Production Transcript for REWIND\_22HERO\_HOVLAND.mp3

[00:00:22] >> The PGA Tour is proud to bring you the season-long race for the FedEx Cup.

[00:00:43] >> Now coverage of the 2022 Hero World Challenge.

[00:00:53] >> And it's been a rainy few weeks here in the Bahamas. An inch and a half last week, then a couple of more inches in the last two days alone have really softened up the Albany course. It opened up 12 years ago, designed by World Golf Hall of Famer Ernie Els, hosting this elite field of 20, all ranked in the top 33 in the official World Golf rankings, including six of the top 10. And there is the leaderboard. Early in this first round, Tommy Fleetwood and now Max Homa tied for the lead at 2-under. Fleetwood picking up an emotional first victory in some three years recently. Leading Scottie Scheffler, number two ranked player in the world, along with Jordan Spieth, Xander Schauffele, Tom Kim, Matt Fitzpatrick, and Sepp Straka, the last man in the field who replaced Tiger Woods, who was out with plantar fasciatus. There was so much anticipation to see Tiger playing for the first time since the Open Championship at St. Andrews in July. But we're going to look forward to another visit with Tiger, and we're going to see him in a couple of weeks at the PNC Championship. Justin Thomas for birdie.

[00:02:01] >> This get back to even par.

[00:02:02] >> Nice little comeback so far. 3-over after three for JT.

[00:02:07] >> He rocks that in.

[00:02:18] >> Look at Spieth at the 7th.

[00:02:23] >> Gotta go.

[00:02:24] >> It's got plenty, yeah.

[00:02:26] >> Nicely done by Spieth after leaving that shot short. He picks up his third birdie in the first seven holes. Got two bogeys to go along with it, so 1-under and just one back.

[00:02:39] >> All right, John, what's Matt Fitzpatrick looking at here?

[00:02:42] >> Well, a normal hole for a change. He's hit two provisional, almost a third in the last three holes, so he had a good drive here. Good iron shot in this down the hill, moving to his right a touch.

[00:02:51] >> Okay, there you go.

[00:02:52] >> It's not going to erase them all, but he did bogey 8, 10 and 11.

[00:02:58] >> And over at the 17th.

[00:03:01] >> First look at the par-3, you see that hole location dangling all the way on the right side.

[00:03:07] >> Cameron Young, first to play.

[00:03:09] >> He sets that club at the top, just about as quiet as anybody in the game. And he's right there, all kinds of power.

[00:03:16] >> You were talking about the President's Cup earlier, Dan. When he hit that tee shot on the first tee, everyone there just went -- whoa, whoa, look at that. Oh, man. Almost made an ace. And nobody enjoyed it more than Tom Kim.

[00:03:39] >> Here's Tom Kim trying to finish things off at the 18t, at 2-under, tied with the guy he's playing with, Cam Young.

[00:03:44] >> You're starting it out this way with the five. You can start -- you need to start out more this way. You can't have any turn, if that makes sense.

[00:03:57] >> There was help yesterday.

[00:03:58] >> Well, yesterday was a different wind. So we can't go off that.

[00:04:02] >> Yeah.

[00:04:02] >> But like, what I'm saying is because it was a super help yesterday, today is going to be different.

[00:04:07] >> Yeah.

[00:04:07] >> Because yesterday I was definitely hitting the club shorter.

[00:04:10] >> Yeah.

[00:04:11] >> But this one, because it's not as much as yesterday --

[00:04:13] >> Yeah. You've got the five out, right?

[00:04:14] >> Yeah.

[00:04:14] >> What are you thinking with it?

[00:04:16] >> I think it's just a 90 shot. An 85.

[00:04:18] >> I agree. Let's just play it as if it's straight on the right, where we're starting it and everything else. It gets a little long. We got to work. All right.

[00:04:25] >> I hit a mid one. Should be fine.

[00:04:26] >> Yes. I love mid. Good solid mid.

[00:04:31] >> Well, Joe Scarborough knows the territory here. Obviously caddy for Ricky Fowler here numerous times. In fact, won with Ricky here five years ago back in 2017.

[00:04:40] >> He has a great demeanor really for a caddy, just the way he strikes a tone.

[00:04:47] >> Just like that. Same starting.

[00:04:48] >> Yeah.

[00:04:48] >> Perfect.

[00:04:48] >> You hear the tone he strikes. It just gives the player confidence to hear that tone of voice. And now he's got a very difficult shot here. No bail out. Narrow green, water left. He's trying to cut a 5-iron.

[00:05:10] >> Oh my goodness.

[00:05:10] >> What a shot.

[00:05:12] >> Oh my goodness.

[00:05:12] >> What a shot there by Kim.

[00:05:15] >> He would convert that.

[00:05:16] >> Fitzpatrick for birdie at the 15th. And a wild up and down ride for the US Open champion. Tie for the lead now for Kim.

[00:05:32] >> Yeah.

[00:05:39] >> So Tom Kim with a beautiful finish, birdie at the last, 69 for the first-time participant in Tiger's Hero World Challenge. This was earlier, Tiger defending champion Viktor Hovland at the 12th.

[00:05:57] >> 185 yards today and that hole's cut right on the front left.

[00:06:04] >> Oh, that any good?

[00:06:07] >> And so the birdie attempt for Hovland to pay that off and get it to 2-under, came back from -- I think he was six shots off the lead late in the final round last year.

[00:06:22] >> Now we move ahead to the 14th with this group.

[00:06:24] >> Well, we've got Viktor Hovland on the drivable 14th unleashing. It's 276 yards today. 307 on the card, so they brought it up some 31 yards. And Hovland took the little peak.

[00:06:40] >> Oh, man, look at that shot.

[00:07:01] >> Rahm's third at the 15th. Now to Hovland's eagle attempt at the 14th.

[00:07:27] >> That is a nice eagle for Viktor Hovland. Schauffele from the sand at 17. Sandsy?

[00:07:36] >> Dan, this is the sand that's way before the green. Look at that. Look where he hit his tee shot.

[00:07:40] >> That's Horschel.

[00:07:41] >> That is way off. However, this game can drive you crazy. You hit a tee shot like that and you have to slap it out of there with a terrible lie. Now here's his third at the par-3.

[00:07:59] >> Seems like you're building to something. Come on now.

[00:08:02] >> Xander Schauffele. Just your average par.

[00:08:10] >> That was more of an anomaly I think last year. Five-shot leads are, you know, they're pretty nice, but it's never easy. And once he got it going the wrong way, it's just sometimes it's hard to stop it. And then unfortunately for Colin Morikawa, the guys behind him got red hot.

[00:08:27] >> And he faced that first, you know, kind of slump of his career. He came out of the gates as a young player, won right away, two majors big time, like bulletproof. Then he learned that golf will hit back.

[00:08:40] >> That's just part of it. Tiger alluded to it, ups and downs in your career. And you know, if Colin has a down --

[00:08:45] >> Looking good. What a finish.

[00:08:47] >> Yeah, what a putt.

[00:08:50] >> Maybe this place does owe Colin Morkiawa.

[00:08:56] >> Well, he probably showed up with a real purpose.

[00:08:59] >> Three birdies in the last five holes. That bogey at 17. Look at the read and break here. Perfectly done.

[00:09:07] >> Yeah. I think a lot of players would take a an off year for Colin Morikawa. It's still so good, but you set a high bar sometimes and expectations from others are what ended up pestering you. You know, his own expectations are probably okay.

[00:09:23] >> Now Hovland trying to save this.

[00:09:28] >> Big putt here for Viktor. Hang on to a share of the lead. Got it.

[00:09:32] >> How good is that? Just the one bogey by Hovland. He staves off another one here at 18. That lone bogey coming at the 16th. 69 for Hovland. And we've got a four-way tie for the lead after the first round.

[00:09:50] >> Tom Kim's 69 tops the leaderboard along with last year's winner, Viktor Hovland. Who can break away from the pack in round two? It's up next.

[00:10:09] >> 80 degrees, but the winds are whipping across Albany today. Average score yesterday, just even par, even with preferred lies. Today, with the winds even stronger, it'll be interesting to see how many of the world's best get in at under par today after just eight of the 20 players were in the red yesterday. All right. So we mentioned Morikawa and Hovland tie. Tom Kim was a part of that four-way tie for the lead yesterday. Didn't bogey a single hole yesterday, has already picked up one today. Xander Schauffele right within striking distance along with the final guy on the field, Sepp Straka, who took Tiger's spot, who had to pull out with planner fasciitis. Scottie Shuffler back on track at 1-under with his good friend, Sam Burns and the rest of the field. Tommy Fleetwood, one of the sponsors exemptions along with Kevin Kisner.

[00:10:55] >> Now highlights from earlier.

[00:11:00] >> Got off to a slow start today, plus-2 in the first four holes before he caught fire here with his tee shot at the par-3 5th. Birdie for Hovland to get back on track. Think that was good? Very next hole. Third shot, par-5, 6th. Watch and listen. Slam dunk for Hovland for another eagle here at the Hero World Challenge. Pull out, his caddy says. Yes, indeed. It's a birdie-eagle run for Hovland and that vaulted him into the lead by himself at 4-under. Always a good feeling to walk up from 65 yards, pick it out of the hole and get yourself back on track. He's playing with Colin Morikawa, who he ran down last year to win. Remember, Morikawa had a chance to be number one in the world before he lost that five-shot lead in the final round last year. Birdie for Morikawa at the 7th to tie Hovland at 4-under.

[00:11:59] >> If it's 70 or less, if it's down, it's a 70 shot. If it's up, it's less than that. Do you agree? Do you agree with all that?

[00:12:07] >> Yeah, because you said 69 covers.

[00:12:08] >> Yes, and you got a lot of help on that.

[00:12:12] >> That's a huge piece of information there. How high is he going to hit it? If he hit it low, it really gets knocked down and the help can take yardage off of the shot, believe it or not. So he's trying to get this up in the air slightly, let it help, but I still think even from 80 yards in the fairway he's got to take this slightly right of the flag.

[00:12:33] >> It's like every hole is a wind tunnel out here just whistling through.

[00:12:37] >> This is probably the only downwind shot you're going to get all day, and he hit a beauty. That is not easy to judge.

[00:12:47] >> Here's Xander Schauffele moving along very nicely. Just one bogey on the card. How about that? He's now 2-under on the day as he birdies the par-5 11th, his fourth birdie. That is saying something in these conditions. At the par-3 17th, it's been a bit of a struggle thus far. First couple of days for Jordan at 4-over.

[00:13:12] >> Yeah, he's even par today though which is really good in this wind. And you know, you go back, Steve, to how a guy who really looks like a technical player, when he gets in a wind like this, he goes all instincts. This is just a big field day for Jordan Spieth.

[00:13:38] >> Third for Straka at the 9th.

[00:13:44] >> And putting himself in position to move up the board within one. Finau at the 12th. He's had a rough go of it. Although he did birdie the 11th to get it back to plus-3 after going out at 40. Nice putt there at the 12th, so back-to-back birdies for big Tone.

[00:14:07] >> Let's see if Justin Thomas is locked in here at 13. No bogeys on the card, and a second birdie. And Justin Thomas has put himself onto the first page of the leaderboard.

[00:14:22] >> To the 15th, Scheffler with his third.

[00:14:25] >> Pretty good leave here. Yeah, simple bunker shot for a Tour player.

[00:14:33] >> He would make that. Tom Kim with a good birdie look here.

[00:14:41] >> See if Man Kid can make this.

[00:14:43] >> Is that your new nickname?

[00:14:44] >> I like it for him. He's what a man and what a kid, he's both.

[00:14:48] >> What a birdie that was. Yeah.

[00:14:50] >> Within one. Tied for second with Schauffele. This is Young over at 14. Downhill lie.

[00:15:02] >> Well, it looked like a terrible place to be, but it wasn't. How about that shot?

[00:15:07] >> A problem. Cam Young. Dropping the unexpected birdie in.

[00:15:14] >> Yeah, it was looking like bogey all the way when that second shot was in the air, I'm sure.

[00:15:21] >> John Rahm for birdie from just off the green. Rahm another one of those players red hot coming into this Hero World Challenge. Shot a 73 yesterday. And today birdies two of the last three holes to get it back to even for the tournament.

[00:15:44] >> All smiles after that one.

[00:15:51] >> Back to 15, second shot, par-5 for Tom Kim. Woody?

[00:15:55] >> Yeah, beautiful drive up the right side. You can definitely reach hard right to left wind. Start this right of the green and bring it in. Anywhere just short is not a bad thing here. Very high starting at the hole, moving left.

[00:16:19] >> How do you like me now? And what a shot that was.

[00:16:27] >> 4-under in the last seven holes. Little bit of a similar shot here for Cam Young. Always an interesting dynamic, Zing, as we talked about yesterday. David Young retiring as the head professional at Sleepy Hollow where Cam Young grew up, learned to play from his dad. Now he's out here full-time with Cam.

[00:16:44] >> Yeah, well it's an interesting dynamic. You know, some guys get more frustrated when their parents watch.

[00:16:49] >> Look at this. This might go in as well.

[00:16:50] >> Oh my goodness. That's the degrees and inches part of golf right there. So close to going in. Beautiful speed and yeah, you carry some short game with that power. Really got a formula for success.

[00:17:06] >> And now Tony Finau for a birdie alongside Justin Thomas.

[00:17:10] >> Well, he's been on a bit of a hot streak. Woody, excuse me, when he's not down there, he's back there with Tom Kim. But Tony Finau won three of his previous seven events coming into here. And with putts like that, that's how he did it. There's a big smile.

[00:17:36] >> Tom Kim at 15 to tie.

[00:17:40] >> What a second shot that was, in perfect position. Boy, a lot of these players, you know, it's the end of a long year. They might be running on fumes. Not this kid. It's like every week he's a junior golfer almost. He's excited to play. Every week's a major.

[00:17:52] >> Yeah, I was talking to him and Joe Scott about their schedule. They're playing both events in Hawaii. Can't wait to get it revved up for 2023 year. Looking over at Joe saying, hmm, how did that miss for eagle? Gonna be a tap-in birdie for Kim. But you could just -- I mean, the enthusiasm is infectious.

[00:18:19] >> Morikawa, who's working on a 1-under round. He was again part of that four-way tie for the lead when this day began. Even though he hasn't had the round that some others have had, he is right there one back of the guy he's playing with.

[00:18:36] >> He's got this 8-iron out from the left section of the fairway. Much better angle here. He's holding this back up into the wind.

[00:18:55] >> We stay with this group.

[00:18:59] >> Now Morikawa looking for a birdie of his own here at the last.

[00:19:03] >> Yeah, great comeback for him on this second nine. Went through a tough stretch of holes, those consecutive bogeys at 8, 9 and 10. But Zing, pulled it back together, as you would expect. Very level-headed, composed type of player and utilizing that great tee to green game to neutralize this wind.

[00:19:18] >> He's got a beautifully strong mind. J.J. Djokovic, his caddy, talks about what a mental giant he is.

[00:19:33] >> That should not go to the right, should it?

[00:19:36] >> Goodness. I did not have that going right.

[00:19:39] >> I don't think Morikawa did either.

[00:19:40] >> Uh-uh. Which is why I didn't say anything.

[00:19:46] >> Well, very good solid round. He missed a couple short putts early on, but put that behind him, held it together mentally, and he's in great shape heading into the weekend now.

[00:19:55] >> So there's this aim point routine that Hovland is back into here, training his feet instead of his eyes as he's described it.

[00:20:03] >> This is why you do aim point as well. You have to get the putts in from this distance, the inside 10 feet. If you're in the bottom third on the PGA Tour in this distance, it's hard to win. You have to be in the top third, Noda.

[00:20:17] >> And such a night and day difference, Zing, mentally, walking off the screen with a par if he's able to make this, or missing back-to-back short putts to finish out your round after putting together some pretty solid golf today. So this is a critical momentum putt here headed into the weekend. If he gets this to go down, I think he's going to be tough to beat.

[00:20:51] >> That's solidly done there.

[00:20:52] >> Gut center.

[00:20:59] >> Viktor Hovland breaks out of the pack for the solo lead in round two with a 2-under 70. Round three is next.

[00:21:18] >> And they just may have a spot for you in the 71-slip yacht marina here at Albany. And just maybe you'll be lucky enough to grab a spot next to the tournament host. That's Tiger's boat, 155-foot privacy, third from the left. And then you'll wander over to the Ernie Els designed course, which has served as host to Tiger's tournament for the last seven years. Not a bad place for 20 of the best golfers in the world to hang out and cap off their 2022 year to see how their games measure up heading into the holidays. They're all after his title. And so is Scottie Scheffler, who could be the number one player in the world again if he wins this tournament. Great start for Scheffler. Chips in at the 1st to quickly pick up a birdie and move it to 5-under. Justin Thomas doing his usual chase boat on the weekend. We've seen that in the Players Championship and the PGA Championship. JT at the short par-4 7th, blasting in for eagle. He also birdied 8 and 9 and has continued his run on the leaders. And now Cam Young, who began the day one back of the leader, Viktor Hovland, rolling his rock -- PGA Tour rookie of the year with a birdie at the 4th. And then the defending champion Hovland at the 5th. Talk about rolling it. Hovland with a birdie. And that was three in a row as he went 3, 4 and 5 with birdies. And then Cam Young at the par-3 8th, up and down as his second shot wasn't great, but no problem. He rolls in the long par save and Young remains at 8-under.

[00:23:04] >> Talk about a beautiful short game. This is Hovland off the green at the short par-4 7th. Beautiful touch, bumps it into the hill and sets himself up for a birdie three here at this 351-yard par-4. He's been using aim point, says he's been relying on this method and it has improved his putting. So that's the fourth birdie in the last five holes for Hovland, who's trying to go back-to-back at Tiger's Hero World Challenge.

[00:23:38] >> And up at the par-5 9th, Cam Young in the second to last group, and alongside him is Noda Begay. Noda, good afternoon.

[00:23:45] >> Hi. Great to be with you guys today. Cam Young, great place to lay up, just over 50 yards. So in that yardage, Zing, where he can put a little zip on this, he gets a clean contact on it.

[00:23:58] >> These guys all practice now in this finesse zone, Noda, so they can hit shots like that.

[00:24:09] >> The short par-4 14th, Sung-jae Im for birdie, trying to get involved in the chase. Much better conditions today. It howled yesterday, gusts up to 30 miles an hour.

[00:24:27] >> But it's a big deal, especially to somebody like Cam Young, who hasn't won, wants to prove he can beat the best.

[00:24:33] >> This to take over the solo lead. He's got it. He also has his father in tow with him on a full-time basis. His dad retired as the head professional at Sleepy Hollow Country Club in the New York area, where Cameron Young is already a legend. Send you up to 12, 189-yard par-3 for Justin Thomas.

[00:25:04] >> Just a tad short for Justin Thomas, but a little excitement earlier in the day on this par-3. Kevin Kisner, one of two sponsor's exemptions into Tiger's Tournament, posing and watching it disappear. Out to the short par-4 14th, Tony Finau for birdie. Finau came into this tournament red hot, hasn't been exactly able to carry on that momentum, but a nice birdie putt there for Tony. Third of the day, a couple of bogeys early on.

[00:25:38] >> Now Cameron Young for birdie at the 10th.

[00:25:52] >> He's run the sixth birdie. How about that? He's run the tables today.

[00:25:55] >> Cameron Young is the first man to reach double digits under par, and he has stretched out that lead to two. Look at that card.

[00:26:05] >> Back to 14 for the third now for JT, who's just scrambling to make par here. There you go, indeed.

[00:26:16] >> How do you like that?

[00:26:18] >> To 11 for Hovland's birdie. He has now caught Cam Young, the two 25-year-olds going at it. To 13.

[00:26:32] >> Oh, Scottie Scheffler, looks like that does not seem pleasant, Noda.

[00:26:36] >> Yeah, Tiger's got to catch ball first here in order to get his yardage out of this.

[00:26:41] >> Yeah, and it's a little bit down and went off the right, so just pick it clean.

[00:26:46] >> Trying to trap it. Looks like he got enough of it, though.

[00:26:50] >> Yeah, he got plenty of it. What a shot.

[00:26:55] >> Back to 12 at the par-3. This is a birdie attempt for Schauffele.

[00:27:12] >> Hovland for birdie and the solo lead.

[00:27:32] >> Up at 16, Morikawa's second. 3-under round after going out in plus-1 37, and so Morikawa's on a little bit of a heater here on the second nine.

[00:27:48] >> And Morikawa now over at 16, trying to pay off that beautiful approach. And he's been working with a new putting coach that seems to be paying dividends. He's a lot more comfortable on the greens. And we go back to 15. This is an eagle attempt for Scottie Scheffler.

[00:28:13] >> Tiger, did you spend a lot of time working on your lag putting?

[00:28:16] >> All the time.

[00:28:16] >> All the time. I saw you hitting a lot of chips and pitches all through your prime.

[00:28:20] >> Wow. How about that? Scheffler from long range to pop up to 10-under. Second shot, par-5 15 for the leader, Viktor Hovland.

[00:28:44] >> Going with a long iron here. He generally cuts the ball, but he's put a beautiful little draw on this. Is it at the flag? It sure is. Fantastic shot for the leader. Wow.

[00:28:58] >> And Justin Thomas from short range at 18 to put up 8-under. This is for a 6-under round for Thomas. Looking good. Perfectly red and judged.

[00:29:18] >> Hovland for eagle over at 15.

[00:29:20] >> He has really found his golf swing these last two days.

[00:29:27] >> Even though after his second round yesterday, Woody, he said, I'm still not completely Comfortable, nor do I think I'm hitting it very well. Morikawa for another birdie on the second nine. This would be his sixth on this back nine alone.

[00:30:01] >> This is Hobland. Another example of his ball striking skills. As you se, Hovland go through his aim point routine here, which he's committed to. Strokes gained around the green ranks. Again, Hovland has only competed in three of the nine PGA Tour events so far this season. This Hero World Challenge doesn't count in the PGA Tour stats, but nonetheless, he has really turned it around. And that was one of his goals, was to get better chipping and putting.

[00:30:40] >> Well, you know, I hate to keep going back to Tiger, but he said the same thing. He leads the Tour in greens in regulation, missing six greens a day. You have to chip and putt. And right now, Viktor Hovland's only had 19 putts through 15 holes, make it 20 through 16.

[00:30:54] >> And that is birdie number nine on the day for Hovland.

[00:30:58] >> Wow, what a heater he is on.

[00:31:01] >> Hovland would finish birdie-bogey, shooting a third-round 64 and creating a little separation from Scottie Scheffler, who looks to reclaim the world number one spot this week with a win. The final round is next.

[00:31:17] >> The new season is on. Familiar faces and new names are ready to go low.

[00:31:24] >> Can you believe that?

[00:31:25] >> That is the look of a winner.

[00:31:27] >> In big tournaments, on great courses, where anything can happen. Don't miss a week of the race for the FedEx Cup.

[00:31:53] >> And it sure is a great way to kick off the holiday season. Another 80-degree day in the Bahamas, just outside the capital city of Nassau and Albany, the venue for Tiger's tournament for the seventh straight time, where one of the best fields in the now 23 times this tournament has been played, heads down the stretch for Tiger's title. There were a batch of birdies made yesterday. Nobody made more than Hovland on his way to building that three-shot lead, as we mentioned, down to two with Scheffler's birdie at the 2nd. And you've got Xander Schauffele, Colin Morikawa who are also off the good starts. They birdied each two of their first three holes to get back within four. Justin Thomas tries to continue another weekend comeback at 8-under. And Billy Horschel rounding out the players that are under par in this elite field of 20. This was Viktor Hovland putting together a sensational round. His tee shot at the par-3 17th. That would give him his tenth and final birdie of the day. A third-round 64 for Hovland to build a three-shot 54-hole lead in his quest to win this tournament back-to-back. He's playing in the final pairing with Scottie Scheffler, who parred the first like Hovland did, but then takes aim here at the 201-yard par-3. And that is how world number two played it. If Scheffler is able to track down Hovland, he will get back on top of the world to take over the spot that he lost to McElroy just in October. Scheffler for the birdie. Around it goes and in as Hovland parred it. So Scheffler moves within two now of Hovland in the final round of the Hero World Challenge.

[00:33:39] >> Again, he will go through his aim point. You've been with us, this is the process that has given Hovland newfound confidence.

[00:33:50] >> Woody and I talked about it earlier in the week. You know, these guys, they assume three things when they putt well. They assume they'll start it online. They assume they'll hit it the right speed and they've assumed they've read it correctly, Woody. And it was the reading part that was flummoxing Viktor Hovland a little bit.

[00:34:05] >> Right. And if you're unsure over a putt, you're not going to make the same stroke. You remember Tiger and Jack and the great putters, they look very clear of mind when they're ready to get in there and stroke it.

[00:34:14] >> Well, he's decisive now. He's very convicted and I think he makes a lot more better strokes like that one.

[00:34:22] >> He says, I feel like I'm a consistently good putter. And it has worked this week. That's three consecutive one-putts to start his round.

[00:34:30] >> We stay with the final group.

[00:34:32] >> Scheffler not so sure what he wants to go with here.

[00:34:40] >> It's only facing 30 in the front.

[00:34:42] >> You got this. This guy's out here at 345.

[00:34:45] >> Trap it down a little bit.

[00:34:47] >> Yeah. Right at those two dudes sitting there.

[00:34:50] >> Yeah.

[00:34:53] >> Saw Ted Scott this morning take a few clubs to go get worked on somewhere. And I asked him, what was wrong with Scottie's clubs? He said, nothing. These are mine. I'm playing tomorrow. Big match for Ted somewhere. So just a wedge here from 144. Chance to pounce here for Scottie Scheffler.

[00:35:10] >> Just left of the flag stick, asking to sit.

[00:35:12] >> Right what he needed to do. That really tells Viktor Hovland that Scheffler's not going anywhere today.

[00:35:22] >> And then you've got a guy like John Rahm. Always that short kind of backswing. Not much left here at the short par-4 7th, and Rahm is going to pick up another birdie.

[00:35:38] >> I was talking to Ted Scott, Scott's caddie on the way up to the green. They switched from pitching wedge to gap wedge at the last moment. And that's something a good caddie you can really do. A lot of times, there's more than one right shot. Teddy, you know -- at the last minute, Scheffler said, do you think I can hit a hard gap wedge there? Teddy knew a hard gap wedge would get there. And so he agreed with his man and let him go with it. Instead of fighting right there. He knew what his man was feeling. Just let him hit it.

[00:36:05] >> You never know for sure what the guy really wants to hit until he tells you. I mean, he could have very easily played a little kind of a -- we call them three-finger, but just take a lot off the other wedge, John Wood. But sometimes a guy wants to swing as hard as he can and it paid off here.

[00:36:21] >> Yep. Another birdie for Scheffler, continues to put the pressure on Hovland.

[00:36:30] >> Back out to 6 and Cameron Young here at this par-5, pours it home. Young to 10 under par.

[00:36:45] >> Let's see how Viktor Hovland handles this third shot here at the par-5 6th. Coming out of that light rough.

[00:36:54] >> Just enough rough that he has to give it his full attention. That is well judged.

[00:37:01] >> Yeah, really good.

[00:37:06] >> Back over to the 6th.

[00:37:07] >> John, Dan was alluding to the relationship between Ted Scott and Scottie Scheffler have. It's been a very successful 12 months for them. He's really helped him, hasn't he?

[00:37:17] >> Absolutely. It's a perfect match personality wise and strategy wise. And this is a perfect leave here into the wind. He can just kind of low spinner like Zinger talked about.

[00:37:31] >> Oh, Scheffler bounces his way in at 14 under par. And he is currently now tied for the lead.

[00:37:50] >> Back over to six.

[00:37:51] >> Viktor Hovland has been the leader by himself for a long time. He is now a co-leader, but he can grab it back all to himself if he drops this birdie putt. Did he do it? Yes, he did. How about that? A three and a four from the two gentlemen in the final group. And the game is on.

[00:38:21] >> Finau at 11, second at the par-5. Tony with a good eagle look, working on a 2-under day.

[00:38:38] >> There's the stance that we were talking about for Hovland. He is just doing a balancing act on that bunker.

[00:38:42] >> He is. Luckily, he doesn't have to hit a very long shot. He can just kind of throw this onto the front of the green and play a big breaking right to left. Let it run out from that point.

[00:38:51] >> Looks like he's got to chip it to me, John. He's got to get it back in his stance and kind of just line drive it. Maybe land it one hop short of the green and on, or could he land it on possibly?

[00:39:02] >> Yeah, it depends on the lie. If he thinks the lie's good enough, he can get the club underneath it. I think he can land it on. If he doesn't, he has a little chip and run, then yes, he can land it short. There are options.

[00:39:11] >> I don't think he really likes the idea of going underneath the ball.

[00:39:14] >> And that stance too, so.

[00:39:16] >> 56's going to come out so much better if you feeling that.

[00:39:20] >> He's going to try to get the ball out in front of the face, I think, and not get the club head past the ball. This might be one of those little short follow-through kind of stabby techniques.

[00:39:31] >> Absolutely, and you heard his caddy say that you're feeling it. So if you're feeling that shot, that's the shot to hit.

[00:39:43] >> It hopped twice before it got on the green, and that's exactly what it needed to do.

[00:39:46] >> What a play. Boy, he was feeling it and showed us why he wanted to play that shot.

[00:39:56] >> Saw Tony Finau coming with his second at the par-5 11th, and two-putt birdie it would be for Tony. And back over at 7 for par on this short par-4 for Scheffler.

[00:40:10] >> After throwing that lightning bolt pitch in for eagle in the last, he's facing a two-shot swing here if he can't get this one to go.

[00:40:21] >> Yeah, that is quite a drop in the feeling after a hole. An eagle and then a bogey here at this short par-4. That brings Scheffler back down to earth big time, and now Hovland has a chance just like that to stretch it back to three. And there's your swing, and Hovland remains red hot with that putter. 31 putts in the last 25 holes. Up at the 10th, this is Schauffele from the bunker. Got it safely over the lip. Didn't look like an easy shot, but Schauffele makes it look easy. Man, he's lined up for another birdie. Woody, big putt for Scheffler here.

[00:41:12] >> Boy, it sure is. That was an impossible chip shot. That was about as good as he could have done, chipping downwind, no control of the ball. But this is a very tough putt for par, breaking hard to his left.

[00:41:25] >> I think he got it. Wow. What a save for Scheffler.

[00:41:28] >> That's a gut check for Scottie Scheffler. He knows that had he missed that, that this tournament might be out of reach. He's watching the guy eye-to-eye that's trying to beat him. And he knows Viktor Hovland is clicking on all cylinders right now.

[00:41:43] >> He said, I wanted to be a better putter, so I got to aim point. I wanted to be a better chipper. And those are the two areas of the game that he has really concentrated on. And we have seen both of those. HE still can give himself a chance on the second nine if he keeps firing birdies at Hovland and Scheffler. Tied for third now with Young, still a full five back.

[00:42:09] >> Yeah, it doesn't appear that really the players behind Viktor Hovland can afford any mistakes from this point on.

[00:42:17] >> Beautiful save for Scottie Scheffler. And another good save for Hovland. He's just been on fire. Another one-putt for him. That's been the story of the day. 3-under on the day.

[00:42:34] >> And back up at 11, Schauffele for birdie. He's got it. No doubt about it. Schauffele working on a nice 5-under round. Now, Scheffler looking to pick up that Dallas Cowboy coin mark that we talked about earlier and hope that he gets this down for bogey. And there it is.

[00:43:06] >> He's sitting in an old cup. He fixed that. You know, they squirt the white dot to mark where the cup is going to go on the ground, and it leaves a little brown spot. So he probably fixed that. I wonder if this will hop or come out smoothly.

[00:43:28] >> Oh, wow. A double bogey and a two-shot swing. And all Hovland had to do was make a par. Back and forth between Hovland and Scheffler. Remember, Hovland began the day with that three-shot lead. Scheffler, though, started off strong, made two birdies in the first four holes, got within a couple of Hovland, who jacked the lead back up to three at the third. And then Scheffler cut into it again. And there at that 6th hole, when Scheffler made a bogey, Hovland, boy, comes right back up to a five-shot lead. For a moment, Scheffler, after he holed it out for eagle at the 6th, had tied Hovland. Hovland did make a birdie there, but he is running back the pack now. This one just earlier, Morikawa -- wow, it did have designs on going in.

[00:44:22] >> Morikawa would lip out his birdie putt.

[00:44:25] >> Well, we talked about Tom Kim playing in Tiger's event for the first time. He's soaked up every moment of this. He was a part of the four-way tie for the lead after the first round, but has lost a little ground after the last couple of days. Turns it back around today.

[00:44:45] >> Oh, boy. And a little tickler left.

[00:44:52] >> Mm-hmm. So now Scheffler getting into must-make territory to try to stay within touch here.

[00:45:09] >> Definitely sees a little bit of an opening here. Hovland has quite a bit of work left for par.

[00:45:18] >> Upper left, Morikawa with a birdie look at 14. So Morikawa stays at 8-under, and Scheffler with a good birdie look here.

[00:45:42] >> Yeah, played a beautiful pitch out of that lie on the up-slope. Got lots of release on it. Shouldn't be much in this one.

[00:45:52] >> Scottie kind of locks that left shoulder and left arm. Just rocks his shoulders.

[00:45:57] >> There we go.

[00:45:57] >> That putter head release like that.

[00:46:00] >> He needed that big time.

[00:46:02] >> Yeah, he did.

[00:46:08] >> Sung-jae Im finishing up. And drills the birdie home, I'd say. And now he's got the putter out again, Zing, Hovland does.

[00:46:24] >> John Wood said it. You can tell by body language he didn't like his lie with the wedge. Went right for the putter. He's done his aim point. This is tough to judge. And that is really good, I have to say.

[00:46:38] >> Hovland and Scheffler match birdies at the 14th. We move ahead with this group to the 15th.

[00:46:46] >> Got to make perfect contact to have any chance to get this close.

[00:46:59] >> That is so good, almost too good. And he just clipped it. Really shocked. Look at the look of disbelief.

[00:47:06] >> That's back-to-back birdies for Scheffler.

[00:47:09] >> Hovland getting closer and closer to putting this out of reach. And boy, was that just slam dunked in the heart of the cup.

[00:47:20] >> A three-shot lead for Hovland. We move to the 16th.

[00:47:26] >> So same kind of discussion over here. He's aiming left of the hole. He's talking about the tires on the cart, which is past the green. This is 159, helping left to right wind.

[00:47:36] >> Ted Scott seems to think that the mud here is going to push it right a little bit. Guessing game in the end, I guess.

[00:47:44] >> It's on a good line as well if you pick the right club.

[00:47:47] >> Oh! I think it was right on line, Woody.

[00:47:57] >> Hovland and Scheffler have traded birdies in the last two holes. They both have good looks here at the tough 16th. Hovland to go first. Scheffler hoping he's got a chance for a one-shot swing in his direction, as Hovland didn't quite give this enough gas. So here we go with Scheffler.

[00:48:30] >> In the hole!

[00:48:31] >> Yeah!

[00:48:31] >> What a birdie three for Scheffler, off the stick and in the cup.

[00:48:37] >> After matching pars at the 17th, Hovland has a two-shot lead with one to play.

[00:48:41] >> I was thinking 7-iron. If you're going right, it's going to jump.

[00:48:44] >> Yeah, I'd rather consider it's an up-slope.

[00:48:46] >> Yeah, I just know that it's got no spin on it whatsoever.

[00:48:49] >> Yeah.

[00:48:52] >> Now Hovland's second at 18.

[00:48:54] >> Well, this is a nervous shot if you ever had one, John.

[00:48:57] >> Absolutely. If it stayed in the bunker -- he got a great break that it popped out in the bunker, no way he could reach.

[00:49:02] >> And he's got somewhat of a stance here as well.

[00:49:05] >> He does. He can get enough club on this ball to get to the green. And the great thing about this hole location for him is a tough birdie location, but it's not a tough par location. If he gets it up and down, up around the green, he's got a lot of green to work with from almost everywhere. So I would expect him to try and hit this up to the right of the green. 6-iron.

[00:49:33] >> Go hard.

[00:49:33] >> Go hard. Asking for it to go hard.

[00:49:36] >> Uh-oh.

[00:49:36] >> Oh, my god. That's in the water.

[00:49:39] >> I couldn't tell where it bounced.

[00:49:41] >> Wow.

[00:49:41] >> Where'd it go?

[00:49:42] >> In the water.

[00:49:48] >> Hovland after finding the water. Now from 119, it didn't cross up there. So he's back here a ways, trying to get it up and down for bogey. He's got a two-shot lead. Scheffler in two in the right side. And so who knows? We could end up with a par-double-bogey exchange here that would send it to a playoff.

[00:50:13] >> It's a very good shot. He just really makes Scheffler get it up and in. Of course, if Scottie were to hole it, wouldn't that be something?

[00:50:26] >> Scheffler's third shot at the 18th.

[00:50:30] >> He could almost putt it or blade it, but there's a big hump right in front of him of grass that takes away that option.

[00:50:36] >> Woody, he's making a little chipping stroke, not like a practice bunker swing at all.

[00:50:43] >> Yeah, I think that's what he's doing. He's got to carry that little hump in front of him. Maybe delaying it just on the green. It should be pretty fast once it's down.

[00:50:51] >> Kind of nice to be able to make some practice swings in the same sand.

[00:51:01] >> Oh. Hovland over the cup.

[00:51:11] >> So this is pretty high drama, making my palms sweat a little, bit enjoying this. It's not an easy finishing hole.

[00:51:16] >> No doubt about that.

[00:51:19] >> Hovland hasn't made a double bogey or worse all week. He's one of only four players in the field without one. But he could end it right now if he's able to get this one down for bogey with that two-shot cushion.

[00:51:34] >> He's made a heck of a lot of these all week long. And guys, it's so easy to second guess that second shot that he should have laid up in hindsight. But you don't know. You just don't know. That's the shot he was feeling. It wasn't a bad decision. It was bad execution.

[00:51:47] >> Well, he could have definitely pulled that off from back there, John, I feel. And he didn't. But now the question is, what's his mindset here? Is he going to cozy this up with the right speed? Or is he thinking, I got to bury this and end it right now?

[00:52:01] >> I think he's got to cozy it up there. Try and make it, certainly, but not at a hard speed because it's downhill the whole way.

[00:52:23] >> Is that going to be another one-putt? Yes, it is. Hovland with a clutch five at the last, takes care of business, and is going to win his second straight Hero World Challenge.

[00:52:39] >> This concludes the PGA TOUR's coverage of the Hero World Challenge from New Providence, Bahamas.