

Production Transcript for **25INTCUTCH - DOMINION ENERGY CHARITY CLASSIC - MASTER II.**

[00:00:50.240]>>PGA TOUR Champions proudly present.

[00:00:53.909]>>The Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs today from Richmond, Virginia. It's first round coverage of the Dominion Energy Charity Classic mentioned just a moment ago, 10th playing of this great event on one of the great golf courses we see each and every season. William Flynn designed the James River course, and it is testing.

[00:01:13.069]>>The best players today on PGA TOUR Champions, good look at where we're at this week. 54 holes as we start to cut down through these playoffs. Of course, 69 of the 72 in the field this week. We'll cut it to 54 next week, top 36 trying to make it.

[00:01:28.760]>>To Phoenix for the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. I mean, how about the green complexes? Put them in my veins, so, so good here at the James River course and some highlights from earlier today, Shane Bacon alongside Paul Azinger and Zing, Justin Leonard, starting to get the putter heated up as we see so often. Yeah, look at Doug Barron running after that like he's seen a few too many go in.

[00:01:52.430]>>I got him to 3 under par. He was not done. Ernie Els here at the par 5 6. Ernie Els flew all the way from South Africa to play at Haalalai in Hawaii and won the golf tournament, jet lag, unbelievable, and I thought it'd be a monster year, but just one win for him, just one win for Goosen this year also, but it was a big win about 3 or 4 weeks ago, Shane, using the prayer grip now pretty regularly.

[00:02:20.380]>>Goosen getting that victory, as you mentioned Zing just a month ago that at the Sanford International, and you mentioned Ernie Els with that victory out of the gate, the lone victory for Ernie this season. He's a couple off the lead. You see Justin Leonard at 4 under par now and as we talked about the putter, as it typically does, gets very, very hot when Leonard can go low and 4 under the mark through 10 holes.

[00:02:43.529]>>For Leonard

[00:02:45.580]>>Shane Bacon, always pleased to be joined by my guy Paul Azinger, John Cook down on the ground today, gonna be with the 2nd to last grouping might flip them over to the last. We'll make Cook kind of run around, get the cardio numbers up and the steps up as well.

[00:03:01.240]>>As we go out to the 7th, Steven Alker, who has just been a menace zing on PGA TOUR Champions.

[00:03:10.139]>>Well, he has, and, uh, he kind of came out of nowhere to have this banner career at the Champions-Tour level called a terrible lie in the right rough in a day he kind of wants to forget.

[00:03:22.770]>>So far, at least 3 over par. Yeah, I made a bogey at the 3rd, double at the par 3 4, no birdie on the card to this point for Alker. Back to the 6th, Dicky Pride.

[00:03:36.080]>>He's 3 under par. This is his 2nd 9 today. Well, he's kind of sitting on the, the bubble. He's sitting at 38th rank for the year. What a good shot.

[00:03:50.710]>>We'll go to the 8th. Thomas Bjørn has this for a birdie. John Cook following this grouping.

[00:03:57.350]>>Good afternoon, guys. A big breaker from right to left there for Thomas.

[00:04:02.759]>>Burning a bogie on his card today, Level par.

[00:04:10.369]>>Here's Goosen at 9.

[00:04:16.700]>>Good wedge, good birdie, clean card.

[00:04:23.209]>>Allen able to.

[00:04:26.130]>>Kick that one in, get to 4 under par, so he'll join.

[00:04:30.119]>>Justin Leonard there atop this leaderboard 4 under the mark golf course, excellent condition, greens, just about perfect as you'd expect as we kick off the playoffs here from Richmond, Virginia.

[00:04:45.269]>>He still got great short game, John. Lanny told me when I came in here to replace him periodically, that, uh, Ernie still had probably the best hands out here.

[00:04:57.350]>>There's no question about that, Paul, and this is right up his alley right here, perfect live, fairly level, we'll move slightly to his right.

[00:05:07.100]>>He just feasts off shots like this.

[00:05:12.910]>>A little bit of gusto on that one, but you could see he was just licking his chops. Everything about that was in an effort to make it.

[00:05:22.440]>>And, uh, that's just great to see, you know, a lot of amateurs will come up short on these chip shots, but tour players generally.

[00:05:29.250]>>They reach.

[00:05:31.570]>>We'll go up to the 10th Cabrera. This is his 3rd. You wanna talk about some clever hands. Oh my goodness, some of the pit shots. I mean, that's all he does. Oh,

well, now, see, that's just such a delicate little shot, you know, he, a lot of guys would have tried to pitch that higher in the air. You saw he hit that nice little perfect little no trick shot technique, knew it would just carry on. Beautiful, stealing one at 10, go back to 9.

[00:05:58.529]>>And John, just a little more than Ernie thought he'd have.

[00:06:04.079]>>Yeah, I got a little goosey on that little pitch shot. really was trying to make it like Paul said.

[00:06:10.450]>>Pros at this level with good hands. They're trying to make, they're trying to make pitch shots, but he knows exactly what this does, it has a little bit of turn from right to left.

[00:06:20.890]>>This first 4th birdie in the 1st 9 holes. Yeah, I've been putting great today.

[00:06:29.750]>>Yeah, that's why you gas the wedge if you know you can make a comeback or Ernie to 4 under, quickly.

[00:06:45.589]>> Bjørn just a couple of feet left for his birdie.

[00:06:51.059]>>Yeah, early bogey in the round, then he buried the par 5 6th.

[00:06:55.179]>>Had a good look at 7 now, just to get into the red numbers.

[00:07:05.329]>>Good 4 there as well. A couple of wins this season for Thomas Bjørn, once in the team format alongside Darren Clark, then picked up his first individual title.

[00:07:14.660]>>PGA TOUR Champions.

[00:07:22.089]>>And another easy birdie for him.

[00:07:26.570]>>I say another. It's his first one of the day, but just in general.

[00:07:32.390]>>Go to the 15th playing alongside Justin Leonard, Jerry Kelly trying to get the 2 under par.

[00:07:39.519]>>It's gotta go. It's gotta go. Yeah, yeah, of course, you know, he, he's a guy when you say, hey, how you stroking it? He says, I don't stroke putts. I hit them.

[00:07:48.779]>>The, the, the moment the putter hits the ball, emotion comes out of his body.

[00:07:58.470]>>Greg Chalmers at 18 to tie that group at 4 under par. 1st 68 we've seen today. Nice round for Chalmers, came to the week 26 on the points list.

[00:08:13.200]>>Cink as we showed you, pulling the string, see if you can pay it off.

[00:08:21.359]>>He's got it.

[00:08:23.989]>>Couple of good shots for Stewart Cink. Yeah, he's on a bit of a run.

[00:08:29.489]>>Now Ernie at 13.

[00:08:32.609]>>Uh, inside the right edge of the hole, I think.

[00:08:35.780]>>Be just fine here for Ernie for his 5th birdie.

[00:08:39.820]>>Get a piece of the lead if you can get this one. Yes, sir.

[00:08:45.729]>>How about the up and ends on this side for Ernie Els? Couple of par saves and then one now for Birdie at 13.

[00:08:53.229]>>Well, any week you play great, you know, you always kind of remember, I just got it up-and-down out of a trash can that week. I could have gotten it up-and-down from everywhere, from any place. That's what, that's what ends up happening. Well, Paul, you've, you've talked about it over the years, getting in the right mental state for golf tournaments. I mean, you I remember you telling the story. I think it was before.

[00:09:12.559]>>You won the PGA about the barn and you had that vision in your head of hitting, what was it hitting cuts off the barn or whatever it was, there was a pump house actually. That's what it was, pump house. I just say every shot in my head for years was the pump house, and I knew I wasn't gonna miss one side or the other too far.

[00:09:30.169]>>You know, here we get another look. He, he putts kind of with the heel up and the ball out on the toeside of center, and I think he's figured out Thomas Bjørn has had to eliminate a pull. And boy is it made a difference if that's the case. If you can know you'll never pull it, you've got it figured out. Beautiful up and in for Bjørn. He gets to 2 under as well. We got a couple now at 5 under Leonard.

[00:09:52.419]>>And Ernie Els, let's go to 15. Steve Allen, when we checked in with him last, he had 2 pars through 11 holes, then 3 in a row. This for birdie here we go. Oh, the par streak ends at 3. That's stealing 1 at 15. Sure is.

[00:10:10.260]>>Big old smile. I understand why.

[00:10:14.169]>>We'll go up to the 15th.

[00:10:16.299]>>Retief, to get to 5, make it a trio atop the board, sure.

[00:10:22.630]>>Just a good lead there, Paul.

[00:10:25.330]>>Really an aggressive spot, he pounded that putt right in the back.

[00:10:30.190]>>Beautiful. There we got some superstars at the top of this leaderboard just like that.

[00:10:37.359]>>Yeah, I, I have a good

[00:10:40.940]>>There we go, nice birdie to close for Green.

[00:10:48.159]>>Yeah.

[00:10:51.380]>>Jason Caron here at 17.

[00:10:54.909]>>And a good line, aggressive line. There we go, like to see it.

[00:11:00.150]>>back-to-back, right out of the old trusty pro shop.

[00:11:05.429]>>Turned out to be one heck of a player. My goodness, can he get it done.

[00:11:11.530]>>That one wouldn't go if Y.E. Yang can pour one in at 17. That's what we saw from Caron. Early walking in. Y.E. Yang.

[00:11:26.530]>>Well I gave this to him, Leonard still gotta think about it. It's for 66.

[00:11:32.520]>>Yeah, just squirrels in the right edge.

[00:11:37.609]>>What a round. This is a real challenging golf course.

[00:11:41.559]>>Wasn't dead calm out there today. Beautiful, beautiful day for golf, just enough wind to give them pause for concern.

[00:11:49.280]>>Back at 16, Alan, another birdie, how about his day?

[00:11:54.359]>>He has made a ton of birdies in this opening round. That is 8th of the day.

[00:12:02.979]>>We'll go to the 18th. Yang trying to finish his day birdie birdie.

[00:12:07.510]>>He's not missing this one, Paul. I don't think so.

[00:12:10.890]>>Oh, look at that, but it was much harder than we thought, wasn't it? That's a lot. He played about a cup, didn't he? A good round. That was a side sloper for sure.

[00:12:22.820]>>We'll go up to the green Goosen after that brilliant, brilliant iron shot. Hello.

[00:12:30.609]>>Well, put your shadow on that thing.

[00:12:34.390]>>Give it the runaround.

[00:12:37.820]>>Oh,

[00:12:43.150]>>They're only clapping because they have to, that's disappointing.

[00:12:47.559]>>Opportunity at this difficult par 3.

[00:12:51.599]>>Go to the 18th. Caron finish his day with a birdie. We know this isn't a gimme. It's got some break in it.

[00:12:58.809]>>Ah, it look like it, Jimmy.

[00:13:01.909]>>bangs it in the back.

[00:13:07.590]>>Anything under par today, Paul, very impressive, I think so. It's a good test today.

[00:13:15.619]>>Back at the 18th, Cameron Percy, it's really been an opening round monster this season. 4 1st round leads or co-leads, unable to convert any of those. And Paul, this is a guy that has played great golf, just not winning much. Most top 10s without a win on PGA TOUR Champions, 14 for Percy since 2024.

[00:13:37.950]>>To here's Cejka.

[00:13:40.299]>>Finish his day with a birdie at 18.

[00:13:44.409]>>Let's go over to the 9th. Jeff Maggert finishing up his opening round. This to shoot 2 under par. Yeah, it'd be a great round for Maggert.

[00:13:53.059]>>He's got it that way. Boy, he could hit lasers back in the day, always drove it dead straight and his irons.

[00:14:01.520]>>Just would never leave the flag. You could hardly see the stick for the ball was in the way. Back over the ninth, Brian Gay. It's a good look as well, post something under par.

[00:14:14.460]>>Uh

[00:14:16.049]>>Yeah, that's good. He needs to make a move. He's sitting at 66, so he's got to jump at least.

[00:14:21.599]>>12 guys, 10 guys to have, yeah, 12 guys to have a chance. And that thing went on, went in at 12 o'clock with speed. Yeah, it did.

[00:14:33.080]>>Now Ernie

[00:14:46.000]>>That was a beautiful round of golf from Ernie Els.

[00:14:51.109]>>It was pretty easy, you know, it's a very relaxed round of golf, I would call that.

[00:14:58.400]>>Very relaxed, just like the Big Easy's name.

[00:15:04.010]>>He's made a whole lot of putts on 18th greens this year that mattered and another one curls in right side. So not his best today.

[00:15:13.609]>>Very much in it, expecting something silly tomorrow, 72 for Miguel.

[00:15:19.760]>>I was expecting a little dance there some form, but not even. You got to shoot 300 a dance.

[00:15:26.070]>>Chichi would have given a little something something.

[00:15:29.119]>>Oh, that was Chichi, you know, you know, that was an error too when Chichi played. Oh my goodness.

[00:15:35.960]>>As charismatic as they come. Yeah, we all got a dose of that, you know, our generation that showed up in the 80s all got to see that, that, that older generation. Sam Snead would still play once in a while.

[00:15:48.440]>>It's great. It's just gonna be the 2nd over par opening round of his season, Alker.

[00:15:54.859]>>There it is, dead center. Finishing off in style, good two-putt birdie to close.

[00:16:01.140]>>Well, he pulled himself together after being 4 over through 8 holes, I think, and uh.

[00:16:06.880]>>It's just a testament to his character, kind of his personality as a player, just kind of unflappable.

[00:16:14.469]>>I mean you think about the over par rounds that he's posted this season, typically followed by something in the mid-60s, would not be surprised if he touches 63, 64 tomorrow.

[00:16:25.659]>>And now Cink. Well, now, Stewart, you buy to mind your business here. This is not a gimme. See a bunch of guys misses a little bit to the left here.

[00:16:35.239]>>OK, good job. He couldn't take his eyes off that one. That head down was for a minute and a half. It felt like when he hit that putt. It's still gonna be a good save and a good round to start 2 under par as we've said, Paul, anything under par in this opening round, impressive James River course, difficult in this opening round. Good test. I mean, the players talk so much about how much they love this golf course.

[00:17:23.869]>>PGA TOUR Champions proudly present the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs today from Richmond, Virginia. It is 2nd round coverage of the Dominion Energy Charity Classic from the famed James River course here at The Country Club of Virginia, just about 25 minutes or so from downtown Richmond, you see in the distance there. This golf course has hosted enormous championships. This is the 10th year, hosting this great event as we get in.

[00:17:53.420]>>To these playoffs and start to think about numbers. Of course we have 69 of the 72 invited this week, cut it down to 54 next week as we get to the Simmons Bank Championship top 36 make it to the Charles Schwab Cup Championship in Phoenix in mid November, and this golf course is just immaculate, exactly where you want to be at this time of year.

[00:18:14.329]>>As fall starts to really show its teeth, Shane Bacon alongside Paul Azinger, and Zinger will take you through some of the highlights today. Ernie Els bogey free a day ago. Putter been high. Perfect speed on that putt, and he's still bogey free. Ernie, it's just been absolutely per perfect. About the 68 year old Bernard Langer. I mean, every time it feels like we get to this portion of the season and he shows up.

[00:18:39.859]>>Well, he's played precision golf today. It's been literally point A to point B.

[00:18:45.650]>>Justin Leonard, one of the players to shoot 66 a day ago this at par 5. Good looking swing. Those short shots are his strength. They always have been and that, you know, look at the control of the, the distance, the spin, everything. Easy birdie for Justin.

[00:19:02.660]>>You see Ernie at 8 under par with that excellent par save at the par 5 after finding the water went driver off the deck. I saw him do that a couple of times yesterday as well. Ernie celebrating his birthday a day ago. Justin Leonard won back and Langer right there once again has won this event twice back in 2017 and the last in 2021.

[00:19:23.265]>>And Zinger as we get into Saturday and on Sunday, we'll start to think about that 54 number red, not so good as you see the projections. Green means you will make it to Arkansas. Well, it's going to come down to one shot for somebody throughout the whole season. It's going to come down to one shot. The guy who finishes 55th is going to be cringing and

[00:19:47.890]>>Shane Bacon alongside Paul Azinger, John Cook down on the grounds following our last grouping including our leader Ernie Els at 8 under par, Justin Leonard just one back.

[00:20:00.000]>>Good to be with you boys. Beautiful afternoon. Li and me, I'll say mid 70s, 75 degrees, not much wind.

[00:20:08.640]>>Sun shining. Beautiful day.

[00:20:11.599]>>Ernie with 23 birdies on his card.

[00:20:15.699]>>Chance for another one. He had a beautiful shot in here from 154 yards.

[00:20:20.729]>>This left tuck pin.

[00:20:23.969]>>And he's standing really close to this. He stands, I feel like as close as anyone now, it's a beautiful putt.

[00:20:32.140]>>Just the 4th birdie here at the 7th today. It's a tough stretch, 67, and 8 for these players, a 6 been playing tough as well as a par 5, earning out a 9 under par.

[00:20:43.589]>>Well, familiar territory for the Big Easy Langer. I mean, you think about what's at stake. This is a guy that has won every season on PGA TOUR Champions dating back to 2007.

[00:20:57.140]>>That's pretty amazing. I mean, 18 consecutive years with a win.

[00:21:01.400]>>A tiddlywinks, I think would be pretty good, but for him to go.

[00:21:05.930]>>This long and to be able to win, you know, and be so prolific on this tour at this age.

[00:21:11.489]>>I was just with him a few days ago. He looks fit as a fiddle. He's flexible, no injuries really.

[00:21:17.170]>>Uh, that are nagging at this point.

[00:21:23.619]>>You know, Longevity has always been something that

[00:21:26.819]>>Every player wanted to achieve, you know, when you start, longevity is always the key, isn't it? It's always what you strive for.

[00:21:35.439]>>And this guy exemplifies that.

[00:21:42.859]>>He's been around a long time. I've known Bernard Langger. We were talking.

[00:21:46.930]>>Earlier in the kind of warm up for this telecast about how we used to pay \$3 for a bucket of balls on the driving range at Riviera. I think Langer is one of the few guys out here that still remembers that. That's pretty good. Look at him go, wow.

[00:22:03.800]>>That distance just seems to always feel comfortable when he's got that 20 to 30 ft and Langer with the 2 at the 8th, a rare birdie.

[00:22:18.680]>>There's Reti. Nice putt there at the 9th, and a really nice bounce back after the bogey there at the par 3.

[00:22:31.270]>>Back at the 9th after that salty pitch shot Langer to turn in 4 under.

[00:22:41.030]>>No doubt about that one.

[00:22:44.109]>>Beautiful 9 holes and Zing you think about the way he started a day ago, all pars on his front 9, so all of this 8 under his last 18.

[00:22:57.770]>>Yeah, long bunker shot here, does have to get it up on the next level.

[00:23:02.680]>>That's great.

[00:23:14.420]>>Go up to the 11th

[00:23:16.329]>>Shane Bertsch

[00:23:19.239]>>Yeah, walking that in, nice stroke there.

[00:23:31.410]>>Now, Ernie

[00:23:35.579]>>Impressive bunker shot here. Can you pay it off?

[00:23:43.119]>>Been rock solid with that club as well, really the highlight of this hole for Ernie Els, the bunker shot, and how about that 9 holes, just clean, a lot like what we saw a day ago from Ernie. It was his birthday yesterday. No birthday hangover. The guy's playing excellent. Maybe Ernie's got a shot over there.

[00:24:01.550]>>Langer make that pitch shot by, and no issues, just catches the left side.

[00:24:11.510]>>Yep, just one shot at a time, old Bernard Langer. Go to the 18th, mention no eagles on the golf course today. Jason Caron gonna try to change that. Beautiful approach.

[00:24:21.689]>>And this for a crazy flurry to finish. There we go, nice 3 at 18. Look at that car there, Zing. Good grief.

[00:24:32.699]>>That is impressive.

[00:24:44.260]>>He's missed 2 in a row.

[00:24:50.420]>>Not that one. That was pure. That's an adjustment in your head. And there's that face of just full on, I'm never gonna waver, let my lips touch a little, you know, he, he was all about stoic. Go up to the 18th, Tizani came in the week 45th on the points

list, so needed a solid week. Oh, that just curling in the right side and Riding's one of those players that ripped it up late. Birdie's at 14, 15, 16, and 18.

[00:25:19.109]>>On his way to that 67.

[00:25:22.760]>>Now right at 14, best of the day.

[00:25:26.719]>>Yeah, back-to-back, really excellent 2 on this difficult par 3. Go up to the 17th, the par 3, Stewart Cink opened the day double at the 1st, but he has put on a show on this back nine. This for his 5th birdie on the back.

[00:25:41.099]>>There we go, rolling one in. Well, I just mentioned he was kind of laying back in the packet. 31st place and boy, that's a big jump.

[00:25:51.550]>>This is really the part of the golf course, Paul, where you can start to make birdies. Jacobson gonna have that same putt.

[00:25:57.510]>>Langer just left short, and he's up and out of that quick. Oh, and he made it. Oh, see now that.

[00:26:04.949]>>That was not the walk with confidence, but sometimes the balls around and the holes around and wacky stuff happens where Justin Leonard has struggled on the greens in this 2nd round.

[00:26:17.489]>>Still very much in the conversation come tomorrow. Well, he's on point, you know, the green for sure. And, uh, I don't think he putted terribly bad. Just wasn't red hot.

[00:26:29.619]>>Made some nice putts on the back nine.

[00:26:32.859]>>And an easy birdie at 18 for Justin Leonard.

[00:26:40.010]>>Now, Ernie, you can knock this in, will be a two shot lead entering Sunday's final round. Not much to this, pretty straight, just have to keep the speed up.

[00:26:53.760]>>It'll be two pars on the par 5s on the back with.

[00:26:57.560]>>Kind of not perfect tee balls, but the two shot lead going in tomorrow. Exactly the way William Flynn designed a left off the tee, well right with the second, had to pitch it through a bunker. All in all, it was a 5 for Ernie Els and 66, 67 for Ernie.

[00:27:16.020]>>11 under par, an opportunity for another win, the second this season for Ernie Els. Impressive play considering the ball striking from Ernie today, Paul. Well, I would say that was very impressive. No bogeys through 36 holes when any kind of a poor tee shot can get you in, you know, big time trouble.

[00:27:43.930]>>PGA TOUR Champions proudly present the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs today from Richmond, Virginia. It is the final round coverage of the Dominion Energy Charity Classic 10th year playing this great event here at The Country Club of Virginia, the James River course, historic golf course, William Flynn design, hosted US amateurs in the past, of course, been a home here for the PGA TOUR Champions the last decade.

[00:28:09.829]>>And we have talked about the weather. It is windy. It is gusty. It is gnarly out there, gust up to some 25-30 MPH on this Sunday, meaning the birdies are gonna disappear and you've got to grind out some pars and the good news for this leaderboard, we got players that understand how to grind some of the best to ever do it in that department near the top of this board, and boy do we have a leaderboard for you.

[00:28:35.400]>>Ernie Els trying to win for the 2nd time this season, won the opening event of the year, and Ernie, through two rounds, had not made a bogey. That has changed in this

final round. Retief Goosen chasing, and Bernard Langer chasing as well, showed some of the highlights from earlier. Shane Bacon alongside Paul Azinger, John Cook following this final grouping today that includes Ernie Langer and Y.E. Yang, of course, all three major winners.

[00:29:05.099]>>And Paul, you think about what we saw late in the round a day ago with Langer makes the triple bokey at 14 and then does what this guy does to close out.

[00:29:14.280]>>Yeah, he was, uh, showed all his resilience really and determination. Yesterday, that was just a shocking moment when he made triple. He said afterwards, he hit a good shot. His first shot just went way over the green. He must have flushed it.

[00:29:30.449]>>But you know, it was so sudden and then for Langer to come back and birdie the last 4 holes, you know, he wants to win desperately, he's 68 years old.

[00:29:39.750]>>And, uh, he's got to beat Ernie Els though, who has played pretty flawless golf up until the last hole. He just made a bogey.

[00:29:48.880]>>And that's how you bounce back. So Ernie with his first bogey of the week back at the par 5 6th and that one pouring in from distance to get back to 11 under where he started the day.

[00:30:01.880]>>And Paul, that as long a putt as we have seen Ernie make this week, most of those birdies have been up and downs of par 5, short birdie putts with great iron shots.

[00:30:10.469]>>Good sight to see, and Langer now gonna have to grind out another one, John Cook.

[00:30:18.599]>>Good afternoon, Championship Sunday. Like you said, this is gnarly out here right now. The wind's blowing from every single direction. It's supposed to be from the south, but.

[00:30:27.390]>>You can throw that out of the you can throw that book away cause it is blown from everywhere. Bernhard coming off a 3 putt bogey back there at the 6th as well, so.

[00:30:38.390]>>Taking his time on this.

[00:30:44.290]>>You know, he just continued to prove.

[00:30:46.900]>>What a champion he is at this age.

[00:30:50.979]>>The way he finished yesterday, it's just so remarkable. And that's not an easy putt when you have to go right into your shadow, the whole kind of disappears from your peripheral vision.

[00:31:01.849]>>And uh he just drilled it in there, but, uh, it's not underestimate how desperately he wants to win.

[00:31:10.410]>>Y.E. Yang after the.

[00:31:12.520]>>Loan Bogey to start his day. I mean, he had one bogey through 2 rounds.

[00:31:24.069]>>And that another great save, we're gonna see a whole bunch of those today.

[00:31:34.689]>>Retief Goosen in here at 9, let's to get within 1.

[00:31:39.640]>>Sure, of course.

[00:31:43.920]>>Of course, and he's got a bunch of confidence. I feel he's really, uh, feeling good after a recent win.

[00:31:51.510]>>He looks good on the greens.

[00:31:55.229]>>We're back here at the 10th. Yorn just made a beautiful birdie at 9.

[00:32:00.790]>>He's just walking, he's in, Zinger.

[00:32:09.400]>>The 17th, Matt Gogel, this just a moment ago, this par 3's played tough all week, awkward pitch shot. Speaking of crafty.

[00:32:18.550]>>Right

[00:32:20.349]>>Yes, that's what we like. We like that a lot.

[00:32:26.630]>>What the 12.

[00:32:28.520]>>Unlikely opportunity on this part 4.

[00:32:32.089]>>4 plays all day at 12, so Justin Leonard likely gonna stay at 9 under 1 off the lead, while Yang, as I mentioned, trying to get into the conversation.

[00:32:43.619]>>Yeah, big breaker from left to right.

[00:32:46.420]>>He's only 3 back, so he's got to keep that in mind.

[00:32:56.589]>>Ernie, from a perfect tee shot.

[00:33:17.160]>>like, it's time for Ernie to hit one close. Well, he doesn't feel comfortable in that last shot he hit. He's trying to figure something out. This is more instincts for him hitting it down. This has pulled well left. He is not comfortable at all. We saw this actually, I remember it the most in Hawaii, where he went on to win the last few holes. He was kind of hanging on a little bit more. The flow wasn't quite there.

[00:33:45.160]>>Less than 50% of the field hitting that green in regulation. Let's go to 18.

[00:33:52.550]>>See what Michael Wright can do walking it in. Nice birdie at the last, Wright with that 69, excellent week.

[00:34:01.680]>>With what everybody's dealing with right now, likely gonna get him into the top 5.

[00:34:09.158]>>People

[00:34:13.300]>>And Matt, Paul, the first round we've seen posted sub 70 today could be the round of the day as we go back to.

[00:34:21.989]>>Our leader for the moment.

[00:34:28.810]>>Ernie gonna pitch this, which I like, if you've got confidence in it, just let it get on the green, check and release down the hill, let the wind take it, and the wind never really took it and he's got another one of those. He miss hitt it just a smidge and he missed his mark. He wanted to land that.

[00:34:45.620]>>On, you know, the first bounce was really spinning, wasn't it? And, uh, I knew the second he hit it.

[00:35:00.000]>>If I was Justin Leonard's caddie.

[00:35:03.040]>>I would say, Justin, you're a Texas boy, you're the best wind putter I've ever seen.

[00:35:09.449]>>Just something, any little thing like that.

[00:35:12.500]>>Because he's hit a couple putts that just not Justin Leonard-like, you know, he's always a very positive speed putter.

[00:35:23.379]>>Of all the players in this final round, he's given himself the most opportunity today. Oh yeah, not even close. And there's another one just.

[00:35:31.520]>>Just off that was.

[00:35:34.550]>>And he just, I don't know if he expected the wind to touch it.

[00:35:40.370]>>Pretty good putt though, huh?

[00:35:43.409]>>It's getting a close but no cigar award.

[00:35:53.340]>>Uh, let's go to the 15th and Bjørn with that excellent awkward bunker shot this to tie Ernie at 10 under. I like that speed, Beautiful high side, just perfect.

[00:36:16.510]>>Ernie

[00:36:18.830]>>Just that distance.

[00:36:21.379]>>This, this is gonna be a real tell-all for Ernie right here. It's just.

[00:36:26.610]>>Just that length to see how comfortable he feels here.

[00:36:31.169]>>Well, the wind stopped blowing, so not quite as uncomfortable.

[00:36:37.409]>>Ernie, 2 putt par, Thomas Bjørn up ahead with a birdie. So now 2 at 10 under par.

[00:36:53.100]>>Back here at the 14th, the whole Langer struggled on a day ago.

[00:36:59.209]>>186 yards they got the tee up today. Hit the little low ripper right through the wind. It's gonna be long but on the green. Boy, if you'd hit that shot yesterday.

[00:37:11.060]>>He, he made a par yesterday here. He

[00:37:14.820]>>He had the outright lead, they.

[00:37:19.320]>>Of the 18th, and Jeff Maggert this to close with a birdie. He is just right around that top 54 number.

[00:37:31.479]>>Let's go back to 14, clean life for Ernie.

[00:37:35.310]>>Clean line on an upslope too, going uphill into the into the breeze, so this is.

[00:37:41.530]>>And pretty stock standard for Ernie Els, as good as he is, but

[00:37:45.489]>>It is coming down to the wire on Championship Sunday.

[00:37:49.050]>>See where his nerves are.

[00:37:56.610]>>Oh my, nearly.

[00:37:58.989]>>Pulls it out.

[00:38:01.429]>>So

[00:38:02.699]>>I mean, it was barely moving, Paul.

[00:38:05.629]>>I wonder if it tapped the flagstick.

[00:38:08.500]>>What a shot.

[00:38:12.139]>>And another wonderful effort.

[00:38:18.540]>>Made it look easy, John.

[00:38:23.030]>>Let's go to 16.

[00:38:24.800]>>And oh boy, straight up the hill.

[00:38:32.929]>>said it a couple of times, they did not roll the greens today because of the windy conditions and, you know, probably.

[00:38:40.429]>>The right thing to do, but definitely hard to adjust.

[00:38:45.449]>>Nobody's really run the tables.

[00:38:50.429]>>the 17th, I mean, opportunity for so many of these players down the board. Tag writings playing alongside Jacobson, get within a shot.

[00:39:00.000]>>There we go. How about the late 2 reachable par 5 on 18. What if something special happened there?

[00:39:09.560]>>It is tough. Every golf swing, every hole, every situation, Ernie now, brutal angle.

[00:39:18.050]>>Yeah, it's not ideal, but he's got a nice lie and he does have some room. He's got a good 30 ft over that bunker.

[00:39:26.429]>>Oh yeah

[00:39:27.959]>>Is it out there a little bit to the right, a little bit of spin. Yeah, that was pretty good. Yeah, that's that goes in the category of clever.

[00:39:40.340]>>All right, now Justin Leonard, he's been on fire, everything.

[00:39:44.959]>>With any kind of iron, he's been in close, really tight, lots of birdie chances and that is about as far away as he's been in a while.

[00:39:53.790]>>And we'll see if he can finally get one to go.

[00:39:58.360]>>He is really hitting it well.

[00:40:01.570]>>Bernhard here wants to make this go to the left, but I think the wind's blowing hard enough, it might keep it just to the right.

[00:40:09.300]>>Play a little less break maybe than he's really feeling.

[00:40:13.949]>>One of these top 3 players are gonna have to make a couple of big putts.

[00:40:24.989]>>At Fulham.

[00:40:29.090]>>It did, I mean, you know, it's.

[00:40:31.629]>>It's not just as a pedestrian and routine as you would think, and the elements play such a big factor in golf.

[00:40:42.169]>>Not the score he was looking for here at 15.

[00:40:46.290]>>So what a Bjørn at 17.

[00:40:49.709]>>Really tough spot here.

[00:40:52.129]>>Yeah, he kind of got away with that shot and made the pitch look so easy. That could be a tremendous save.

[00:41:01.219]>>Impressive stuff.

[00:41:03.850]>>And now

[00:41:05.429]>>The man tied with them, Ernie Els here at 15, really, really impressive pitch shot trying to make just his 2nd birdie of this Sunday.

[00:41:16.750]>>I give him 8 ft, does go downhill a little bit, wants to move slightly to his left.

[00:41:25.090]>>We barely touched it.

[00:41:27.419]>>Touched it enough, great birdie from Ernie. What a putt.

[00:41:32.320]>>Took a stutter step, didn't he? Great touch. The temptation would have been to hit that too hard, I think, and that was just really well done. He kicked it out on the high line.

[00:41:43.469]>>And let it just trickle into the hole.

[00:41:47.540]>>So we'll go to 16. Al Leonard, a couple of back.

[00:41:57.469]>>There we go, putts starting to drop for these players. Yes, sir. Well, like I say, somebody's going to have to make a putt here and finally for Justin, look at that dry spell.

[00:42:11.040]>>Back here at 18, Freddie Jacobson, how about finishing the week off with an eagle if this goes?

[00:42:17.500]>>Racing up this leaderboard. I wouldn't bet against him. This guy is a great putter. Oh he's loving it. How about it, Jacobson wouldn't bet against that guy on the greens ever. He knew that was in off the face.

[00:42:32.639]>>That was so pure. Oh, now see.

[00:42:38.310]>>That's a difference maker, you know, that changed his whole year.

[00:42:41.979]>>If something crazy were to happen.

[00:42:46.979]>>With Leonard and Bjørn. See, that just sounded so good to me. We'll see if this is online again. It is another tremendous shot for Justin.

[00:43:01.679]>>He he can reach now. We know that, John.

[00:43:04.679]>>Yeah, he's only got 237 front, which gives him 234 hole. He has options here. I mean, he didn't have to go with this, but I think he absolutely will.

[00:43:17.550]>>Front pin, easiest toll on the golf course, your 2nd easiest tool.

[00:43:22.179]>>Yeah, best drive of the day for Ernie right here, the most important hole to drive it great, it's par 5.

[00:43:29.649]>>He got a good look at the scoreboard right on the back of that 15th green. So he knows exactly where he stands, and this is a nice looking golf shot, just a little right. Oh, whatever, that was so good, right by the flag.

[00:43:45.070]>>I wonder if that's a manageable shot for Ernie.

[00:43:48.810]>>And have an opportunity to get that up and in and extend the lead with two holes to play.

[00:44:01.899]>>Let's go to Ernie, an opportunity, get this up and in tack on another birdie.

[00:44:20.840]>>Yeah, that's complete trust in your short game, pitching this down that slope.

[00:44:26.699]>>And kind of stuck it in the ground a little bit.

[00:44:29.729]>>Yeah, look at him. He missed his mark by a foot.

[00:44:35.159]>>Not much at all.

[00:44:41.560]>>Now you know we've seen a little bit of that with Bernhardt this year. Paul is a little more frustration, you know, a little more non-acceptance, you know, stuff going on.

[00:44:51.830]>>You know, he's been so good for so long, you know, at some point it can finally get to you.

[00:45:04.439]>>Let's be a little careful with speed here going downwind, down downhill.

[00:45:12.699]>>There we go, no frustration in that stroke. Excellent birdie.

[00:45:19.320]>>Oh, isn't that just like his personality and his character to just go up there and do that. It's so great.

[00:45:28.500]>>Now, John, you talk about big pots for Ernie.

[00:45:33.199]>>Yeah, I, I hit this putt earlier today and it looks like it really wants to move hard to the left. It kinda hangs out there.

[00:45:50.719]>>He read it perfectly, back-to-back. Now a 2 shot lead, couple of holes left to play.

[00:45:59.689]>>Oh, look who's making the two big putts.

[00:46:03.709]>>That is really good to see.

[00:46:23.100]>>It's really solid round of golf from Thomas Bjørn in these conditions.

[00:46:27.889]>>Made a lot of important critical putts.

[00:46:31.989]>>Uh, you throw that guy out in the wind, it's like throwing a rabbit in a briar patch. They just love it and he, what a good score. He's posting clubhouse leader. Let's go to 18. Talk about needing eagle. Jacobson just made one a few minutes ago.

[00:47:04.270]>>And Justin Leonard gonna have an opportunity. Wow, coming through in the clutch. His swing tee to green today was buttoned up. Can he make the miracle putt here at the last 84 eagles on the year. The 5th would be huge.

[00:47:23.459]>>Go back to our leader, important up and in here, Cookie.

[00:47:27.750]>>Yeah, it's, this is all about contact right here and he's so good with his hands.

[00:47:32.929]>>I don't think you'll have much of a problem. It's just, you know what, it's the 2nd to last hole of the championship.

[00:47:38.729]>>You sit back there on that par 314, where are your nerves? I kind of scooped it. Bo, did he ever? That was not what I expected. Ernie's the master around these greens, you know, he's got tremendous touch still, but definitely affected there. And this putt got way more important. Justin Leonard trying to get the 12 under. This could do it. If he could make this, he might have done it. He did it. What a putt.

[00:48:07.850]>>Right in the middle, Justin Leonard.

[00:48:11.129]>>Oh, it looked good the second it left.

[00:48:15.159]>>What a finish. And man, did he show really so much patience and just resilience really because you can get frustrated, he missed so many birdie chances and just never blinked.

[00:48:30.719]>>This putt from Ernie and he has made this over and over today with perfect speed. Yeah, exactly, and this is going a little downhill hitting this putt this morning. It wants to move slightly to the right.

[00:48:48.860]>>Wow, this is just to stay in the lead. Things switch fast. Justin Leonard is trying to snatch this thing away from Ernie.

[00:49:01.800]>>That a drop shot at 17.

[00:49:06.709]>>But for the first time in a couple of days, Ernie Els.

[00:49:10.719]>>We'll be looking up at a name on the leaderboard.

[00:49:19.429]>>213 front gives them 235 in.

[00:49:31.590]>>Li is actually OK.

[00:49:34.090]>>No. Going right at it.

[00:49:36.639]>>Yeah, that is so good to get really close.

[00:49:41.520]>>That is one way to finish. I in his day. That is gonna be a couple of feet away.

[00:49:48.060]>>From an eagle 3, get to 10 under par, not gonna win, but Paul, this is a man looking for his 7th Charles Schwab Cup. All these points matter, important there and now Ernie.

[00:50:00.000]>>205 front, 227 hole, good live, no issues at all.

[00:50:06.629]>>It

[00:50:09.889]>>launches it way up in the air, but going a little right. Yeah, he doesn't have any trouble launching, but he miss hit it. You could tell by the look on his face, he got a great break. He's 2 putts from there for a playoff.

[00:50:27.639]>>And it's just not been quite as good for Ernie, a little final round pressure.

[00:50:32.629]>>Now he has to get this up-and-down.

[00:50:36.179]>>To get a playoff.

[00:50:38.159]>>But he chips it in and he wins, Shane, so see what Ernie's got.

[00:50:54.219]>>No that is not going to stretch.

[00:50:58.239]>>And that's been the link all afternoon long. And here we go. Ernie suddenly is in this dire spot where he has got to make this putt to

[00:51:08.250]>>To get a playoff.

[00:51:11.969]>>The playoff would be back at the 18th, a par 5.

[00:51:16.030]>>He's put it great today. He really has.

[00:51:19.909]>>Very solid and uh.

[00:51:22.969]>>See what we can do here.

[00:51:33.530]>>Oh, and just misses the right edge, that means Justin Leonard with the eagle at the last. You're champion.

[00:51:42.260]>>Here in Virginia, what a close for Leonard.

[00:51:47.439]>>What a heartbreak for Ernie.

[00:51:49.550]>>And Justin Leonard just picked Ernie's pocket.

[00:51:54.389]>>Tremendous finish.

[00:51:57.340]>>Justin Leonard, 2nd win of the season, 2nd win of his PGA TOUR Champions career, and this one gonna be one of your members for a long time, Paul, eagle at the last. I mean, the way he closed things out, leaning on a club that really was not obeying them really the first, let's say 15 holes.