Production Transcript for REWIND\_23PLAY\_SCHEFFLER.mp3

[00:00:23] >> There's a special aura around the tournament and around the golf course, and it's our championship.

[00:00:28] >> Located in the northeast corner of Florida lies a central hub and grounds for the world's best.

[00:00:34] >> The concept behind the first TPC was that we built a great golf course, and it's proven to be a very competitive and spectacular finish.

[00:00:48] >> Yeah. And Scott survives.

[00:00:57] >> And in a proper home, there's a welcoming warmth.

[00:01:01] >> In Sawgrass, it's the home of PGA Tour. It's the Players.

[00:01:05] >> Infused with the feelings of comfort and familiarity.

[00:01:11] >> It's just a tournament that I look forward to every year. Everybody does. You know the holes, and I think that makes it special for the players.

[00:01:18] >> Foundations built on rich traditions as its heirlooms on display shine a proud light on the past.

[00:01:29] >> Pete Dye will go for a swim today.

[00:01:32] >> Its history well documented, enshrined for the ages.

[00:01:37] >> Be the right club today. Yes.

[00:01:43] >> The history of that event is pretty cool, though, the winners there.

[00:01:47] >> Grant couples eagles. What a day to all of us.

[00:01:59] >> I mean, that's better than most. How about in? That is better than most. Better than most.

[00:02:08] >> It's our biggest event. And it's a dream come true just to be in that field, and hopefully I have a chance to win this year.

[00:02:16] >> You were able to get a win. It just gives you even added confidence that you can compete with the best in the world. It's something that I check off my calendar that I want to win every year.

[00:02:28] >> It's one championship that everybody is buying to win.

[00:02:30] >> TPC Sawgrass.

[00:02:31] >> TPC Sawgrass.

[00:02:31] >> The home of the Players Championship.

[00:02:32] >> The home of the Players Championship.

[00:02:33] >> Our home.

[00:02:33] >> Our home.

[00:02:33] >> Our home.

[00:02:33] >> Our home.

[00:02:48] >> Better than most. Davis Love has won the Players Championship again. Rickie Fowler owns the Island Green.

[00:03:04] >> Players Champion Rory McIlroy.

[00:03:07] >> 2021 Players Champion Justin Thomas.

[00:03:10] >> The PGA Tour is proud to bring you the season-long race for the FedEx Cup. Now, coverage of the 2023 Players.

[00:03:17] >> So good to be back here. Just one mile from the Atlantic Ocean on Florida's first coast for the 41st time, the Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass, set to host one of the biggest weeks in golf. You know, as the event has grown in stature, Pete Dye's design has matured along with it. Every aspect of the game is challenged. We know every mistake is magnified, and everything builds. The crescendo on the Island Green, the 17th, one of the most famous holes in golf, already has given us a highlight, will give us the highs and lows throughout the next four days. It plays costar to the stars of the game, chasing the richest prize in PGA Tour history this week. It's Day 1 of the 2023 Players Championship, and boy, did they get off to a great start. Hayden Buckley, the 27-year-old in the second group to play one of the most famous holes in the world, 17. Hits a good shot to that front hole location that just kept getting better. The 11th ace at 17 in Players Championship history, what a way to get the 49th Players Championship underway. Buckley has struggled since he started his day on 10. But a moment to savor for Buckley. Now, to the top of the leaderboard, Collin Morikawa trying to add a Players Championship. There's two major championships. This at the 2nd, his 11th hole of the day. A beautiful second shot, and the continuation of a fabulous day for Morikawa.

[00:05:21] Very good on the first nine holes. Had birdied the 1st, and put himself in position with an eagle there at number 2 to get to the top of the board. But look who else is there. Chad Ramey, one of the first time starters. He's had a clean card for the day. Rolls in that birdie to get him to 6-under par. Tied with Morikawa for the moment. But just a couple of moments ago, Collin Morikawa continuing his outstanding day on the greens. It's a 19th footer for birdie at the 6th, his eighth one putt in his last 10 holes. And Collin Morikawa's name is the top the leaderboard in his third Players Championship. To the 7th, Tom Kim hit it in the trees, rattled around to hear his fourth at the par 4. All bailout. Well done. Go over to 15th. Adam Svensson with his second shot. Winner at the end of the calendar year as part of this season at Sea Island at the RSM Classic.

[00:06:52] >> Svensson would make birdie.

[00:06:53] >> Matsuyama, tough start so far, 3-over.

[00:06:56] >> He would tap that in.

[00:06:57] >> Over to 7 now.

[00:06:58] >> And Scottie Scheffler for birdie.

[00:07:01] >> Only thing he didn't like was he didn't get to clean the ball. But it didn't matter for Scottie Scheffler. Scheffler makes birdie now to get the 3-under.

[00:07:06] >> Let's go over to the 12th. David Lingmerth drove it in trouble. Second shot.

[00:07:08] >> Out of the pine straw. That is really good and getting better.

[00:07:09] >> Lingmerth would make par.

[00:07:10] >> We go to Viktor Hovland over at the 1st for an opening birdie.

[00:07:12] >> Saw Maverick McNealy make his putt from left and further and see how much this breaks to the left at the end for Hovland and how fast it is. Never looked like it was going to reach.

[00:07:16] >> To Ramey at 17.

[00:07:17] >> And, Notah, first time he's playing 17 in competition.

[00:07:19] >> Yeah. And, you know, 7-under is the best round he's had thus far in this year. And as Paul stated, win not an issue here. Little in off the right, if anything.

[00:07:33] >> This is good.

[00:07:35] >> Oh, yeah.

[00:07:38] >> This is good. Well, it sure doesn't look like it's the first time here for Ramey.

[00:07:43] >> Would make birdie.

[00:07:44] >> Well, you talked about the shot for Justin Thomas. Here is his third. John Wood, what do you got?

[00:07:52] >> Much better lie. Had two wedges out, trying to decide which one to go. It looked like he went with a less lofted one, which means he's going to try and run it a little bit. Don't want to be overly aggressive. Just past this pin, it starts to run away from you pretty quickly, but he still got a hill to get up to get it all the way to the hole.

[00:08:17] >> How's that for Thomas?

[00:08:21] >> Perfect.

[00:08:22][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:08:29] >> Jason Day, who has been playing some really good golf, working off four Top 10s in a row, Zing.

[00:08:38] >> Yup, kind of unnoticed. And he keeps it going, doesn't he? Look at Jason Day. This is the kind of golf we expect from him.

[00:08:46] >> So five pars in a row to start. A chance for his first birdie here from short range.

[00:08:51] >> We know he can do this.

[00:08:54] >> Yup. Major Champion, Players Champion.

[00:09:01] >> Justin Suh at the 7th.

[00:09:03] >> He had a real chance there at Honda a few weeks ago.

[00:09:06] >> Yes, he did.

[00:09:09] >> This is a heck of a shot.

[00:09:11] >> Might go in. That goes. One-under for Justin Suh.

[00:09:25] >> Over at the 3rd, and Ben Griffin for birdie here. And right in the middle. He's a first timer here. There are 32 players in the field that are playing the Players for the first time.

[00:09:38] >> Spieth now just inside JT, and he really makes a cut move with his wedges. Watch him swing hard left and hold it open, trying to hold it against that right to left wind. It's on a good line here.

[00:10:02] >> Yeah. Nice.

[00:10:03] >> Great line.

[00:10:03] >> Had a chance to go in twice.

[00:10:07] >> Spieth would make birdie.

[00:10:09] >> At the 15th, again, the great drive. Pretty second shot.

[00:10:14] >> Yeah. He was a little disappointed how deep it went, but I don't know if he's disappointed in that putt. Boy, that ball was rolling end over end.

[00:10:22][ Applause ]

[00:10:26] >> To the 8th, we go.

[00:10:28] >> Mike, this is a play. You've got to get it to land a little bit past the downslope. This is Ben Griffin. Long swing like a bunker shot. Plopped it way up in the air.

[00:10:42] >> Oh, come on. Back to back birdies for Griffin, and all of a sudden he's tied for fourth.

[00:10:47] >> And Viktor Hovland trying to close strong. This should be four birdies, last five holes for Hovland. This one from just about 17 feet.

[00:10:57] >> He saw Fitzpatrick stay straight. And what a nice finish there for Victor Hovland to get to 3-under par.

[00:11:04] >> I hit a lot of really good shots earlier in the round. I just had a couple of misses on the wrong spots and shortsighted myself a couple of times. And you do that out here with the greens being this firm and the rough being the stick, it's hard escape. I didn't really feel like I did anything amazing today. I made a couple of nice putts today. In terms of ball striking, it was nothing special. But really, it's fun to play golf again when I kind of know where the misses are. It's a very stress free feeling. Instead of aiming down the middle, and then it can go right, and it can go left, that's no way to play golf.

[00:11:46] >> After Round 1 of the Players Championship, first timer Chad Ramey holds a slim one shot lead over Major Champion Collin Morikawa. Canadian Taylor Pendrith is three shots back. The second round is next.

[00:12:04] >> It's the Players Championship, and it's their home, the home of the PGA Tour. And it plays out on its grandest stage. From the back of a Barn Atkins sketch to a golf course now recognized around the world over its four plus decades. The Stadium Course is a simply fantastic blend of visual intimidation and unique angles. Just never allows a player to rest. No shortage of entertaining moments for those fans to follow. The Tour's best playing pressure shots for the biggest purse PGA Tour history, $25 million. So here's how they're lining up. Chad Ramey, first timer at the Players from Mississippi. He'll get started within the hours, so two, Collin Morikawa twice, a Major Champ. There's Griffin in at 71 watching Hovland and Clark finish. See the others, including Scottie Scheffler, who, along with Jon Rahm and Rory McIlroy, will be in that feature group this afternoon.

[00:13:04] >> All right, here's Jason Day, winner in 2016. Likes this place, four Top 10s.

[00:13:16] >> We're over at the 12th now, Dylan Wu trying to continue to work his way up the leaderboard.

[00:13:22] >> Yeah, this short drivable par 4. We'll see that over the weekend, not the first two days. Playing its full length, 370 today.

[00:13:30] >> Woodland at 17.

[00:13:33] >> As I say, it's all about controlling the ball flight. That's what's so great about these shock traces. We can see so much now with technology.

[00:13:42] >> He hit it in the water here yesterday and made a 5. It's a good line. What a shot by Gary Woodland. It challenges the upper deck, uses the wind in the spin.

[00:14:00] >> He would make birdie.

[00:14:05] >> One-fifty-three wind pushing down. Maybe just a touch off the left for these guys. Should be looking just left to this hole location and will gently feed right when it lands. Again, trying to hit a little left to right in there. Nice job.

[00:14:23] >> Lovely, lovely. Look at this.

[00:14:25] >> That's to tap in. What a start from Morikawa. And instantly, it'll get him right on top of the leaderboard.

[00:14:32] >> Jordan Spieth, probably in the best position. Would you be surprised? Of course not.

[00:14:41] >> Boy. And, Jimmy, he didn't take any time to do that. Smylie Kaufman was talking about the conferences sometimes take too long. That was all instinct in athleticism,

[00:14:51] >> But that was huge, guys, sitting at 2-over par to make eagle.

[00:14:58] >> Min Woo Lee after the very nice second shot, this for his second birdie of the round.

[00:15:03] >> You know, you said you like this guy's swing. I like his demeanor out there.

[00:15:10] >> Yeah.

[00:15:12] >> This is going to be for eagle for Ben on. There's only been one.

[00:15:16] >> Actually, there hasn't been an eagle until now. Ben on is the first eagle of the day. There were four yesterday.

[00:15:24] >> There's not a lot of household names on our board at the moment. And it's kind of what happened last year at the beginning of this championship.

[00:15:43] >> Waited much higher and actually looks like he judged it fairly low, Zing.

[00:15:47] >> How about this shut?

[00:15:51] >> Great shot, baby.

[00:15:53] >> You're back, baby. You're back.

[00:15:57] >> Bezuidenhout to set himself up just about the best way he possibly could have from where he was to try and save par. Clear look at the stick.

[00:16:08] >> He would save par.

[00:16:14] >> To 12th.

[00:16:15] >> David Lingmerth, his second shot.

[00:16:23] >> Yeah.

[00:16:23] >> Hello. Took a peak. Almost made a deuce. What a shot from the Swede.

[00:16:32] >> And Matsuyama for birdie. Trying to break into red figures. There you go.

[00:16:39][ Applause ]

[00:16:46] >> Svensson just off the green, his fourth shot.

[00:16:51] >> Yeah, there you go.

[00:16:56][ Applause ]

[00:17:03] >> Bezuidenhout making the turn. Tough shot.

[00:17:07] >> That rough is really thick. It came out looks like OK. Oh, yeah, that's going to run out.

[00:17:13] >> Oh, how good is this going to turn out?

[00:17:16] >> Oh, man.

[00:17:18] >> He's got a good look at birdie along with someone else there.

[00:17:23] >> Yeah, that's so tough to judge out of that thick stuff.

[00:17:26] >> This to get to 7-under.

[00:17:32][ Applause ]

[00:17:34] >> I think it's me.

[00:17:35] >> OK.

[00:17:42] >> Nine-iron for Chad.

[00:17:56] >> Very nice golf swing. Wind is moving it to the right.

[00:18:03] >> Will it stop? The answer is no.

[00:18:09] >> Keith Mitchell for birdie. Long way away, but a chance here to get to 1-under.

[00:18:17] >> Other than the four par 5s, one is the only hole playing under par.

[00:18:21] >> Yeah. Keith Mitchell dumps it in to get to 1-under.

[00:18:27] >> Yes, sir. Fire in the hole.

[00:18:28] >> Look for this ball to come in kind of low, medium maybe, medium height, and it landed directly into the face of the hill. Should be about maybe 65 or 70 yards in the air. It's about all he wants. Put it up in here, didn't he?

[00:18:58] >> He did.

[00:18:59] >> Look out.

[00:18:59] >> It's decided.

[00:19:00] >> Ramey would make 7.

[00:19:11] >> At five, Min Woo Lee with his birdie attempt. Look at that.

[00:19:19] >> Lee gets into that group at 6-under par. Four guys now just one shot back.

[00:19:25] >> Scheffler for back to back birdies.

[00:19:30] >> Saw Morikawa's but go right at the end, and he get.

[00:19:33] >> From t 23 feet away, Scottie Scheffler, 5-under, two off the lead.

[00:19:42] >> Over on the other side, 10th hole for Svensson. He plays the 1st with a chance to join Bezuidenhout on 7-under par.

[00:19:53] >> Fast putt here for Svensson. Yeah, right there. Great speed.

[00:20:00] >> Thirteen.

[00:20:01] >> Pendrith playing with Tommy Fleetwood.

[00:20:03][ Applause ]

[00:20:09] >> This is Svensson at the 2nd.

[00:20:12] >> This would be a longer backswing, short a little follow through.

[00:20:18] >> Good speed.

[00:20:21] >> Now, Svensson on the green.

[00:20:28] >> Svensson to tie for the lead at 8-under. So he gets that in just in time. So Bezuidenhout and Svensson are at 8-under.

[00:20:38] >> The weather is getting too close. It's getting too threatening for us. We have to bring in the players and we have to assess how long this is going to be. But that is not looking good right now, so we will keep you posted.

[00:20:49] >> Yeah, mark. Who's building back to our west, you can see some lightning in that cell. Get too close here, so time to get everybody to someplace safe.

[00:20:59] >> Safe shelter or exit the venue.

[00:21:01] >> And Mark Dusbabek for the PGA Tour bring you back in because this suspension is not just a quick one. I think we're done for the day.

[00:21:08] >> You know, Mike, when you look at a suspension like this and the threatening weather that we have, to take them off the golf course, to protect them, and to protect the spectators, then we're looking at having them warm back up. And with the amount of daylight we have, we don't have enough time to go through that whole process.

[00:21:27] >> With play suspended for Round 2, South African Christiaan Bezuidenhout and Canadian Adam Svensson are tied at the top at 8-under. Player of the Year Scottie Scheffler just 3-back.

[00:21:46] >> Good afternoon. Sixty-six degrees, brilliant Saturday sunshine bathing Northeast Florida. We're just 15 miles from Jacksonville in Ponta Vedra Beach, the home of the PGA Tour and its flagship event, the Players Championship. An inch of Friday rain brought out half the field early this morning to finish Round 2. Seventy-five made the cut. They're all out there now. And the third round is underway. And great scoring. This third round has started with a bang, like Min Woo Lee making his Players debut. The 24-year-old from Australia, rounds of 68 and 70 the first couple of days. His second at the 1st, an eagle to lift him up to 8-under par. Talk about good scoring, Cameron Young made the cut by two. Started this round at even par, started off the 10th. So this is his ninth hole of this third round at the famous 18th. And watch this one work towards the flagstick. Cameron Young is 6-under for his first nine holes. He shot 30, and he shot himself right onto the first page of the leaderboard after that beauty from 135 yards. In that last group, they know it's go time on this Saturday. And number 2 in the World, Scottie Scheffler with eyes on number one in the world with a Top 4 finish this weekend. A terrific shot. Backs it up to within a couple of feet. You see a ball already in there close. That belong to the man who started this third round with the lead, the 29-year-old from Canada, Adam Svensson, already a winner at the start of the wraparound PGA Tour season. Rolls that birdie in, and Svensson is two clear of Scheffler and Lee. You see the names behind, including double major champion Collin Morikawa as we set the table here, Round 3.

[00:23:31] >> Scheffler's next, Woody.

[00:23:33] >> Went for this green and two did not cut it. Just hit a straight shot. It's on a little bit of a downhill lie, which is going to be tough because you want to hit a super flop. He does have the option of trying to run this a little bit long and using the slope to bring it back a little bit. So we'll see how good the lie is.

[00:23:54] >> What a touch by Scheffler. And he's made it.

[00:23:57][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:24:05] >> And with Svensson having problems, you're probably looking at your new leader, sole leader.

[00:24:12][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:24:23] >> Let's go look at Min Woo Lee with his putt for birdie.

[00:24:32] >> That eagle at 1, missed the putt at 2. This looks nice. Look at this. Hey, Min Woo Lee.

[00:24:39] >> And Scheffler is next. In good shape.

[00:24:46] >> Perfect spot right side of the fairway. Just 175 left. Playing a draw, holding it back into that breeze. Good looking shot here.

[00:24:59] >> Oh, my. Nobody's better than Scottie Scheffler right now.

[00:25:04] >> To 7.

[00:25:05] >> McCarthy trying to keep it going from 180.

[00:25:13] >> Oh, man.

[00:25:13] >> He would knock that in.

[00:25:16] >> Scheffler trying to take advantage of another beautiful approach.

[00:25:21] >> And this hole is cutting a pretty good size slope here. It's a lot of left to right. Once it starts moving, it's not going to stop at all. It'll right turn.

[00:25:33] >> Oh, man. There's no doubt about it.

[00:25:41] >> Back to 6.

[00:25:41] >> Min Woo Lee right there. Good chance to get it back to double digits under par. Got it. Min Woo Lee, eagle start, birdie at 4, another one at 6, solo second.

[00:25:55] >> Up to 9.

[00:25:57] >> And David Lingmerth laid it up here to 95 yards. Only 3-back right now. He's had success here in the past. Now, this could be good if it spins back. Look at how good this is. That's in there about 3 feet at the most.

[00:26:11] >> Over on the par-3 8th, Christiaan Bezuidenhout. This is for birdie from 41 feet, 5 inches.

[00:26:21] >> It should go to the right at the end, if it gets there. If it gets there. It got there. What a two.

[00:26:33] >> Scottie Scheffler's tee shot here.

[00:26:36] >> Three-iron for Scheffler. Really good looking shot. Starting at the center, cutting a little bit right. Flighted beautifully.

[00:26:43] >> What a shot there by Scheffler.

[00:26:46][ Applause ] Over at 18.

[00:26:52] >> Second for Justin Thomas from 146.

[00:26:55] >> He loves this tee shot. He has hit some beautiful drives off this 18th tee. A lot of them have been documented like that one. This will suck right into the hole.

[00:27:06] >> That's you play 18 today. A possible eagle, too. Oh, yeah.

[00:27:11][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:27:20] >> Back over to 8th.

[00:27:27] >> Yeah. I mean, we always talk about how do you match up your pace and your line here, and there's a couple of different ways to hit this putt. I'd suggest playing a little bit more break. See that percentage of putts made from 13 feet there, 28%. Is it going to break? Is it going to turn? Oh, he got one to turn in this time. Not like the one on 6th.

[00:27:51][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:27:59] >> To 9.

[00:28:01] >> Min Woo Lee pushed it up pretty close to the green. Just a little touchy, little flip. What a shot that is.

[00:28:09] >> He moves to 11-under.

[00:28:14] >> Scheffler, a chance to shoot 31 on this front nine, which would tie the low score of the week on this front nine.

[00:28:25] >> That will help that stat. Up by one as he makes the turn.

[00:28:34] >> Min Woo Lee, we saw the trouble. This is real trouble for him. At the 10th, this will be his third shot. What a shot. Wow.

[00:28:47] >> Denny McCarthy, 4-under, but this is third chance. We're into trouble here at the 11th. Eight-under is tied for fourth at the moment.

[00:29:00] >> McCarthy would make double.

[00:29:06] >> Come back to the green. On the 10th, Min Woo Lee, who has scrambled here to get himself back in position.

[00:29:23] >> Stretch. Yeah. Great save. Min Woo Lee.

[00:29:28][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:29:34] >> Got a one shot lead. He's got enough room here, it looks like, John. He kind of described it, but this ought to swing to the right for him.

[00:29:49] >> Oh, he did it. Caught that brilliantly.

[00:29:51] >> He did it.

[00:29:52][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:30:00] >> This is Cam Davis' third. Close up there. Great position.

[00:30:09] >> There it is.

[00:30:10] >> Might as well.

[00:30:11][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:30:15] >> Got Min Woo Lee a tie for the lead.

[00:30:19] >> Zing, I thought this was a very smart play on Min Woo's part. Took all the major issues out of play, kept it on the safe side. Midrange look now, and he's rolling his rock today.

[00:30:28] >> Yeah. He took out the real risk factor on that shot and it's looking good.

[00:30:32] >> He's got it.

[00:30:33] >> Let's go.

[00:30:35] >> I'm still trying to figure out how Min Woo Lee may par a 10, and then hits his tee shot of the bunker, still makes a birdie at 11.

[00:30:43] >> Here at the 9th, Sungjae Im finishing up his round. He's got this for birdie. Yeah. Another one goes for Sungjae Im. What a round that was for him, 64 here in Round 3.

[00:31:00] >> Back to 17. This is Aaron Rai playing behind Fleetwood. High shot. Going right at it. This is coming back. It's going to take a look. Yes. Aaron Rai, another hole in one here.

[00:31:24][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:31:42] >> Tom Hoge's putting a clinic on. He's hit 15 out of 17 greens, and he's got the low round on the course.

[00:31:48] >> To get to 7-under, 9-under now on the round.

[00:32:02] >> Jason Day again?

[00:32:05] >> Yeah. His ball got to the collar here and he went up with it. Not many players have done that. They all stayed down with it. And that ball went down.

[00:32:11] >> Now, what's going to happen Tom Hoge? Is he going to rewrite history, Curt?

[00:32:20] >> A chance for Hoge to break the course record. Ninety-two yards to the hole. This could spin back and be great. Yeah, very nice. He has that for 62.

[00:32:41] >> Now, up at the green.

[00:32:45] >> His caddie Henry Diana, who's also a very good player, has looked at this from both angles. So he's using his knowledge here as well. You think about all the great rounds here, all those 63s, all the great players, Curt. I mean, this is something that you put on your resume forever.

[00:33:08] >> For 62.

[00:33:09] >> Do it.

[00:33:09] >> Yes. What a round for Tom Hoge.

[00:33:16][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:33:21] >> Scottie Scheffler with his third shot.

[00:33:34] >> Got a chance if it gets there.

[00:33:39] >> Scheffler gets to 13-under.

[00:33:42] >> To 18.

[00:33:42] >> This is Cam Davis to break in there alone at 10-under. Got a lot of 9-unders on the board. Can somebody get a little closer to Scheffler and lead? It's Cam Davis.

[00:33:52][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:33:57] >> Min Woo Lee's first Players Championship. Another than the first playing here, only two players have won in their first attempt on the Stadium Course, Hal Sutton in '83, Craig Perks in that Hollywood script ending more than 20 years ago. This for par to post 13-under.

[00:34:22] >> First putt he's missed inside 10 feet today.

[00:34:28] >> Lee drops one shot.

[00:34:33] >> One-fifty-two, a little bit of help. This is wedge.

[00:34:35] >> Some laser focus in his eyes here, staring it down.

[00:34:47] >> Starting right, trying to turn it again, trying to catch that ridge. That's a pretty good spot. Here it comes.

[00:34:56][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:35:09] >> Now, up at the green.

[00:35:28] >> That's money right there. What a putt.

[00:35:31] >> What a way to finish off this incredible record setting scoring day. Scheffler, World number 2, rises to the top by two with a birdie three at the last.

[00:35:46][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:35:52] >> The stage is set. Scottie Scheffler holds a two shot lead over Australian Min Wool Lee, and four shots over Cam Davis. Can Scheffler hold on to win his first Players? The final round is next.

[00:36:04] >> Being inside these robes is a roller coaster. A constant battle to push yourself. And harder. And harder. It's an endless pursuit to be great.

[00:36:23] >> Are you serious?

[00:36:25] >> Inside these robes, there's no slowing down.

[00:36:27] >> And he's done.

[00:36:28] >> Because to be the best, you must beat the best.

[00:36:40] >> Seventy-eight degrees on a warmer and windier Sunday at the Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass. The forecast for increasing winds, that's going to add to the drama of this 2023 Championship Sunday at the Players. Maybe tougher than yesterday, but doesn't mean we'll be dramatic as well. This happened just a short time ago. At the 17th, 26-year-old Alex Smalley from 133 yards. One bouncing in. The third ace in four days. There have been 10 aces of 17 in the first 40 years the events been played here. He was playing with Jerry Kelly. Smalley wasn't born when Kelly played in his first Players Championship. But the 26-year-old has a memory that will last a lifetime. But we've seen Dukey's dunk it in March before. There was one bouncing in for the 26-year-old who went to Duke. He's going to keep that souvenir, and why not? Maybe a little preview of what we have in store on this Sunday with the sunshine at the Players Championship. You see the board, Scottie Scheffler is going to start this day with a two shot lead. Can anybody make a charge?

[00:37:57] >> Min Woo Lee here, an excellent position to strike first, Woody.

[00:38:03] >> One-twenty-one, what a beautiful swing off the first tee.

[00:38:08] >> Just a gap wedge. Left side of the screen. You've only got about 15 feet to work with. This is on a wonderful line.

[00:38:23] >> He's taking it on and he's got it back there. Comparison of Scheffler and Min Woo Lee in this final pairing. Of course, you're all very familiar with Scottie Scheffler and what he has done in the last year or so.

[00:38:39] >> It's like throwing a rabbit and a briar patch throwing these guys out there in this hard wind. They love it. Especially Scottie Scheffler being from Texas. This is 5 feet, 10inches. Money.

[00:39:02] >> Brilliant start by Lee.

[00:39:05] >> Over to 13, the hot man on the golf course, Hideki Matsuyama for a seventh birdie on this round. Hideki Matsuyama walking it in on fire and 2-back.

[00:39:15] >> Over at the 4th. Lee now with his third shot.

[00:39:18] >> Take a look at this decision.

[00:39:20] >> Yeah, I'm just going to hit a 25, 30 yard to figure out what's the best number I can have for this play.

[00:39:32] >> After what we saw in 9 in a couple of holes yesterday, this is a real strike for him.

[00:39:34] >> That sounded fat, Paul. Watch out. And that is a disaster.

[00:39:36] >> Lee would make 7, dropping to 10-under.

[00:39:37] >> And Hovland had a look at this. Used his aim point express to try to get a good read on it. Yeah, he got it. Right speed and line. Excellent putt.

[00:39:57] >> Min Woo Lee to go first.

[00:40:00] >> Pretty good distance control with that wedge, but well to the right. He's got a little right to left in it, and down into that low air is going to pick up a little speed.

[00:40:09] >> He's walked a couple in, and he just nails that one.

[00:40:12] >> To 17, we go.

[00:40:18] >> Yeah, Tyrrell Hatton, Garrick Higgo in front with Matsuyama made double. He took the drop there. That was a sixth ball in the water. Hatton on 17 this week's made a par, a double and a par. He hit it in the water in Round 2.

[00:40:37] >> Tyrrell Hatton has been on a heater, Brad. This is a big chance for him.

[00:40:42] >> Great iron player, Zing.

[00:40:44] >> He's moving the right direction.

[00:40:51] >> Here it comes.

[00:40:52] >> He's got a chance.

[00:40:53] >> Hatton would make that and move to 11-under.

[00:40:58] >> Back at 8.

[00:41:01] >> Scheffler, 7-iron. Oh, that's a good line. This can get a kick to the right if it lands on the green.

[00:41:14] >> That took a bad second bounce, and now he's going to have an awkward little stance.

[00:41:18] >> Up to the green.

[00:41:19] >> Look at this awkward stance. Feet in a bunker, ball well above his feet. Choked way down to the metal. This is the easier place to chip from. Look at this, look at this. Scottie Scheffler, multiple fist pumps.

[00:41:34] >> Shouldn't be much here, John.

[00:41:40] >> No, maybe a touch of right to left in it. Volatility is golf course. Could be another two shot swing.

[00:41:52] >> Well, we got this great view for Ben Griffin out of bunker. Wyndham Clark was the first guy to get up and down from bunker just a few groups before little awkward lie. Look how high his right foot is there, balls above his feet. Just get it on the green. Better to get it in the hole. What a week.

[00:42:10] >> Scheffler up by three right now.

[00:42:14] >> To 18.

[00:42:15] >> And Hatton, closest to him, there's water on the left. Risky shot.

[00:42:22] >> Oh, man, what a play. And it sits down. Are you kidding me?

[00:42:26][ Applause ]

[00:42:31] >> Now, on the green.

[00:42:32] >> Well, Dan, I got to tell you, that was one of the most impressive troubleshots I've seen this year.

[00:42:40] >> It would also tie the back nine record of '29, Notah, if this goes down.

[00:42:45] >> Yeah. Just wholeheartedly took on that water and got the right distance out of it. Now, this putt, not a whole lot of break in it. And this guy is rolling it well in these closing holes.

[00:42:54] >> It's just all nerves and pressure. Can he handle it here? Yes, he can.

[00:43:08] >> What a finish for Hatton, 65. It's the best round of the day so far by three shots.

[00:43:17] >> And our leader checking it out here at the 9th. Let's see. A lot of times, you'll see him stick that leading edge in on a lie like this. Let's see what he does.

[00:43:31] >> In the hole.

[00:43:34] >> Landed right on that down slope. Pretty well done.

[00:43:44] >> We stay with Scheffler.

[00:43:46] >> Scheffler has a chance to go up by three with this putt right here.

[00:43:53] >> He's only hit one bad putt. That was on 3. He yanked it way to the left.

[00:43:59] >> We're going to have a good look at his stroke on this one. Just get it to go in. He's birdied the 9th all four days here at the Players this year.

[00:44:17] >> Scheffler holds a three shot lead, making the turn.

[00:44:25] >> Back to 10 for the leader.

[00:44:35] >> Yes, that stays.

[00:44:36] >> To 12.

[00:44:41] >> As we watch Sungjae Im fresh off his birdie, he took the head cover off his bag so quickly, there was never any doubt he was going to the flagstick here. Oh, and right at it, hitting the upslope. So for that killed the drive. That's beautiful. That killed the bounce.

[00:44:59] >> Im would make birdie.

[00:45:00] >> This is for three in a row.

[00:45:05] >> Yeah. I think these next three holes, he plays aggressive. Tries to get as big a lead as he can.

[00:45:10] >> What a putt.

[00:45:10] >> Oh, wow.

[00:45:13] >> Just when you think he might be hearing some noise, he makes his own noise. Three in a row for Scheffler. Four clear of that 12-under posted.

[00:45:22] >> It has been an ugly round for Min Woo Lee. Left one of the pine straw that back out to where he had the ball above his feet. Couldn't get it to the green. The water lurking on the right. Finally on the surface here.

[00:45:43] >> Lee for double bogey.

[00:45:49] >> OK, rolls that in.

[00:45:55] >> And Scheffler trying to add another one here, Woody from short range.

[00:45:58] >> Similar to the putt Min Woo Lee just had. You know, oddly enough, it feels like when Hatton made that charge and got in, it feels like Scottie Scheffler got sharper. Sometimes, you can't help but react to who you're playing with. Once that was posted, he said, OK, I know what I got to do now. Really locked in.

[00:46:14] >> Well, this gets him five better than Hatton with four in a row. To 12.

[00:46:25] >> Cam Davis elected 3-wood. Just right, beautiful flight. Clip that off there pretty nicely. Now, this part gets downhill and quick. And what a beautiful touch there. That's as good as we've seen from there. That went on to make birdie. Scheffler, second shot.

[00:46:43] >> Off a little down slope, but he can spin these like nobody else. Min Woo Lee's already played to about 20 feet.

[00:46:48] >> This guy has no fear. Look at this touch. There's all kinds of things that could have happened there at that downhill lie.

[00:47:01] >> And this is bubble golf. He doesn't even know what's blowing out here right now. He is in a bubble, locked in completely.

[00:47:07] >> From tee to green this week, he's 17 strokes plus gain. Tee to green is off the tee approaching around the green. He's actually negative for the week in putting, which is unbelievable that it could be like that. That's five birdies in a row. The lead is six.

[00:47:25] >> Hoge for birdie at 17.

[00:47:27] >> Out of the rough. I think it's a good play and a good putt.

[00:47:31][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:47:36] >> Fifty yards here. Got no choice but to try and fly it on the level that the holes cut. There's a big false front protecting it about 10 yards short of the hole. So it's going to take a big effort here.

[00:47:53] >> Got a little sharp, yeah.

[00:47:56] >> Now up at the green.

[00:47:58] >> Yeah, certainly with the 16th coming up here, if this goes down, I think he's got to get a -- he'll get a resurgence of energy here and carry it into those final three holes.

[00:48:12] >> Oh, wow. What a four from where he was.

[00:48:17] >> Scheffler went par, bogey, par on the 13 through 15 stretch. Here he is on 16 playing his third.

[00:48:25] >> And how was the lie there, John?

[00:48:26] >> It's a great lie. Very flat. Got to go right in between those two palm trees, but it's huge. Only the situation makes this shot difficult, Curt. Gets back into the wind. That will help him.

[00:48:42] >> He would two putt for par.

[00:48:45] >> Talking to his caddie, Ian Finnis. Scheffler's very interested in --

[00:48:50] >> He has butterflies. I promise you, Brad, there's butterflies. He's five shots clear. He knows he's got to put it on that island.

[00:49:05] >> We haven't seen one short in a while.

[00:49:08] >> Yeah, Scheffler for sure saw that. Look at him watching it in flight.

[00:49:13] >> Fleetwood would make double. Now, Scheffler on 17.

[00:49:24] >> And to the center of the green.

[00:49:26] >> Right at the middle where he was aiming, like you said, John. He's found land. Oh, boy.

[00:49:33] >> Boy, the crowd didn't waste any time getting into it.

[00:49:36][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:49:41] >> Just absolutely perfect. Right where he's aimed, the middle of the green. The wind moved it over there a little bit. He's using the slope.

[00:49:59][ Cheering ]

[00:50:08] >> How about lighting up 17 one more time?

[00:50:10] >> In the hole.

[00:50:10] >> In the hole.

[00:50:11] >> Well, he walked out of here with an easy three.

[00:50:23][ Applause ]

[00:50:27] >> And when you win like this, at a clip like this, and you win big championships, you have a chance to join that kind of company. Hold the Players title and the Masters titles at the same time. Only Jack Tiger before Scottie, who's about to do it after winning the green jacket last year.

[00:50:47] >> After punching out, Scheffler is playing his third at 18.

[00:51:00] >> There you go. That will make a nice walkup.

[00:51:04][ Cheering and Applause ] And they have your family here. There's Meredith, his wife, Grandma Mary, cheering on another Scheffler victory.

[00:51:34] >> By the way, if Scheffler makes par, he'd be only the third champion to record all four rounds in the 60s on the Players Stadium Course.

[00:51:43] >> And now, Scheffler to save par and stay at 17-under to win the Players.

[00:51:49] >> In the hole.

[00:51:51] >> And the Scheffler victory train just keeps on rolling. What a finish to save it. And back on top of the world.

[00:52:10][ Cheering and Applause ] This concludes the PGA Tour's coverage of the Players Championship from TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

[00:52:43] >> Atta boy, Scottie.