Production Transcript for 22INTCUTTO\_SUNDAY 30MIN FINAL.mp3

[00:00:20] >> 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.

[00:00:32] >> It's the third day, and it's Day 1 of the Players.

[00:00:36] >> 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.

[00:00:50] >> It changes from wet to windy.

[00:00:53] >> But the wind is a double-edged sword slicing through the game's best players one after another.

[00:01:00] >> The challenge at the famed island green 17th will be extraordinary.

[00:01:05] >> And it delivers without an ounce of mercy as 26 tee shots rinsed in water, compared to only four on Thursday and Friday combined.

[00:01:18] >> It's pretty brutal out there. I mean, hitting those tee shots in 17 and 18 and just keeping them dry and walking forward is nice.

[00:01:28] >> They're talking about mainstream day today. It's not meant to blow this hard normally, so this is just one of those days.

[00:01:37] >> 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 Pieters, 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 in Round 1, shoot 79 and 78 respectively. 2019 Champion Rory McIlroy, who scratches out a second consecutive 73 will wait to see if he survives the cut.

[00:02:17] >> I don't know. I might be one short. Hopefully, I've done enough. I mean it just depends on the conditions tomorrow for the other guys.

[00:02:26] >> While Ireland Seamus Power, who is no stranger to wind, is 2-under in the second round with two holes left to play. As is Charl Schwartzel, but with three holes remaining and a fight ahead to play two more rounds. And fellow countrymen Branden Grace cards the lowest round of any international player to finish their second round, and even par 72 Austria's Sepp Straka was contending for the lead, until a quadruple bogey on the 17th hole drops into 1-under for the championship.

[00:02:59] >> That's got too much spin.

[00:03:02] >> No. What a shame.

[00:03:07] >> 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.

[00:03:25] >> I'm thrilled with how I played and how I competed today. It was a very, very tough day. And I just stayed very patient executed well.

[00:03:32] >> Just 48 players have completed Round 2, leaving 94 more before the cut is made, and Round 3 begins on Sunday. The PGA Tour is proud to bring you the season-long race for the FedEx Cup. Now, coverage of the 2022 Players Championship.

[00:04:14] >> It is a tournament for many seasons this week. It looks calm, it looks very serene, but it is very, very cold. Welcome to Day 4. We're still in Round 2 at TPC Sawgrass. But the thunderstorms and the rain, and now the wind has moved out, but the cold has moved in. It's going to be a long day of golf here at the Players. Joaquin Niemann who was one of those players that we talked about that played on Thursday got in before all the rain came and shot a nice 5-under par 67 to get out of the gate.

[00:04:58][ Applause and Cheering ] Really nice. Back to 3. And the one member of this group that did have a good tee shot is that man Viktor Hovland, a chance to get to 3-under par.

[00:05:19] >> Wow.

[00:05:19] >> Never left the hole. Let's check out Sergio at 5 to get 2-under.

[00:05:33] >> Yeah.

[00:05:37] >> Now, Joaquin Niemann. This is his birdie putt a chance to tie the lead.

[00:05:49] >> Well, this man is informed, and he is tied for the lead.

[00:05:58] >> Now, Rahm on 22. Has to elevate it quickly and keep it underneath the palm fronds. Tricky little shot right here.

[00:06:13] >> Wind.

[00:06:14] >> Wow. What a golf shot.

[00:06:16] >> Oh my goodness.

[00:06:18] >> Rahm would knock that in.

[00:06:25] >> Perfect angle.

[00:06:28] >> Third shot at 7 from Niemann.

[00:06:31] >> Long explosion right there. And look at that action on the ball. That was really well done.

[00:06:42] >> Yeah.

[00:06:42] >> That was tidy.

[00:06:42] >> Viktor Hovland with a very good drive, and he's got lumber out.

[00:06:52] >> He might be able to put it short right to the green.

[00:06:59] >> Yeah. The big number is 250 right over this cross bunker here on the left. Can he get it past that into this wind?

[00:07:09] >> Well, it's not because he didn't hit it dead solid.

[00:07:12] >> No.

[00:07:12] >> Go.

[00:07:13] >> That was hammered right there.

[00:07:18] >> Absolutely.

[00:07:19] >> It's pretty sweet spot right there.

[00:07:23] >> Yeah.

[00:07:23] >> Watch this one. This is going to be really cool here for Joaquin Neimann. Watch the speed. Takes such imagination and guts to hit a shot like that.

[00:07:36] >> Billy, I'm going to guess that Viktor Hovland got a lot more out of this second shot at 9 than he thought he could.

[00:07:41] >> Yeah, I'm in total agreement. I think he was going to be very satisfied. But keeping it in the fairway grass just short of the green, but it did end up in the bunker.

[00:07:52] >> Yeah. It was on about 50 feet from the front edge there.

[00:07:57] >> Yeah. Well done.

[00:08:01] >> 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. It 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, it may not be the calamity corner than it was 24 hours ago. You see the weather look nothing down these last two 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 one over Tom Hoge, a guy who was raised in North Dakota, so can handle these cool conditions.

[00:08:50] >> We got a 15.

[00:08:52] >> Abraham Ancer.

[00:08:54] >> Yeah.

[00:08:55] >> Long iron here at the 15th. Beautiful shot. That is the best of the day here at 15.

[00:09:03] >> Ancer moves to 5-under.

[00:09:05] >> Up to 9.

[00:09:06] >> That's Erik van Rooyen. He's a South African from 61 yards here, his third shot at the par-5 9.

[00:09:16] >> And his last shot the par-5 9.

[00:09:20] >> I was hoping we get to see that mustache.

[00:09:23] >> Got a little handlebar action there.

[00:09:25] >> You might be seeing a lot more of that mustache.

[00:09:27] >> Wow.

[00:09:28] >> Yeah. That's a weekend mustache right there.

[00:09:30] >> Right. And that is a clever way to finish.

[00:09:36] >> Anirban Lahiri over at the 14th for birdie. Plus-1 to this point. But that one goes down with the discard. Three bogeys out of 39. He eagles the 11th, and then he birdies the 14th.

[00:10:01] >> Back 16. Sam Burns from miles away.

[00:10:04] >> No, you're kidding.

[00:10:06] >> I was kidding. Wow. Sam Burns ties the lead with an improbable eagle at 16. Perfect pace on that putt, David.

[00:10:28] >> Oh it was never anywhere else.

[00:10:37] >> Jon Rahm trying for a rare birdie, Roger, here at the last.

[00:10:41] >> And a tough read here. The putt looks like it wants to go a little left. I don't think it will. Green sort of falls away, Mac. The thing is pretty straight putt. It didn't drip right.

[00:10:53] >> That's from 10 feet for Rahm. World number one takes advantage of the closest approach shot of the second round and delivers just the second birdie of the second round. NeSmith, the only other player to birdie it. That will give Rahm a very good feeling waiting his third round tee time.

[00:11:32] >> Third round ready to tee off. We're going to bring it to you as we continue.

[00:11:41] >> 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.

[00:11:57] >> Wow. Patrick Reed fills it up with a birdie.

[00:12:03] >> Off 2.

[00:12:04] >> And Keegan Bradley for eagle, Woody.

[00:12:07] >> Yeah, very happy when you saw that ball stayed up. He wasn't sure.

[00:12:10] >> Now, we've had seven eagles so far through the first two rounds. I'm sure we'll see more in this third round.

[00:12:19] >> Over to 11.

[00:12:20] >> And the third from this little putt bunker just earlier for Sepp Straka.

[00:12:25] >> Yeah. Beautiful touch. It should be a birdie for Straka to get it back into red figures.

[00:12:37] >> Back to 2.

[00:12:38] >> 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 eighth eagle of the week here at number 2 by the field. A little pat on the back by Pat Perez.

[00:13:03] >> Right. Over here at 12, the short par 4 on the back nine. Francesco Molinari putting for birdie from just short of the green. He did perfectly. So Molinari off to a quick start with a couple of birdies in his first three holes. Let's go to 11

[00:13:27] >> Poulter's third.

[00:13:29] >> He can clip some beautiful wedges. Eight-tee start for Poulter. And it's going to be a tap in for birdie for the end.

[00:13:39] >> Thirteen.

[00:13:39] >> Francesco Molinari for birdie.

[00:13:42] >> I haven't seen a lot of him. He got hurt. It's just -- Yeah, that's three in a row right there.

[00:13:50] >> Yeah, good to see him back on the scene.

[00:13:58] >> Here's Munoz over at the 13th. Asking it to bite. Does just exactly that.

[00:14:11] >> Back to 2.

[00:14:12] >> And Louis Oosthuizen has pulled it left of the screen on the downslope. Johnny Wood, not good here.

[00:14:20] >> This covers every -- checks every box in terms of difficulty. I don't think that slope behind, I don't think he 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.

[00:14:33] >> No way. No way.

[00:14:34] >> That's amazing.

[00:14:35] >> Wow.

[00:14:36] >> That up and down gets him to 4-under.

[00:14:40][ Applause ]

[00:14:44] >> Munoz looking for three in a row at 13.

[00:14:48] >> Wouldn't this be something here? Yeah.

[00:14:52] >> All sorts of players in the mix.

[00:14:58] >> And over to Justin Thomas.

[00:15:01] >> And Justin's got to 20 the hole. Great angle for helping breeze.

[00:15:24] >> Go Justin.

[00:15:24] >> Trying to shape high and right to left. Turned a little left of the hole.

[00:15:29] >> Good spot there in 2. One more time to Justin Thomas continuing. The ball striking from yesterday.

[00:15:39] >> Thomas would 2-putt for birdie.

[00:15:42] >> Third shot from Munoz is 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. And Muniz is going to remain at 4-under.

[00:16:00] >> And over at 2, Anirban Lahiri with his third shot.

[00:16:04] >> Paul, to tell you how easy the second hole is playing. Beautiful pitch there. Does it go in? The first 21 players here are 15-under par combined here at the second.

[00:16:18] >> Back to the second.

[00:16:19] >> And Cam Smith found the front edge of the green with his second 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 two back. And Straka will be playing, and not very good memories, boys, of this whole for Mr. Straka, who came in here 5-under par in the second round and need a 7.

[00:16:50] >> He's probably got one less club too. Two balls go in the water on him. Both hit the green. Spun off into the water.

[00:17:00] >> And this one, you can take back behind the hole. Utilize that backstop. Yeah, there we go. OK.

[00:17:08][ Cheering and Applause ] Move up to 6.

[00:17:15] >> Checking with Brendan Steele second. Sitting at 4-under.

[00:17:18] >> Yeah. going along nicely.

[00:17:20] >> Yup, 2-under in the round.

[00:17:22] >> A real chance here at six to make another birdie. Oh, what a shot that is.

[00:17:30] >> That should produce it, and get Steele to 5-under. Back to 17.

[00:17:37] >> And Sepp Straka for a 2. Yeah, there's a little revenge after making a 7. Round 2 comes back with a 2.

[00:17:52] >> Back up at the 5. 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.

[00:18:09] >> Molinari.

[00:18:10] >> Let's go.

[00:18:13] >> His tee shot on the way. If this carries deep enough behind the hole, it should come back. There. This is how you play it. Wonderful.

[00:18:20] >> That wake up the crowd.

[00:18:26] >> That sure will. And it'll bring a smile to Molinari's face, and you'll have that when you get to 5-under in within two of the lead.

[00:18:36] >> Over to 4.

[00:18:38] >> Cam Smith with a putt for birdie after brilliant wedge shot. Nicely done. Leads the field, Cam Smith with 22 one-putts in 40 holes.

[00:18:49] >> That's a pretty nice little thing.

[00:18:50] >> Oh, that.

[00:18:51] >> Yeah.

[00:18:52] >> To 17.

[00:18:53] >> All right, Shane Lowry on the tee. Pitching wedge, so just a little bump with one. Yeah, off the finish. Line's good. Oh, it's coming back. Oh, here we go.

[00:19:11][ Cheering ]

[00:19:20] >> Ten.

[00:19:22] >> Ace recorded here at 17. Played it just the way you draw that. Draw it back behind the hole a little bit. Let the hole catch it.

[00:19:40][ Cheering ]

[00:19:58] >> Now many par 3 is better to get an ace than right there, Gary.

[00:20:07] >> No. His second aces on tour.

[00:20:09] >> That's great.

[00:20:13][ Cheering ]

[00:20:28] >> And up to 6.

[00:20:28] >> Checking with Doc, third at the sixth.

[00:20:29] >> A little trouble off the tee and he's on this really strange little strip of grass that --

[00:20:35] >> What a play this is.

[00:20:36] >> This is incredible.

[00:20:37] >> Doc Redman.

[00:20:37] >> Wow.

[00:20:37] >> Makes a house call.

[00:20:38][ Applause and Cheering ]

[00:20:46] >> All right, Adam Hadwin over here at 17.

[00:20:51] >> Not an easy follow.

[00:20:55] >> Well, not at all. But look out, look out. Could we have another one?

[00:21:04] >> Hadwin would make that for birdie.

[00:21:11] >> Over to the third.

[00:21:12] >> Sepp Straka stepping up.

[00:21:24] >> Oh,

[00:21:25] >> Oh.

[00:21:26] >> Oh, geez.

[00:21:27] >> Wow.

[00:21:28] >> Straka gets to 3-under.

[00:21:32] >> Denied.

[00:21:33] >> Let's see how Joaquin Niemann handles this little shot.

[00:21:37] >> It was done after it.

[00:21:42] >> Oh, go done after that.

[00:21:45][ Cheering ]

[00:22:02] >> Shane Lowry's ace at the 17th was the 10th all-time on that hole, with Round 3 suspended due to darkness. We'll have to crown a champion on Monday in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.