Production Transcript for 22INTCUTCH - SAS CHAMP\_VITAC.mp3

[00:00:30] >> It's the last week of the regular season. This is the 24th event, which we've teed it up on the PGA TOUR Champions, Prestonwood Country Club. Up on the 18th, Justin Leonard making the turn, started his day on the 10th. Has this for birdie. Little hesi step, walks it in. Yeah, it dropped. So let's check out the leaderboard. Rocco Mediate 6-under through 14. One-shot lead over Y.E. Yang. Colin Montgomerie, Thongchai Jaidee playing good as well, in a tie for third at 4 under par.

[00:01:07] >> Swing over to the 9th. That whole location is right there on the front. Because of the bunkers you see on the right and the left, it makes it very tricky coming in. Gotta be very precise with this wedge.

[00:01:19] >> Padraig, even on his round, just chatting with his caddie, Roman Flood. Approach on the way. Fast forward to the 18th, Mark Walker's second.

[00:01:38] >> You see that green 73 up there next to his name? That means he is one position out of advancing to the playoffs.

[00:01:49] >> 9th green, birdie look for Padraig Harrington.

[00:01:51] >> Man, I love this stroke. Watch that left arm, just back and through. No hesitation, no anxiety at all. Let's check back in with Mark Walker.

[00:02:07] >> Betcha if this goes in, he jumps up inside the top 72.

[00:02:17] >> This is the hole you want to cash in on the front nine. The easiest par-4 on this first nine.

[00:02:25] >> Yep. Bounced back after that start.

[00:02:34] >> Already been two eagles on the 17th, Rocco Mediate hoping to make it number three on the day.

[00:02:41] >> You can see a little ankle there on the left side. Oh my gosh.

[00:02:44] >> Pours it in. Air Rocco.

[00:02:48] >> I wonder if he can beatbox too. Can he do that?

[00:02:55] >> Pounds of drive, second shot to here. Now this for Eagle, Karen.

[00:02:59] >> Well, and this is a nice place to leave it. Back uphill towards the hole. You can be aggressive on this one. It's his second eagle chance of the day.

[00:03:09] >> Gotta see one of these drop.

[00:03:11] >> There you go.

[00:03:12] >> Freddie walking it in.

[00:03:14] >> Kind of an early walk there. Kind of dropped the putter, took that first step.

[00:03:19] >> 5-under his last seven holes. Couples to 3-under on the route.

[00:03:33] >> Rocco Mediate, that was for a round of 64. He will par the last, 7-under 65. Do you think that's standing at the end of the day as the leader?

[00:03:41] >> I do. I think that Rocco is a really good frontrunner. When he gets the feel, Rocco is going to be good on the weekend. He's just that kind of player. He's a bit streaky. I think he would admit that himself. I just don't think he's the kind of player to spit the bit.

[00:04:05] >> Y. E. Yang for par. Big round for him today with that 6-under 66, Jake, that's his low opening round on the PGA TOUR Champions. To the 17th, Mike Weir 3-over on the day. Was actually in the final group last week. Closed with a 75, though, wound up finishing T14. Can he get a couple back?

[00:04:29] >> I like what I see with this putting stroke, using that claw grip.

[00:04:37] >> Karen, where you saw where Davis Love III's tee shot wound up, you didn't think he'd be with this for Birdie.

[00:04:42] >> No, I didn't. The amount of elevation he got off that lip was ridiculous. And now he's pulled that one in. And that's exactly what you want to do. Once you've hit a tremendous shot, just go ahead and capitalize. And really nice way to bounce back.

[00:04:58] >> Up to the 18th, Colin Montgomerie's won seven times in the PGA TOUR Champions, won this tournament five years ago. That's for par.

[00:05:04] >> How many times did he win the European TOUR Order Merits?

[00:05:10] >> Seven or eight consecutive years in a row. And that's a 4-under 68 for Monty.

[00:05:25] >> This the right club. This is a good shot.

[00:05:26] >> Oh, yeah. Really good shot.

[00:05:28] >> Nice little reenergizing after the birdie at the last.

[00:05:32] >> Yeah.

[00:05:36] >> We are back on the par-4 15th, Miguel Angel Jimenez. Slow start today, two over, nice to get one back.

[00:05:45] >> Yep. Bringing it back.

[00:05:48] >> Back in the cup.

[00:05:54] >> Karen, you're not supposed to make back-to-back birdies on 13 and 14.

[00:06:02] >> Take a look at that seven. That sticks out like a sore thumb.

[00:06:06] >> The hardest two-hole stretch on the entire course and Davis Love III. Padraig Harrington, one hole out on 15. One of the easier holes out here at Prestonwood Country Club.

[00:06:22] >> Yeah.

[00:06:22] >> Throws a dart in there.

[00:06:23] >> And that is the easiest hole location on the green. There's a situation where you want that front pin to be able to attack.

[00:06:37] >> Davis Love III.

[00:06:38] >> How about it?

[00:06:39] >> There's the hat trick.

[00:06:48] >> Up to the 18th. How's Bernhard Langer been fairing today? 2-under. And this for birdie.

[00:06:55] >> Should maybe move a little to the right. Oh, just enough. The ageless wonder, Bernhard Langer.

[00:07:06] >> Davis is a life member of the PGA TOUR with 21 wins, but he's yet to win out here. And how about that? Look at the last few holes.

[00:07:20] >> Hard pressed to find a better five-hole stretch. Up to the 18th green, Miguel Angel Jimenez.

[00:07:29] >> We've seen this putt many times. It's been missed to the right. There's no miss right there.

[00:07:36] >> How about that finish? Miguel had been over par seemingly the entire round. And when it's all said and done and signed for, a 1-under 71.

[00:07:59] >> Oh, no fear in that stroke.

[00:08:01] >> No, he looks good with the putter.

[00:08:03] >> Freddie to 4-under. Our threesome here played the 17th hole combined 4 under par. Ernie Els to birdie his final three holes of the day. How about that finish?

[00:08:28] >> I'm telling you, George, I thought he would go crazy. The last couple of holes today and tomorrow, I think he's going to have a really good day tomorrow.

[00:08:38] >> Another look at the leaderboard. Is there a name that's a pleasant surprise that's on that first page?

[00:08:44] >> Well, I would say I expect Y.E. Yang with the way he plays. I would say the unexpected name on that board is Fred after we saw that start double bogey, par, par, par start, and then he came roaring back.

[00:09:00] >> Not a surprise, Bernhard Langer just outside of the top ten, 3-under 69. Jim Furyk continuing his run of recent good form after a third-place finish at his event, the Constellation Furyk and Friends.

[00:09:18] >> From Cary, North Carolina, its second round coverage of the 2022 SAS Championship. We are at Prestonwood Country Club, 54-hole facility, just about a 15-minute drive and you find downtown Cary, one of the fastest growing cities in North Carolina. And the scoring conditions, they were great the first round. Things toughening up a little bit today. You wouldn't know it by the performance so far from Schwab Cup number one, Steven Alker. He opened with an even-par 72. He is 6-under through 13, has now grabbed a share of the lead with first round leader Rocco Mediate. As we go on down the leaderboard, some of the other names, notable chasers include Steve Flesch, just a couple back, Ernie Els and Davis Love III. Each shot matching 71's, round one they reached 2-under so far today. Fourth shot now for Rocco Mediate.

[00:10:14] >> Yeah, he got a little spicy with his layup. Took a bit too aggressively towards that water and paid the price and now having to work hard again on back-to-back holes.

[00:10:26] >> To the 8th once again, Jaidee, this for par.

[00:10:33] >> There we go. Finally got one to go in.

[00:10:51] >> Jerry Kelly slinging one in there on the 9th.

[00:10:57] >> At the short 8th.

[00:11:19] >> Jerry Kelly for birdie and a share.

[00:11:20] >> Yeah, it's a great birdie at 9.

[00:11:28] >> Jerry clean card, 2-under. Fred Couples to the other side, playing the 10th. Oh, rattling the stick.

[00:11:43] >> How about that? That will get your attention.

[00:11:51] >> Rocco Mediate, who's been going the wrong direction the last four holes. This would right the ship going to the back nine.

[00:12:00] >> Right you are, George. And I really think that this is one of those putts that he's going to fancy to make. It's back uphill, it's going to move to the left. He hits it.

[00:12:10] >> Oh, yes he did. Couples to continue the streak of alternating birdies and bogeys.

[00:12:30] >> There was just two birdies here at 10 yesterday. Second hardest hole on the course in round one.

[00:12:43] >> It's going to move left, but a bit more quick in terms of the line.

[00:12:51] >> Oh, yeah.

[00:12:51] >> Beauty.

[00:12:52] >> How about that? Two rare birdies and in the same group here at 9.

[00:13:05] >> On the backside, par putts for Fred Couples at the 11th.

[00:13:12] >> Emotionally, that is a huge lift. That's almost more important than making a putt for a birdie.

[00:13:18] >> Steve Flesch trying to work his way up the leaderboard for birdie on 10.

[00:13:24] >> Yep, now they're all going in.

[00:13:33] >> 10th fairway, that's Rocco Mediate.

[00:13:34] >> It's 150 yards on a bit of a downslope, but not too much of one, downwind. Little soft draw coming up right here.

[00:13:47] >> A different hole today than it was yesterday. That pin was back left. Hard to get to, just two birdies today.

[00:13:55] >> Jerry Kelly to make it three tied at the top. Kelly to 3-under on his round. Rocco Mediate to once again have a share of the lead. You got to look at this, Karen?

[00:14:14] >> I did, and to my mind, I mean, it's in that little flatter area. But I think it has to go left just because of the proximity to the slope.

[00:14:23] >> Good call. Back of the cup for Rocco. Back-to-back birdies. Y. E. Yang's pitch shot for his third.

[00:14:46] >> Choosing to use most of the green, and nicely played.

[00:14:49] >> Yep. Really well done by Yang. Fred Couples' third of the 15th.

[00:15:03] >> Oh yeah. How about it?

[00:15:05] >> What touch. What a run on this back nine. Can he keep the run going?

[00:15:20] >> Yeah, he can.

[00:15:25] >> Yang leading by one at 8-under.

[00:15:27] >> Fred Couples greenside in two at the Par-5 17th.

[00:15:31] >> This is right in his wheelhouse here. Just pop it out, let her run down. Obviously got a little bit right, but it's an easy shot.

[00:15:48] >> Scott McCarron.

[00:15:49] >> Boy, he almost made it back at 17. Did he do it here? He did.

[00:15:53] >> Oh yes, he did.

[00:15:57] >> He is a former Schwab Cup champion.

[00:16:06] >> Fred Couples for a share of the lead. He could maybe have the outright lead by the time he's playing 18th. What a birdie for Fred. 4-under today. So Fred makes this, definitely in the final group. Currently has a one-shot lead.

[00:16:30] >> Fred is the type of player, I think he plays beyond emotion. I think Fred's in a great position to win tomorrow.

[00:16:42] >> Third shot for Rocco Mediate from the bunker.

[00:16:46] >> Judged it lovely.

[00:16:53] >> Oh, he made it. That yellow ball was afraid of the dark.

[00:16:59] >> That's defied physics.

[00:17:00] >> What would Adam Sandler say? Go home.

[00:17:09] >> That was a really nice, comfortable birdie.

[00:17:12] >> And Y.E. Yang, a co-leader with Fred Couples at 8-under. For an even par round of 72.

[00:17:35] >> I think that's huge for him heading into tomorrow. Four bogeys and a double on his card today, shooting 72 even par. He hung in there beautifully today.

[00:17:53] >> Now it's Y.E. Yang to have a share of the lead into Sunday at the SAS Championship.

[00:18:01] >> Well, just like Rocco, he's had his fair share of some ups and downs today as well. So mentally tough round of golf for him to get it the house tied for the lead.

[00:18:11] >> Y.E. Yang, the low man in this threesome with a 70. A jam-packed leaderboard here. Co-leaders at 8-under. Three chasing, a shot back, and then a whole slew of players at 6-under, two back. Can 62-year-old Fred Couples end a five-year winless drought on the PGA TOUR Champions?

[00:18:43] >> From Cary, North Carolina, it's final round coverage of the 2022 SAS Championship. Prestonwood Country Club first opened back in 1988. This 54-hole facility has been a longtime home to the SAS Championship, a staple here on the PGA TOUR Champions schedule. This is now the 22nd edition of this event. Bear in mind, it's also the final event as part of the PGA TOUR Champions regular season before it is playoff time. At the end of the day, who will ride all that momentum into the playoffs and hoist the hardware? Thanks for joining us here in Cary, North Carolina. This is a live look at Fred Couples for eagle on the par-5 7th to grab the solo lead.

[00:19:34] >> Hit a shot of 246 yards to get to this point, all uphill towards the hole.

[00:19:48] >> Good lag out of Fred Couples. Cruise up to the 8th, second shot for Schwab Cup leader Steven Alker.

[00:19:59] >> Good hole location here, front right. Players are trying to drop but in just between the bunker and that hole location. And we've seen quite a few players come up short in that bunker.

[00:20:12] >> Quickly back to 7, Y. E. Yang, birdie putt.

[00:20:14] >> Hit his second shot into the greenside bunker, blasted out to here and oh, there you go. I don't think he liked it when he hit it, but worked out.

[00:20:34] >> Fred Couples to tie it up at 11 under par.

[00:20:41] >> He's coming off a really nice birdie at the previous hole as well, so there you go.

[00:20:48] >> Fred heating up, three straight birdies.

[00:20:53] >> And it's perfect hole location for him at 8 with that front right hole location in his cut.

[00:20:59] >> As they walk to the 8th, let's take a look at some of the early highlights from this final round. Jerry Kelly on the second.

[00:21:07] >> Dog leg right par-4. Pretty good hole location here, back left. And look at this shot. He almost makes eagle.

[00:21:15] >> How good is that? More from Kelly a couple holes later on the 4th.

[00:21:22] >> This was a magnificent putt right here. This is the hardest hole on the course all week long. He's got about a foot of break and it goes right in the center.

[00:21:32] >> This putter really heating up on the 5th.

[00:21:34] >> Well, we know he's accurate off the tee, he's good with his irons and if he starts making a lot of putts, he's going to say goodbye to the field.

[00:21:43] >> So at that point, a three-shot lead, that seemed to wake up Fred Couples. Same hole on 5.

[00:21:50] >> I would say the same thing with Fred, George, that if he gets his putter going, it's going to be quite a race to the 18th.

[00:21:58] >> Fred on the 6th to make it back-to-back. You already know the story. You just saw Fred make birdie on 7, three in a row. Couples and Kelly separating themselves from the rest of the pack so far in this final round at the SAS Championship. They're co-leaders, three clear. Nice look at the aforementioned par-3, 8th, the de facto island green at Prestonwood Country Club.

[00:22:31] >> Once you have played those very sheltered few holes that we've just played, 6 and 7, you come out here to 8, it's a little bit more open. The expanse of water gives you an idea of the direction that the wind is blowing. You can see that the little water on there is just blowing towards the players slightly. I mean, there is just a whisper. I would probably give it maybe no more than two yards maybe of wind.

[00:22:57] >> Yeah, my wind gauge tells me it's blowing today at five miles an hour, which is not too intimidating, but it's gusting at times to ten, so that will get your attention a bit.

[00:23:11] >> Love the pin position here one 8, the Sunday pin that they have. Just seven paces on, five off the right.

[00:23:17] >> I was going to say, George, that the wind might not be too intimidating, but that hole location certainly is. It definitely gets your attention, mind you. You do have quite a bit of room left of it, but you don't want to leave yourself too long of a putt here. This is a pretty direct line.

[00:23:36] >> Couples.

[00:23:38] >> He's feeling it today.

[00:23:39] >> All over it. Par-4 10th, Colin Montgomerie for birdie.

[00:23:51] >> Pretty good-looking stroke right there. Positive. The newly engaged Colin Montgomerie. Couples double bogeyed his first hole on Friday. He had two bogeys yesterday. Everything else has been birdies and eagles.

[00:24:14] >> And not really a surprise. Those par-5's have been his bread and butter.

[00:24:17] >> Yeah.

[00:24:18] >> Fred Couples, the outright lead now at the SAS Championship, 4-under on this opening nine, 12-under for the tournament. On the 9th green, Rocco Mediate to get within four of the lead. Rocco making the turn at 1-under on his front nine. Skip up a couple on the 11th. Just saw that nice birdie roll from Colin Montgomerie on 10.

[00:24:51] >> His stroke looks great today. Did he do it? Yeah. Here comes Monty.

[00:24:56] >> Three birdies his last five holes. Solo third at 9-under, three back of Fred Couples.

[00:25:07] >> Same kind of shot as he hit on eight, isn't it? Kind of a high drop to the right.

[00:25:11] >> Absolutely. This one though, I mean, because it's on that down slope, he's only got 123. You know, Peter, when you have a shorter shot in your hands, it's a lot harder to get it to have any kind of movement. But it is definitely a green light flag from that distance.

[00:25:32] >> Here we go.

[00:25:35] >> Just what the doctor ordered.

[00:25:36] >> How fun is this to watch?

[00:25:38] >> It's vintage Fred Couples.

[00:25:43] >> Over on the 10th from just short, Jim Furyk, this for birdie.

[00:25:48] >> There we go.

[00:25:53] >> Furyk to 1-under on his round.

[00:26:00] >> If this drops, Fred is officially in the zone.

[00:26:02] >> I mean, amazing when you talked about that double bogey at the first and on the first Round, and it could have gone any kind of which way. But he managed to turn it around and I truly believe that he enjoys this golf course because it allows him to take advantage of his strengths. And he's having fun doing it.

[00:26:27] >> Five in a row for Fred Couples, 13-under, two-shot lead making the turn. Goes out in 30.

[00:26:34] >> Yeah. Look at that. No problem.

[00:26:42] >> On 17, Mark Walker played his way in this week to the SAS championship as a qualifier. Fourth shot for Fred Couples. Karen, you like the play?

[00:26:54] >> Where he is, there's a little bit of grain into him. If you're trying to be delicate with a wedge or, you know, a 9-iron or 8-iron and trying to run into it, the club can actually get stuck into that grass quite quickly. You have a better chance of the ball rolling smoothly with the putter than you do with the wedges right now.

[00:27:16] >> Fred Couples to save par. Oh, come on, come on. Get out of here.

[00:27:20] >> I would say that was the best choice.

[00:27:21] >> Yeah.

[00:27:24] >> In hindsight, though.

[00:27:26] >> We're great once it's all done, aren't we?

[00:27:29] >> A par with a zero putt from off the green for Fred Couples. Keeps the momentum going. Been a struggle this final round for Bernhard Langer, 2-over through 11, still looking for his first birdie. Will it come on the 12th?

[00:27:47] >> There it is. I'm always in amazement at this guy, looking for his 44th win out here on the PGA TOUR Champions.

[00:27:57] >> Jerry Kelly to get within one.

[00:27:58] >> Little downhill putt here. Should move left. I mean, really, he hasn't put a foot wrong, but Fred's just been keeping that door shut on him. Unless he can force it open here. He does.

[00:28:10] >> He does.

[00:28:11] >> Gets a little bit closer.

[00:28:13] >> And here we go. Jerry Kelly and Fred Couples, each guy 5-under on the round today through 11 holes. Couples started the day one up on Kelly and that's where they stand. To the 13th with the leader, Fred Couples.

[00:28:40] >> The flag looks wide open to me. There's only four from the left, but it looks like it might kick back to the right if it goes a bit left of the flag.

[00:28:47] >> Just ideal for this left to right ball flight of Fred's.

[00:28:54] >> That was crisp.

[00:29:00] >> Go in. Might have been a little aggressive with that call, but a great approach from Couples nonetheless. On the 18th, Mark Walker wrapping up his week.

[00:29:10] >> You see that red 73 by his name. He is the first player out heading into the playoffs. So he has to sit and wait to see what happens with the players behind him. Will he sneak into the top 72?

[00:29:29] >> Seesaw back to the 13th, Fred Couples to expand the lead to three.

[00:29:32] >> Well, I know we saw Jerry Kelly's ball kind of move more. I still don't see that kind of movement on Fred's putt. I think he could hit this on the -- splitting that right edge I think would be a good line.

[00:29:51] >> For his seventh birdie on the day.

[00:29:52] >> Yep.

[00:29:53] >> Yep. Walks it in.

[00:29:56] >> Yep. Do you think he's having a good day? Seven birdies through 13 holes.

[00:30:08] >> Colin Montgomerie. Able to put that in for par. Monty through the 15th.

[00:30:23] >> I think when people talk about being in the zone, Karen, and you know that -- you've been in the zone, winning major championships on the LPGA Tour -- but I think there's just a comfort level. Everything you do seems easy. But we also know the flip side of that in the game. Everything can seem so difficult at different times of the year.

[00:30:45] >> So infuriating and yet blissful at the same time.

[00:30:51] >> For Fred's third straight birdie.

[00:30:53] >> It's got to go. Oh yes.

[00:30:55] >> There you go. Okay. Can we --

[00:30:58] >> Officially a heat check there. Eighth birdie on the day. Fred is at 16-under, leading by four.

[00:31:06] >> Yeah. We can say he is defining the zone.

[00:31:16] >> Fred Couples turning in the round of the week so far. 8-under through 14 holes, up by four with four to go.

[00:31:31] >> Up to the 15th green, Rocco Mediate inside the top 10 this week at the SAS Championship, was our first round leader after opening with a 7-under 65. Gets that one to go. Jerry Kelly second on the way to the 15th.

[00:31:52] >> That was from 140, a 9-iron.

[00:31:54] >> He wants to make sure that he's going to finish second, barring a Couples disaster, of course. We can't give him the trophy yet.

[00:32:13] >> Karen, aggressive play as Fred went with driver off this tee.

[00:32:16] >> It really was. I mean, no doubt in my mind he was trying to get that little more down the left side. Because from out here on the right, it's just awkward because the flag looks like it's barely past the bunkers that he's going to have to carry. But he does only have 132.

[00:32:39] >> Hello.

[00:32:40] >> You see the lake that's in front of him? He could just walk right across it.

[00:32:45] >> Yes, he could.

[00:32:48] >> Wow.

[00:32:58] >> To birdie the last.

[00:33:04] >> Nice Sunday 66 for Jimenez. Now tee 4 with Alex Cejka.

[00:33:11] >> I love to watch Jimenez play. I just love his golf swing. He just seems to be under control, doesn't seem to make a lot of mistakes, doesn't shoot high numbers at all. He's always shooting good scores.

[00:33:31] >> Got a read here, Karen?

[00:33:33] >> I think this one -- I mean, it has to move just a little bit to the right. But where his ball is sitting, it's almost in the middle of the valley. Oh, what about that?

[00:33:52] >> There it goes.

[00:33:54] >> That's 14 birdies between Kelly and Couples.

[00:33:59] >> And he was chuckling as he was walking up to the green about Fred's second shot. He knows, you know, sometimes there's nothing you can do about it.

[00:34:10] >> The 17th, third shot from Colin Montgomerie.

[00:34:14] >> He made it.

[00:34:16] >> Oh. We've seen a lot of those stares from Colin this week, staring those shots down that he expects to go in.

[00:34:32] >> This would be Fred's ninth birdie on the card.

[00:34:34] >> And it's been effortless. I mean, the quality of shots he's been hitting into the greens has been magnificent. He hasn't had to make too many long putts, except for the ones for par.

[00:34:53] >> I remember, Karen, I grew up in Portland, Oregon. Fred grew up in Seattle. And when I was at college at the University of Oregon, there was this young upstart high school kid coming out of Seattle named Fred Couples. And he started dominating the Pacific Northwest back then. And now he's dominating here today.

[00:35:16] >> Five straight on the front nine, Jake. Four straight birdies on the back nine. Steven Alker, 16th green, buckets.

[00:35:43] >> Colin Montgomerie for birdie. So Monty, T4 at 10-under.

[00:35:55] >> I don't think he's in a really difficult position. Maybe a downhill lie there on that chip, but we saw Montgomerie almost chip it in from the relative same position. So I think he's still alive.

[00:36:14] >> So Fred's only got 119. And the first thought is, is there room with those pine trees ahead of him? And because the flag is on the left, he has enough room to go right at this without any problem at all.

[00:36:39] >> All you can do is chuckle. That's all you can do. And appreciate the kind of golf that Fred's playing.

[00:36:54] >> That is Alex Cejka on the 18th. Agonizingly close to a birdie.

[00:36:59] >> That would have got him in at solo fourth at this point.

[00:37:08] >> So he is in the clubhouse at 10 under par after tapping this in. Found around 67. Tied with Miguel Angel Jimenez. Colin Montgomerie also at 10-under. The three players who are T4.

[00:37:37] >> Peter this round out of Fred bring to mind any that you've seen previously in his career?

[00:37:45] >> Well, the one thing that Fred can do is he can go a bit unconscious like we've seen today, where everything just flows. Everything is good. And I think he's going to make this putt. He plays on just this emotion. He just knows that he's got it. Just get out of the way.

[00:38:10] >> For birdie number 10. Wow.

[00:38:16] >> I've seen this, playing with Fred on the tour. How about that? Double fives. Let's go to Vegas. Play the hard 10.

[00:38:26] >> Finally a big smile out of Fred Couples. Had five straight birdies in the front side. Matches that on the back side.

[00:38:33] >> What do you think with the par-5 17th coming up? You think it's going to be six in a row?

[00:38:41] >> Speaking of pops, here's Steve Flesch on the 18th for par. Disappointing Sunday. 1-over 73. We are back with the final group on the par-5 17th. Four-shot lead for Fred Couples over Steven Alker, who's playing the last. Alker 8-under on his round. Fred Couples 10 under today. Jerry Kelly stepping in the sand now for his third.

[00:39:13] >> Yeah, his ball's found a little bit of an upslope. He has a whole lot of bunker to carry. As Peter was saying before, it hits the green. Landed over downslope and that had a chance.

[00:39:26] >> Yeah, it's a good shot. To spin a ball with a long carry like that, you really have to move it through the sand.

[00:39:39] >> Jim Furyk for his third straight round under par. Birdie on the last. It's a 1-under 71. Back to 17. It will be Fred Couples next for eagle.

[00:39:56] >> This is a -- it's not an easy part. Obviously, the distance is one thing, but you have to pick upslope to get up to the hole, and then there's a little bit of movement off the right side from where the bunker just creeps into play. But all in all, Fred's pace has been absolutely spectacular today with what few long parts we've seen him putt.

[00:40:24] >> Well, more than half the field has birdied 17 today, 40 birdies. 74 players have played 17. This threesome would make 77 players. You know there's going to be a couple more birdies here. Couples' eagle putt. Leave him eight feet left for Birdie.

[00:41:10] >> Kelly will be first to go. I still think with the proximity to this, right side of the green has to move still a bit to the right.

[00:41:30] >> Yeah, I think this -- from my experience, this putt breaks a little more to the right than you think.

[00:41:43] >> Jerry to grab a share of second. Low side.

[00:41:51] >> I'll tell you what, experience is undefeated right there, Peter.

[00:41:53] >> Well, I've missed a few of my own from that range there on this hole.

[00:42:02] >> You called the last one with Fred. It's five straight birdies equals what he did on the front nine. Does he have a sixth one in store?

[00:42:09] >> Yeah, I think he does. This is just that kind of day. He's unconscious. It's easy. No matter what he does, I think this ball goes in. He's been doing it all day. For Birdie number 11.

[00:42:29] >> Yeah. Hi, I'm Fred Couples. I make birdies in bunches.

[00:42:36] >> Fred Couples 11-under through 17 today.

[00:42:38] >> Any questions? You -- you in the back? Yeah, what's your name? Yeah.

[00:42:49] >> Steven Alker's up here finishing up his week. You thought you saw something out of Fred where you wouldn't be surprised if he was in contention or potentially one.

[00:42:57] >> yeah.

[00:42:57] >> Let's watch Alker's birdie putt and then have you finish your thought here. Alker for a round of 63.

[00:43:09] >> Well, when we saw Fred make double on the first hole, I had a chance to talk to Fred last week. He wanted to play Constellation Furyk and Friends, but because of Hurricane Ian he withdrew, but he was excited to come play here. This golf course is good for him. But one thing about Fred is when Fred wants to play, he's going to be all in. He just doesn't show up to play every tournament. He shows up and he is focused on winning, and that's what I saw.

[00:43:44] >> What a performance this week from Fred Couples. One more birdie. That would be a career low round on the PGA TOUR champions. So Fred does need to hole this for a 59.

[00:44:01] >> Only from 140. The hole is in that bowl on the left side of this green. Trying to move it left towards the hole.

[00:44:09] >> Will he give it a chance?

[00:44:13] >> Here it is. Come on. Has that for 60. Well, we know one thing. He's going to shoot his age today. We know that. And you forget, the 5th green, right as we're about to start our broadcast, Fred Couples had a moment. He was trailing Jerry Kelly by three. Jerry Kelly was 4-under through five. Fred made his first birdie on the 5th hole. Since then, 11 birdies his last 13, Peter.

[00:44:43] >> That's just amazing. It just goes to show you the kind of player Fred Couples is when he gets into that rhythm. Golf gets so easy. He doesn't work on his game. He's self-taught. He does have a couple of buddies he works with. But overall, he's never had a teacher. Plays by feel, doesn't wear a glove. He's just a very special player.

[00:45:13] >> From Newport Beach, California, member of the World Golf Hall of Fame, and your 2022 President's Cup Assistant Captain, give it up for Fred Couples.

[00:45:31] >> Fred Couples, a 13-time winner on the PGA TOUR Champions. Five years, three months plus since that last win. And he had talked about how motivating that was. He wanted to win at least one more time on the PGA TOUR Champions. That's why we're still seeing him out here. Six to eight to ten events per year, Jake.

[00:45:48] >> Well, Fred doesn't play just to play. He plays to win. And he wouldn't be here or he wouldn't be at any tournament if he didn't think his game was up to championship-caliber golf. So that's why when you said, what was I seeing out of Fred, I was seeing something special, even after that double bogey. I thought he could have a really special week.

[00:46:14] >> Yang muffing his third from the back of the green.

[00:46:17] >> See, look at the color of that grip. It's orange. Telling you, Karen, the guy's got all the colors of the rainbow on his clubs.

[00:46:26] >> Well, I'm thinking it's one of two things. One is so that when he pulls a club out of the bag, there's no mistaking which one it is, and he knows that he's got the right one in his hands. Or when he went to get his clubs re-gripped, they didn't have all the same color and he ended up like most of us do when we go to the club shop, having to make do with the randomness of it.

[00:46:47] >> What I do to make sure I don't have the wrong club in my bag, I make sure I look at the number on the bottom of the iron.

[00:46:53] >> Gosh, I wish I had known that sooner.

[00:46:55] >> Isn't that unique? That's what makes it special.

[00:46:58] >> Y. E. Yang needs to hole this to finish top ten.

[00:47:11] >> George Savarekis, Peter Jacobson, and Karen Stupples here with you, closing out the final round of the SAS Championship. Jerry Kelly at 13-under, 6-under today, bogey-free final round. It's a story we've been mentioning. Griffin Flesch, the son of Steve Flesch, getting the nod this week last second. Fred needed a fill-in caddy. There's Steve Flesch, who's a two-time winner this season on the PGA TOUR Champions. Now his son will get his first one on the bag of Fred Couples.

[00:47:51] >> Big putt here for Jerry to tie Steven Alker for second. Great round for Alker today. Good start for Kelly early on. Quick bunch of birdies, but then that just ignited Fred Couples.

[00:48:08] >> Okay.

[00:48:13] >> Should maybe slip a little bit to his right.

[00:48:17] >> I think that's right. I mean, it's not really too much, but it is downhill, though.

[00:48:27] >> Oh, it did not go right. Stayed up.

[00:48:29] >> Was quick, too, wasn't it?

[00:48:31] >> Good run at it by Kelly.

[00:48:46] >> And everybody just clearing the way for Fred here.

[00:49:04] >> Yang closes with a bogey, 1-over 73.

[00:49:15] >> Been a well-fought day here for Jerry Kelly, George. Already a three-time winner this year on the PGA TOUR Champions, and another solid performance this week.

[00:49:30] >> First misstep for Jerry in this final round. Doesn't have any impact, though, as far as final position, solo third, 67. Fred Couples leading by five as this putt for birdie at a round of 60 would set a new tournament record for lowest round and would be the lowest round in Fred Couples' career on the PGA TOUR Champions.

[00:50:00] >> How about it?

[00:50:03] >> And another one.

[00:50:06] >> Hey, just make birdies in bunches. Five in a row and then seven in a row to close. No problem.

[00:50:15] >> Vintage Couples in a rout at the SAS Championship. Beat his age by three. 63-year-old Fred Couples just shot a 12-under 60 to win by six.

[00:50:30] >> At the start of the week, you said to me not to have too many expectations for your game. What happened?

[00:50:35] >> You know, expectations are a lot with me. And coming in here, you know, I had Griff, Steve Flesch's son, caddying for me. I just wanted to play well for him, and I started with a double on the very first hole, so we didn't hit it off so well. But today was just an unreal day.

[00:50:51] >> And is it more special knowing that you had Griffin on the bag, too? I mean, he's obviously a good friend of yours and of the family's.

[00:50:56] >> Yeah. It happened so quickly. I just texted Griff, and he thought I was joking. I said, just get to Raleigh on Tuesday, and we'll have a good time, and we did.

[00:51:09] >> This is what he did all day long, from anywhere from three to 20 feet, right in the middle. What an amazing round, an amazing performance from Fred Couples this week in Cary, North Carolina. Look at Steve. This could potentially be the last win we see out of Fred Couples. He didn't know if another one was going to happen, and then a round like today happens with a 12-under 60.

[00:51:38] >> It clearly was his day.

[00:51:41] >> Fred Couples, a six-shot victory. His new career low on the PGA TOUR Champions, lowest round in tournament history at the SAS Championship.