

PGA TOUR Originals
Credentialed: Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard
International Script

COLD OPEN

LOCKER ROOM ATTENDANT: Right here next to Mr. Palmer.

RUSSELL HENLEY: Wow! How good is that?

LOCKER ROOM ATTENDANT: We moved all your things in there.

RUSSELL HENLEY: Thank you!

LOCKER ROOM ATTENDANT: You got it, sir.

RUSSELL HENLEY: That's amazing!

LOCKER ROOM ATTENDANT: Congratulations, again.

RUSSELL HENLEY: Wow, thanks so much. Man, do I have to leave? Can I stay?

LOCKER ROOM ATTENDANT: It's your locker, you can leave whenever.

RUSSELL HENLEY: Oh man! You know, I never really thought that I would be sitting here as the winner of the tournament, but seeing my name next to it's pretty cool. It kind of puts in perspective of how big this game is and how much it means to me, and how much work I put into it to try to be the best player I can be.

TOURNAMENT SETUP

ANNC: The feeling is always the same at Bay Hill, big time golf course and home of the King.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Everyone kind of knows what Bay Hill gives you, you know? It takes a lot more than it gives, and you have to earn every par or birdie or bogey that you make. So, it's a tough place.

ANNC: Arnold Palmer would especially be proud of how it looks in this 2025 version.

RORY McILROY: It's a golf course that sets up really, really well for me and you know, I've obviously done pretty well here.

ANNC: What a finish for McIlroy!

RORY McILROY: It's a great event. I think it's one of the best setups that we play all year. With as strong a field as pretty much anywhere that we play and it's good to be back.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Last year I had a really good week...

ANNC: And Scottie Scheffler is the king of Bay Hill again!

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Definitely gave me a little bit of a jump start to the year. A lot of confidence going forward. Golf course seems like it usually is this week. The greens are already pretty firm. Hopefully the rain holds off and the conditions stay the way Bay Hill likes for them to be and should be up for another fun, challenging week here.

FIRST ROUND – PART I

WITH THE ARRIVAL OF MARCH, BAY HILL ONCE AGAIN OPENED ITS DOORS TO THE WORLD FOR THE 60TH EDITION OF THE ARNOLD PALMER INVITATIONAL PRESENTED BY MASTERCARD... THE FORTH SIGNATURE EVENT OF THE SEASON.

NATS: Good morning.

SHANE LOWRY: Morning, how are ya?

NATS: Good how are y'all?

SHANE LOWRY: Good.

COLLIN MORIKAWA: What am I supposed to do? Smile? Wave?

ANNC: Big time feel, 45 of the top 50 here.

NATS: Morning!

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Morning.

NATS: Have a good round.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Thank you!

STARTER: From Dallas, Texas, please welcome, Scottie Scheffler!

AFTER A SLOW START TO HIS ROUND, SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER PICKED UP THE PACE AHEAD OF THE TURN.

ANNC: Scheffler for back-to-back birdies. He poured it right in the center, what a putt. Just grind it out

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: You pick your poison out here. You can probably create a story with whatever it is. I mean, the greens are tough, the rough is high, and the wind is up, so you know, you pick.

ANNC: One under round of 71, that is a very good round for Scheffler.

2018 CHAMPION RORY MCILROY BATTLED THE CHALLENGING CONDITIONS FOR A 2-UNDER ROUND.

ANNC: How about that putter? Heating up! McIlroy with three birdies in the last four holes to rise to the top.

WHILE SHANE LOWRY BUILT ON THE MOMENTUM OF HIS THIRD-PLACE FINISH IN THE TOURNAMENT LAST SEASON.

ANNC: Oh what control from Shane Lowry. How good is that?

Didn't take much time and just rolls it in. Has really got off to a nice start here on Thursday.

SHANE LOWRY: It didn't look much fun out there so I wasn't particularly looking forward to my round, even though it wasn't easy and I felt like I did a good job of you know, making my way around the golf course. I was pretty happy with my result.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE RETURNS

FOR ONE PLAYER, THE START AT BAY HILL MARKED A HIGHLY ANTICIPATED RETURN TO COMPETITION FROM INJURY...

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I got hurt dude.

HENLEY: What'd you hurt?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: My freaking intercostal cartilage area.

HENLEY: Was it from dropping bombs?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: No.

HENLEY: What's it from?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: All the karma from making fun of you.

HENLEY: Good to see you again.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Good to see you Russ!

MODERATOR: We would like to welcome world No. 3 Xander Schauffele to the media center.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Let's go big guy.

MODERATOR: You're making your first start since The Sentry in January. Can we get some comments on how you're feeling?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: It's great to be back, nice to see some familiar faces and had some time to reflect in what was six weeks. Sounds pretty short, but felt like a lifetime for me, so like I said, I'm just really happy to be here.

FIRST ROUND – PART II

SCHAUFFELE'S RETURN GOT OFF TO A ROCKY START, WITH THE EFFECTS OF HIS TIME AWAY PROVING TOUGH TO SHAKE.

ANNC: Back in action for the first time in a couple of months, Xander Schauffele has not hit a fairway yet. Not the comeback that he had envisioned.

AND AS XANDER STRUGGLED TO A 5 OVER 77 IN THE OPENING ROUND, HE AND THE REST OF THE FIELD WERE LEFT CHASING THE BOLD PLAY OF WYNDHAM CLARK.

ANNC: Aggressive line. Oh man and he pays it off!

WYNDHAM CLARK: I think I've just gotten more comfortable with some of those tee shots. Maybe a little bit more conservative on some holes, maybe a more aggressive on others.

ANNC: And on a day like today, a 67 is way under the field average. It's that time of the year where he starts playing some really good golf.

NATS: Great round. Thanks Wyndham. Thank you.

WYNDHAM CLARK: You are welcome.

NATS: You made his day.

WYNDHAM CLARK: There you go, buddy.

NATS: Thanks buddy.

SECOND ROUND – PART I

ANNC: Well if you like beautiful Fridays, we have one. Stark contrast to the conditions yesterday where the winds were whipping around Arnold's Bay Hill Club and Lodge.

The first round leader Wyndham Clark. Wyndham looking for another birdie here at the 12th, the par 5. They're rolling them in there at the 12th, and then disaster here at the 15th. Ends up out of bounds for double bogey.

WYNDHAM CLARK: I don't know if I've ever fist pumped a double bogey but it just was more of like an internal thing, like, "let's go", and gave me kind of some momentum for the last three holes.

WHILE WYNDHAM CLARK PURSUED ANOTHER SIGNATURE EVENT TITLE, AN AMATEUR CLOSED IN ON HIS OWN ACHIEVEMENT.

STARTER: From Chapel Hill, North Carolina... Jackson Koivun!

ANNC: How about Jackson Koivun, who's a sophomore at Auburn, and with that accelerated program, needs two points starting the week. He'd earn his PGA TOUR card.

JACKSON KOIVUN MINI

JACKSON KOIVUN: How are you doing?

NATS: Good, how are you?

JACKSON KOIVUN: Pretty good. Is this the locker room?

NATS: Yes sir, all yours.

JACKSON KOIVUN: Thank you.

I know the range is here, I just don't know how to get into it.

Let's see how this thing is.

NATS: War eagle!

JACKSON KOIVUN & CHRIS WILLIAMS: War eagle.

JACKSON KOIVUN: It's just a real honor to be out here this week, it's essentially the top 70 players in the world playing and obviously that's tough, tough competition. It's really cool be out

here, kind of see what type of shots they hit when you watch it on TV and just the magnitude of those golf shots, so, I'm looking forward to putting my name in the hat.

MODERATOR: Jackson, playing this week as a sponsor exemption which you received by virtue of a vote from your peers from the 2024 Arnold Palmer Cup.

JACKSON KOIVUN: You know, there's a lot really, really good golfers on that team and for them to select me it means a lot to be able to come out here to Bay Hill this week and compete.

ANNC: The amateur now, Jackson Koivun. I mean you look at Ludvig, Jackson, Luke Clanton, I mean these guys came out ready to play. No fear. Yeah, the modern crop of NCAA athlete's a little different.

SECOND ROUND – PART II

WITH CONSECUTIVE ROUNDS OF 72, JACKSON KOIVUN COMFORTABLY FINISHED INSIDE THE 4-OVER CUTLINE, MOVING ONE POINT CLOSER TO EARNING HIS PGA TOUR CARD.

JACKSON KOIVUN: My goal today was trying to inch up the leaderboard as much as I could, but I don't know if evens going to really catch that goal, but at the end of the day making that cut means a lot.

ANNC: Here's Morikawa. Just that dependable little cut shot. Oh man, right underneath the hole. The guy is just year in and year out he's one of the best with those irons.

COLLIN MORIKAWA: I do like these difficult golf courses because it challenges you. There's no cruising this week, it's only going to get tougher, so we just got to be ready for that.

ANNC: Can't say enough about how hard Rory's working out here today, he's made a couple of all-world pars.

RORY MCILROY MOVED INSIDE THE TOP 5 HEADING INTO THE WEEKEND, BUT IT WAS HIS PLAYING PARTNER WHO SET THE PACE.

SHANE LOWRY: I know Rory's record around here, and I knew he was going to play pretty well, and I knew I was going to have to play well to keep up with him.

ANNC: Lowry from off the green, with a final exclamation point for a 67, 5-under round for Lowry.

SHANE LOWRY: 8-under after two rounds around this place is pretty good. So, excited to have a late tee time here tomorrow and looking forward to the weekend.

ANNC: This is turning into what Arnie would've been proud to see, a real battle for the finish at this Arnold Palmer Invitational.

RORY McILROY & NATE BARGATZE PRO-AM

NATE BARGATZE: Opening a glove. This is how the pros do it. Unpackage the glove on the first tee. I just bought these clubs this morning.

RORY McILROY: Good, good.

NATE BARGATZE: It's a golf glove. You ever unwrapped one this late... in the game?

NATS: You're up to play.

NATE BARGATZE: You mind holding that? Holding my trash.

DURING THE WEDNESDAY PRO-AM, RORY MCILROY WAS JOINED BY HIS FRIEND, COMEDIAN NATE BARGATZE.

NATE BARGATZE: It should be said that I was asleep 20 minutes ago.

NATS: Good shot, nice!

RORY McILROY: Fairway.

NATE BARGATZE: Is it? I'd bet it's in the rough.

RORY McILROY: I think it's fairway.

NATE BARGATZE: I'll grab my belongings. Here you go, you got all my stuff.

I didn't know this bunker was right here.

RORY McILROY: I don't know. Is that his?

NATE BARGATZE: I'll be honest you, there's been, it might not be mine. It says Nate Bargatze but there could have been another

I'm keeping the fairways pristine for these guys for tomorrow. I promised I'd stay in the bunkers.

RORY McILROY: He's, you know, probably a better stand-up comedian than I am a golfer. So, he's killing it, and he's doing a great job.

NATE BARGATZE: He's probably got a 7-iron from here. Either that or 69 degree Oh, it comes back little draw and kicks exactly left and goes towards the hole. Must be nice. Must be real nice.

I'll be honest with you, Rory carried us. It's very, very cool to see. I've got to play it with him once before, and so like to see it actually on a course, though, that like, you know, they're playing this weekend, it'll be fun to watch the tournament now, especially after playing

RORY McILROY: Thanks, partner.

NATE BARGATZE: Thanks, buddy. It was fun.

RORY McILROY: Yeah it was good.

THIRD ROUND

ANNC: Back in the kingdom on a Saturday at Bay Hill and the golf course is playing tough.

AS BAY HILL SHOWED ITS TEETH ON MOVING DAY, CONTENDERS BEGAN TO FALTER.

ANNC: Sounded like good contact but this is headed left. It's been an adventure for him today.

ANNC: To our leader. This to avoid opening with back-to-back bogeys. And unfortunately that will be the story.

ANNC: Here's Clark for par. Simply put, this man needs something good to happen. And he's still looking for it. That's going to be a fourth bogey in the first eight holes.

WYNDHAM CLARK, SHANE LOWRY AND RORY MCILROY FINISHED OVER PAR ON SATURDAY, WHILE OTHERS THRIVED IN THE CHALLENGING CONDITIONS.

ANNC: Jason Day. What a day he had yesterday with his 64. Look at that. That'll get him within one as he looks for a second title here at Bay Hill.

JASON DAY: We all know how hard the greens are and how hard the golf course is. So it's just kind of survive.

ANNC: 103 for Corey. He's got this nice, spin back to the left. Oh what a shot.

CONNERS: I hit a lot of solid irons shots today, giving myself birdie looks. It's not very easy out there, and you got to stay really patient and not really force anything.

ANNC: Now Henley. Yes another one! Four in a row. Dude is feeling it with the putter.

RUSSELL HENLEY: I hit my lines really well on the greens and putted really well. I feel like I did everything really well. I played great.

ANNC: What a performance for Henley today.

WHILE MANY SHOT UP THE LEADERBOARD ON MOVING DAY, THE TOP SPOT HEADING TO SUNDAY BELONGED TO COLLIN MORIKAWA.

ANNC: This a floaty slice 5-iron that looks beautiful. He looks as confident as anybody out here, really in a groove right now.

COLLIN MORIKAWA: It's been a while since I've hit my irons like this. Start lines, amount of cut, we're looking all the way back to '21, essentially.

ANNC: Morikawa with a birdie at 18 and there is your 54-hole leader Collin's always up on the leaderboard when you look up on the weekend. There's a lot of guys on this leaderboard including Russell Henley who haven't won in a while. He seems, like Morikawa, as due as anybody out here.

FINAL ROUND

ANNC: Sunday at Bay Hill and things are shaping up quite nicely. The weather cooperating, the course fantastic and a double major winner is leading. With 18 holes to play, it's promising to be another dramatic conclusion at the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

THE TOP FOUR ON THE LEADERBOARD BEGAN THE ROUND WITH A MODEST LEAD OVER THE REST OF THE FIELD.

IN THE PENULTIMATE PAIRING, JASON DAY AIMED FOR HIS SECOND ARNOLD PALMER INVITATIONAL TITLE, HAVING PREVIOUSLY WON IN 2016, WHILE COREY CONNERS PURSUED HIS THIRD CAREER VICTORY ON TOUR.

THE CANADIAN STARTED HIS ROUND CONSISTENT BUT STRUGGLED TO FIND A BREAKTHROUGH BIRDIE.

ANNC: Trying to break the par streak. Felt like he needed that one. He looks more comfortable right now, Connors, than when he started just gotta get a long putt to go, it'll help him.

AS HIS AUSSIE PLAYING PARTNER ALTERNATED BOGEYS AND BIRDIES THROUGH THE FIRST 8 HOLES.

ANNC: This to get to 7 under and get into that tie for 3rd... Jason Day!

IN THE FINAL TEE TIME OF THE DAY, JUST ONE STROKE SEPARATED RUSSELL HENLEY AND COLLIN MORIKAWA... A PAIR OF PLAYERS WHO BOTH FINISHED IN THE TOP 5 OF THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS LAST SEASON.

ANNC: Oh! Collin Morikawa with an unlikely three at the first and he extends lead to two.

WHILE MORIKAWA SURGED AHEAD QUICKLY, HENLEY HAD DIFFICULTY FINDING HIS FOOTING... BEFORE SETTLING IN.

ANNC: Needs to get something going here, couple bogeys early. That qualifies, Henley trying to energize his round after playing plus two golf!

ANNC: For par for Morikawa and what he does on this second 9 will dictate so much for everybody else in this field. He's gonna drop one here. Not how you want to start the back 9, three shot lead down to two.

WITH MORIKAWA BOGEYING 10, HENLEY TRIED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE.

ANNC: Never had it going where it needed to be. That's going to be a third bogey for Henley in the first 10 holes but Morikawa did drop back as well so, he stays three back.

AS MORIKAWA AND HENLEY BATTLED, CONNERS & DAY CONTINUED TO HUNT FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO OVERTAKE THE LEADERS, BEFORE REALIZING THEIR FATES, IN THE FINAL STRETCH IN BAY HILL.

ANNC: The big issue that Jason Day is dealing with here is that there's some mud on the back of his golf ball. Yep, that's mud. Heading to the left, finding the penalty area. Wow.

ANNC: Deflator for Day, he was right there for a long, long time this week. That's the first double bogey at the 16th today.

AS DAY FALTERED ON THE 16TH, CONNERS FOUND HIS ONLY BIRDIE OF THE ROUND ON THE SAME HOLE, BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH FOR THE 33-YEAR-OLD TO CHALLENGE FOR THE TOP SPOT.

ANNC: He had designs on putting away his biggest win of his career but not to be.

COREY CONNERS: You know, I was looking to get a little more out of the round maybe. Just couldn't quite get the putts to the hole today. They didn't quite have the same fire I think they had yesterday and came up a little bit short on a number of my birdie tries.

WITH 6 TO PLAY, MORIKAWA MAINTAINED A SIZABLE 3 STROKE LEAD OVER HENLEY, BUT AT 14, THE TIDES BEGAN TO SHIFT.

ANNC: Henley's putt is a wheelhouse. Extremely makeable. Big potential for two shot swing here.

Never had a chance.

ANNC: Just under ten feet for Henley. And th biggest moment of his week by far. Cashed it. Henley all of a sudden is within one with 4 to go!

TWO HOLES LATER, HENLEY SEIZED CONTROL.

ANNC: Third shot on the way for Henley at 16! Now that's incredible right there. That flips the lead at the top. It looked like a decent lie and Henley took full advantage it. Huge roar for Henley. First time Morikawa's been out of the lead all day. Henley trailed by 3 just 3 holes ago.

Russell Henley, Collin Morikawa, they've spent the entire day together and the mind set just changed like that.

Russell, trying to put away the biggest win of his career. Most top-10s without a win since 2024. It's been almost two and a half years for Henley and what an incredible sweet way this would be to break through.

Russell Henley has it, the Arnold Palmer Invitational is his! With a dramatic turn of events that came at 16. His family's here, his kids, his wife Teil who Henley called the steel of his spine.

RUSSELL HENLEY WINNER FOLLOW

CADDIE: It's good being official, baby. Amazing

FANS: Way to go, woووoo!

RUSSELL HENLEY: Can you believe this?

TEIL DUNCAN HENLEY: Well, no, I can't.

RUSSELL HENLEY: You want me to wear this on our next date?

STAFFER: Yep, that's perfect.

RUSSELL HENLEY: Do I button it?

STAFFER: No, not yet.

RUSSELL HENLEY: Okay.

STAFFER: We're gonna present it out on the green.

PA: Russell Henley!

RUSSELL HENLEY: Thank you so much. Thank you.

NATS: You're welcome. You got it?

RUSSELL HENLEY: Yeah I got it.

PA: Congratulations, Russell Henley.

RUSSELL HENLEY: I'm in complete shock.

ANDREW SANDERS: Never saw it coming.

RUSSELL HENLEY: You didn't?

ANDREW SANDERS: Uh uh.

RUSSELL HENLEY: I didn't either.

ANDREW SANDERS: I didn't either.

FAN: Congratulations.

RUSSELL HENLEY: Thank you! Thank y'all for watching today.

CAMERAMAN: How many messages do you have?

RUSSELL HENLEY: 246

NATS: Russ! I like that sweater!

RUSSELL HENLEY: Thanks man!

Wow! Oh man, that's amazing.