Production Transcript for 22INTCUTTO\_SATURDAY 30MIN Final.mp3

[00:00:20] >> The first round of the Players Championship was suspended due to unplayable golf course conditions.

[00:00:27] >> We've received about 2.5 inches of rain. We battled through some pretty tough conditions this morning. The golf courses reached a point where it's unplayable.

[00:00:40] >> While players during Thursday's limited round were able to avoid the rain in the course, the same could not be said for Friday as play resumed amid the incessant rain, leaving no choice for the deciduous agronomy team at the stadium course but to work throughout play. Emerging from the strong international field is 2016 Champion Jason Day, continuing his early success from the start of his round on Thursday to cart a round of 69 and put himself three back of the current lead. He's one of 96 players to finish their opening round. Justin Rose is in pursuit to match co-leader and fellow Englishman Tommy Fleetwood in an effort to become the first to claim the coveted title for their country. He's currently 2-under with 4 holes to play.

[00:01:36] >> Justin Rose having himself a pretty good start.

[00:01:41] >> Argentina's Emiliano Grillo matches that score through 11 holes, as does Austria's Sepp Straka, who has three holes remaining to put himself further in contention. Just two weeks removed from his first career PGA Tour victory. Reigning champion Justin Thomas finds himself in an identical situation, trudging through wet conditions with 3 birdies on Friday to the gate in early bogey. And the top crop of Americans all find themselves in red numbers, with a handful of holes to play, highlighted by Daniel Berger, who gets within one of the lead thanks to 6 birdies through 16 holes.

[00:02:21] >> Yeah.

[00:02:24] >> Unfortunately, the weather conditions are not providing us any relief. So, we have suspended play for the day. Our plan is to resume play tomorrow, no earlier than 11:00 a.m. If our calculations on everything hold together, we certainly expect to be finished with the championship on Monday.

[00:02:45] >> A marathon weekend lies ahead on Saturday as 47 players still need to finish their opening round. But as the rain shows no sign of letting up, the esteemed staff at TPC Sawgrass is hard at work to ensure a true moving day is upon us. The PGA Tour is proud to bring you the season-long race for the FedEx Cup.

[00:03:27] >> Now, Saturday coverage of the 2022 Players Championship.

[00:03:32] >> In the distance, the Atlantic Ocean, the current home of an intense cold front that rambled through here in Northeast Florida last night. And this morning, it changes from wet to windy. It's the third day and it's day one of the players because of some unprecedented rain that we've seen here in Northeast Florida. And now, the wind will become the big story of this challenging event. The challenge at the famed island green 17th will be extraordinary, maybe the toughest ever this afternoon. Don't believe us? Here's the restart of play an hour and a few minutes ago. And let's start with last week's winner on the PGA Tour, Scottie Scheffler, 7-iron. He was trying to keep it low enough so the chalets on the left didn't block out the wind. Too much for that 7-iron in the water. Also in his group, next to him number seven in the world, Xander Schauffele. You see the way the water is reacting from the wind. Schauffele not even close. These are the best. The reports kept to put it in the water after that. Then so did Collin Morikawa, first four players to play 17, put it in the water. Finally Rory McIlroy found dry land. And then Justin Thomas, the winner here last year. He too find dry land. You can hear the cheers, and you can see the reaction. This is going to be a brutally tough day for the players on this third day and first and second round of this championship.

[00:05:02] >> Tommy Fleetwood and Tom Hoge, man, the folks who played early on Thursday and finally got their round done. They're feeling pretty good. They haven't hit a shot in quite some time. Those two still top the board. Brice Garnett, Daniel Berger out there one back. You're going to see some ones and twos up there because we have players like Dustin Johnson and Russell Henley spinning around and getting their second round started, as players like Doug Ghim, who played well here last year, and Justin Rose, are finishing their first round. So first and second round going on simultaneously. And needless to say, because that nearly 5 inches of rain we discussed, scoring has been quite good for this wraparound three days of the first round, and the start here of the second round on Saturday.

[00:05:45] >> Sepp Straka over at the first for birdie.

[00:05:49] >> Big win for Sepp Straka at the Honda, his first win.

[00:05:55] >> Atta boy.

[00:05:57] >> First Australian to win on the PGA Tour.

[00:06:02] >> We get you over to Justin Leonard at the second.

[00:06:04] >> Thank you Dan. Talor Gooch coming out of the first cut on the left hand side, 236. Wind hard off the right on the second hole. What a shot that is. See the softness of the greens certainly helps on a windy day like today. And we'll send it over to 5 and join Gary Koch.

[00:06:24] >> Thank you very much. Justin here at the short par 4, as Fitzpatrick with the -- for birdie. Chance to get to even par. Yes, just slips in the right side. So couple of birdies in his last three holes as he gets his second round started.

[00:06:40] >> Go to 13.

[00:06:42] >> Keegan Bradley on the tee of this dangerous hole, 185 yards.

[00:06:48] >> Winds cranking behind him and to the right. And there's room to get it back there as it will feed. That's a beautiful shot. Oh, man, what a shot.

[00:06:57] >> Yeah. Keegan, a great chance there, should get it under par early in his second round.

[00:07:04] >> Back to 2.

[00:07:06] >> And we saw Talor Gooch, beautiful fairway wood at this point. Eighteen feet for Eagle makes that Talor Gooch off to a great start, 2-under for this second round and just two back the lead.

[00:07:25] >> Let's go to the fifth. Fitzpatrick for par. The short ones are going to be a test today because --

[00:07:30] >> Yeah.

[00:07:30] >> -- the wind is so strong. And look at just buffeting the shirt of Fitzpatrick. Over at the 12.

[00:07:41] >> Birdie putt for Jason Day. Just sneaks in, 2-under par. He bounced back after a double bogey at 11. We go to 5.

[00:07:52] >> Sam Ryder from 130 at 3-under.

[00:07:56] >> See, that's a short shot to the fifth hole. It's totally wind aided. And he's got power. Took advantage of that wedge opportunity.

[00:08:07] >> So should be a birdie for Ryder.

[00:08:09] >> To move up the board a little closer.

[00:08:11] >> To 13, Jason Day for birdie.

[00:08:15] >> Exceptional tee shot to get in here like that.

[00:08:18] >> What a putt it is.

[00:08:19] >> Yeah.

[00:08:19] >> In any kind of conditions, he is a grinder.

[00:08:24] >> Over at the par 5, 11, second for Justin Rose out of position. Goes 3-under, three back.

[00:08:32] >> I just think maybe it's against the rules to lay up on a par 5. He went with a wood out of there. Not too happy. Watch out for that ant pile.

[00:08:41] >> And you don't see Justin Rose get that animated often. Fifteen.

[00:08:46] >> And Keegan Bradley from 52 feet. It is drive left to the fairway, a great shot at this point. Look at that. From way downtown, Keegan Bradley. Oh, with a little silver platter service with a butter.

[00:09:02] >> There you go.

[00:09:03] >> Nice.

[00:09:05] >> And over at the 14th, Jason Day from the lower level for par even. How about that? Surely not. Or not by the caddy.

[00:09:21] >> Jason Day --

[00:09:22] >> Caddy.

[00:09:23] >> -- who on this title. You do what you got to do around here. He's never done anything like that at 14.

[00:09:30] >> Caddy had his arm up with at least 10 feet left in that putt. He knew it.

[00:09:34] >> That was 82 feet for Jason Day. At the second.

[00:09:42] >> And Garnett for eagle. Just a little bit left. That will be a nice 2 putt for birdie and should be tied for the lead.

[00:09:55] >> We head over to the third.

[00:10:04] >> And through the swale, yeah. A little uphill towards the end, knocks that one right in there. You've got to keep those as prisoners. Seamus Power.

[00:10:17] >> The story is the wind, and everything is doing on every single hole to the players. This is McIlroy, went a little bit deep.

[00:10:26] >> On every single shot and every single moment.

[00:10:28] >> Yup.

[00:10:28] >> It's just changing. It's just -- this is really hard stuff for players to handle. Chipping uphill a little bit. Landed on the green. With that conditions, that help check it up. Well played.

[00:10:48] >> This will be a nice day for McIlroy to stay in plus-1. Back at 17.

[00:10:54] >> Yeah. Andrew Putnam on the tee. He's at minus-3.

[00:10:58] >> That's way up in the air. And that's right, and that's wet.

[00:11:12] >> Tommy Fleetwood again won't tee off until later today, just about 6:00 o'clock or so. Tom Hoge is scheduled for 6:30.

[00:11:22] >> We go back to 16.

[00:11:27] >> Where Kevin Kisner is using his head to play this 16th hole at par 5. It's 532 yards saying, look how narrow the spot he's headed into here. He didn't hit a second shot more than about 140 yards, decided to lay up here because this flag is so dangerous. Yeah, nicely done. It's good sensible stuff, gives himself a chance for birdie.

[00:11:58] >> All right. Russell Henley on the tee here at 17. See the even par number. He was 3-under as he went to 16 and made a triple bogey there. Plays a brilliant shot here at 17. One of the best we've seen today.

[00:12:14] >> Yeah. And you can tell the crowd really appreciates and respects a shot like that.

[00:12:20] >> Back over to 16.

[00:12:21] >> Kevin Kisner has a good idea of how this breaks. He's little right to left. Kevin Kisner is tough.

[00:12:32] >> Yeah. He's got the guts of a burglar, this guy. Then you put him out here in conditions like this, and he tends to thrive, David.

[00:12:40] >> Back at 14.

[00:12:40] >> Forth shot for Thomas. Decent lie but a tricky little play. Well --

[00:12:48] >> Yeah.

[00:12:49] >> -- not so tricky.

[00:12:51] >> He's got to be the best on tour around the greens. I don't know if the stats will show it. But he is just magnificent. Good break. He didn't roll in the tall grass, took advantage of it.

[00:13:04] >> See how pumped he was to get out of there with a par.

[00:13:11][ Applause and Cheering ] Over at 18, Keegan Bradley with his third.

[00:13:19] >> Keegan's got some great hands. And has he done it? No. But a fantastic shot and gets through that first nine holes, 2-under for the championship. That's pretty strong. He's in a great spot.

[00:13:35] >> To 7.

[00:13:36] >> And Straka for birdie. Trying to move up in that tie for fourth.

[00:13:41] >> This would be a fine birdie at 7. That hole is playing --

[00:13:43] >> Yup.

[00:13:44] >> -- today into the wind.

[00:13:48] >> Thirteen, Henrik Stenson for birdie.

[00:13:55] >> Henrik.

[00:13:58] >> Two-under through 4 holes in his second round.

[00:14:02] >> Great start.

[00:14:04] >> To the third.

[00:14:05] >> Mackenzie Hughes on the tee. He's a plus-3. Of course that one way up into the sky. Oh, what a beautiful shot, stone dead for Mackenzie Hughes. He'll knock that in, get back to plus-2.

[00:14:22] >> And at 2, Kevin Kisner with his third shot, Notah.

[00:14:27] >> Yes, a great leave here.

[00:14:29] >> Good play there. Left himself in a great position to just use a square face, probably his middle wedge there.

[00:14:41] >> He looks like he's in total control of his emotions.

[00:14:44] >> All right. Jason Kokrak over here at 12, putting for birdie from out of a fringe, and jams it right in the hole. So Kokrak gets it to even par.

[00:14:55] >> We go back to 16.

[00:14:59] >> And Brendan Steele for eagle. I haven't seen too many of those, even as dime wind as it is here at 16. Yeah.

[00:15:10][ Applause and Cheering ] And now, Justin Thomas with an eagle putt here.

[00:15:21] >> At 45 feet here. And this one has to come up a slight rise in the green, the whole kind of cut on the higher right-hand side of the green. So it should go to his right, so.

[00:15:32] >> Yeah. This is a much easier putt than the one that McIlroy just hit.

[00:15:35] >> Not even close. Thomas would knock that in.

[00:15:56][ Applause ] And here at 12, Sepp Straka with his second. Just little wedge after a good drive. And this man continues to control his ball well.

[00:16:14] >> Over here at 12, Bubba Watson has this downhill putt for birdie. Just to get to 3-under. And that's 40under for the day. Clearly, the best score out there right now.

[00:16:28] >> Sepp Straka with a chance for a birdie. Just to get to 5-under within one of the lead.

[00:16:39] >> Now, we go over to the 13th again for Streb with an 8-iron.

[00:16:44] >> And way, way right trying to hit some kind of swinger from right to left. Oh, yes.

[00:16:51] >> It's so hard to get it back there.

[00:16:55] >> That birdie gets Streb back to 2-over.

[00:16:59] >> What's the case here this week?

[00:17:02] >> Jason Kokrak a moment ago, his third at the 15th.

[00:17:07] >> Even par. This guy is try to get somewhere in that top 50 when they're done with their first 36 holes. Kokrak makes a little magic. An easy lie in the bunker, not what you'd expect. Pretty nice back nine here. A couple of birdies, 1-under for the round, one-under for the championship.

[00:17:26] >> Seamus Power with a birdie attempt at the par 5 11th.

[00:17:31] >> Still in a short sleeves. The temperature has dropped to 54 degrees and the winds balling 20.

[00:17:36] >> Yeah. That's pretty bold move, and so is that.

[00:17:39][ Applause ]

[00:17:43] >> This is over at the first, Charl Schwartzel.

[00:17:48] >> And again, still with some moisture in the camera lens from this angle at this approach at the first end. Schwartzel is going to have a tap in birdie here to get it back to plus-2.

[00:18:05] >> And over at the 12, Seamus Power. Nice drive, just 113 yards for his second. Oh, that's one of the better ones we've seen. At least a nice uphill putt, and a chance for Seamus Power to get to 3-under.

[00:18:24] >> We'll have about an hour and 15 minutes of golf before darkness sets in. Justin Thomas for another one.

[00:18:31][ Applause and Cheering ]

[00:18:40] >> Over at 6.

[00:18:42] >> McIlroy who saw his ball spin back off the green now with a beautiful chip.

[00:18:49] >> Well that might turn things around. Roy's had a hard time making any putt over 15 feet for a couple of weeks in a row. He's been pretty steady inside 10.

[00:19:04] >> We go over to 8. And Dustin Johnson setting up in the right side of the tee, this wind down and off the left, giving himself.

[00:19:13] >> Oh, wow. Beautiful shot that's the best of the day. Closest was around 7 feet.

[00:19:24] >>Sixteen.

[00:19:25] >> We're going to see what Straka has left here on the dance floor. But he's played that very well.

[00:19:31] >> Now at the green.

[00:19:35] >> And Straka, just a right edge putt. Yeah. Nicely done for the big Austrian. And he gets into minus-5.

[00:19:54] >> Over at 9.

[00:19:56] >> Dustin just picks that one claim that should spin. Beautiful shot. Sepp Straka on the way with his tee shot. That's left. Look out. What a shame.

[00:20:17] >> Straka would hit his third shot in the water as well, going on to make a quad bogey.

[00:20:25] >> Tommy Fleetwood over at the second.

[00:20:27] >> And Tommy Fleetwood getting ready down here, Notah.

[00:20:30] >> Justin, he just laid into a tee shot only 174 left for Fleetwood to the front, 197 to the hole. And with this hard wind from right to left, if he hits his natural shot, which is a draw, he's got to start this well right of the green and get it to hold. So we'll see what he decides to do. He's rehearsing a normal release, so I assume he's going to try and hit a big swoop right here. But he's going to have a tough time holding a green.

[00:20:55] >> Yeah. Really just wants to hit anything in the middle to left part of the green. Worst thing he could do here is miss it out to the right. And a good shot there. That'll feed it down a little bit to the left.

[00:21:10] >> A 2 putt from there for Fleetwood moves him to 7-under. Now to Thomas to finish up at 9.

[00:21:17] >> I expect him to hit a one hop and stop here, Roger.

[00:21:21] >> Yeah.

[00:21:21] >> That's pretty much what I expect too. He's going to hit something that's going to drive. He's got plenty of room to work with. And don't take a skateboard too and then check.

[00:21:31] >> Get in the hole.

[00:21:32] >> Get there.

[00:21:33] >> Shot technique.

[00:21:34] >> Now, well done.

[00:21:35][ Applause ]

[00:21:41] >> Desperately wants to make this to go bogey free. You can bet it's in the back of his mind.

[00:21:50] >> Yes.

[00:21:51] >> Yes, sir. That is a fabulous round of golf for Justin Thomas. I would have thought one of the finest of his career.

[00:22:02] >> Saturday was the day of wind as Justin Thomas shoots an unthinkable bogey free 69. We'll have to finish round two off tomorrow and some of round three.