920]>>Turn for ridings, who swipes the ball out of the hole with frustration.

[00:24:49.290]>>Off they go, their work complete. So that, uh, formalizes the final group of the day. Tim O'Neal, who shot 68 after a birdie at 18.

[00:24:59.110]>>The ageless wonder of Vijay Singh and Freddie Jacobson, we have some charisma right in that little last group.

[00:25:15.850]>>We welcome you to Prestonwood Country Club in Cary, North Carolina, 25th and final regular season stop on the Champions Tour calendar. Final round coverage coming your way from the Sass Championship. John Swantek with Paul Azinger and some highlights from.

[00:25:32.110]>>Earlier today, Tim O'Neill's in the final group of the day looking for Birdie from long range at 4 way downtown here. This was one of those unexpected pleasures you get in the beginning of a round that really can loosen you up.

[00:25:48.510]>>Those are gonna help if you're trying to win out here. George McNeill bunkered at 7, not a problem. Uh, it takes magic to win, and that's magic. You know, you don't just, you have to have something extraordinary happen a lot of times, especially this group of guys that are trying to win this week. And it's O'Neal by 1 through his opening 3rd of the final round here in Cary, North Carolina. 26 years strong running since 2001.

[00:26:16.890]>>Outside of Raleigh, the triangle region of the Tar Heel State.

[00:26:21.540]>>Beautiful day. Little relief from, uh, yesterday, which was brutally tough. It is cool today and breezy certainly.

[00:26:30.330]>>But a bit of a reprieve in contrast to, uh, yesterday's 2nd round. Tim O'Neal, Vijay Singh, Freddie Jacobson. The final group of the day here as we crown a champion and determine the top 72 that will begin the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs next week in Saint Louis. I'm John Swantek. So good to have your company. Thanks for hanging with us all week long. Great to be with Paul Azinger.

[00:26:54.350]>>John Cook as well following the final group of the day and just a short one here for the Vijay Singh birdie.

[00:27:02.140]>>Good afternoon boys. Championship Sunday. That was for a two putt birdie there for Vijay.

[00:27:07.960]>>Birdie and a bogey on his card.

[00:27:12.550]>>63 years young singer, look at him go. I know. I was wondering if that gray and black were his power colors, so we looked up his nine win 2004 season. He won in all different colors, so.

[00:27:24.350]>>Uh, yeah, Vijay feeling good this week with another chance to win late in his career.

[00:27:31.070]>>O'Neill for par.

[00:27:33.820]>>Yeah, drove it in the left bunker, had to lay the ball up, he had a pretty good wedge shot and just ran his birdie effort by, but it's kind of a disappointing par there for Tim on a downwind par 5.

[00:27:46.420]>>Yeah, George McNeill.

[00:27:48.330]>>Made eagle in front of him picked up two shots and it's pretty much a birdie hole.

[00:27:55.600]>>Freddie Jacobson yet to win on the Champions Tour, he was a winner on the PGA Tour back in 2011. It's been 15 years since, uh, Freddie had a trophy in his hands.

[00:28:16.700]>>All kinds of shifting going on at the top of the leaderboard. O'Neal is in Stanger of a double bogey. DJ could have a birdie in his pocket here in a minute.

[00:28:26.920]>>Yeah, a couple shots swing here. All of a sudden the

[00:28:30.340]>>63 year old Hall of Famer who was right in the thick of things.

[00:28:43.460]>>Brushes it in. Oh, wasn't that a confidence stroke.

[00:28:57.790]>>But boy, now this guy, he is every putt, he's in or he's out.

[00:29:03.290]>>Every putt for this guy ejected 70th right now, but if this goes in, that projection would improve to 69th.

[00:29:16.780]>>Gutsy, really, you know, after an outburst, some, it's sometimes it's hard to make that putt. I'm not kidding. It, it, he just had an outburst, but he still put it behind him and.

[00:29:28.820]>>Wow man, you talk about hanging on the edge. This is.

[00:29:41.890]>>Yeah, that's a disappointing 6 and coming after that four-putt.

[00:29:47.730]>>And the old Hall of Famer was in there watching that one like a hawk, wasn't he? Yeah, he was, you know, yes, he was. I'd almost bet VJ's heart rate went down a couple beats when he grabbed the lead.

[00:30:03.190]>>Let's go to 14, Jason Bone.

[00:30:07.920]>>Finding a birdie.

[00:30:12.210]>>16th on the leaderboard.

[00:30:15.130]>>He's looking on Tag Ridings trying to get it to 50 here at 14. Well, somebody's gonna post something.

[00:30:22.880]>>You know force Vijay Singh.

[00:30:33.630]>>For a 5 shot lead here.

[00:30:36.960]>>He saw what it's supposed to do, a little uphill moving from right to left and looked like it kind of hopped off the strike.

[00:30:46.270]>>Well, this is a little longer than Vijay had in mind, but 4 would be perfectly acceptable here.

[00:30:52.580]>>And he

[00:30:53.490]>>Just told Tim O'Neal, I'm gonna go ahead and finish this.

[00:30:57.550]>>Why wouldn't he? Good job, Vijay played that hole beautifully, didn't he? Wow.

[00:31:12.340]>>Big putt here for Tim.

[00:31:14.550]>>should move to his left.

[00:31:33.380]>>Good grind, good grind. That's a great two-putt. Yes, it was. Quickie shakes it.

[00:31:43.200]>>Mario Tiziani had a scorching opening 9, shot 30 today, 1 over since the turn.

[00:31:50.830]>>That picks one up at 17.

[00:31:54.830]>>What a round. Wow.

[00:31:59.370]>>Cejka trying to climb within 3 as well here.

[00:32:14.740]>>Let's go to 18 where Tiziani ran his birdie putt about 6 ft past the hole.

[00:32:22.700]>>Oh, this is a must putt. Oh no, made a big move up the board with an opening round of.

[00:32:29.790]>>30 back to O'Neill.

[00:32:32.570]>>Yeah, basically the same putt that Vijay just had might just fall slightly to his right.

[00:32:47.220]>>Confident stroke. Tim O'Neal pours one in, 2 in a row, and he's got things back on the front foot.

[00:32:55.790]>>Gogan trying to improve the projection. Currently 70th. He's making my palms sweat. 000, hello, I'll take it. Nice little cushion there making that. Oh my. Let's go to 15. McNeil, nothing happening for him on the back nine yet.

[00:33:16.280]>>Just needs a putt. That's the moment there.

[00:33:20.800]>>Now he needs some real magic.

[00:33:30.200]>>3rd full season out here for tag. 3 runner-up finishes, including one just a month ago in the new event in Allentown, the Jefferson Lehigh Valley Classic.

[00:33:40.440]>>He played with the lead the entire front nine yesterday. He got a real, just a real feel for that. Missed some short putts at the end of the day there.

[00:33:49.990]>>Just grueling conditions, man, that wind was blowing yesterday, wasn't it? Oh.

[00:33:55.880]>>Yeah, Riding shot 40 on the back nine yesterday, in fact.

[00:33:59.320]>>1 under here on Sunday.

[00:34:11.090]>>Completely flummoxed and frustrated by that one. That's great.

[00:34:16.550]>>You know, it's really cool that Vijay is sitting over on the other side of the green watching this whole thing. This is that me against you mentality, you know, and

[00:34:24.530]>>O'Neil, he wants to, he wants to, he wants to drain a putt. He wants to give this guy something to really think about here.

[00:34:30.110]>>Because if he doesn't already, he's got 10 ft for par or more for Vijay, but

[00:34:36.560]>>This is one of those.

[00:34:38.420]>>I'm gonna look you in the eye and try to beat you today.

[00:34:45.760]>>It's made birdies on the last two holes with putts just like this.

[00:34:54.410]>>How about 3 in a row? That is a real gutsy putt.

[00:34:59.320]>>That is something else.

[00:35:05.430]>>It's great stuff, man. This is what competitive golf is all about. Last tournament of the year.

[00:35:12.550]>>This is good.

[00:35:15.330]>>A 3 shot lead could evaporate Cookie, if this doesn't go down.

[00:35:20.460]>>Certainly could, and this right here, we're gonna see the Hall of Famer, see what frame of mind he's in right now.

[00:35:30.130]>>Not much to this pot.

[00:35:32.330]>>Other than it's

[00:35:33.910]>>Kind of that late round par save on Sunday trying to win a golf tournament.

[00:35:47.810]>>Drops it in. Doesn't that just say a lot about who Vijay is as a player because you know he's looking at Tim O'Neal saying the same thing. It's me against you now, bud. So the lead is 1 as they head for 15 back there.

[00:36:04.010]>>Tag Ridings

[00:36:06.530]>>Handles that one for par.

[00:36:11.570]>>3 consecutive birdies for Tim O'Neal, and he is closing in on the leader Vijay Singh late in the final round.

[00:36:33.610]>>There's definitely room for some jumbling up here at the end of this golf tournament with this par 5, 17th hole. I could have gotten him to 8.

[00:36:43.480]>>Ernie still hasn't made it here yet.

[00:36:46.490]>>Just a short one for Cheka's birdie at 17 with the flagstick in.

[00:36:53.380]>>Gets to 7 under.

[00:36:56.720]>>One more back 1 to 17, the approach shot of Tag Ridings to come.

[00:37:05.310]>>And it doesn't look like a long club either, does it?

[00:37:09.890]>>Spencen's on the left hand side today. Yesterday on the right hand side, and you can tell the wind's still cooking.

[00:37:17.990]>>Aggressive tee shot here for Vijay only 110 to the pin flag hunting right there, right online.

[00:37:26.270]>>Oh, and just short, just short, wow, it just missed that downslope. Yeah, and it's still going backwards. That is being rejected.

[00:37:38.300]>>That won't be an easy two-putt either.

[00:37:45.010]>>I go right to cap off his week with a birdie here.

[00:37:50.810]>>Like this would be for 3 in a row to end Sunday.

[00:37:54.840]>>Finish

[00:37:56.810]>>After a double back at 14, a little run to the house for a 70. Winning for the second time, trying to apply a little heat to Vijay Singh here.

[00:38:06.900]>>Yeah this putt is complicated though from the right edge of the green, it's gonna go uphill into the grain, then it's gonna crest and then go downhill, down grain.

[00:38:18.500]>>And it's a 75 footer.

[00:38:21.350]>>To add to that

[00:38:23.690]>>Boy, if ever you needed to lag one up, Ghim me, this would be the time.

[00:38:28.090]>>It should go downhill downgrain from there. It's gotta go. Wind kind of wind kind of got it, but that's a pretty good effort. Yep, no questioning. That's just, it's one of those, but.

[00:38:46.840]>>Alex Jacobs stood on the 18th tee.

[00:38:50.040]>>hoping for a birdie.

[00:38:52.950]>>Instead it would be a bogey.

[00:38:56.260]>>Strong title defense for Alex, last week's runner-up at the Constellation Furyk and Friends, but a bummer of a finish.

[00:39:04.760]>>Soren Kjeldsen looking for birdie back at 16.

[00:39:13.400]>>O

[00:39:14.730]>>There it is, first one of the back nine.

[00:39:20.500]>>Just a couple of feet for ridings to clean up for the birdie.

[00:39:28.200]>>17 today has given up 39 birdies to the field along with two eagles.

[00:39:38.650]>>And you know, Paul, in his heyday.

[00:39:41.310]>>Vijay was never afraid to hit driver. He hit driver everywhere.

[00:39:46.780]>>Other players were, you know, taking 3 woods or irons out. He just, he didn't have any problem hitting driver.

[00:39:54.550]>>I've been in the last he did on the last hole. I've been in the last group with him twice in my career, once on Saturday, once on Sunday.

[00:40:03.380]>>And he won on Sunday and he hit driver on every hole.

[00:40:09.810]>>Ernie Els not quite out of the game just yet. An eagle at 17 would certainly help the cause.

[00:40:18.110]>>This is a pivotal hole for all these guys with a chance, and it's gonna get past the Big Easy. It's gonna have to. Tag Ridings birdied the 17th earlier. He's up at the home hole. Well, they're not looking directly into the sun anymore.

[00:40:36.650]>>Much easier shot.

[00:40:41.160]>>Yeah.

[00:40:47.250]>>DJ from 126.

[00:40:59.250]>>Another dart but just short and it's running away from the hole again. He's missed twice by 1 yard at the most.

[00:41:07.310]>>And the return putt of Els for Birdie at 17.

[00:41:17.380]>>Another strong performance from Ernie, and we've seen many of them this season. Not a victory yet though.

[00:41:25.810]>>But a souvenir for one of the lucky fans there.

[00:41:29.170]>>All time great guy right there. One of the finest ambassadors this game has ever seen all around the globe. Yeah, got a few ambassadors out here on this champs tour. Padraig, another one.

[00:41:44.090]>>Well, it falls out of the shadow, I wondered.

[00:41:47.270]>>He was 6 inches in the shadow that timed these guys on a sundial out here.

[00:41:56.790]>>Uh

[00:42:09.520]>>Writings denied at 18. 0, what a shame. He had a great putt. I thought he had it.

[00:42:19.900]>>It might have been for him, you know, just a little tougher yesterday on some of those shorter putts.

[00:42:35.660]>>I mentioned those 34 victories on the PGA Tour for Vijay Singh, 22 of them coming after the age of 40. That's astonishing. Vijay and Sam Snead winningest players ever after 40.

[00:42:49.230]>>PJ going up that slope now it starts to go away. Very similar putt that he had on the previous hole. You know, it's funny. Well done. We document the millions of balls he hits, but in the end, it's going to come down to that lag putting like that and, and tapping those 4 and 5-footers, which he's been able to do all day.

[00:43:09.300]>>No 3 putts.

[00:43:14.540]>>This is no gimme here for Tim O'Neal.

[00:43:17.840]>>Not in this state.

[00:43:19.560]>>Not at all.

[00:43:22.460]>>Down to the nitty gritty now.

[00:43:26.060]>>Yep, 3.5 ft, maybe just left of center.

[00:43:29.750]>>Pretty straight putt.

[00:43:32.940]>>Tell you what, he

[00:43:34.870]>>He doesn't take too much time on those little shorties. He gets right, right on in there.

[00:43:42.560]>>Gives you the feeling he's clutch, you know, O'Neal does. Those three birdies when he was, what appeared out of it, really.

[00:44:02.100]>>Maintains a 1-shot lead as they point toward the 17. That's where we'll find Matthew Goggin.

[00:44:10.560]>>As for an eagle

[00:44:21.200]>>Not gonna hurt him in terms of his projection, he was sixty-ninth back in the fairway, so birdie's only gonna help.

[00:44:32.420]>>Hi

[00:44:35.850]>>This was the only event of the season in which he didn't qualify to get into. Vijay waits and he can really taste it now.

[00:44:47.670]>>He also has 217 to the pin. Long hair is better than short. Like Paul said, you could just blast it over the green and use that.

[00:44:58.270]>>The hospitality as a as a backstop.

[00:45:02.760]>>Look at that beautiful setup. This golf swing has hit millions of balls.

[00:45:09.770]>>Well, it's going a little left, needs to go. That's all right. Yes it is. He'll be pitching back into the wind. He's got that shot. He's gonna do it cross-handed with a one shot lead. So that in it of itself ought to be interesting to watch.

[00:45:25.930]>>Ah

[00:45:29.140]>>3rd shot on the way for Vijay Singh, closing in on his 6th career Champions Tour victory.

[00:45:35.980]>>Yeah, ball below his feet on an upslope, not a great lie, but he's going right down to the shaft just trying to stab it, let it run down that slope.

[00:45:50.980]>>But, uh, it looks like it's gonna be a Vijay Singh win, uh, on a super early call it, but.

[00:45:59.150]>>Certainly, uh, it looked early on like Freddie could be the guy to get his first win out here this week, but it just wasn't, it just wasn't happening after the three putt.

[00:46:10.640]>>Guess around the 7th hole, that was the beginning of trouble for Jacobson.

[00:46:25.960]>>It's hard to win. It's just as hard to win. You ask Vijay after it's over if he were able, if he's able to pull this off. These guys made it hard on Vijay saying he had to hit a great drive on 17 and he did it. And, uh, that tee shot allowed him to reach the green easily and now he's got this for birdie.

[00:46:43.000]>>And he's handled putts of this length all day long. This to take a 3 shot lead to the 18th.

[00:46:51.450]>>Yeah, you're exactly right there, Paul, that came down to the tee shot at 17.

[00:46:59.050]>>Tim didn't pull it off. Vijay did, and that's going to be the big difference.

[00:47:08.880]>>So it will be a 2 shot lead.

[00:47:13.060]>>Well, that would have ended it, but now 2 up with uh 1 to play, he's still feeling pretty good, but.

[00:47:21.750]>>Uh, just one more for a cushion.

[00:47:25.460]>>Little sliver of a part of a green because it will go down on that bowl if it's about 10 ft left of the hole.

[00:47:38.220]>>Gotta go.

[00:47:42.200]>>Right

[00:47:43.610]>>Gotta be right in that area where Ernie Els just was in the previous group.

[00:47:52.370]>>Vijay not hanging around.

[00:47:54.730]>>He is not hanging around from the left side of the fairway, great angle, and this is 106 yards. That's gonna find that that bowl down there. He's got a few to play with, but that's not an easy two putt from down there. No, but he, he needs 3.

[00:48:11.220]>>And priority one is get it up this slope.

[00:48:19.050]>>Lovely. It's gonna be a Vijay Singh win of just what a privilege, what an honor to get to call VJ's win. You know, this is a career, you know, this is a grand slam, not a grand slam winner, but a, a major champion.

[00:48:35.030]>>And just a tremendous career. Hard to imagine Zinger. It was only his 2nd 36 hole lead in a 54 hole event on the PGA Tour Champions in 13 years out here, and he was not going to let the opportunity slip through his grasp, not at all.

[00:48:52.110]>>Basically the same putt there for Tim, but he gave it a rip. Oh, he wanted that one, didn't he? Too much. He wanted it too bad.

[00:49:03.310]>>What a shame. This is, you can see the look on his face, you know, just total shock right now.

[00:49:20.030]>>What

[00:49:20.280]>>gratifying feeling for this guy here. He has really been through the wringer.

[00:49:25.190]>>You know, physically too is

[00:49:27.900]>>Ankles killing him. If it wasn't for the golf cart, we wouldn't be seeing Vijay. All right, here's Jacobson for Birdie. Close it out.

[00:49:36.370]>>Yeah, just off the collar it goes, you know, kind of downhill moving to his left.

[00:49:42.950]>>This part of the green definitely has some speed, so he's got to be a little bit careful.

[00:49:50.380]>>Oh, nearly.

[00:49:59.290]>>Gonna be a 2/74 today for Freddie if he can take care of this one. Was the leader of this tournament at 8 under par through the opening 8 holes.

[00:50:11.190]>>And then dropped 5 shots over the ensuing 5 holes.

[00:50:21.330]>>But it's gonna be his 9th top 10 finish of the season. Rock solid 2026 campaign for the Swede, and he'll be in that playoff opener next week in Saint Louis.

[00:50:35.560]>>DJ will wait a little bit longer as we see the return putt of O'Neal.

[00:50:43.730]>>I think just for his psyche he desperately wants to make this.

[00:50:58.650]>>It's just a tough finish there for.

[00:51:01.370]>>Timmy battled back so hard after the baubles there in the middle.

[00:51:07.050]>>Yeah, those three straight birdies at 1213, and 14 had him back in the hunt, but a 7-5 finish at the end.

[00:51:16.320]>>And just a couple of feet remaining.

[00:51:21.250]>>63 years young.

[00:51:25.060]>>Vijay is victorious. He's the winner of the SAS championship.

[00:51:31.270]>>Career Champions tour win #6.

[00:51:36.220]>>That is decades of hard work turned into another Sunday victory.

[00:51:43.270]>>Rock solid work from Vijay. Three straight rounds of 69, a model of consistency this week and

[00:51:49.790]>>For the last 4 decades, Zinger, it's pretty impressive. I mean, uh, I just wrote this down. He's just proof that the competitive fire has no expiration date. He and Langer both, the longevity is so impressive, and you know, sometimes the light goes out, that fire goes out, but it hasn't gone out in Vijay saying decades of hard work, uh, really paid off today, didn't it? Yeah, and Vijay and Bernhard Langer, the two oldest ever Champions out here.