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[00:00:28] >> The PGA Tour is proud to bring you the season-long race for the FedEx Cup. Now, coverage of the 2023 American Express.

[00:00:41] >> If you're a golf fan, you know this place. A couple of hours east of LA, near the Coachella Valley, La Quinta, California, all the great names in the history of this sport having played in one here. The opener in 1960, and three courses in play for the first three days here at PGA West, the Nicholas Tournament Course, a Pete Dye Stadium Course. And then, also La Quinta Country Club for the 51st time as a part of this event. Looking at some of the highlights. Sam Burns playing along with Harris English today at the Pete Dye Stadium Course here at PGA West.

[00:01:21] >> Right there at the second hole from 94 yards. Very well controlled wedge shot. Take advantage of that.

[00:01:26] >> Three courses in play over. At La Quinta, Xander Schauffele says the back is feeling good. This for eagle at 5.

[00:01:31] >> A short par 5 over there at La Quinta Country Club. Xander hits the green in two. Takes advantage of that eagle putt.

[00:01:38] >> He's played with and won with Patrick Cantlay. And then, they were together at the BMW remember, when Cantlay won. So good putt there. Cantlay birdie at the 6. One of the top names, though, of course, red hot right now, Jon Rahm, the winner at the Sentry Tournament of Champions, past champ here.

[00:01:56] >> Nice tee shot there at the opening hole at La Quinta. Takes advantage of this wedge shot. Spins it back. Perfect spin control. Well done for Jon Rahm.

[00:02:07] >> Make that and then looking to go back to back here at the 2nd.

[00:02:12] >> Tough tee shot here at the second, La Quinta Country Club. Takes advantage of a good tee ball. Puts the ball right in the middle of the green. Nice little 25-footer.

[00:02:20] >> Shadow of the Santa Rosa. You saw this man walk into that shot. Rickie Fowler is playing with him for birdie at the 4th. CJ Cup the last time we saw Fowler. New putter and working so far. So underway.

[00:02:32] >> Sunshine here in the desert for the opening round of the American Express.

[00:02:38] >> Zalatoris now for birdie. I saw him on the driving range yesterday. Said he was feeling pretty darn good. So, good to see him out.

[00:02:47][ Applause ]

[00:02:50] >> Bring you back to the Stadium Course in the 7th.

[00:02:51] >> Yeah.

[00:02:52] >> Sam Burns now.

[00:02:53] >> Sorry about that. Ninety-six yards, slightly on the upslope here. Off the upslope, but it's flight of this down. Really good looking shot.

[00:03:00] >> Yeah. Brad pulling his instructor, working real hard yesterday to get things dialed in late in the afternoon. Looks like they dialed it in nicely there.

[00:03:08] >> Rahm, this for birdie to get it to 50under.

[00:03:12] >> Yeah. Just under hole high. A little to the right, going across the green. And boy, does he look good with the putter right now. Man.

[00:03:21] >> All right, then. How about that start? The number 4 player in the world does not have a chance to be number 1 even with a win this week. But Scottie Scheffler is number 2. He could. And Patrick Cantlay as well. Davis Thompson though with the lead, up by one on Day 1 here at the American Express.

[00:03:44] >> At the 18th, just making the turn at the Nicklaus Tournament Course, J.T. Poston on a roll. Five birdies on this 9.

[00:03:51] >> Yeah. Real strong par 4, the 18th over at the Nicklaus Tournament. Dog leg, left or right?

[00:03:58] >> Oh, going like that.

[00:04:01] >> Thank you pin.

[00:04:03] >> Wow.

[00:04:05] >> Fifteen.

[00:04:08] >> Endycott now, second shot. Down there.

[00:04:11] >> Little bit in a decent lie.

[00:04:13] >> Yeah. Got past that bunker, though, Jim, up that right hand side. So he's got a pretty good look at this back left hole location.

[00:04:19] >> And a pretty good result. It's feeding towards the hole.

[00:04:27] >> Here's Endycott hit that beautiful shot in here at 15, after his 10th at Bermuda, 12th at Fortinet. So a good false start for him coming off that Korn Ferry Tour.

[00:04:37] >> Yeah. He shuffled way up.

[00:04:38] >> Yeah.

[00:04:39] >> So he's going to -- He has played himself into some nice position. Another good week.

[00:04:47] >> Burns now, second shot.

[00:04:50] >> From 131, that's a gap wedge for Burns right at it. Looking to continue that toward start.

[00:04:55] >> Yup.

[00:04:56] >> That's really good.

[00:04:57] >> Absolute green light situation. Beautiful shot.

[00:04:59] >> Yup. Good chance for birdie at the 9th.

[00:05:00] >> Almost give him that one.

[00:05:02] >> He would knock that in.

[00:05:04] >> Take it back to the 4th, David Lingmerth started its day at the 10th. This for birdie to get it to 3-under.

[00:05:11] >> Just underneath the hole, center of the green there at the par-3 4th.

[00:05:15] >> Good putt.

[00:05:16] >> Good putt.

[00:05:19] >> Good.

[00:05:20] >> Thanks.

[00:05:21] >> It was.

[00:05:28] >> Cameron Young now for birdie here at the 9th at the Nicklaus. Finishing up. This for 68.

[00:05:34] >> Yeah. Good look here for Cameron with. A little bit of a slow start early, but nice putt. There you go. OK.

[00:05:41][ Applause ]

[00:05:53] >> Matti Schmid at 12. This his second.

[00:05:57] >> From the left side of the fairway, couldn't see. Had to play to just the yardage. And well done.

[00:06:03] >> Schmid would finish that off.

[00:06:08] >> Thompson at La Quinta at 17 for birdie.

[00:06:11] >> Goes up the slope into the left. Not an easy finish here at La Quinta from 13 on end. It is a good golf course. Some good par 4s, good par 3 at the --

[00:06:32] >> Play well, you can get it there with team low.

[00:06:36] >> Low scores through the years at La Quinta, including that 59 from Adam Hadwin back in 2017 in the Third Round.

[00:06:44] >> Now, we move to the 18th.

[00:06:49] >> Right over at the top of the flagstick with his approach, then it goes down the hill. Has to be careful of speed. Will he do it? Yes. What a round of golf.

[00:06:57] >> Oh, he did close it out with a 62.

[00:07:03] >> A 62 with only two birdies on the back nine.

[00:07:09] >> Incredible round of golf. How about that start?

[00:07:13] >> After Round 1, rookie Davis Thompson has a two shot lead after firing a 62. German, Matti Schmid and the Sentry Tournament of Champions winner Jon Rahm just 2-back at 8-under. The Second Round is next.

[00:07:31] >> It is Day 2 in the desert, La Quinta, California here in the Coachella Valley in the 64th Edition of the American Express. Terry Gannon, John Cook in the booth checking out some of the highlights on another beautiful day here. Davis Thompson, a 62-career low yesterday. Started at 10 on the Nicklaus Course, did this at 11.

[00:07:50] >> Didn't take him long to get going. Five hundred and twenty-eight yard par 5. Nice little eagle on his second hole.

[00:07:56] >> Made a couple of bogeys since. But how about Jon Rahm coming up at 64 yesterday? Jon just supremely confident.

[00:08:02] >> That he is. And why wouldn't he be hitting golf shots like this? He did it yesterday, again today. Nice little wedge in there. Absolutely perfect.

[00:08:11] >> Going back to back here too, 14 and 15, his third at the par 5.

[00:08:15] >> He didn't go for this green in 2, so he'll just rely on his wedge game like he did on the previous hole. And how about that? Outstanding.

[00:08:23] >> Make that to get to 11-under, made another one since to get it to 2-under par.

[00:08:28] >> How about the Pete Dye Stadium Course right here, where those who make the cut will play on Sunday? Sungjae Im on the way from the fairway.

[00:08:35] >> At the 5th hole, danger everywhere, but not for Sungjae as he hits it right in the middle of the green. Uses that slope, hits in there about 8 feet for eagle.

[00:08:46] >> But the hottest man out there on the golf course, J.T. Poston. I mean, how about this run? This at 6 for birdie to get it to 11-under.

[00:08:54] >> The tough 6th hole, the par 3, one of the few birdies made in two days.

[00:08:59] >> All right. Wasn't anywhere near done. This at 7, his second, the approach from 85 yards.

[00:09:03] >> Yeah. Perfect left side of the fairway. Opens up that right hole location. Takes dead aim with that little wedge. Beautifully done. Oh, he's not done yet.

[00:09:14] >> Not yet. Not near.

[00:09:15] >> No. This at the 8th for birdie for five in a row to birdie six of his last seven counted.

[00:09:23] >> Got it to 13-under par.

[00:09:26] >> Let's go over to Nicklaus over at 17, because I talk about hot rounds. Birdied 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, and 16. A couple of wins in his career. Last win was 2018.

[00:09:39] >> Good par at 3 right here, Jim, 194 yards today.

[00:09:42] >> How about this shot?

[00:09:43] >> It is right at it. Look out.

[00:09:46] >> Did he? That any good. That's for four in a row.

[00:09:49] >> That's pretty good.

[00:09:50] >> At 16, the par 5.

[00:09:52] >> Started at the 10th, Jhonattan Vegas. This whole today playing a little more downwind than it did yesterday. Johnny Vegas got it up there right around the front part of the green. And what a play. Chose a putter. Nice eagle.

[00:10:08] >> We stay with Vegas on 17.

[00:10:10] >> Back over to Day, 17th, downhill about 7 yards. A little bit of wind maybe. It's been kind of teetering between right to left and down to the left. Four-under on his round today.

[00:10:21] >> Dangerous hole location here, Jim. Way in the back like we saw yesterday. But he took right at it.

[00:10:30] >> Is that any good?

[00:10:32] >> Yeah. We know he can send it straight up in the air here, John. So look for this to be pretty high in the air. He catches it solid.

[00:10:42] >> Yeah. When Jason's playing well, his 5-irons look like 8-irons right at it.

[00:10:49] >> Beautiful looking golf shot here, John. Look out.

[00:10:52] >> What a shot.

[00:10:58] >> Davis Thompson, our leader yesterday. This for birdie at the 3rd at the Nicklaus to get to 12-under.

[00:11:03] >> Yeah. Good par 3 here at the 3rd, the Nicklaus Tournament Course.

[00:11:07] >> Beautiful putt.

[00:11:07] >> Back on track.

[00:11:09][ Applause ]

[00:11:14] >> Right. Back at the 8th. How about tee to green on this hole so far for J.T.?

[00:11:17] >> Just beautiful shots there, John. Not much to this.

[00:11:21] >> No. He had one of his amateur partners, Jimmy Dunn putt right in front of him. His putt went a hair to the left on the same line. So I'm sure he has a really good idea of what this does. Well, he just looks like he's gotten that confidence, that kind of confident walk going again. The way he's moving around, just his body language, seems like he's ready to bust loose again.

[00:11:42] >> Plays a lot of golf out here in the Coachella Valley. Spends the winter out here at the Vintage Club. So he knows the area, knows the Valley. And that was a perfectly played hole right there.

[00:11:54] >> Just take video of that hole being played, and just keep watching it.

[00:11:58] >> For confidence.

[00:11:58] >> It was amazing.

[00:12:07] >> Thompson for eagle and sole possession.

[00:12:10] >> He has made some eagles already this week. Two yesterday and two today.

[00:12:16] >> We came on the air showing his eagle at 11. And now, another eagle on the card to 14-under.

[00:12:24] >> Go over the Nicklaus, 5th hole, Schauffele now for birdie.

[00:12:28] >> Saw his short gain instructor, Derek Uyeda, and was saying Xander was hitting it about as good as he's seen him hit it. And he's putting about as good too. One hundred percent % healthy now, so.

[00:12:43] >> Sixth hole, Nicklaus Course, the leader, Davis Thompson for birdie.

[00:12:54] >> Yeah. He got to take advantage of these holes over here on the Nicklaus Tournament Course. See if he can back up that birdie eagle with another birdie. We can get on some hitters.

[00:13:07] >> Wow. Wow. That was the 5th. So, you know, birdie, eagle, birdie to 15-under, up by 3 for the young man just making his mark out here on the PGA Tour. But quite a career already coming out of the University of Georgia with four college wins.

[00:13:29] >> Rahm on the way at the 2nd.

[00:13:32] >> Let's see if he can control this. He does.

[00:13:37] >> It's pretty impressive what Davis Thompson has been able to do here after the 62 yesterday. Had a couple of bogeys, but he's had two eagles today. That's for birdie.

[00:13:47] >> Yeah. Birdie, eagle, birdie streak. And that was really quick. And boy.

[00:13:53] >> Man.

[00:13:53] >> He steadied the ship in the correct direction.

[00:13:56] >> Was on fire the opening nine holes yesterday, his second nine today. Look at this run.

[00:14:05] >> Rahm trying to keep pace now.

[00:14:07] >> Yeah. Just outside the right. I already gave that to him.

[00:14:14] >> All right. Saw Davis Thompson hit that wonderful second shot in here. This for yet another eagle. This would be his of the day, made a couple of yesterday.

[00:14:23] >> Certainly taking advantage of the par 5s out here, Jim.

[00:14:26] >> You think? He's played 12-under so far. OK. Well, I mean --

[00:14:32] >> What?

[00:14:33] >> Now, that's a rarity. Three eagles --

[00:14:38] >> What?

[00:14:38] >> -- in a round, five in two days.

[00:14:40] >> That's insane. Look at that. First 50 round five this week, five.

[00:14:50] >> You know, that's amazing.

[00:14:51] >> Yeah.

[00:14:51] >> I mean, we'll take a look and he'll want to see him, too. Relive those.

[00:14:57] >> Early on at the 11, his second haul of the day. OK, no problem. Nice start. OK. Ran into a little bit of trouble.

[00:15:05] >> Yeah. He had a couple of bogeys, trailed by two, but didn't give in.

[00:15:10] >> Kept plugging away. Made a birdie at the tough par 3, the 4th, and then right here at the back, right at the 5th. For the 4th hole, now the 7th for his third birdie of the day. Second on this 9.

[00:15:28] >> Eagle.

[00:15:29] >> How about it?

[00:15:30] >> Eagles. Wow.

[00:15:32] >> Five of them over the course of two days. And a five shot lead. He's got it to 18-under par in his 20th event out on the PGA Tour. Look at that card.

[00:15:42] >> Look at that run.

[00:15:52] >> Sungjae Im taking a look at a birdie try.

[00:15:54] >> Play a beautiful wedge at this point. This putt looked very straight. Cookie, what did you do when you had a putt that you kept looking at and saying, dead straight, dead straight? I know you want to find something. But at what point did you say, forget it, I'm playing it dead straight?

[00:16:05] >> Yeah. I would feel it more in my feet. And if I was comfortable over it, I would just say, you know, just go ahead and trust it. What can you do? Just put the best stroke on it, and you can. That's all you can do.

[00:16:20] >> And that kind of happens.

[00:16:24] >> At 14th, Jason Day. What's taking place here, John?

[00:16:28] >> Perfect location in the fairway. Left edge, gives him a great angle on this right pin. Hit 3-wood off the tee to keep it short of that where that fairway ends right behind him. Eighty yards, I mean, this is wheelhouse right here. Probably take a little bit of an L wedge. One hop and stop.

[00:16:43] >> Yup. He can use a little bit of the slope left of this hole location. Doesn't have to take it right at it. But in his day, he was so good at this.

[00:16:53] >> I love his motion. There's just -- there's no hit at the bottom. There's no big wrist movement. It's almost like a one turn, on turn, all arms. Really control the distance well like that.

[00:17:02] >> Yeah. He gets that club turned away nice and just uses his upper body and rotates. Here it is. Left of the flag. And beautifully done. We called that perfectly there, John. Just well, well played.

[00:17:17] >> With the 5th, Jon Rahm, second shot here.

[00:17:20] >> He's amazing how tight he stands to the ball, how close he stands. Gets that club going straight up, right back down on top of it. And look out.

[00:17:30] >> We haven't seen a lot of guys backing him up. He's done it twice on this 9th.

[00:17:37] >> He can create some spin.

[00:17:41] >> Over to the Nicklaus at the 8th, Tom Kim. Look at the stance.

[00:17:45] >> Everything about this is tough. He said the ball looks like it didn't get out of its track mark. So it's semi buried. Going to hit on a down slope. Penalty area to the -- behind the flagstick. Easy. That was always going to be tough, but that is outstanding.

[00:18:07] >> Let's go back to the Nicklaus.

[00:18:12] >> The 9th, Beau Hossler now for birdie.

[00:18:18] >> Five-under on his round today. This to get to minus-10.

[00:18:21] >> Trying to get it to double figure.

[00:18:22] >> Yeah.

[00:18:22] >> Beau slowly chipping away at trying to get to that next level like we all thought that he was going to right out of Texas.

[00:18:30] >> That'll help if he hits it.

[00:18:32] >> There he goes.

[00:18:33] >> There you go.

[00:18:34] >> Yeah, no big deal. Birdie, I got it.

[00:18:37] >> My boy.

[00:18:39] >> How about that bunker shot from Tom Kim? This for par now.

[00:18:47] >> Great save. What a great save.

[00:18:52] >> Now, Theegala for birdie at the 9th.

[00:19:06][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:19:15] >> Right. Back at the 9th, the Nicklaus, Tom Kim now for Birdie. Just to get to minus-13. Got a good spot right here to go ahead.

[00:19:27] >> He hit a nice shot in there just underneath the hole. This should not do much. Might move slightly to the left, but not much.

[00:19:38] >> No. Even on that speed, that line, good putt there. Nice birdie. Nice couple of putts the last couple of holes.

[00:19:44] >> Sixty-two action for Tom.

[00:19:46] >> That's getting it done.

[00:19:59] >> You know, when you look at this, we talked about Davis Thompson, Billy, Rahm's only 2-back. He makes this he's 1-back. So he's right there in it. And, you know, obviously, Davis finishing early. But we know the success Rahm had around here. We know what he wants to do. We know we talked about, you know, Xander wanting to be elite. He's already -- you know, Jon's already there. He wants to be World number 1. He wants to be the best. He thrives on that. I think that's what separates these guys. It's not about the money. It's about winning championships, putting yourself up against the best.

[00:20:33] >> Did he hit it?

[00:20:50] >> You're 16-under through two rounds and you've made one bogey. Which one of those things give you more confidence?

[00:20:57] >> Last time I was 16-under through two rounds here, I did OK. So I'm looking forward to playing some of the golf again on the weekend. You know, it's been very organized golf is what I can say, right? I wouldn't say I've had my A game. But even those missed hits and those missed swings are a lot of them in the fairway or in play, and I could take advantage of it. So, hopefully, tidy up a bit of that tomorrow. Stadium Course, it's a little bit less forgiven, but, you know, short game feels really good. I'm rolling the ball really, really well on the green. So, obviously, that's going to give me a lot of confidence for the rest of the game.

[00:21:27] >> Rahm and Thompson goes shot for shot in Round 2, both carding 64s. Thompson still holds his two shot lead over Rahm heading into Round 3.

[00:21:44] >> Gorgeous setting, gorgeous weather, temperature in the 60s, blue skies, sunshine has been great here. In La Quinta, California the first three days continues that way. Three courses in play, La Quinta Country Club for the 51st time. Trying to get to Sunday. And everybody, if you make the cut, plays the Pete Dye Stadium Course. But also in play at PGA West. The Nicklaus Tournament Course, designed by the great Jack Nicklaus back in 1987. It's special day for the Golden Bear too. Today, his 83rd birthday.

[00:22:25] >> How about this guy? This at the 3rd, his second. Jon Rahm started the Day 2 off the lead, playing the Pete Dye Stadium Course today, Cookie.

[00:22:32] >> Yeah. Birdies at 1 and 2. What's wrong with Jon Rahm? Well, he just answers right there at the 3rd and just stacks one.

[00:22:40] >> Davis Thompson, though, the 23-year-old first year player out here from the University of Georgia. Made five eagles the first two days, starting with a two-shot lead.

[00:22:48] >> Beautiful shot here at number 1.

[00:22:50] >> One for one today.

[00:22:52] >> Good way to get his round started.

[00:22:53] >> But Rahm just getting things going. This at the 4th to get it to 18-under.

[00:22:57] >> Just never left the center of the cup.

[00:23:01] >> Wedge play was terrific yesterday. This from just off the green at 5 for eagle.

[00:23:06] >> Right down that slope. That never left the center of the cup either.

[00:23:12] >> Unrepeat. And at the par-5 8th, little longer than he expected here for birdie.

[00:23:16] >> Yeah. Had it just short of the green. Not a very good pitch shot, but that never left the center of the cup.

[00:23:21] >> Come on, man.

[00:23:24] >> Thompson now just left.

[00:23:25] >> He needs to land it just above that embankment on the flat and let it run back down to the hill. Only got about 12 paces, I should say 12 feet of green to work with.

[00:23:35] >> Yeah. The players that had success have played that. He's played the par-5 12-under this week. We've already mentioned the five eagles.

[00:23:42][ Applause ]

[00:23:49] >> This one's back up the hill, right to left. Pretty slow. One of the tougher holes on the golf course. Fourth toughest stuff for two rounds. It's tough to get it all the way back there. But this is a good place to have it. This would be for the first birdie on the 9th. Yes. Saw the group. Why not? He's birdied every other hole.

[00:24:16] >> Thompson for birdie. Now, Billy Ray, you know, he's behind. He talked about being smart and aggressive. This -- kind of able to do that, being behind Jon Rahm now?

[00:24:25] >> Yeah. I think also the pairing that he has playing with Will Gordon will make him comfortable as well. But he's going to stay aggressive.

[00:24:30] >> Tom Kim, this for birdie.

[00:24:33] >> Great look from behind here. Does go a little bit right to left. Sends it way out there and just arcs it right in the center. Putts aren't even like right edge, left. They're all going right in the middle.

[00:24:43] >> I want to go putt right now.

[00:24:44] >> I do too.

[00:24:46] >> Back to back bogeys with a bounce back then for Kim. So he's at 16, very much right there, but now trailing by six. I'm not sure Jon Rahm get it back up at any point. Might have to go get him today and tomorrow here. Sixty-fourth Edition of the American Express.

[00:25:02] >> Thirty-two. I mean, I think if you want to get 35, it's fine. Remember, it's all landing into --

[00:25:06] >> Yeah.

[00:25:06] >> -- the pitch, so.

[00:25:07] >> I'll go ahead, Angelo.

[00:25:10] >> John, ball a little bit above his feet.

[00:25:12] >> Just slightly. But I really don't think it's going to affect the shot very much. It's just a couple of inches maybe.

[00:25:17] >> No need to fade it today.

[00:25:18] >> No,

[00:25:19] >> The way he shapes it should be a pretty straight ball for him coming off that lie to take dead aim.

[00:25:28] >> This is 9-iron as well. It won't be a very big one here. Very high. Not really cutting. Just left of the flagstick. Tough to cut a short iron.

[00:25:44] >> All right.

[00:25:48] >> Tom Kim for birdie at the 13th.

[00:25:53] >> That's hole playing under par today. Seven birdie so far. Of course, it is early, but still. So it's normally one of the tougher holes, especially that hole location gets maybe back there tomorrow. But right now, it's on the front.

[00:26:06] >> He gets it out there to the right. Tends to hang. It's trying to --

[00:26:09] >> That one in the right corner, that's the first one to go in the center.

[00:26:12] >> First one that we haven't seen in the center.

[00:26:14] >> Yeah.

[00:26:30] >> This is how you shoot what he's shooting. Every hole, you give yourself a look.

[00:26:43] >> Just be a little careful with speed here.

[00:26:48] >> Come on. This is getting ridiculous now.

[00:26:50] >> We're watching a video game, aren't we?

[00:26:52] >> Come on.

[00:26:55] >> All right. Davis Thompson second now at 7.

[00:26:58] >> And just 95 yards, Jim. Perfect angle from that left-hand side. Trying to just get her on that purple ledge there on the right hand side.

[00:27:06] >> If you can control spin, that should come back a little bit. No?

[00:27:11] >> If you spin it all.

[00:27:11] >> Still a decent look, though.

[00:27:13] >> Up at the green.

[00:27:14] >> Davis Thompson now has this left for birdie.

[00:27:19] >> I got a very good read from the putt of Will Gordon. You think of Davis Thompson, that's been, you know, one of the rounds so far. He's 2-under par. No bogeys on his round. Really playing well around the green. See if he gets this club working here. Watch out.

[00:27:36] >> It's been working.

[00:27:37] >> He's got a par 5 coming up.

[00:27:38] >> Yeah.

[00:27:39] >> Five eagles already on the card. You know he's thinking three. See if he can go three here. He does.

[00:27:43] >> Why not?

[00:27:44] >> Wow, what a play there.

[00:27:45] >> Absolutely. He's played the par-5s 13-under. Expect that.

[00:27:49] >> Here at 12, Rahm not really happy with the approach. This for birdie now.

[00:27:56] >> I don't know how long he's been using this routine on the greens, but it seems fairly new to me, where he gets up, takes a couple of practice strokes, looks at it, and then goes behind the hole again to take a look. But I would keep doing it, I think, right now.

[00:28:09] >> Yes.

[00:28:10] >> Seems to be magical.

[00:28:12] >> Yeah.

[00:28:12] >> Down the hill a little bit. Pretty fast putt.

[00:28:14] >> Yeah, that routine is really working. Kind of like the way Jim Furyk putts, kind of his routine.

[00:28:19] >> Wasn't happy with that wedge shot. Trying to hit a little cutter in there and got on top of it. But the way he's been rolling it, I'm counting him out right here. Right on line again.

[00:28:37][ Applause ]

[00:28:41] >> Just thinking about Rickie playing along with Jon Rahm the way Rahm is going right now. And Rickie is a start, Players Champ five-time winner. But you're trying to make a swing change. Get back to where you were and you're watching Jon Rahm do what he's doing. Is it a motivation? Is it a --

[00:29:00] >> It's not intimidating for Rickie Fowler, but what effect does that have? What do you think?

[00:29:03] >> Yeah. He's used to the big stage. So he knows what's going on. And he and Jon are friends. So I don't think he thinks much of it. But he will find out where his game is and where his swing is.

[00:29:13] >> Pretty good now.

[00:29:15] >> There we go. There's the answer.

[00:29:16] >> And how comfortable he is.

[00:29:18] >> Not bad.

[00:29:18] >> And he looked very comfortable on that pitch shot.

[00:29:21][ Applause ]

[00:29:27] >> Back over to the 9th, Davis Thompson, now his second.

[00:29:30] >> It's going to be interesting to see if he takes this hole location in the back portion of the green on. That was a 9-iron from 166. You've seen the number of shots just come up short. Oh my goodness.

[00:29:41] >> Yeah.

[00:29:42] >> Yeah.

[00:29:45] >> At 18 from off the green, Beau Hossler.

[00:29:48] >> Gets it down there in that collection area. Chooses to putt it.

[00:29:52] >> And --

[00:29:54] >> It's a good choice.

[00:29:55] >> Good choice to finish 11-under par. And that, I believe, will safely make the cut.

[00:30:02] >> Davis Thompson, a wonderful shot in here at the 9th. This to give to 22-under.

[00:30:06] >> Certainly a really good, solid opening nine for Davis Thompson.

[00:30:10] >> Three-under par, a great chance to go 4-under for that opening nine.

[00:30:14] >> Why not?

[00:30:14] >> Reads it --

[00:30:14] >> There you go.

[00:30:15] >> -- perfectly.

[00:30:16] >> He's not backing up, Jim.

[00:30:18] >> No, I don't expect him to.

[00:30:24] >> Fourteen, Scheffler's second.

[00:30:27] >> Yeah. Drove it right to the end of the fairway. Another little flipper, a little check in hole. Almost goes in the hole.

[00:30:34] >> Nearly.

[00:30:36] >> Right, back at the Dye, Jon Rahm, only bogey this week's 10 at La Quinta.

[00:30:44] >> Just a tough putt to keep on lie here.

[00:30:47] >> Yeah. We've seen this putt a lot, John. It does wander to the left just a little bit.

[00:31:00] >> That's a birdie, though, for Rahm.

[00:31:05] >> At the 12th. You know, we just came off of that setting at 17 with so many people watching Jon Rahm, who's leading right now. This young man, Davis Thompson, BR, is just one off the lead, but a different feel.

[00:31:17] >> Totally different feel. You know, it's electric when you're watching Rom play, crowds in there. We probably got 50 people fall in this group. It's been one of those days. Very relaxed. You see how relaxed he is right now there for Davis Thompson.

[00:31:30] >> Thompson moves to 23-under.

[00:31:36] >> Jon Rahm, so this left for par.

[00:31:42] >> This is a solid 3 feet here. This is, by no means, in.

[00:31:49] >> Good look from across the hole. Not much to this pretty straight.

[00:31:55] >> Yeah.

[00:31:55] >> I think he might be a little disappointed with this 65.

[00:32:02] >> Well, he won't be happy with what he did on the last six holes.

[00:32:05] >> Right.

[00:32:05] >> Sixty-five, you know. Only be so disappointed.

[00:32:14] >> Watch his putter, Will Gordon move across the hole the left, similar line.

[00:32:17] >> Yeah. Jon Rahm missed a similar putt to the left. The putts that we've seen missed have all been to the left. So maybe just inside the right, right center with little speed. Another great up and down.

[00:32:39] >> Tied at the top again.

[00:32:41] >> Now, we move to 18 with this group.

[00:32:51] >> It's the edge. No.

[00:32:54] >> You know, John, Will is going to miss the cut there. But can you imagine, you make that cut there and how many times the middle of night you wake up and you go, I missed a cut by one?

[00:33:02] >> Yeah.

[00:33:03] >> Terry and I were just talking about that.

[00:33:04] >> You know, I understand I'm telling you. Sometimes, you miss a cut by two, three, or four, you're OK. But you miss it by one, you can think about so many times --

[00:33:10] >> No.

[00:33:11] >> -- mistakes that you made.

[00:33:12] >> How dumb was I to do that?

[00:33:14] >> Man, I'm telling you.

[00:33:15] >> The would have, should have, could haves start creeping in your mind. How many did I have of those?

[00:33:20] >> Well, at least you could say you're here on a Saturday though, you know?

[00:33:23] >> Yeah.

[00:33:23] >> You know? Usually not the case, but --

[00:33:26] >> Right. Par at the last for Davis Thompson. So the youngsters got a chance. Twenty-three years of age, first year out here. He's going to play with Jon Rahm tomorrow.

[00:33:37] >> Davis Thompson's 20th start on tour. He leads for the first time entering the final round, tied with the first victor of 23, Jon Rahm. They'll be in the same group for the first time. The final round is next.

[00:34:00] >> Pressure makes pros. Better makes better. Always has. Always will.

[00:34:27] >> Three courses in play the first three days. But everybody over at the Pete Dye Stadium Course on this final day. Final round is underway. Big names in the mix here. And big names, of course, legendary figures who have won this throughout the year, starting with that first one in 1960, Arnold Palmer, the first of five wins, 1963, the playoff win for Jack Nicklaus who's celebrated his 83rd birthday yesterday. Could it be Jon Rahm getting there for the second time? He won it back in 2018, won just a couple of weeks ago, Sentry Tournament of Champions. Red hot right now. Rolling in putts from everywhere. And starts the day sharing the lead with Davis Thompson, a rookie in his 20th event on the PGA Tour. Brilliant first couple of days with five eagles. The first two rounds started with a 62. He's had the lead or shared the lead all three days. Will it be one of those two? Or maybe somebody making a run from behind? Tom Kim is right there trying to add some excitement today and win for the third time. Terry Gannon, John Cook with you taking a look at some of the early highlights. And, oh, yeah, we start with Rahm, because playing in that final group with a rookie saying, watch me, at the 1st.

[00:35:39] >> And why not start out this way for Jon Rahm? From in that left rough, uses that slope perfectly at the 1st, hits it in there just a couple of feet.

[00:35:51] >> So that to 24-under and saying, OK, I can go back to back from 126.

[00:35:57] >> Yeah, looking his chops on this right hole location, 126, staring this one down. Why not? Fast start there for Jon Rahm.

[00:36:05] >> Supremely confident right now. I mean, not backing off at all to 25-under. But Davis Thompson, how impressive has he been so far?

[00:36:12] >> He certainly has, Terry. Comfortable start, pars on the first three holes, but he's eyeing this one down at the par-3 4th. Right over top of the flagstick. Nice shot there for Davis.

[00:36:23] >> To 24-under, but as we mentioned this short time ago on the tee at the 5th.

[00:36:29] >> Yeah. You got to put this one in the fairway. Very reachable par five. And this was left from the start. First bad swing. Really, we've seen him make maybe a little bit of nerves, maybe trying to press the issue a little bit.

[00:36:42] >> Going to be fascinating to see how he reacts today playing with one of the top names in the game and watching Rahm do this from 203 a moment ago.

[00:36:49] >> Absolutely blister to drive down the 5th hole, 203 on this par 5. Back right hole location, cuts it just a little bit. But that's safely fine.

[00:37:06] >> Chris Kirk's second shot here at the 7th. Made birdies at 2, 3, 4, 5. This is from 91 yards. Hole location on that back left portion. Just barely in the corner.

[00:37:16] >> Oh, good chance for another birdie. Beautiful shot.

[00:37:20] >> Kirk would finish that off.

[00:37:31] >> And he has just hammered these par 5s.

[00:37:34] >> Break, break a little.

[00:37:38] >> Big time play.

[00:37:40] >> Even though that's a bogey and a much missed opportunity, might settle him down a little bit. Keep grinding. Let's get to the 6th hole. Hit a quality shot, and then a lot of scoring opportunities after that. Let's see where Jon Rahm's head is right here. Yesterday, he was rolling them in from everywhere, then down the stretch. Kind of missed a few opportunities and kind of chapped him. Yesterday, he's talking to Rex. He wasn't real happy with how he finished. But he has really rolled the ball so nicely so far this week. That's opportunity missed there for Jon. That will not make him happy at all.

[00:38:31] >> Schauffele at the 10th, his second.

[00:38:36] >> Yeah. Perfect tee shot. Back left hole location. Now, there is a little bit of a shelf. You have to get it back on that level. And he does a wonderful job there. Excellent shot.

[00:38:50] >> Yup, you got it.

[00:38:52] >> Talk about what he did at the 5th. From 224, watch this, where it lands, where it ends up. You already know where it ends up. Told you he had an albatross, but I mean just does clear it.

[00:39:07] >> Hole location is just tight to that right-hand side just over that water. That ball would have went in and center of the cup at perfect speed.

[00:39:17] >> Holy speed.

[00:39:19] >> Yeah.

[00:39:22] >> Lengthy one at the 6th for Davis Thompson.

[00:39:24] >> From the center of the green, probably moving a hair to his left uphill the whole way. And then, at the hole, it switches and goes away from him.

[00:39:38] >> He got of a reprieve back there. And this is right on line.

[00:39:43] >> Hello.

[00:39:43] >> And that's your answer.

[00:39:45][ Applause ]

[00:40:00] >> That was Chris Kirk from 135 on a good line.

[00:40:03] >> On a great line. Wow. Is that any good? What kind of roll is he on now?

[00:40:09] >> Now, up at the green.

[00:40:18] >> Schauffele at 12th, three off the lead.

[00:40:21] >> Hole location way in the back. Putting it in position is so important so you can hit shots like that. Control the ball.

[00:40:33] >> Jon would have expected a shorter birdie try here at the 8th.

[00:40:39] >> He would have. And we talked about this new routine of his, and very Jim Furyk like. He kind of gets over it, makes a couple of strokes, and goes back behind it and make sure he's absolutely comfortable and gets back in and goes.

[00:40:51] >> He let one opportunity get away back there at the 5th, the par 5 after a monster drive and does not want to leave this opportunity out there.

[00:41:10] >> Get in there.

[00:41:14] >> Boy, amazing drive. Just 106 yards left. And even though this pin is fairly tough, he's got a great angle. And I can't see him going anywhere but exactly right at it with sand wedge.

[00:41:24] >> Three-forty-seven is all that drive went.

[00:41:28] >> Yeah. He doesn't even need to use any slope right here. This is just a little bit left of the flag. Get that little cut like he likes to.

[00:41:44] >> Taking in low, carrying it past the flag. Should have some spin on it.

[00:41:48] >> Yeah.

[00:41:50] >> Right. There's a toss at first, but throughout the whole way, that's a pretty good break and pretty quick coming down this slope. Right there is about the -- It kind of really starts going downhill.

[00:42:03] >> Pretty good breaker left to right down that slope, just barely wants to get it going.

[00:42:18] >> It ain't going in.

[00:42:19] >> Wow.

[00:42:19] >> How about it?

[00:42:21][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:42:35] >> Jon Rahm watched him walk up. He was determined, you know. We're going to see what he's got here. This may be a putt he has to make now to kind of settle himself down too.

[00:42:44] >> Yeah, no doubt about it.

[00:42:48] >> This putt doesn't do much.

[00:42:50] >> No. And if it does anything, he can take the break out because it's up the hill.

[00:42:55] >> Does just that. There you go. He answers the question. Yup. Don't let you sneak up there on me yet, so. Thirty-three.

[00:43:12] >> Schauffele at 14th, birdie.

[00:43:19] >> Six of the last seven. There you go.

[00:43:21] >> That's great --

[00:43:21] >> Continue for Xander.

[00:43:23] >> Yeah. Great save there at 13, and on a roll.

[00:43:30] >> Higgo to get it to 23-under.

[00:43:33] >> Saw that.

[00:43:34] >> Yeah.

[00:43:34] >> Beautiful little pitch shot from down there on the right.

[00:43:38] >> That's pretty good, that back nine.

[00:43:43] >> Kirk, this to get it to 25-under. Yeah.

[00:43:50] >> Let's go.

[00:43:53] >> Back over to 11, Jon Rahm.

[00:44:05] >> If you're going to bump it, it has to go in with some force. He did carry it on the green.

[00:44:10] >> Wow, that's amazing. I didn't think he could spin that with that lie.

[00:44:14] >> Man.

[00:44:14] >> That is talent right there.

[00:44:17] >> Wow. What a golf shot.

[00:44:21][ Applause ]

[00:44:28] >> Davis Thompson way back in the stance. A little pump shot.

[00:44:32] >> How about it?

[00:44:32] >> Is that any good?

[00:44:33] >> Thompson and Rahm trade birdies.

[00:44:39] >> Sixteen, Schauffele, to get it to 25-under par.

[00:44:42] >> Yeah, just left of center.

[00:44:47] >> Taylor Montgomery taking a look. His second at 14.

[00:45:00] >> Oh, hit it.

[00:45:01] >> Oh my goodness, I think that was a bad break.

[00:45:04] >> He would only come away with par.

[00:45:06] >> Tricky little pitch shot right here, John Wood.

[00:45:12] >> Your shadow is right over the ball. Thank you.

[00:45:14] >> Trying to get a couple --

[00:45:15] >> Let's find out.

[00:45:16] >> -- shadows, make sure they stay still while he plays the shot. Yeah, slight downslope and into an elevated green.

[00:45:25] >> The last portion really goes away. First part is backed up, and then the last portion really picks up some speed. Got back in the stance.

[00:45:34] >> A contact and a catch has to be just right. Spin a little bit then release down that slope.

[00:45:43][ Applause ]

[00:45:48] >> Now, Rahm rom to save par. Schauffele at 18.

[00:46:07] >> Brilliant final round for Xander Schauffele.

[00:46:10][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:46:16] >> So tough to judge how to -- how this ball is going to come out. Hundred and two gives a 97 yards front, Terry. So just trying to play about that number. Maybe a little right of the flag. Send one up in the air.

[00:46:42] >> That's the shot.

[00:46:44] >> Right there.

[00:46:45] >> Landed it right on that front.

[00:46:48] >> Out at 14, Rahm. How difficult is this now?

[00:46:53] >> Decent lie. He can spin it, but landing onto a down slope.

[00:46:57] >> Try to hit a little cutter in there.

[00:47:01][ Applause ]

[00:47:06] >> Now, Davis Thompson with a big putt.

[00:47:14] >> Yeah. It holds up right there.

[00:47:18] >> Decent amount left for par for Rahm now, Woody.

[00:47:21] >> Quite a bit. And I noticed on 12 and 13, once he got over the putt, his routine was the same. But once he got settled in and addressed the ball, felt like he stood there for a long, long time. We'll see what he does here. But on both 12 and 13, it seemed like he just locked up a little bit.

[00:47:40] >> Does anything wants to fall slightly to the right.

[00:47:43] >> Yes. And the extra little fist pump.

[00:47:52] >> Yeah, got that one little extra fist pump. He knows how important that was. They head to the par-4 15th. We go up to 18, Matti Schmid, the 25-year-old from Germany, looking for Top 10here.

[00:48:05] >> Get in the hole.

[00:48:07] >> How about it? There it is.

[00:48:10][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:48:15] >> Sixteen birdies here today. They were only 17 through three days. So a lot easier. Hole location about 20 yards shorter.

[00:48:22] >> Oh my goodness.

[00:48:23] >> It's not low, but I only get flying a little because of the shot.

[00:48:27] >> Missed it right there for Taylor.

[00:48:29] >> Yeah.

[00:48:37] >> Two-forty-seven front edge, 278 total for Rahm. Great angle.

[00:48:43] >> He's got that driving iron I think. This sits on the green at all. It'll chase all the way back there.

[00:48:49] >> Has to miss it kind of up that right side though.

[00:48:56] >> Low and turning. Needs to hang on.

[00:49:00] >> It needs a straight kick. It needs a straight kick. It got it.

[00:49:03] >> Oh, man.

[00:49:04] >> What a break for Jon Rahm.

[00:49:07] >> Chris Kirk with a chance for birdie to get it to 26-under. And that would eliminate Xander Schauffele having any hopes of winning.

[00:49:19] >> In the hole.

[00:49:20] >> In the hole.

[00:49:21] >> This breaks hard right.

[00:49:25] >> Wow.

[00:49:25] >> That's the first one we've seen stay out there on that left.

[00:49:28] >> And now, Jon Rahm would like to hear the same at 16.

[00:49:31] >> He might hear the same right here. Got a pretty good read off of Davis Thompson's putt. Notice it goes a little bit left. Not as quick as you think.

[00:49:46] >> Just inside 9 feet.

[00:49:54] >> Still living on the edge.

[00:49:56] >> That was on the edge.

[00:49:58][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:50:04] >> Now, we move to 17 with the final group.

[00:50:07] >> This is 9. So not a big one, I wouldn't think.

[00:50:12] >> Aggressive swing, conservative target.

[00:50:14] >> In the hole.

[00:50:15] >> This is left side of green, cutting towards the middle. Looks like a very smart shot. Yup.

[00:50:19] >> Not where you expect it to be.

[00:50:26] >> Thompson for birdie at 17.

[00:50:29] >> In the hole.

[00:50:30] >> In the hole.

[00:50:31] >> Did he? Yes.

[00:50:36] >> Oh, no.

[00:50:37] >> Got to take another look at this.

[00:51:06] >> Do it.

[00:51:14] >> Thompson is 1-back playing 18.

[00:51:21] >> Just right in the flagstick.

[00:51:23] >> Yes. Sounded maybe a tiny bit skinny.

[00:51:38] >> Sounded like pretty good contact and right towards the center of the green.

[00:51:41] >> Yeah. He's looking at it like exactly what shot that he envisioned.

[00:51:50] >> Nice stability with that lower body. Let that upper body swing. Make sure you full turn, catch the ball first. And he knew it. He knew it was in midair.

[00:52:02] >> Thompson chipped up close for par, and Rahm has two putts to win.

[00:52:11][ Applause ]

[00:52:19] >> Jon Rahm wins again. He's making it a habit. Second time here at the American Express. And then, back to back starts now. He did have to work for this.

[00:52:31] >> Yes, he did.

[00:52:32] >> Kelley and his kids.

[00:52:34] >> Hey, little guy.

[00:52:35] >> It's a scene that we have gotten used to seeing.

[00:52:38] >> This concludes the PGA Tour's coverage of the American Express from PGA West Stadium Course in La Quinta, California.