Production Transcript for REWIND\_CJ22\_MCILROY\_1.mp3

[00:00:20] >> The PGA Tour is proud to bring you the season long race for the FedEx Cup. Now coverage of the 2022 CJ Cup in South Carolina.

[00:00:52] >> And we are at Congaree Golf Club near Ridgeland, South Carolina. The vision of co-founder Dan Friedkin was to build a club that promotes the game of golf and positively impact the youth in the local community. The layout, well, it's just fantastic, unique. Terrific time of year to be here. The course is in pristine condition firm and fast. And with 15 of the top 20 and the Official World Golf Ranking in the field this week, we are in store for an excellent four days. We have some highlights to pass along, some good scoring thus for. Tom Kim is at it again, the winner in Vegas. Here he is for birdie at the 5th, Trevor.

[00:01:29] >> Yeah, made a birdie at 4, and you can just see how lightning fast the greens are here at Congaree Golf Club.

[00:01:35] >> Now, Rory McIlroy, he wants to defend this title that he won last year in Las Vegas and put himself at the number one spot in the Official World Golf Ranking once again. There's a birdie putt at the 5th. McIlroy off to a very nice start with a birdie at 4 and 5. And then, how about going to the 6th, here's his second shot.

[00:01:52] >> Yeah, 339-yard drive, 147 to the hole, back left hole location. McIlroy with just a short iron here taking dead aim. A beautiful golf shot and three birdies in a row for him.

[00:02:05] >> Terrific play there by McIlroy. Trey Mullinax, went out early and went out fast. Here's a birdie putt at the 11th.

[00:02:13] >> Yeah, from long range six birdies in his first 11 holes. He was on fire to start.

[00:02:18] >> And he was the first man to post a 6-under par 65. McIlroy on the tee at 15. This is a hole, Trevor. We are going to love to watch all week.

[00:02:27] >> Oh, yeah drivable par 4, 352 to the front. You can see the group in front still on the green, and John, they're ongoing. Hey, Rory, we're still up here.

[00:02:37] >> Yeah, he's not saying the field goal is good. He's saying, hey, hey, we're standing here on the green.

[00:02:42] >> Magnificent shot, nonetheless.

[00:02:44] >> Absolutely. Two putts for a birdie, McIlroy at it again. How about Gary Woodland? A birdie at 17. Now he has a chance to finish it in style at 18.

[00:02:54] >> Yeah. Coming up the hill here and just grabs the right side of the hole. Beautiful 65 from Woodland.

[00:03:00] >> Yeah he joins Mullinax with that 6-under 65. Back to Tom Kim for birdie at 16.

[00:03:06] >> Putting a little more difficult than what it appears coming up in over a range from 28 feet but perfect speed control from Tom.

[00:03:14] >> Got to 5-under par, at one point, at the seven 17th, thanks to this play. How about this from Kim with a 2nd.

[00:03:21] >> Yeah, 150. Oh, just look at that balance, posing. He loves it. I mean, why not?

[00:03:29] >> Knocks it stiff, Tom Kim. Stole the show at Quail Hollow a few weeks ago for the international side that you kept in so well, Trevor, at the President's Cup. And he's sitting atop the leaderboard again tied for the lead with Trey and Gary. McIlroy right there, 1 shot back. Aaron Wise's day is complete. What a field we have.

[00:03:56] >> 8-iron for Spieth.

[00:04:05] >> It's on a good line. And it's an excellent shot, so a chance for Jordan Spieth.

[00:04:13] >> Spieth would finish that off for birdie.

[00:04:17] >> And here's Scottie Scheffler. Okay.

[00:04:22] >> Man, it's a beautiful putt there. You see that putter? He's put a new putter in the bag this week.

[00:04:33] >> 12, Sheamus Power, the Irishman from the bunker.

[00:04:36] >> Yeah, Power playing is the easiest hole on the golf course today. There you go.

[00:04:40] >> A little sidespin there.

[00:04:43][ Applause ]

[00:04:48] >> Back to Max Homa now a 10. Another 700 from the left side. This is on a great line. Yeah.

[00:04:57] >> Sure is. So, he was able to squeeze out a little bit more out of the 7-iron than what Matsuyama.

[00:05:03] >> What a shot there from Max.

[00:05:06] >> Homa gets back to even par.

[00:05:10] >> Yeah, we're up at 14 now, K.H. Lee. Yeah

[00:05:16] >> All right. That's a great save there.

[00:05:23] >> Cam Davis trying to get to 400.

[00:05:25] >> This will be some 2. Oh, that's fantastic. How's that low hooky hit off the tee, rolls that putt in.

[00:05:36] >> Playing that hole to nearly perfection. That was gorgeous. Back at 12, Hideki. Up the hill, moving a little right to left. Certainly, a longer putt than he was hoping for after that bunker shot.

[00:05:50] >> It had poor speed on the previous hole from about this distance.

[00:05:58] >> Oh, there you go.

[00:06:05] >> 17, Harris English, his third shot, par 4.

[00:06:15] >> It's got a chance. Yes, right in the middle of that. Beautiful technique on that shot.

[00:06:23] >> English closes with a par and shoots 69. Rory McIlroy and Tom Kim came out in the morning at Congaree and put on a show combining for 11 birdies between them and adding up to a duo of 66s. Long putts and big drives, Kim and McIlroy pushed each other to a tie for third after round one. They're just one shot back of leaders Trey Mullinax and Gary woodland. But just a little further down the board, Norway's Viktor Hovland and South Korea's Si-woo Kim put together two solid 67s and are within striking distance. Round two is next.

[00:07:14] >> And we welcome you back to Congaree Golf Club. What a spot this is. Tom Fazio used his expertise to design this critically acclaimed property which only opened four years ago, and this is the perfect time of year to be here. Crisp fall weather means firm and fast conditions. Throw in 15 of the top 20 players in the Official World Golf Ranking and it is a recipe for a tasty week here in Jasper County, South Carolina. We've seen some good stuff already from the world's number 1 player. Here's Scottie Scheffler for birdie at 4.

[00:07:47] >> Yeah, struggled on the greens yesterday. New putter in the back. The maximum from 40 feet got him to a hot start. 4 birdies to get his round going.

[00:07:55] >> How about Tom Kim? He has wowed us the last few months on the PGA Tour and at the President's Cup. He's doing it again today. He's 3rd at 2.

[00:08:02] >> Yeah. This is the part of his game that is extremely strong. Always great contact and spin control, beauty there.

[00:08:08] >> So, he makes the birdie putt at 2. How about one from just off the green at 3?

[00:08:12] >> Yeah, 13 feet. Runs nice and smoothly through the fringe. Two in a row.

[00:08:17] >> Tom Kim, it's like he's parked himself recently on the first page of a leaderboard. What about Kurt Kitayama with an eagle drive from a bunker? He's 3rd the par-5 12.

[00:08:29] >> There you go. Yesterday, he had a good look for eagle, just missed it. Gets the eagle today, so he's played that hole in 3 under in the first two rounds.

[00:08:37] >> That was fantastic. Just like this one from the bunker for Cam Davis. His 3rd at 18, trying to save his par.

[00:08:43] >> Yeah, beautiful sound to that bunker shot. You see all that spin he could generate there? Back to back 66s for Davis.

[00:08:49] >> Told Todd Lewis yesterday, reminded him of being back home in Australia in Melbourne at the Sand Belt. And he used it well there with a 66 in round two. How about John Rahm? His 3rd at 8.

[00:09:00] >> The hole for second shot from the fairway but makes up for it with a great shot. That bunker or sandy area is so deep, he couldn't even tell that that ball went in. Great response there from Rahm.

[00:09:09] >> 5-under par today through eight holes. And just a moment ago at the 15th, Aaron Wise trying to grab a share of the lead at 10-under par.

[00:09:17] >> Greens are so pure at Congaree. And another one drops down there. Good putt from Wise.

[00:09:24] >> Yeah. If you find the line, you're going to roll it right in. These greens are rolling beautifully. Kim Davis now has company atop the leaderboard. Aaron Wise has reached 10-under par. There's Kurt Kitayama sitting there one shot back and then a host of major champions and world class talent right there with John Rahm. And Shane Lowry is 7-under par.

[00:09:51] >> McIlroy on the tee at 9. Rory McIlroy with a driver. Best things in golf I would say, this is high left, trying to cover those trees on the left.

[00:10:02] >> He has to hug that left side with that driver, and he did because he could run through the right side. But that is pretty much ideal right there.

[00:10:11] >> Way down there. That is a bomb.

[00:10:17] >> Tommy Fleetwood, he's trying to get things started here.

[00:10:20] >> Match McNeely with the birdie. There you go. So, 8 playing easy for this group.

[00:10:27] >> Very nice. How about that?

[00:10:31] >> The sandy area, they don't call them bunkers here at Congaree. They all work their way into the natural areas. Emiliano Grillo, oh, on the fly. How about that? This the 9th there that you're looking at. Fowler has already missed his birdie putt, and now it's McIlroy's turn.

[00:10:54] >> Saw him wedge to here. This putt looked like it had a lot of straight in it and then going to the right at the end. But this one, very fast coming off one of the high points on the green. This is where Trevor talked about some defensive putting. I would say this would be one of those putts.

[00:11:09] >> Yeah. Once in a while here you have to. These greens are so quick.

[00:11:16] >> Gosh, look at that.

[00:11:17] >> Yeah. That's really a good putt though. Done some nice work with Brad Faxon and on the greens. He's become a very solid putter.

[00:11:35] >> Here's John Rahm back at the 10th.

[00:11:38] >> Yeah, I'd argue this is one of the fastest putts on the property. You're going to be straight downhill and moving to his right the entire way. You got to be really careful with this one, Trevor.

[00:11:47] >> Yeah. Right at the halfway point in this putt, you can see the green change there, right about here. That's a great effort. Oh, John.

[00:12:02] >> How about that? Bit of a bonus birdie for the Spaniard. After the short miss at 9, he ends up getting that sixth birdie on his card.

[00:12:15] >> Now McIlroy.

[00:12:16] >> Boy, he could use one of these to fall, John?

[00:12:18] >> Yeah, big swinger left to right here. One of the few putts on this green that probably doesn't have a ton of speed to it. Did he do it? Yes, he did. Perhaps that unlocks the seal for McIlroy, and he'll put his foot back on the gas.

[00:12:37] >> Now let's compare the first round with McIlroy and Tom Kim. The score's the same but none of the yardage.

[00:12:46] >> Yeah, incredible how they got to those scores. Look at the driving distance there, 328 for McIlroy. He was leading driving distance. And just shy of 290 for Tom Kim.

[00:13:03] >> Smiley, what's it look like down there for John Rahm?

[00:13:05] >> Well, Steve, he's taken multiple drops here, one for being in line with the shot link tall and the second one for being in a drain. And luckily, he dropped it twice, ball at 4 twice. So, he got to place his lie, which is such an advantage, but he is very short sighted here.

[00:13:25] >> Trying to go high because he can't generate as much spin as what he would like. But this is amazing.

[00:13:30] >> That was so good guys.

[00:13:31] >> What a shot.

[00:13:33] >> That advantage of being able to place your ball.

[00:13:35] >> Yeah.

[00:13:36] >> Rahm would go on to make par.

[00:13:38] >> Great shot.

[00:13:41] >> Now over to Rory's 2nd at the 12.

[00:13:46] >> Sticking with that 5-iron, ball a little bit above his feet, expected to turn it over a little bit. Ideal finishing line just left of the tower.

[00:14:01] >> This is right at. It needs to get up I think.

[00:14:03] >> Oh, it did. How about a 2?

[00:14:06] >> Oh, not where he was looking, but he will certainly take it now.

[00:14:10][ Applause ]

[00:14:17] >> Mullinax, at 16, had that great round yesterday, 6-under. Even so far today, but there you go.

[00:14:29] >> John Rahm has this for birdie.

[00:14:31] >> Yeah. You don't get uphill putts too often here at Congaree Golf Club. So, he potentially can give this one a run. If it gets there.

[00:14:40] >> And it did. Perfect speed, caught the edge. John Rahm having a good day. Look at that scorecard.

[00:14:51] >> Rory from barely off the green at 13.

[00:14:59] >> And right in the heart for McIlroy as well. What a birdie from that sandy area with that wiry grass around the ball. Terrific birdies on three of the last four and another. Look here, Trevor, at that shot.

[00:15:12] >> Really impressive. Watch how he tries to hold onto that finish there, make sure that the clubface doesn't twist down on him. And the contact was amazing. He's able to generate some backspin here. And the birdie at the par 5 and then here with this, up the hill, right into the hole.

[00:15:32] >> Rickie Fowler under that bright blue sky and sunshine.

[00:15:35] >> Starting at the center, turning over towards the flagstick now.

[00:15:39] >> Oh, yeah.

[00:15:41] >> Keep going.

[00:15:42] >> Oh, that was almost a BB go hole-in-one prize right there.

[00:15:47] >> Oh, that would have been really, really cool. And there, the golf balls of Rickie Fowler, less than 5 feet away, McIlroy. And Kim will be first to play, John.

[00:15:57] >> Just a little right to left early and then straightening as it goes up the hill. Hello.

[00:16:09] >> That stroke is just so smooth.

[00:16:14] >> Yeah, that was a beautiful putt there.

[00:16:21] >> Up here at 15, John Rahm looking at his second shot.

[00:16:24] >> Yeah, well, you'll need some discipline here for this right hole because you cannot aim at it. But this is a nice line.

[00:16:30] >> Yeah, that's probably pretty close to what his target was there.

[00:16:35] >> Now Rahm at 15 for birdie.

[00:16:53] >> Back here at 15 and McIlroy looking at this birdie putt.

[00:16:58] >> Good look here, down the hill moving his right a hair. Fairly innocuous looking putt, but Kurt, you just constantly got to remind yourself the speed of these greens and how much they can get away from you.

[00:17:10] >> Good week for guys that like to die putt and gets it to go. So, McIlroy moves to 8-under.

[00:17:22] >> Up at the green or just off it is John Rahm.

[00:17:25] >> Yes. And see, based on the way his round has gone today, it just would not surprise me to see him make something like this.

[00:17:35] >> John. John is rolling them in from everywhere.

[00:17:40] >> Back to 17 again.

[00:17:42] >> Just off the green, Viktor Hovland has this for birdie, and this is, again, the hardest hole on the golf course today. Right on cue. Good putt. John Rahm.

[00:18:03] >> Yeah, all you can really see is the flagstick, and that left bunker definitely is in play. If you miss it to the right, everything funnels off of the green. But he's been hitting this fade very well today. Ball below his feet, imagine he's going to peel one off his left bunker.

[00:18:17] >> 195 yards.

[00:18:28] >> Needs to get up a yard.

[00:18:30] >> Released, look at this shot. Look at this shot. Oh, how did that miss?

[00:18:41] >> That's how it's still rolling.

[00:18:48] >> And Rahm just tapping in. This will give him a 1-shot lead.

[00:18:59] >> Keegan Bradley, John Rahm, and Justin Thomas.

[00:19:05] >> All right, here we go. Smiley. John's got to make this for a sub-60 round.

[00:19:09] >> Well, Trevor, you mentioned that it's going to be a perfect full pitch in which he got in there really quick. So, he must love his number.

[00:19:40] >> Asking for it to go and that's why. Okay, so now hang on. Nope. Oh, it's going to trickle back into it.

[00:19:50] >> Maybe not all the way.

[00:19:51] >> Ah, the rake might catch it.

[00:19:52] >> Oh.

[00:19:52] >> Is that good or bad?

[00:19:54] >> It's good.

[00:19:54] >> Okay. Back here on 18 green, John Rahm has this for bogey.

[00:20:10] >> Has not made a bogey all day. All right, so the arrant wedge with the second shot. Cost him a little bit, but it's still a course record, 62.

[00:20:36] >> Rahm goes out in round two and takes the course record, firing a 62 and catapulting up the leaderboard into a tie for first with American Kurt Kitayama. Rory McIlroy sits just 2 back after 67.

[00:21:01] >> And we are in the low country of the Palmetto State. Golf is a fabric of this community. Most people think of Hilton and rightfully so, but about an hour inland, we're at Congaree Golf Club. This gem opened in 2018 and has quickly made its way into the National Golf vernacular. This week, most of the best players in the world are here, 15 of the top 20 in the Official World Golf Ranking. And they've all been raving about the golf course, the conditions, and that warm hospitality. John Rahm, well, he's at it again. Here's his 3rd at 2, Trevor.

[00:21:35] >> Yeah, coming off of that hot, 62 in round two. Beautiful pitch from over the back of the par 5, so birdie there for him.

[00:21:42] >> Kurt Kitayama had to share the lead to begin the day. Here's his 2nd at 3.

[00:21:46] >> Yeah, short par 4 here, just 340. Kitayama controlling the spin to perfection there, so birdie for him at the 3rd.

[00:21:53] >> Looking very calm in the early stages of this third round. Now this might be the shot of the tournament. McIlroy is 2nd at the par 5/4. Check this out.

[00:22:04] >> This is McIlroy in full flight from 227. Just not many players in the game of golf that can launch a long that high and get it to land softly on these extremely firm greens here at Congaree. Eagle for McIlroy at the par 5.

[00:22:18] >> Basically, a tap in eagle for McIlroy. That was splendid. Aaron Wise, same hole but he's hitting his 4th after being in trouble at this par 5.

[00:22:25] >> Yeah, the second crept into the water there but took the drop. Makes that pitch from over the back to get away with a birdie.

[00:22:32] >> How about the Aussie, Cam Davis, for birdie at 5?

[00:22:36] >> Birdied the par 5/4th, so looking for back to back from 28 feet. Count it.

[00:22:44] >> Kim Davis kind of quietly going about his business, but he is a factor. So is this man, McIlroy for birdie at 7.

[00:22:52] >> Breaking from his left-hand side, that goes in 3-under in his last four holes.

[00:22:59] >> Rory has a chance to put himself in the number 1 spot in the Official World Golf Ranking if he gets a victory on Sunday afternoon. This was moments ago at the 10th, Wyndham Clark. The par 3, staring at it, and that's why. A hold-in-one just a couple of seconds ago at the par 3/10 for Wyndham Clark.

[00:23:21][ Applause and Cheering ]

[00:23:25] >> And Lee Hodges' second shot. Well, we saw earlier how hard this shot can be, tall head and hit it out in the water right. They're really guarding against the left here, but Lee Hodges has hit some -- it right at the hole. This looks amazing.

[00:23:38] >> Can he get it to stop around there? He does. What a shot in there.

[00:23:48] >> John Rahm sitting there at the 8th with this putt for 3.

[00:23:53] >> And nothing drives you crazier than having a gap wedge in and having a 6-7 footer for par. Two putts, didn't get either of them to the hole. So, John Rahm's going to drop back. K.H. Lee now at 10.

[00:24:34] >> Here's Windham Clark. If you were with us when we came on the air, a hole-in-one at the 10th. There he is out of the bunker the par 5. Gold.

[00:24:46] >> And now Kurt Kitayama.

[00:24:49] >> Yep, exactly.

[00:24:56] >> 181, as you said, that wind is right to left and helping a touch. It was feeling left to right for a while, so they waited that out and back into now. And he gets the wind that he likes. That was an 8-iron. He's definitely going to need to get that one solidly. Right at the hole.

[00:25:18] >> Man, beautiful shot and hangs on to the left side of that green.

[00:25:21] >> Come on, John.

[00:25:26] >> Now up at the green.

[00:25:38] >> That's a beautiful putt.

[00:25:38] >> Kitayama.

[00:25:39][ Applause ]

[00:25:48] >> 13, this is Tom Kim for par. And good save.

[00:26:00] >> Way to go, Tom.

[00:26:03] >> Taylor Moore, long ways away. You see the flagstick all the way on the left side of your screen. He's got a lot of non-green to work with.

[00:26:11] >> Going with the putter. We've seen that choice a lot over the last three days. What a great shot this is.

[00:26:17] >> So, he made the right choice.

[00:26:18] >> He sure did.

[00:26:18] >> Wow. There, you see all the golf balls on and off the fairway on that lone one way out there. That's right, 376 yards.

[00:26:32] >> So, his three tee shots here at the par 5/12 this week have been 340, 347, and 376.

[00:26:40] >> Smiley, it must be incredible to see in person.

[00:26:43] >> Yeah sure. It must be nice being able to turn par 5s into par 4s. I asked Rory if he hit that well. He said hit it pretty good. And this one's good as well, right at it.

[00:26:55] >> And you need it right there, it just falls off.

[00:27:04] >> Back to 11 we go. Kurt Kitayama struggling on this hole a little bit. He has a pretty lengthy putt for par.

[00:27:13] >> He does, out of the same area that Dave is putted. He should have an idea of the speed and the brake, always a plus.

[00:27:21] >> 2-under on his round he got after that birdie at the par 3/10th hole.

[00:27:31] >> Was it tough mentally, Kurt, when the course changes a lot from one day to the next like it has from yesterday to today to adjust your mind and your thinking to that?

[00:27:40] >> Yeah. I mean, I think, you know, these guys are so good at that though, John. I think they prepare so well that -- even to the point where they'll take their launch monitor out there morning versus afternoon to see how far the ball's going. I mean, they just prepare so well.

[00:28:03] >> Great save.

[00:28:05] >> Trying for his second eagle of the day, Smiley.

[00:28:09] >> Yeah. Even though he's off the green, he's putting from a pretty good spot here. Should be just up the hill. Maybe a little right at the end.

[00:28:16] >> Ah, he made a 3 at 4 and he made at 3 at 12. Suddenly, Rory McIlroy has catapulted himself to the top of the leaderboard. 14-under par for McIlroy.

[00:28:29] >> And take another look at just how smoothly this ball rolled here through that fairway and then onto the green. No bouncing around at all. Never looked like missing.

[00:28:40] >> Up at 18, Corey Connors hitting his second shot at the par 4.

[00:28:51] >> See that puff of sand there coming up with the divot hole location in the back right. This is a nice one here for Corey.

[00:29:06] >> Tom Kim at 16.

[00:29:07] >> Trying to make two in a row.

[00:29:10] >> Did you have your BB go lunch earlier today, Trevor?

[00:29:13] >> I had many of them, and they were amazing, just like that putt from Tom Kim. So, back to back birdies, and that's three 3s in a row. Gets him to 9-under.

[00:29:26] >> Taylor Moore, how about this? His third 18 from way off the green. He has to go around the drains, and he drains it.

[00:29:36] >> Yeah.

[00:29:38] >> That's the way to finish your day. Back to 15 and, Kurt, how much do you love a short par 4, especially when it's properly placed on the course?

[00:29:47] >> I mean, I do, I love them. You know, the 10th at RIV is great. The 17 tall at TPC Scottsdale always seems to have a hand in deciding who wins there. I think it's really good, and this hole qualifies right here, 15th. See what Rahm can do.

[00:30:07] >> About 15 yards closer than Davis was.

[00:30:22] >> Wow, how about this?

[00:30:22] >> This is great. Wow, what a shot.

[00:30:23] >> How about those two shots?

[00:30:29] >> That was so cool to watch. Now, McIlroy.

[00:30:33] >> Yeah, Steve, ball a little above his feet, so I imagine he's going to try to draw it. But he need to be careful that bunker right at the green.

[00:30:41] >> Yep, careful he was, nice shot.

[00:30:43] >> Yeah, one of the better wedge shots we've seen from Rory this week.

[00:30:47] >> Rory McIlroy hasn't made a birdie since the 7th, Smiley, but it did pay off an eagle at 12.

[00:30:52] >> Yeah, straight up hill, not much in this one.

[00:30:57] >> Okay. That's how you play 16. McIlroy all by himself once again at 14-under par. Remember that approach from Tom Kim, Trevor?

[00:31:09] >> Yeah. It paid off. Right?

[00:31:10] >> I hope so. He's struggled on the greens today. Can you finally make one?

[00:31:14] >> There you go.

[00:31:14] >> That don't think he thought he'd made it.

[00:31:17] >> No, he did not.

[00:31:25] >> Rahm now obviously much closer but doesn't have to go up and over that little swell we were talking about. He's sitting right on top of it. So, he knows it's straight down the hill and fast the whole way. But definitely an easier read than Kitayama would have had.

[00:31:39] >> Trevor, I -- just his whole body language here, you know, we saw how frustrated he was after a couple of bogeys there. But I'm fairly impressed with the way he's sort of kept the patience and kept it all together here on this back 9.

[00:31:51] >> Yeah, I agree. I was just thinking the same thing, particularly on the last hole when he had a little adversity there. I have a feeling he's going to make this.

[00:32:00] >> Kurt, isn't that part of the process, to make sure you harness that energy in a positive direction as opposed to letting it put you down?

[00:32:07] >> A hundred percent and I said, you know, as accomplished as he is, you know, it's not easy for him. But he's gotten better and better and better every year out here, and he's pretty darn good at it right now. He gets pretty fired up, but he gets over it quick. Good call. Right in the heart. What a birdie that is.

[00:32:37] >> Rahm follows up his 62 with a 1-under 70, but it's still only one shot back to Rory McIlroy. The duel of the CJ Cup in South Carolina is emerging. Who will outlast the other? The final round is next.

[00:32:55] >> 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.

[00:33:30] >> Championship Sunday at the CJ Cup in South Carolina has some added significance to Rory McIlroy. If Rory wins today, he'll become the number 1 player in the world for the ninth time in his illustrious career. We have some highlights to pass along. Steve Sands, pleased to be alongside, Trevor Immelmann once again. Here's Rory, par at 1, a birdie a 2.

[00:33:49] >> Yeah, he has been feasting on the par 5 so far this week. And there is another birdie at the par 5/2nd.

[00:33:55] >> 14-under par, had the lead all to himself, and then a big par save after getting in trouble at 3.

[00:34:00] >> Yeah, drove the ball way right and was stuck in the sandy area, a huge part there for him to keep the momentum after the birdie at 2.

[00:34:06] >> And he maintained that one shot lead. How about John Rahm? He's pursuing you. Birdie 2, here he is again at 4.

[00:34:13] >> Yeah, got it up near green side at the 2nd par 5, rolls that putt in nicely.

[00:34:17] >> It's a 14-under par, Trevor. And now it's Rahm and McIlroy tied for the lead at that point. And then how about this tee shot at 5 for John?

[00:34:25] >> Yeah. Difficult whole location in the back left corner on a tiny little plateau there. 166 yards, wind just kicking up a little bit. Great control from Rahm at the par 3.

[00:34:35] >> He was also in control with his putter. He made that birdie to get to 15-under and had the lead all to himself. But McIlroy had some business to handle at the 4th with his third shot.

[00:34:46] >> Yeah, perfect line in sandy area, great control, gets that clubface way open on the backswing.

[00:34:53] >> Makes the birdie putt, gets the 15-under, and tied for the lead once again. McIlroy again at 6 with his 2nd.

[00:34:59] >> Ball above his feet. He's gone down the grip a little bit just to account for that, 168 yards. McIlroy has the ions dialed here at the 6th hole.

[00:35:10] >> If Rahm would make a bogey, McIlroy would make a birdie there to get to 16-under par. And he had a 2-shot lead. McIlroy looking down at the rest of the field. It's Sunday on the PGA Tour, where opportunity meets pressure.

[00:35:25] >> The par 4, Brendon Todd missed well left here down in a low tidally moan area. Downhill the whole way. How about this shot? Perfection. That was a very difficult place to play from, straight downhill, water in the background.

[00:35:47] >> To 12 again and seems like whenever the golf course is difficult, this man finds himself somewhere near the first page of a leaderboard.

[00:35:53] >> He sure does. He has turned into a fantastic golfer. He has made a ton of birdies today and an eagle at the a third. Just take a look at that.

[00:36:09] >> Trevor, when you're putting really fast greens, was it more difficult to adjust on the longer ones or hitting short putts soft?

[00:36:18] >> I thought it was the short putts always because you have to be so much more patient. On the shorter putts, what I found is you want to know the result quickly. You're only 2 or 3-4 feet from the hole. You want to know if it's going to go in, but a lot of times, you have to hit the ball so softly. And it may take a couple seconds for that ball to get down there. So, you really need to stay patient mentally and just trust that the greens are that fast and it's going to carry enough momentum.

[00:36:45] >> This isn't a lengthy par save, but this is in the category of make this, and it keeps the momentum going. It's the par saves, guys say all the time, Trevor, you and all the fellow PGA Tour players, that keeps the momentum going more so than the birdies and the eagles. Not that that is going to halt everything, but that is definitely a momentum staller right now for McIlroy.

[00:37:10] >> Yeah, absolutely. Particularly when you know that he's hit a 363-yard tee shot. He's only got a wedge into this green, and he walks away with a 5.

[00:37:21] >> It's his first 3 putt all week. So, the lead is trimmed to 1.

[00:37:31] >> Now we move ahead with this group to the 9th hole.

[00:37:35] >> How do you see him? Because there's--

[00:37:37] >> 153 for Kitayama.

[00:37:39] >> It's pretty fly right now, so families come off the back too.

[00:37:42] >> Yeah.

[00:37:43] >> Sounds like they're in between wedge and 9-iron. And you know, you love putting a club in your guy's hand that you know can't reach the bad areas. So, you know that's why they're probably going with wedge of 7-9. Taking that long out of play. This is dangerously right, may need to get up.

[00:38:17] >> Oh, hang in there now. Don't get off the edge of the green, and it doesn't. And that is a good break right there, that it caught that little bit of a high spot.

[00:38:26] >> His heart would have been in his mouth there.

[00:38:28] >> Guaranteed.

[00:38:29] >> That is some nervousness when that ball's in the air.

[00:38:32] >> Yeah, Rory just ideal here.

[00:38:41] >> Go, Rory.

[00:38:43] >> Rory, 2 yards closer, 151.

[00:38:47] >> He likes to play quick. He does not like to beat around the bush. They make a quick decision, and he gets right in there and gets after it.

[00:38:54] >> Switched clubs at the last moment. I don't know if we went from gap wedge to wedge or wedge to gap wedge, but--

[00:39:00] >> He's aiming right of it.

[00:39:00] >> Might be able to tell by the swing.

[00:39:03] >> Went with less club.

[00:39:06] >> Pretty aggressive, towering shot, starting right at the hole now. Good looking shot.

[00:39:10] >> Yeah, it sure is, very well played. K.H. Lee for birdie.

[00:39:18] >> Putting towards that water, down the hill moving his left to touch it, have some good speed.

[00:39:26] >> Two-time PGA Tour winner and a great putt right there. How about that? Kitayama for birdie at 9. Boy, how about that? These guys, taking care of the hardest hole on the golf course. That's two birdies out of three players, and McIlroy is in there closer than these two.

[00:39:50] >> Certainly, can't break up the birdie run on this hole, Kurt, can he?

[00:39:54] >> Got to go three for three here.

[00:39:56] >> Always feels good after 3 putt to come right back and make one. See if he can bury this.

[00:40:02] >> Wow, played a little too much break.

[00:40:04] >> He would go on to make par.

[00:40:08] >> To 11 we go now.

[00:40:09] >> And John Rahm, looking over his second shot.

[00:40:12] >> Yes, sir.

[00:40:13] >> Yeah, Kurt, I can't -- I don't love going at this flag normally, but John loves to hit a fade, and the ball's a little below his feet. Everything kind of wants to feed towards this hole, but as you've probably seen all day, Kurt, short and right, it just keeps going into that bunker. It's very difficult up and down. A lot of guys aim in the middle the green, I imagine.

[00:40:35] >> Definitely starting at the left.

[00:40:37] >> Go a little bit.

[00:40:37] >> Go. Go.

[00:40:38] >> Come on.

[00:40:43] >> Well, there's your answer, Smiley.

[00:40:53] >> Yeah, Kurt, a great look here. There's a knob about halfway that's going to make this putt a little tricky to read.

[00:41:04] >> He would have to settle for par.

[00:41:06] >> All the way up at 18, this is Bi-o Kim.

[00:41:11] >> What a way to finish.

[00:41:12][ Applause and Cheering ]

[00:41:18] >> We are back at 12, lengthy eagle putt here at the par 5, Smiley.

[00:41:22] >> Yeah, hit a nice shot to the front of this green. It has a decent look but very difficult to judge the pace here. Gets a little quick pass the hole.

[00:41:35] >> Now Rahm and his birdie putt.

[00:41:37] >> I'd say a must make here, Steve.

[00:41:41] >> There you go.

[00:41:42] >> Oh, that's well done. Three tied at the top.

[00:41:45] >> Yeah. Rahm converts with a 4 at 12. Here's Rory McIlroy now. Way left as you said, John.

[00:41:52] >> He is 227, clean lie, and this is a time when you really want speed. Speed equals spin. And he's needed to hook this thing about 50 yards, but I think he can do it, especially with the wind blowing right to left. Keep still everybody. Oh, boy.

[00:42:12] >> Got it right through the gap, turning over, really good looking shot. It's going to need a bounce, but--

[00:42:16] >> Yeah. Now it just needs to settle.

[00:42:21] >> Let's see where it ends up.

[00:42:24] >> In a very similar spot to where he hit it yesterday when he made the eagle.

[00:42:27] >> Yep. Kitayama back to his 3rd here at 12. He's got to bump something into that hill.

[00:42:40] >> Is that any good?

[00:42:41] >> Holy cow, is that good.

[00:42:42] >> Wow. Controlled the spin on that second bounce so well.

[00:42:46] >> Kitayama would make birdie.

[00:42:49] >> Now McIlroy, hitting his 3rd at the par 5.

[00:42:51] >> And this is really a great leave, just pitching right up the hill, good lie.

[00:43:01] >> Look at that. Just like Kitayama, both of those shots were exquisite.

[00:43:05] >> McIlroy would make that and get to 16-under.

[00:43:08] >> It has been a fantastic week here at the CJ Cup in South Carolina, but right now John Rahm has other things on his mind.

[00:43:15] >> Yeah, it's a terrible lie in this this right -- fried right in the lip. Probably best he can do is about 15 feet here.

[00:43:21] >> Everywhere, just stand by. Sorry.

[00:43:26] >> Trevor, I imagine a shot like this, you're just trying to stick it into the ground, big powerful swing.

[00:43:31] >> Yeah, just hoping it comes out straight. A lot of times it comes out right from a plug lie.

[00:43:37] >> A bad break for Rahm and that led to a bogey.

[00:43:40] >> A couple holes ahead. Tommy Fleetwood has this for birdie at 15. Yeah, nice rally. You mentioned him shooting a couple over that first day. Here he is 13-under.

[00:43:58] >> Up at 18 just off the green, Mito Pereira.

[00:44:03] >> Hole's been running so smoothly through the fringes here. Course has been in magnificent condition all week. What a great putt for Mito.

[00:44:13] >> Drip it over the front edge, pair of 69s on the weekend for Mito.

[00:44:19] >> This is John Rahm, and this is a huge puck for him. Two shots behind here at 15.

[00:44:25] >> Yeah. After that bad break, making bogey at the last and definitely got to try to find a way to make this. And Trevor, as you mentioned, he's probably one of the best right-handed putters to put left-to-right putts. I'm not betting against him.

[00:44:41] >> Oh, boy.

[00:44:46] >> Be a two-shot swing from yesterday when he made a bogey here this par 3/14th.

[00:44:53] >> Has rolled the ball well today. He hit the edges a few times since the turn. There you go.

[00:45:11] >> McIlroy into the lead at 17-under. Two birdies in his last three holes, and the favorite is playing like it.

[00:45:23] >> We head to the drivable par 4/15th.

[00:45:26] >> Let's see what McIlroy can do here with the driver.

[00:45:30] >> Setting up for cut aiming at the left edge of the green. Oh, boy, mile in the air. The edge of that front sandy area, might need to carry.

[00:45:47] >> Didn't quite.

[00:45:54] >> He's looking a little more right, a little more direct line.

[00:46:01] >> A good sound to it.

[00:46:02] >> There's some slope here. This is going to be pretty good.

[00:46:05] >> Oh, yeah.

[00:46:08] >> It's going to be really good.

[00:46:09][ Applause and Cheering ] Now Rory, a little different angle.

[00:46:16] >> I would say an easier shot off the upslope and a shorter shot. He came all the way up and read it like a putt knowing that he's got a lot of rollout. Normally a very good bunker player.

[00:46:35] >> That caught the downslope.

[00:46:37] >> Get in the hole.

[00:46:39] >> Oh, yeah, he's going to like it.

[00:46:40] >> Yeah, come on, Rory.

[00:46:45] >> Now Rahm, big one here.

[00:46:47] >> Yeah, definitely needs a hole this one.

[00:46:53] >> Come on, turn.

[00:46:53] >> Come on, come one.

[00:46:56] >> Turn.

[00:46:57] >> Kitayama for birdie and the co-lead.

[00:47:09] >> It did break right. Yeah, that's a great up and down. Two shot cushion with two to -- three to play. Excuse me. And he is really playing a good back 9 right now.

[00:47:41] >> Back at 16, final group.

[00:47:52] >> Don't be so concerned with that you pop it up into the tree. Looking little out to the right.

[00:48:10] >> Okay, safely on the green.

[00:48:12] >> Yeah, all in all, pretty good I'd say.

[00:48:15] >> Back at 16, McIlroy for birdie trying to take a stranglehold on this tournament. And he does just that. To 19-under par, the first man to reach there and suddenly the lead has ballooned, three, Trevor.

[00:48:36] >> Yeah, just putting an exclamation point on this, three birdies in a row for McIlroy at 14, 15, and 16.

[00:48:48] >> After finding the bunker off the tee, McIlroy is hitting 3 from here.

[00:48:52] >> Simple, way back, and then ball first contact.

[00:49:04] >> And that's exactly what it did, chip and run. This is so good. Up at 18, John Rahm has this for par.

[00:49:20] >> Yeah after a pretty good bunker shot here, this was -- would be an impressive up and down.

[00:49:28] >> Yeah, got to sprint it out in his final round with three birdies in his first five holes, but then a bogey at 6 derailed him. Only one birdie ever since then, ends up with a 69.

[00:49:48] >> Well, a bogey and a little bit of an opening maybe.

[00:49:53] >> With 24 career victories on the PGA Tour, Rory has been piling them up, and he's only 33 years of age.

[00:50:02] >> 154 here, perfectly positioned in the fairway. Expect this to be a little left of the hole and just a big pitching wedge for him. Headed towards the center of the green, mile in the air.

[00:50:22] >> Just cleared that sandy area there.

[00:50:29] >> McIlroy for birdie and to go back to back.

[00:50:43] >> Settle. Oh, my.

[00:50:45] >> That is very surprising.

[00:50:48] >> That leaves the door ajar now for Kitayama.

[00:50:54] >> Rory keeping us on the edge of our seats here.

[00:50:56] >> Yeah.

[00:51:12] >> If we could keep the head cover on the putter on this one he'd probably do it. Two parts for the victory. Now he's going to put the coin down.

[00:51:32] >> There you go. He knew what he was doing all along.

[00:51:40] >> Quite fortunate that he had a big enough cushion to be able to finish bogey/bogey and still get the W here though.

[00:51:48] >> That birdie at 16 really allowed him to have some cushion coming home.

[00:51:53] >> Yeah after an awkward 50-yard pitch there with the tree trouble.

[00:51:58] >> Tell you what, give it up to Kurt Kitayama. He pressed him.

[00:52:11] >> That's his third second-place finish on the PGA Tour.

[00:52:16] >> Rory better make this one because Harry's already taken the flag off the flagstick, so.

[00:52:22] >> Well, Rory arrived as the favorite. He'll leave Congaree with the trophy. There is a new number 1, but it's a familiar name. Rory McIlroy is back atop the golfing world after winning the CJ Cup in South Carolina for the second consecutive year.

[00:52:38] >> This concludes the PGA Tour's coverage of the CJ Cup in South Carolina from Congaree.