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[00:00:02] >> It's a nation built on proud traditions. A nation with a deep love for golf. In its short history, the ZOZO Championship has delivered big-name winners in the Land of the Rising Sun. With the biggest star of all authoring one of golf's most historic wins.

[00:00:27] >> Make room on the mountain top. Tiger Woods has matched Sam Snead with 82 PGA Tour wins, the most of all time.

[00:00:40] >> And who can forget a homegrown hero delivering for an entire country?

[00:00:47] >> Matsuyama making 2021 a year to remember. He is your ZOZO Championship winner.

[00:00:56] >> By the time the sun sets on Sunday, only one will rise to victory. Who will be next? It's time for the ZOZO Championship.

[00:01:15] >> The PGA Tour is proud to bring you the season-long race for the FedEx Cup. Now coverage of the 2022 ZOZO Championship.

[00:01:44] >> And some beautiful views around Tokyo. Largest city in the world, some 38 million people in the area. That's more than 49 of the 50 states in the United States. A lot of people, a buzzing metropolis in a golf hungry country. Always jazzed when the best in the world return to this part of the world. Fourth playing of the ZOZO Championship here at Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club. And it is a bit wet and a bit rainy on this Thursday. But play underway, some of the biggest names in the sport out on the golf course, and we'll be following them throughout the day. Already some highlights out on the golf course today. Our defending champion Hideki Matsuyama started on the 10th. This at the 13th, 1 over par. That's going to change here, Sam.

[00:02:31] >> Absolutely, Shane. Just a beautiful putt from Hideki. Superhero around here. Not going to keep the crowds away.

[00:02:38] >> Also a popular figure here in Japan, Xander Schauffele playing alongside Hideki at the 13th. Rolls that in as well for a birdie off to a solid start. And how about Mackenzie Hughes? Great season. Winner already on the PGA Tour. This at the par-3 third. And Sam, you kind of got to hit it over a tree and that didn't really bother Mackenzie Hughes.

[00:02:58] >> Didn't slow him down one bit. When you got confidence, that one's good right there.

[00:03:02] >> Kick it in. Throw it in. Roll it in. Makes birdie there at the par-3. And how about Sam Ryder? This at the 6th. This third shot into this par-5.

[00:03:13] >> One of my fellow neighbors, Sam here, chipping it up close on the par-5 6th. Going to need to take advantage of these holes today. Well done there by Sam.

[00:03:20] >> Out in 31 was Sam Ryder. Playing the second 9. I mentioned some of the big names in the field. Two in the top 10 in the world, Xander and Collin Morikawa. Slow start for Morikawa, but that changes here at 5.

[00:03:34] >> Yeah, Collin is one of the best iron players in the world. He's not going to stay down for too long, and that's a beautiful shot there. In there to about 8 feet, would make that for birdie.

[00:03:43] >> And how about Tom Kim, one of the most popular players in the world right now. Did not make a bogey on his way to victory in Vegas. Bogied his first hole of this ZOZO Championship, but then a birdie at the 5th gets him back to even par on the day in how things stand right now. And it is early, of course, on a Thursday, first round. But we will start to take notice if Ricky Fowler continues to do what Ricky Fowler is doing right now. Three under par, Sam, and tied for the lead.

[00:04:10] >> Yeah, Ricky playing some great golf. Good iron player, good wedge player. Going to be paramount on this golf course today with some tough conditions out there.

[00:04:18] >> Ball in hand with these wet conditions. So even more important to make sure you find the fairway. You see Cameron Young, 1 under par, one of the biggest names here in the field this week. What a sensational 2022 he's having. Maverick McNealy, 1 under par. Sung-Jae Im, 1 under, coming off the President's Cup. And you see Tom Kim, even par. Mentioned the bogey at the first. Saw that birdie there at number 5. Si-Woo Kim, Viktor Hovland, Keita Nakajima, the number one ranked amateur in the world, making his professional debut this week at the ZOZO Championship.

[00:04:54] >> Sebastian Munoz for a birdie. Trying to find his way back after a tough start. Got his ball stuck in a tree on the opening hole. That's not really the way to get the tournament underway. Now Mackenzie Hughes for a birdie.

[00:05:11] >> He spent so much time reading this putt. Let's see if it pays off. Looks good.

[00:05:17] >> Yeah, it did pay off. It kind of looked like he was straight up the hill there.

[00:05:21] >> Yeah, but from the other side it looked the other way. It was pretty confusing.

[00:05:28] >> Back over to the third hole. And Matsuyama to get it back to level par. See if he can make another two. Yes. So fighting his way back. Hideki to level par here at the ZOZO Championship.

[00:05:48] >> Munoz for birdie. Oh yeah, what a roll there. Needed it and got it. So Munoz, third birdie. Bit of an up and down run since the 6th. Go to the 12th. Adam Schenk for birdie, having a solid round. No bogeys on the card.

[00:06:11] >> Shane, I've seen Adam play some really good golf in tough conditions. He's got a piercing ball flight and makes a lot of putts, just like that right there. Pierced that one right in.

[00:06:25] >> Now to the par-4 11th hole. Guillermo Pereira, known to his friends as Mito, has this long birdie putt to get to 3 under par. Nice work. With that, Pereira moves into a four-way tie for second.

[00:06:47] >> Schenk for birdie.

[00:06:48] >> Yeah, he continues a great day. At the 12th, Mito for another birdie. This to tie the lead.

[00:07:10] >> Oh, he kept the speed just enough there for Mito.

[00:07:12] >> Oh, yes. A little bonus to see that one trickle over the front lip. Three in a row. Call it a turkey.

[00:07:26] >> Brendan Steele at the 15th coming out of that thick rough. Seemed like he made good contact though. Oh, very good. Wonderful shot there. And that should be a tap-in birdie.

[00:07:46] >> And Adam Schenk with his second.

[00:07:47] >> A variety of clubs off the tee here. They hit 5-wood, 3-wood, some players could hit driver, I suppose. And two very good approaches from that group.

[00:08:04] >> Back over to the 13th and Tom Kim for his two. Oh, yeah. Read it well. So Tom Kim back to where he started the day. Now Schenk for a birdie. Yeah.

[00:08:39] >> Kazuki Higa here on the final hole. He has a birdie putt to finish at 3 under par. He gets it to go, a clean card today. And he goes out on a high note.

[00:09:01] >> This is at the 17th. This is the third shot for Brendan Steele. Oh, my goodness. That's a way to make a birdie. Slam dunk. Getting that to stay in the hole isn't easy.

[00:09:22] >> Go back to the 14th and Tom Kim.

[00:09:24] >> This hole location perched up on a shelf. A lot of slope repelling shots around this flagstick.

[00:09:32] >> Craig, you heard Tom ask, is long terrible? And I think that's why he was confident enough to throw that ball back there. What a great shot. Almost holes it.

[00:09:48] >> 18, Steele to finish his round off in serious style. This for a closing eagle. Wanted that to drop, but a very stress-free birdie and an excellent start here, Sam.

[00:10:01] >> Yeah, there's nothing better than finishing with a disappointing birdie to be the solo leader. That's a great round from Brendan.

[00:10:08] >> 64, same score that Hideki opened with a year ago on his way to victory. A whole bunch of birdies there on that second nine.

[00:10:21] >> And Keegan Bradley having a nice round at 2-under. Trying to make it three. Oh, yes, just enough. That's pretty good. He's got a chance to birdie the last. Obviously that 18th hole, even though we've seen a few players struggle in the last 10 or 15 minutes. It's a good birdie chance, and that's three in a row for Keegan Bradley.

[00:10:47] >> Now Mito to clean this up for par. I've only seen five bogeys all day here at the 18th, so I'd hate for this to miss.

[00:10:56] >> Yeah, this would feel like you're giving at least one and a half back, but he manages to pour that in. No harm done.

[00:11:05] >> In his first start at the ZOZO Championship, Mito Pereira shoots a 3-under 67, with three birdies in a row to start his back nine.

[00:11:13] >> Played really good today. I think in that stretch from 8 to 12, I think I made four birdies. So played really solid off the tee, green. You can always shoot lower, but just happy of this start. I love coming here. This is my fourth time here, first time for ZOZO. I mean, every time I come here is a really good experience. Fans here are just amazing. So happy to play here again.

[00:11:40] >> Ricky Fowler playing on a sponsor's exemption also ended the day at 3-under. Last year's runner up, Brendan Steele, picked up right where he left off in Japan, shooting a first round 64 to in round one with a one-shot lead at 6-under. Round two is next.

[00:12:02] >> From Chiba, Japan, it is live second round coverage of the ZOZO Championship. Had some iffy weather on Thursday, a little bit of rain early on Friday, but it looks to have cleared out of the way and we are rocking and rolling. Cordia Golf, Narashino Country Club, beautiful, beautiful par-70, just about 7,000 yards this week. And we saw some wet conditions on Thursday, nothing crazy low in that opening round, seeing some better scoring today. And we'll get to some of the highlights here on a Friday. Start with Viktor Hovland. Putter got hot, Sam, this at number 4

[00:12:39] >> Yes, Shane, the greens were able to be rolled today and they are going to be making some putts out there. A little faster, a little more comfortable for all the players. And I expect to see a lot of putts rolling in, a lot of birdies.

[00:12:49] >> Viktor rolls it in at 4 now at the 5th, great tee shot here.

[00:12:53] >> You can see the way that ball just rolls in with perfect speed. Well done there.

[00:12:57] >> So Viktor Hovland off to a hot start. Going to follow him all of Friday. And how about Tom Kim coming off the win in Las Vegas? It was an up and down day on Thursday, playing a lot better today, started on 10, this at 18 for Eagle, nestles it up close, makes birdie, turns in 3-under. And that is where Tom Kim sits currently, four birdies on his opening nine holes, including this one here at the 18th and just the lone bogey at the 12th. So Tom Kim playing a little bit more like we saw last week in Las Vegas. Update you on the leaderboard, Andrew Putnam playing some solid golf, 4 under par today, playing the 13th. Joel Damon played solid golf a day ago. He's at 5 under par. Keegan Bradley, Ricky Fowler. Ricky Fowler played the par-3's exceptionally on Thursday, made birdies on four of the five. And you see some of the big names, including Collin Morikawa and Xander Schauffele.

[00:13:51] >> Andrew Putnam at the 13th, this for another birdie. And that falls. Now the par putt here for John Huh to keep this round going.

[00:14:08] >> Putting with the glove on there, Tom. We don't see that very often.

[00:14:11] >> He is putting so well today, number one in putts so far in the second round here, the ZOZO Championship.

[00:14:22] >> Interesting around Nirashino, the par-5's have played rather difficult this week comparatively to other tournaments and other golf courses.

[00:14:28] >> They have. And this one here at the 14th is, you know, a true 4-shot hole. Great four there for Andrew.

[00:14:34] >> John Huh the 10th hit his tee shot into the intermediate rough. Getting ready for a second into the par-4. Well done. He'll have a decent look at birdie.

[00:15:01] >> Now Hovland for a par at the 9th.

[00:15:03] >> He's got a nice day going. He'd love to have this one to keep that momentum for the rest of the day. Well holed.

[00:15:15] >> This is a poor putt here for Hov, already 6 under par, big par save at the 9th to get 7-under on the day. And we are now currently, you can say, sitting and hanging out in 59 watch. Put it on the board. Look at all those circles, Hov.

[00:15:31] >> And this is Putnam for a birdie up the hill. Good look here. This is for three in a row and for a three-shot lead and for birdie, having been out of position off the tee there at 15. So this is a really good round of golf from Andrew Putnam.

[00:15:50] >> To the 10th and Cameron Young with his second.

[00:15:53] >> From a really wet fairway from 75, what's the spin control like?

[00:15:58] >> Pretty good, I would say.

[00:16:09] >> Hovland good position here at the 12th, Allie?

[00:16:12] >> Certainly is. Just want to cover that right bunker. Slick to get over that. That was very nicely played.

[00:16:20] >> That's going to get better and better. It's getting better and better, getting better, getting better. Yeah, you can see just how much slope there is around. Players can use it if they take advantage of it.

[00:16:30] >> Now back over at the 9th, Hideki, having come out of the bunker to here, this to save par.

[00:16:35] >> This one up the hill to give him a little bit of confidence. You make this for par.

[00:16:43] >> Yep. Nicely done. Good up and down. Four on a tough hole, the 9th.

[00:16:52] >> Now Cameron Young for birdie.

[00:16:55] >> Right to left all the way.

[00:16:58] >> Yeah, nicely done. Haven't been as many birdies here as you would think. To your point, Sam. It's playing as the seventh hardest hole on the golf course.

[00:17:08] >> And Hideki's third.

[00:17:11] >> The ball not sitting that well and the green running away from him. I don't think you can spin this. Oh man, this is magnificent.

[00:17:22] >> He spun it. He spun it a little bit. He doesn't even need the putter to tap that in. You can use the putter if you like, but he could just hit the wedge in. Over to the 14th John Huh's third.

[00:17:35] >> That's back hole location here. Gotta do exactly that. Flew it all the way past the hole. He's going for the low round.

[00:17:43] >> That to get to 8-under on the day.

[00:17:47] >> 70 here, so that could well be challenged today.

[00:17:50] >> Let's go to 12 and Hovland. Great approach, this for Birdie. Okay. It'll miss, it'll miss, it'll go. Just the perfect speed for Hovland, back-to-back birdies. He's at 5-under.

[00:18:05] >> The swing and carry it that far. Great shot from Viktor.

[00:18:10] >> Now Ricky Fowler for par. Yeah. So this could be a big week for Ricky. It's going to be a big weekend. As long as he stays where he is right now, he's going to be in contention.

[00:18:28] >> And Huh for Birdie.

[00:18:29] >> Great wedge shot forcing it all the way back here past the hole. Little downhill look here. There we go.

[00:18:36] >> To 8-under on the day. And of course, that 18th hole a par-5. Par 70 here at Narashino.

[00:18:50] >> Three to go for Ricky Fowler and he's on the tee at the 7th.

[00:18:59] >> Tom, real opportunity for Ricky to play himself into that final grouping tomorrow.

[00:19:03] >> Yeah, I mean, he's playing well this year. Good finish a couple of weeks ago, and now with a chance to make a birdie here and potentially have the lead going into the weekend.

[00:19:17] >> We'll go to the 16th.

[00:19:19] >> This left hole location, I know he wants to get a couple coming in, but this is going to take all his courage to go at this pin.

[00:19:26] >> Oh yeah.

[00:19:27] >> He has done just that. Beautiful shot.

[00:19:29] >> See flag, hit it at flag. What a golf shot that is.

[00:19:36] >> Ricky Fowler for a birdie at 7.

[00:19:40] >> Big swing from right to left here. Good putt.

[00:19:42] >> Yeah, that was a good stroke.

[00:19:43] >> Very good. I think he looks more and more comfortable over the putter. As I mentioned yesterday, it looks like he's changed his setup a little bit, but obviously it's working.

[00:19:55] >> This is over at the 9th and Keegan Bradley finishing up his day. Says he loves this golf course. Kind of reminds him of some of the courses he grew up playing back in the US. Now to go to 14.

[00:20:15] >> Nakajima trying to get this up and in for his par. Or one better. What a pitch in there. Hated that 3rd. Things improving quickly for the young superstar. He's within three of the lead. How about that run?

[00:20:39] >> Yes, we go to 8.

[00:20:40] >> Yeah, good look for Ricky. He's so good from this distance and always has been his career, about 22 feet it looks like here. Should move slightly to his right. Always been an aggressive putter from this length, and that's how you make a lot of putts, just like that.

[00:20:57] >> You called that and he poured it in. Ricky Fowler is rocking as well on a Friday. Scorable conditions here at Narashino, and Fowler tied with Putnam.

[00:21:12] >> Well you like these psycho scorecards? We had one yesterday and I'll tell you what, if he can make this, shoot 70-70, it seemed like would be mundane and routine, but anything but. I expect him to make it.

[00:21:29] >> Yeah. I agree. If not for a tough first four holes, he would be right in this championship. He's struggled out of the gate here at Narashino. What a way to finish.

[00:21:40] >> 22-year-old Keita Nakajima makes his professional debut on the PGA Tour in his home country. After shooting an even par 70 in round one, Nakajima turned it on for round two, posting nine birdies for the day, including three in a row on holes 4, 5 and 6. He heads into the weekend at 7-under, only three shots back of the leaders. Andrew Putnam and Ricky Fowler atop the leaderboard after round two at 10-under, while John Huh sits in solo fourth at 8-under after shooting a course record 61.

[00:22:18] >> Oh, what a weekend we have ahead of us here at the ZOZO Championship. Accordia Golf, Narashino Country Club, the host for the fourth playing of this ZOZO, and some huge names in the hunt through two rounds. How about Viktor Hovland, one of the best players in the world, made birdie at the 1st. This at number 2, saw the putter working very well on Friday. And sometimes you need just a little bit of luck. Hovland birdie at 2, made birdie at 5 as well. And he's currently in the top five of the leaderboard, just three off the lead. How about Sahith Theegala? Started on the 10th, this at 18 for an eagle. He wouldn't make it, but it'd be a tap in birdie, 7-under on his first nine holes, par 70 here at Narashino Country Club. So just needs 30 on the front nine, his second nine for a round of 59. And Ricky Fowler, the story so far here at the ZOZO, tied for the lead, headed into this third round, this at number 2. You think he's nervous? Not so much. Nearly dunks it, spins that back, makes birdie and Ricky Fowler in control. Theagala at the 2nd to get to 10-under, makes it and he is rolling. You better make birdies today. Conditions ideal for scoring. Exciting third round at the ZOZO.

[00:23:42] >> Andrew Putnam and a good chance for a birdie here.

[00:23:49] >> Andrew Putnam is rolling the ball this week. Always a great putter.

[00:23:52] >> Yeah, he said the putter's really come alive of late.

[00:23:59] >> This is Maverick McNealy on the 9th hole. They put the flag over on the right side of the green, a bit more movement over there, but he read that very well indeed. So that gets Mav out in 30 and into a tie for fifth.

[00:24:17] >> This now to get into red figures. This one down the hill moving to his right.

[00:24:27] >> See if he can tie Ricky at 11-under. Yeah, sure. Craig Perks gave it to you. Pick it up. All good. And after that early birdie, back doing what he did over the course of the first 36 holes.

[00:24:44] >> Fowler on the tee at 7.

[00:24:47] >> 8-iron as well for Ricky. He's flighted this down a little bit and worked back towards the flag.

[00:24:59] >> Oh, good shot. It's below the hole as well.

[00:25:09] >> Cameron James got an uphill left to right look here, this 10th hole. That's well holed there.

[00:25:19] >> Champ already with an eagle. Second day in a row, he's made an eagle on a par five.

[00:25:26] >> And back over to Ricky Fowler with a good look for a birdie here.

[00:25:29] >> Up the hill, just a slight movement to his left. Great opportunity.

[00:25:37] >> Yeah, he gets that one to drop. And the sponsor invite this week, a man who's already had a sixth place finish on the PGA Tour season.

[00:25:50] >> Back over to the 9th. And Keegan Bradley just trying to figure this one out.

[00:25:55] >> Good opportunity here.

[00:25:56] >> Yeah, won at Atlanta Athletic Club in the playoff over Jason Dufner. Yeah, very good.

[00:26:15] >> And Keegan Bradley to 11 under par with back-to-back birdies.

[00:26:21] >> NeSmith for birdie.

[00:26:27] >> Every single putt is going to be from down there, but they're obviously holeable. We've seen a couple guys make them now. Ricky last to go.

[00:26:40] >> This shot from 108. He's flighted this one down. Impressive there.

[00:26:51] >> Very cool shot there from Ricky Fowler. Going to have a great look for birdie here at the 10th to extend the lead.

[00:27:02] >> Brendan Steele with about 10 feet left for birdie on the par three 16th. And it goes. That moves him to 2-under overall.

[00:27:25] >> Could you putt from a better spot than Ricky has here?

[00:27:28] >> You could not. He's wasting time right now.

[00:27:30] >> Just pick it up. Get to 13-under move on.

[00:27:33] >> Sam, we need to play more golf with Craig Perks. He gives a lot of putts.

[00:27:36] >> He's positive. I like that.

[00:27:43] >> Ricky bogey-free and on quite a run after some ups and downs on Thursday.

[00:27:54] >> And go to the 14th.

[00:27:55] >> Cameron Champ has got this for birdie to get to 9 under par.

[00:28:01] >> Good uphill look here at the 14th, very accessible hole location there. Nice birdie from Cameron.

[00:28:10] >> Third birdie of his day. You see that with the eagle at the 6th.

[00:28:14] >> Now Ricky Fowler back on the tee at 13.

[00:28:17] >> Par-3 playing 145 today. Only four paces cover between the bunker's edge and the flagstick. Slightly back into the wind, and Ricky's flighted it down.

[00:28:29] >> Yeah, good shot. Very pleasing to the eye there. Another good example of that trajectory and control with the irons that Ricky's got today.

[00:28:38] >> Ryo Hisatsune on the 18th after almost holing his third shot has this left for birdie. He finishes strong, 5-under on the day, 9-under for the turn.

[00:28:58] >> Ricky Fowler's got a good look at birdie on the 13th. Yeah, best opportunity for a birdie on the par-3's today is the 13th, and Ricky Fowler moves to 14 under par and a three-shot lead here in the third round of the ZOZO championship. Now Keegan back down the hill. That's quick there. Well done. Great jump to the speed.

[00:29:38] >> Go to the 18th, Viktor Hovland. Excellent approach, this for an eagle to get to 11-under. Going to stay up. It's going to stay up. It is. What a role. What a finish for Viktor Hovland, 64. And he is very much in this championship. So Nakajima ready to go for eagle. Yeah, why not? All the speed in the world, and the young man giving the crowd exactly what they paid to see. Great three to finish, 69 for Keita. Ricky ready to go with his third.

[00:30:29] >> One from 104, the wedge on a good line.

[00:30:34] >> Well-judged, once again, Sam. Took some spin off. We've seen him control the spin well today.

[00:30:39] >> Love watching that. Just beautiful to see him hit those wedges in there low, and that's what you're looking for.

[00:30:50] >> Keegan in a pretty good spot to get this up and in.

[00:30:59] >> So that grass was laying against him. He wasn't able to put the spin on it.

[00:31:02] >> Great golf shot there from Keegan Bradley to finish off an excellent day. Can't help but smile after that one, Sam.

[00:31:10] >> That was really well done.

[00:31:19] >> A pitch shot as good as the sneakers he wears.

[00:31:27] >> And Craig, Andrew Putnam eyed this second shot for a long time.

[00:31:30] >> Yeah, and he scrapped and clawed all day. He's only 1 under par. But you know, he's no more than 20 feet from the flag. The ball sitting well. I think obviously intention here to pitch it in.

[00:31:46] >> He's definitely looking to make this Craig. If he were to hole that and Ricky makes, we'd have all three at 13.

[00:31:56] >> Made that look very easy and simple, did Putnam. 33-year-old trying to win for the second time on the PGA Tour. Go back to 2018 Barracuda Championship, outlasted Chad Campbell. And now Ricky, stage is set. See if he can roll this in for birdie. What a putt from Ricky, what an up and in. And what a round the golf. In so much control for most of the day. And for Ricky Fowler, a round of 66 following the 63 on Friday, and he is leading by one in a position he has not been in in a long, long time.

[00:32:53] >> It is Ricky Fowler and Keegan Bradford separated by one stroke, posting dueling 4-under 66's on the day. They'll be in the final group Sunday with Andrew Putnam at 12-under overall. Viktor Hovland, Maverick McNealy and Cameron Champ all carded 6-under 64's today and looking for an opportunity to strike in the final round of the ZOZO Championship coming up next.

[00:33:23] >> It's the dawn of a new season. Familiar faces. And new names. Big tournaments. And great locations. The race for the FedEx Cup has begun.

[00:33:57] >> Three rounds down and one to go. Final round of the ZOZO Championship live from Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club here in Chiba, Japan. And we've got a stack leaderboard. A lot of players trying to end droughts on the PGA Tour, play underway. This earlier, Viktor Hovland at the 2nd, just like he started round number three, a dart into this par-4 for Hovland, trying to chase down another international title. He would make birdie there at the 2nd. How about Andrew Putnam? Has been rolling it so well as he tends to do, this at the 1st playing alongside Ricky Fowler and Keegan Bradley. That in the center of the hole for Putnam. And Ricky Fowler has not made many bogeys this week. This at the par-3 3rd, has played the par-3's so well here at Narashino. Not a great pitch shot, would miss that, make bogey. All the while, Putnam hit one in. Tight here at the 3rd. And as Ricky makes bogey, Putnam trying to make a second birdie in his first three holes. He rolls that one in and takes the outright lead. Putnam to 14 under par, one clear of Fowler and Keegan Bradley. Of course, not the only players out on the golf course. Emiliano Grillo here at the 8th. This for three birdies in a row and four birdies in his first eight holes. Sure, why not? Makes it perfect, and that roll was as well. And this just a moment ago at the par-3 5th, Keegan Bradley long look for a birdie, this to join Putnam at 14-under. And we wouldn't show it to you if it didn't go in. Great pace from Bradley. And it is a busy leaderboard, fourth playing of the ZOZO Championship. And we've got a great one for you. It is cocktail golf on the East Coast.

[00:35:59] Keegan set to go.

[00:36:00] >> Just 85 yards. I like the way Keegan's hit wedges, flights them down. Using the slope behind the flag there nicely.

[00:36:09] >> Able to get that pin high. Number one job there accomplished.

[00:36:18] >> Hovland with the par putt coming back the other way now to stay 12-under, a couple back. And that is really an unforced error from Viktor Hovland, having hit the green, giving himself a birdie putt. So he falls back three behind.

[00:36:34] >> Back over to the six, Keegan Bradley to take the outright lead. Yeah, wonderful. Keegan a couple of big putts in a row, long one at the 5th, manageable one there at 6 and Keegan Bradley to 15-under.

[00:37:07] >> It's a par for Viktor Hovland at the 9th, having made back-to-back bogeys at 7 and 8. So he's over par for the day. And over par is not going to be close to getting it done.

[00:37:27] >> Hisasune here at the 12th, 20-year-old. Oh, there we go. He's making a bit of a move today.

[00:37:34] >> That's a bonus there to pick up a birdie on 12. One of the more difficult holes out there in this tough hole location.

[00:37:40] >> That was a really good putt. Almost as good as those shades.

[00:37:47] >> Let's go to 18.

[00:37:48] >> And our defending champion Hideki Matsuyama finishing up his week. See if he can do it in style. There you go. Good birdie to close. Not a great week for Hideki. 71 to close, 66 in round three. Not going to defend his title, but the fans always enjoy getting a chance to see their superstar in the flesh.

[00:38:17] >> Three would be a wonderful score here at 11.

[00:38:26] >> He's made a three. They're hard to come by, just the fourth of the day. And how important is that for Keegan Bradley? Gets him to 3-under and a two-shot lead for the moment.

[00:38:43] >> Go over to 15.

[00:38:44] >> Grillo's second, flag back-left today. Got to be careful of the spin to this hole location. Yes, that's really well done.

[00:38:58] >> Go to the 18th. Xander Schauffele has this for a birdie. Not what you're looking for on the easiest hole on the golf course. Oh, that's got to drop. That was too good of a putt not to go in. Still a solid round. The gold medalist, Xander Schauffele, loves coming to Japan. Loves this area. Fans love him as well. Highest ranked player in the field this week. A 65 to close, all four rounds in the 60s for Schauffele. Go back over to the 12th.

[00:39:47] >> That's really well done there.

[00:39:53] >> Go over to the 18th. And Kadira finishes his week up with a birdie. Nice round from Satoshi. 67 has him currently in the top 15 of this leaderboard.

[00:40:14] >> Grillo now for a birdie at the 15th. And that gets him to 12-under.

[00:40:23] >> Four back of that 16-under par number.

[00:40:30] >> Coming off the win in Vegas, Tom Kim finishing up his ZOZO Championship. And that one just creeps in the right side. Celebration for everybody. Let's raise those hands. I like the look. Got the short sleeve vest going after that 70 in round one. Go to the 14th. Sahith Theegala up the hill.

[00:40:57] >> Yeah, long look here for Sahith. But it doesn't matter. What a roll from Theegala. He had a look at 59 yesterday.

[00:41:15] >> Back here at the 14th, Viktor Hovland off the green for eagle.

[00:41:18] >> Has to look almost at right angles here. Match pace and line. It's so tough from down there.

[00:41:24] >> How great is this? First eagle of the week at the 14th belongs to that man right there. What a roll, Sam.

[00:41:34] >> That was good to see. Finally a player knock it on this green and take advantage of the tee moved up a little bit today.

[00:41:44] >> Go back over to 17.

[00:41:45] >> Yeah, Grillo has this for a birdie. To get to 13 under par and within three of the lead. That looks really good. Yes, well done. He's playing some good golf of late over the last several months. Couple of second place finishes, as we mentioned in the summertime.

[00:42:15] >> Saw this on our plane through, Hayden Buckley up the hill at 16. Oh, yes. From nowhere to somewhere. Hayden Buckley makes a long one, gets to 12-under. Having a great day. A couple under par, two holes to play, just three off the lead. Needs a birdie at 17, an eagle at 18. Put a little pressure on this final group that is struggling right now in this final round.

[00:42:47] >> Go to the 16th, Hovland. Great tee shot, trying to pay it off.

[00:42:51] >> Up and over a little bit, right to left. Need to be aggressive, firm, just like that.

[00:42:57] >> Yeah.

[00:42:57] >> Nice stuff.

[00:42:58] >> Great birdie there from Hovland, slow start. Eagle at 14, birdie at 16.

[00:43:08] >> He's given a shot back at the par-5, the 14th, and now he's in danger of giving another one back here. And he's further away than Andrew Putnam. Oh, so well done. That was a really good up and down. You can see with the fist pump how much that means and how important that putt was for Keegan Bradley. It keeps him at 15 under par.

[00:43:34] >> Go to the 18th, Matthew NeSmith having another solid week after the second place finish in Las Vegas. And a great approach here to have that left for birdie.

[00:43:55] >> The guy with the birdie at 17. He's bounced back nicely after a tough start, dropping those two shots in the first three holes.

[00:44:07] >> Matthew NeSmith now for birdie at 18 to finish up at 10-under. That's in. NeSmith with a very solid week, all four rounds in the 60s.

[00:44:29] >> Important putt here for Ricky Fowler.

[00:44:31] >> Huge. After the three-putt on the last, you've got a chance to tie the lead. Give you a huge jolt of confidence. Just up the hill, breaking left.

[00:44:45] >> And that right off the blade, and another short miss for Ricky Fowler.

[00:45:06] >> Let's go to the 18th green.

[00:45:07] >> They're going to need to do what Theegala is hoping to do here at the 18th, this for an eagle. This would be the sixth eagle of the day at the 18th, to get to 13-under. Just needed one more foot of pace to force it in. Another fine week for the young man.

[00:45:31] >> Yeah, he's off to a great start this season. I look for him to have a lot of success this year and many years to come.

[00:45:39] >> 67 this final round for Theegala, finishing a tie for sixth at the Fortinet Championship. So this will be two top 10s for Theegala in his first three starts.

[00:45:50] >> Keegan, with that leaderboard, he sees his name up top right now. And go ahead and make this putt, two-shot lead with the length he has at the par-5. Might be tough to overcome. This could be the one that seals it for him.

[00:46:10] >> And he's done it. He makes the three at 17, and a big advantage for Keegan Bradley heading to the 72nd hole here at the ZOZO championship.

[00:46:24] >> McNealy now for eagle.

[00:46:25] >> I think this has to get shifted right. Just off that little knoll halfway.

[00:46:45] >> Easy four here for Maverick and a solid week, and really got a lot of things going well right now. Look for him to break through this year and get his first win out here on the PGA Tour.

[00:47:01] >> 71 to close for McNealy after that great 64 a day ago. Now Champ.

[00:47:13] >> For a very tidy closing up and down. Gosh, what a joy it's been to be back in Japan. Second biggest golf market in the world. But you know, I think they're number one in enthusiasm. Been so much fun. Yeah, it is a four in the end. Just looking back down the fairway as well as the sun begins to lower. This is the time of night and the temperature that everyone just dreams about playing in. Wasn't Viktor Hovland's week, but gosh, they love him here.

[00:48:03] >> First start to this PGA Tour season for Hovland, and he will start things off with a top 10. Final group, final hole. Putnam already laying up here. Keegan Bradley, our leader, ready to go.

[00:48:17] >> 269 all the way back there. He better get all of it. Could slam the door shut here if he knocks this on the green. And it was solidly struck, going towards the left front edge. Yeah, I'm not sure that was the right club there, to be honest with you. It has come up a few yards short of the green. Andrew Putnam's third.

[00:48:47] >> 136. Good looking shot here.

[00:48:58] >> Oh, sensational. Right over the top of it. And now our leader just trying to get this up and in and take home PGA Tour victory number five.

[00:49:21] >> Beautiful.

[00:49:22] >> Just what he was looking to do. Makes it 78% of the greens hit this week, to your point, Craig, from Keegan Bradley. So it comes down to a pitch shot from Fowler. Had a one-shot lead coming to this final round. He's going to need to hole this. Well, that's going to come up short. And the search for Rickie Fowler will continue. Showing signs. And Sam, a very important part of returning to the winner's circle are these moments, these signs where you see great rounds, bogey-free rounds. Get yourself in contention. Feel the nerves once again. And for Rickie Fowler, I know he'll be disappointed today, but he can leave here and build off this.

[00:50:18] >> Yeah, Shane, you can't win golf tournaments unless you give yourself chances. And a lot of those chances are going to be losing golf tournaments.

[00:50:33] >> Classy finish from Rickie Fowler. He's not going to leave with a trophy, but trending in the right direction.

[00:50:58] >> And a little surprising. Bradley just going to go ahead and finish things up. Didn't need the birdie.

[00:51:12] >> He might mark. I think he's going to. Been so long since he won. I'm not sure he remembered how to finish things off at the end. No, I'll wait. You go.

[00:51:25] >> Don't take any chances, right?

[00:51:43] >> Nice finish from Putnam. Round of 68, going to come up just short. And for Keegan Bradley, just two top three finishes in his last three seasons. Gets win number five at the ZOZO Championship. And the drought for Keegan Bradley ends in Japan. Shaky late in this final round. But stuffed one on 17, rolled in an important birdie putt and did all he needed to do.

[00:52:18] >> This concludes the PGA Tour's coverage of the ZOZO Championship from Chiba, Japan.