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[00:00:30] >> And once again. the PGA Tour champions coming to the Woodlands, the 1eighth Edition of the Insperity Invitational. The Woodlands Country Club, the tournament course, opened in 1982. A field of 78 players including nine World Golf Hall of Famers contesting here at the Woodlands on a par-72 layout just over 7,000 yards.

[00:00:55] >> Third for couples here at the first.

[00:00:59] >> Drew a pretty good lie, has landed just on the green letter, run on. Great contact.

[00:01:08] >> Over to the third and Olin Brown for his birdie, the third par 3, 153 yards. And Olin off to a nice start. Second group out, Olin brown 2-under through his opening 3, 3 looks for birdie here at the second. Stricker will go first.

[00:01:31] >> This putt does go slightly up the hill and will go to the right at the very end.

[00:01:37] >> Range running about 12 on the step meter. They're rolling out very nicely and they're putting very true.

[00:01:44] >> Nice start for Steve Stricker.

[00:01:47] >> Wow, welcome back, huh?

[00:01:48] >> Yeah.

[00:01:49] >> Welcome back, boys.

[00:01:50] >> Welcome back, birdie, birdie.

[00:01:56] >> Over at the first, the great Bernhard Langer for his birdie. He is the only man to win this event multiple times.

[00:02:05] >> Fore.

[00:02:13] >> Jay Haas is second at number 2.

[00:02:18] >> Beautiful tee shot and enough green to work with. And yes, it was. Great shot there by Jaybird getting things off to a good start.

[00:02:28] >> Second for Scott McCarron at the fourth.

[00:02:31] >> Bowl location over on the right front. This is gettable for Scott. Yes, it is. Great shot right at it.

[00:02:45] >> Let's see if Jay Haas can get off to a birdie, birdie start, his birdie putt at the second.

[00:02:51] >> Simple look here for Jay, just straight in, no problem.

[00:03:02] >> McCarron for birdie.

[00:03:05] >> Good look here for Scottie right off the slope. Oh yeah.

[00:03:11] >> Great birdie by McCarron at the fourth.

[00:03:14] >> Felt like he had one coming, hit a good been putt in the last hole, it didn't go in. So, Scott McCarron, a pretty easy 2-under so far.

[00:03:22] >> World Golf Hall of Famer Retief Goosen for his birdie at the second, the start birdie, birdie.

[00:03:30] >> Oh yeah.

[00:03:31] >> He does it.

[00:03:32] >> When he gets that club going, look out.

[00:03:38] >> What does Steve Stricker have in here at 6?

[00:03:40] >> 89 yards, 80 to the top, hole locations in the second level of 3-tiered green here.

[00:03:49][ Applause ]

[00:03:53] >> He's still got it.

[00:03:54] >> He's still got a little check and hold right there, a backspin doesn't help you.

[00:03:58] >> Goydos playing his third at 18. Got to land this short and let it release.

[00:04:09] >> Oh, that's very well-done, really well-done. Great save right there.

[00:04:19] >> Ernie Els for his birdie at the second. Good start for this group with Goosen, Els, and Langer.

[00:04:32] >> Steve Stricker has made his par. Fred couples for birdie at 7.

[00:04:37] >> Yeah, nice look here with a turn slightly to the left as it gets down the hill and right in the center. Walk it in, Fred Couples.

[00:04:45][ Applause ]

[00:04:53] >> Jesper Parnevik with a whole new look has this for par at 17. Jesper a winner in 2016 here at the Insperity Invitational.

[00:05:10] >> Mark O'Meara for his birdie at the eighth.

[00:05:14] >> And he had hit hybrid right there to the center of the green, like Lenny was talking about. Oh, he's had great pace.

[00:05:24] >> Holing speed.

[00:05:25] >> Big time holing speed.

[00:05:28] >> Let's take a look at Ernie. If he starts making putts, look out, he's dangerous. And he is, he's 3-under now.

[00:05:41] >> Jay Haas for his birdie at the ace.

[00:05:47] >> Oh, good putt by Jaybird, just -- he'd get right down there. Beautiful pace.

[00:05:58] >> Couples for par now at the ninth.

[00:06:00] >> Just straight uphill into the grain and pours it in.

[00:06:04] >> Freddie putting very well.

[00:06:08] >> Yeah, outside of the misstep at the eighth, Couples at 2-under, here in Round 1 of the Insperity Invitational. Langer for birdie at 6.

[00:06:25] >> Well, he's hanging around at 1-under. Can he get it to 2? Yes, he can.

[00:06:29] >> Oh, look at Terry Holt, the caddy with the leg kick.

[00:06:32] >> Wow.

[00:06:37] >> Back over to the 10th and Steve Stricker will play from the middle of the fairway.

[00:06:49] >> Just got it.

[00:06:51] >> Oh, he did and it's close. Wow, what a shot. He didn't exactly blow it over that bunker. I think it landed right at the top crown of it.

[00:07:02] >> Ernie Els to get to 4-under at the seventh.

[00:07:04] >> Yeah, just about 4 feet here, Bob, beautiful shot in there by Big Ernie. That was a nice stroke there. I like that. Big Easy rolling in a putt for birdie at the seventh.

[00:07:21] >> Hey, camera guy.

[00:07:24] >> Couples for birdie at the 10th.

[00:07:26] >> After that nice fairway bunker shot underneath the hole, movement slightly left or right. Catches the left edge, nice catch hole.

[00:07:34] >> Yes, it was. And Fred's getting the ball to go in the hole.

[00:07:44] >> Now Stricker for birdie. Good stroke there. That was beautiful. That was way less than 8 feet.

[00:07:52] >> Yeah.

[00:07:53] >> That was about 4 feet.

[00:07:59] >> Birch for his par at 18, his ninth of the day. All right. He's had enough of that one.

[00:08:14] >> That was -- Usually, you throw it in the lake like you mean it. I mean, it was kind of like, eh, I'm going to roll it.

[00:08:24] >> McCarron for birdie at 10. Good look here for Scotty, excellent, second shot. Maybe right edge. Oh yeah, there you go.

[00:08:36] >> That gets Scott back into red figures. Ernie Els for birdie at the ninth.

[00:08:45] >> Let's see if Ernie can start putting some distance between himself and second place. Get there. Almost right on track.

[00:08:57] >> A good try by Els, and a very positive opening 9 holes for the Hall of Famer, 4-under par, 32 on that opening 9 as he heads to the par-4 10th right now on a share of the lead, here on round number 1 of the 1eighth playing of the Insperity Invitational. Here's the leaderboard as it stands right now, 4-under leads away shared by 3.

[00:09:33] >> The Woodlands Country Club, the tournament course, has been used for the past 14 years for the Insperity Invitational. Now in its 1eighth year, this favorite spot for many of the PGA Tour Champions players. This venue also hosted the PGA Tour event for many years. And this Saturday means big crowds because everybody's in pink in memory of the impact that the great, the king, Arnold Palmer, had on this event. We've got Hall of Famers all over the property. Gary Player, 9-time major winner is here. Annika Sorenstam, who won 72 times on the LPGA and 10-time major champion, part of the field here this week. Tom Kyte, US Open champion, also competing in the Greats of Golf. You got Hale Irwin, Juli. Inkster, and Pat Bradley, Hale, the most wins in the history of the PGA Tour Champions. And of course, last but not least, the Golden Bear, Jack Nicklaus, with those 18 major titles in his back pocket, here to have some fun and thrill the fans. Here are the Greats of Golf at the Insperity Invitational. Meanwhile, what a story we have developing, Steve Stricker, who has been battling illness since October, hasn't played in a PGA Tour Champions event 5-under on his round today. And he has the lead at 10-under par. Steven Alker and Ken Duke, along with Woody Austin at 7-under par. Can Retief Goosen, Miguel Angel Jimenez, and Fred Couples make a run on this Saturday? They're currently 5 shots back, along with David Toms and Colin Montgomerie. Steve Flesch with a 5-under 67 today. He's in at 3-under par. And the great Bernhard Langer, 1-under today, he also at 3-under par. And how about this for a photo with Lee and Jack right there in the middle as the Greats of Golf getting ready to hit the golf course on this Saturday afternoon?

[00:11:41] Steve Stricker playing his third shot at the 10th

[00:11:45] >> In a good spot over there where there's just a little bit longer grass means you can make better contact. Oh my goodness. There you go. Well, it's just not going well for him at all today, is it, Bob?

[00:12:01] >> Back over at the 10th, and this is for a par for Alker.

[00:12:06] >> Yeah, he flew his second over the green, did not hit a particularly good chip shot from over the grain. This would be some save. Ooh, he's got the putter working.

[00:12:17] >> Season-long race for the Charles Schwab Cup, Miguel Angel Jimenez with two wins through the first six events of the year, sits atop the leaderboard. Steven Alker just $27,953 behind. Retief Goosen, Bernhard Langer, Scott Parel, all winners this year, sit in the top 5. Insperity Invitational, purse of $2.3 million and the winner earned a check of $345,000. So, a lot to play for here at the Woodlands Country Club and the Insperity Invitational. Par 72 Just over 7,000 yards. We're located 30 miles north of Downtown Houston. Steven Alker at the 11th for his birdie.

[00:13:09] >> Pretty simple look right up the slope.

[00:13:11] >> And the putter stays hot for Steven Alker.

[00:13:15] >> That gets him to 8-under. Get a look at that hole location at 17 today. Lee Johnson, who's been playing a lot better as of late, pours that in.

[00:13:30] >> The putter has been working. He's been swinging the club nicely, driving it straight.

[00:13:39] >> Back over at the 12th, second for Alker.

[00:13:42] >> That's from 170 yards. Good looking shot if it's the right one.

[00:13:48] >> Hole location's all the way in the back and that is the right one, Cookie. That's a beautiful shot by Alker, in there to about 5 feet.

[00:13:57] >> Over 13, Brandt Jobe, who's got a lot of length, has this putt for birdie.

[00:14:01] >> It would have been -- Who would have thought he would have been going with this in 2.

[00:14:06] >> Back-to-back birdies for Jobe. He's 4-under and just 3 off the lead.

[00:14:14] >> Over at the 12th, Steven Alker for birdie. Steve Stricker made his par. And now Alker is within 2.

[00:14:23] >> Yeah, he's got that putter really cooking right now. And he's starting to get the iron game dialed in. Look out for Steven Alker. He is very, very capable.

[00:14:32] >> Team Majors carry player after Annika hit a really nice shot in here at the 10th. And play on, Player. A birdie for Gary and the team.

[00:14:52] >> 219 front, 228 hole, this is a 3 hybrid straight up in the air on a good line.

[00:15:00] >> I guess it's a good line. What a shot by Steven Alker.

[00:15:07] >> Back at 13, Steve Stricker on the layup flirting with disaster.

[00:15:12] >> -- got the wrong sprinkler on his layup because this is a step from the water.

[00:15:17] >> Which means --

[00:15:18] >> Awkward shot by 49 yards and beautifully played.

[00:15:21] >> I was going to say, it makes it shuttle tougher but not for Steve Stricker. That is really well-done. Every facet of her game looked pretty good last week for Annika, except for the putting. I thought her putting was a little suspect. She wasn't putting with much conviction. A little bit tentative, it looked like to me. She is going to play in the Women's US Open this year. She hits a lot of shots just like that. She'll need that putter to be working a little bit better, though.

[00:15:56] >> And Alker makes the eagle and that moves Alker to 11-under and a share of the lead at least for the moment. Stricker's in tight for birdie.

[00:16:16] >> Just a couple of heat feet here there for Steve. As he was walking by me across the bridge, he said, how'd you like that layup? I said, I think you got the wrong sprinkler.

[00:16:30] >> Jack Nicklaus for birdie at 11. Back-to-back birdies for the team. Annika set them up with the seconds in. And they're rolling in the birdie putts. Up at 18, Paul Goydos for his birdie. And Paul pours that in. He was a runner up to Bernhard Langer here in 2018. Now back at 15, Steven Alker for eagle.

[00:17:09] >> Does anything -- Just go left up that slope just a little bit.

[00:17:18] >> It should be for a second eagle in 3 holes, and he's done it.

[00:17:22] >> I thought he hadn't hit it and it went dead center. Steven Alker taking them off two at a time on the second 9.

[00:17:29] >> Birdie 11, birdie 12, eagle 13, bogey at 14. Now back with an eagle at 15, he moves to 12-under.

[00:17:43] >> Stricker for birdie and to once again regain the outright lead.

[00:17:48] >> Not much to this. Right in the back the hole.

[00:17:55] >> So, Stricker with the birdie at 15 is now a 13-under. He's 8-under on his route. Hale Irwin has his putt for eagle for Team Legends at 15.

[00:18:10] >> Two big hits to get it up here for these guys. Oh, dead center.

[00:18:18] >> How about that? Wait to go, Hale. Now look at this, reenacting Medina and his US Open win.

[00:18:26] >> Steven Alker on the tee at 16.

[00:18:33] >> 7-iron for 170, wind out to the right, kind of hold it back into the wind. And this is beauty.

[00:18:42] >> Well, he's got a doubt in the day Cookie. My goodness. Every hole, he's just peppering the flagstick. Really disappointing day for Ernie. I think we all thought he was going to be right in the middle of this thing all the way to the end and just has gone backwards today.

[00:18:59] >> Pretty good line here.

[00:19:01] >> Good chance there. How about that?

[00:19:06] >> Yeah, a good chance for his first birdie right there, too.

[00:19:16] >> Over at 13, third for Annika.

[00:19:23] >> And almost holes it.

[00:19:24] >> What a great shot.

[00:19:25] >> It's going to be another birdie for the squad. Steve Stricker for birdie at 16.

[00:19:36] >> 15 feet, pretty good breaker from right to left.

[00:19:43] >> Just stayed over there on the high side.

[00:19:45] >> Up at 18, Brandt Jobe for birdie. Had a good look at 17. Pours it in at 18. Jobe birdie 6 of the last 7. And he's in at 12-under shooting a bogey free 64 for a two-time winner on the PGA Tour Champions. Jack Nicklaus for birdie at 15.

[00:20:14] >> Straight up the hill, no problem. Little room service by Lee Trevino.

[00:20:25] >> Steven Alker, with much more work left for his par than he bargained for.

[00:20:33] >> Oh, really good putt there.

[00:20:35] >> Just a second par on the second 9. Three birdies, two eagles, two bogeys. That's how we weave our way to that 65. So he's in a 12-under. He will head into tomorrow in a share of the lead with Steve Stricker as long as Stricker cleans up this bogey putt here at 18.

[00:20:56] >> Yeah, 3 feet, this does have a little movement right to left.

[00:21:00] >> And Brandt Jobe looking at a three-way tie if Steve makes this. Bob?

[00:21:05] >> And Brown had a heck of a run coming in with birdies at 6 of his last 7.

[00:21:17] >> That's quite a save by Steve Stricker.

[00:21:24] >> So Stricker with a 65 as well. And the final group is set for this final round Sunday, tomorrow. It will be Steve Stricker, Brandt Jobe, and Steven Alker. I mean, how could you not root for Jack to end this thing with a winning putt? Boom.

[00:21:50] >> And who's surprised at that? Nobody.

[00:21:58] >> Well, 10 years ago, we got that fist pump from Arnold when he made that long putt. And now, 10 years later, the great Jack Nicklaus with that birdie putt gives Team Majors the outright victory in the Greats of Golf.

[00:22:15] >> Steve Stricker, Steven Alker, Brandt Jobe all share the lead through the opening 36 here at the Insperity Invitational. Joe with a bogey free, 8-under 64 today as he birdied 6 of his last 7. Ken Duke got a bogey free 66 as well. Retief Goosen, Miguel Angel Jimenez, Tom Lehman, Paul Goydos, Kevin Sutherland will all start Sunday's final round 6 off the lead.

[00:22:49] >> Today from the Woodlands, Texas, it's live final round coverage of the Insperity Invitational. Now in its 1eighth year, the Woodlands Country Club, the tournament course, has played host for the past 14 years, par 72 just over 7,000 yards, familiar stomping grounds for the PGA Tour Champions, players for so many years. This venue hosted the Houston Open. Mike Weir, the defending champ of the Insperity Invitational. Who will be the winner in 2022 and hoist the trophy? David Toms for birdie, and David gets to 8-under. Steve Stricker, who is playing in his first PGA Tour Champions event. Since early last September, he's battled illness. And what an amazing story it is this week.

[00:23:49] >> It really is. He's just -- He's swinging the club very, very well. It doesn't look like he's missed a beat. Got to wonder how his stamina is going to be as we go forward, Bob. It's a long hot grind around this golf course. And so far, Steve's handle it very nice.

[00:24:13] >> This golf course kind of lends themselves to that. Anybody kind of middle of the field can really make a nice run. It just happens that way every year here the Woodlands. Just once you to get going the right direction, you can score this golf course. But if you spin on your wheels, you better catch fire somewhere. And now Steven Alker, not much to this.

[00:24:33] >> Should have had a good read off of Jobe's and he did. He just pour that in there dead center, dead straight.

[00:24:41] >> Over at the 11th, David Toms has this putt for birdie. So pours that in and maybe Tom's at 9-under now, still 4 off the lead. Kem Duke on the green at the 10th.

[00:25:06] >> Pretty simple look here for Ken, maybe just right edge. Oh yeah.

[00:25:15] >> Ken Duke within 4 of lead. Kirk Triplett for par, our first look at 17.

[00:25:24] >> Downhill, down grain. And no problem for Kirk, he makes a lot of putts.

[00:25:30] >> He's 5-under on his round today, so good playing by Kirk, trying to add to that birdie total with Hewlett Packard Enterprise. Birdie run and Retief Goosen adds to that number over at 13. Back to 11 now, Alker for the outright lead.

[00:25:55] >> This could put little dent in his confidence putting if this one doesn't go in.

[00:25:59] >> Yeah, I agree there, Lenny. It does go into the grain a little bit, then back down grain, so right off the strike, might go a little left, then straight down at the end, but not much.

[00:26:15] >> Oh, it got in there. I thought he had missed it right. And it just was perfect pace and got in the edge.

[00:26:22] >> So Alker with the birdie at 11. He takes the lead at 14-under. David Tom says this for his par at 14.

[00:26:42] >> Par-5 13, Paul Goydos for his birdie.

[00:26:47] >> 4 feet down the slope. Yes, sir.

[00:26:55] >> Retief Goosen tried to get the double digits under par, his birdie putt at 14. Goosen, 3-under on his round today.

[00:27:04] >> No bogeys, three birdies playing very nicely. Got to keep this up in the left-hand side, should turn left to right. It looks great. Oh yeah. And then he's got a par 5 coming up. I know that he can reach that in two.

[00:27:23] >> Woody Austin has this putt for birdie at 13.

[00:27:31] >> Pretty simple, look for woody here right down the slope. I think this moves a little right to left, maybe just a scoche.

[00:27:44] >> Whatever he did, it went right in the middle.

[00:27:47] >> Good putt. Making more money for the charities.

[00:27:54] >> Steve Stricker over at 12.

[00:27:56] >> Yeah, just a yard closer but in that first cut on the upslope, 105 yards.

[00:28:02] >> First cut might be a good thing for him here, Cookie.

[00:28:04] >> No doubt about it. Might just take a little pitching wedge and try to really control the spin. Go in there a little bit lower, which he did. It's on a good line.

[00:28:22] >> Great shot by Stricker. That's in their tight. Beautiful play.

[00:28:28] >> Steve Stricker started the day in a share of the lead. Now trails Steven Alker by two. Ken Duke yesterday shot a bogey free 66. He's looking for another birdie. He pours that in. So Ken Duke is now at 10-under par.

[00:28:55] >> Fred Couples for birdie at 16.

[00:28:58] >> Great shot hit by Fred, just hole high. Yes.

[00:29:03][ Applause ]

[00:29:08] >> Third birdie of the day for Couples. Now over to 13, Stricker to play his third.

[00:29:15] >> Right at 70 yards, no issues. I think the mud came off the ball so I think he'd be able to control this a little bit better. He's so good at these. You know, when he's playing a lot, really not many better, it's so shallow, controls spin, you don't see a lot of backspin.

[00:29:35] >> No. And I would think he would like the soft green, you know, the way he hits it so he can be a touch more aggressive. But the pressure on him right now, he knows they're both going to make birdie at worst. He's got to get this up and down.

[00:30:03] >> Took it upstairs, right -- wait, how about going in?

[00:30:07] >> Wow.

[00:30:08] >> Wow, what a shot.

[00:30:21] >> Steven Alker needs to be looking 20, 25 feet left to the flagstick and get it on the proper level. I think that's a key as well.

[00:30:29] >> He's got somebody walking right behind the grain right where he's looking. If I'm Steven, I'm looking at the right edge of that back bunker, maybe even more into the center of that bunker.

[00:30:40] >> Yeah, this is 6-iron. It will puff a wind in your face.

[00:30:43] >> He's got it set up over there.

[00:30:45] >> You know, he's taking it on.

[00:30:46] >> I think he pushed it. But if it's right, it's great.

[00:30:50] >> Oh my --

[00:30:51] >> Unbelievable shot.

[00:30:53] >> Over the top of the flagstick.

[00:30:56] >> What a shot. It was a solid strike.

[00:31:07] >> Couples lines his par up.

[00:31:25] >> Make a par at 17, make a par at 18, you're picking shots off on the field.

[00:31:35] >> Alker now for birdie at 14. This would be his fourth in a row and get him to 17-under.

[00:31:42] >> Slightly downhill, moving right to left.

[00:31:52] >> Oh, just caught the edge.

[00:31:54] >> Caught a piece of the hole. Just needed about another inch of speed and it would have gone down.

[00:32:07] >> That's a break for the other two right now.

[00:32:13] >> Defending Champ Mike Weir has this putt for par at 18.

[00:32:24] >> And now here we are with Goosen for birdie. So --

[00:32:27] >> Slow putt up the slope, got to really hit it. Right into the grain, the grain was going to move it left. Great shot by Goosen to get it back there.

[00:32:39] >> Hole remains undefeated, so far.

[00:32:40] >> Yes, it does.

[00:32:46] >> Fred Couples had a pretty nice round going, especially the second 9, but rinsed it at 18. So he's got this for bogey. And he'll end his day with a double.

[00:33:09] >> Over at 17, second for Jimenez.

[00:33:15] >> Oh taking it on, turning it right to left, right back at the flag. Yes.

[00:33:20] >> Oh my god.

[00:33:20] >> Best shot of the day.

[00:33:29] >> Alker for eagle.

[00:33:31] >> Down the slope, moving left to right.

[00:33:32] >> And he buries it. With some pace, Alker with an eagle at 15 gets to 18-under.

[00:33:42] >> We said it this morning, Bob, that he had the advantage on the par 5s. And boy, has he ever taken advantage of 13 and 15. He has beat them into submission Saturday and Sunday.

[00:34:00] >> All right, last group on the ticket 16.

[00:34:03] >> 166 yards, right hole location.

[00:34:14] >> Pretty good-looking swing right there.

[00:34:16] >> Just a little right of the flag, should get a little closer, a little better. Hole high. Yeah, we talk about it so much.

[00:34:22] >> Yes.

[00:34:23] >> Good iron players hole high.

[00:34:28] >> Third shot for Miguel Angel Jimenez at 18.

[00:34:32] >> Well, if he can chip it in, also, if he can chip it in, Bobby, he wouldn't have to putt. His putting is not paving itself right now. But he's -- So you're not getting in with a wedge.

[00:34:49] >> Oh, we'll head to a place next week where he said some pretty good vibes.

[00:34:52] >> Yes, he has.

[00:34:53] >> TPC Sugarloaf.

[00:34:56] >> Steven Alker birdie at 11, birdie at 12, birdie a 13, and then rolled in the eagle a 15.

[00:35:05] >> And just because he was making putts, I mean, when he had -- ended up winning by 6-over in Gulfport, he made the ones for birdies with a five and six-shot lead, just did not back off. He keeps it down and he keeps going forward.

[00:35:19] >> And he made a couple of wonderful par saving putts today.

[00:35:26] >> Definitely.

[00:35:27] >> Never leave the door open.

[00:35:28] >> No, definitely the key to his round with those par saves, no question.

[00:35:32] >> Pretty good right to left or right here, dripping in.

[00:35:35] >> Boom, Steven Alker on fire. That gets him to 19-under. And he's now opened up a five-shot lead over Stricker and Jobe.

[00:35:50] >> And Alker makes all these putts and birdies in bunches, Cookie. Cookie, he's cold-blooded.

[00:35:58] >> All right, second to last group. Ken Duke having a nice week, his second in the 18.

[00:36:11] >> Location back in the right side. Got to get up. Oh he got up, stayed there. He can breathe a sigh of relief right now.

[00:36:28] >> That's now a race for second.

[00:36:30] >> Oh yeah, there's -- it's now a different tournament for these guys. And Jobe, with a chance, take a one-shot lead. He does.

[00:36:39] >> Second better than third, third better than fourth.

[00:36:42] >> Yes, it is, especially when you're playing for the amount of money they're playing for this week.

[00:36:48] >> Alker has played the last six holes, 6-under and now is really, Lenny, when you look at the stats for today and the fact that 17 is played as the second hardest hole, a third of a shot over par, no birdies, 18 has played as the hardest hole. The scoring average at 18 is 4.515, no birdies there today. Stricker could clean up his par. It's now basically Alker's to lose. I mean, he --

[00:37:22] >> Oh, no question, yes.

[00:37:26] >> He's just going to go to put it in the fairway at 17 and 18 to take care of business. Middle of the green both times.

[00:37:38] >> Ken Duke barely made it over the waters. Got this putt for par. Well-done for Ken. He finishes with a 2-under, 70, and right now in that tie for fifth.

[00:37:55] >> With 18 ahead, Cookie, Steven Alker still cannot breathe easy right now. Four shots is huge going to 18 over three. Three can change at 18.

[00:38:06] >> God, it can.

[00:38:10] >> He has to worry a little bit about the shoulder coming off that left bunker. It gets up onto that little plateau. It's going to kick it to the right and then pretty straight after that.

[00:38:20] >> That got a little frisky.

[00:38:23] >> Yeah, not bad.

[00:38:28] >> So all three players will have a par putt here at 17.

[00:38:51] >> Alker with his par, so he heads to 18 with a five-shot lead over Jobe and Stricker. Heading to the hardest hole on the golf course. Steven Alker, about to win for the second time in his last three starts. Steven Alker with a five-shot lead over Steve Stricker and Brandt Jobe. They all started today at 12-under. But Alker with birdies at 11, 12, 13 and eagle at 15 and a birdie at 16. And, Lenny, you made a great point. Not only is Alker about to win for the second time in his last three starts, but in the start that he didn't win, the last one, the Club Court Classic, he lost in a playoff.

[00:39:39] >> He did, he had to control the tournament really leading. We thought he was going to get it done and played the last six holes 1-over to go into a playoff. So, the quality of golf he's been playing lately is just -- it's spectacular, mindboggling. I mean, he just does not exhibit any weaknesses in his game at all.

[00:39:57] >> I mean, that 3-wood right there was straighter than you could point. That was absolutely on a line.

[00:40:06] >> He has one more swing to seal it.

[00:40:08] >> And that one should be a little bit deep. I mean, I would think the back edge of the green would be his number on that next shot.

[00:40:15] >> Possibly a little left.

[00:40:16] >> Yeah.

[00:40:17] >> Possibly. OK. Stricker going with the driver, 275 runs out into the penalty area on the right.

[00:40:25] >> Yeah. And you want to hug the right side today, Cookie, just -- otherwise, it's too long a second at that hole location.

[00:40:31] >> Definitely.

[00:40:32] >> Yeah, he is right down the center.

[00:40:40] >> Good shot there by Stricker. Boy, he's played a lot of nice golf this week.

[00:40:44] >> He has to be pretty proud of himself to come out here and compete.

[00:40:47] >> 100%, I would agree, you know, totally with that. Johnny just played great golf. He stayed in there. You know, the mental stamina has been pretty impressive. He's really stayed focused the whole time.

[00:40:59] >> Yeah. He's battled right to the end and this is going left for Brandt Jobe with a 3-wood.

[00:41:06] >> I think Brandt lost focus there a little bit, between that little missed putt back there and that shot.

[00:41:15] >> Well, Steven Alker with a five-shot lead has hit the fairway at 18 here at the Insperity Invitational. Back at the Insperity Invitational, final group playing 18, no birdies today. It's been the hardest hole on the golf course. Steven Alker and Steve Stricker hit the fairway. Brandt Jobe missed his tee shot left. Caddy Sam Workman going through the numbers.

[00:41:58] >> Yeah, they work really hard on the numbers. I would be looking at back edge yardage which puts it a good 20 yards plus over the water. There's no reason to put that water in front anywhere near in place.

[00:42:11] >> And that number is 172 water, 180 is the hole location. And he's got 7 more behind that. He's got to be looking at an 85 shot minimum.

[00:42:24] >> I would think so, Cookie. You know, no reason to be bold here.

[00:42:29] >> Aimed at our tower, Cookie.

[00:42:32] >> Yeah, yeah, definitely. Maybe the Y in Insperity.

[00:42:41] >> There you go. There's the Y in Insperity right there and that's where he is setting up. Cookie, nice call. He is set up so good and square. Maybe he's kind of the T or the I, but right there --

[00:42:52] >> He was probably getting lucky. And he's kind of tugged this, which is understandable.

[00:42:55] >> That's OK.

[00:42:56] >> That is 6-iron.

[00:42:57] >> That's fine. That's fine. I've seen, I think, Buddy Gardner hold that --

[00:43:01] >> Jay Haas hold that --

[00:43:02] >> Jay Haas, OK.

[00:43:03] >> -- hold that putt to win from over there.

[00:43:08] >> Yup. Thumbs up for you, Steven Alker. Unbelievably great play in the last few weeks.

[00:43:16] >> Has a shot, 146 front. He's kind of looking at that, he can cut it. It gives him 171 hole.

[00:43:24] >> Well, he bounced it off the boards with his second shot here yesterday and made birdie.

[00:43:28] >> That's a golf shot.

[00:43:30] >> That is incredible. What a great shot by Brandt Jobe. Maybe his best swing of the back nine.

[00:43:42] >> Feel good for him, too, especially after, you know, wiping that putt at 17. And you know, that's not --

[00:43:48] >> No.

[00:43:48] >> You don't want to see him do that.

[00:43:49] >> No, you don't.

[00:43:55] >> Steve Stricker who we've talked about battling back from severe illness this fall and really -- body was completely ravaged with swelling around the heart. I didn't even know as of a month ago when he was going to be back and able to play. But what a first start for Stricker here this week. Shared the lead after the opening 18, shared the lead through 36.

[00:44:28] >> 162, a little puff of wind into him. He's going to take something off a little 6-iron put away up in the air. But a 170 shot, that left the flag.

[00:44:39] >> And a little deep, that's understandable. Good shot.

[00:44:43][ Applause ] It's a 2-hour and 15-minute weather delay. Local time 2:35, local time, they blew the horn, thunder and lightning, then heavy rain swept through, then there was another lightning cell. Play resumed right around 4:50 local time. And Steven Alker came out swinging.

[00:45:15] >> Yes, he did. I'm getting a kick out a Brandt Jobe right here. He's telling the story of his second shot that hit on the boards to Alker here. You know, we always love good stories, especially if it's a good result for us as golfers. He landed on the boards, bounced about 10 feet by the hole. We thought it was a good iron shot. We didn't know it hit the board because we didn't have it on camera. And he makes a putt for birdie. So he birdies 18 yesterday.

[00:45:41] >> Brandt Jobe birdied six of the last seven holes to even get himself in this final group. But it's all about Steven Alker, the New Zealander who lives in the Phoenix area now. What a story. No wins on the PGA Tour, did win four times on the Korn Ferry Tour. And was Monday qualifying and because of his Monday qualifying and his finish, Lenny, it got him into the next event. And then he had another top 10, it got him into a next event, and another top 10 and got him into a next event until he finally broke through in one at the Timber Tech in the fall and just an incredible story.

[00:46:19] >> Well, and that win put him into the top 36, which made him fully exempt for this year, top 36 that played in Phoenix was exempt, plus the wind was good for a year. But yeah, I mean, he just -- he was a top 10 machine last fall. It was very, very impressive play.

[00:46:33] >> And he's been impressive this year as well, winning the Rapid Scan Systems Classic in Biloxi, Six shots over Podrick Harrington, then in position to win the inaugural ClubCorp Classic. And now coming to the Woodlands and laying the wood to the field on this final nine.

[00:46:56] >> Yeah, he really has. And even the other tournaments he played in this year, Bob, he was always up around top 10, playing very, very well. I mean, he hadn't just had the wind, but he's been right up there almost every single week.

[00:47:07] >> And I forgot to mention it, the season started at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at a walleye. He lost the playoff to Miguel Angel Jimenez.

[00:47:14] >> Yeah, so he's lost two playoffs this year. And now he's going to have two wins and two playoff losses in the early young season, so far.

[00:47:22] >> Yeah, that's true. This is just the seventh event of the year.

[00:47:31] >> Alker for his birdie.

[00:47:32] >> The other thing about Steven Alker, Bob, don't forget, he's seeing a lot of these courses for the first time. You know, a lot of these guys have been playing these courses for years and years. And he's seeing them all for the first time in a lot of cases.

[00:47:48] >> And Alker is on his way, barring, you know, catastrophe from this distance of also setting the new Insperity Invitational scoring record. As I mentioned, 17-under Fred Couples in 2010 and Scott McCarron in 2019 here at the Woodlands. Langer has the record at 2,500 from Augusta Pines. And such a nice man as well.

[00:48:16] >> Oh, very nice. Gentleman has been a delight to be around. He's been very forthcoming with us on, you know, what he's been doing with his game. And, you know, when you watch him swing and play, I mean, what's not to like? He just does everything very, very well.

[00:48:34] >> And I know Steve Stricker who's won seven times, he won two majors last year. You know, he's a competitor. He wants to win. And I'm sure he's going to be disappointed. But I think when he reflects on what he was able to do here this week, having not played on the PGA Tour Champions since Furyk and friends in the fall, I mean, it's pretty awesome.

[00:48:55] >> It's unbelievable. I mean, he's just a consummate competitor, no question, and got himself in shape, did not come out too early. Would you tell his body and his game were good? And he's getting right after it.

[00:49:10] >> Hard putt to hit hard enough here. Grain pushed it left and into you.

[00:49:18] >> So, Steve will tap in for a par there and the final round, 270 today. So now, Brandt Jobe will decide whether he and Stricker share the second place money or if Jobe gets it out right if Jobe can make the birdie.

[00:49:41] >> Yeah, a chance for Brandt to win his tournament. He's been pretty bold putting, needs to be bold with this.

[00:49:52] >> Might work a little to his left. See? Oh, it did right across the hole grain, which is strong over there. Really slowed up quickly on him. Good playing, though, for Brandt.

[00:50:08][ Applause ]

[00:50:14] >> So, Steven Alker has this putt for par, it doesn't really matter with a five-shot lead. But you always kind of want to end it that way.

[00:50:23] >> Oh yeah, you don't want to end with a bogey and sometimes you get in a situation like it's been there. You're sitting there, thinking, do I really -- am I supposed to grind on this one? Well, for your own satisfaction, yes. You know, you try --

[00:50:34] >> Scotty Scheffler at the Masters.

[00:50:36] >> Yeah, not his best moment.

[00:50:38] >> He's got the green jacket.

[00:50:41] >> Yes, he did.

[00:50:45] >> Oh. Well, the putts he didn't make should have gone in on this nine. What a good putt and great finish there for Steven Alker.

[00:50:53] >> What a performance. Boom, Steven Alker, a winner again as he captures the 2022 Insperity Invitational.

[00:51:02] >> It's got to be great redemption for losing last week when he probably feels like he should have gotten the job done down the stretch.

[00:51:11] >> Final round 66, highlighted by that eagle at 15. Let's take a look at the updated standings for the season-long race for the Charles Schwab Cup with the $345,000 earned today. Steven Alker jumps over Miguel Angel Jimenez and moves into the top spot. He will take home the Insperity Invitational trophy, two wins for Alker through the first seven events of the year, and two losses in playoffs. Dominant fashion shoots 31 on the back and beat Steve Stricker and Brandt Jobe by four shots. They endured a 2-hour and 15-minute weather delay. But in the end, the sun shines on Steven Alker.