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[00:00:31] >> Downtown Detroit, the Motor City, home to four professional sports teams. Just about 50 miles north of downtown is the home of PGA TOUR Champions this week, Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club. The opening round of the ally challenge presented by McLaren. Woody Austin, winner on this golf course in 1995. He was the Rookie of the Year on the Tour, one of four players at five under par. And a bunched-up leaderboard here early in our first round coverage. And we'll go to the 12th. Jerry Kelly will be first play and Billy Ray is down there with this group.

[00:01:16] >> Well, thank you, Swanee. Perfect day to play, light breezes. That was from 92 yards there for Jerry Kelly. Made a birdie at the 10th to get back to even par.

[00:01:32] >> You may have just heard a roar coming from the area around 17 where you're going to hear plenty of roars in this electric atmosphere this week. And it was Tom Byram for birdie.

[00:01:40] >> About 35 feet, turning left to right pretty hard.

[00:01:48] >> Padraig Harrington just mauled one here. And he was about 50 past everybody in route to the title last week of Dick's Sporting Goods.

[00:01:53] >> Well, Padraig's got a lot of distance, particularly when he wants it. He's got a whole different gear. And this is a hole he was going after. And I'll be curious -- I'm assuming this is his tee shot right up here, just short of the bunker. Really well done.

[00:02:20] >> Out to the 13, Mike Weir who was in the hunt to win in Endicott, New York last week, finishing second. He's at 4-under.

[00:02:27] >> Coming out of the right rough, and plenty of room to work with. A really nice shot there by Mike. Padraig Harrington played a wonderful second, now about four or five feet for his birdie here at the 12th.

[00:02:49] >> Third birdie of the round for Harrington. Scorecard clean through the first dozen holes for the Irishman. All three players in here are close. Harrington made his birdie just a moment ago, and Jerry Kelly takes care of that one. We're at the par-5 13th. Ernie will play his third.

[00:03:11] >> Coming out of the short rough, should be able to slide the club underneath it. Oh, that's so well done. Beautiful play there by Ernie Els. That was not that easy.

[00:03:22] >> At 15, this is Scott Perel, a chance to get his nose in front at 6-under.

[00:03:27] >> Well, we looked at this hole today. This is a heck of an iron shot in here by Parel to get it that close at 15. That's a tough hole location on the back right, and great birdie there on probably the toughest hole in the course.

[00:03:42] >> Ernie missed one from just about this length back at 11 that cost him a shot.

[00:03:46] >> Gets the one for birdie here at 13, though.

[00:03:50] >> Six birdies on the round for Els, and he joins the other leaders at 5-under. To the home hole. Good finishing hole, this par-4. Woody Austin a shot off the lead.

[00:04:03] >> Good driving hole, the 18th. You've got out of bounds left, trouble up the right-hand side. Good tee shot by Woody. Hole all the way in the back left today, and Woody takes it on. What a great play that was, beautiful iron shot.

[00:04:21] >> Quickly back to 13. Here comes to third for Furyk.

[00:04:27] >> Good shot by Jim, just underneath the flag, about 10 to 12 feet.

[00:04:36] >> Woody Austin looking to close it out with a birdie today.

[00:04:38] >> Got to take advantage of a shot like that. And he does. Great round of golf there by Woody Austin on a course he dearly loves. Almost got a smile from Woody there with that round of 66.

[00:04:54] >> Former FedEx Cup champ Jim Furyk, he's got this one for birdie.

[00:05:04] >> Great putt there by Jim Furyk after missing a couple of really makable ones the previous holes.

[00:05:16] >> Check in on Stephen Ames, our first look at the Canadian today looking for birdie back at 14.

[00:05:21] >> Pretty good look from about 15 feet, and he buries it. Stephen Ames gets to 4 under par. He's just playing really nice golf week in and week out.

[00:05:34] >> Ernie next back at 17. 139, probably pitching wedge for Ernie -- maybe a little nine. That was a big swing. I'm guessing pitching wedge, trying to take this flag on. Should spin -- oh, it didn't spin. I thought it would spin, as hard as he hit that.

[00:05:54] >> Back at 16, Furyk stepping in for his third at the par-5. Excellent shot in there by Furyk, gets it in there about five feet. That's a beautiful wedge shot.

[00:06:16] >> Back at 18, Alex Cejka just off the edge of the green here.

[00:06:19] >> Yeah, the second cut of rough. Got to try and carry this on the putting surface. He does. And pretty good result there for Alex.

[00:06:28] >> How about three in a row to close it out? 33 on the back coming in for 69 for Cejka today. Kelly at 16.

[00:06:41] >> From the left-hand side of the fairway, perfect angle, 96 yards.

[00:06:44] >> And he took advantage of it, Billy Ray. The lie, the soft greens are the angle stuff that one. Good shot, Jerry Kelly.

[00:06:56] >> Els in search of a birdie of his own.

[00:06:58] >> A little bit on the downhill side, so gotta watch speed a little bit for Ernie. Do it. Oh, that's rude.

[00:07:11] >> Man, that caught a lot of hole, going a very nice pace. That could easily have gone down.

[00:07:17] >> Got some sharp edges around this place.

[00:07:19] >> That's a few rude lip outs we've seen today.

[00:07:21] >> We have seen several of those, yes we have.

[00:07:28] >> And now Furyk. Can't be much in this. Good putt there but Jim.

[00:07:40] >> It looks like he's very in control of his golf game right now. Just 2-under, but looking like the Jim Furyk of old, so to speak.

[00:07:55] >> Let's see if we can get a birdie here at 17th. Stricker will have a chance.

[00:08:02] >> Oh yeah, beautiful. That rolled in perfect pace.

[00:08:06] >> Two birdies on each side of the golf course for Stricker. Mike weir for a par at the last.

[00:08:18] >> Boy he has made nothing. We have seen him hit about four or five putts this nine, and hasn't even touched the hole yet.

[00:08:26] >> 31 putts for the Canadian. He'll sign for 70 today. And Kelly gets ready to step in here at the par-3.

[00:08:36] >> Yeah, Lanny, the build out wasn't like that, but they were certainly loud back in the day. But you get on this par-3 and look at the hole location, you're thinking one.

[00:08:46] >> Tracer technology presented by TrackMan.

[00:08:49] >> Yeah, we never saw it at 139. It played considerably longer. That's an excellent play by Jerry Kelly.

[00:09:00] >> Stricker has this one left for his par at the home hole.

[00:09:02] >> Not a particularly good chip shot after bouncing off the grandstand. But good save.

[00:09:08] >> Two under par round at 70 to begin the week for Stricker.

[00:09:14] >> Ames with an opportunity to move to 5-under.

[00:09:18] >> About 25 feet up and moving right to left. Yeah. Oh, tried to get out of again. Good putt, Stephen.

[00:09:29] >> On the move at minus-5.

[00:09:34] >> Here's Langer for birdie at 16, had a run of three straight earlier on this side, starting back at 12.

[00:09:43] >> Look at the backside. He's brought it all the way back, four birdies on the second nine to get it to 2-under. Jim Furyk had this one down the slope. This is quick, moving a little left to right.

[00:10:00] >> Oh yeah, do it. Getting them revved up here at 17.

[00:10:07] >> They are.

[00:10:14] >> Runner-up and three third-place finishes on the season for Ames who is in the conversation seemingly every week out here. To get within one of Fred Funk. Birdie at last. 66 for Stephen Ames.

[00:10:33] >> Pretty sporty back nine, four birdies including 17 and 18.

[00:10:48] >> Good look here for Steven.

[00:10:49] >> Good to see him out at the Boeing classic a couple of weeks ago where he had to qualify just to get into the event a year ago. And what we've seen since then has just that astounding. Four victories and more than $4 million in earnings. A birdie at the last for Alker.

[00:11:08] >> And he gets right in the mix, 4-under. That's right there.

[00:11:13] >> 37th last week at the Dick's Sporting Goods, a pedestrian finished by his standards. And a fist bump from those two. Good to be part of the conversation here this week for sure. Fred Funk will carry the lead into Saturday's second round. Woody Austin, 1995 Buick Open champion here at Warwick Hills, one of three players at minus-6 including Stephen Ames, who birdie the last. All the others looking to keep touch here after a day of work, the 19th event of the PGA TOUR Champions season. Joe Durant, the defending champion, kicks off the title defense with a 3 under par round of 69 today. And we welcome you to Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club in Grand Blanc, Michigan and Golf Channel's second round coverage of the Ally Challenge, the 19th event of the season along the road to the Charles Schwab Cup. Final group of the day, Fred funk, Woody Austin and Brett Quigley.

[00:12:21] >> Perfect conditions today, just light winds. Recent rains on Thursday evening softened the golf course. That was from 98 yards there.

[00:12:31] >> Quality shot there for Fred Funk, right underneath the hole. He's got a good look, about eight feet for birdie.

[00:12:37] >> We'll catch up on some of the earlier highlights happening out there on the golf course. Steve Stricker for birdie here at 16.

[00:12:42] >> Yeah, really had it going and taking advantage of the par-5, about eight feet there. Stricker had everything working today.

[00:12:49] >> Led by one at 10-under at that point, but in the very next group was Scott Dunlap.

[00:12:54] >> Talk about a guy who had everything going on, some quality iron shots by Scott Dunlap. He is a terrific iron player. Has the putter working today, very nice.

[00:13:03] >> One back when he came to 17 and he was about to tie for the lead after this beautiful tee shot.

[00:13:08] >> Yeah, swinging nicely. Just 155 yards here at 17 today, and he goes flag hunting. Puts it there hole high, got about an eight-footer that works a little right to left.

[00:13:18] >> He wasn't done yet. One more for Dunlap at the final hole today.

[00:13:23] >> Yeah, again another quality iron shot inside 10 feet. Look where he keeps hitting iron after iron. These are all makable, and Scott's got the putter working.

[00:13:33] >> 63 ties Scott McCaren's 18-hole tournament scoring mark here established in the second round back in 2018. That has Scott Dunlap at the top of the leaderboard by one over Stricker, who signed for 64 Today. Back at the 12th and Funk trying to follow up that round of 65 yesterday which easily was his low round of the year.

[00:13:58] >> Yeah. Certainly, talking to him earlier today, he basically said that's the first time he shot his age competitively. Now this putt coming back up the hill. It will try to turn just a little bit to the left at the end once it's losing speed.

[00:14:16] >> Had a shorter putt than this on the last hole for par. And just weak effort there by Fred.

[00:14:21] >> That was a misread by me there. That ball actually turned a little bit to the right at the end.

[00:14:38] >> If he hit that, he's got it on line. Just not enough pace.

[00:14:42] >> Just 15 birdies converted here on 15 through the first couple of rounds. It's been the most difficult hole on the golf course. 33 bogeys or higher have been induced here, so four is certainly acceptable. And you see Ernie really kicked it into a different gear after the turn. He's hanging around at 9-under. This was the birdie back at 10.

[00:15:01] >> Yeah, and to my point, he's making some putts that are going in great pace like that one at 10.

[00:15:08] >> And then the first of three in a row starting here at the 12th.

[00:15:10] >> Well, this is what you're supposed to do at 12. Get it in there for a good solid look. He does, beautiful stroke. The putter is starting to come alive for Ernie.

[00:15:21] >> 12 and 14, a couple of short par-4's you got to pounce on.

[00:15:24] >> Yeah, he drove it right to the front edge of 14, and just a pitch shot for Ernie. And almost holes it for eagle too.

[00:15:35] >> Meanwhile, Harrington at work here at 16.

[00:15:43] >> Pretty good look coming down the slope here for Padraig. Well done. Comes up just a little short, but nice play.

[00:15:53] >> This was Austin for birdie at 13.

[00:15:55] >> Needs to get this on down. He does. Doesn't want to let 13 get away. Woody buried it. That's a good -- that's what you're supposed to do at 12 and 13. Good birdies for Woody there.

[00:16:06] >> Now we'll catch back up live with Quigley here.

[00:16:09] >> Really quick coming back down the hill for Quigley. It will move from left to right, just gets it started. As you would say, Lanny, holing speed there.

[00:16:19] >> Yeah, he just dripped that in. That was nice.

[00:16:21] >> Back at 16, Harrington with a birdie look.

[00:16:24] >> Yeah, fitted his second shot over the green, nice chip back. And slick little put. Gotta be careful. Nice hole for Padraig.

[00:16:35] >> Back to 17 where Els missed the green a little bit earlier.

[00:16:38] >> This is a quick little pitch coming down the slope. Oh, I thought he made it. What a great try.

[00:16:50] >> And chance for a birdie too here at 17.

[00:16:51] >> Padraig making himself a fixture at the top of the leaderboard. This putt is quick at the hole and going to go left. This whole green slopes back to front. Padraig being careful with it, and there it goes left. Just -- that was a defensive stroke there by Padraig. He knew that one could get away.

[00:17:15] >> So par at 17 for Harrington, keeps him at 10-under. And one back. The 14th, and here's Austin now.

[00:17:29] >> Woody's doing what you're supposed to do. He birdied 12, birdied 13, now 12 feet at 14. And he has one more. And that's exactly what you have to do with the tough 15th coming up.

[00:17:45] >> Up to 18, Steven Alker looking to salvage par, get him in the house at 8-under.

[00:17:54] >> Didn't want to let one get away there. He just got close to the leaders at 8 under par. That's a big putt to stay right in touch.

[00:18:00] >> Matching rounds of 68 to start the week for the Schwab Cup points leader.

[00:18:08] >> Back to 17, Shane Bertsch coming out of the bunker.

[00:18:11] >> Looks like it did not bury, so this is doable. I would say, great play. Very nice.

[00:18:19] >> Looks like it's good enough to keep Bertsch at 9 under par.

[00:18:23] >> To 16, Ken Duke in search of a birdie at the par-5.

[00:18:30] >> Just outside the right edge, makes that. Beautiful putt there by Ken.

[00:18:35] >> Three in a four-hole span for the former champion in Hartford on the PGA Tour. Duke to 7-under. Just a short one for Bertsch to clean up back here at 17. Nice up and in from the bunker. Bertsch 5-under for the day, 9-under for the tournament. And Els looking to close out his Saturday afternoon with a birdie.

[00:18:58] >> Ernie can be dangerous from this length. His stroke stays nice and long. Hit that one pretty firm. Oh, he burned it. Great try.

[00:19:19] >> Harrington a little deep with his approach into the 18th.

[00:19:22] >> A good yard over the green. He might have this right, though. Just tailed off at the end. That was a great try. Bogey-free through the opening 36 holes. Harrington will tap in for 66, two better yesterday. And in the house at minus-10 and a late tee time on Sunday. Back to 17, Dick Frost with a brilliant shot a moment ago. Here's Scott Parel.

[00:19:54] >> A guy that likes to work it right to left. Gotta love seeing this hole location if you're Scott Parel. And he does, beautiful play.

[00:20:09] >> Ernie with a couple of feet to clean up here at the last. Able to shake that one in. He's in at minus-9.

[00:20:31] >> Now Funk coming off just the back edge of the green for birdie. Thought he made it. Just went right at the end to miss.

[00:20:39] >> He thought he made it as well.

[00:20:46] >> Scott Parel for a birdie too, and then David Frost inside of him at 17.

[00:20:50] >> Probably a left edge putt, maybe left inside here for Parel. But he's got to keep the pace up. It's a little uphill at the end. Didn't do it. Didn't hit it firm enough.

[00:21:03] >> Suffering through a miserable day, 4-over for Parel after opening at 67. Funk's comebacker for par here.

[00:21:10] >> Yeah, just enough left, Lanny, to get your attention.

[00:21:13] >> Yeah, it's a good three feet, uphill. Got to stay still and hit these solid. He does.

[00:21:25] >> Stephen Ames had a pretty sporty up and in to save par at 17. Looking to do the same here at the home hole.

[00:21:31] >> Yeah, that's two good saves, finishing off the day shooting his age, keeping him right in the hunt at 9-under.

[00:21:44] >> Bringing the final group home here on this Saturday at the Ally Challenge presented by McLaren, Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club.

[00:21:59] >> Pretty well done right there.

[00:22:00] >> That was an interesting technique.

[00:22:02] >> Yeah, he about cut the legs out from under that trying to spin it a little bit. It just turned on him.

[00:22:20] >> Actually, it went a little bit back to the left.

[00:22:22] >> Yeah, I think he got it further out than he meant to, and it just really kind of stayed there, didn't it?

[00:22:28] >> It's a tough day for Fred. Lipped out a short one back at 17, made bogey there. There were four on the scorecard today, and that will be 75. That shot's higher than yesterday for the oldest ever winner of the Players Championship, one of his eight titles on the PGA tour.

[00:22:48] >> It would be a good save for Brett Quigley here getting this up and down. Not a good tee shot. Second over the green in the back bunker, then nice bunker shot to here.

[00:22:59] >> Part at the last.

[00:23:07] >> Bogey-free round today for Quigley. And he's in at 10 under par. So the lead belongs to Scott Dunlap, 63 today, lower out of the week, low round in tournament history. Steve Stricker got to be pretty satisfied with his 64, and he is positioned to strike and win on Sunday. And we welcome you to Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club, Grand Blanc, Michigan, Golf Channel's final round coverage of the Ally Challenge presented by McLaren. I'm John Squanteck, World Golf Hall of Famer Lanny Wadkins is alongside. Some highlights from earlier today. Steve Stricker bunkered at 7.

[00:23:51] >> Yeah, two big shots by Stricker to get in the bunker in two, and that's lovely. That's a great shot, would lead to birdie four there for Strick.

[00:24:00] >> Got him to minus-12. Scott Dunlap is in the final group with Stricker.

[00:24:03] >> Hit his third over the green. Hey, Scott, take it, man. You've hit better ones that haven't gone in. It's okay, it's a birdie.

[00:24:13] >> 13-under, led by one. Ernie Els trying to make a little push. This one took a while to find the bottom at 9.

[00:24:20] >> That was Ernie hiding behind the caddies, but yes, the putter is starting to come alive for the big man.

[00:24:26] >> Had a share of the lead at 13-under at that point, and now the lead belongs to Els alone, looking for victory number three out here on PGA TOUR Champions on the final day of the Ally Challenge.

[00:24:42] >> Huge putt here for Stricker. I mean, you lose this, you make bogey here and in your mind you feel like you may double. You've lost two shots to the field.

[00:24:52] >> Well, Lanny, this is a good 12 feet here, this putt. The breeze is actually coming from right to left. It's really to the point now it might factor in a bit. Could be a big boost for his confidence. Kind of a weak effort.

[00:25:15] >> Final group making an absolute hash of the 12th, a short par-4. Two of them make bogey. Stricker a little dejected as he exits the green.

[00:25:25] >> Birdie attempt for Els up ahead. This one is lightning fast.

[00:25:28] >> It is, right around the hole. He's got to be careful with this. I think if this goes in, it needs to just fall in with its last turn. That's way too hard, Ernie.

[00:25:47] >> Jim Furyk, a champion here at Warwick Hills a couple of years ago, finishing up his week here.

[00:25:52] >> Great hole location here at 18, over in the back right. And Jim takes it on. That is really well done. Beautiful shot.

[00:26:03] >> Maggert with his hands full here at 17.

[00:26:07] >> Boy, this is not much here. Anything within ten feet would be an excellent play here. Oh, that's a lovely play there by Maggert. That's really, really well done. Not sure he could have done much better than that.

[00:26:20] >> We move to 18 and Furyk for a closing birdie.

[00:26:25] >> Right edge putt for Jimmy. No problem.

[00:26:27] >> One of six players to have won the Buick open here.

[00:26:40] >> I think a lot of times when we see Stricker with these wedges, we know he takes a lot of the spin off this, his really dead hand shot. I think this will be very good for him, but he'll definitely try to bring this ball in a little bit from right to left. Flipped it nicely.

[00:27:00] >> They get better and better.

[00:27:05] >> 17, what a par save this would be for Maggert.

[00:27:08] >> Got to be right -- oh, that is one really good putt. Can he birdie 18 and post? You know, I think Dunlap was hoping his was up there. I think Harrington thought his was. And let's see what Stricker does. Of course he is the best putter of the three by far. I think being a little shorter here, Billy Ray, he can actually give it a little bit more pace.

[00:27:48] >> A little different angle as well. Not as much break.

[00:28:00] >> And Stricker to 12-under, competing in the last group of the final round for the fourth time this season. John Huston for birdie at the last to get in at 10-under.

[00:28:13] >> Yeah, one of the great comebacks this year, great seeing John play well. The way he's starting to roll this ball, he might get a win here soon.

[00:28:21] >> Yeah. Beautiful putt there. Great round of golf.

[00:28:24] >> Had it to 11-under, then doubled 17, but a strong finishing kick for Johnny Ray.

[00:28:29] >> This one's holeable right here.

[00:28:31] >> Oh, very holeable. I mean, this may be more holeable than the putt that our man Stricker has, quite honestly. Pretty well done. Makes for an easy birdie.

[00:28:51] >> So that will get Harrington back to minus-12. Eagled the opening hole and then a string of pars all the way through the 11th. Dropped one at 12, but he'll regain it here. Trying to become the first player out here in five years to go back-to-back in successive weeks. We'll go ahead and formalize it. That's a birdie for the Irishman. US Senior Open champion, been an absolute force out here at the age of 50. He is chomping at the bit.

[00:29:49] >> Did he hit it? I would have liked to have seen him give that one a run. Don't get many chances for twos on par-4's.

[00:30:03] >> Jeff Maggart, 12 under par, drove it in the right-hand rough at 18.

[00:30:08] >> Makes it really difficult to go right at the flag. He'd like to get it in hole high left of the flag. And that's pretty much what he did. That's a pretty good play from the right rough. That's not bad. He's got to look.

[00:30:31] >> So a birdie back at 13 and another one for Stricker here, so he jumps to 13 under. The 55-year-old trying to win for the ninth time out here in just 44 starts on PGA TOUR Champions. Up ahead and a rangey birdie putt for Els.

[00:30:47] >> Well, he's missed all the little ones. Maybe he can get a long one to go. Right on track.

[00:30:57] >> Costly stretch at 12 and 13, dropped three shots across those two holes. Now Maggert for a back-9 30 to post 13-under.

[00:31:05] >> Needs this one to go in to have any kind of chance. Oh, and he gets it. Jeff Maggert, what a closing birdie. What a run to the finish for Mags.

[00:31:21] >> Par-4 15th, Dunlap for birdie.

[00:31:23] >> Down the slope. This is doable. Come on, Scott. You need one. Yes, good putt. He's missed too many short putts, had to have something go in.

[00:31:33] >> First birdie since the 7th hole for Dunlap.

[00:31:42] >> We'll go to 17. Long birdie attempt here.

[00:31:46] >> Yeah, David Toms is up the slope here, moving right to left.

[00:31:54] >> Just pours one in. That'll get them jumping around there at 17.

[00:32:03] >> Stricker for another one here at 15.

[00:32:05] >> Lanny, I took a look at this putt and I gotta agree with you. I think it might go -- depending on the speed -- it might go just a hair left at the end here.

[00:32:14] >> Chance for Stricker to take control this tournament right here with the par-5 coming up. Yes, he does. Great read, Billy Ray. You finally got one right.

[00:32:28] >> Finally? I miss all the time.

[00:32:30] >> Three in a row for Stricker, gets him back up top.

[00:32:35] >> Ames with a bunch left here for par.

[00:32:37] >> Yeah, that was so quick from the back of the green.

[00:32:44] >> It'll go down as a one-putt because he was off the green, but it was a heck of a two-putt for Stephen.

[00:32:49] >> Up to 18, finish Alker out here. He started by Monday qualifying for the Boeing Classic. Last year he had no status out here at all. Since then, four victories and nearly $4 million in earnings. Els, always a threat to hole one from the bunker.

[00:33:05] >> Well, if he's going to hole one, he needs to do it right now. Hit that a little heavy.

[00:33:15] >> We'll go up ahead once again, and Quigley has this for eagle to move to 12-under.

[00:33:23] >> Might as well give it a run. Oh, and he did. What a putt by Brett Quigley.

[00:33:34] >> Don't count him out just yet. Quigley to 12-under. Jeff Maggert in the clubhouse at 13-under. And Steve Stricker, the man atop the leaderboard at minus-14.

[00:33:49] >> Ernie Els at 16 for birdie. He had four of them on the front side today, but 3 over par since the turn.

[00:33:56] >> Needs this. And that's a good stroke. Needs to birdie the last two.

[00:34:08] >> Wind howling right at Stricker's back. Down-breeze here. Trace technology presented by TrackMan.

[00:34:20] >> 295 total. He's out of that one. The only good thing is the hole location's over on the left side of the green, so he's got green to work with.

[00:34:32] >> 18, Stephen Ames a little rich with the approach shot.

[00:34:37] >> Going with putter from just off the putting surface. Keep going.

[00:34:45] >> Ames at sixth in the Schwab Cup points race, continuing to rack up high finishes. Back at the par-5 16th, how does this one look for Stricker, Billy Ray?

[00:34:53] >> Well, the ball is sitting down but on the upslope, very fortunate to avoid the bunkers. Now the issue is this ball's gonna come out a little bit hot here. He's gonna have to land this fall short. That last quarter of this screen in that back corner runs away from the player, gets really quick.

[00:35:09] >> I think being on the upslope makes it hard to get it to the hole. All in all, pretty well done there, Billy Ray.

[00:35:24] >> Yeah, not a bad play there. Had to be really careful with that.

[00:35:35] >> For now, we'll go to 17, see if Els can move to 12-under.

[00:35:38] >> Up the slope moving right to left. Didn't hit it.

[00:35:46] >> Two victories out here for a player who many thought would be a prolific champion after turning 50. Looks like Ernie's let another one go by the wayside today. There's Quigley looking to follow the eagle at 16 with a birdie here.

[00:36:02] >> Yeah, this is quick around the hole. It's gonna go to the right. Oh yes. What a read and putt by Brett Quigley.

[00:36:15] >> And Quigley one back having picked up three shots the last two holes.

[00:36:24] >> Now this putt for Stricker. You saw his pitch shot kind of come up that ridge and go back to the left. Now this is actually going to be coming just slightly back up the hill.

[00:36:40] >> Yeah, he doesn't have any pace issues here, Billy Ray. It just all of a sudden looks like his putting stroke is right on point, so it's just all about making a proper read. He's obviously gonna go a little right to left. He's got Harrington's mark there. It almost looks like to me it's in his line, Billy Ray.

[00:37:01] >> Yeah, you know, I'm not close enough. I thought that might be the issue. I thought it might be a similar -- I thought actually Harrington might have to move his mark, but not the case.

[00:37:17] >> Almost tells me Stricker's putt's gotta go a touch to the left here. Oh, all around good putt.

[00:37:30] >> Good catch.

[00:37:30] >> Make it four in a row for Stricker. And the lead becomes two at 15-under.

[00:37:44] >> It's been a stressful back nine on the greens for Harrington who has left himself at least three of these of this length for par. Handles that one for birdie. So Harrington three back, two to play. And Dunlap would get within two here.

[00:38:19] >> Yeah, that keeps Scott Dunlap in touch. I mean, he's two back. He's got a chance.

[00:38:23] >> There is a little breeze helping from right to left off this tee shot here. And if you're a right-handed player that hits a draw, which Stricker is, I love that. That's my favorite wing to play in.

[00:38:36] >> And you have so much room out to the right.

[00:38:43] >> You've been here all day watching this. I can't help but players trying to fit it in there in that bunker on that left-hand side. It's gotta be a brutal up and down. He's got to avoid that bunker left.

[00:38:52] >> He does. Maggert was there, got it up and down. We saw that -- we saw it -- I've seen a number of players surprisingly carry it all the way back to the flag. I've been kind of surprised by that. Ernie left it in the spot that I know Stricker would like to go occupy right now.

[00:39:09] >> Right there, just right at the tee. It looks like an 8-iron, Lanny, here for Stricker.

[00:39:17] >> Starts it out to the right, riding the wind a bit. Just what he needs to do there, back uphill. That's exactly what Stricker had to do with a two-shot lead.

[00:39:32] >> Go to 18, right-hand hole location, Quigley from the right-hand rough.

[00:39:35] >> Tough angle for Quigley to get this close, Swanee. I think he played the smart shot, tried to get it in hole high, very similar to the one that Jeff Maggert made.

[00:39:49] >> Steve Stricker did just what he had to do with the tee shot here at 17.

[00:39:52] >> Yeah, now he's got to get to pace correct with this putt. 30 feet up the hill, moving right to left. This is all about the pace for Strick. Oh my.

[00:40:05] >> Oh.

[00:40:05] >> He'll take it. That was dead center. He's all of a sudden feeling it with the putter. That's really well done.

[00:40:15] >> I mean, Stricker just looking to slam the door shut there on 17.

[00:40:19] >> That would have done the trick.

[00:40:24] >> What a finish this is shaping up to be here. Still two clear.

[00:40:31] >> We'll see Els first here at the home hole.

[00:40:32] >> Just over the back center of the green with his second. Little straightforward chip and run. It's quick around the hole. Pretty well done there by Ernie. Boy, he's going to have some regrets when this week's over. I still don't understand what happened to Ernie's ball at 12. I mean, he hit it in the trees to the right and just all of a sudden it's lost ball. So it's hard to understand what happened there.

[00:40:58] >> Costly stretch for Els.

[00:41:00] >> Yeah, with people in gallery and marshals and all there and nobody ever saw it, I guess. He did play his provisional. So Padraig Harrington 17 here for birdie.

[00:41:21] >> So Harrington will stay at minus-12. Quigley still has a chance to get in at 14-under here.

[00:41:29] >> Well, it's a great chance to put some heat on Steve Stricker, force him to play 18. Left to right breaker.

[00:41:35] >> One more?

[00:41:36] >> Oh, yes. Brett Quigley, what a finish.

[00:41:40] >> Eagle at 16, birdies at 17 and 18 to follow. That's a 68 for Quigley.

[00:41:46] >> Yeah, you can't finish any better than that. It's like, what happened the rest of the day?

[00:41:52] >> In position for his best finish of the season, as Ernie finishes up his week here in Grand Blanc.

[00:42:05] >> Three last shots at the 12th and 13th sealed Ernie's fate. And in position to win for the ninth time in just 44 starts after turning 50 -- that is a percentage of lifting trophies on Sunday, man.

[00:42:23] >> Yeah, and for a guy who really doesn't play every single week out here. I think only 11 or 12 starts this year, and just outstanding. He's right in the thick of it every single week. He tees it up now. I saw he's got 3-wood here at 18. He's a marvelous 3-wood player. I like this club, because I think there's less chance of this getting to the right, Swanee. I think he can aim this down the right side of the fairway, not go through the fairway, and should be able to turn it over. And he's gone to the left side of the tee to hit a little golf. And that was a good solid draw down the right side by Stricker. That's exactly the shot he was trying to hit. That's why he went with 3-wood. A little easier to control. 3-wood here for Harrington.

[00:43:31] >> Lanny, I couldn't agree with you more. This 3-wood for Harrington up the left-hand side. Look out over there, folks. Six top 10s in eight starts for Steve Stricker, marching toward career victory number nine. Brett Quigley has done all he can.

[00:43:55] >> Stricker, Billy Ray, needs to put this center of the green, maybe a little short of the flag?

[00:43:59] >> You would have to think so, Lanny. At 141, he saw the flight. He's just ahead of the shot of Dunlap, so he knows exactly what the ball is going to react to with the breeze. So I think just short and a little bit left.

[00:44:20] >> If I'm Stricker, I'm looking at that name Ally just left of the flag and I'm focusing on the y. That's my target, that's where I'm going to try and hit it. Good shot there by Stricker underneath the flag. Well played.

[00:44:58] >> Just what he was looking for. Two putts from there will get the job done for Stricker. High quality performances, high finishes week after week in limited starts. Quigley with a fantastic finish in his bid for a second victory out here.

[00:45:17] >> Well, and what Brett Quigley did is the reason you continue to stay aggressive with the lead out here. You never know when somebody's gonna get hot and post a finish like that. Stricker kept the pedal to the metal, kept trying to make birdies and rally shots. And now he's only got the one-shot lead, so it's a good thing he stayed aggressive.

[00:45:42] >> From Sarasota, Florida, Scott Dunlap. From Madison, Wisconsin, Steve Stricker. And from Ireland, Padraig Harrington.

[00:46:06] >> Pretty cool scene unfolding here at 18 as the final group makes its way up to the green. Folks here at Ally and McLaren Healthcare have done such a marvelous job staging this tournament. The fifth edition of the Ally Challenge has been a nail biter, coming right down to the wire. Steve Stricker has two putts ahead of him to secure the title. Stricker began the week at fifth in the Schwab Cup points race. Likely to stay there. Jimenez ahead of him in the points standings, has a pretty sizeable lead. A $300,000 check will be in the pocket of the champion here this week. Harrington back to work on the downslope of the bunker behind the green.

[00:47:03] >> Tough shot by Padraig here, this downslope. And can he get it to spin enough to stop it? That's really well done. Beauty.

[00:47:11] >> Wow.

[00:47:21] >> He was the last man standing a week ago in Endicott, New York. Harrington is going to come up just short this week, but continuing to prove that he is going to be a formidable force week in and week out, out here.

[00:47:32] >> Yes, he is. And if he gets his wedge and short iron game tightened up just a little bit, to go along with the length he's driving -- he needs to work on his punting speed as well. We saw that a little bit today. But all the mistakes that Padraig made, and he's still right there. So just shows the amount of talent that he possesses. Steve Stricker told Billy Ray Brown after yesterday's second round that he was hard at work on the putting green until dark in fact earlier this week on the receiving end of a putting tip from his good buddy, Jerry Kelly. Strick is usually the one, Lanny, who's doling out the putting advice.

[00:48:08] >> Yeah, he's usually helping Jerry Kelly, but I want to say Jerry Kelly and Steve's wife Nikki kind of got together, I think as kind of an intervention and got him on the putting green and said "Hey, we're going to straighten you out, big boy." And they did. And it has really paid off. He has put it beautifully yesterday, and then he's made everything he's looked at that he's needed to make down the stretch. This is all about pace. It's gotta move a little left to right. Give it some air on the left-hand side, get the pace correct.

[00:48:49] >> Two putts from here.

[00:48:49] >> Yeah, something inside a foot would be nice.

[00:49:05] >> Might have made it. How about one putt? Oh, no.

[00:49:06] >> That is lovely pace. Trust me. He's in love with it right now. Go ahead finish that out. Thought he might wait till the other guys, but congratulations, Steve Stricker, great playing.

[00:49:22] >> Brett Quigley tried to run him down, but Stricker was splendid down the stretch. Four late birdies to take the title and become the fifth multiple winner of the season. PGA TOUR Champions victory number nine for Steve Stricker. And a family affair, one to share with wife Nikki. Scott Dunlap squeezed one in there just right at this hole location. He can close out a most productive week for the birdie.

[00:49:50] >> Yeah, this could tie him for third with Jeff Maggert. And that's been the story of Scott's day. A lot of good putts that just did not go down. He burned the edge a few times, I'll tell you that. He played some nice golf today.

[00:50:13] >> Tournament scoring mark matched yesterday by Dunlap's 63. That's the fifth time that Scott has shot 63 out here, but only 71 to close on Sunday. Not many as diligent and obsessive about their work and their preparation as Padraig Harrington. And I think, you know, the mission is clear what he needs to kind of tune up going forward here, Lanny.

[00:50:40] >> Yeah. I mean, he's got the speed thing going on okay. I mean, he could stand to find a few more fairways, make it easier. But the short iron game and the putting -- if he gets that tightened up, look out.

[00:50:55] >> 2 under par round of 70 for last week's winner.

[00:51:00] >> One more time for this final grouping. Scott Dunlap, Steve Stricker and Padraig Harrington.

[00:51:09] >> So Stricker the champion here in Grand Blanc. Needed to two-putt the final couple of holes. Nearly birdied both of them. Makes up some ground on Jimenez, but Stricker remains in fifth in the Schwab Cup standing. Steven Alker with a top 10 finish here this week, the man at the top. 19 events in the books of 24 in the regular season before the playoffs begin. Four in a row for Stricker, starting at the 13th, to come home in 33 for a 67 -- good enough for a 15-under finish to win the fifth edition of the Ally Challenge. And Stricker becomes the fifth multiple winner of the season, remaining in fifth in the Schwab Cup point standings, one clear of Brett Quigley.