Production Transcript for 22INTCUTTO\_PLAYERS FINAL.mp3

[00:00:22] >> The Players Championship is a tournament unlike any other.

[00:00:32] >> Did he? Did he? He did. My goodness. What a put.

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

[00:00:44] >> Scott survives, the youngest champion 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.

[00:01:01] >> 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.

[00:01:19] >> 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--

[00:01:33] >> Better than--

[00:01:34] >> Better than most.

[00:01:34] >> While delivering the games defining moments and corpus.

[00:01:38] >> Be the right club.

[00:01:40] >> Today.

[00:01:40] >> Yes.

[00:01:40] >> The Champions etch their names in history.

[00:01:42] >> He could very much round up and complete somebody's career.

[00:01:48] >> It's that fan tournament that people look at a dreaming to have it on your resume.

[00:01:54] >> As the game's elite hope to add the prestigious title to their legacy.

[00:02:01] >> That'd mean everything to me. That would be a dream come true.

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

[00:02:04] >> This is the 2022 Players Championship. The PGA Tour is proud to bring you the season-long race for the FedEx Cup. Now coverage of the 2022 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 going to be 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 there's 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.

[00:03:18] >> Very nice. So, we see the first birdie of the tournament at 10.

[00:03:25] >> We are dealing with 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 of the golf course, more here today, we should be about 5 hours and 15 minutes into play. We've missed 2 hours of actions thus far. So, in the intervening 3 hours or so some good scores being put up, including Tommy Fleetwood, Harold Varner, and Will Zalaltoris all share the lead at 4-under par.

[00:03:57] >> As we go over to the 2nd now and Tommy Fleetwood, and Gary, we were talking during the delay, but would you rather have a long shot or would you rather have a 9-foot birdie putt like Fleetwood has to get the 5-under par and you said what?

[00:04:07] >> Yeah, I wouldn't mind having the birdie putt, 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.

[00:04:20] >> This for three straight birdies. Tommy started on 10, birdied 18, birdied 1, and now, yeah, 5-under par. First man to get to 5-under par. Three consecutive birds for Tommy Fleetwood. Look at that clean card and look out for some low scores today in the afternoon.

[00:04:40] >> Anirban Lahiri from the fairway at 2nd from 125.

[00:04:51] >> Boy, somehow negotiated the trees.

[00:04:53] >> Get in. It does.

[00:04:59] >> Wow. Anirban Lahiri now to 4-under par and another $5,000 from Morgan Stanley.

[00:05:05] >> Put another eagle up on the board.

[00:05:09] >> You're at the short par 4, Brice Garnett going along nicely; 4-under par, four birdies, not a bogey on his card today, just 96 yards here. This is that hole location we saw yesterday where the ball filters right back down toward the hole. 31st eagle recorded here at the 4th and the history of the players, and that moves Brice Garnett to the top of the leaderboard that 6-under. 38-year-old with one PGA Tour win. His fifth start here in the Players.

[00:05:49] >> You know, Gary, if you can just get it moving back towards that hole location, good things can happen.

[00:05:55] >> Yeah, we saw a lot of birdies yesterday, a lot of balls close but none this close. Too good.

[00:06:14] >> After a quarter more than 54 hours and nearly 5 inches of rain, Round 1 of the Players Championship comes to a close on Saturday afternoon.

[00:06:26] >> It's the 3rd day and it's day one of the players.

[00:06:30] >> Thanks to a hard working grounds crew consisting of 185 members, and increased wind gusts to help, TPC Sawgrass dries out enough to get the tournament back on track.

[00:06:44] >> It changes from wet to windy.

[00:06:47] >> But the wind is a double edged sword, slicing through the game's best players, one after another.

[00:06:54] >> The challenge at the famed Island Greens 17th will be extraordinary.

[00:06:59] >> And it delivers without an ounce of mercy, as 26 tee shots rinsed in water, compared to only four on Thursday and Friday combined.

[00:07:13] >> It's brilliant there. I mean, hitting those tee shots at 17 and 18, and just keeping them dry and walking forward is nice.

[00:07:22] >> You're talking about an extreme day today. It's not meant to blow this hard normally, so this is one of those days.

[00:07:32] >> C.T. Pan escapes the morning unscathed, as does Marc Leishman. But neither can hold off the difficult conditions in the afternoon, nor does the majority of the field, like Thomas Peters, whose first time at the Players Championship is one to forget. Seasoned veteran Justin Rose and 2016 Champion Jason Day, who were moving up the leaderboard early and round one shoot 79 and 78, respectively. 2019 Champion Rory McIlroy, who scratches out a 2nd consecutive 73, will wait to see if he survives the cup.

[00:08:12] >> I don't know. I might be one short. Hopefully I've done enough. I mean, just depends on the conditions tomorrow for the other guys.

[00:08:20] >> While Ireland's Seamus Power, who is no stranger to wind, is 2-under in a 2nd round with 2 holes left to play, as is Charl Schwartzel, but with 3 holes remaining and a fight ahead to play 2 more rounds. And fellow countryman Branden Grace cards the lowest round of any international player to finish their 2nd round and even par 72. Austria's Sepp Straka was contending for the lead, until a quadruple bogey on the 17th hole drops him to 1-under for the championship.

[00:08:53] >> That's got too much spin

[00:08:56] >> No. What a shame.

[00:08:59] >> Playing alongside Straka, Bubba Watson shoots the round of the day, a bogey-free 68. And challenging Bubba for that title with a clean card himself, Justin Thomas shoots 69, and positions himself for a chance to become the first players champion to repeat.

[00:09:19] >> I'm throwing a die play in how I competed today. It was a very, very tough day and I just stayed very patient and executed well.

[00:09:26] >> Just 48 players have completed round 2, leaving 94 more before the cut is made and round 3 begins on Sunday.

[00:09:42] >> What a week of fits and starts it has been at the Players, three days of delays, 5 inches of rain, gale force winds. But now we've got a green light, looks like we are go for golf to crown a champion. It's breezy, unseasonably chilly as we join you on this Sunday. The fans they are finding their spot around 17 again after the best in the world put 29 balls in the water on 136-yard par 3. Today may not be the calamity quarter than it was 24 hours ago. You see the weather. Look nothing down these last 2 holes is going to be easy on this Sunday. We told you how cool it was to start. Northeast winds making it a challenge for the players as well. Let's take a peek at the leaderboard. Keith Mitchell in action, maintaining his lead of 1 over Tom Hoge, a guy who was raised in North Dakota so can handle these cool conditions.

[00:10:31] >> We go to 15.

[00:10:34] >> Abraham Answer, long iron here at the 15th. Beautiful shot. That is the best of the day here at 15.

[00:10:44] >> Answer would knock that in.

[00:10:46] >> Up to nine.

[00:10:47] >> That's Erik van Rooyen, South African from 61 yards here, his 3rd shot at the par-5 9th. And his last shot here at the par-5 9th.

[00:11:01] >> I was hoping we get to see that mustache with a little handlebar action there.

[00:11:06] >> We might be seeing a lot more of that mustache.

[00:11:08] >> Wow, yeah. That's a weekend mustache right there.

[00:11:12] >> That is a clever way to finish.

[00:11:14] >> Anirban Lahiri over at the 14th for birdie.

[00:11:27] >> Plus 1 to this point. But that one goes down. Look at this card, 3 bogeys out and 39, he eagles the 11th, and then he birdies the 14th. Jon Rahm trying for a rare birdie, Roger, here at the last.

[00:11:50] >> And a tough read here. Putt looks like it wants to go a little left. I don't think it will. Green sort of falls away and back. I think it's pretty straight putting, but he dripped right.

[00:12:01] >> This from 10 feet from -- World Number 1 takes advantage of the closest approach shot of the 2nd round and delivers just the 2nd birdie of the 2nd round. T. Smith the only other player to birdie it, that'll give Rahm a very good feeling waiting his 3rd round tee time.

[00:12:25] >> After Round 2, Sam Burns tops the leaderboard with Erik van Rooyen and Tommy Fleetwood just one shot back. Round 3 is next.

[00:12:39] >> Whatever you do, don't 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 2nd, the pressure packed race for the FedEx Cup is on.

[00:13:17] >> 3rd round ready to tee off. We're going to bring it to you as we can see it.

[00:13:26] >> The last 22 Players Championships, only four champions have been outside the top eight with 36 holes to go. That number is 5-under, so as much as these guys think they're in it, they're going to have to do something dramatic.

[00:13:42] >> Wow. Patrick Reed fills it up with a birdie. Putts 2.

[00:13:49] >> And Keegan Bradley for eagle woody.

[00:13:52] >> Yeah, very happy when he saw that ball stayed up. He wasn't sure.

[00:13:57] >> We've had seven eagles so far through the first 2 rounds I'm sure we'll see more in this 3rd round.

[00:14:04] >> Over to 11.

[00:14:05] >> And the 3rd from this little pot bunker just earlier for Sepp Straka. Beautiful touch. Should be a birdie for Straka to get back into red figures. Back to 2.

[00:14:23] >> And Sergio Garcia from 42 feet, big swinger from right to left. This for eagle. Did he? Yes, he did, the Big Bird. Sergio Garcia now with the 8th eagle of the week here. At number 2 by the field.

[00:14:46] >> Little pat on the back by Pat Perez.

[00:14:50] >> All right, over here at 12, the short par 4 on the back 9, Francesco Molinari putting for birdie just short of the green, and perfectly so. Molinari off to a quick start with a couple of birdies in his first 3 holes. Let's go to 11.

[00:15:13] >> Poulter's 3rd.

[00:15:14] >> He can clip some beautiful wedges.

[00:15:18] >> 18th start for Poulter and it's going to be a tap in for birdie for him. 13, Francesco Molinari for birdie.

[00:15:30] >> I haven't seen a lot of him. He got hurt. Yep, that's three in a row right there.

[00:15:35] >> Yeah, good to see him back on the scene.

[00:15:43] >> Here's Munoz over at the 13th. Asking it to bite, does exactly that. Back to 2.

[00:15:57] >> And Louis Oosthuizen has pulled it left of the screen on the downslope. Johnny Wood, not good here.

[00:16:05] >> This covers every -- checks every box in terms of difficulty. I don't think that slipped behind, I don't think you can use that and have it turn around, so tough to get up in the air off a downslope and a straight down wind as well.

[00:16:18] >> No way.

[00:16:19] >> No way.

[00:16:19] >> That's amazing.

[00:16:20] >> Wow.

[00:16:21] >> That up and down gets him to 4-under.

[00:16:29] >> Munoz looking for three in a row with 13.

[00:16:33] >> Wouldn't this be something here? Yeah.

[00:16:37] >> All sorts of players in the mix.

[00:16:43] >> And over to Justin Thomas.

[00:16:46] >> And Justin's got 220 to hole. Great angle, helping breeze. Trying to shape it high and right to left, turned a little left to the hole.

[00:17:17] >> Good spot there, too. One more time to Justin Thomas continuing the ball striking from yesterday.

[00:17:24] >> Thomas would 2-putt for birdie.

[00:17:27] >> 3rd shot from Munoz. He's coming off three consecutive birdies. It's not going to be four in a row, is it? It's going to be a beautiful save. Munoz is going to remain at 4-under.

[00:17:45] >> And over at 2, Anirban Lahiri with his 3rd shot. Paul to tell you how easy this 2nd hole is playing. Pitch there, does it go in? The first 21 players here are 15-under par combined here at the 2nd.

[00:18:03] >> Back to the 2nd.

[00:18:04] >> And Cam Smith found the front edge of the green with a 2nd shot, after his first putt short. This for birdie. Yeah, pours it right in the middle, and Cam Smith now moves to 5-under. Just 2 back.

[00:18:22] >> Sepp Straka will be playing and not very good memories, boys, of this hole for Mr. Straka, who came in here 5-under par In the 2nd round and need a 7.

[00:18:34] >> Man, he's probably got one less club, too. He had two balls go in water on him, both hit the green, spun off into the water.

[00:18:44] >> This one you can take back behind the hole, you know he has that backstop. Yeah, there we go. Okay.

[00:18:59] >> Move up to check in with Brendan Steele's 2nd. Sitting at 4-under.

[00:19:03] >> Yeah, going along nicely.

[00:19:05] >> You have 2-under in the round.

[00:19:07] >> A real chance here at six to make another birdie. What a shot that is.

[00:19:15] >> That should produce it and get Steele to 5-under. Back to 17.

[00:19:22] >> And Sepp Straka for a 2. There's a little revenge after making a 7, Round 2 comes back with a 2.

[00:19:37] >> Back up at the 6th, Kevin Kisner for birdie. Kisner is starting with five straight pars, looking for his round to get fired up and it just did. Kisner to 3-under.

[00:19:54] >> Molinari. This tee shot all the way if this Karis deep enough behind the hole it should come back. There, this is how you play it. Wonderful.

[00:20:05] >> That'll wake up the crowd.

[00:20:11] >> That sure will and it'll bring a smile Molinari's face and you'll have a little one to get to 5-under and within 2 the lead.

[00:20:22] >> Over to 4.

[00:20:23] >> Cam Smith with a putt for birdie. For a brilliant wedge shot, nicely done leaves the field. That's Cam Smith with 22 one-putts in 40 holes.

[00:20:34] >> That's a pretty nice little thing that.

[00:20:36] >> To 17.

[00:20:38] >> All right, Shane Lowry on the tee. Pitching wedge, so just a little bump with one. It's off the finish, line's good. It's coming back. Here we go.

[00:21:07] >> Ace recorded here at 17.

[00:21:16] >> Laid it just the way you draw it out, throw it back behind the hole a little bit, and let the hole catch it.

[00:21:24][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:21:44] >> Not many par 3s better to get an ace than right there, Harry.

[00:21:53] >> No, but this 2nd ace on tour. That's great.

[00:22:04] >> And up to 6, check in with Doc, 3rd at the 6th.

[00:22:08] >> A little trouble off the tee and he's on this really strange little strip of grass.

[00:22:14] >> What a play this is.

[00:22:16] >> This is incredible.

[00:22:17] >> Doc Redman.

[00:22:18] >> Wow.

[00:22:18] >> Makes a house call.

[00:22:32] >> All right, Adam Hadwin over here at 17. Not an easy follow through.

[00:22:40] >> No, not at all, but look out. Look out. Could we have another one?

[00:22:49] >> Hadwin would make that for birdie. Over to the 3rd.

[00:22:57] >> And Sepp Straka stepping up. Wow.

[00:23:13] >> Straka gets the 3-under. To 9.

[00:23:17] >> Let's see how Joachin Neimann handles this little shot. Goes down after it. Go down after that.

[00:23:44] >> For the eighth time in the history of this event, and the fifth time here TPC Sawgrass in the stadium course, it will be a Monday finish. Haven't had one since Fred Funk in 2005. Weather's been the story, it's the reason we've had the delays. It is cool this morning, but not as cool as it was when play restarted yesterday's. We finished the 2nd and got just about halfway through the 3rd round. Anirban Lahiri, from India, one-shot lead over Tom Hoge and Harold Varner III, Paul Casey, Sam Burns, Sebastian Munoz, the group two-back, some names lurking like Daniel Berger, Number 10 of the world, Cameron Smith, Doug Ghim, who played well here last year, Shane Lowry who had the ace at 17 yesterday.

[00:24:30] >> Right here at 17, Keegan Bradley going to put it out of the rough, just short of the green up the hill. Not a lot of break. Walk it in, Keegan Bradley. That's five birdies on the back round alone.

[00:24:49] >> At 11, Paul Casey for birdie.

[00:24:56] >> Good putt there by Casey.

[00:24:59] >> He's off a good bunker shot, three birdies, one off the lead.

[00:25:05] >> Fleetwood for birdie.

[00:25:09] >> Terrific shot out of the sad to set that up. So, Fleetwood is 3-back and 1-under for the day.

[00:25:18] >> Over the 15.

[00:25:19] >> And Louis Oosthuizen shortened left of the green here. There you go. Did he call glass. That was off there.

[00:25:27] >> Wow. The bank is open early here in Ponte Vedra Beach.

[00:25:40] >> Now Munoz to get to within one, and Mike mentioned, you start on 10, you finish on 9. Seen a lot of this. So, 65 for Munoz, he's playing in just a 2nd players. Missed the cup last year.

[00:25:56] >> Viktor Hovland over at the 8th.

[00:26:08] >> How about this? At the par 3, nobody a moment ago as hit this green except for three guys. And then he hits a hole in one. Viktor Hovland. How about that. Yesterday Shane Lowry does it at 17. Viktor Hovland having a little fun there with Kevin Streelman, by the way, hit the best shot we've seen so far this morning and then Hovland puts a right on top of him. Amazing. Last year Brendon Todd hit a hole in one at the 8th, the last time before that here at the par-3 8th, Michael Thompson in 2013. Take a look at this, and by the way, Justin Leonard, you've had some fond memories here at the 8th in the past.

[00:26:49] >> Yeah, I didn't hit as good a shot as this one though. Look at that.

[00:26:54] >> Man. I mean, we have seen some wild shots here at the par-3 8th, and that is just spectacular.

[00:27:07] >> Lahiri for birdie at 16.

[00:27:12] >> What's left in this, John?

[00:27:14] >> Just a little bit left to right down the hill. Certainly not -- didn't want this much left.

[00:27:19] >> This for sole possession of the lead. Does it get this time? It does. So, this time it doesn't hang on the lip and Anirban Lahiri takes the lead by one.

[00:27:43] >> Over to 17.

[00:27:45] >> All Casey putting off this upper level. We've seen it before. Back to the right at the end, just under 35 feet. This is tracking. This is tracking. What an unlikely birdie for Paul Casey to get to 8-under.

[00:28:12] >> We go back up to 18.

[00:28:13] >> He's made putts in this round, Anirban Lahiri over two days, he's made everything inside of 12 feet, all 16 putts he's had inside of 12 feet, and here he is for par.

[00:28:34] >> Shot like this one at 6 1/2 feet.

[00:28:36] >> There's not a lot of movement in the back part of this green.

[00:29:02] >> Yeah.

[00:29:03] >> What a putting performance. He plays 7 holes in the restart this morning at even par, and Anirban Lahiri was 9-under leading by one when we restarted 2 hours ago and that's where he is as he finishes his 3rd round. So, here's what we are. Finally through 54 holes at 11am on Monday, the Monday finished because there's good weather forecast. Lahiri will start the final round, one clear of Casey, Burns, Munoz, and Ghim. Smith and Hoge 2-back, with major champions [inaudible] Lowry sitting back there with good players like Kisner and Zalatoris, Knox as well at 6-under, Patrick Reed, patron of the group at five, Keegan Bradley, Brandon Steele, and Scotty Stallings, who made the cut on the number and then came out with 65.

[00:29:58] >> Round 4 is next.

[00:30:09] >> The vision of former commissioner Dean Beeman, the design of Pete and Alice Dye. There's so many big names in golf that helped make this golf course what it is, known around the world especially for the treacherous and pressure building finish. Going to get to the 16th in two. That hole location's tough; 17 is always difficult, the hole's lurking over there. What do you have inside if you need one? And then at 18, there is that flag over there front left by the water and you're going to have wind to deal with trying to get the ball close to the hole today. 67 degrees, remember it was in the 30s when we came on the air a couple of days ago, but with wind gusts up to 20 miles per hour, just add one more piece of pressure here at the Players. Final round with Lahiri in that last group, big group at 8-under par, Cameron Smith and Russell Knox lurking at 7. There Shane Lowry made that ace yesterday, he's at 6-under par, three off the lead along with Kevin Kisner. Taylor Pendrith, who's been steady during this week. Harold Varner III was close to the lead when this morning started, he's dropped back a few shots. Garcia five back. If anybody can make a big push, it would be an incredible run of golf for any of these players, including the defending champion Justin Thomas, who is five off the lead. Let's go back to the first hole. It's the long birdie attempt for Cam Smith.

[00:31:31] >> Way across the Green, always good with a putter as we've watched him during his tour days here terrific roll here and Smith gets his day started with a big birdie.

[00:31:46] >> And starting on the 10th tee today was Seamus Power, this for birdie at 16. So, Power, the other Irishman here along with Shane Lowry, also playing nicely. Four birdies today.

[00:32:08] >> Over to the 2nd, and Russell Knox. This is 3rd shot, fairway woods from the fairway to this point. Nice angle from over there. Looked like the lie was okay. That's really nice there.

[00:32:26] >> This is the seventh and the unmistakable mustache Erik van Rooyen from 167, sitting at 4-under, five back. It's been in pretty good touch of the top all week and now he's going to take another little step up.

[00:32:44] >> Cameron Smith for birdie to tie for the lead.

[00:32:48] >> Coming from this backside, Justin, as you've probably already seen, it is a little bit uphill so he can give us a nice run, maybe just fall a little to his right but not much in it.

[00:33:07] >> That's just a beautifully played hole. Didn't hit the green but in a place that was easy up and down.

[00:33:14] >> And we saw van Rooyen's beauty in here at the 7th to pay it off to get within four. He does just that. Erik van Rooyen tried to stay in the mix.

[00:33:28] >> Back to the 2nd.

[00:33:30] >> And Lahiri on the front part of the green with his 3rd, and Raj, he's got a long ways left.

[00:33:37] >> Yes, he does and has that slope that comes into the red side of the green to contend with, that's going to swing left on the way back here. You know, and if you do hit it a little too hard that green starts to run away right past the hole. That's what happened with Ghim's bunker shot, so you know, if you hit a bad putt it could go off the green.

[00:33:59] >> Double boxes, we've got Cam Smith up at the 3rd hole for birdie from about 10 feet. Anirban Lahiri for birdie down in the bottom right. Cam Smith with the outright lead.

[00:34:20] >> Wow, yeah.

[00:34:23] >> Beautiful birdie there. Now Lahrir's putt on the way. That's pretty good from that part of the green.

[00:34:36] >> To 4.

[00:34:37] >> And Russell Knox, perfect place to put from here, John Wood.

[00:34:41] >> Exact same line as Lowry so he has no mysteries what this putt does.

[00:34:46] >> Yeah, it should turn the left a little bit uphill. Wow, what a run Russell Knox is on, his last 32 holes nine birdies and not a single bogey.

[00:34:59] >> Cam Smith positioned nicely here at the 4th. He's usually very good with the wedges. That doesn't carry it quite far enough, if it'll come all the way back down to the proper level. That's not bad. Certainly, you can make a putt from there up the hill, turning left. We go to 11.

[00:35:26] >> Sepp Straka has a pretty good round going, 3-under through 10 and at this par-5 11th, a winner at the Honda classic for his breakthrough PGA Tour victory moves to 6-under.

[00:35:42] >> Cam coming in now, they work from right to left. So, just put it on the top side of the hole and give it enough pace.

[00:35:50] >> Love what he does, here right at the end he takes a long look at where he wants this ball to go. Look at this. What a solid putt. Wow. What a start for Cam Smith.

[00:36:08] >> Hard to make putts like that on a Sunday, Gary, or on Monday, a final round.

[00:36:13] >> Unbelievable. 33rd one-putt this week.

[00:36:16] >> Let's go, Cam.

[00:36:18] >> It's bump up to the 6th and Kevin Kisner to get to 8-under par. All right, just edges in. We actually had some raindrops fall in the last 10 minutes or so. It's gotten a little bit darker. It's a crazy weather week. To 4.

[00:36:40] >> Harry's putt is true. So, he moves it to 10-under par, just one back.

[00:36:46] >> Hovland at the 9th.

[00:36:55] >> Nice birdie for Viktor Hovland who has just been hanging around.

[00:37:04] >> Over here 13, Straka with this little left to righter for birdie. Straka, four birdies in his last 5 holes, and moves into a tie for 6th at 7-under. Back to six for Cam Smith. Nota.

[00:37:23] >> Yeah, thanks, Dan. Cam Smith stepping into this now from 143, ball a little bit on a downhill so it will take a little bit of elevation out of it.

[00:37:31] >> What's the wind doing, Nota?

[00:37:33] >> Wind has laid down quite a bit, guys, so if anything it's a little help directly behind them.

[00:37:38] >> You probably have nine at the most.

[00:37:41] >> This is a hard pitching wedge, Paul.

[00:37:43] >> Wow. Well, you don't want to go over.

[00:37:46] >> Yeah, I think it's the right play to a back pin, so--

[00:37:48] >> Yep, that's the right play.

[00:37:53] >> Look out for cam Smith. Wow, the way he is hitting it. You know, he didn't hit it well yesterday but he putted beautifully.

[00:38:02] >> This is Victor Hovland over at the 10th from 160. It's got within 4. Asking it to go. It's there. Here's Smith at the 6th, as you look at his strokes gained putting, numero uno, plus 2 1/2 this week.

[00:38:32] >> He knows where he stands now. He's the outright leader and his putts become more and more important.

[00:38:37] >> Just right in the middle, five birdies in the first 6 holes, just an amazing start for Smith to go 2-clear again of Lahiri. It's a beautiful strike in here for Hovland, and now to pay it off. And earlier you talked about that dismal record of putts between 4 and 8 feet. Well, he's cleaned that up.

[00:39:02] >> Yep.

[00:39:04] >> Back to 8.

[00:39:05] >> And Shane Lowry, great approach shot in here, this for the 2nd birdie here at the 8th today. And that's a great 2 for the big Irishman.

[00:39:23] >> Paul Casey's ball is situated ,coming back down. Ball will move pretty substantially to his right as it moves to speed, so he's got to get that out. He just looked where he's lined up. He's expecting this to make a right turn. And it's just tough to play enough break, it just wants to go right hard.

[00:39:42] >> You know, if he were to make this putt, I mean, he's going to send Cam Smith a little message. So, this is a big putt if it goes.

[00:39:51] >> Looking for the birdie. It finally lands for Casey at the 7th.

[00:39:55] >> Yeah, he has locked his eyes on Cam Smith. There's no doubt about it.

[00:40:01] >> Over at 8.

[00:40:02] >> And Cam Smith set to play here.

[00:40:08] >> Taking the driving iron here, Jay, and just trying to get it all the way back there, but he has lost this out to the right.

[00:40:15] >> Yeah, looked like he was trying to turn that into the wind, missed the greenside bunkers over there.

[00:40:21] >> You can't really feel the wind here but it's playing close to 250.

[00:40:26] >> The same hole, some difficult green, Cameron Smith now leading by one, Anirban Lahiri playing steady, 1-back.

[00:40:42] >> And Cam Smith got just inside of 18 feet for par here, Nota.

[00:40:47] >> And it's a similar feel to the putt that we just saw him miss at the 7th, just a longer version of it. Straight down the hill, going to work left to right, then it's just one of those ones, Justin, that if you just don't give it enough break and I'll just snap off on you.

[00:41:01] >> And look at that, two of the last three Players Champions made a bogey in the final round.

[00:41:10] >> Well, you know, Justin, you've won here. It gets tough for everybody. It's just kind of weathering the storm and then, you know, just not letting it lead to disaster and then playing some good golf to make up for it.

[00:41:22] >> Yeah, when you make a mistake you just don't want to make another one right behind it, so avoiding putts like this can go a long way towards rectifying those mistakes. It needs to be outside left. Did he hit it? No. Well, making bogey here at the 8th it's not the worst thing in the world. It is the fourth most difficult pole on the golf course today.

[00:42:07] >> Casey for eagle, to tie him for the lead. Makes a beautiful lag putt. Scott's got 8 or 9 feet here it looks like.

[00:42:25] >> Yeah, David and this is a tough read. All sitting on a part of the green that is sort of slanted away from [inaudible]. So, first part wants to sort of push toward the back of the green and then wants to try and straighten out and maybe come back to his left, so overall not a lot.

[00:42:46] >> Lahiri is in trouble behind him. Not as a huge bonus for the rest of the field when they look up at the top of that leaderboard.

[00:42:55] >> And all of a sudden Bradley has a putt to tie for the lead.

[00:43:01] >> You've got to feel like that a lot of these players just an hour or so ago probably thought they were out of it. It looked like it might be a two-horse race and then now all of a sudden, they're very much alive and you wonder what it's going to do to them mentally and physically, if it's going to change anything. Let's see who's got the guts to close this thing out.

[00:43:24] >> Bradley walks it and he's now tied at the top.

[00:43:28] >> Major winner.

[00:43:30] >> Three in a row. Five total for Bradley.

[00:43:35] >> Hovland 2nd and 14.

[00:43:37] >> 166.

[00:43:42] >> If you have a chance to get it close here. It's a very tough shot back there but, as you said, he is leading the field approach to the green.

[00:43:56] >> We go back to 10.

[00:43:57] >> And Cam Smith, part of the three-way tie.

[00:44:01] >> Yeah, kind of play out a turn here. Sam Burns waiting for a ruling. An official now is discussing his options with him. Smith dealing with 146 again. We know he has to carry it all the way over this bunker. There no bail out here.

[00:44:22] >> Wow. He scuffs it in there.

[00:44:25] >> We call that an alt finish at home.

[00:44:31] >> This is Hovland for birdie at 14 with that magnificent approach.

[00:44:37] >> He's been so good today. And another.

[00:44:40] >> Boy, that putting can stay solid down the stretch, Hovland could end up winning it all.

[00:44:48] >> This is Bradley for birdie at the 12th.

[00:44:53] >> All right, Keegan Bradley to 10-under par, four birdies in a row.

[00:45:00] >> Huge eagle chance for Lahiri at the 11th.

[00:45:20] >> Eagle putt on the way is good for Lahiri. Jumps up to the top again at 11-under.

[00:45:31] >> The grain of the grass is growing, you know, maybe a little bit toward the green, maybe toward the right back center, so it wouldn't provide too much resistance to him. It's just a matter if he can hit this spot because he's not going to be able to get any spin on this. He's going to have to play it to run out.

[00:45:45] >> Is he going to lift it way up in the air, you think, or hit something lower?

[00:45:48] >> Well, he's rehearsing a shot that's going to sort of get up into the air. My only concern is how deep into the green he has to carry it. He had something low, he's going to manage just on the green.

[00:46:12] >> Smith would convert that for birdie.

[00:46:20] >> Upper left we have Cam Smith with his birdie effort at 13. And down below, Lahiri for birdie at 12. Smith does it again, 13-under par. Important putt now for Lahiri to stay in touch. Did he hit it?

[00:46:58] >> After par saves at 14, 15, and 16 we pick up the action with Smith on the tee at the 17th, leading by two shots.

[00:47:07] >> Player's Champion has hit a ball in the water in the final round since 2003. My goodness, this is way more aggressive than I anticipated. Man. What a shot.

[00:47:44] >> Yeah, you better smile. That's a little Rickie Fowler-esque.

[00:47:47] >> That's exactly what that looked like.

[00:47:57] >> 4 feet 4 inches, turning just a little left, got the right-hander gloves. If this goes down, the lead increases to three. What a luxury.

[00:48:10] >> No kidding. So much bigger than a two-shot lead. It's especially with that scary tee shot coming up it'll change his decision.

[00:48:19] >> Yep, one that he's hit in the water twice this week at 18. He's hit it in the water left.

[00:48:26] >> Well, he's the best on tour from 4 to 8 feet and this is just over 4.

[00:48:51] >> That's another one, a 2 at 17 to get to 14-under and head to the 18th tee with that three-shot lead.

[00:48:59] >> Now Lahiri's tee shot at the 17th.

[00:49:13] >> It's okay, that'll work its way down onto the proper level.

[00:49:24] >> He's looking low, Nota.

[00:49:27] >> Yeah, that's really the only option here. He's got to keep it low. You've got to carry it about 70 yards to get it back to the fairway. So, I think that's the main objective right now.

[00:49:44] >> Now it's got to slow down. And it doesn't. One more little twist we've got.

[00:49:57] >> Back at 17, suddenly Lahiri's under a bigger microscope.

[00:50:03] >> This is a huge putt to get to 12-under.

[00:50:09] >> This is a putt he's dreamed about, I imagine, his whole life.

[00:50:20] >> Hit it, hit it, hit it. Yes. This is not over yet, boys.

[00:50:35] >> This is one of the best wedge players alive, 4th shot, 57 yards.

[00:50:56] >> So, how much was that?

[00:51:06] >> So, this will force Lahiri to burry the hole at a time. Clutch, that set up and down for 5, 66 for Smith. And now Lahiri must make. Good try. Can Smith is a Players Champion in his backyard.

[00:51:51] >> What a win.

[00:51:55] >> Your mom Sharon, your sister Mel. They're here from Australia, the first time in over 2 1/2 years due to the COVID protocols in Australia. What did it mean to you to have them here to witness this?

[00:52:05] >> Yeah. I mean, I haven't seen him in in 2 years. So, it's really cool to have him here. And you know, my main priority really was just to hang out with them and golf was second for these few weeks, so it's nice to see them and nice to get a win for them.

[00:52:25] >> Big win indeed. Cam, Congratulations. Well done today.

[00:52:28] >> Thank you.

[00:52:30] >> After a long and challenging 5-day championship, Cameron Smith earns his fifth PGA Tour victory and second of the season. This concludes the PGA Tours coverage of the 2022 Players Championship.