

Production Transcript for **25INTCUTCH - CHARLES SCHWAB CUP CHAMPIONSHIP - MASTER**

[00:00:42.290]>>It is Thursday, Charles Schwab Cup Championship as we wrap things up here on PGA TOUR Champions. It looks in and around Phoenix Country Club. 9th time hosting this great championship, historic golf course. 36 players made it. 36 in the field today. Weather could not be better, a dream opening round.

[00:01:11.129]>>PGA TOUR Champions proudly present.

[00:01:15.239]>>The Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs today from Phoenix, Arizona, first round coverage of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. Great event, historic.

[00:01:26.980]>>Awesome players love this golf course in the area, food is ideal, and just making it a big part of the year in terms of goals. This golf course has seen it all. Some of the best Champions you've ever heard of in our game.

[00:01:43.230]>>And something so cool for these players to get to Phoenix and enjoy 4 days around this golf course.

[00:01:50.120]>>And look at that. Talking about ideal conditions. Winds are down, greens are firm and fast, scoring low today as expected, and we've got 5 players with an opportunity to take home the Charles Schwab Cup, of course, 2 trophies up for grabs this week. Shane Bacon alongside Paul Azinger, John Cook, Jeff Sluman with us as well, and Paul, a look at this leaderboard, and we were talking. Tommy Gainey to start the week, tagridings played great in these playoffs.

[00:02:17.229]>>And I look at some of those players already under par. It's a journeyman fest at the top of the leaderboard at the moment. First place this week is over a million dollars, so, uh, a lot of those guys just barely got in.

[00:02:29.580]>>See Steven Alker there came into the week atop the points list trying to win the Charles Schwab Cup for a 3rd time, would be just the 2nd player ever to win the Charles Schwab Cup more than 2 times, the winner.

[00:02:42.649]>>A season ago, of course, won it for the first time back in 2022, just chased down this man a few weeks ago to take that top spot, Miguel Angel Jiménez, the 61-year-old in that final pairing today alongside Alker, John Cook following this duo. Yeah, beautiful afternoon guys, great to be out here. That was from 176 out of that right rough, which is nasty front left bunker.

[00:03:10.059]>>And Paul, the, the rough is up. I mean, I had friends of mine, members in the area telling me they were losing golf balls last week trying to play this place. Well, I could see it. It's, uh, that really tall kind of sticky rye grass. Stephen there from 173 on a nice line, beautiful looking shot. Yeah, right over it, Alker. Yeah.

[00:03:32.570]>>Dialed as always, he's been so impressive in his PGA TOUR Champions career, but this golf course, Paul brings out the best in him for sure. Total home course advantage for Alker winning a couple weeks ago was so big for him coming in here to try to win the Charles Schwab Cup. Here's Thomas Bjørn at the 8th, the par 3, well paced.

[00:03:56.960]>>Mentioned some of the great scoring earlier today. Tommy Gainey, 66, had a late flurry of birdies, Tag Ridings, who has played excellent in these playoffs. A couple of top fives coming into this week trying to really change his PGA TOUR Champions career with a win this week. Take home that million bucks. Such a fun week in Arizona.

[00:04:23.429]>>And Paul, you said it. I mean, players, a goal of theirs, first things first on the list of what you want to do in a season on PGA TOUR Champions is get to Phoenix. Alker has done that throughout his career and has been so impressive. I mentioned the way he has played 2nd, 3rd, a win, tied.

[00:04:39.524]>>Second in his 4 starts here at Phoenix Country Club. His scoring average, Paul, in those 4 runs, 66.50. Well, now, if they played it on paper, it'd be over, be all over, but

they don't, so he's got to put it together, you know, he's had to, he took 5 full days off, didn't touch a club after he won the tournament a couple weeks ago.

[00:05:02.040]>>And you know, not everybody's brave enough to do that. I, I think it's courageous, you know, give your body a rest, try to come off of that, get ready to pony up in a couple weeks and good start, flawless golf again.

[00:05:15.720]>>Richard Green here at the 13th, 1 of the hardest holes on the golf course today, all hole location dependent.

[00:05:26.739]>>Well, they put it, this one, yeah, it's on the left side of the green, so, uh, the water shouldn't be in play today, but that left side gets short, doesn't it, Shane?

[00:05:37.109]>>Yeah, ball just falls off. Doug Barron, how about the start to his week? Came out of the gate. Eagle the first, Birdie the 2nd. That was almost the early walk there, Paul. Yeah, he stutter stepped it, but in it goes. see what I mean about a journeyman leaderboard at the moment, you know, these aren't the guys that you, you're used to seeing, but these guys are the ones that are capitalizing on being here. You know, these, they're the hungry players really, if you think about it, and a million dollars, over a million dollars first place prize, they're all amped up.

[00:06:07.429]>>I see

[00:06:08.890]>>I think I'll pick it up I hit it up.

[00:06:11.709]>>Alker, a little bit more new school with the outfit. This putting stroke is so, so good. Yeah, this is one of those I think might move a little to the right, but not a lot.

[00:06:24.160]>>Yeah

[00:06:25.839]>>Yeah, back-to-back hits him quickly to 3 under par, the 54 year old from Hamilton, New Zealand.

[00:06:32.329]>>I really uh enjoyed watching him prepare last night, you know, we got out here on the putting green and these guys were all out there working on their games and he had that little putting track down and you could see just how beautifully he released the putter every putt went right through the middle of that track.

[00:06:48.049]>>They all have their own little, you know, I guess, uh, teaching tools or whatever, don't they?

[00:06:54.000]>>They stick to them. Go to the 9th, Stewart Cink.

[00:07:06.739]>>It's a good looking looking half swing.

[00:07:17.190]>>Steve Allan at 13, the 007, the mystery of our man Steve Allan. Oh yeah.

[00:07:30.140]>>A minute, that's just the 2nd birdie at the 8th today.

[00:07:41.850]>>We'll go to the 9th and Stewart Cink with that sawed-off wedge, see if you can pay it off. He had a beautiful wedge in there, Shane, the 5 ft, taps it in.

[00:07:54.070]>>52 year old out of Georgia Tech. Go out to the 10th, Thomas Bjørn, just a couple off the lead.

[00:08:01.579]>>And this, Paul, the hardest soul on the golf course today, this par 4. Well, I could see it, it's, it's playing long and very narrow.

[00:08:08.910]>>I really do think this is the best putting stroke on this tour, and there he goes.

[00:08:14.579]>>Bjørn does it well, gets him to 4 under par, go to 13. Cabrera, somehow this ball stayed up. There we go.

[00:08:30.290]>>And now Cink

[00:08:32.640]>>Great shot from Stewart out of the rough and bingo. How about that? Well, what a great start laying in the weeds at 3rd in the Charles Schwab Cup, and, uh, you know, Stewart hasn't been bashful about his desire to win this Charles Schwab Cup and what a dream start for him.

[00:08:54.250]>>This was just a moment ago at 15 Cabrera from.

[00:09:00.000]>>D

[00:09:02.750]>>Come on

[00:09:05.080]>>There we go.

[00:09:06.599]>>Uh it's awesome.

[00:09:08.950]>>Even Stewart loved it. You just walk off. I'm done, done with this hole. Go to 16, we'll go to the short par 4.

[00:09:18.940]>>Showed you that approach, really, really well done from Kelly having himself a fabulous Thursday. You know, a great course for Jerry Kelly too, you know, just the kind of course you just have to pepper it into the fairway, hit that little driver draw he hits.

[00:09:33.000]>>And uh boy, he puts a lot of, a lot into every putt, I mean.

[00:09:38.530]>>And Cink

[00:09:41.669]>>birdie. Yeah, that's solid Stewart. Way to go.

[00:09:45.619]>>Good start to the championship for Stewart Cink sitting at 3rd in the Charles Schwab Cup, and he is off to the best start so far.

[00:09:55.059]>>Of all the guys trying to win that thing, one of those players with potential Bjørn.

[00:10:01.450]>>And just a lot of players and able to get it up-and-down, missing left here at 13.

[00:10:06.270]>>Well, you know, the greens hold a full shot, but to pitch to them, they're really firm.

[00:10:13.520]>>Jerry Kelly finished tied for eighth here at Phoenix Country Club back in 2023, used to shoot 6 under par, 65.

[00:10:23.369]>>Here we go. Good birdie to close. Kelly, a lone man at 6 under. This is the kind of stuff that, uh, you know, Jerry Kelly likes to show up for big events, doesn't he?

[00:10:38.960]>>Let's go back to 11. John Cook out of position off the tee, really clever second. Yeah, great recovery shot now pretty straight putt right there. How about that 3? Yeah, that's a little turn of events there with Steven Alker with a 20 footer for par.

[00:10:56.859]>>Unlikely, man, there's not a lot of room left at 11.

[00:11:01.340]>>Great opportunity here for Steven Alker from about 5 ft. Not much to this, maybe just right of center.

[00:11:10.380]>>Missed a short putt back at 9 from similar distance. I'm gonna miss 2 in a row. How about the par save at 11. Birdie here at the 12th quickly to 4 under par and that just dove in, you know, that's had no intention of lipping out on Cabrera.

[00:11:28.109]>>So make a lengthy one on this back nine already. What a season for him. Couple major championships back-to-back, and, uh, really his driver just was such a strength in putts like that.

[00:11:41.280]>>He's a big time player now. He doesn't mind rising to the occasion in these big events. What a finish for him. I mean, he beats the bag out of it he can still move it out there 310, 315 at once.

[00:11:59.539]>>Hey Cookie, I don't think it matters what this guy rolls it with. It does not matter.

[00:12:04.320]>>Like you said, this is, this put's got some speed to it. Might move slightly to his right, but not much.

[00:12:15.109]>>On a pretty good line, on a really good line, yeah, just curls it in. I mean, even with the unlikely approach outside of 10 ft, Alker gets to 5 under 1 off the lead. He is right around that average in terms of his scoring here at Phoenix Country Club.

[00:12:32.820]>>And now Cink. Stewart with a mistake-free round and he finishes it up with a birdie to take the lead. How about that? Stewart Cink's 7 under par, brilliant round of golf today.

[00:12:45.039]>>64 kick things off for Stewart Cink, came into the week third in terms of the points, just 5 players with an opportunity. Well, Stewart's got his whole life in perspective, and he was real relaxed yesterday of all the guys that were on the putting green. They were all fairly relaxed. But now, Cookie, he's got a little, maybe a little break in this putt. I know it's fast.

[00:13:13.030]>>It it does and it, it's kind of tricky. I think it goes a little bit to the left.

[00:13:18.280]>>The valley is to the left and some of these players will definitely give that some consideration, John. Yeah, everything comes down off that, that mountain straight down into Phoenix, so maybe not outside the hole, but definitely moves a little left, and I think he got out of that one. Surprising after the tee shot.

[00:13:37.900]>>Really the one time we've seen him blink on this back nine, Alker unable to birdie the 18, still gonna be around a 5 under par 66. Who blamed the bunker shot for that one. It wasn't that hard for him and normally he'd get that closer, but a great start, you know, he's been sitting on this, uh, Charles Schwab Cup lead for a couple of weeks.

[00:13:58.909]>>And nothing wrong with starting out 66 right around his scoring average in his career here at Phoenix Country Club, slightly under the number man that has played so well in his career at this golf course lives locally.

[00:14:13.849]>>But the story today, Stewart Cink, one of 5 players that came into this Charles Schwab Cup Championship with an opportunity to take home the Cup, and you see right there Zink Stewart Cink projected one. Well, when we came on air, the leaderboard was full of journeymen.



[00:14:29.460]>>And, uh, now we have a bunch of the best players on this tour have gone right to the top. Jerry Kelly's kind of surprised us a little bit. Watch out for Flesch. He's got, you know, he's got, uh, something to prove maybe and Cabrera as well.

[00:15:01.179]>>Just another beautiful Friday here in Phoenix, Arizona in November. Charles Schwab Cup Championship, 2nd round here at Phoenix Country Club looks in and around this great spot this time of year. Golf course is historic and we're already having some excellent play from some of the leaders on this Friday. Stewart Cink, 64 a day ago, unable to birdie the first hole the par 51 of the easiest holes on the golf course, no issues as he rolls that in for birdie at the second, so Stewart Cink quickly.

[00:15:31.919]>>Gets to 8 under par. Steven Alker, as you'd expect, right around the top of the leaderboard as he is every single year here at Phoenix. Shane Bacon alongside Paul Azinger, and Zing seems like he shows up in these playoffs and puts on a show. Now Cink at the 3rd. Well, Stewart Cink grabbed his 5th 1st round lead yesterday and.

[00:15:55.679]>>He's getting used to sleeping on the lead and being in contention.

[00:15:59.609]>>So Alker now at the 5th trying to get this up-and-down for 3 birdies in a row. This is the short par 4.

[00:16:06.119]>>The hands, they're very good with this young man, you know, you could even see the sweet spot before he drew it back had that little mark in the dead center where you can tell he's been working on his game right rough here for Stewart, not sitting great.

[00:16:20.400]>>166 all in.

[00:16:23.799]>>he's gonna try to shoot something through that gap at the center of the green.

[00:16:31.250]>>He was amazing yesterday judging these.

[00:16:34.799]>>Yeah.

[00:16:37.080]>>And seeing, we've talked about the rough and Phoenix Country Club had a chance to catch up with Mark Calcavecchia last night. I asked him about this golf course and he said, I've never seen the rough like this.

[00:16:51.309]>>Freddie Jacobson has been on a run in these playoffs. This is the 9th. Hull's playing so tough today.

[00:16:59.020]>>No issues for Freddie, the man can roll it well.

[00:17:07.818]>>Steve Flesch and Steven Alker out together and a chance to tie the lead, Jeff Sluman following this pairing.

[00:17:17.599]>>Yeah, Shane, after a bad drive, he had a great 2nd shot, put himself 113 yards, hit it about 8 to 10 ft left and right where you want to be.

[00:17:31.760]>>Good

[00:17:36.040]>>Just relentless golf.

[00:17:42.979]>>A boy.

[00:17:47.729]>>Langer up ahead just to get to 5 under 5 back.

[00:17:58.150]>>Just curls that in the right side, nice birdie.

[00:18:06.219]>>Go to the 18th, Ernie Els struggled a day ago.

[00:18:12.020]>>Nice way to finish. Birdie there at the 18th.

[00:18:16.349]>>No real magic yet for Ernie Els, but you get an extra round this week and you never know what could happen.

[00:18:24.449]>>Just gotta find something magical on that front nine, does Ernie, Tommy Gainey.

[00:18:29.540]>>He's moving up the board. This for birdie at 7. Yeah, he's the all-time confidence guy and he came in with a lot of confidence. He played great.

[00:18:44.280]>>There's Green at the 11th, a lot of these hole locations on the front today, Zing.

[00:18:55.329]>>Exactly

[00:18:57.250]>>So Clark with a par at the 18th, but one of those rounds that will improve his situation, 66.

[00:19:08.660]>>Cookie, you couldn't walk up and place a tee shot in a better position in terms of trying to make birdie write straight on line, puttin up the hill, not a not much break. My slide a little to the right, but not much. Keep it in the hole. Give it some pace.

[00:19:22.800]>>Yeah deuce. Yeah, easy does it. Good too, even even heard Zing say nice deuce from Kelly.

[00:19:32.939]>>We'll go to the 10th and our leader, yeah, Alker's got 181 yards, another perfect drive in Zing, you know, he opens up the hole, pins on the left, he drives it down the right side, he's just.

[00:19:45.459]>>Really amazing to watch right now.

[00:19:53.040]>>Go up a hole of 13 ran ridings who hit it left, so trying to save his par.

[00:20:01.219]>>All right.

[00:20:03.880]>>And a way to be, didn't he?

[00:20:07.500]>>Go to the 14th, we'll go to 18. Matt Gogel. Look at old Gogel, man. See the way he sets up on his left side. That's how I used to do it. I'd get over there on my left side, but I had a little shorter.

[00:20:18.260]>>I just knew that was going in. You just knew it. Go well, he just looked too good.

[00:20:23.660]>>Love Gogel. Good round. There he is.

[00:20:32.390]>>It was Gainey at 12. I mean this to tie for the take the lead solo. He knew it right off the blade.

[00:20:39.319]>>That was when the early fist pumps. He could have started shooting at it like Raymond Floyd used to do. He knew it was in. I mean, seeing you said it before yesterday, you said, I like Tommy Gainey at this golf course with the way he's been playing.

[00:20:54.530]>>The 18, Jimenez, who's having himself an excellent day trying to finish things off in style as he typically does, he's gonna make birdie the hard way if he's gonna do it and or, oh my goodness, only nearly.

[00:21:08.689]>>Walks off with the eagle, so this for a tap in 65. Started the day with an eagle. That's birdie the easy way, Shane. There we go. What a round he had to have it.

[00:21:26.869]>>Now taking advantage into his 50s.

[00:21:31.250]>>Cink

[00:21:32.949]>>That's the top of birdie putt you want at 12. Yeah, there you go, and Jerry Kelly actually missed his from about 5 ft and Stewart think we'll tap his in.

[00:21:46.119]>>Important for Saint there at 12.

[00:21:51.800]>>That guy catch that one handed, the glasses on and the beer and the other hand, pretty impressive.

[00:21:58.219]>>Over to 15, Charlie Wi.

[00:22:01.270]>>He's not having a great day, but he could finish up well.

[00:22:05.280]>>Harry

[00:22:09.439]>>One of the toughest holes on the golf course today, 15, nice 2. Yeah, you got a chance to have a nice little run to close.

[00:22:18.839]>>Let's go to 18-1. Zing, your guy, Thomas Bjørn with the stroke. Yeah, this is a fantastic stroke and he hits it well. He capitalizes. There he goes again.

[00:22:31.800]>>Both of those guys, Cabrera as well, it putts just look like a rabbit going into the hole, disappear.

[00:22:39.469]>>That ball had purpose, didn't it?

[00:22:52.489]>>Alker made a great putt here at 16 a day ago, and today's putt we hit this morning, uh, saying it's very straight.

[00:23:03.079]>>Well

[00:23:07.510]>>I mean that was just like the putt he made a day ago. Remember it curled in the side at 16.

[00:23:12.869]>>That's, that's that Jack Nicklaus dying speed of putting, and we've seen it all week. Everything just rolled up just gimme. Yeah, they're not going in by accident. No, that's that perfect speed.

[00:23:28.319]>>Now Cink, this is a big putt as well, struggled to get these to drop on this back nine.

[00:23:35.479]>>Yeah, not much to this. Pretty, pretty straight. It's got a little speed. Gotta be a little careful with the pace. I think.

[00:23:51.290]>>Somebody's ice cubes.

[00:23:53.560]>>You know, he's giving it his full concentration, you know, any little thing like that gets in your peripheral vision, he just stopped immediately. He's got to make this, John, you know, in his mind this is like, Stewart, you deserve to make this. Yeah, you take that chance off the tee, drive it down there, nice pitch, but great conversion, full on attack mode. And, uh, that's how you make a mockery of a hole. That's what he did.

[00:24:20.750]>>Only made one bogey in 36 holes.

[00:24:27.699]>>Pretty good golf there, Shane. Yeah, 18 rounds here at Phoenix Country Club. Flesch might have learned something.

[00:24:36.609]>>Oh, he's a good putter. Steve Flesch doesn't need anything all day.

[00:24:41.949]>>That's golf right there, Paul. Yeah, it is. We all know the feeling.

[00:25:13.180]>>Yes.

[00:25:15.000]>>There we go, gonna get Cink in that final pairing. Yeah, I like that for Stewart. I think, you know, he's set his sights on the Charles Schwab Cup at the start of the year. He was very vocal, like he would how much he would love to win it, just like how much he would love to be a Ryder Cup captain, you know, he, he'll tell you the truth, and he's as authentic as a guy can be. Just a big putt, 68 for Sik, now Kelly.

[00:25:41.650]>>Not much to this, maybe just left to center.

[00:25:44.880]>>Right

[00:25:47.689]>>Two good birdies.

[00:25:50.300]>>Great way to finish from our final two on this Friday. makes dinner.

[00:25:59.000]>>Alker at 11 under par. Stewart Cink 1 back. Gain he had 9 under.

[00:26:07.060]>>Jimenez with that great round of 65 today making a push up this board. So what he can do tomorrow and Jerry Kelly at 8 under as well and Zing, you said it, a lot of the players be expected to be near the top of the points list and near the top of this leaderboard comes Saturday right in that position.

[00:26:36.489]>>Weather has flipped as we've entered the weekend here at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. Phoenix Country Club historic place here in Central Phoenix. The setting once again, 9th consecutive year hosting the season ending event. It'll be an excellent, excellent 3rd round.

[00:26:54.599]>>Take you through some of the highlights from earlier today. Final pairing off to a red hot start. Stewart Cink entered the day, one off the lead. This at the opening hole, the par 5 cross-handed pitching, and this is how you begin a round of golf. Whole out eagle to start for Cink.

[00:27:15.579]>>Playing alongside our leader through two rounds, Steven Alker, so this guy steady as they come after the pitch in with Cink, he rolls that in for an opening birdie, no issues. Seeing some players really got off to a great start today, Richard Green, this at 9.

[00:27:34.660]>>for his 5th birdie on the opening 9 holes, Green making a run up this leaderboard as well.



[00:27:43.849]>>We'll go to the Ford. Stewart Cink huge tee shot here at the Fordge just 75 yards. He's been driving it so well all week, Long and in the fairway, precise wet shot there would roll that in for Birdie as well, and right now Stewart Cink.

[00:28:00.939]>>Atop the board, Alker trying to win the Charles Schwab Cup for the 3rd time in his career. Stewart Cink has talked so much about the importance of this week and this championship right now in charge. Well, it's great to be here. I can tell you players love the golf course. The greens are spectacular.

[00:28:22.500]>>And uh it's just nice to be here in the desert and watch these guys finish off the marathon, the season-long marathon for the Charles Schwab Cup, as you said, about every week is feeling like a sprint 3 days, Shane, you're right, but John Cook, this, this week, 4 rounds. Yeah, one of the, uh, 4 round events and this is the way you wanna.

[00:28:45.719]>>In the season it's been a great season so far. little weather out here, it's not too bad. Steven Alker now back of the green here at 6, caught the downslope on his 2nd shot. So now that goes downhill from right there.

[00:29:01.900]>>Oh

[00:29:03.739]>>How about this pace? How about the pace? Sure. Just another one we saw him do this a few weeks ago on his way to a seven shot win.

[00:29:13.390]>>We talk about relentless golfers. This guy has turned into one once he turned 50 years old. Things like that have to happen to win tournaments, you know, we just happen to be catching it all on camera.

[00:29:28.979]>>Go to 18, so Kelson having himself a heck of a round. This at 18 for Birdie.

[00:29:34.680]>>Lengthy look.

[00:29:36.510]>>Did he make it?

[00:29:38.400]>>There we go, Kjeldsen, finishing off with a great bird, 65 for Soren.

[00:29:54.520]>>We'll go to 13. Thomas Bjørn having an excellent season.

[00:30:01.469]>>He sure is. He can go on a hot streak.

[00:30:05.310]>>And he can really roll it.

[00:30:08.290]>>Yeah.

[00:30:10.640]>>And Steven needs to see one go in right here.

[00:30:17.729]>>and then.

[00:30:25.089]>>away.

[00:30:27.910]>>A great line and of course from that distance, he is deadly.

[00:30:43.650]>>You see Stewart Cink there. 2 3s on this hole come off. Yeah, the hardest hole on the course, and both these guys come out of there, both barrels while these and get a couple birdies. They know winning res confidence too. You just, you're doing the right things, you're hitting the right shots at the right time. You're comfortable in uncomfortable situations. That brings a lot of confidence.

[00:31:07.390]>>Now Cejka

[00:31:17.890]>>That was so drippy. Nice birdie.

[00:31:25.560]>>Bjørn at 15 trying to follow Cejka in.

[00:31:36.650]>>Just a simple little par 3 today, Zing.

[00:31:39.619]>>It's a good birdie.

[00:31:42.900]>>Alker now to save his par.

[00:31:46.339]>>Big

[00:31:50.449]>>What a big putt.

[00:31:54.790]>>Man, that's so, you just peacock off the green when you make a putt like that. That kind of par save, shoulders back, head up.

[00:32:03.270]>>Just a tough guy to beat when he makes every 5 and 6 ft foot of the par. Yeah, and he's getting beat right now by Stewart and, uh, those two guys really are threatening to lap the field, but Thomas Dorn, if he has anything to say about it.

[00:32:18.729]>>Look at him giving a little something something here at the end, 3 out of 4 holes, birdie.

[00:32:27.180]>>Some of these players trying to make a push. Jacobson, one of those players after that great par save back at 13.

[00:32:34.219]>>Excellent approach here at 14. You see the eyes follow it in and a nice birdie at 14.

[00:32:43.770]>>Yeah.

[00:32:51.599]>>Alker for birdie, yeah, no doubt about it, not much to this.

[00:32:55.660]>>Oh.

[00:32:58.660]>>All good pitchers hit corners, right? Yeah, do a little two-step, still went in.

[00:33:05.390]>>They teach that in New Zealand.

[00:33:11.750]>>And a baby.

[00:33:16.469]>>Now Langer

[00:33:19.170]>>Just feels lethal from this distance, doesn't you think?

[00:33:24.010]>>There he goes again then.

[00:33:27.329]>>I just feel like you watch him and he makes more 25 and 30 footers than most people in professional golf on any tour.

[00:33:35.489]>>So green to polish off a very shiny day.

[00:33:45.670]>>Excellent stuff. 65 for Richard Green, currently in a tie for 3. Well, it was no easy feat, but, uh, you know, what an achievement for him. Slow, this has got to go. I need to see a birdie. I haven't seen one today. There we go. There we go, there we go.

[00:34:08.469]>>Let's go to 18, set up, this is awkward fast down the hill for Cejka, having himself a great day.

[00:34:16.378]>>Did he make it? I made it. What a shot from Jaco.

[00:34:32.320]>>Real look of concentration on Stewart Cink's face. These guys are dialed in, man. This is fun to watch because it's exceptional golf, both 5 under par on their rounds today.

[00:34:44.199]>>In the last group

[00:34:48.928]>>Right

[00:34:52.750]>>Yeah, and most of Stewart Cink's birdies, you know, you think about Cink, where they've come from, they've been close range, outside of that pitch.

[00:35:03.939]>>But he made the first for Eagle, waiting for that lengthy one to drop.

[00:35:11.310]>>Just like

[00:35:15.320]>>Thank you.

[00:35:19.439]>>Thank

[00:35:21.110]>>3 put.

[00:35:23.419]>>Yeah, these two started the day, Cink with a pitch in eagle at the first. Alker calmly rolls in about a 6 footer for birdie. Now Alker trying to end his day with an eagle, get to 18 under.

[00:35:37.679]>>Well, it's a tricky little putt. It doesn't do a whole lot. You're always trying to read too much into this.

[00:35:43.800]>>Just kind of run it down there.

[00:35:48.810]>>His speed has been so good.

[00:35:52.879]>>That's impressive speed too. Knocker's over here stretching his back, got me a gimme birdie. I'm gonna watch Stewart, see what he can do. And he made a putt of this length at 16.

[00:36:04.459]>>Yeah, this one doesn't do a whole lot either. Might go a little left at the end, but not much.

[00:36:10.889]>>No just kind of hung there.

[00:36:14.800]>>That'll be a disappointing 5 here.

[00:36:18.010]>>At this closing par 5, considering the length off the tee from Stewart Cink, unable to birdie 7.

[00:36:25.199]>>Unable to birdie 18, still shoots 66.

[00:36:30.530]>>He is right there. Go be one off the lead come Sunday.

[00:36:36.449]>>66 and he, he really did not exploit the par 5s. You're right.

[00:36:41.929]>>Stewart's really in a great state of mind.

[00:36:46.629]>>But he's got to run this guy down.

[00:36:51.820]>>Steven Alker, the 54 year old from Hamilton, New Zealand.

[00:36:57.969]>>Had a career season in 2024, shows up in this championship and plays like a man that has beaten the best in the world his whole life, looking for his 11th win on PGA Tour Champions come Sunday. We'll go out and play some more ping pong tonight. He and his caddie went out last night. I guess there was several players they're having a big meal, but they all started playing ping pong and Alker says he's like a 7 or 8 handicap.

[00:37:26.360]>>A ping pong player. He's about a plus 7 or +8 at this golf course, historically.

[00:37:42.370]>>Final round of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship from Phoenix Country Club.

[00:37:47.840]>>Some weather in the area. It has moved out of central Phoenix, and we are preparing for a lovely, lovely day. Bunched board.

[00:37:58.709]>>Steven Alker, Stewart Cink, final pairing, both with an opportunity to win both the Charles Schwab Cup Championship and the Charles Schwab Cup. Just the 4th time if one of those two win that that would happen, Freddie Jacobson making a move, Langer hanging around, 4 off the lead.

[00:38:15.350]>>Go out to the 7th. Steven Ouker coming off his first birdie of the day, John Cook following our leader. Good to be with you here on Championship Sunday, coming off a nice birdie there at the 6th.

[00:38:27.590]>>Not sure if Steven can reach this screen in 2. I'm not here with the wind.

[00:38:34.510]>>We'll go to the 8th, penultimate pairing, Tommy Gainey playing alongside Bernhard Langer. Gainey having himself a fine, fine season since he turned 50 in August. He's a confident player. Now Langer.

[00:38:57.979]>>They're really nice.

[00:39:00.000]>>Really nice. Thank you. Uh, Shane, I think one of the hardest things to do around here is you get in a situation like Bernard there is just to judge the pace coming off that slow, slow collar, then onto the superfast green.

[00:39:14.639]>>An Alker.

[00:39:16.989]>>Oh.

[00:39:21.500]>>Pretty simple from Alker, nearly hit his 3 wood about 300 yards in terms of the approach here at the 7th, gonna be a simple birdie back-to-back for Alker. John, how's he looking so from what we've seen, it's been amazing.



[00:39:37.459]>>Yeah, he's OK. He didn't birdie number 1, just about a 4 footer, left it short of the green at number 2, got it up and in, drove it to the right at 3, but made par, and since then it's been pretty steady, drove it just short of the green at 5, didn't get that up-and-down, but a great birdie at 6 after a good tee shot. Two good ones there, Paul, and just a little tap in birdie. Well, that 3 wood he just hit, not a lot of guys on this tour can hit that 3 wood. Now Stewart's been a little different, slew.

[00:40:16.080]>>Go to the 15th, Padraig Harrington, speaking of players that can move it off the tee.

[00:40:24.830]>>Struggled in that opening round 73, but bouncing back nicely on the weekend.

[00:40:30.209]>>I mean, you knew where that was gonna go, come on. He's smiling.

[00:40:36.870]>>Uh, no, a couple of slow starts for both Stewart and Steven. Stewart made the first birdie of this group back at the 5th, and Steven has countered with birdies at 6 and 7 and along with Stewart's at 7, but you're right, Championship Sunday is different. There's a finality to the day, no holes left after the 72nd unless you're in a playoff. So only one bogey so far this week for Steven Alker.

[00:41:03.110]>>He's a bulldog. He hates bogies more than I hate bogies. I'm saying something.

[00:41:12.800]>>Oh

[00:41:14.969]>>Well, there is the 2nd.

[00:41:17.989]>>Surprised him as well.

[00:41:20.580]>>He just caught a terrible lie and the putter didn't save him for the first time in a while, actually.

[00:41:26.780]>>Really for the 2nd time all week. It's a 2nd bogey.

[00:41:31.590]>>He's gotten very comfortable being in the last group, guys. This is the 12th time, 13th time in his career, and Stewart's been in the last group enough. I think he's getting fairly comfortable with it as well. There's just so much on the line today. Uh, it's gonna be fun as they get going. I think one of these guys might go on a little birdie tear or one of them might spit the bit.

[00:41:57.739]>>We'll go to 18. VJ Singh having a solid week. Sure is. Now, here's what I wonder if when the season's over, come on, BJ, that a way to finish your year.

[00:42:08.790]>>You know, quitting that guy, one of the most distinguished players.

[00:42:14.590]>>Kelly

[00:42:23.760]>>Excellent.

[00:42:25.229]>>Yeah, Jerry Kelly, he's like point and shoot when he gets it going. Uh, he's, he's going along nicely today, slept on another lead, but he's coming off a bogey. That he is and he's got his work cut out for him here for a two-putt. This goes uphill and flattens out just past the pen. You could go off the other side of the green, so has to be precise with pace, but he's been precise with pace all week.

[00:42:52.179]>>Yeah, it's a long string of 3 putt avoidance for him. Should be started in the right edge of the hole. It's gotta go just a little left, very, very makeable. Stay down on it.

[00:43:10.459]>>A little tender, Coup putts that have kind of come up short.

[00:43:16.350]>>Let's see if that's a pattern as the day goes on.

[00:43:27.959]>>Alker with a good 2 putt, you know, both of their players stats, both of their stats are so good you would wonder how could they not win it the Charles Schwab Cup.

[00:43:40.750]>>Stewart Cink asked yesterday about that match play scenario, said, I'm welcoming it. I'm excited about it. Here's Kelly after that really cool approach. He just kind of shoves it in the hole, doesn't he? Yeah, he hits it in.

[00:43:54.820]>>Uh, Freddie Jacobson, this is a place where he can really shine. He's 5 for 8 for the week, you can see in the graphic, but this is a little upslope, could be one of the simplest bunker shots you'd ever see.

[00:44:15.629]>>What, uh, now see, we didn't know that was gonna happen, did we? but maybe we did. No, we didn't know that. No, I mean that's why, but the reality is he's an amazing bunker player. They all are now for Stewart Cink, last couple of days, 6 of 22 fairways hit. Started to miss a lot of fairways. Go to 13. Kelly making a move. I wonder how much this thing breaks. It moves a lot. should go hard to the right, moves a lot. There it goes. Oh my word.

[00:44:45.010]>>I bet he put some body English on that thing.

[00:44:49.389]>>Try to make it go. See a couple of putts from that distance nearly dropped. That is a tricky hole location from the teasing looks like it's in the water. Yeah, well, a couple of days ago we were hitting that putt and it was like, man, this thing's gonna slide.

[00:45:05.360]>>Fun last 9 holes here in Phoenix.

[00:45:10.639]>>While we were away, Alker deep at the 10th. A lot of options, none of them good. He's got the sandwich out and trying to fly it on the green and hope it checks.

[00:45:22.949]>>Cheese, that it's really salty.

[00:45:32.149]>>Go to the 15th. Flesch made birdie at 13, the par 3.

[00:45:36.739]>>So you can save it here at 15. Back up putter back up putter.

[00:45:42.350]>>Kind of like the Steelers brought the QB in in the second half, no issues.

[00:45:47.419]>>Go back over to the 10th and Cink.

[00:45:50.139]>>Yeah, he's up over that little ridge there, so this is gonna be a very straight putt.

[00:45:57.760]>>Yeah, lovely speed.

[00:46:00.479]>>Alker's not

[00:46:02.149]>>You know, you know, making birdie every other hole.

[00:46:07.600]>>It's definitely different.

[00:46:09.719]>>Oh wow, that was gonna be a big pot. I mean that is smoked by the hole.

[00:46:21.659]>>Look how hard he hits his putts, this is one of the most confident strokes.

[00:46:26.600]>>My goodness.

[00:46:29.489]>>Up ahead, Tommy Gainey just off the green.

[00:46:33.500]>>Just his 9th start. PGA Tour Champions already has a win. Tuesday qualified into the Jacksonville event.

[00:46:40.530]>>I do.

[00:46:45.080]>>And a little something, something from Bernard Langer there, nice to get knuckled from Bernard Langer. Tommy Gaines got to be thrilled to be able to play with the legend.

[00:46:55.340]>>Let's go to sync.

[00:47:02.080]>>I got it.

[00:47:05.389]>>No, that would have gone in a thimble.

[00:47:09.110]>>That was beautiful. You know, the previous hole we're saying maybe the hole looks like a thimble, but that would have gone in one. That was beautiful. Stewart Cink, the second he's grabbed the lead, uh, he's been spot on.

[00:47:25.750]>>Langer at the 14th.

[00:47:38.060]>>Wow.

[00:47:41.810]>>Alker with an opportunity for just the 3rd birdie of the day here at the 13th. Yes, has to take advantage of this opportunity after that great tee shot. This will move to the right. It's.

[00:47:55.889]>>That might just revitalize his game. He really took a chance. He slung that out right by the water. Two of the best of the day, two of the best swings of the week from these two at the 15th, ain't gonna start.

[00:48:10.389]>>The party. See if you can roll this in for two. Slow, it's so impressive. Alker steps up and hit what could be a momentum shifting shot and, uh, Stewart's answers. Absolutely. Stewart's doing the right thing, taking his time here. I had a tendency in these situations to rush this.

[00:48:29.800]>>He didn't.

[00:48:33.030]>>Stewart.

[00:48:35.870]>>What a response. You know, that's how a champion wins championships and, uh, boy, Alker just, he had just hit this glorious shot.

[00:48:47.399]>>Now the pressure on the shoulders of Alker, who's got to make this just a couple feet away.

[00:48:54.340]>>I mean normal circumstances, this is, I mean this is one of those I'll go up and finish, but not today. A lot of nerves in this group right now, but for good reason. Well, and they're controlling their nerves, you know, it's fun to watch because it takes nerves sometimes to make the great things happen in sports. It just does.

[00:49:17.149]>>Go up to 18, Matt Gogle goes out his season with a birdie.

[00:49:25.250]>>Nice to know that 18 can be had.

[00:49:29.409]>>We've seen uh sevens and.

[00:49:32.649]>>I don't know if we've seen any 3s there yet, but it's Eagles yet today at the 18th. Yeah, it could be Eagle though.

[00:49:40.219]>>Not an eagle on the golf course in this final round.

[00:49:45.810]>>Yeah

[00:49:56.760]>>Talked to him, you know, a couple weeks ago, right after he won. He was grinding, he was working hard, put a new driver in the bag. He just wants to improve and

[00:50:06.830]>>Don't take this as another learning experience.

[00:50:15.199]>>Well, once he, once he got 3 behind, he was really kind of fighting against all the odds, wasn't he? But, uh, yeah, he was. It came down to the very end, Cookie. Yeah, that he was, and you could see the frustration walking off that 12th green that was so out of character for him 3 putt from 8 ft.

[00:50:35.929]>>But he has nothing to be ashamed of, honestly. He has had a heck of a year, a great run, gonna come up just short. It's disappointing, it's frustrating, but you know what? He's gonna go home, he's gonna be just fine.

[00:50:50.080]>>Now 20 of 20 rounds at Phoenix Country Club, Alker has yet to shoot over par. That's just the 3rd time in his career in this championship he shot a round of 70.

[00:51:02.580]>>And Stewart Cink. Zing, you always want these to go. You always want to finish off in style, but no matter what happens, Stewart Cink. 3 putts for both trophies.

[00:51:16.840]>>Those are the best words that you could ever hear, Paul.

[00:51:24.989]>>And not gonna have it, but Stewart Cink. He put it out there to start the year, exclamation mark to end. Charles Schwab Cup champion and a winner here in Phoenix.

[00:51:43.620]>>Just the 4th time in the Charles Schwab Cup history that a player took home both trophies in the final event of the year. Tom Watson did it in 2005, Lehman in 2012, Kevin Sutherland, the last to do it in 2017, came into the final round, a shot off the lead. He was one of those players. There were 5 with an opportunity. If they left Phoenix victorious, they take home the Charles Schwab Cup. Stewart Cink able to do just that.