Production Transcript for 22INTCUTCH - SR PLYRS CH.mp3

[00:00:00] >> The PGA Tour Champions proudly presents the yearlong race for the Charles Schwab Cup. Today from Akron, Ohio, it's live, first round coverage of the Bridgestone Senior Players Championship. The iconic water tower at Firestone Country Club, first constructed all the way back in 1958. It's become a landmark here on property and the South course once again playing host to the Bridgestone Senior Players has been a staple on the PGA Tour champions schedule dating back to 2019. These next four days will test all aspects of a player's game, if they want to join the list of champions.

[00:01:19] >> Steve Stricker just off the 12th.

[00:01:20] >> Lie was pretty good. Able to control it nicely, good shot.

[00:01:30] >> The 13th, this is Steve Flesch, his third shot.

[00:01:34] >> Well George, you know how important it is to drive it in the fairway, especially lay it up in the fairway. This from 80 yards.

[00:01:40] >> Whoa! Hello! It always looked like three.

[00:01:44] >> I guess it's not that important.

[00:01:47] >> That'll put a smile on Flesch's face.

[00:01:49] >> Oh, from ear to ear.

[00:01:54] >> Steve Stricker eyeing up his par putt on the 12th.

[00:01:59] >> It looks too easy.

[00:02:02] >> Routine for Stricker.

[00:02:08] >> The leader board as it stands right now in Akron, Ohio, out to take a two-time major champion on the PGA Tour Champions, he's 4-under through 12 in second. Couple players getting off to quick starts.

[00:02:34] >> Oh, good putt by Miguel, he need one. He said, about time.

[00:02:45] >> Over on the 15th, good round shaping up for Rocco Mediate, already 2-under, trying to push it to 3-under. Rocco!

[00:02:56] >> Rock on.

[00:02:57] >> Clean card. Three birdies, no bogeys.

[00:03:19] >> Miguel Ángel Jiménez the only one to find the 15th green off the tee.

[00:03:25] >> -- just wait twelve and a half pretty quick so you've got to be careful with your speed.

[00:03:29] >> Miguel's kind of got a mixed birdies in bunches. Like that.

[00:03:33] >> Maybe that's the first one of a bunch.

[00:03:35] >> Yeah, well he may want a couple of holes to go and he's what I would classify as a streaky putter. When he gets it going, he's not afraid of any putt.

[00:03:44] >> Par putt for Ernie on 13.

[00:03:46] >> Got a little aggressive with that 35 footer for birdie, this little right to left back up the hill, good putt there. A little fist pump for Ernie too.

[00:03:54] >> Nice save.

[00:03:56] >> Ernie's played here enough, he knows that 1-under is a really good score.

[00:04:01] >> Guy who's made things look easy all season long, Steven Alker, for birdie on the 14th.

[00:04:08] >> Yeah, this putt's been solid.

[00:04:15] >> Birdie look for Paul Goydos on the 17th. Get him back to level par.

[00:04:24] >> You know at Firestone, you've got 16 holes run north and south, two east and west, and the 5th hole is one of the two that runs east and west. So you might catch more of a cross wind at the 5th and--

[00:04:36] >> How about this from Ernie Els?

[00:04:38] >> Ernie Els just--

[00:04:39] >> That's what he's been doing though, he is swinging really, really well.

[00:04:42] >> This will be-- Stricker's third with a wedge.

[00:04:48] >> Yeah.

[00:04:49] >> Close enough landing where he's not going to spin it back too much I don't think.

[00:04:53] >> He didn't carry quite far enough, but he stayed.

[00:05:05] >> I love this!

[00:05:06] >> That looked too easy, for the big easy.

[00:05:12] >> Els did 2-under.

[00:05:32] >> Weir able to hold that, nice birdie on the 15th.

[00:05:35] >> So things had slowed after that birdie, birdie start one 1 and 2 for Weir, but 1-over on his round.

[00:05:52][ Applause and Cheering ]

[00:06:13] >> This 87 yards here and this one might want to bring it in low and skip it up to that top tier, back bunker is a no-no.

[00:06:22] >> Yep.

[00:06:23] >> Really well done, beautiful play.

[00:06:25] >> Weir finding something these last couple holes.

[00:06:30] >> David Toms for birdie.

[00:06:31] >> He's a ball striking machine, fairways, greens, and this for birdie to finish 4-under. I'm not sure I thought he might would shoot 66 out here today, but David Toms just did. That's an amazing round of golf.

[00:06:44] >> Closing hole, Paul Goydos, on the 18th.

[00:06:47] >> What a shot in here and great birdie at 18 for Paul Goydos.

[00:06:51] >> Don't see a lot of birdies on the 18th.

[00:06:53] >> No, you don't.

[00:06:59] >> Mike Weir looking for back to back birdies and somehow he would be at even par.

[00:07:05] >> Yeah the look that you like to have for a player, kind of a hooking putt, put this right on this top lip and let it go towards the water.

[00:07:18] >> Good read by Weir, nice putt.

[00:07:23] >> See the action over on the 9th with the leader, Alex Cejka's last hole.

[00:07:27] >> Yeah, really nice golf swing and this hole location is gettable today, we've seen that already and a beautiful shot there by Cejka in underneath the flag.

[00:07:36] >> We are back on the par 5 16th, K.J. Choi, birdied the other par 5 the second, able to cash in on the 16th, 2-under on the par 5's today.

[00:07:53] >> Alright, now the main stage for the leader, Alex Cejka. At 64 today? Holy smokes! That's, I didn't expect to see 64 out here today. This is a perfect tee shot by Jiménez and he's just staring right down the throat of this green.

[00:08:18] >> And just a little 8-iron from 160 back into the breeze.

[00:08:25] >> Pretty well done there by Miguel in there about 7 feet, hole high, beautiful shot.

[00:08:31] >> Now Ernie with a great look here.

[00:08:35] >> That's a good one, little right to left, uphill, there's really nothing to this one other than thinking about making it. Don't have to worry about 3-putting.

[00:08:44] >> Just think if he'd had somewhat of a hot putter day, I mean he really, you feel like he hasn't made much at all and he's 3-under.

[00:08:54] >> Eighteenth green. There have been three birdies so far on the 18th, so Miguel Ángel Jiménez looking for number four.

[00:09:09] >> Good finish by Miguel and nice round of golf. He's got himself right in the middle of this thing at 2-under-par.

[00:09:21] >> Brandt Jobe. Hanging at 1-over, this could get him to even. Can he get there? Yes, he can.

[00:09:32] >> Back to back birdies for Brandt Jobe now to even out his round.

[00:09:39] >> On the 18th green, Ernie Els will be first to play.

[00:09:55] >> Now can he get one in the hole?

[00:09:57] >> He did, just needed more pace. Just a little more pace and that holds its line.

[00:10:11] >> Els with a 3-under 67, three back of the lead.

[00:10:26] >> Good look here for Jay Haas, buries it at 17.

[00:10:29] >> Buckets.

[00:10:30] >> That was for par and missed the fairway to the right, guys and then in the front bunker, poor bunker shot, that putter's the savior, Lenny.

[00:10:36] >> It can be. That's his son, Jay Jr., on the bag.

[00:10:48] >> Up to the 18th, Bernhard Langer, had that for birdie.

[00:10:57] >> Good try, good round, 2-over par, good try for birdie right there. So he's got to make up some ground, that's for sure.

[00:11:06] >> Two-over, 72 for Bernhard Langer.

[00:11:11] >> Now let's take a-- not often you see someone two clear of the rest of the pack in the first round. Some other scores still on the course with Tim Herron, Tom Byrum, Tom Gillis.

[00:11:26] >> Today, from Akron, Ohio, it's live second round coverage of the Bridgestone Senior Players Championship. Historic Firestone Country Club opened all the way back in 1929. It's first professional event the 1954 Rubber City Open. We are midway through the second round, let's check out the leaderboard. Things have changed from where we began the day; David Toms was the chaser, now he's the leader. He's at 7-under, 3-under on his round, up by 1 and there's a hard charging Steven Alker.

[00:11:57] >> Yeah, Steven Alker is right there, he's not going away. David Toms not at all surprised, Steve Stricker kind of stuck in neutral, Darren Clarke making a little bit of a move.

[00:12:10] >> To the 8th, Joe Durant for birdie.

[00:12:12] >> Yeah, hit a nice drive down the right hand side, had a good angle.

[00:12:16] >> He's just showing off his iron play, hit it to 3 feet on 7 and now another great iron shot to cap it off there with a great putt.

[00:12:22] >> He can drive it in the fairway and he can knock some flags down when Joe Durant gets it going.

[00:12:34] >> This is Mike Weir on the 16th green. Gets that one to go.

[00:12:48] >> Cejka just in the first cut of rough at a good angle here, Mark.

[00:12:50] >> He has a great spot with his left hole location, 172 yards, and he talked yesterday in his press about making sure he missed it in the proper spot, so you're not trying to miss shots but that means you're just kind of hedging your bets a little bit. Get on the last hole, fat side of the green, once again here.

[00:13:04] >> Excellent shot underneath the hole, that's an uphill putt from about 8 feet. Great shot by Cejka.

[00:13:11] >> David Toms.

[00:13:13] >> Well-done, that was the kind of chippy action you could make, may get away with one here.

[00:13:21] >> He is, he can't afford to only be hitting three fairways through 10 holes.

[00:13:25] >> Ninth green, Alex Cejka, this for birdie and to grab a share of the lead.

[00:13:30] >> And finally, George, maybe and that's a great look, probably just left center up the hill.

[00:13:35] >> Got to be aggressive with one. That was better. Not going to say he ripped it in, but it went in proper pace.

[00:13:50] >> The group on 17 from across the green will be Mike Weir's birdie attempt.

[00:13:56] >> Coming up the slope in the first half, at least, right there, now back downhill at this stage. Look at this putt.

[00:14:04] >> Why wouldn't he! No problem for Mike Weir. Mike Weir to 4-under. Four birdies his first eight holes!

[00:14:19] >> Joe Durant's birdie putt on the 10th.

[00:14:20] >> He had a little pulled iron shot, this is a side winder, really quick one.

[00:14:29] >> Birdie putts are dropping everywhere, Lenny.

[00:14:30] >> Yeah, no wonder the scores are good. We're seeing putts go in from all over the place.

[00:14:39] >> Alker's third shot on the 8th.

[00:14:41] >> Big mistake here at 8, missing left, but boy, what a bunker shot. Getting that he was lucky he was on the upslope so he could spin it and get it to come out of there a little soft. But that was really well done.

[00:14:55] >> Here's Ernie Els, more of a short game magic on the 18th.

[00:15:01] >> Oh, right on track. Great touch for the big man. Good shot.

[00:15:14] >> Over to the 12th, see if Goosen-- put a good swing on it.

[00:15:20] >> Yeah, I always thought the right shot here was to put it in the center of the green and then let it drift towards the hole. That was, that was about as good a one-handed shot as you'll ever see.

[00:15:28] >> Like a Hideki Matsuyama one-handed finish at 3 feet. Flagged it right on line.

[00:15:38] >> Hundred and sixty-five yards for Joe, center of the fairway back, right hole location.

[00:15:48] >> The birdie police are after him.

[00:15:50] >> Yeah, why wouldn't it be. I mean that's what you've got to be thinking here. Look how receptive that green is from 160 yards you just take dead aim.

[00:15:59] >> Now it's Goosen, did that one-handed finish fake you out as well, Phil?

[00:16:03] >> This is just straight up the hill, nothing to this one at 2 and 1/2-3 feet.

[00:16:16] >> Nice birdie for Goosen. It's now back to back.

[00:16:23] >> Steven Alker, par putt to stay 1 back in the 9th. This is his last hole.

[00:16:29] >> That was solid. Beautiful strokes, though struggle with the ball striking coming in a little bit. Scrambled nicely though and still ended up with 66.

[00:16:44] >> Cejka's bunker shot on 12.

[00:16:46] >> Off the upslope here for Alex. Decent amount of green to work with, so it was, he made it look easier than it really was.

[00:16:57] >> Davis Love III on the 13th for birdie.

[00:16:59] >> One-under for the tournament. Needs another birdie or two to get right in the mix. There's one right there.

[00:17:06] >> Ask and you shall receive.

[00:17:08] >> Yeah, on one of the hardest holes on this golf course; 13 is a big boy par 3, par 4, excuse me.

[00:17:13] >> A lot of strikes in this group. Back to the 12th with the leader, just a little bit left for par. Still bogey-free today.

[00:17:34] >> Goosen for par.

[00:17:46] >> He didn't have as good of a lie as Toms did, tried to stab it out of there but nice putt.

[00:17:51] >> Got the putter working all of a sudden. Made two birdies and a good par save the last three holes.

[00:18:03] >> That's a familiar move of Davis Love III on the 14th.

[00:18:07] >> Great tee shot. Turns this into a birdie hole, especially if you stuff your second shot like Davis just did. Beautiful golf swing there.

[00:18:26] >> Cejka scrambling.

[00:18:27] >> Interesting play, George, heading into that bank short of the green there, but pretty well done.

[00:18:32] >> Well, you may not make a bogey.

[00:18:41] >> David Toms finally from the fairway on 14.

[00:18:43] >> That was 174, see is he can do something with it from the fairway and yes he can. How about that shot?

[00:18:48] >> That was--

[00:18:48] >> That's delivering!

[00:18:49] >> That was a laser, we had the TrackMan on that and that was an absolute laser.

[00:18:54] >> Back to the leader.

[00:18:57] >> And he saves another par for Alex Cejka. Double barky and all. He pointed at the tree and said thank you.

[00:19:10] >> The assist.

[00:19:14] >> Jerry Kelly's tee shot to the 15th.

[00:19:16] >> The shot here would be to leave it under the hole, just a little short right there, oh, that's nice.

[00:19:23] >> Sling it back to the 14tth, David Toms.

[00:19:27] >> Got to get this down. Yep. Good three, he needed that one. He's been fighting hard, he needs something, he needed a relaxed hole.

[00:19:39] >> Steve Stricker on the 3rd green, a little closer look than what Miguel just did.

[00:19:43] >> Yeah, and that tells you that he probably hit a good drive down the fairway to be able to get it this close in here, because your trees, you're shooting through a field goal to get up here and good work by Stricker. That looked more like the Steve Stricker we're used to.

[00:19:55] >> Starting to keep that putter up a little bit. Stricker birdies on 2 and 3.

[00:20:00] >> That's four.

[00:20:01] >> We are back on the 15th tee, Alex Cejka off a bogey the last hole now. Just a shot back.

[00:20:07] >> Pretty good.

[00:20:11] >> Brought to you by Westfield.

[00:20:13] >> And that's just a great shot by Alex Cejka. Good bounce back. Really nice swing there.

[00:20:22] >> Retief Goosen on the 16th.

[00:20:33] >> Party good stroke right there. Goosen center cut.

[00:20:36] >> All the sudden he's found the stroke.

[00:20:46] >> There's Joe Durant, after a great save at the last hole, another great iron shot. Capitalized.

[00:20:54] >> Good stroke there by Joe, gone from left hand low to right hand low this part of the year and stroke looks very nice. Making some birdies, he's made a bunch here today.

[00:21:07] >> Back to the 5th. Miguel Ángel Jiménez.

[00:21:13] >> This is doable for Miguel.

[00:21:16] >> Birdie putt on the way. Miguel!

[00:21:19] >> He was waiting for it to go left and it took its time.

[00:21:34] >> Joe Durant to get within one.

[00:21:36] >> That putt is a little close, 70 yard wedge shot to this position. He's gotten two putts that he saw from this lie, so he learned.

[00:21:47] >> Joe knows what he's doing.

[00:21:48] >> Four birdies on this back nine.

[00:21:57] >> Now it's Stephen Ames, this birdie putt.

[00:22:00] >> Not as much downhill, it should move a little bit to his right but not too much. About that amount right there.

[00:22:13] >> Yeah, good finish for Stephen.

[00:22:17] >> Start of the day, it's Alex Cejka at 6-under-par in the lead, four currently tied at 6-under-par. Five players a shot back, past champions of this event and you've got Steve Stricker, Davis Love III, good round, Rod Pampling, low round of the day, 6-under, 64, so he's just outside the top 10 in a tie for 13th. What a spectacular Saturday we have here in Akron, Ohio. It is moving day here for the third round of the Bridgestone Senior Players Championship. Bridgestone, the title sponsor this week for the Bridgestone Senior Players, Firestone playing host to the season's fourth major on the PGA Tour Champions schedule. Look at the leaderboard right now; David Toms off to a fast start, consecutive birdies, so he's at 7-under, up one on the defending champ in Steve Stricker. Steve Stricker, this putt for birdie and the outright lead.

[00:23:21] >> After coming off birdie at 3, missed chance at number 2, off to a great start.

[00:23:26] >> That's a terrific start, you're stealing a couple from the field when you birdie number four, that's just a wonderful birdie there for Stricker.

[00:23:36] >> Back to back birdies for Stricker, now to 7-under-par. On the 16th, this is the long par 5, you see a wedge in hand for his third.

[00:23:48] >> Yeah, the tee is up a little bit today, trying to entice people to go for it, Hensby doesn't need to, pitches it in for eagle three, but he got very close in too, just a little pitch shot. Pretty bold second to get that look for the third.

[00:24:03] >> On the 5th, Steve Stricker just off the green.

[00:24:15] >> What touch! What a line.

[00:24:17] >> I would say he did it pretty well, read the lie nicely, got a good catch and excellent pitch.

[00:24:23] >> Kelly at the par 3 7th, measuring 211 yards today.

[00:24:32] >> Hole location up the left center of the green. Don't want any part of the left, you don't want to short side yourself. And, right at it, how about that? What a great shot by Jerry Kelly. Looking like he's going to make a statement.

[00:24:50] >> Steven Alker is going to kick it into gear, going to start right here on the 5th tee.

[00:25:04] >> Pretty good looking swing right there. And a, I think you called it, George. He kicked it in gear right here, no question.

[00:25:11] >> Jerry Kelly to stay one back of Stricker. See the leaderboard, Kelly and [inaudible] second, 6-under-par.

[00:25:20] >> See if Kelly can continue to take advantage of these great shots, and he leaks it in the edge. Uses the entire hole.

[00:25:27] >> Jerry Kelly, clean card through seven holes.

[00:25:35] >> Alex Cejka finally, walks that one in.

[00:25:37] >> Takes the flag out. Maybe that's what he should have been doing all along.

[00:25:43] >> Third shot for the co-leader, Jerry Kelly in the 8th bunker.

[00:25:46] >> Plenty of green to work with, this is very doable. Needs to release. Oh yeah, excellent play there by Jerry Kelly.

[00:25:55] >> Yeah. Not a bad shot to get center yardage and then try and carry it just over center yardage would leave it just under the hole. You don't really want to put over this green in play.

[00:26:07] >> Yeah, center yardage would be 158 and you throw on about 5 to 6 yards for that wind. Big sweeping draw. He's feeling it.

[00:26:15] >> He is feeling it. That was excellent, really well done. Good shot there by Steve Stricker.

[00:26:27] >> This looks dicey on the 8th for Toms.

[00:26:29] >> Forcing it in on top of that knob, it really turned what would have been a difficult shot into an easy shot. Good lie there.

[00:26:42] >> That's a good look here. To get things going for Ernie, first birdie of the day possibly.

[00:26:47] >> Did he hit it? Yes, he did. There you go, good call, Mark. He needed that, you're right. Get him going the other way, get us out of that even par, even par is not a bad score on that first nine holes today.

[00:27:01] >> Head to the 10th, Jerry Kelly, right rough.

[00:27:06] >> Out of the rough, he's trying to hit it with a descending blow, I like that action he went after that with. He got it to come out nice. That was really well done by Jerry Kelly. He's knocking some flags down today.

[00:27:24] >> This from about 5 feet, don't need a whole lot of power here, just a little finesse and not much in it, Lenny.

[00:27:30] >> Got a great angle here to watch it. Heels sitting off the ground, putter sits toe down.

[00:27:35] >> Stricker with birdies on 3 and 4, and add one on the 9th.

[00:27:39] >> That looked too easy. That looked way too easy. How well was that hole played by Stricker?

[00:27:51] >> What an answer this would be after bogeying the 9th for Kelly?

[00:27:54] >> Yeah, just about 6 feet and not much in it.

[00:27:57] >> Put a little heat on Stricker. Kelly birdieing 10, 7-under, one back.

[00:28:25] >> We're back on the 10th, David Toms needs to get something going. It started birdie, birdie, three bogeys the last seven holes to close out the front nine.

[00:28:33] >> Birdie in the 10th.

[00:28:34] >> If it'll turn, it does, good putt there by David Toms. Staying in touch, but barely.

[00:28:55] >> How about that from Alker?

[00:28:57] >> Not surprised, I mean with that golf swing, you kind of expect that a lot out of him.

[00:29:07] >> On the 12th, Toms buries it.

[00:29:13] >> Nice little run here for David Toms on the second nine.

[00:29:18] >> Birdies on 10, 11, and 12, three in a row. Slip back to the 14th, Alex Cejka, flag in this time.

[00:29:30] >> Good stroke there. Yes. Alex only two back and I mean, we've seen him miss at least four or five inside what, 6 feet.

[00:29:40] >> He's fired up by that one.

[00:29:41] >> He is.

[00:29:48] >> Wedge in hand for Steve Stricker.

[00:29:50] >> Eighty yards, wind right to left and in but from this angle it kind of takes the water out of play and nicely done.

[00:29:58] >> Spins that one back. That will be to grab a share of the lead. Steven Alker, can he heat the putter up? Close the margin. Right now he's three off the lead. For birdie, Alker, back to 6-under. He's just two off the pace of Jerry Kelly. Stricker for birdie and a share of the lead.

[00:30:29] >> No problem.

[00:30:32] >> Pure. Stricker and Kelly, co-leaders once again at 8-under-par.

[00:30:41] >> Now Kelly to regain the outright lead.

[00:30:48] >> Kelly trying for his sixth birdie on the round, gets it to go. Par 3 15th, and it will be Steven Alker first to go, coming off a birdie on the previous hole.

[00:31:09] >> Every bit of a birdie. Back to back. Alker to 7-under.

[00:31:14] >> He is two back of Jerry Kelly now, tied for third with David Toms.

[00:31:18] >> Not bad to the 17th, Miguel Ángel Jiménez for birdie.

[00:31:24] >> Coming down the hill pretty quick, Jerry Kelly an interested bystander, trying to take a look at the speed.

[00:31:29] >> Well he got a good tee if nothing else.

[00:31:32] >> Hasn't had many birdies today but a nice one on the 17th for Jiménez.

[00:31:44] >> Flag out for Cejka, here we go.

[00:31:46] >> Can he make it two in a row? This for birdie, Cejka and Alker heating up!

[00:31:56] >> Both these guys now at 7-under-par, two back of the leader, Jerry Kelly and made the very birdie-able par-5 16th. Next.

[00:32:06] >> Time for some wedge work with Alex Cejka on the 16th.

[00:32:10] >> Now he does spin his wages somewhat, let's see if this one works its way around. Yep, there you go, very nice.

[00:32:18] >> That's pretty.

[00:32:24] >> Up on the 18th green, Jerry Kelly for par and a round of 65. Ties the low round of the day, 9-under.

[00:32:36] >> Cejka, tied on 16. He is really heating up, birdies on 14, 15, and 16, 8-under, one back of the leader.

[00:32:49] >> Birdie putt for Ernie Els on 18.

[00:32:51] >> Down the hill, right to left for Ernie, a big crowd here at 18. He likes to show off.

[00:32:57] >> Oh, it really turned more than he played it. If he'd had a little more speed, he makes that putt. I like the way he's putting. If the driver behaves tomorrow for Ernie, look out.

[00:33:10] >> Be the third straight round in the 60s for Ernie Els.

[00:33:17] >> Cejka's left but he's in the fairway, which means he can control it and turn it over if he needs to.

[00:33:22] >> And it was actually it rattled off the trees in the left rough into the fairway. You know it's your day when you're getting those type of breaks.

[00:33:29] >> Yeah, and he should be able to turn this with no problem. May have overcooked it, let's see. No he didn't, wow! Just flagged it, beautiful shot. Finish it on a heater here is Alex Cejka.

[00:33:46] >> Looks like this youngster is more dialed into his own game. Not too focused on the leaderboard here at the Bridgestone Senior Players.

[00:33:58] >> Alex Cejka to tie for the lead.

[00:34:03] >> Delicate putt. Just gets it in! Cejka to 9-under-par, tied for the lead with Jerry Kelly. Turns in a round of 67.

[00:34:17] >> Kelly and Cejka, two clear of Stricker and Alker as you look at the leaderboard, Lenny.

[00:34:22] >> Oh, like what's there, I mean Stricker's there, Alker's there, Ernie Els is there, Jerry Kelly, we got some guys that know how to win right at the top.

[00:34:36] >> The iconic water tower a landmark here at Firestone Country Club, been a familiar sight in the skyline dating all the way back to 1958. The stunning 54 hole property has played host to so many big events over the years. Today it's a major Sunday on the PGA Tour Champions, the par-5 16th, the hole Arnold Palmer called a "monster," could go a long way in deciding who will emerge as champion and add their name to the long and storied history here on the south course. Here's where we stand; Alex Cejka 1-under through six, he's at 10-under-par. Steve Stricker off to a hot start, 2-under on his round. Just a shot back, Jerry Kelly was a co-leader going into Sunday, a little sluggish, 1-ov through six. Steven Alker, who's the Charles Schwab Cup leader at the moment, two shots back. Cejka to stay in the lead.

[00:35:39] >> Here at 9 he's over on the left hand side.

[00:35:41] >> That's a birdie roll from Steven Alker.

[00:35:43] >> He makes it, he's made two big ones so far today. Made a couple bogeys, but the man is resilient. He comes back.

[00:35:52] >> Let's go to the other side of the course, on the 10th, Woody Austin for par.

[00:35:56] >> Pretty straight look here for Woody. No problems.

[00:36:05] >> Back on the 9th.

[00:36:09] >> Normally he wouldn't play this shot that high, particularly coming up the slope. That's really well done and good imagination right there by Cejka. That is not your traditional way to play that shot.

[00:36:22] >> Rare occurrence for Ernie Els is a second shot from the fairway.

[00:36:25] >> A hundred and thirty-one yards, play is 7 yards uphill, it is a small shelf on the back part of this green to get it to. Don't want to miss it right. Oh boy.

[00:36:34] >> Wow.

[00:36:35] >> He did not miss it right. He almost flew it in the hole, and great shot there by Ernie, he's got about 5 feet.

[00:36:41] >> A hair peppering it here, that's for sure. Boy, those are two beauties and so we're looking at just kind of a comfy 9-iron back into about a 5 mile an hour wind or so, not a lot.

[00:36:52] >> Two good visuals for Alker.

[00:36:54] >> Sure is. That's going a little bit lower and to the left, just a horrendous shot, guys.

[00:37:02] >> Good lead for Alker, putting straight up the hill, the putt we saw earlier that Rob Labritz had.

[00:37:14] >> Rob Labritz on the 12th for birdie.

[00:37:37] >> You hear those footsteps? Back to back birdies for Steven Alker, now 9-under, one back of the leader.

[00:37:42] >> Ernie needs this one, this is only about 4 feet.

[00:37:49] >> This will leak a little right.

[00:37:52] >> He's got to have it outside the hole, he got it out there, oh, he got in. Proper pace to that in. That was really well done.

[00:38:07] >> Els at 8-under, tied for third with Steven Alker and Jerry Kelly, a shot back of them was David Toms on the 13th.

[00:38:14] >> Robbery. That went down in and came out.

[00:38:19] >> Back to Stricker on 11.

[00:38:20] >> The lie's not nearly as good, sitting down a little. He's trying to hook it but I don't think he can make it out of that lie. Yeah he did, what a shot! Wow.

[00:38:30] >> And he got a left bounce to go with it.

[00:38:33] >> That is tremendous from Stricker. In there close, Stricker can walk off the 11th green with a one shot lead in his title defense at the Bridgestone Senior Players.

[00:38:45] >> Kelly got lucky, he caught an opening.

[00:38:47] >> He hasn't made a single birdie, just can't get anything to drop. But still just two off the lead. How do you ignite something?

[00:38:54] >> You just, you just keep grinding. You just keep grinding and you take a little bit of solace and happiness knowing that you're not doing your best, I mean look at this shot right here, all the sudden he's got nothing and he stuffs it. That's incredible. But he's also got to feel positive that he's done nothing and yet, they're not running off and leaving him.

[00:39:22] >> Ernie's second intermediate cut. Our tracker presented by TrackMan, presented by Westfield.

[00:39:29] >> He got a great bounce out of the primary route just to give himself this chance. Nice high, towering shot, taking advantage.

[00:39:35] >> Yeah, he had to go flag hunting, he did. That's just a great play by Ernie.

[00:39:44] >> This would be fitting, Stricker and Kelly, the last two champions of the Bridgestone Senior Players. Kelly now with this putt to grab a share of the lead.

[00:39:53] >> What a moments swing that is.

[00:39:55] >> Just a great second shot by Kelly, setting up his first birdie of the day.

[00:40:02] >> Two Wisconsin guys playing a little golf. Steven Alker.

[00:40:09] >> He's made some long putts today, but I don't think he's made one this long yet. Tough driving hole then a really tough hole location today over on this right side.

[00:40:19] >> Alker's birdie roll on the way.

[00:40:21] >> Oh my!

[00:40:21] >> Oh! What about that?

[00:40:23] >> I think he found his range, it's over 20 feet. That's what he's done today. He has made some big boy putts.

[00:40:31] >> Steven Alker to 9-under-par. We have three tied for the lead. This is getting good here in Akron.

[00:40:59] >> Els in there close for border up ahead on the 14th green.

[00:41:02] >> Yeah, great look here after that great approach. Sometimes you just need a good break, that break off the tee to just keep it in that first cut is huge.

[00:41:12] >> Jump up to the 17th, Woody Austin. He's got to turn it in a nice uphill look, moving to his right. Yes.

[00:41:20] >> Nice week, Austin with the birdie, 1-under on his round. He's at 5-under, inside the top 10.

[00:41:26] >> How's the lie here, Phil, is this hole-able?

[00:41:31] >> It's better than it looks. It's sitting down a little bit this wispy grass, it's not bad.

[00:41:41] >> Very well done, great touch from Kelly.

[00:41:46] >> Breathe a little sigh of relief there.

[00:41:54] >> Jerry Kelly tapped in, so he is at 9-under still, tied with Steven Alker.

[00:41:59] >> The door is open here for Steven Alker.

[00:42:02] >> Seventy-five yards though, Lenny, that's obviously not a full 60.

[00:42:05] >> Yeah, he spins it plenty though. Case and point.

[00:42:10] >> Beautiful.

[00:42:13] >> Steven Alker on the green in three, birdie putt to grab the lead at the Bridgestone Senior Players.

[00:42:28] >> Where Steven Alker, is this the moment where he takes control of this tournament?

[00:42:32] >> It wouldn't surprise me, he's got a great track record of doing it this year.

[00:42:36] >> He's got this to go 300 for the day, I mean pretty incredible. A little right to left and let's see if he gets enough speed on it.

[00:42:44] >> Didn't--

[00:42:44] >> Not high enough.

[00:42:45] >> -- or enough speed. It's back uphill at the end, hard to believe that but it is. From the front edge down to the hole is downhill. But coming off the lake, and not many lakes do that, usually they go uphill.

[00:43:02] >> Kelly and Alker still tied at 9-under-par.

[00:43:08] >> Jump to the 18th, Woody Austin wrapping up his week.

[00:43:11] >> Every hole Woody's got a little makeable one for birdie, what a finish for Woody Austin. Great playing.

[00:43:18] >> Woody Austin with birdies on 16, 17, and 18. Ernie, dead center of the fairway.

[00:43:26] >> Garden spot for sure, slight upslope, only 107 yards if you count the uphill. [inaudible] and a wedge, better than the last hole.

[00:43:36] >> Good shot by Ernie. Needed one of those on 16.

[00:43:53] >> Kelly for second birdie on the day, to grab a one shot lead!

[00:44:03] >> Kelly at 10-under-par.

[00:44:10] >> Swing it back up to the green, Ernie Els for birdie.

[00:44:12] >> What's going on in his mind here? Got to just keep trusting the belief of what you had in your putting all week long. It's a little left to right, Lenny.

[00:44:20] >> Yeah, any chance at all for Ernie, he's got to make this.

[00:44:27] >> Ernie responds after bogeying the 16th with a birdie on the 17th. He's at 8-under. Final stretch at the Bridgestone Senior Players here in Akron. Stricker two back on the 17th. Put some heat on Kelly.

[00:44:41] >> Has to dial it in with his distance. Good looking shot.

[00:44:45] >> With a hop. Take that ground fade. Jerry Kelly just saw Steve Stricker put one in there close.

[00:44:57] >> From 129 yards, a steep uphill lie, don't spin it back too much.

[00:45:02] >> He did not, that was a beautiful shot there by Jerry Kelly. Ernie Els, this needs to go down for even a whiff of a chance.

[00:45:12] >> Big swinger from left to right, downhill to start and then kind of flattens at the very end. Left that a little short but still a lot of positives to take out of the week for Ernie as he goes overseas.

[00:45:28] >> So Ernie to post 8-under for the week, will be his best career finish in an event at Firestone. Had never finished inside the top five before, Ernie solo fourth at the Bridgestone Senior Players.

[00:45:44] >> That in itself is surprising, as much as he's played here, it just looks like a course that really should suit him.

[00:46:00] >> Kelly's not done yet. So Alker needs to make this putt.

[00:46:02] >> Alker to post 68.

[00:46:06] >> Plus there's a lot of money still riding on the line and he's leading the Schwab Cup with a chance to pad that lead.

[00:46:15] >> So Lenny, what, he kind of had a chance there. Because 45 minutes ago, what do you take out of this if you're Steven Alker?

[00:46:23] >> I think you take out that I did not have my best stuff. I was more inconsistent with my ball striking and putting than I've been in quite some time, and I still almost won the golf tournament. So I think the fact that he knows he can play with these guys and when he has his best stuff, he's going to be taking them down.

[00:46:45] >> Alker bogeys the last, final round 69.

[00:46:50] >> And he shot under 70 every day here at Firestone, that in itself is a remarkable accomplishment.

[00:46:56] >> First time playing.

[00:46:57] >> If it's 140, so if you're doing special then I like it.

[00:47:11] >> Just [inaudible] to stay short of the right bunkers and leaves him in the center of the green which would be a nice play I would think.

[00:47:17] >> Oh, nice one there.

[00:47:19] >> Left it out right.

[00:47:20] >> Wanted to crank it around the corner so bad.

[00:47:24] >> Why would you be trying to do that?

[00:47:27] >> Yeah, well the other thing, I mean he's left it now, I mean three putt's a legitimate prospect right now.

[00:47:44] >> Jerry Kelly up by two. Trying to win this event for the second time in three years. The thought process, Lenny, when you just need two putts to close out the tournament.

[00:47:58] >> Get two putts. Plain and simple. You try and get the pace correct. He's got to go up there and figure out, if you get the pace correct, he's probably reading it well enough, he shouldn't be more than a couple feet from the hole. So it's all about pace right now.

[00:48:15] >> What's he showed you on this back nine?

[00:48:17] >> Oh a lot of character, I mean he's the one guy that's been hitting fairway after fairway, he's played some great iron shots, hung tough, hasn't been afraid. Right when he gets to kind of this kind of crunch time and you've got a long putt, it's like your senses and your touch and your feel are heightened even more than the regular part of the round. I think the winners, they just get a little heightened and they can really feel the situation. You don't get ahead of yourself. I don't think the good players never get ahead of themselves.

[00:49:01] >> Kelly, two-shot lead for birdie.

[00:49:03] >> Get in the hole!

[00:49:12] >> Two-putt for the win! Good job!

[00:49:17] >> Hasn't completely closed the door on Stricker.

[00:49:20] >> I mean that's just barely okay. That's, he should have been able to get it closer than that.

[00:49:41] >> Can Cejka birdie the last?

[00:49:43] >> I think he's got to be disappointed. He played a lot of good quality golf and putter really let him down I think early yesterday and then today.

[00:50:06] >> When you total it up it's a 73 for Cejka. Stricker will finish up and get out of the way. Sixty-eight for Stricker.

[00:50:24] >> Good playing. Really good playing.

[00:50:26] >> Comes up just a little short in his title defense at the Bridgestone Senior Players.

[00:50:40] >> Jerry Kelly would like to make this but he doesn't want anything more than about an inch to tap in. Making it takes care of everything. There you go!

[00:50:58] >> For the second time in three years, Jerry Kelly is your Bridgestone Senior Players Champion.

[00:51:06] >> Kelly goes 3-under the final six holes to win by two.

[00:51:12] >> We just felt like some [inaudible], George, there were just too many good players at the lead that somebody had to take this thing by the throat and get it done and Jerry Kelly is the man.

[00:51:31] >> Kelly's par on the last. A final round 68 and the celebration, that's now ten wins in his career on the PGA Tour Champions and his second major. Final look at the leaderboard, what impressed you the most from Jerry Kelly?

[00:51:47] >> Well, the tenacity and the grit. I mean he just stayed after it. He's learning how to really get it done.