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[00:00:22] >> How do you determine what truly makes one great? Looking back at historic golf legends, there's an aura that sets them apart from the rest. Respected and idolized by all, and the legacy that has inspired me. This week, a field full of competitors returns to Bay Hill, walking through the shadows in the valley of the king, dreaming to one day reach such prestige. The legend of Arnold Palmer is one that is destined to live on forever. Join us as Arnie's Army welcomes you into his kingdom, and we go umbrellas up at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by MasterCard.

[00:01:15] >> The PGA Tour is proud to bring you the season-long race for the FedEx Cup. Now, coverage of the 2022 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by MasterCard.

[00:01:45] >> What a day in Central Florida. Gorgeous Thursday in Orlando at the 44th Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill Club and Lodge. And it's always so much more than just one of the premier stops on the PGA Tour. It's because we get another chance to celebrate the life and the legacy of the king. That giant statue presiding between the 1st and the 10th tees. And he would have loved what he saw out of what Rory McIlroy did today, the 2018 champion, having an another great day at Bay Hill. Comes to this point he's 1-under on his round after teeing off at 10. This eagle putt from 41 feet, it's the longest putt for an eagle of his PGA Tour career. And Rory was off and running on this first 9. The famed 18th whole which Arnie loved, probably his favorite hole here at Bay Hill. Taking aim here at probably what is an even tougher hole location than the back right one on Sunday. But Rory puts himself in position to end his first nine with a birdie. But it almost curled out. Nonetheless Rory turns in 4-under, picks up another birdie on the front side at the 3rd, and then take same here with his 3rd at the par-5 4th. Not in position to go for it and two, but nonetheless, McElroy posing from that short iron to get him another birdie to get to 6-under. And then remember all the entertainment value that Bryson DeChambeau brought to the par-5 6th last year? Well, Rory had his own battles with it. He was in contention on the final round Sunday last year. He put two balls in the water. Not today. Rory reaches in two. It's a two-putt birdie from there, his final birdie of the day to get to 7-under, and it's an opening round of 65 for the 2018 champion. We go to 4.

[00:03:42] >> And Henrik Norlander with his third shot here at the par-5, going up the slope, front right hole location. Oh beautiful shot.

[00:03:59] >> Hovland for birdie at 6.

[00:04:05] >> Just slightly downhill putt, not too difficult. Yeah.

[00:04:08] >> Wow. Right in the middle.

[00:04:09] >> There you go.

[00:04:11] >> So no problem for Hovland who has been on some stretch of golf. Over at the 9th, Corey Connors is right in front of the green here at this 477-yard par-4, the longest on the card. And no problem.

[00:04:29][ Applause ]

[00:04:37] >> This is Sam Ryder, finished tied for ninth last week. 32 years old is Ryder. On the short par-4, accessible hole location today. I'd say very accessible.

[00:04:51] >> This guy holes out a lot of shots, Jimmy.

[00:04:54] >> That's pretty good, huh? And take a look at his scorecard. Huh?

[00:04:57] >> Oh my goodness.

[00:05:02] >> Back at 17. Dan, Takumi Kanaya, 23 years old from Hiroshima, Japan. Three wins on the Japan tour. Coming off the eagle on 16. This thing's got some steam. Right in the hole.

[00:05:17][ Applause ] This is Dylan Frittelli over at the 2nd at the Par-3. Jones may bring the group ahead, and Frittelli walks that in from off the green. So there are birdies out here at Arnie's place. Back over at the 6th for Patrick Rodgers, second 241 He is go position. More and more players reaching in two, including Hossler.

[00:05:58] >> Oh.

[00:05:58] >> Wow. Patrick Rodgers with the near double eagle.

[00:06:03] >> That sounded like we were on the Velociraptor. Wow!

[00:06:06] >> Man, I thought that was going down.

[00:06:09] >> What a shot this is.

[00:06:12] >> I mean that hit dead on the stick.

[00:06:20] >> Rodgers would make that for Eagle. Here's Viktor Hovland. Not a major champion, but it depends on if you consider the amateur a major, which some people do.

[00:06:30] >> He will win a major.

[00:06:31] >> I think he's going to take care of business.

[00:06:34] >> I guarantee you that.

[00:06:37] >> Check in with Tyrrell Hatton. This was just a moment ago, second at the par- 14th.

[00:06:46] >> There you go.

[00:06:46] >> And Tyrrell Hatton.

[00:06:49] >> That will make him happy.

[00:06:50] >> Yeah, a little smile on his face.

[00:06:53][ Applause ]

[00:06:56] >> Hovland off the green at 15.

[00:07:11][ Applause ]

[00:07:22] >> Rory McIlroy opens the Arnold Palmer Invitational with a 7-under 65, his 19th career first round score of 65 or better on the PGA Tour. Round two is next.

[00:07:43] >> There always has been something about Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill that just makes it a most welcoming site on this Florida swing. Always in pristine condition. It just pops off your television screen. And in this sixth event since the king's passing, it's just another reminder of all the reasons his tournament is so special. A special round by the guy that won his tournament back in 2018, Rory McIlroy, yesterday. This was part of a 65. This was the longest eagle putt of his career at the 16th from 41 feet. It helped build Rory a two-shot lead is he opened up successfully once again at Bay Hill. But enter earlier today, 24-year-old Viktor Hovland. He's won three of his last seven starts worldwide. Teed off on the second, back nine, here birdie at 15. Five birdies on that nine alone. Hovland was in go mode today. So was Trrrell Hatton, the champion a couple years ago from England. This was a birdie at 18, his ninth hole of the day, part of a 68 for Hatton who shot 69 yesterday. And Tyrrell Hatton is right back in the mix at 7-under, two back of this guy. Two more birdies coming home for the first Norwegian to win on the PGA Tour. 13 one-putts for Hovland, part of a 66, his lowest round at Bay Hill in his fourth time here. As you look at this leaderboard, Rory McIlroy plus-1 through the first three holes. I'm joined by the birthday boy himself, Peter Jacobson. Jake, so happy birthday to you.

[00:09:19] >> Thank you, Dan. Great to be with you again.

[00:09:21] >> As we get you out to the par-5 4th and bring in Steve Sands.

[00:09:24] >> Happy birthday from all of us, Peter Jacobson. Here's Rory McIlroy, first round 7-under, had a two-shot lead. Bogeyed the first, however, he's seemingly gotten it back on track. Here he is at the 4th, a 357-yard drive, the longest of the day as we go down to the ground and listen in. And Roger Maltby, you are down there following the man who had the 18-hole lead.

[00:09:51] >> Yeah, 232 left for Rory, and the wind feels like it's switched just a little bit in the last minute or so, more from the right. It was downwind off the tee. I think there's still some help in it, but right to left and down. Launched way in the air, drawing right to left. Boy, it's a pretty shot. Pretty, pretty shot.

[00:10:15] >> He bounces it onto the green. He couldn't get it over that little ridge there, but that will be an eagle putt upcoming for Rory McIlroy, the 2018 winter here at the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

[00:10:26] >> Over to the fourth where Rory McIlroy has this long eagle putt.

[00:10:31] >> And up the hill, should turn from right to left, about 35 feet.

[00:10:41] >> Oh, this looks good. It'll be a tap-in birdie for McIlroy as he'll climb back to 7-under par, even on the day. Had that bogey at 1, only made one bogey yesterday. That came at the 11th. So maybe he got his one hiccup out of the way early in this second round. McIlroy such a popular figure, huge galleries following him as they are each and every week.

[00:11:09] >> Flagstick in for Adam Scott, trying to match Rory McIlroy's birdie from earlier. Oh yeah. The Aussie just calmly rolls that one in. That's his second birdie of the day.

[00:11:21] >> Keep your eye on Adam Scott, Steve.

[00:11:24] >> Over at the 9th, Matthew Fitzpatrick's third shot, plus-2 as you can see.

[00:11:32] >> One of the tournament favorites coming in because of the way that he strikes the ball. And obviously his short game's good too.

[00:11:38] >> Looked like a three all the way. So Fitzpatrick moves it to plus-1, even on his first 9. Worth another look as he got some air on this one.

[00:11:53] >> Whenever you've got a long bunker shot, you don't always have to use the gap wedge or the sand wedge. You can go with something that has a little more loft to allow that ball to run out.

[00:12:07] >> To 6, Graeme McDowell for birdie at this par-5. Good to see G Mac playing better golf.

[00:12:15] >> Oh that ball -- I thought it was short.

[00:12:17] >> That just dies over the front edge. You can see the green's getting fast. They say 13 and a half, maybe even faster as we get to the weekend with the winds whipping up. It is tough out there.

[00:12:34] >> Troy Merritt hitting his third. These greens rolling out beautiful. Course staff saying they're about 13 and a half.

[00:12:46] >> How about that?

[00:12:47] >> That just kept creeping.

[00:12:48] >> Man, that was a nice shot. Troy Merritt with an eagle at the 4th.

[00:12:54] >> Up to 13.

[00:12:58] >> And this at the par-4. Jager now for the long birdie putt. Yeah. Sung-Jae Im, wasn't a very good little chip he played.

[00:13:15] >> Yeah, you can just see how delicate it is from that right side of the green. It's going to wreak some havoc on players. Just got a little too cautious here, now left with a downhill putt that will carry some speed.

[00:13:36] >> Watch how fast that was.

[00:13:37] >> He breathed on that.

[00:13:38] >> Heck of a birdie for Im. Back over to 16.

[00:13:46] >> The reachable par-5, Dan. Here's Taylor Gooch down the hill for a three. There have already been six eagles today, 16 so far for the week. And how about Taylor Gooch making it seven eagles on the day in this second round? Only 22 all year.

[00:14:05] >> We go over to 7, pick up Rory.

[00:14:06] >> And McIlroy on the tee. We report that Will Zalatoris in the group before two-putted for par. 8-iron for Rory here, 184. Wind coming off the right. Towering shot starts right, turning back, right at it.

[00:14:24] >> Oh, what a shot.

[00:14:28] >> Oh!

[00:14:29][ Applause ]

[00:14:31] >> You know, we've been talking how difficult it is to get close to that hole. The average proximity to the hole is 38 feet.

[00:14:39] >> Jimmy, that's what Bay Hill calls for -- high ball strikers so the ball comes down soft like that one.

[00:14:46] >> You know, when I was hearing Ross describe it and say, "Hi, really high," it really reminded me of all his calls of Tiger Woods around this place.

[00:14:53] >> Good gracious, that close to an ace

[00:14:56] >> McIlroy would make birdie.

[00:15:01] >> Here at the 12th, the third shot of Scott Stallings.

[00:15:08] >> Kind of a matted down lie over there, not really in the thick, nasty rough. And oh yeah, he takes advantage.

[00:15:13] >> Oh yeah. Did he ever?

[00:15:14] >> Oh, come on. Look at that. From the cart path, nothing but net.

[00:15:19] >> Could have a bonus eagle.

[00:15:21] >> Well, that's an active card. Look at that, coming off of two bogies in a row. He erases them both with an eagle there at the 12th.

[00:15:31] >> Let's go back out to the action now at the 8th. We told you that it was going to be a slick downhill putt for Rory McIlroy. And nobody -- nobody -- in golf loved to charge up the leaderboard more than Arnold Palmer. After that bogey at 1, a birdie at 4, a birdie at 7. McIlroy has this to perhaps tie for the lead if it goes in somehow.

[00:15:54] >> Oh, come on.

[00:15:55] >> Yeah. McElroy tied for the lead at 9 under par on a Friday afternoon here in Orlando. How about that?

[00:16:03] >> That kind of makes you feel like it could be your week when things like that happen.

[00:16:07] >> You talk about right in the jar. As Rory came here a while ago in the mid-2010's and said, "You know what? I love this place. I'm never going to miss it." He goes on to win in '18 and now here he is squarely in contention sitting atop the leaderboard with another international star in Viktor Hovland.

[00:16:30] >> Luke List at 11, 148.

[00:16:33] >> Wow.

[00:16:37] >> Plus-5 for the tournament, needs to pick up some shots, and that is a start.

[00:16:41] >> Wow.

[00:16:42] >> List would knock that in.

[00:16:47] >> And over at 4, Taylor Gooch with a look for eagle here, Bones.

[00:16:52] >> Yeah, with this ball on the fringe, I would say about half the tour would chip this,, and the other half of course would go with the flat stick which is what Taylor has got in hand at the moment. He can just skirt some sprinklers in front of him. But a heck of a second shot to get to this point. This guy has played some great golf in the last year. About 51 weeks ago at the Players last year, he went to work with Boyd Summerhays, and that relationship has paid off fantastically in terms of Taylor's results.

[00:17:20] >> Yeah, he's all the way up to 33 in the world ranking, fourth in the FedEx Cup this season. Picked up a win in the fall at the RSM. And with this tap-in would pull within one of the lead. Nice birdie here at the par-5.

[00:17:49] >> They're not booing, they're saying "Gooch."

[00:17:55] >> Over 13, Hideki Matsuyama has knocked this in a little short, has this for birdie. That's a good line. Beautiful. Matsuyama back onto the cut line. To 8, this is Taylor Pendrith with his third from over the green. Just gouge it out, let the slope do the rest.

[00:18:24] >> Did the cup get in the way?

[00:18:25] >> Yeah.

[00:18:26] >> And leave the flag in, of course.

[00:18:28] >> Yeah, that's off the green.

[00:18:29] >> Nice birdie at the 8th. Not playing quite as difficult today as it was yesterday.

[00:18:40] >> Scottie Scheffler.

[00:18:42] >> This one coming from long distance. Did a great job of getting it to just hole high.

[00:18:48] >> Can he dial it?

[00:18:51] >> And Scheffler from downtown.

[00:18:54][ Applause ]

[00:19:02] >> Well, Adam Scott could use one to fall.

[00:19:04] >> Should have got some kind of information off of Rory's.

[00:19:06] >> Yeah, he did.

[00:19:07] >> There you go.

[00:19:10][ Applause ] And that helps him feel a little bit better after coming off double and bogey and plus-4 through the first five holes, as you see on his card. That first birdie since he birdied two of the first four. Rory for par.

[00:19:28] >> There shouldn't be too much in this. If anything, it might go a shade left, but certainly in the hole right center maybe.

[00:19:35] >> Yeah, especially the way he's been putting this week, Roger. He has not missed inside seven feet this week. This obviously well inside of that.

[00:19:44] >> Ouch.

[00:19:53] >> And David was talking earlier about kind of giving them away. That's one that got away.

[00:19:58] >> Yeah, it's okay. Can't make them all. I wish we could, but he'll shake this off. He's got the reachable par-5 16th next, probably make Eagle like he did yesterday.

[00:20:12] >> Once you did a great look at birdie and you end up with a three-putt for bogey.

[00:20:18] >> Young Star Viktor Hovland has held a 36-hole lead or co-lead now three times on tour. He's one-for-two on converting to victory so far. Round three is next.

[00:20:35] >> Whatever you do, don't let blink. The chase for the ultimate prize is heating up. The stage is set. The stars are here. And they're not looking back. So don't miss a second. The pressure-packed race for the FedEx Cup is on.

[00:21:10] >> How pretty is that? The sun is out in his kingdom, and so are the winds at Bay Hill Club and Lodge in the third round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by MasterCard. And so is the degree of difficulty. That keeps climbing as the players are trying desperately to hang on their positions here. Taylor Gooch began the day two back. He now has the lead by one and he's looking for three birdies in a row off the fringe here at the fifth. Dan Hicks along with Paul Azinger and our Golf Channel and NBC crew here. Let's see if Gooch can push it to 9-under.

[00:21:42] >> He's starting to run confident. He said he went through about a two- or two-and-a-half-month stretch where he just thought golf was really hard.

[00:21:50] >> Over to the 4th and Justin Leonard.

[00:21:53] >> Thank you, Dan. Tyrrell Hatton here for birdie at the par-5. Hit his second shot over right of the green, beautiful up down from long range there.

[00:22:04] >> And back over at 4, Viktor Hovland, this for par from about four-and-a-half feet. And it's been a struggle so far in this third round.

[00:22:13] >> I'm chewing on my nails watching.

[00:22:15] >> Ooh, just sneaks it in the left side.

[00:22:21] >> This just happened seconds ago with the wind gusting at the par-3 14th.

[00:22:26] >> They moved the tee way up. It's 163 yards and the wind is cranking straight down.

[00:22:33] >> And Max Homa bouncing it in to the cup.

[00:22:39][ Applause ]

[00:22:48] >> So if you've been with us on Golf Channel, you know how tough this golf course has been playing. All of the contenders collecting multiple bogeys. And the first career ace on tour happens for Max Homa.

[00:23:05] >> Well, how fun is this? He just launched it straight up in the air with a short iron and then legislated perfectly for the release. And then this.

[00:23:15][ Applause ]

[00:23:19] >> Homa who continues to ascend up the PGA Tour ranks the past couple of years. G Mac is over at the 18th from 166. Had that tie for second all the way back 17 years ago in this event. And has just kind of maintained his love affair with Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club and Lodge. And how about that shot?

[00:23:51] >> That would be a birdie for McDowell.

[00:23:56] >> Here's Hovland over at the 6.

[00:24:06] >> Oh wow.

[00:24:07] >> Viktor Hovland joins the hole out brigade.

[00:24:10] >> Well, how do you do? Throw the stats out the window.

[00:24:14] >> That's a little thunder there for the Norwegian.

[00:24:19][ Applause ]

[00:24:21] >> Wow, that was always a very difficult shot. Look at the downslope he's playing this off of. The only place he could have landed.

[00:24:31][ Applause ] He has just seized the lead back.

[00:24:40] >> Back up to where he started just like that.

[00:24:48] >> Let's see if Rory can handle this little bunker shot. Good deal easier than the last one he had. That's what you would expect.

[00:25:00] >> He would convert for par.

[00:25:01] >> Down to the par-5 16th and Scottie Scheffler with one of the best shots of the day here at 16. He's got this for eagle. Putting from the center of the green over towards the front right hole location.

[00:25:15][ Applause ] And he pours it right in. Look at this back nine, 5-under on the back nine so far coming off those three straight bogeys to end his front nine. So nice comeback, and he is absolutely in position.

[00:25:28] >> To McElroy at 8.

[00:25:31] >> This is that time of day, Justin. As you know, the greens will pick up a little extra speed and then maybe toward later in the day slow down just a touch. So the players got to be on guard. This wants to break to Rory's right the whole way back toward the water.

[00:25:46] >> This from 29 feet.

[00:26:00] >> He would make the comebacker for bogey. This is the 8th again.

[00:26:05] >> And Hovland ready with a second shot, Rodge.

[00:26:08] >> 177 left from the left side. As good an angle as you're going to get to with this hole on the right.

[00:26:13] >> Yeah, only seven birdies made here at the 8th so far today.

[00:26:27] >> Oh beautiful shot there, turning it back into that left to right breeze. And Viktor Hovland now in front by three and has inside of 10 feet to get to 10 under par. Beautiful strike of the ball, and he's showing some great short game touch as well. And there's Hovland over there trying to hang onto this lead with a lot of difficult golf course for everybody ahead of him as well.

[00:27:07] >> Yeah, and just a beautiful second shot in here, and a big swinger from left to right.

[00:27:17] >> He's got a great look at this, Justin.

[00:27:20] >> Yeah, look at that line. It's pointed over a foot outside the left.

[00:27:28] >> These are real confidence builders, these left to right putts for right-handers.

[00:27:33] >> Oh, puts it right in the middle.

[00:27:34] >> Well, he's on fire right now if you want to say it. I mean, really after that start, the back-to-back bogies, he made two great par saves, Justin, on 4 and 5.

[00:27:47] >> Back over to 18, the tap-in here for par for Scheffler which you want to be careful with. These greens are lightning.

[00:27:55] >> Tell you what, Scottie Scheffler made a little adjustment at the top of his backswing. He had a little wiggle back there. It's really quiet at the top there. And really that's the round of the day.

[00:28:04] >> Yep, ties the round of the day.

[00:28:09] >> And over at the 14th J.J Spaun on the tee with a 9-iron.

[00:28:15] >> He's hoisted it 105 feet in the air. This has a chance.

[00:28:19] >> That's how you do it. Not quite as good as Max Homa, but it'll work.

[00:28:25] >> Spaun moves to plus-1.

[00:28:27] >> The one-time leader today, Taylor Gooch's third at the 11th.

[00:28:39] >> Oh, that's a fine shot. He had to fly it all the way there, Dan. That is actually spectacular.

[00:28:43] >> We've seen more than just a few of those from Gooch.

[00:28:47] >> Gooch would knock that in.

[00:28:48] >> Back to 12.

[00:28:51] >> And Billy Horschel now going back up the slope, Bones.

[00:28:55] >> Yeah. At least this is a part he can be fairly aggressive with. And he's seen in person here how tough it is to make putts. He's seen his playing partner Beau Hossler have a couple of vicious lip-outs. Of course, when the greens dry out to the degree they have, you're that much more prone to the edge of the cup just spitting it out if you don't make something in the center.

[00:29:11] >> That was dead center there. And this 12th hole the easiest hole on the golf course today, playing downwind off the right. And now Rory coming from the bunker with his third shot. Lots of green to work with but it is fast going this direction. Just creeps over the tier there. Yeah, that's well done.

[00:29:38] >> That's a birdie for McElroy.

[00:29:40] >> To 17.

[00:29:41] >> Gary woodland from miles away, this for birdie. Hello. Yeah. Woodland in a tie for fifth.

[00:29:58][ Applause ]

[00:30:04] >> Well, the man tied for second place, Billy Horschel here at 13, Bones.

[00:30:08] >> And he's playing from the fairway a lot. It's 92 yards left. Front hole, just hoping not to get a gust here.

[00:30:19] >> Yeah, this will carry into the green.

[00:30:21] >> The front right, that is a very nice shot.

[00:30:30] >> Now up ahead at the green.

[00:30:36] >> Billy Horschel is at minus-6, just three back, has this for birdie. And it's a quick one and windy on the front edge there. Yes.

[00:30:44] >> And he was very content to play safely from 92 yards, which shows you how tough it is out here at the moment. Well done.

[00:30:54] >> Coming off a birdie on 12, this is McIlroy with a chance to double up. And he does the same thing.

[00:31:02][ Applause ] Finally, a couple of birdies in a row now for McIlroy who needed them.

[00:31:08] >> He's reemerged, David, big time.

[00:31:14] >> Let's see what Hovland can do now. This from five-and-a-half feet for par.

[00:31:18] >> Well, it won't go down statistically as a three-put, but it's most definitely a three-putt. Very smooth collar and he totally just misgauged that first putt. Very uncharacteristic.

[00:31:36] >> And a good look from high above the 15th, and Taylor Gooch for birdie.

[00:31:40] >> Yeah, caught a great look at Rory's putt, so just got to manage the speed here.

[00:31:50] >> Oh, Gooch.

[00:31:52][ Applause ]

[00:31:56] >> My goodness, that putt was fast.

[00:32:01] >> After hitting his ball out of bounds off the tee, McIlroy has this putt for double.

[00:32:10] >> Didn't expect to see Rory go the wrong direction today. I thought he'd hold his own in these conditions.

[00:32:17] >> Gooch with a chance to tie Hovland at 8-under.

[00:32:35] >> Now Horschel peering underneath the tree. Looks like the lie's decent.

[00:32:40] >> Yeah, it's decent. He's got to keep it under that tree for about the first 30 feet. 150 front edge, and 30 for 180. This man's played a very good round of golf today. Just looking for some way to make four here and get out of dodge.

[00:32:51] >> Yeah, no doubt, Bones. And this looks like a little bit of a squirrely situation, maybe you've just got to be careful here. Nothing reckless.

[00:33:10] >> Good contact. Looking to run something on. This is on a fantastic line.

[00:33:12] >> It was very solid and it's going to race back. Now he's just hoping for a good lie. And it settles in.

[00:33:19] >> Up at the green with Horschel. Well, if you're wondering how Billy Horschel's ball just appeared in the light rough now, he was given relief from a sprinkler head and now has a putter in his hand. That is a tremendous break, Bones.

[00:33:33] >> Unbelievable. The ball initially was in one of the worst lies I've seen this year. I wasn't sure he could get it anywhere near the hole, maybe not even get it on the green. And now of course with the putter out he's in a chance now to possibly make three, but certainly secure his four.

[00:33:48] >> Yeah, free drop. He was standing on a sprinkler head.

[00:33:51] >> And now he can make birdie. You're kidding me.

[00:33:59][ Applause ]

[00:34:07] >> Well, that is taking advantage of the rules and then some.

[00:34:12] >> Viktor Hovland shoots 40 on the back nine while Horschel's heroics catapult him into a tie for the lead with Taylor Gooch. The final round is next.

[00:34:32] >> What a final round this should turn out to be at Bay Hill with the wind's gusting again, and with the final round pressure of trying to win Arnold Palmer's tournament on one of the most difficult tests we have ever seen here. Well, the champion who emerges will have certainly earned this one indeed. So many possibilities considering the difficulty of the golf course. 13 players within four shots of the lead. Viktor Hovland and Taylor Gooch have the lead at the moment. And we stress at the moment because this thing is going to change by the minute. Billy Horschel just a shot back, along with Scottie Scheffler. Gary Woodland right there three back along with a host of others. Rory McIlroy is certainly right there at four back. Now it is possible, Zing, we have seen five subpar rounds today. Lucas Herbert finishing up here at the 18th coming off birdie at 15, eagle at 16. He parred the difficult 17th, and somehow, some way turns in another one of those subpar rounds.

[00:35:39] >> That's an incredible score. You know, he went out early and took advantage of, I don't know what. I guess it was a little more moist in the morning but it was still very, very difficult. And that is one heck of a score. He's going to leap frog up that board. Back over to the fifth, Roger, for Gooch.

[00:35:58] >> Yeah, this from about just inside 20 feet. Looks like it wants to die left of the hole, but never hit it.

[00:36:11] >> So Gooch marks for an upcoming par to stay tied with Hovland and Horschel. Gooch winning his first PGA Tour event last fall in Sea Island. 30 years old.

[00:36:23] >> Uh-oh.

[00:36:24] >> And now that is even further away coming back for bogey.

[00:36:28] >> Gooch would make double.

[00:36:31] >> Up to 7.

[00:36:32] >> And this is Chris Kirk from just off the left edge. Beautifully judged. Cannot do it much better than that.

[00:36:49] >> Back here at the par-5 6th, Gooch has missed the green to the right with his third. And now the third for Horschel.

[00:37:01] >> Watch out left. Oh no.

[00:37:04] >> Oh.

[00:37:04] >> Well, you can see the second he made contact, he knew it was going left.

[00:37:14] >> To the 7th.

[00:37:14] >> Viktor Hovland with a 7-iron. Scheffler is on the green about 30 feet away. Oh, and there's a shot. An absolute beauty from Viktor Hovland, and he'll tuck that one away in his breast pocket.

[00:37:34] >> Hovland would tap that in.

[00:37:39] >> The sixth shot for Horschel now.

[00:37:46] >> Horschel would end up making double.

[00:37:50] >> Boy, now at 8, Viktor Hovland's got all kinds of issues here, Nota.

[00:37:54] >> Justin, severe downhill. He's going to have to hit a good shot just to keep it on the green. It's going to run away from him. And that's pretty good, but it's going to make it all the way to the fringe.

[00:38:11] >> Hovland would miss and make bogie.

[00:38:16] >> Watney for birdie. Trying to position himself to post something on this back nine as well.

[00:38:24] >> Oh boy.

[00:38:24] >> Watney to 3-under.

[00:38:27] >> Yeah, that's a big move for Nick Watney. And this is a real important week for him.

[00:38:34] >> And this is one of those days you're going to have to make these putts for par.

[00:38:39] >> He worked so hard on his putting, Justin. I ran into him out of Dallas National a few weeks ago, and I was just out practicing for about an hour. And he never left the putting green. Really takes it seriously, puts his time in.

[00:38:49] >> It should break a little bit to his left, and it does. That's a great par save there.

[00:39:05] >> This is Woodland over at the 9th for birdie.

[00:39:09] >> He's got a chance, a real chance.

[00:39:10] >> Gary Woodland with a birdie to end his front nine, his first of the day. Back to plus-1 on the round. To 13.

[00:39:21] >> And keep your eye on Tyrrell Hatton. This for birdie.

[00:39:24] >> It's a little left-right in it, and he judged it perfectly. And Hatton gets to 4 under par.

[00:39:31] >> He's got a par-5 left.

[00:39:33] >> Look at that little run.

[00:39:39] >> And at 12, this is Russell Henley from the chipping area left of the green. Playing up the slope, lots of green to work with. The guy's a good chipper, and that's what you get.

[00:39:57] >> Back over at the 9th, Hovland for par to try to stay in the lead by one.

[00:40:25] >> Well, the tee shot hurt. There's no way to get on the green, and he does not want it to be a scrambling fest. I mean, all he's looking for is fairways and greens here. He said in his presser, if it's a scrambling fest, you know that's not my strength. That's a big admission for a top-notch player.

[00:40:42] >> After going 1-under through the first seven holes, he made six straight pars and had that birdie at 7. It's back-to-back bogeys for Viktor.

[00:40:50] >> And throughout that string of holes, Danny, it did not put a lot of pressure on his short game. That only came in last couple holes. So like Zinger said, if it's coming down to short game, it's going to be an uphill climb for Hovland.

[00:41:03] >> Well, he's worked extremely hard on his short game. In fact, the COVID, the pandemic gave him some extra time and he really was proud of the way that he did get better. But he knows that he can improve on it.

[00:41:19] >> And now Woodland at the 10th.

[00:41:23] >> He's won a US Open, and these are US Open conditions. And there's another birdie for Woodland.

[00:41:29] >> Two in a row after he played plus-2 golf.

[00:41:41] >> Viktor Hovland checking out his line here at the 10th for birdie.

[00:41:45] >> He went through it twice, Zing, went through the aim point express, different points in the putt, just trying to get a sense in his feet, simply because early on it's going to go a little left to right and then straighten out toward the end. So just trying to pick up on any little subtleties in that break through his feet and then put it into his read.

[00:42:01] >> Well, hopefully he can get it right. He'll be one of the very few that have been able to make it from above the hole. It's a little bit right, and definitely on defense out here with the greens running somewhere around 14.

[00:42:22] >> Here's Kirk, another good look at 11.

[00:42:28] >> Great chance on 10. Oh.

[00:42:30] >> Two in a row. Well, Viktor Hovland just turned in the longest drive of the day at the 11th and now has just 124 left. 321 yards, Nota.

[00:42:43] >> Just a sand wedge in his hand, so he should be able to get little more stop in this. Keeping it just right of the hole, good line. Just get it check up. Yes, sir.

[00:42:53] >> Yep, that's what you get. That's what you can do when you hit it 321.

[00:43:00] >> Now up at the green.

[00:43:02] >> Hovland, great opportunity to push it to 6-under.

[00:43:10] >> Curls in the left side.

[00:43:11] >> Well, now. That's a heck of a birdie. The 11th hole, one of the toughest all week, I think second most difficult hole on the course.

[00:43:21] >> McElroy on the tee at 14.

[00:43:29] >> Well, he can hoist it.

[00:43:30] >> And McElroy going off those back-to-back bogeys. That's about where you want to land it.

[00:43:36][ Applause ]

[00:43:45] >> Graeme McDowell playing with Rory McIlroy. McDowell was in really good position to start the day. He's hung in there.

[00:44:02] >> And over at 16, after Hatton missed that eagle try, trying to get within two, he does. He just catches the left side of the hole. So if he can do something special here these last couple holes, maybe catch a birdie, post a score of 5 under par.

[00:44:21] >> Chris Kirk on the 13th green. He is two shots behind and has this from just under 50 feet for birdie. You can see the 13th green, there's not a lot of slope in it. It's very difficult to read, very subtle. Very fast. He has missed a couple of short ones, but not this one. Kirk.

[00:44:50][ Applause ]

[00:44:55] >> Hovland now at 13, playing almost parallel with the water at this flag here. Very difficult to hit this close. Oh, that's a wonderful shot from the bunker. Hovland leads by one and has a chance here at 13. And Hovland shouldn't have a problem tapping this one in, maintaining that lead for the meantime.

[00:45:25] >> A little more work than he wanted, David, no doubt about that.

[00:45:26] >> Yeah, just a little bit more.

[00:45:29] >> Yeah, his speed was so bad yesterday. Just kept leaving everything short. That one just a hair too hard.

[00:45:37] >> It's Kirk for birdie in the upper left now.

[00:45:41] >> Kirk putting from a great spot, hole high right of the flag. Not a lot of break.

[00:45:51] >> Oh, he smoked it.

[00:45:53] >> Oh wow. Viktor.

[00:45:54] >> He just decelerated on that. You could see the putter head was less than meaningful, the downswing.

[00:46:06] >> Taylor Gooch over at the 14th for birdie. Could he use this?

[00:46:12] >> What a ride. And all of the sudden, Taylor Gooch is 2-under on his second side and not out of it.

[00:46:20] >> After some trouble off the tee, Scheffler has this to save par.

[00:46:30] >> An aggressive putt by Schaeffler, left no doubt about it.

[00:46:33] >> Boom. How about that?

[00:46:35] >> Boy, that was so huge. That was looking more likely to be a double bogey.

[00:46:40] >> Absolutely.

[00:46:43] >> Back to 15.

[00:46:43] >> And the little roar you might have heard came from the 15th. Billy Horschel is right in it.

[00:46:52] >> He's back.

[00:46:57] >> After an aggressive second shot, Woodland has this putt for eagle at 16.

[00:47:05] >> This eagle putt would make him the outright leader.

[00:47:22] >> It's on a good line.

[00:47:24] >> Wow, look at that. Gary Woodland.

[00:47:33] >> We skip ahead to Hovland's try for eagle at 16.

[00:47:48] >> A bit of a swinger from right to left. That's got a lot of pace on it.

[00:47:57] >> Now woodland out of the green-side sand at 17.

[00:48:05] >> Oh, never in your life would you ever have expected that.

[00:48:13] >> This from about six feet for birdie to get to 5-under. Oh, just catches the left edge. So it's a good two-putt birdie.

[00:48:47] >> To 17.

[00:48:48] >> And Scottie Scheffler with a chance for birdie. This would get the party started. Took a bit of a bump there. Might have taken some of the speed out of it. Oh wow, hit a little something or other and just slowed it down enough. That might have made the front edge and toppled in.

[00:49:20] >> Woodland now to try and save things at the last.

[00:49:37] >> And a disastrous finished for Gary.

[00:49:39] >> And now this tournament in the hands of Scheffler at 5-under.

[00:49:46] >> Yeah, and a big deep breath there out of Scottie.

[00:49:51] >> And Zing, he drew about as good a line as he could have hoped for down this thick stuff down the left. He's got a pitching wedge in his hand. 154 to the hole, 150 all the way over the water. But he's not looking anywhere in the vicinity of that hole, trying to plant the opening of the green.

[00:50:06] >> He knows exactly where he stands. There's a huge leaderboard to the right. He's got to get this left of the water. That's really it in a nutshell.

[00:50:20] >> Had a nice click to it, see if it holds.

[00:50:21] >> Yep, just get it come off this slope and it might be pretty good from where he was.

[00:50:27] >> Well, that's going to be that 80-footer or more.

[00:50:35] >> Get this down in two and then just see what Hovland does from his spot.

[00:50:39] >> Yep, he's probably practiced this putt a few times. The tendency is to play too much break. Let's see what he can do. 69 feet away. Two putts could be a win.

[00:50:58] >> And how good is this? And it's going to be a two-putt for Scheffler to get in at 5-under.

[00:51:02] >> Wow, that is so impressive. In total control of his nerve.

[00:51:07] >> Got his first long-awaited PGA Tour winner in Phoenix earlier in the year in his 71st start on the PGA Tour. This is his 73rd Start. And this is Hovland and his must-make for birdie to tie Scheffler, as Hatton is now out of it at 4-under. And Viktor Hovland didn't hit it.

[00:51:53] >> Horschel with the last chance to catch Scheffler.

[00:52:02] >> Just left of the hole, turning a little bit further left on the wind. Has a putt at it.

[00:52:06] >> Yep. And who knows? We've seen a few made from that area.

[00:52:13] >> 29 feet away for birdie to force a playoff.

[00:52:21] >> Is it going to come back?

[00:52:21] >> It has to break hard?

[00:52:22] >> Yeah.

[00:52:23] >> Going to miss high.

[00:52:23] >> Yep.

[00:52:25] >> And Scottie Scheffler with another quick win. He's like, "What happened?" He was over on the practice tee warming up for a potential playoff.

[00:52:35] >> This concludes the PGA Tour's coverage of the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by MasterCard from Bay Hill Club and Lodge in Orlando, Florida.