Production Transcript for INTCUTTO\_VALSPAR FINAL.mp3

[00:00:21] >> The PGA Tour is proud to bring you the season-long race for the FedEx Cup. Now coverage of the 2022 Valspar championship.

[00:00:50] >> Couldn't be a more beautiful day in the state of Florida, St. Joseph Sound off in the background there, the Gulf of Mexico as well, the green, lush Copperhead course here looking good for the St. Patty's day Thursday with perfect weather for the first round here from Palm Harbor, Florida, at the Valspar championship. Good field, five of the Top 10 players in the world are here including Dustin Johnson, the 10th ranked player in the world coming off his course record time 63 from the Players Championship on Monday. Beautiful second there at the par 4 and at 67 for DJ posts 4-under. Brooks Koepka hasn't been here in 8 years. Second time here. Nice birdie lands there the tough par-4 6th. Also, as 67 turned in by Koepka, bogey-free round Matt Kuchar scrambling here at the long par-3 8th. Scrambling no more, a hole out for a birdie, Kuch also with a 67 today. Jonathan Vegas in only his fourth start here, turned in his best round by five shots. This birdie at the 4th, part of a 64, included an eagle as well and six birdie. Danny Lee's tee shot at the 172-yard par-3 4th. Posing, Danny Lee just with one hole left is putting on a show of his own. Another birdie there for him. Greyson Sieg. This just happened a few moments ago. The beginning of the notorious Snake Pit, birdie at 16, lands to tie Jonathan Vegas at the top at 7-under and Sieg, another Georgia Bulldog, still with a couple of holes left.

[00:02:37] >> We'll go to 10.

[00:02:38] >> And Adam Hadwin in his second to this par 4.

[00:02:41] >> Looks slightly uphill. Hadwin a former champion here at the Valspar Championship.

[00:02:48] >> Playing his first hole here, teeing off on the 10th, and coming out of the gates .

[00:02:52] >> The way to start.

[00:02:57] >> Jaegered his second shot up the hill, 145.

[00:03:00] >> The players will play at least a half a club more up this hill and you have to rely entirely on the reaction to the gallery because you do not see where that ball comes down.

[00:03:13] >> Over to the 12th. Steve.

[00:03:14] >> Dan, one of the cool things at the Olympics was when he won the gold medal and he and his father were there sharing that moment together. It was absolutely spectacular to see the emotions come pouring out of both of them being able to share that moment in Tokyo. There's Charl Schwartzel as a past success here.

[00:03:33] >> You go to 4.

[00:03:34] >> And the Englishman Tommy Fleetwood is shown some form recently.

[00:03:45] >> More of it there. Beauty.

[00:03:47] >> Very much stone dead for Fleetwood. We'll go to 7.

[00:03:52] >> Justin Thomas about to send his second shot airborne.

[00:03:58] >> Generally Steve, where he is so good with controlling the distance--

[00:04:01] >> You mean like that like that?

[00:04:03] >> Like that.

[00:04:04] >> Just like that. Justin Thomas, fabulous second there.

[00:04:10] >> And at 14, the double dogleg par-5, 572 yards Webb Simpson laid it up to here. Laid it into there.

[00:04:25] >> Look at that little stretch.

[00:04:26] >> Well, it's a nice little run. Clay Hodges on the 14th for birdie. A 26 year old from Huntsville, Alabama. No problem there.

[00:04:43] >> What a start, David. First player.

[00:04:45] >> Consecutive, yeah.

[00:04:46] >> First player since 2003. That is a record. And Schwartzel playing with Hodges with a 6-iron at 15.

[00:04:59] >> Whoa. Whoa.

[00:05:00] >> That was actually a better swing than the first.

[00:05:03] >> Well, I don't see that very often.

[00:05:11] >> There's Charlie Hoffman on the 17th tee; he's gone with 6-iron. That's one more than we've seen. It flies it almost into the jar. Charlie Hoffman, stone dead.

[00:05:31] >> Charl Schwartzel in this group, and before he putts here, we're going to show you what happened just earlier at the 16th. Remember how frustrated Schwartzel got earlier in the day? This was from 194. Got a triple bogey at 13 earlier.

[00:05:51] >> A slam dunk the first leg of the Snake Pit. He strikes. There is that.

[00:06:01] >> Yeah.

[00:06:02] >> Yeah, probably still a little embarrassed now.

[00:06:06] >> We're going to listen to this, crank up the audio a little bit. This is what it sounds like.

[00:06:17] >> Very rare when they go in like that, hit the flag stick, and stay down a lot of times they rebound off the flagstick, and usually in some places a lot worse than they would have been.

[00:06:29] >> I got a feeling that's more fun than throwing a club.

[00:06:32] >> Yeah. I think the embarrassment from throwing the club a couple holes earlier probably led to his reaction.

[00:06:38] >> Doused the celebratory. Fourth shot in the meantime Ortiz s over at that 11.

[00:06:47] >> Seems like we've seen him in the fringe on virtually every hole.

[00:06:50] >> Yep.

[00:06:51] >> I'd like him to chip this time, and I like that much better.

[00:07:00] >> Thomas for eagle at the 14th.

[00:07:03] >> I don't think this is a huge concern for JT, but if it does get trucking a little bit it can run off the front part of the screen so--

[00:07:09] >> Yeah.

[00:07:13] >> Queues left to right break, speedy putt, so very difficult from start to finish.

[00:07:33] >> A good 12 or 15 feet of swing on that. What a putt. What a putt. Hasn't made a darn thing all day. Makes it from 63 feet for eagle at 14.

[00:07:49] >> I guess that's patience paying off.

[00:07:53] >> Yeah, I was going to say sometimes that patience does pay off.

[00:08:04] >> All right, one good, last look for burns.

[00:08:07] >> Gary, is this diving to his right a little bit as it moves down.

[00:08:12] >> I think it's pretty straight, John. It's easy to miss to the right, though. A little delay there.

[00:08:24] >> He gave up on it.

[00:08:26] >> It was kind of hard to you know the angle we were looking at, to see if it had a chance.

[00:08:29] >> The way he motioned he gave up on it thinking it was missing to the right.

[00:08:32] >> And the ball just froze there for a second or so, 64 for Burns to match Vegas and here's a great angle of it.

[00:08:41] >> Yeah, it's pretty straight. It's going to--

[00:08:42] >> It's going to miss right.

[00:08:43] >> All of a sudden it wiggles right and, whoops, it hangs in there.

[00:08:46] >> Jonathan Vegas opens round 1 with a 7-under 64, the only first round leader or coleader to ever hold on to win the Valspar Championship is South Korea's KJ Choi. Round two is next.

[00:09:06] >> Another beautiful and toasty day here the St. Pete Clearwater region of Florida. Second round of the Valspar Championship well underway where the theme remains the same: go low. So, out with the 8th ranked player in the world Justin Thomas, off his 66 yesterday, he trailed the leaders by two. He had already amassed four birdies to this point as he teed off on the backside here, taking aim at the long par-3 17th, 225 yards. What a shot. Another birdie for JT. He was out in 30 as he made the turn and looking for more on his second 9. Got into a little bit of a problem at the par-5 5th But you can take care of matters when you're rolling it this well from long range. That for birdie to get the 12-under, took the lead but then double bogeyed the 7th. Still the second straight 66 to post 10-under par. Scott Stallings says three PGA Tour victories but none in 8 years. Could this be the week? Another solid round for him. Birdie four there, part of a 66 for Stallings to post 11-under, currently just one back. Paul Casey is the only guy to win back to back Valspar Championship. Sam Burns a shooting for that. Eagle at the 14. So, he shot a 64 yesterday, 67 today for burns. He's in at 11-under. Adam Hadwin's lone PGA Tour win came here in 2017. Nice birdie there at the long par-3 8, and taking care of business on the tough holes here on the Copperhead course. The beginning of the Snake Pit at 16, Hadwin with another birdie. That's part of the 66 he was a part of the four-way first round lead. And then just moments ago Joseph Bramblett 101 yards up the hill at the par-4 18th bringing it back to perfection. So, it's been an exciting highlight-filled couple of days with hole outs like that just the second eagle at 18 in tournament history.

[00:11:19] >> Back at the 3rd, all right, Morgan. We know the South African Louis Oosthuizen has that sweet swing but he also can really roll his golf ball.

[00:11:28] >> Yeah, last season he was actually first in strokes gained putting. It's not been quite the story this year but had a beautiful 7-iron in here. This patch shouldn't do too much, might fall just a little bit to the right, left it in a perfect spot.

[00:11:43] >> How about that? Talk about picking up some steam on the rest of the field. You make a 3 at 3 today, you have accomplished something. Nicely done there by Louis Oosthuizen. It's a gorgeous day, a little warmer than yesterday, but the west coast of Florida is under some bright sunshine. And how about the Canadian? Just like a lot of Canadians, they love to come down here to Florida. Back out to the 4th.

[00:12:09] >> Viktor Hovland with his second shot.

[00:12:14] >> It's an area of the game that sometimes gives him issues but played that very nicely.

[00:12:19] >> Yeah, he sure did. Over at 15.

[00:12:22] >> And NeSmith in for birdie, looking to move up into that tie for 5th.

[00:12:26] >> Yep, up the hill to start and back down toward the hole. Wow, just ram it into the back.

[00:12:31] >> NeSmith working on a fine round, helped by that eagle at 14, couple of birdies. A look at the 602-yard par-5 5th and a look about the circuitous journey that Dustin Johnson has made up this par 5. He did the cardinal sin, Gary. he hit his tee shot into the water--

[00:12:49] >> The fairway bunker and you just can't get any distance out of that thing. So now playing his fourth shot, and this is very delicate green, runs away. We're going to have to either stop it with some spin or with trajectory.

[00:13:05] >> A little bit of both.

[00:13:06] >> How about the spin? What a shot.

[00:13:08] >> And that's going to save the par after a bumpy start. Adam Hadwin of Canada's sitting on top of that leaderboard. He was a part of that four-way tie with a 64 after the first round, turned in another nice car today's second round 66 to post 12-under.

[00:13:30] >> Christiaan Bezuidenaute at the 4th. His second shot. Get out of the wagon. He didn't even see it go in. Where'd it go?

[00:13:49] >> Back out to the 10th for Dustin Johnson.

[00:13:53] >> Simple enough little chip here to be trying to make it, that's for sure.

[00:13:58] >> Yeah.

[00:13:58] >> Wow. Yeah.

[00:13:59] >> How about it? Somewhat makes up for a poor approach there, Gary.

[00:14:04] >> Yeah, it does. But still, got some issues. He's not he's not playing that well and he knows it.

[00:14:11] >> Back to 4

[00:14:13] >> And NeSmith well behind the hole for birdie. He's just a couple back.

[00:14:20] >> Wow. Wow, is he making some putts?

[00:14:22] >> Man.

[00:14:26] >> Mackenzie Hughes for birdie over at the 17th. And earlier, Hughes announced that he is going to donate $500 for each birdie he makes from today through the end of this championship to go toward the medical expenses for two fellow Canadians who were badly injured in that horrific crash on the Texas Highway Tuesday that took the lives of six members of the University of Southwest men's, women's golf teams and their coach. And so, another $500 goes to the medical expenses for those two, just a tragic crash. And there was the tweet that he was put out last night, so heartbreaking to hear it, and the announcement that he's going to be donating $500 per birdie, starting today. And the Valspar Championship said it would also add $100 to the fundraising for each birdie made today by Hughes, so the more birdies he can make, the better he can take care of a couple of fellow Canadians. His fellow Canadian Nick Taylor also saw the tweet, and now he's donating for each birdie he makes as well.

[00:15:30] >> That's great. Bubba Watson at 13, dropping it in.

[00:15:38] >> And he looks right at Jason Day and says, "See, I can do it, too."

[00:15:46] >> And over at the 8th, NeSmith. This is unchartered territory for him, what he's been inside the top 10 of the leaderboard only four times after 36 holes in his career, now in his 72nd PGA Tour start. But this is a great look at the 8th.

[00:16:03] >> You would never know it watching him in these last three holes, absolutely flushed every shot made putts and he's calm as can be, walking real slowly, which I love seems to be figuring out things slowly and your mind can speed up a lot right now when you get in these positions, Gary, and it's nice just to slow everything down and he looks like he's doing that on purpose.

[00:16:23] >> Yeah. Something that a good caddy can help you do as well, John, as I know you have done through the years.

[00:16:30] >> There's the 18 hole scoring record that we mentioned 61 by Podrick Harrington 10 years ago.

[00:16:39] >> Down the hill from 13 feet should go a little right. Wow. NeSmith just pours in another one, Dan.

[00:16:46] >> It's just unconscious. He can shoot 60 with a birdie at the 9th, which is doable.

[00:16:55] >> Over at 17, Viktor Hovland across the green for birdie here, John.

[00:17:04] >> It's 2 and it's been minus 3, that cut line's been minus 3 all day, it's been creeping towards minus 2 and players know that don't they, David?

[00:17:10] >> Yeah, they do. Players have a kind of an innate sense.

[00:17:20] >> There we go.

[00:17:22] >> How about that?

[00:17:24] >> He knows.

[00:17:25] >> Yep.

[00:17:25] >>That would absolve you from any wrongdoings.

[00:17:29] >> Well, these huge scoreboards all around, of course, you know, they'll flash every now and then what the cut, projected cut is and even if the player's not paying attention, the caddy is.

[00:17:40] >> Matthew NeSmith birdied six of his last nine holes in round two of the Valspar Championship to post a 10-under 61 and tie the tournament's low score for 18 holes. Round three is next.

[00:17:56] >> 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 second. The pressure-packed race for the FedEx Cup is on.

[00:18:32] >> Spring is in the air, especially here in the St. Pete Clearwater area. Beautiful third round Saturday on the Copperhead Course at the Valspar Championship. Just the fifth start here for Justin Thomas and he is making the most of it after a pair of 66s. Justin Thomas began this third round four off the lead and started off hitting his tee shot way right, but he was able to scramble his way back up for a birdie to quickly move it to 11-under. Sam Burns trying to become the second player to win back-to-back titles here at the Valspar and taking advantage of that first hole again. What a laser, another eagle for him. He's eagled the first hole three times here in his last seven rounds. He also birdied the second to make a big move early. And then Justin Thomas looking for his second birdie in the first three holes, his second at the par-4 3rd. He has been simmering and he has been trending to a spot that you think he's going to pick up this win, long awaited win very soon. Adam Hadwin picked up his lone PGA Tour victory at this tournament five years ago. Good up and down at the 1st, the par 5 for Hadwin to pick up an early birdie and stay in the hut. They're all chasing 28 year old Matthew NeSmith, record breaking start. Go to NeSmith at the 5th. John Wood with this group.

[00:20:01] >> Just 61 yards, not a whole lot of green to work with.

[00:20:07] >> So narrow. It that any good?

[00:20:13] >> NeSmith. Gary, Cole.

[00:20:17] >> Thank you very much, Dan. And here at the shortest par for the course, Matthew Fitzpatrick has a chance for birdie, this to get to 10-under. Nicely done for the 26th ranked player in the world. He's got seven wins on the DP World tour. So, we go to 15.

[00:20:32] >> And Shane Lowry for birdie. Lowry has been playing this Florida swing very well. Well, NeSmith was in the zone yesterday. Just didn't get ahead of himself, that has been his mantra all week. He's talking about it with the press.

[00:20:56] >> He's done a great job of trying to deflect the pressure and redirect his brain, you know. He said in the press room whether or not he shot 61 or 75, everything was going to be okay tomorrow. Everything he said was in an effort to lower the anxiety and expectation today and so far it's worked. That's 41 holes without a bogey, straight; 41 straight holes.

[00:21:18] >> And that pushes the lead to 3-over Burns. He's the only player in the field who has not missed a putt inside 10 feet this week.

[00:21:34] >> Shane Lowry, lengthy birdie putt here, pull at 16 from over 32 feet, and Shane Lowry's good play through the Florida swing continues.

[00:21:47] >> Justin Thomas lurking with his fellow Alabama Crimson Tide player Davis Riley who's been impressive, just four back.

[00:22:04] >> And Sam Burns with his third, that down the hill, speedy. Always looks like a three-ended ball. Wow.

[00:22:21] >> All right, over at 11.

[00:22:22] >> This was the third of Tommy Fleetwood. How did that sound, Zing?

[00:22:26] >> That was no drop kick, buddy. That was genuine clipper right there. That was beautiful.

[00:22:33] >> So, Fleetwood with an eagle chip in moves it to 12-under and let's keep it rolling over at 17.

[00:22:40] >> That's Joel Daymond. He's got a similar little chip from the last couple that we just saw. You get the same result. Well, apparently so.

[00:22:51] >> More of the blade variety there. That hit low.

[00:22:54] >> And we're back here at the 7th, uphill birdie putt for NeSmith. Not much break in this, just keep the speed up. Just on the last roll another birdie. Now, 17-under and the lead is 3, and this one just gets there.

[00:23:20] >> Well, that makes three shots ahead.

[00:23:22] >> That's his 15th Birdie of the week to go along with one eagle.

[00:23:30] >> To the 9th.

[00:23:31] >> And Riley from the bunker. Right in the can.

[00:23:44] >> Do you think it might be his day, David?

[00:23:46] >> It could be, you know? It would be a day early but that's pretty impressive inward half right there.

[00:23:53] >> How about that shot. That's got loads of spin on it though, David. I think he didn't miss this. It was going to stop dead.

[00:24:04] >> Yeah. But you know, that's the way to stop it if you can possibly manage it.

[00:24:14] >> To 18 and Hadwin with a really good look here, pick up some ground.

[00:24:20] >> Straight in putt.

[00:24:20] >> Yep. That's what he does best. He knows that's his strength. That's what enabled him to win the 2017 version of this tournament. And how about this put out by Adam's wife Jessica, Maddox, their daughter, watching Adam play golf, cheering daddy on from home. Great stuff. Back to 9.

[00:24:48] >> And NeSmith.

[00:24:49] >> Just left that being in Valspar.

[00:24:51] >> Correct.

[00:24:51] >> Thank you, Scott.

[00:24:56] >> Okay, at the V in Valspar, just to the left of the flag there.

[00:25:02] >> David, you know you're driving it well when your ball finishes on the moss strip there, right in the middle of the fairway. Very high, also good looking shot.

[00:25:15] >> Yeah. Got a little stop on it, too. That's a lovely shot and a great chance again for NeSmith.

[00:25:25] >> [Inaudible] and then just hit it hard.

[00:25:28] >> Justin Thomas hasn't been to the Valspar a lot, just the fifth time. Loves the golf course, it's just been one of those things that hasn't worked out in his schedule.

[00:25:39] >> He's got to have this one, guys, in my opinion, just to get some momentum moving back in the right direction. A little wild off the tee the last couple holes but this is -- you're not going to find an easier read out here.

[00:25:50] >> Well, when JT putts well, the putter head goes right on by his left foot. It's fully released. Like that. Yeah.

[00:26:02] >> No doubt about that one.

[00:26:07] >> 9.

[00:26:08] >> And NeSmith now. Boy, if he could knock this in, I'm telling you Zinger, I love what he's trying to do. You know, when it matters the most, you have to be able to play as if it matters the least.

[00:26:23] >> That is so well said and that's what he's done. That's how he set this day up for himself in last night's press conference. You know, Trevino used to kind of deflect the pressure by talking about the players behind him and how great they were and how great they were playing. And it's just, you know, there's a million techniques really to redirect pressure to get yourself in a place, whereas David said, this tournament, it matters the most but you have to make it feel like it matters the least.

[00:26:51] >> What a good putt.

[00:27:02] >> A look at the par-5 11th. There's where Justin Thomas ended up, a little over 300 yards from the tee.

[00:27:10] >> Left himself at 246. Here's that trusty 5-metal we've seen him hit so many good shots with. It's going to take a big one here, Zing. Little wind coming out of the right with a touch of hurt.

[00:27:26] >> See that grain going with on the shiny grass versus the dark grass and it's easy to crush off the shiny. Wow, what a shot that is.

[00:27:35] >> He gave it a hard stare after a little cluck twirl.

[00:27:39] >> Thomas would two-putt for birdie.

[00:27:43] >> I'm Brian Harman. Is it 9-under par? It's this third shot to the par 5. Hello. Another one pretty common place right here this week. Colin shots from the fairway. Brian Harmon gets it to minus 11 with an eagle at 14.

[00:28:15] >> Well, here's Davis Riley with a very good look. This to move to 7-under on the round closer to NeSmith. Talk about how he's been on the radar for a long, long time, this guy played in a number of junior boys' championships. And then he got to Alabama and took his team to the NCAAs where he was an integral figure on those teams as well.

[00:28:41] >> He's playing a lot of break. I'm not sure it's going to move that much.

[00:28:49] >> Davis Riley.

[00:28:51] >> This guy's cool customer.

[00:28:54] >> NeSmith for the par, Woody.

[00:29:00] >> And Zinger, last hole we were talking about the caddies at this tournament. I've really loved the way Mick Brennan and NeSmith have been working together. They're just at the same tempo. You know, sometimes you can give your player information way too quickly. He's not ready for it, or if he wants it be not ready with it. These two seem totally in sync.

[00:29:16] >> Yeah, that's a good observation. See if they can sync this up. It's very slow.

[00:29:23] >> They hadn't made a bogey in 45 holes and now he's got to in the last four. Here is the potential tying stroke.

[00:29:40] >> Yes. Look at that card. Up 31, five birdies on the front, three already on this inward half.

[00:29:52] >> NeSmith for birdie at 14.

[00:29:55] >> Certainly not one that you have to focus on speed too much. Just get the line right and we almost assume the speed's going to be correct.

[00:30:03] >> He has made a bunch of these from this length over the last three days.

[00:30:33] >> He has been stoic.

[00:30:39] >> This is the 17th tee and Davis Riley, and said to go. He's a shot back. Flag in the back right.

[00:30:51] >> It's just hiding back there, David.

[00:30:52] >> It is. It doesn't look like they've got much to aim at from the tee.

[00:30:56] >> It really doesn't, pin tucked behind the bunker, wind off the left just something starting out about 5, 10 yards left, let it drift over.

[00:31:09] >> That'll be the plan.

[00:31:10] >> This green's shaped like a hot air balloon. Narrow on the bottom. Good shot, David.

[00:31:16] >> Beautiful shot.

[00:31:18] >> This green's got some slope in it, too. This is a tough par 3.

[00:31:24] >> Justin Thomas for birdie. Pretty straight putt. Yeah, baby. Justin Thomas continues to impress. The quality of the golf that he has played is amazing. Riley now from behind the hole here at 17 for birdie. Wow. This is a rarefied atmosphere for Davis Riley, but you would not know what to look at him.

[00:32:07] >> Look at that. The two Alabama players there, David. JT looking back at young Davis and we talked about earlier.

[00:32:24] >> And here at 16, Sam Burns putt from over 35 feet for birdie, and the defending champion says, "Don't forget about me, boys."

[00:32:33] >> They're going crazy out there.

[00:32:35] >> Yes, they are. He's within three.

[00:32:42] >> Out to the 16th.

[00:32:43] >> Adam Hadwin's second shot. How about that?

[00:32:48] >> Wow. That's something I don't see every day.

[00:32:50] >> How about that? His third shot.

[00:33:03] >> He's watching it like he likes it and that's why. How about this?

[00:33:07] >> Hadwin would make that for par.

[00:33:11] >> After getting the free drop on the grandstand, third for Riley at 18.

[00:33:18] >> Mall did settle down, not the best of lies here.

[00:33:27] >> What a shot.

[00:33:28] >> Yeah, that's pretty good.

[00:33:34] >> Riley for the par here, and a round of 62.

[00:33:38] >> This could be an absolute clinic today with the putter. Very simple putt here, just a tiny bit of right to left in it, straight up the hill.

[00:33:49] >> These guys that use the left hand load, their right hand usually powers the whole stroke. Drilled it, only 20 putts today. That's incredible.

[00:34:09] >> Davis Riley posted a career best 62 in round three of the Valspar Championship. He seeks his first PGA Tour when in his 25th career start. The final round is next.

[00:34:27] >> It's the first day of spring and it is a gorgeous one in the St. Pete Clearwater area for the final round of the Valspar Championship as we wrap up our four-tournaments swing through Florida. And we've got a couple of guys in the final pairing who are trying to win for the first time set up by incredible scores previous. This was a part of Davis Riley's 62 yesterday, slam dunk birdie at the 9th and now he is trying to get it done. 25 year old PGA Tour rookie from the University of Alabama in that final group, by far the biggest spot he has been early in his PGA Tour career playing with Matthew NeSmith who's also trying to win for the first time. But they've got some seasoned veterans behind them. This was just earlier, the third for Sam Burns who's trying to win this championship for the second straight year, his third at the par-5 5th. He's got a birdie look up coming, as all four players in the final two groups began with pars until this 5th hole. This was Justin Thomas's third shot earlier at the same hole; he went on to make it to record the first birdie among the final four guys. So, Thomas moves it to 16-under and Burns who he's playing with in this second to last group trying to match him. And so, birdies by Thomas and Burns, both to get to 16-under tied with NeSmith, trailing Riley by 2 in the final round at the Valspar. As we get you out to Davis Riley who had a really rough tee shot here at the 5th. And John Wood, you're with him, he whipped it way left at the 5th.

[00:36:11] >> Yes, and he's going up to the sixth fairway. They actually walked all the way up to the forward green on this hole to try and get a yardage into the green but this is way left.

[00:36:21] >> So, now he's continuing to play up the 6th.

[00:36:25] >> Might be okay if that got past that tree.

[00:36:32] >> Up at the 6th, the third for Burns at this par 4.

[00:36:43] >> Yep, very nice. Great chance to save. Settle.

[00:36:48] >> Well worth taking another look at the route he's taken. He goes well left. So, he's playing up the 6th and then the next shot gets him near the 8th tee. And this is the shot that he's playing right now.

[00:37:03] >> You hear Lance giving them a back edge number of 110 as well.

[00:37:10] >> It's nice to know that number. Definitely keep it short of 110 with this club. It's carrying about 100 probably, maybe a little less.

[00:37:24] >> Shown it badly.

[00:37:25] >> It sounded fat.

[00:37:31] >> Over to 6, Justin Thomas for birdie.

[00:37:34] >> It's going to take a good effort here guys, little right to left to start. It'll straighten out through the midpoint of this putt. But it's all about speed now, controlling that nerve.

[00:37:48] >> Got a nice lag under his belt here.

[00:38:02] >> This is going to be his fifth shot.

[00:38:04] >> Exactly.

[00:38:06] >> He's got to get up and down for bogey on this par 5.

[00:38:09] >> [Inaudible] Yes. I agree with that.

[00:38:13] >> And that seems like a long shot. [Inaudible] to see what kind of contact you could get.

[00:38:20] >> [Inaudible] I think he needs to land this short and bounce it up.

[00:38:23] >> He's got it behind his right foot so he's going low.

[00:38:27] >> Too hot.

[00:38:30] >> Man, this is just -- he's coming on down here a little bit at the moment.

[00:38:34] >> He would end up making an 8. Back over the attempted par save for Burns. Wow.

[00:38:45] >> Yeah, about that. He may look back at that moment, and say you know that just kind of kept me going.

[00:38:53] >> Third at the par-5 11th for Kuchar.

[00:38:57] >> Couple pretty good pokes for Kuch. That hole is going to be downwind a day and an eagle.

[00:39:05] >> Jumps to double digits. Too far back you would think, but let's check in with Justin Thomas.

[00:39:12] >> All right. He's got the ball well back in his stance, Paul, he's going to try to bump it into the fringe short.

[00:39:17] >> It's at the mercy of the hop here.

[00:39:19] >> How good is this? My goodness.

[00:39:26] >> Let's go to the tee at the par-3 13th, check in with Matt Kuchar again.

[00:39:32] >> And virtually impossible hole location. I would say the water could very much be in play here today. It's only about 9 yards deep right there.

[00:39:40] >> Wow, Kuch.

[00:39:42] >> I guess it's not that impossible on the softer greens. What a great shot.

[00:39:50] >> Now Justin Thomas tried to save his par at this 8th.

[00:39:57] >> Zing, you cannot put the ball in a tougher spot to save par. Above the hole, coming downhill slightly down crossgrain. He has to give it enough respect to get it just on that left edge or on the high side but if it loses speed, it'll try and break off to the right.

[00:40:13] >> It's been a few months that we really seen JT run the tables. But, you know, there was a period of time when he just never missed. So, you have to get in that mode again to win a golf tournament.

[00:40:27] >> And these are the [inaudible] this has not been, you know, doing the job he needs to do to get back in the winner's circle.

[00:40:35] >> Yeah. that was very good putt by his standards at all. It was off to the right the second he hit it. > Yeah, he was up and out of it early. Never liked it. It was a difficult putt to get comfortable over. It's tough to see that break and then put it out there and trust that it's going to come back.

[00:40:52] >> Just hit it so exceptionally well for a well for awhile. But, you've got to make those 15-footers. He's only made five from 12, five of 12 from the 7 to 10-foot range.

[00:41:05] >> So, Thomas take it a step back means that Sam Burns, last year's winner, has the solo lead at the Valspar Championship.

[00:41:18] >> We go to 14.

[00:41:19] >> And this was just earlier, Sahith Theegala, his third shot at the par 5 and we have seen some of that this week. That's for sure. Theegala get it to minus 12.

[00:41:34] >> And Kuch, looking to move to 11-under within 5. Now Riley, his tee shot left, just about almost hole high, just a little chip shot for this long par 3. Davis Riley gets a little payback. Tied for the lead again. NeSmith now over at the 8th for birdie.

[00:42:14] >> There's only been three birdies. This would be a big one.

[00:42:19] >> NeSmith and Riley.

[00:42:25] >> How about that?

[00:42:30] >> Here at the 12th--

[00:42:31] >> Is Brian Harmon with a birdie putt from just over 21 feet. And pours it in. So, Harmon to 14-under within 2 of the lead. Fourth in the field this week in strokes gained putting.

[00:42:47] >> At 14 Alex Noren for birdie. Yep. Noren gets into 12-under.

[00:43:04] >> This is Burns's third at 11.

[00:43:07] >> He's had some good, long bunker shots this week and that might be as best yet.

[00:43:12] >> Burns would make birdie. Now for birdie to tie Burns at the top is Riley.

[00:43:20] >> He's impressive. I've got to say after the triple bogey at the 5th hole, he's held himself together.

[00:43:29] >> Burns on the green at 12.

[00:43:31] >> Great opportunity here to retake the lead.

[00:43:37] >> And the slower the speed on this one the more the break. See what he chooses.

[00:43:42] >> Yeah. Will work a little right there. Yes, Sam Burns back on top.

[00:43:55] >> Tom Thomas on the tee at 13.

[00:44:06] >> Just got to get up just to touch.

[00:44:08] >> And it did, it did. Exactly where Gary Koch said you needed to hit it at any chance to get it close and he'd just pulled it off. What a shot.

[00:44:21] >> He would convert that for birdie.

[00:44:24] >> Go to 15 with Brian Harmon on this par 3, 208 yards.

[00:44:29] >> It's got a little bit of downwind in it, so it's playing quite a bit shorter, also downhill. Always hard to get it close here.

[00:44:39] >> He's locking it up.

[00:44:40] >> He was.

[00:44:41] >> And that is why can Harmon get a birdie here, get it to 15 under?

[00:45:00] >> Needs to spin and it does really quick coming down here. That's a great shot.

[00:45:08] >> That is so cool looking.

[00:45:18] >> Well, Justin has just not quite been able to put everything together on this Florida swing, but, boy, he has been close. Thomas now just two back.

[00:45:39] >> We now pick up the action with Burns on the 17th tee leading by 2.

[00:45:43] >> The third hardest hole on the golf course today, 17th. 198 yards up the hill.

[00:45:54] >> And JT just got that ball turning over a touch. Wind is presenting in and maybe just a little bit off the right so anything getting a little turnover from right to left will move significantly.

[00:46:07] >> 5-iron for burns.

[00:46:09] >> This is way left.

[00:46:12] >> That is way left. Okay, well. Thomas here noticing on the upslope.

[00:46:23] >> Yeah, he's on the upslope and he's got a chance, you know, with his touch his technique he can get this close.

[00:46:34] >> He hit a lot of bunker shots before today's round and yesterday's round. Ready for this moment.

[00:46:51] >> Chops the legs out from underneath it and that is a glorious shot from there.

[00:47:03] >> It's probably a little bit of shock. A couple of deep breaths and just, you know, you deserve to make this. He's made all the putts today, David, when we watch the other players miss, Burns is the one who keeps holing the putts.

[00:47:16] >> Yeah, this is a big time putt right here. He has been fantastic. Another good looking swing. Right up the flagstick, got a wonderful shot, and he has hung in there. Riley to tie.

[00:48:22] >> The closest shot of the day comes from the last group, the last player.

[00:48:47] >> Right in the center. That's a pair of 2 for the final group.

[00:48:55] >> You want to make this so badly. Riley sitting there behind you it's not the kind of pace, I don't think, no, that gets away from him too bad. It's definitely fast though.

[00:49:05] >> Burns for birdie.

[00:49:15] >> Riley for a chance to win.

[00:49:17] >> It's very straight like it might fall hair to the right as it loses speed.

[00:49:26] >> He's left a lot of putts short. He can reach here.

[00:49:40] >> Is it going to come back? Not enough. We have a playoff between Sam Burns and Davis Riley.

[00:49:49] >> Play 18, 16, 17, 18, [inaudible].

[00:49:54] >> So, I guess it's only appropriate that we talked about it earlier, these guys were the top two juniors in the country, back in the day.

[00:50:00] >> To hit just a special bunker shot now. I don't know what he's got down there.

[00:50:21] >> Sounded good, clutch shot right underneath the hole. Riley is in for par. But first things first here, Burns with another putt here to win the championship.

[00:50:31] >> And he had a putt from the similar part of the green and regulation, winds have shifted a little bit over, a little bit longer so he knows that there's a few extra feet of run out in this.

[00:50:44] >> From 35 feet. That took a long time. For the second playoff hole, we go to Burns's second shot on the 16th.

[00:51:14] >> Left, will it hold on? Yes, it will. So, that's a nice shot.

[00:51:30] >> Good contact, just left to the flag. This may need to get down a hair.

[00:51:35] >> No. Okay, just into the first cut of rough.

[00:51:43] >> A little uphill, tiny right to left to start and when it gets up to the level part where the hole's cut it's going to straighten out.

[00:51:55] >> Made a long putt for birdie here in round three. Did he make another one? Yes, he did.

[00:52:08] >> Well, now we know exactly what we need to do if you're Davis Riley.

[00:52:13] >> Well, putter beat the driver.

[00:52:14] >> Yep. Dan Burns his third PGA Tour victory in 22 starts. That is a roll, for sure.

[00:52:31] >> He played really beautiful golf today. He made all the putts he had to make the last nine holes. What a thrill.

[00:52:40] >> This concludes the PGA Tours coverage of the 2022 Valspar Championship.