

25INTCUTCH - SAS CHAMPIONSHIP - MASTER

[00:00:43.409]>>We welcome you to Cary, North Carolina. It's the final regular season event on the PGA TOUR Champions schedule. Only 72 players will qualify for the start of the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs next week. It's day one of the SAS Championship.

[00:01:06.410]>>PGA TOUR Champions.

[00:01:09.720]>>Proudly present the year-long race for the Charles Schwab Cup.

[00:01:15.180]>>And today from Cary, North Carolina, it's first round coverage of the SAS Championship.

[00:01:22.269]>>9 months after the regular season began at Haalala, we have reached the end of the line here. Beautiful clubhouse behind the opening tee here at Prestonwood Country Club, which has been the host venue all 25 years of this tournament, some very distinguished winners through the years, and the playoffs on the horizon.

[00:01:41.654]>>Next week in Richmond, Virginia. So the players understand what's on the line this week, only 72 will be in the field at the Dominion Energy Charity Classic next week. Good start for Chad Campbell coming off top 10 finish in Jacksonville, Florida, last week's Furyk and Friends. Bernhard Langer, part of a pack of players there.

[00:02:01.360]>>Looming one off the lead, including Padgriag Harrington, hasn't played in about 6 weeks or so. Jerry Kelly was on the first page there. He's the defending champion here this week.

[00:02:14.830]>>Great to have your company. I'm John Swasek. Always a pleasure to be alongside John Cook, 11-time PGA TOUR champion.

[00:02:22.729]>>And our man John McGuinness pictured right there, North Carolina's own out there patrolling the fairways and greens of Prestonwood Country Club.

[00:02:33.300]>>We're at the par 5 12th year. Cookie generally not reachable in two, but Stuart Sink took a whack at it. Only the longest players in the field, I think John can reach or take a go at this screen. I know Padraig Harrington and the group just ahead of Stewart Cink, uh, gave it a go, and Stewart with a good tee shot gave this a little bit of a run with a 3 hybrid, now has a, I don't know, pretty stock standard little pitch shot, has some room to work with going towards the water. So complete focus here is some mix which is 100% on both.

[00:03:01.929]>>in a good spot. He has to land it on the 2nd shelf of the 3 shelves here and then run it down to the bottom.

[00:03:14.270]>>Going with that left hand low pitching style that he's been using and using quite effectively wonderful short game.

[00:03:21.089]>>Boy, he pinched that beautifully. Yeah, it should get all the way down there. This has a chance to go in, just creases that top edge.

[00:03:30.729]>>Now has it underneath the hole. What a nice shot there, John. Up to 18. Robert Carlson just birdied the 17th this for a round of 68, rounding into form.

[00:03:44.080]>>Kind of lived on that leaderboard for a couple of years, never did get across the finish line.

[00:03:54.850]>>Padraig Harrington, last season's runner-up is at 13, 432 yards a day pin on that left part of the green. There's, uh, there's a ridge in the middle that kind of bisects the green, so he's got it on the proper level.

[00:04:09.320]>>Up 1 to 14 with Els.

[00:04:12.320]>>Let's see where this pin is way in that right-hand corner. Good tee shot here for Ernie.

[00:04:19.029]>>You try to keep it as close to that penalty area as possible, to shorten up this hole.

[00:04:26.329]>>And there is definitely some distinct levels on this green and that needs to get up a little bit or that will come back down into a little bit of a bowl.

[00:04:35.420]>>And he'll be putting up that slope.

[00:04:43.269]>>That'll be good one day, not today. Up to the 18th and Chad Campbell to match Robert Carlson with a round of 68.

[00:04:51.980]>>Good round of golf going for for Chad and that's a nice par save there at 18. Did not birdie the 17th hole, the par 5 that's playing downwind and the easiest hole in the golf course today.

[00:05:06.109]>>Back at 13.

[00:05:09.010]>>There's a lot going on with this shot downslope.

[00:05:12.230]>>With the fire line.

[00:05:14.309]>>It's coming over a poker on the same.

[00:05:17.799]>>Wind turning from the right.

[00:05:20.410]>>145 yards.

[00:05:26.570]>>See how it gets.

[00:05:28.750]>>That's the control spin out of that first cutter rough.

[00:05:32.799]>>Yeah, does a nice job. Right underneath the hole there, yeah, right underneath the hole, John.

[00:05:40.399]>>Booming drive and then a nice off-speed delivery from sink and he set up for a 2nd straight birdie.

[00:05:47.070]>>Hop back up to 14, a nice approach shot in here from Alker, see if Steven can get in the red after that nice iron shot, hits 7 of 14 greens, which is very unlike Steven Alker, but

[00:06:01.130]>>Berry's on 2 of his last 3, get him on par.

[00:06:13.309]>>Busy stretch of golf for Thomas Bjørn after winning in Saint Louis and quickly you were there to, to call it on the ground. He was involved. The European Ryder Cup team again, it seems like it's been a dozen times he's either been a player, a captain or a vice captain. He's been on the right side of it very often. You know, that's what, you know, the, and the Europeans say that it's consistency and who's in charge.

[00:06:36.750]>>Uh, they're over in Europe and Thomas Bjorn's been part of that team for a long time. Luke Donald's been part of that team for a long time. Jose Mario Lefabo has been

a part of that team for a long time, and they're, they're in their 50s and 60s, but they're still part of that family. I think that's important.

[00:06:53.619]>>You can do that a lot as well. Best season he's had out here for sure. Of course, won the MA in Madison alongside Darren Clark earlier this year.

[00:07:05.519]>>This is Harrington playing his 4th up ahead and he got it on the ground in a hurry. Yeah, we talked about how complicated this pitch shot was, a couple of different bridges that he had to negotiate and how good is that? Was that clever.

[00:07:21.170]>>Had his full attention and nice bit of damage control from Hubbard. He's going to spend just one.

[00:07:31.890]>>Probably grew up playing that type of shot a lot when he was a kid in Ireland, right? Hit that ball on the ground over there.

[00:07:40.450]>>But drove it out of position, pitched it back, poor 3rd, but a great pitch shot.

[00:07:47.609]>>Salvage a bogie?

[00:07:49.589]>>First of the day on the scorecard for the Irishman. First outcurve ready to roll.

[00:07:56.589]>>Trying to put it in the right section over on the right.

[00:08:01.489]>>Good tee shot. The tree might have come into play just a little bit. I stay there.

[00:08:09.000]>>Oh, keeps it up top.

[00:08:22.010]>>Go.

[00:08:25.019]>>Ernie connecting from off the green. There's a much needed birdie at 16 for the Big Easy.

[00:08:33.840]>>Back at 15 here, 2nd on the way for Stewart Cink.

[00:08:38.570]>>134 yards back left flag.

[00:08:42.780]>>And that wind from earlier has died down, or maybe we're just in a the lower part of the golf course, but nothing to factor in right now.

[00:08:57.679]>>Little slope to the right, right there might get a little bit better.

[00:09:01.760]>>Good shot.

[00:09:04.340]>>Just please freshening just a little bit as we hook up with the group here at 17, the par 5.

[00:09:15.309]>>We sneaked down on top of Artikins. He plays his 3rd.

[00:09:22.020]>>Retieff went over on his round today, a double bogey back of the 6th, made a couple birdies since.

[00:09:35.340]>>He probably just had a

[00:09:37.349]>>Some sort of a mid iron into the screen as far as he hits it just over the back that goes down the slope.

[00:09:47.309]>>Shoots to the left early, will come back, it will not.

[00:09:52.590]>>Good speed though. Yeah.

[00:09:54.830]>>Back to 15, you know, you can just put kale in a blender, Johnny, just drink your veggies, that's all.

[00:10:03.260]>>What do you mix it with? Well, there's a lot of things I think we can mix it with, John.

[00:10:08.479]>>Make it taste a little better depends on the time of day, I guess so.

[00:10:18.469]>>Quick peek in the yardage book for Stewart Cink as he goes to work on this one now.

[00:10:28.150]>>Another really good look.

[00:10:36.500]>>We may be old enough to have actually played.

[00:10:40.210]>>A Korn Ferry Tour event here back in the 90s.

[00:10:47.640]>>He was player of the year in '96. I'm pretty sure they had an event here in '96.

[00:10:53.440]>>Sounds sounds familiar.

[00:10:56.710]>>That's a good call. I think you're right. I was at Prestonwood or around around town. It was at Prestonwood for a while before it moved to.

[00:11:06.049]>>TPC Wakefield in 2005 or 2001.

[00:11:10.330]>>As a matter of fact, Cookie, that hole that we skip now.

[00:11:13.780]>>I made a 1 on 30 years ago and won a Riviere Riviera from Al Smith. Well, how about that, sweet. That is some great trivia.

[00:11:34.179]>>That's a birdie from Langer back at 17.

[00:11:39.390]>>Gets him to 4th, 18th to come, chance to birdie the last perhaps for the clubhouse lead.

[00:11:46.489]>>Almost there. Yeah, I'm still outside now.

[00:11:50.530]>>Yeah.

[00:12:10.380]>>Nice save indeed. Yeah.

[00:12:14.630]>>Hard work and par after a great tee shot.

[00:12:21.330]>>So Langer makes birdie back gets 17 and Jimenez looking to topple one in as well. He gets to minus 2.

[00:12:35.039]>>Quickly backed at and Goosen with the most realistic birdie chances in the group.

[00:12:40.419]>>Somehow he could fight his way back into the red.

[00:12:44.909]>>How about that?

[00:12:46.750]>>Very classy finish for Retief. Bernie's at 17 and 18 for an under par round.

[00:12:56.159]>>All right, Jerry, chance to still sneak out of here with 5 if you can get this one down.

[00:13:14.469]>>Well, on a whole, it's yielded far more eagles and birdies than pars.

[00:13:22.590]>>Making a par here is.

[00:13:25.169]>>That's definitely like making a bogey, playing over a half a shot under par.

[00:13:33.280]>>And left to ponder what could have been when he stood on the tee here.

[00:13:38.520]>> Stewart Cink has taken care of the par 5s.

[00:13:43.260]>>Today, the birdie back at 12, didn't get the 7th on the, the opening 9, a chance to get it to 300, just a couple of feet to deal with here.

[00:13:57.539]>>He's been very solid.

[00:14:03.469]>>Get him to 3 under and one off the lead. Prestonwood and SAS going strong for 25 straight years here. In fact, strong finished to Stewart's round today, Cookie. Yeah, he said he got to the beginning 16, 17, 18 as they turned back down win. Beautiful tee shot here at 16. Great angle. Beautiful wedge shot, well controlled.

[00:14:27.960]>>He would make birdie at 16th and took care of the 17th, easiest hole in the course today. Yeah, just a short iron into this par 5. It's kind of skipped through the green over the back edge, but a nice little pitch shot down that slope.

[00:14:42.489]>>Make another birdie just torching the driver all day long, just about a 97 yards coming in here to the last. Yeah, perfect tee shot, great angle, did not have to come over that bunker at all. Controlled it very nice. With everything on the line at the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs on the horizon set to begin next week.

[00:15:03.989]>>In Richmond, Virginia, just 72 players will qualify for the first of three legs of the playoffs, and then they'll cut it to 54 for the second tournament in Little Rock, the Simmons Bank Championship, and then, of course, the Charles Schwab Cup championship with the final 36 of the year coming up in early November.

[00:15:29.940]>>Saturday in North Carolina, we welcome you to Preston Wood Country Club here in Cary for the final event of the regular season on the Champions-Tour, 2nd round coverage of the SAS Championship. John Swantek alongside John Cook, tough day for scoring, but Alex Cejka likes it that way. Yeah, Birdie at the 5th and now for Eagle at the 7th, the par 5 from the right side of the.

[00:15:49.710]>>Goes up over a little bit of a slope down the backside. Eagle pick up at the 7th for Cejka that got him to -5, and he would add another one here at the 8th to get it 60, 160 yards today, the 8th hole. Island Green on the par 3.

[00:16:10.590]>>How do you follow up an eagle? How about a 2 at the 8th? Best round of the day on the golf course belongs to Alex Cejka, but Bernhard Langer, who's won here a couple of times, always giving chase. Yeah, they pressed the tee up there at the 11th with that front right pin position, 165 yards a day, but no problem for Bernhard.

[00:16:30.309]>>The owner of 47 PGA TOUR Champions victories, 4 under par, just 2 shots off the lead on a blustery Saturday in North Carolina.

[00:16:41.780]>>The SAS Championship, the 25th events of the season on the PGA TOUR Champions schedule. This is it. Final stop of the regular season. Playoffs on the horizon next week in Richmond, Virginia, 72 players will qualify for the first of three legs in Route 2, trying to hunt down the season-long prize, the Charles Schwab Cup.

[00:17:05.198]>>Really windy day, overcast, cool conditions, wind chill, under 60 right now. Great to have your company. I'm John Swantek, 11 time PGA TOUR champion John Cook is alongside. John McGuinness, all bundled up today as our man on the ground.

[00:17:24.930]>>Out to the 12th and Padraig Harrington, last year's runner-up, making his competitive return to the Champions tour. We haven't seen him since the Ally Challenge in late August. Yeah, he's been playing a little bit on the DP World Tour, but, uh, the 12th today, 577 yards win is straight in.

[00:17:43.089]>>Maybe a little bit out of the left, so only the longest players is even taken a go at the screen. So Padre took good shots just in that little pitching area.

[00:17:51.920]>>Tight pin though up on that back left.

[00:17:56.599]>>It's gonna take a big swing, hit the super flop.

[00:18:00.910]>>Little checker in there, nice shot.

[00:18:06.250]>>Recovery from the trees, ready to place 3rd here at 13.

[00:18:10.469]>>Just short of the green.

[00:18:15.479]>>And landed on the green, let us check and release.

[00:18:20.780]>>Greens are pretty quick.

[00:18:23.219]>>Ah, pretty well done.

[00:18:26.760]>>He's gonna have about the same putt he had on the previous hole, the par 5 for Birdie.

[00:18:34.589]>>Back at 15 with Alker.

[00:18:38.339]>>Just inside 150.

[00:18:41.260]>>Little back into the breeze.

[00:18:47.770]>>Cookie, it feels like the kind of evening that you'd like to be around the fire pits at Spanish Bay. I like it with a nice little glass of red. Listen to the bagpipes.

[00:19:04.469]>>Robert Carlson has already coughed up a few shots today and trying to remain at one under here.

[00:19:12.489]>>Yeah, this group really struggling and a nice par save there for Robert. Still trying to break through and win for the first time. He's had a couple of really good chances in the last couple of years. Tanagawa, way down there. He stuffed one in there on the last hole and tapped in for birdie. See if he can make it two in a row.

[00:19:33.660]>>Trying to make a furious rally, he had it, he bogeyed his 1st 4 holes of the day, 3 birdies since.

[00:19:42.880]>>chance to get it back to even par for this Saturday.

[00:19:50.770]>>Harrington's back here at 13.

[00:19:59.290]>>Right trees off the tee, kinda.

[00:20:02.729]>>Jimmy went up there just short of the green ice pitch to here.

[00:20:06.569]>>But he

[00:20:08.119]>>Missed one of these on the previous hole.

[00:20:15.479]>>All right. Harrington holds it steady, said he didn't do any work after the round yesterday. He said, I'm just trying to rest up. It's gonna be a mental battle over the weekend.

[00:20:30.949]>>15 green, Alex Chaika in the midst of a 4 under par round looking for more here.

[00:20:37.369]>>A beautiful save back at the last hole to keep this round going and.

[00:20:43.410]>>He's done a lot of it with this club right here.

[00:20:50.420]>>That was a really good pace there. John had to go up that little bit of a slope. Not easy to judge when the greens are this, this fast.

[00:21:02.430]>>Players very respectful of the speed of the greens. It's been the buzz in the, the locker room here this week.

[00:21:11.300]>>It's been an admirable fight back for Ken Tanigawa, as Cookie mentioned, 4 straight bogeys out of the blocks today and a chance to get the day back to even par here.

[00:21:21.069]>>Wouldn't that be something? And he got a good read from Alex from the other side of the hole, he knows up on that plateau, this ball is gonna start to work to his right.

[00:21:30.339]>>Like go left on its way up the hill first.

[00:21:34.449]>>Now it should turn right just like that.

[00:21:39.150]>>Birdie number 4 of the round. Nice little battle from Kenny Tannagawa.

[00:21:46.780]>>Trying to fight his way to.

[00:21:49.270]>>Steven Alker makes his home there too, Johnny.

[00:21:52.540]>>I don't see a lot of umbrellas in the bags for these guys either.

[00:21:59.489]>>They'll be lucky not to need one in the next 45 minutes.

[00:22:07.050]>> Steven Alker to get to 4 under par.

[00:22:10.569]>>Yeah, moved pretty good to the right.

[00:22:13.469]>>Oh wow.

[00:22:15.319]>>Sometimes you get fooled.

[00:22:18.520]>>Yeah, I think the players are just being nice to their caddies. Don't want to overweight that bag, that umbrella.

[00:22:26.650]>>Let's get you to 16, and Charlie Wi, who's bogeyed two of his last 3.

[00:22:35.229]>>You come back, birdie, not quite.

[00:22:42.319]>> Tanigawa looking for another one from long range here. Yeah, had to think when that one was in the area you'd have a little better look than this.

[00:22:51.939]>>Moving left to right up here.

[00:22:54.349]>>Why not?

[00:22:57.060]>>What a good effort.

[00:23:01.339]>>Jack at 16.

[00:23:04.930]>>Well, he's left himself some lengthy birdie putts today.

[00:23:09.439]>>Speed's been really good. That was well judged as well, so he's handling those long ones very nicely, no stress.

[00:23:18.359]>>Now Langer's birdie effort at this.

[00:23:23.020]>>Got a pretty good read off of Stewart Cink.

[00:23:28.550]>>And had it online.

[00:23:32.939]>>Bernhard will be playoff bound next week in Richmond, of course, trying to push it all the way to Phoenix.

[00:23:39.790]>>And the final stop of the season.

[00:23:42.199]>>6 Charles Schwab Cups that Hall of Famer's possession.

[00:23:47.510]>>Two beautiful shots into the par 5 for Cejka.

[00:23:50.680]>>Looking for a second eagle of the day, and he left it right in the throat, right in the throat. It's a birdie though. He's gonna put the extra point on the board and get to 7 under dead center.

[00:24:05.800]>>Have to take advantage of 17. There's really not many birdie opportunities on this golf course today.

[00:24:13.589]>>His 17th, easiest hole on the course for the 2nd consecutive day.

[00:24:19.349]>>That would have been the 2nd eagle of the round, but it does extend the Cheka lead to 3 for the minute.

[00:24:36.989]>>just a little left to right in this for Tanigawa.

[00:24:41.069]>>Pitched it from the rough over here the left of the green and.

[00:24:45.829]>>I wasn't very pleased with coming up this far short. It's still a chance.

[00:24:55.180]>>Yeah, just a poor second shot as he drove it way down there, had a little double cross, little pole hook, just a 5, that feels like a bogey. You're effectively given a half shot back when you make 5 at 17.

[00:25:10.439]>>Well, Langer has an eagle putt back at 17, so Cejka could extend the lead to 4 over Bernhardt and Charlie Wi for the moment.

[00:25:26.290]>>Pretty simple but just, just at the right lip.

[00:25:33.160]>>And he did get a nice preview from Tanigawa 's par putt.

[00:25:40.430]>>What a takes advantage. What a day. 6 under par round of 66. That's about 7 shots lower than the field scoring average today.

[00:25:50.420]>>Sensational work from Alex Cejka, and he's going to take the lead into the final day tomorrow. So final pairing, grouping tomorrow has been set. It will be Charlie Wie, Bernhard Langer, and Alex Cejka, who produced the round of the day, a brilliant 66, to position himself atop the leaderboard here in Cary, North Carolina.

[00:26:22.640]>>Final event of the regular season on the PGA TOUR Champions. It's the final round of the SAS Championship here on Golf Channel and some very testy conditions for the field to deal with today. John Swanzek alongside John Cook, Alex Cejka was the overnight leader by 3.

[00:26:39.640]>>After bogey at the 4th hole, Alex here at the 6th.

[00:26:44.060]>>Gets that bogey back. Got it to 8 under par. He was still pre clear, but Ernie Els is making a run in the final round today. And he is a good birdie opportunity here at the tough 10. Just squeeze it in that right side.

[00:26:59.459]>>Ernie, the 2020 champion here, he came from off the pace on the final day to win five years ago, trying to do it again here. The par 5, number 12, not reachable in two today, but the old fashioned way.

[00:27:13.569]>>So Cejka, who has been a runner-up a couple times this season, the owner of 3 senior majors, leads by 2 over Ls on the final day here at the SAS Championship.

[00:27:26.160]>>They'll head to 13 and we're on the move up to the home hole. Jason Caron with a birdie putt from off the green.

[00:27:32.459]>>Get him into red figures for the week. There you go.

[00:27:37.520]>>Important put projected at 15th in the Schwab Cup standings going into the week.

[00:27:51.979]>>Well, he's been hitting fairways, and that's been the key so far.

[00:27:59.189]>>Yeah, he's driven the ball beautifully all week.

[00:28:02.719]>>And he's got some power too, so he's drive the ball in the fairway with some adequate length.

[00:28:10.250]>>Cameron Percy, for a birdie here at 14.

[00:28:14.369]>>Having a terrific season, projected a 10th in the Schwab Cup standings. Couple playoff losses.

[00:28:25.790]>>A good opportunity there for Cameron.

[00:28:33.280]>>Langer Fairway bunker at 13.

[00:28:35.969]>>That's from 170.

[00:28:40.260]>>Oh

[00:28:43.170]>>Well, it's gonna have an interesting little picture putt there.

[00:28:48.040]>>Yeah, to go across the corner of the bunker and kinda not much green to work with, but a nice tee shot here for Alex Cejka, John.

[00:28:56.359]>>20 yards past the other guys, just 150 yards in.

[00:29:05.800]>>Coming off that bogey back there at the par 5.

[00:29:10.420]>>See if Alex can bounce back with a quality shot.

[00:29:18.540]>>What he does.

[00:29:20.400]>>Beautiful shot.

[00:29:24.739]>>He's gonna have to hit this pretty hard to get it through all this fringe.

[00:29:29.150]>>And I don't think he's far enough aiming far enough left. It's a big ridge.

[00:29:35.260]>>Yeah, that's gonna kick it way to the right, like John said.

[00:29:39.630]>>He gave that a pretty good smack. We're gonna scoot up to 15 and catch back up with Els here.

[00:29:45.880]>>Yeah, he drove it to the left, left of those bunkers, not a very good tee shot for Ernie, so he has to hit a low draw.

[00:29:53.670]>>There's a little bit of water to the right, so.

[00:29:58.719]>>It's gonna be well short of the green, so Jacob, with a chance to pick one up here.

[00:30:07.050]>>And this is a little bit confusing cause he's.

[00:30:10.209]>>Got that big ridge from the bunker, but I think he's just far enough in the green that it's actually gonna go to the left.

[00:30:18.770]>>It's just passed where it would be straight.

[00:30:23.290]>>It's for a bounce back birdie.

[00:30:26.979]>>Was that what he needed after that bogey at the par 5.

[00:30:31.459]>>Bouncing right back on a difficult hole, making 3. Alker 5 back as he plays his 3rd here 14.

[00:30:41.430]>>It's on the proper level, really good pitcher of the golf ball, and that was really nicely done.

[00:30:50.859]>>And Langer trying to salvage par here, you see a couple of completed rounds today. Miguel with a 70.

[00:30:59.229]>>Podraig Harrington, last year's runner-up to Jerry Kelly here at the SAS, also signs for a 200 par final round.

[00:31:14.780]>>Interesting play he, you know, with Potter back there like John alluded to the fact he had to go through a lot of fringe. If he would have pitched the ball, he could have, you know, maybe eliminated some of those variables.

[00:31:26.510]>>up-and-down he made the score he was trying to make though, Cookie. That is the score he was trying to make.

[00:31:37.390]>>Important birdie secured by Alex Cejka back at 13 to reclaim a 2 shot lead here.

[00:31:46.680]>>Well, those are the kind of things you do when you win a golf tournament.

[00:31:52.619]>>And it must be nice to be going back downwind for a minute.

[00:32:00.760]>>That's the driver there for Alex.

[00:32:04.349]>>Up to 15. Remember, this is the 3rd for Els now.

[00:32:08.339]>>Yeah, drove it way left.

[00:32:11.030]>>Really didn't have much of a play.

[00:32:14.319]>>I needed one more little skip. Tim O'Neal looking to connect for birdie here at 15th.

[00:32:21.040]>>Trying to put his name in this story, and he does. Tim will be the defending champion next week in Richmond at the James River course, kick off the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs.

[00:32:44.260]>>Yeah, I think here and then the tee shot on the next hole.

[00:32:48.459]>>Yeah you're not gonna feel much wind, and then once you get to the 2nd shot on 15, you're gonna feel it for the rest of the day.

[00:32:59.150]>>Curious to see if Cejka takes enough club to get it all the way back there.

[00:33:04.630]>>He certainly has.

[00:33:07.619]>>Did I stay up there, yeah, stays on the proper plateau.

[00:33:12.609]>>That's a nice golf shot.

[00:33:14.729]>>Two in a row.

[00:33:16.420]>>And this is a big par putt for Ernie up here at 15. Yeah, he needs this one.

[00:33:21.579]>>It's not wanna get

[00:33:23.709]>>Drop one more shot behind.

[00:33:28.660]>>First of the day on the card for Els, he's gonna drop to -5. Langer's ready here.

[00:33:34.500]>>Very near that creek or that pond.

[00:33:38.790]>>But able to get by everything and shorten the hole considerably.

[00:33:44.459]>>Oh, that's gonna catch that ridge and go down where the whole location was yesterday.

[00:34:07.410]>>It's a lot of grind for a one footer.

[00:34:23.189]>>Yeah, you're not taking anything for granted. Leaving that pin in again clanks it right off the flagstick.

[00:34:29.550]>>So after the bogey at 15, Els 3 off the lead.

[00:34:33.459]>>Front left hole location today at 16, coming off that bogey. I would love to stack one right here.

[00:34:40.949]>>Come off that slope a little bit.

[00:34:43.908]>>And Carlson's birdie putt up ahead here.

[00:34:52.148]>>a little careful with speed here.

[00:34:55.739]>>I might have been a little too careful.

[00:34:59.729]>>Good part today there at 15 though, tough golf hole.

[00:35:04.239]>>Just where that flagstick is, is way on the right corner.

[00:35:08.669]>>Ernie Els has chance for one here at 16.

[00:35:13.320]>>Down the slope a little bit.

[00:35:16.030]>>Really needs this one.

[00:35:18.159]>>With the par 5 coming up.

[00:35:24.250]>>Had it within a couple at one point.

[00:35:28.020]>>And after such a blistering start this season, Ernie winning the very first event at Wala back in January, had a runner-up, couple of additional top fives early and

[00:35:39.139]>>Had creptted within a couple, now finds himself freed off the lead as he heads to the 17th.

[00:35:57.320]>>Um

[00:35:58.250]>>At it, it's 32.

[00:36:10.439]>>It's about 20

[00:36:18.459]>>You know, like

[00:36:20.379]>>I I'm leaning towards that

[00:36:22.550]>>so

[00:36:23.899]>>Well, it's dead calm where he is, but you can see the flagstick from there.

[00:36:28.669]>>Tipping over like a teapot up there from left to right, has to factor that in.

[00:36:35.560]>>That is a very smart play.

[00:36:38.340]>>Well didn't get it up on that proper level, but center of the green's OK. You'll have to put up a little bit of a slope, but a good strike.

[00:36:55.979]>>That looked a little stabby. Yeah, that, that was, that was some unintended motion in that one and some uncharacteristic frustration as a result. Yeah, I had a short backswing and a long follow through. It should be opposite.

[00:37:12.379]>>17. Els has to be thinking eagle hair cookie has to back left pin, good tee shot.

[00:37:19.780]>>He can use some slope to the right.

[00:37:22.820]>>Uh, too far to the right. I won't catch that slope. Now he'll be putting down the slope and a wide right there for Erniecheka from the lower level of the green here at 15.

[00:37:33.449]>>Up and over the ridge down to the hole, his pace has been impeccable the last couple of days, but this one has a little too much of it.

[00:37:40.830]>>Yes, the first one we've seen get away from him there, John.

[00:37:45.610]>>Over the ridge, downwind.

[00:37:48.760]>>A lot of things working against him there, and there's a big smile, nervous smile.

[00:37:55.510]>>There hasn't been a whole lot of stress in the round for Alex to this point, but he's gonna have some with this 4-footer coming back here in a moment.

[00:38:04.530]>>You know who the slow guys are. Slow guys know who the slow guys are.

[00:38:09.540]>>And so you just

[00:38:11.699]>>Give yourself an extra beat.

[00:38:16.580]>>Through the fringe there for Charlie.

[00:38:41.409]>>Big one for Cejka to keep it at 8 under here.

[00:38:46.360]>>Not much in it. He likes to hit things with some pace.

[00:38:52.620]>>Hm.

[00:38:57.280]>>OK, a little bit of stress.

[00:39:01.560]>>So he drops to 7 with Ernie, 2 groups ahead aboard the par 5, 17th and 2.

[00:39:11.340]>>And Alker has this for birdie right on top of Goosen at 16. OK, gets him one shot closer, got the downwind par 5 coming up.

[00:39:28.679]>>Get in there.

[00:39:30.800]>>And the

[00:39:31.969]>>Ernie at 17 for Eagle that took a little glance as it wandered by. It did take a peek in there.

[00:39:40.169]>>Tim O'Neal is at the 17th. He's outside of Ernie there and shakes that one in for Birdie. 4th of the round for Tim.

[00:39:49.739]>>Having himself a day snuck into the top 10.

[00:39:56.270]>>Cejka.

[00:39:58.310]>>Just 121 yards.

[00:40:09.510]>>It should come back a little bit. Should come off that slope. I think the wind might be holding it up a little bit. Jacob will have that one for Ernie and Els has to have this one at 17 that he does.

[00:40:26.510]>>had a little wide right down the slope. Nice 2 putt.

[00:40:32.889]>>With the Ernie Els birdie moments ago at 17, Alex Cejka's lead has been sliced to 1, and he's got an opportunity to extend it here at 16.

[00:40:45.709]>>Got a little frisky with the speed on the last hole.

[00:40:49.330]>>This one is a bit slower.

[00:40:52.229]>>It's back into the breeze, it's slightly, it's down a hill and then back up a little bit.

[00:41:01.810]>>But it should be appealing to the eye, little right to left.

[00:41:15.399]>>Els found the fairway at 18 and now honing in on the flagstick. Yeah, and the left side too with the pin on the right.

[00:41:24.149]>>Going downwind.

[00:41:26.419]>>Just a short club.

[00:41:44.860]>>Scottie Kneer on the bag. Normally David Toms is caddie. Tom's David not playing this week.

[00:41:51.709]>>I think Ernie might be a good

[00:41:53.780]>>Off week bag nice pickup.

[00:41:57.280]>>Ernie he's hit just 5 greens today.

[00:42:00.649]>>Stay there, there's a little bit of a slope. OK, he'll have a chance for 67 to post 7 under.

[00:42:09.770]>>Back at 16 for the Langer birdie putt.

[00:42:13.919]>>Just needs something good to happen today.

[00:42:22.080]>>Well, they have lobster on the buffet.

[00:42:26.399]>>There you go.

[00:42:28.250]>>Should be in in time.

[00:42:34.909]>>It is a good player dining. It's I know that. I mean, high marks for everything that SAS does. That's right at the top of the list.

[00:42:55.129]>>And a lot of very classy Champions through the years, including Bernhard, on two occasions.

[00:43:03.889]>>Ernie to birdie the 18th and post 7 under. Yes, approach shot right over top of the flagstick.

[00:43:14.750]>>Valiant effort today from the Big Easy, 4 under par. That's the best Sunday of anyone in the field.

[00:43:21.949]>>He's in at 6.

[00:43:25.850]>>And we'll see if it will be enough. Yeah, just that one blemish back there at 15 after that poor tee shot. Other than that, wonderful round of golf.

[00:43:35.270]>>So Alker has a chance to eagle the 17th here.

[00:43:41.510]>>Looking for a little 3-3 finish. Maybe get in at 6 under himself. You have to bounce back, birdie at 16 after a bogey at 15.

[00:43:52.350]>>a pretty good effort.

[00:43:56.290]>>Yeah

[00:44:00.899]>>Tim O'Neal coming into some form in advance of his title defense in Richmond. Next week, chance for a 2 under par round of 70 here.

[00:44:12.000]>>Yeah, he desperately wants to.

[00:44:14.090]>>Make it to Phoenix.

[00:44:18.020]>>Be in that top 36, be fully exempt for next year. I know you're a big fan of his game. Yeah, I, I last round of golf I played at Mission Hills a couple of years ago. I played with Tim and KJ Choi, and I had not played with Tim and I, my eyes were wide open at the end of that day, struck the ball great, you know, we had a couple of pleasantries set after I got done and.

[00:44:44.050]>>I just told him, you just keep doing what you're doing. You are going to win and you're going to be out here a long time and very impressed with that game.

[00:44:54.899]>>Just a couple feet remaining for the uh Alker birdie here at 17.

[00:45:03.250]>>Yeah, just enough in this, you gotta pay attention.

[00:45:11.850]>>2 putt birdie there.

[00:45:14.620]>>Gonna need one more.

[00:45:16.830]>>Career event number 95 for Elker.

[00:45:22.199]>>Another productive week for Cameron Percy in the midst of a strong season.

[00:45:28.860]>>But denied.

[00:45:31.770]>>We blow it out again, didn't it?

[00:45:35.590]>>Couple of runner-up finishes this season for the Aussie, both of them in playoffs and an even par 72 to cap the week here.

[00:45:44.929]>>Difficult conditions, a hard earned title is up for grabs as Cejka clings to a one-shot lead.

[00:46:00.000]>>Alex Cejka has found the fair way yet again and ready to play his second now into the par 517.

[00:46:08.120]>>Just a little more than 200 to the front, so.

[00:46:11.709]>>Flags back 30.

[00:46:14.370]>>This started left.

[00:46:18.520]>>Uh may not be too bad over there.

[00:46:23.189]>>No, it should be good. He's got a lot of green to work with. Uh, it's in the, it's in the rough cut, so he's not gonna be able to.

[00:46:30.550]>>Preferred lies.

[00:46:32.889]>>Ernie in at 6 under, hanging out with some of the kids competing in the HBCU invitational. They played.

[00:46:40.270]>>36 yesterday and 18 today.

[00:46:44.979]>>And they're hoping to maybe see Ernie in extra holes if necessary here.

[00:46:50.620]>>Well, John said Cejka has got putter in hand here, Cookie. What do you make of that decision? Well, either he didn't like the lie.

[00:46:58.959]>>Or he's a little nervous, one of the two, because I think this is a pitch shot all day.

[00:47:06.760]>>I, I, I was always told if you're gonna put it from off the green, you're just trying to two-putt.

[00:47:14.209]>>Well too thought I'd give him a 2 shot lead, so.

[00:47:18.030]>>There's a

[00:47:19.689]>>A lot to go through.

[00:47:22.520]>>Oh man, oh man, the crease the hole that would have slammed the door right there. Really well done. He chose wisely.

[00:47:33.139]>>And Alker looking for 3 straight birdies to close the week here. Yeah, it doesn't do a whole lot. Might move to his right slightly.

[00:47:43.350]>>Another good week there for Steven, another top 5.

[00:47:49.360]>>Been solidly positioned inside the top 3 of the Schwab Cup standings for much of the year.

[00:47:56.899]>>Added victory #9 to the resume, the Cologuard Classic earlier this season.

[00:48:06.350]>>No one

[00:48:07.909]>>It's going to be done.

[00:48:10.159]>>Oh, he's playing 17 and 18.

[00:48:13.850]>>but you know what I mean.

[00:48:16.830]>>Yeah

[00:48:21.370]>>Sounds like Ernie has kind of accepted his fate and he doesn't even know that Cejka is about to extend the lead to 2 here. He's out there in the parking lot.

[00:48:33.739]>>And he just went ahead to get out of Langer's way.

[00:48:37.909]>>I didn't want to wait any longer.

[00:48:42.149]>>I don't blame him. I don't either. I might run over there and hit that tee ball, be ready to go.

[00:48:51.260]>>Up ahead here at the 18th, Robert Carlson, having just birdied 17.

[00:48:59.679]>>Yeah, how about one more. Even par 72 for the sweep.

[00:49:06.189]>>136.

[00:49:09.989]>>That's what Alex has left in a wet flyer lie.

[00:49:16.050]>>downwind.

[00:49:18.350]>>I get here right next to Charlie Wi's ball is probably the play, isn't it? No question about it. Anything left of that flagstick.

[00:49:26.159]>>Pretty much eliminates.

[00:49:28.510]>>The big number

[00:49:30.320]>>It just didn't jump at all. It's a fine play. Yep, that should be fine.

[00:49:35.510]>>Put up a little bit of a ridge.

[00:49:40.129]>>Um

[00:49:52.219]>>Well, that has to be meters.

[00:49:56.709]>>How far is a 100 m shot there, Cookie? 110.

[00:50:01.250]>>Ding ding ding ding.

[00:50:07.810]>>I majored in math. No, no, I didn't.

[00:50:11.919]>>Always been a numbers guy.

[00:50:14.520]>>Yeah.

[00:50:17.899]>>Yeah, especially on Sundays on PJ Tour champion. You got to know numbers 21 times. Good shot there for Baron Hardr over top of the flagstick.

[00:50:29.080]>>Bernhard's day is complete. Alex Cejka's day nearly complete as he looks to button up his 4th Champions-Tour victory.

[00:50:49.489]>>He's sort of the European version of the guy that won here last year. How about this? Oh goodness.

[00:50:56.389]>>Why not? Why not?

[00:51:00.000]>>He had 3 putts available to him if he needed them. But he used to be. Well, you can only burn 1. Happy for Alex. He is a, he's a wonderful guy.

[00:51:10.239]>>Very solid player. Like I said, he, he has touched the lead and touched the trophy a lot this, this, uh, season. Just hasn't broken through until right here.

[00:51:20.830]>>He withstood the elements. He outlasted the competition. He held off the chasers.

[00:51:29.020]>>And he slammed the door shut at 18.

[00:51:33.860]>>And Cejka is the champion.

[00:51:38.060]>>Great shot here. It took forever to get up there.

[00:51:41.850]>>I mean it just went in with perfect speed.

[00:51:45.989]>>What a feeling.

[00:51:47.550]>>66 yesterday was marvelous. It was 7 shots lower than the field average on Saturday. Anything under par today was highly productive. How about birdies at 17 and 18 to lock it down for 71. And this week belongs to Alex Cejka with a gritty performance over the final 36 holes, victory number 4 on the Champions-Tour, a three-shot win for Cejka here in Cary.