Production Transcript for 22INTCUTTO\_PLAYERS30MINTHURSDAY.mp3

[00:00:21] >> The Players Championship is a tournament unlike any other.

[00:00:30] >> Did he? Did he? He did. Oh my goodness. What a putt.

[00:00:43] >> It is the ultimate test.

[00:00:45] >> Scott survives, the youngest champion in the history of the Players Championship.

[00:00:51] >> It was a big win early in my career, and no doubt, propelled me on to further success.

[00:01:00] >> For the past 40 years, the esteemed Players Championship has been synonymous with its iconic home, TPC Sawgrass.

[00:01:11] >> The greatest test golf course wise, and the greatest field that we play in all golf. It really tests all aspects of your game.

[00:01:23] >> And for four decades, the tour's toughest test has separated the cream from the crop, identifying the players who are --

[00:01:36] >> Better than --

[00:01:36] >> Better than most.

[00:01:38] >> Better than most.

[00:01:38] >> While delivering the game's defining moments and quotes.

[00:01:42] >> Be the right club.

[00:01:44] >> Be the right club.

[00:01:44] >> Today. Yes.

[00:01:45] >> The champions etched their names in history.

[00:01:46] >> He could very much round up and complete somebody's career.

[00:01:51] >> It's definitely a tournament that people look at dreaming to have it on your resume.

[00:01:56] >> As the game's elite hoped to add the prestigious title to their legacy.

[00:02:01] >> They'd mean everything to me.

[00:02:02] >> That will be a dream come true.

[00:02:03] >> I definitely would love to be a Players Champion.

[00:02:04] >> This is the 2022 Players Championship.

[00:02:06] >> The PGA Tour is proud to bring the season-long race for the FedEx Cup. Today, opening round coverage of the Players Championship.

[00:02:35] >> TPC Sawgrass is always the backdrop for one of the most dramatic weeks of the entire year. But, Karen, the biggest storyline right now is the weather and the amount of rain that fell overnight on this golf course.

[00:02:48] >> I mean, just crazy amounts really. Over an inch and a quarter of rain happened here last night. And there's been a continuation of that through this morning, and we're going to keep getting on and off showers throughout the course of the day. And I think the players have a long day ahead of them. And that is something that they're going to have to adjust to as the course of the day goes on.

[00:03:06] >> Back to 10, and Mito Pereira for an opening birdie.

[00:03:17] >> There you go.

[00:03:17] >> Very nice. So we see the first birdie of the tournament at 10. Adam Scott to get under par for the first time today. All right, well done. Well done. So he moves to 1-under par, former champion 18 years ago. All right now, Sergio at 12. What a gorgeous putt for Sergio. Cam Smith, great look from behind.

[00:04:04][ Applause ]

[00:04:06] >> Smith would make birdie.

[00:04:13] >> Now, let's go to the other side of the course. And that's where we find one of the young studs, Will Zalatoris. Six. He's under par here.

[00:04:26] >> He is.

[00:04:27] >> Look at that. Look at that.

[00:04:31] >> Very nicely controlled.

[00:04:32] >> Right. Now, Hovland.

[00:04:35] >> I think this is the perfect pet for Viktor. I mean, you're on the proper level, little downhill at the beginning, grain going in the same direction. Just a low right to left.

[00:04:54] >> Boom.

[00:04:55] >> Wow. That is so nice.

[00:05:03] >> Not so tricky with the line. I think the speed, he get thrown off. And if you're not careful, you can zip this one by the whole 4 feet pretty quickly.

[00:05:19][ Applause ]

[00:05:24] >> Or you can just go ahead and make it.

[00:05:30] >> Eagle attempt at 16 for Louis Oosthuizen.

[00:05:34] >> Yeah.

[00:05:35] >> Walk it in. Oosthuizen gets the red numbers with an eagle.

[00:05:42] >> You definitely remember what you've done around the golf course. 2008 was when he took this title here.

[00:05:54] >> Yes.

[00:05:54] >> And you do it with things like that right there. Great putt, 46 feet away from Sergio Garcia. That's still in one.

[00:06:10] >> We are dealing with some weather for the first couple of days here. The good news is, there is a window if we can get this front to slide through, this line of showers that's moving through, perhaps we will get some play. We had a lot of rain, over an inch, last night at the golf course. More here today. We should be about five hours and 15 minutes into play. We've missed two hours of actions thus far. So in the intervening three hours or so, some good scores being put up, including Tommy Fleetwood, Harold Varner, and Will Zalatoris, all share the lead 4-under par.

[00:06:43] >> As we go over to the second now in Tommy Fleetwood. And, Gary, we were talking during the delay. What would you rather have, a long shot, or would you rather have a nine 9 birdie putt like Fleetwood has to get to 5-under par? And you said what?

[00:06:53] >> Yeah, I wouldn't mind having the birdie putt --

[00:06:54] >> Yeah.

[00:06:55] >> -- Steve. You know, I know what it was going to do. So I had the opportunity to practice this before the restart. So I wouldn't be surprised at all to see him make it.

[00:07:05] >> This for three straight birdies. Tommy started on 10, birdied 18, birdied 1. And now, yeah, 5-under apart. First man to get to 50under par. Three consecutive birds for Tommy Fleetwood. Look at that clean card. And with no wind and soft conditions, look out for some low scores today in the afternoon.

[00:07:26] >> And back to 17.

[00:07:28] >> Patrick Cantlay after a brilliant tee shot here. Note, he has less than 6 feet for birdie.

[00:07:32] >> Yeah. I think he took advantage of going third in the lineup, seeing both Rahm and Hovland come up just a bit short with their wedges. So late into it. Just a bit more fluid to the flag, and now has this great look.

[00:07:46] >> OK. Safely in.

[00:07:48] >> Nice 2 at 17 for Cantlay. And he gets back to even par through this opening eight holes.

[00:07:54] >> Gary Woodland was in the mix last week at Bay Hill. This for birdie at the 6.

[00:08:09] >> To 6.

[00:08:10] >> Jhonattan Vegas eyeing a birdie.

[00:08:14] >> Not much in this putt. Great place to putt from. Will it reach? Yes it will. Jhonny Vegas with 3 birdies in the early going. Birdies, his first toll after the resumption.

[00:08:30] >> Up to 16, Tom Hoge, just left it a touch short into -- That was for eagle. He will tap that in no doubt to get to 2-under par.

[00:08:56][ Applause ] All the action at the 18th. We see where Patrick Cantlay finished up well right, and now he is appearing underneath a couple of trees, nada.

[00:09:08] >> Yeah. He's going to try and make something happen here. He's got to keep it low for about 60 yards, and then with little cut. Excellent shot here. Just got to cut just a bit and hold.

[00:09:20] >> I'd say that's really well done.

[00:09:22] >> Yeah, it is. He had to factor in a lot before he pulled the trigger on that one.

[00:09:36] >> Victor Hovland is driving it incredibly well. He has for some time now, and he followed that up with a wonderful shot here at 18.

[00:09:49] >> To 3.

[00:09:49] >> Tommy Fleetwood for par.

[00:09:55] >> Yeah, straight putt. Straight in. It's a lovely up and down after bunker shot left him with a little work to do there.

[00:10:04] >> Let's drop back to holes at 13.

[00:10:05] >> Always a good par 3. And check out this whole location back left, zing.

[00:10:09] >> That's one of the hardest ones to get close to, but it feels like one of the safest ones when you're on the tee back here. You don't have to flirt with the water. If you can get it just between the two palm trees you see there, just right at the tower, that'll feed --

[00:10:24] >> HV3.

[00:10:25] >> It's 7-iron on the way, guys, just right to the whole. Pretty sharp.

[00:10:30] >> Yes, sir. But it's going to trickle off. It's just sitting on enough of a little hump, just stayed.

[00:10:36] >> Barely.

[00:10:37] >> All right, Harman for birdie.

[00:10:43] >> Nice. Brian Harman has figured out something here, guys.

[00:10:50] >> Sergio Garcia here at the first. That is back of the cup for Sergio.

[00:11:05] >> And Hovland after a beautiful approach here with a chance to pay it off.

[00:11:12] >> So good. It's so good. Three beautiful shots here at 18 coming right out of the gate after a 4-hour and 20-minute rain delay. That's the way to do it.

[00:11:24] >> Over to 7, this was earlier from the closely mown area in the back here of this par 4. Gary woodland.

[00:11:32] >> Oh, no.

[00:11:32] >> And --

[00:11:33] >> That was interesting choice.

[00:11:35] >> Short game, which he says has really been good, other than that. And then remember that bunker shot that he hit at 17 last week at Bay Hill around Sunday I should say, just a few days ago.

[00:11:46] >> That's one in the fourth coming up.

[00:11:48] >> There it is.

[00:11:48] >> That's the one.

[00:11:49] >> That's a way to do it.

[00:11:50] >> No problem.

[00:11:51] >> First one was a lot harder than that. And it looked like he wanted to land the first one on the green and -- but he hit the second one perfect.

[00:11:59] >> With like a 4 all the way.

[00:12:01] >> All right. We move back over to 17 where Tyrrell Hatton has this birdie putt from just under 32 feet.

[00:12:07] >> It should turn a little right. Oh, how about that? Smile, come on. You got a smile at that, don't you, Paul?

[00:12:16] >> You know it's not going to happen, Gary.

[00:12:21] >> Well. That was a nice catch by the hole.

[00:12:23] >> A little swirly bird.

[00:12:25] >> Yeah. It looked like it might miss, and no.

[00:12:28] >> All right. Tommy Fleetwood, current leader, the opening round at the 48th play at the Players Championships. It's at 5-under par

[00:12:48] >> Sixteen.

[00:12:49] >> Alex Noren with his second shot. Par 5 is just 506 yards today, and that's a great shot, and a great chance for eagle for Alex Noren.

[00:13:01] >> And, now, David this is one of my favorite guys out here, this Alex Noren.

[00:13:08] >> Yeah.

[00:13:08] >> Really works hard. Tremendous attitude.

[00:13:11] >> Yes. Eagle 3 for Noren gets him to minus-2.

[00:13:20] >> Come back over to 5 after Fleetwood found the left side of the fairway.

[00:13:25] >> Just lose 64 to a back pan. You'd love to take some spin off this, flash 9-iron from this caddie. So he's going to jump on this a little bit.

[00:13:32] >> That's a huge 9-iron, 162 yards all carry to get it back there.

[00:13:39] >> Beautiful line.

[00:13:41] >> Wow, these guys can crush it. That is a huge 9-iron.

[00:13:46] >> Fleetwood would make that.

[00:13:48] >> After a long delay, bunker shots of this length when they're wet means what for a player?

[00:13:53] >> It means better contact, firmer contact, 135. Good light but he pulled it. He's pulled it to the very left side.

[00:14:03] >> No, good job. Good job.

[00:14:06] >> This is 9th hole and that is Keith Mitchell who's at 1-under par. This for eagle. He's been threatening to play well. Lots of help. Beautiful. Five hundred and seventy yards is the ninth, and fabulous eagle 3 there.

[00:14:28] >> Over here at 15, Roger, let's see if Harold can make another one.

[00:14:32] >> Yeah. He's got an uphill. Look at it here. It's going to break to his right so I think. A chance to grab a share of the lead here. There you go.

[00:14:47] >> So smooth. His greens are rolling beautifully, and these guys are taking advantage. Clear card for Harold. Two men now that 6-under par.

[00:15:00] >> Sergio Garcia to play his second here at the short par for fourth.

[00:15:05] >> He's got the ability, Paul, to vary the trajectories. Yeah, a little lower shot there. Nice.

[00:15:12] >> That's a lesson in how to do it.

[00:15:18] >> Exactly. Beautifully done.

[00:15:25] >> Varner, this for eagle.

[00:15:31][ Applause ] Got away from them immediately. To the right, you could say that he didn't get that on line.

[00:15:45] >> Varner would go on to birdy.

[00:15:47] >> Kramer Hickok lighting up the slope, a little left to right movement, which we've seen all day. And curls it in from just over 27 feet. And he moves to 5-under within one of the lead. Since the ShotLink era began, there have been 40 some odd par 3s on the PGA Tour that have played 150 yards or less. The 17th has played the 939 strokes over par. The rest have played to like 4,400 shots under par.

[00:16:26] >> They're all pretenders compared to this thing.

[00:16:30] >> Yup.

[00:16:31] >> You know it's just the kind of hole, if you get greedy, you'd taken a chance. Got to fly this all the way back to the hole, right?

[00:16:40] >> If you're going to get it close, Roge, yes.

[00:16:42] >> Yeah, yeah.

[00:16:42] >> No question.

[00:16:42] >> If you greedy, then you're taking some risk. Wedge here.

[00:16:46] >> A little left.

[00:16:47] >> A little left. That's going to come back.

[00:16:54] >> Oh, that's going to want to speed.

[00:16:57] >> Wait, wait, wait, wait.

[00:16:58] >> Watch out, watch out.

[00:16:59] >> Wait. Oh, no.

[00:16:59] >> And wouldn't you know it, Gary the first ball in the water at 17 goes to the leader who came there to clear. Back over to 4.

[00:17:11] >> Cam Smith to play his second shot.

[00:17:15] >> He's got a little wedge game.

[00:17:18] >> Oh, yeah, he does. Oh yeah. This should work out very nicely.

[00:17:27] >> Smith moves to 2-under.

[00:17:29] >> Tom Hoge hitting his third. Oh, that touch. Come on, how about that? First eagle of the day here at the second. And it comes from off the green. Nice hole out there.

[00:17:50] >> You know, it's only the first round, but how many times have we seen a leader or somebody in contention? You see something like this happen.

[00:18:03] >> You got a too far off the hole. And just like that, three shots.

[00:18:08] >> It's just going along so well. You'd only miss two greens all day coming to 17. You knock it right on the grain. It's going to make a triple.

[00:18:19] >> All right, over here at the fourth, Viktor Hovland play his second shot. Carry it deep, get to the top of the ridge. And this one should ease its way back down. I don't know if it'll get all the way back down the hole, but it's a fine shot.

[00:18:41] >> And Hovland would finish that off. Tommy Fleetwood, this for the outright lead at the eighth.

[00:18:50][ Applause and Cheering ]

[00:18:54] >> So Tommy back to the top, 6-under an up by 1. Back to 17.

[00:19:01] >> And Maverick McNealy on the tee playing in just his second Players Championship. Previous two rounds, Terry, he knocked it in the water both times back in 2021. But not this time.

[00:19:14] >> Whoa, what a shot.

[00:19:15] >> Up ahead at the green.

[00:19:27] >> And that is 6 birdies on the back nine. One more and he would tie the low 9 hole score on the back nine recorded in the Players Championship, 29. It's been done three times by Rory McIlroy, Kevin Chappell, and Shane Lowry.

[00:19:43] >> Sixteen.

[00:19:44] >> And Sungjae Im for birdie. Just to get back to even par. Yup.

[00:19:54][ Applause ] Go to 5.

[00:20:00] >> And Viktor Hovland trying to get it to 4-under.

[00:20:06] >> Just given himself a chance, every hole it seems. Not a bogey on the card. To 12.

[00:20:17] >> Yeah. This was just earlier, Terry, after a nice tee shot. Keith Mitchell played his second from some 64 yards, throws it back behind the hole, and spins it right back. And he would go on to make that to get the 4-under par.

[00:20:35] >> Mitchell would convert that.

[00:20:38] >> To that is Hayden Buckley. Terry Gannon, he's putty for birdie at the par 5, and he's doing it very nicely. Kind of moseying about his business at 3-under par.

[00:20:50] >> To 13, Keith Mitchell this for birdie to get it to 5-under.

[00:20:56] >> Quick putt here going down the slope. Wow. Good stroke, read it perfectly back to back. And just one shot off the lead of Tommy Fleetwood.

[00:21:08] >> At the eighth, number 10 in the world, Cameron Smith, with his putt to get to 3-under. Guys have really been able to figure out the speed of the greens after the play stoppage. So that's a clean second 9 for Smith.

[00:21:30] >> To 6, Anirban Lahiri from the fairway a second from 125.

[00:21:41] >> Boy somehow negotiated the tree.

[00:21:43] >> Get in. It does.

[00:21:44] >> Good job.

[00:21:44] >> Wow. Anirban Lahiri now to 4-under par, and another $5,000 from Morgan Stanley.

[00:21:55] >> Put another eagle up on the board.

[00:21:58] >> After a rain filled round one, Tommy Fleetwood and Tom Hoge share the lead, a pair of 6-under 66s to start the week. But round one still yet to be finished on Friday.