Production Transcript for REWIND\_23PRO\_ECHAVARRIA.mp3

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

[00:00:41] >> It's the opening round of the Puerto Rico Open. A look at historic Old San Juan, the backdrop this week for the 15th edition of this event. They have a long history of professional golf on the main island of Puerto Rico. Dating back to 2008, Grand Reserve Golf Club has played host to this event. 36-hole facility, the Championship 18 will test 120 players in the field this week, and that's the hardware on the line for the champion. Some of the early highlights, Max McGreevy, a familiar name around these parts, John Cook.

[00:01:24] >> That he is, played a lot of college golf down here, and 172 yards here at the 11th. Little club twirl for Max, and why not? Excellent golf shot.

[00:01:35] >> McGreevy to 4 under par. He was runner-up in this event a year ago. Flip nines to the par-3 8th, Akshay Bhatia.

[00:01:43] >> The youngster left-hander, 235 yards a day at the 8th. Lands it right on the front of the green, lets it run out, and this is a beauty.

[00:01:53] >> Getting better and better and better. Bhatia, to nearly tap in range, moves to a couple under on his round. At the 10th, Austin Cook, PGA Tour winner.

[00:02:06] >> Austin Cook from just in the right rough, back right hole location. Downwind, lands it perfectly, controls the spin. Excellent shot for Austin Cook. No relation.

[00:02:18] >> Cook to 4 under par. They are all chasing Nico Echevarria. Already 4-under, this for birdie on the 8th.

[00:02:24] >> Yeah, everybody making birdie at the tough 8th. Lots of twos.

[00:02:30] >> Taking a look at our leaderboard, Echevarria, 5-under making the turn, one-shot lead over Max McGreevy and Scott Piercy. Some of the notables in a tie for fourth include Jeff Ogilvie, who's 3-under through 15. At the 12th, it's Akshay Bhatia's approach.

[00:02:51] >> Was able to take the pond out of play with his length off the tee. Back pin, flighted it down gorgeously.

[00:03:00] >> And now the third shot for Billy Haas, right up the throat of the green, Billy Ray.

[00:03:04] >> Yeah, plenty of green to work with. Has to navigate just a small ridge between himself and the hole. I think this is a shot here for Max that he's gonna have to fly the ball on the green. Does just that.

[00:03:21] >> Little check, little release. There you go.

[00:03:29] >> And this putt for Max is also down grain here, so you have to really be aware of positioning.

[00:03:35] >> There you go.

[00:03:45] >> Haas for birdie. He moves to 2-under.

[00:04:06] >> John, what are you seeing with this Bhatia birdie putt at 12?

[00:04:08] >> It's gonna move a little to the right, but I think the wind is holding it a little bit straighter. He saw Carl's. Come on, Akshay.

[00:04:14] >> Buckets for Bhatia now to 3 under par. To the 16th tee, Haas.

[00:04:22] >> Once again, John Cook, a beautiful swing there by Bill Haas coming in very high. And there's that release in which you referenced.

[00:04:31] >> And that was so high in the air and just so well done. Great strike.

[00:04:37] >> Now up at the green.

[00:04:39] >> Haas birdie putt now at the 16th.

[00:04:41] >> Going for back-to-back.

[00:04:44] >> Heating up.

[00:04:54] >> To the 11th. Just getting his round started in the afternoon wave, the first group out. Camilo Villegas in the familiar all white and put a little red on the scorecard. There we go.

[00:05:12] >> And this is Scott Piercy with his second at the 17th. Beautiful tee shot.

[00:05:21] >> That would be a birdie.

[00:05:28] >> Wedge left for Bill Haas to the 18th.

[00:05:30] >> Yeah, we saw his tee shot right, laid up to here, just 67 yards.

[00:05:36] >> Yeah, front right hole location, all about the spin control, and does a beautiful job of that. Just a couple of feet there.

[00:05:44] >> Set up for a birdie.

[00:05:46] >> All right, now Johnson, you said this is a pretty easy one. Let's see what he can do. You said about 40 some yards?

[00:05:52] >> 42 yards to the hole. Into the wind, can flight it low with some spin. The green is the end of the grain to him, so I think he'll have no problem stopping this quick.

[00:06:01] >> Yeah, driving it in there nice and low, Johnson, and check and release.

[00:06:05] >> Yep.

[00:06:05] >> Pretty well done.

[00:06:06] >> Yeah, there you go, right there.

[00:06:08] >> That will lead to birdie.

[00:06:10] >> All right, here we are at the 15th. This is Jiri Zuska, the amateur. He's out of the Czech Republic. 24 years old. A back-to-back bogey, so trying to right the ship, and right it is. There you go.

[00:06:27] >> That ball never looked like it had a chance to miss. That was center cut. Bhatia's third at the 18th.

[00:06:37] >> Got lucky to be on the upslope. Has a chance to get this close. Good finish there for Akshay. Campos 1-over. This to even out the scorecard. Nice birdie. 17th, Villegas with his second.

[00:07:17] >> Much closer here, 117. This is on a really good line.

[00:07:22] >> Judges it perfectly.

[00:07:24] >> Villegas would make that for birdie. After round one, Carson Young holds a three-shot lead over Max McGreevy and Akshay Bhatia. Round two is next.

[00:07:46] >> And you get absolutely spoiled down here on the main island of Puerto Rico. More than 300 miles of beaches hugging the coastline. Since 2008, Grand Reserve Golf Club, a 36-hole facility, has played host to the Puerto Rico Open. A Tom Kite design, we have our Championship 18 testing 120 players this week on the PGA Tour. The wind is up for the second round. Welcome into day two on the main island of Puerto Rico. Another gorgeous day. Temps in the mid-80s. Sun is shining at Grand Reserve Golf Club with some of the morning wave already making a move. George Savarikas and John Cook checking out some of the early highlights. We start with the first-round leader, Carson Young, on the 14th.

[00:08:34] >> Yeah, he birdied the first hole right out of the blocks. And here at the tough 14th, second-toughest hole on the golf course today. Why not?

[00:08:41] >> All right, how would he back up an opening round, a 9-under 63 like this, his third?

[00:08:46] >> Beautiful little pitch shot from right of the green at the par-5 15th. Little check, little hold, right at hole high. Great shot.

[00:08:54] >> Back-to-back birdies, and he is at 12 under par. How about the story of Ryan Girard, a Monday qualifier at the Honda Classic last week, finished solo fourth to get into Puerto Rico.

[00:09:04] >> The 8th hole right here, the tee has moved up a deck. Right hole location, holds it up against the wind, right underneath the hole foot. So Girard turned in an opening 69 today. On fire at the front 9, this is the 9th.

[00:09:21] >> Left hole location, uses that wind perfectly, right at hole high again. That tells you he's got his irons dialed in.

[00:09:29] >> He is feeling it, making the turn. Girard has surged to solo second, four back of Carson Young, Wesley Bryan, Paul Haley, Tano Goya, that trio, a share of third at 7 under par. How about some of those names? T6, Jason Duffner, 2013 PGA Champ, Chris Stroud, also there. First time we're taking a look at the 16th hole today. Chris Stroud at 6-under. Has this for birdie.

[00:09:58] >> Par-3 today, playing 184 yards, front hole location, dangerous hole location here. But Chris hit a nice shot in there and buries it.

[00:10:08] >> How about that from Chris Stroud?

[00:10:11] >> Kept the gray shoes on from yesterday. Stick with what works.

[00:10:15] >> Stroud, 7-under. And let's go over to 15, Sang-moon Bae. This is another one of those hole locations I like. This putt should be moving to his left. And there we go. Now we've got to talk about the cut. Today's cut day is probably going to be around 1-under. So he has got some work to do. Gets back to 1 over par.

[00:10:40] >> In the fairway for Girard's second.

[00:10:42] >> 148, nice look. Wind helping off the right-hand side. Can be very aggressive with this shot.

[00:10:49] >> Yeah, got to keep it from going too far left. Ride that wind, and he keeps it underneath the hole. Pretty good shot right there for Ryan.

[00:10:58] >> Up at the green.

[00:10:59] >> Everything's saying this putt's supposed to go left to right. But the wind is whipping from right to left. So it may hold it a little straighter.

[00:11:07] >> Girard just feeling it. Let's zoom to the second, third shot now for the leader.

[00:11:19] >> Well, you cannot get too cute with this shot because it doesn't have much green to work with, guys. And to his advantage, though, the ball came to rest in the first cut. So he's got some cushion where he can work the bounce underneath the club and kind of hoist this ball up if he chooses to play that way. But it's downwind. I would expect this ball, John, to come past the hole just a bit. You do not want to get greedy here and come up short of that bunker.

[00:11:43] >> Yeah, hole location only 4 over that right side. So he's going to take this way up in the air. Super flopadopolis.

[00:11:58] >> Well, this is one of those hole locations I talked about here at the 15th. He's pitching this ball. And after a bogey at 14, that officially, ladies and gentlemen, is a bounce back. And Andrew Landry is at 4 under par.

[00:12:16] >> Well, after that third shot, you'd love to cash this in.

[00:12:23] >> Pretty impressive, John Cook, there, that third shot.

[00:12:28] >> Ricky Barnes finishing up here at the 9th. Difficult hole location. That makes up for the four-putt at 8.

[00:12:35] >> Yeah, missed that golden opportunity at the 8th and finishes strong. And Ricky's playing the weekend.

[00:12:40] >> There you go. Reason to smile, no question about it.

[00:12:54] >> And that's belly and a wedge from Boo Weekley for birdie.

[00:12:57] >> Well, that means what?

[00:12:59] >> Birdie number four.

[00:13:00] >> That means his putter is not finishing the day.

[00:13:03] >> It's either floating somewhere in a tributary or a lake or possibly the ocean.

[00:13:14] >> Noh for birdie at 16.

[00:13:23] >> Matty Schmid over this 14th green. This is his third.

[00:13:28] >> This is all kinds of difficult. He makes it look easy. And how about that?

[00:13:33] >> Finds one on the 14th. All kinds of difficult. What are you talking about? What's this? Short game muscles.

[00:13:44] >> Now Johnny Rollins at the 13th.

[00:13:47] >> The Rocket.

[00:13:47] >> Yeah, the Rocket Rollins. This is up the hill breaking to his right. And Johnny Rollins. There we go.

[00:13:55] >> Inside the cut line.

[00:13:56] >> Yep.

[00:14:03] >> Off the 18th, Eric Van Rooyen over this for birdie.

[00:14:06] >> Yeah, missed that little putt back there at the 17th. Just wants to wiggle it down. And of course you miss a two-footer and then you make a 60-footer.

[00:14:18] >> Found something there.

[00:14:20] >> This game. Drift back to the 12th fairway. This opening round from Bill Haas. Good tee shot there at the 12th opens up this hole location and he takes advantage of it. Nice shot there for Billy.

[00:14:46] >> Second shot for our leader at the 6th. What's he facing here, Billy Ray?

[00:14:52] >> Well, he's got a very good line. Actually, the ball sitting on the upslope and he's got a full face wide open here, but he's playing downwind with not much green to work with.

[00:15:04] >> Got to swing up that slope, stay in your posture, and go ahead and swing up.

[00:15:07] >> Oh, why don't you do that?

[00:15:09] >> And then just hole it out, just like that.

[00:15:12] >> It was all set up by the tee shot, John.

[00:15:14] >> He left it in his favorite spot.

[00:15:23] >> Haas for birdie at 14.

[00:15:40] >> Carson Young on the 8th. Not much movement here.

[00:15:45] >> Yeah, I'm very impressed with the tee shot, right over the top of the flag. And you know, we talked about as he's moving forward and continuing to lead throughout the afternoon, his pace of play has been just very consistent. His routine has been spot-on. And this is a great look as it comes back down the hill with just a tiny bit of break.

[00:16:06] >> Well, is he dialed in, Billy Ray. Couple of loose swings, couple of loose shots on this incoming 9, but he's weathered that storm. And you go 2-2 on the 3s. Picking up shots around here.

[00:16:24] >> McGreevy, now the third coming across that green. I like throwing something up in the air, but players have been going low. And well, hard to argue with that right there.

[00:16:36] >> It's pretty well done.

[00:16:38] >> Yeah.

[00:16:38] >> We haven't seen anybody get it close from that side over there.

[00:16:42] >> Yep.

[00:16:42] >> We talked about earlier how difficult that was, and that was the best one yet.

[00:16:50] >> All right, McGreevy, beautiful third shot. Actually, a beautifully played hole so far. Let's see if he can get one to the better, and he does. Takes advantage of that hole. Trying to pick up the conversation between Nate Lashley and his caddy, Nick Mason. Hard one to hear, but John, as you're talking through things, what's the final thought you want going through your head as you tee it up?

[00:17:35] >> Oh, really, for me, I'm trying to get the wind right. And the only thing I would carry would be a scorecard, and I would actually carry a wind chart. So I would really feel comfortable where the wind was blowing. And then I would want to make sure, what do you think that front number is playing? 179 yards downwind. I would ask whoever was working for me, what do you think that number's playing? I would venture to guess right now about 170, and then I would play accordingly. But I did a lot of my own calculations. I just wanted a number to the front and a number to the hole location.

[00:18:18] >> Lashley, two deep through 6.

[00:18:21] >> That's a birdie for Lashley.

[00:18:28] >> All right, this is Nico Echevarria, sitting 6 under par, or 5 under par, excuse me. Playing the difficult 13th to make birdie, unless you're Echevarria.

[00:18:41] >> Just an early call.

[00:18:42] >> There you go.

[00:18:42] >> Well, he's 6-under now, see?

[00:18:47] >> Josh Teater on the 8th green for birdie. We saw him before his round.

[00:18:52] >> Yeah, let's see if he can -- yeah, there we go.

[00:18:56] >> Walks that one in, Teater to 4 under par.

[00:18:58] >> Oh, he gave him a big pep talk at breakfast. Look at that, see?

[00:19:05] >> Carson Young extends his lead to 4 strokes after round 2. Columbia's Nico Echevarria is tied second after carding a 67. The third round is next.

[00:19:23] >> As the saying goes, somewhere in between living and dreaming, there's Puerto Rico. Been a magical week weather-wise for the 15th edition of the Puerto Rico Open, much drier than we've seen in years past. Galleries out today at Grand Reserve Golf Club, and they are seeing windy conditions for Saturday's third round. John, let's take a look at the highlights that have unfolded so far for the third round at the Puerto Rico Open. Nate Lashley, mentioned how hot the putter's been. This was at the 7th.

[00:19:57] >> Yeah, we just saw him make one at the 10th, but he was on a roll on the front side. Long range there at the 7th. Difficult hole, the 7th.

[00:20:06] >> Buckets for Lashley. Echevarria on the 6th for birdie.

[00:20:11] >> And for Nico as well at the 6th, par-3.

[00:20:19] >> Gets him to 15 under par. Carson Young to match him at 15-under at the 3rd.

[00:20:24] >> Putting stroke looks really nice. He birdied the third hole yesterday, and another birdie today on Saturday.

[00:20:32] >> A couple holes later, Young, another birdie putt at the 5th.

[00:20:34] >> Yeah, good looking putting stroke right there, and catches the right edge of the hole. But that went in with a little bit of a confidence and authority.

[00:20:41] >> So he was at 16-under. Young would bogey the next hole, was a co-leader with Echevarria until this point on the 7th.

[00:20:48] >> Yeah, on the 7th. Long range again, and Echevarria's got it working. That's flat stick.

[00:20:59] >> Echevarria up by 1 over Carson Young, Nate Lashley 3 back. Jeff Ogilvie inside the top 10. He's at 10 under par, trailing by 6. Up a few to the 12th. Akshay Bhatia went out in 3-under 33, just made bogey the previous hole at 11.

[00:21:18] >> Strong par 4 here at the 12th, front right hole location. And that doesn't bother Akshay. Beautiful shot in there.

[00:21:26] >> Birdie putt now for Nate Lashley at the 10th.

[00:21:28] >> Saw that nice approach from the left rough here for Nate Lashley, putting from right at hole high. Buries another one.

[00:21:36] >> That putter is hot today. The 12th, Hank Lebioda from off the back of the green. Goes down that slope. This is for Birdie, and it has eyes.

[00:21:52] >> Talk about center cut.

[00:21:57] >> Stevens for Birdie now at 16. Wesley Bryan on the tee at 16. Goya's second, one hole ahead at the 14th.

[00:22:28] >> Left hole location.

[00:22:34] >> Goya would make Birdie from there.

[00:22:35] >> All right, go up to the 13th. This is Harry Higgs with his second. And Harry Higgs should like that one. That's right. Yes, sir.

[00:22:47] >> There we go, Harry Higgs.

[00:22:49] >> Higgs would make Birdie.

[00:22:54] >> Second shot for Akshay Bhatia just off the 16th. Pulling it, confident, walks it in.

[00:22:59] >> Chooses to pitch the ball from a foot off the green. That is supreme confidence in this youngster.

[00:23:07] >> Echevarria's second at 14.

[00:23:09] >> Such a difficult second shot in here with that wind hard from right to left. He's bringing it in that direction. Looks pretty good.

[00:23:19] >> Get it all the way back there. Might get a little bit past. That's a wonderful golf shot.

[00:23:23] >> Echevarria would make par from there.

[00:23:26] >> Up on the 18th, had been a struggle today for Noah Goodwin. Was four over through 15. Birdied 16, birdied 17, for Eagle on 18. 4-under his last three to get the scorecard back to even par on the round.

[00:23:42] >> Yeah, that's the way to finish strong. Learn a little bit on Saturday.

[00:23:47] >> All right. And this is the 17th, Akshay Bhatia coming off that really nifty little birdie at 16 with that chip in. This is a great look. It's tough to get short of this hole downwind. Pretty straight putt here. Again, this young man needs about a tie for second. Would probably get him special temporary member status.

[00:24:12] >> Three-way T2.

[00:24:13] >> So getting closer to that.

[00:24:15] >> Echevarria, leading by two, 16th tee.

[00:24:19] >> The calculations are done, and now it's just 158. And with this wind right now, where do you like to land this ball? It's just an iron. If you want to try to max out a wedge for the long hitter, it would be a wedge here with that forward tee today. Helping from the left here.

[00:24:34] >> Yeah, that 150 front, Billy Ray, that can only be playing 135 yards or so.

[00:24:38] >> No doubt.

[00:24:38] >> Let's check out our tracer technology presented by TrackMan. What a shot from a Echevarria. Par-5, 18th. Max McGreevey's fourth shot.

[00:24:53] >> Yeah, not having the day that he wanted.

[00:24:59] >> But taking a look at it. How about it?

[00:25:04] >> McGreevey giving them something to cheer about on the 18th. Echevarria, another birdie at the 16th. Some separation. Three-shot lead for the PGA Tour rookie.

[00:25:25] >> Harry Higgs.

[00:25:27] >> Big Beautiful needs to get some things going here.

[00:25:29] >> Yeah, he certainly does here. And one of the things is, it'd be really nice -- he goes ahead and hits one here just to tap-in range for him because he hasn't made anything all day long.

[00:25:40] >> Well, there you go. He's trying to do it.

[00:25:44] >> It's close.

[00:25:44] >> Higgs would make par.

[00:25:51] >> Back one to the 16th. Carson Young for birdie at the par-3.

[00:25:55] >> Putting down the hill, but back into the wind. Looks like a little bit tentative pace. He could use one to drop.

[00:26:02] >> There we go.

[00:26:02] >> There we go.

[00:26:05] >> Good catch, left edge of the hole, but it's two on the card.

[00:26:13] >> Yeah, it's predominantly back uphill putting through the shadows, though. But once it gets above that little ridge, it will definitely start to work its way back to the left.

[00:26:32] >> Really nice pace. I think you mentioned it a little bit earlier, Billy Ray. Really impressed with the pace on his putts. He's been very pace-conscious, hasn't left many putts short. Ties the low round of the day, 7-under 65.

[00:26:58] >> Certainly a solid round of golf today, John.

[00:27:05] >> Pretty impressive, just that little bobble back there at the 12th. Drove it a little bit out of position, Didn't get it up and down, but a couple birdies coming to the house.

[00:27:15] >> Yeah, those that rebounded, birdies at 15 and 16 really has put him back in full momentum now.

[00:27:24] >> Harry Higgs for birdie.

[00:27:34] >> Okay.

[00:27:34] >> Drips that one in.

[00:27:37] >> Don't hang your head there, Harry. Good one tomorrow. Stay in that top 10.

[00:27:55] >> We saw with Carson Young a bit maybe uncomfortable in this spot today for Saturday's third round. Do you remember what it was like your first time in this situation? Because we've seen it today with Carson Young. We may see it tomorrow with Nico Echevarria.

[00:28:08] >> Yeah, it was my rookie season in Philadelphia, and I had the lead going into Sunday and played pretty well. I made a couple bobbles coming down the stretch on Sunday that cost me. It was uncomfortable, but I think with my college career and my amateur career, I won enough to think that I would be okay. It was a little bit different feeling once you got to this point, because this is your career. These results can change the path of your career and perhaps your life as well. So the more you get in there, you have to be comfortable in uncomfortable situations. And these kids are learning. Learn today, they'll learn tomorrow. This is a brilliant shot right there. Outstanding.

[00:28:59] >> How's that for uncomfortable, John?

[00:29:01] >> Yeah, he was comfortable in that uncomfortable situation right there. That was really good.

[00:29:07] >> Now, up at the green.

[00:29:09] >> Carson Young for Birdie and a round or 71.

[00:29:19] >> Nice bounce back, Birdie, after that three-putt at 17. Gets him a shot closer to that lead. Only two shots back. Anything can happen on Sunday.

[00:29:29] >> Two PGA Tour rookies, Nico Echevarria and Carson Young, will be in the final group on Sunday, both looking for their first win on tour. The final round is next.

[00:29:51] >> Pressure makes pros. Better makes better. Always has. Always will.

[00:30:14] >> It's final round coverage of the Puerto Rico Open. Dating back to 2008, this event has been a staple on the PGA Tour schedule. And we've seen some stars use this week as a springboard to their careers. We're expecting the wind to pick up a bit, and the fans, they are ready for the final round at this Tom Kite-designed Grand Reserve Golf Club, the Championship 18. At the end of the day, the champion will be celebrating winning the 15th edition of this event. I'm George Savarikas with 11-time PGA Tour winner John Cook, taking a look at some of the early highlights from this final round. Echevarria, the lead coming into the day, very first hole.

[00:30:54] >> Yeah, two-shot lead, trying to win your first golf tournament. What do you want to get off? Nice start there.

[00:31:00] >> Echevarria would also birdie the 2nd. Some trouble at the par-3 6th.

[00:31:04] >> Yeah, loose swing off the tee at the par-3 6th. One of the things I've always said to myself leading going into Sunday is, do not give away the par-3s. All kinds of trouble. Buried his third, or his second shot, third to here. There's some awful bogeys made on Sunday, and then there's some great bogeys made on Sunday. And that was a great one.

[00:31:28] >> Somehow scrapes together a four. Very nice toll, to bounce back for birdie.

[00:31:33] >> At the tough 7th, up the hill. Beautiful putt, nice bounce back birdie there at the 7th for Nico. Echevarria, at 19-under would bogey the next hole at the 8th. We flip it to the backside. Echevarria for birdie on the 11th.

[00:31:49] >> And what a beautiful hold up shot, iron shot there at the 11th, and held it right against the wind. Very impressed.

[00:31:57] >> Echevarria at 19-under. Carson Young also in that final group. All pars, the first 11 holes. Finally, a birdie on the 12th.

[00:32:04] >> And missing short birdie putt at the 10th, but finds the bottom of the cup at the 12th. Nico Echevarria at 19-under, leading by three over Carson Young. Akshay Bhatia making a move. 3-under on his round. He has a share of 3rd at 15-under, four back. Quickly back to the 10th fairway. Carson Young, the closest chaser, three back.

[00:32:30] >> Yeah, certainly an opening here right now for Carson. That was from 141. Good looking shot here, just left of the flag.

[00:32:37] >> Yeah, he's been stuck in neutral there, Billy Ray. Made nine pars going out on the front nine. Maybe this will jumpstart him.

[00:32:44] >> Up a couple to the 12th. This would be a birdie effort for Harry Hall.

[00:32:51] >> Leaving the flag in on every putt. This thing's looking good. Yes, right in the bottom. He needed that coming off a couple bogeys.

[00:33:02] >> Add two, and we find Harry Higgs on the 14th.

[00:33:05] >> Cut only six over the right bunker. Harry, good looking golf shot there for Harry Higgs. Great opportunity at the 14th.

[00:33:23] >> And this is the 13th hole. This is the third most difficult hole in round number 4. Been a challenging hole all week. Very few birdies. Wesley Bryan, there you go. And this is Echevarria on the tee at the 11th. Well, trying to flight one down and bring it in from the right. Oh my.

[00:33:46] >> I'll tell you what, Billy Ray. He held that one off. He looked, absolutely trying to cut it back into the wind and hold it up there. Beautiful shot.

[00:33:58] >> Up to the 14th, Harry Higgs over this for birdie.

[00:34:01] >> Saw that nice approach at the tough 14th. Can he take advantage of it? Yes, he can.

[00:34:09] >> Higgs gets it done. Nice bounce back after the double on 13. Billy Ray, our leader. He's leading by three right now. Four shots, looking really good. So what's this putt do?

[00:34:24] >> Yeah, it's just inside right here.

[00:34:26] >> There we go. That's why he's leading the tournament. He's only missed four greens at all starting yesterday on Saturday. Hit 16 yesterday, missed two today. And when he needs them, they seem to be going in. And this is the young Akshay Bhatia, Johnson, at the 13th.

[00:34:48] >> He's got 118. He drove it way down there. So he's playing back into the wind. He's on a really good line, but tough to get back to this hole location.

[00:34:58] >> Really keeps his body angle so good. Gives his arms room to come down and rotate through the ball and that can go a long way.

[00:35:05] >> Now up at the green.

[00:35:07] >> We saw that brilliant shot in, Johnson. This is just a formality, I would think. Pretty straight, about two-and-a-half, three feet. This would absolutely tie him for tie for second, which is where he needs to be. But I bet he's not even focused on that. He's probably trying to chase down the leader, which is where his focus should stay.

[00:35:27] >> It'll be Carson Young first to go. Do you have a beat on this birdie putt, Billy Ray?

[00:35:31] >> Yeah, it's a very difficult putt, because you're going to have to change levels a couple of times. He's at the top of the ridge on the back left of the green, comes down through a valley, then back up once again. Initial, the putt's going to really break hard to his right.

[00:35:51] >> That's one way to take the lid off for Carson Young, birdieing the 12th, to 16-under solo second.

[00:35:55] >> Just like that.

[00:36:00] >> Get him off the schneid right there and tells Nico, I'm still around.

[00:36:09] >> Third shot for Michael Kim now. Par-5 18th, going up top.

[00:36:14] >> Way upstairs. Put a little spin on it. Well played.

[00:36:19] >> That is classy from Kim.

[00:36:21] >> That was a chance to get him to 15 under par.

[00:36:26] >> Now on the green.

[00:36:27] >> Michael Kim's having a lot of fun today.

[00:36:29] >> That he is.

[00:36:30] >> Low round, turned in a 7-under 65 from Cody Gribble. Michael Kim one behind that, will sign for a 6-under 66. Same score he shot on Friday. Kim currently tied for third with Akshay Bhatia at 15-under for the week. On the 14th green, Nate Lashley. Looking for something to drop.

[00:36:57] >> There you go, Nate Lashley.

[00:36:59] >> Why not here?

[00:37:01] >> Also kind of had it in neutral there for a while. Two birdies and two bogeys until that birdie.

[00:37:09] >> Up to the 14th, this would be the second shot for Carson Young. How's that lie look, Billy Ray?

[00:37:15] >> Yeah, it's not great. It's in the primary cutter rough, but it's sitting down, but also on the left-hand side, which is a bonus for that. The hole is placed in the extreme right-hand side of the green. 168 back into the breeze.

[00:37:29] >> Yeah, right back into the breeze. Right hole location, trying to hold it off a little bit. Well done. Now Echevarria's turn.

[00:37:42] >> Yeah, same yardage, but you know. Coming from that right-hand side, you look up there, you actually can't even see the right-hand side of the green where the flag is positioned. This one left.

[00:37:54] >> Yeah, safety first. That's okay, I don't. I don't mind that play. I also wouldn't have minded, you know, going right at it.

[00:38:03] >> All right, we're at the 15th. This is the third for Bhatia. Is this one he's thinking about possibly making, Johnson?

[00:38:09] >> Absolutely. He had a beautiful pitch on 8 and on 6 as well. He's got great touch around the greens. This is on a good line, guys.

[00:38:16] >> Oh yeah, oh yeah it is. Wow, that is beautiful right there. And that's going to get him tight there into a tie for second. That's an important number for him this week.

[00:38:34] >> It's the Akshay Bhatia coming out party this week.

[00:38:36] >> Yeah. This is going to be his best finish on the PGA Tour and it's a face we may be seeing a lot of on tour.

[00:38:48] >> Pop you back to the 14th. Both Echeverria and Young with birdie putts.

[00:39:00] >> This would go a long way. Wow.

[00:39:03] >> Throw another birdie on the scorecard.

[00:39:05] >> Echeverria.

[00:39:09] >> Second birdie his last four holes, to 20-under, the lead now four. Young for birdie.

[00:39:18] >> This five-footer got a little bit longer.

[00:39:22] >> Buried it. That was a great but right there. Needed it, knew he needed it.

[00:39:29] >> To Higgs on 17, this for birdie. And that'll move Higgs to 13 under par heading to 18. Bhatia on 16.

[00:39:43] >> 202 today, playing straight downwind. This is one of the hardest shots I think on a par-3 on the PGA Tour to this hole location. Do you take it on? Do you play it outright and play it safe?

[00:39:55] >> You know, Akshay can really spin the golf ball and it's going downwind, it will be hitting on a downslope. That's a wide miss right there. It's going to be short side, depending on the lie. Ernst on 17, his second.

[00:40:22] >> Back to Bhatia on 16.

[00:40:41] >> Akshay Bhatia on a tear. His third birdie in the last four holes. Had some pace.

[00:40:47] >> That takes commitment and trust and he might have caught it maybe just a groove low, but things are going your way, George, clank.

[00:40:56] >> We return with the closing stretch next.

[00:41:03] >> To the par-5 18th we go. Derek Lamely to close out his week.

[00:41:06] >> Good week here for Derek. Doesn't get many starts, and takes advantage of this nice start.

[00:41:20] >> All right, this is Derek Ernst with a birdie effort, he's at 9 under par trying to get to double digits. And he does. Yeah, one finally went in, Derek.

[00:41:33] >> Now Lashley at 15.

[00:41:36] >> Nate Lashley, part of the back injury, they were saying that he kind of had to play like a hold off cut all week, just to, you know -- Cook, can't swing as full as he wanted, but heck, it's been working. So maybe he wants to keep doing that. See, almost missed that one. I mean, it fools guys. There we go. So hey, we're within five. You got gotta get two more birdies and possibly an eagle, I would think, to have any chance.

[00:42:09] >> Gonna head out to the 15th with the final group.

[00:42:11] >> Yeah, Carson Young with his third.

[00:42:13] >> Yeah, playing it down. Trying to use a little check.

[00:42:18] >> Didn't quite check enough with him there.

[00:42:23] >> To 15.

[00:42:23] >> All right, this is Echevarria's third. How's the lie, Billy Ray?

[00:42:27] >> It's a little squirrely. You know, though, there's plenty of cushion underneath it. It's kind of sitting just a little bit down in some of this negative grass on the right-hand side, but very doable. He's pitching back into the breeze as well.

[00:42:45] >> He's got the clubface pretty square. Going to go in a little bit low.

[00:42:48] >> He bounces into that past it.

[00:42:50] >> He bounced it. He did a really nice job of doing that.

[00:42:53] >> I think a birdie goes a long way here. This is I think where he can put easily one hand on the trophy here with a birdie. All right, now I thought Bhatia's ball did not roll in the bunker, Johnson, but apparently it did.

[00:43:10] >> It did have an awkward stance. This is a really aggressive line. Be the right distance.

[00:43:14] >> He cut it.

[00:43:15] >> Wow.

[00:43:15] >> He cut it beautifully.

[00:43:16] >> Oh my goodness, what a shot from there, John Cook.

[00:43:19] >> That was nothing but commitment and trust and confidence and youth.

[00:43:28] >> Young at 15.

[00:43:30] >> Echevarria in there close for a tap-in birdie.

[00:43:35] >> A number of players have missed this putt right. Now he misses the other side.

[00:43:42] >> Yeah, he's running out of holes now.

[00:43:44] >> Yeah.

[00:43:47] >> Back to 17.

[00:43:49] >> Trip, have you seen much from this angle? It looked to me like it's about two balls outside right edge.

[00:43:54] >> Yeah, yeah it does. You know there's that slope that's to his right that you could try to think that that has a little pull, but it really doesn't. It's going that way, Johnson, for sure.

[00:44:10] >> He's putting back uphill into the wind. He can be very aggressive with this. Well, there we go.

[00:44:18] >> He was right in.

[00:44:23] >> To 18.

[00:44:46] >> Young at 16.

[00:44:52] >> This actually gives Akshay Bhatia a little bit of a cushion. Now looking for that special temporary membership.

[00:45:01] >> Carson Young's first bogey today. He's still at solo third, 16-under, two back of Bhatia.

[00:45:11] >> Little test of your nerves right here. Stay in that process. You seeing anything to this, Billy Ray?

[00:45:20] >> Not at all. Very straightforward.

[00:45:25] >> Echevarria for par.

[00:45:30] >> This is the par putt of Nate Lashley. Hit it over the green. Beautiful pitch to here. And keep him in a tie for fourth. Par-5 awaits. Now to 18.

[00:45:45] >> Bhatia's third.

[00:45:49] >> He was quick to grab the putter, guys. This is such a tough pitch. Green slopes away once it gets on. It's carrying a little bit of speed.

[00:45:59] >> That's probably a wise choice there, I think, the safe play. Johnson, if you didn't like the lie, it was going to be awkward anyway.

[00:46:10] >> Bhatia to tie the low round of the day for a 65 on Sunday. Welcome to the PGA Tour, Akshay Bhatia. Posts 19-under. At least gives the leader Echevarria something to look at.

[00:46:27] >> Back to 17.

[00:46:29] >> He's got 130 yards. He's going to have to have a sharp angle of attack at this ball here to keep those leaves from getting caught in the club face, between the ball and the club face there.

[00:46:43] >> Yeah, just find the short stuff on the -- yeah, that's fine.

[00:46:50] >> Harry Hall to birdie the last.

[00:46:55] >> Little bit of break to this. Holes it and gets himself a top 10, knocked out a few players.

[00:47:06] >> Echevarria now for birdie.

[00:47:12] >> That's no problem, no sweat par. Keep that ball in your hand. Meaning don't hit it in that left penalty area on 18 and he's got a mile to the right.

[00:47:26] >> They do have the tee moved up a deck too.

[00:47:29] >> They do.

[00:47:30] >> But he's driven the ball really solidly these back nine.

[00:47:34] >> He really has. Really been in control of his golf swing.

[00:47:39] >> All right, Carson Young. He's about the only one who can -- well, really nobody can spoil Akshay Bhatia's party at this point, because all he can do is two-way tie him. So he can at least try to grab a little bit of second place, Billy Ray. But to do that this has got to go in.

[00:47:56] >> Yeah. Not many have gone in throughout the afternoon. Be nice to see one go in for him here.

[00:48:05] >> No, they continue all weekend. It is amazing.

[00:48:08] >> Yeah, frustrating weekend for Carson with the putter. Beautiful putting stroke. Nothing wrong with that.

[00:48:13] >> And he hit the ball well this weekend. It wasn't that. It was just that club right there.

[00:48:22] >> Back to the leader.

[00:48:28] >> Just a wedge up and over the tree. Solid contact, just pushing the ball up the fairway.

[00:48:35] >> Yep, that's all he needed. Now just something out. Middle of the green. Use that slope if you need to. Just want to be smart.

[00:48:58] >> Young.

[00:49:12] >> Making a little bit of a mess of this 18th hole. But that's a pretty good shot, just off the back of the green, should stay up.

[00:49:26] >> Just a sand wedge here, guys for his third shot. He's handled the pressure beautifully.

[00:49:39] >> Beautiful shot, smart shot out to the right. Use that slope.

[00:49:45] >> That birdie putt to set a new tournament scoring record at the Puerto Rico open.

[00:49:54] >> Enjoy this walk, young man. You deserve it. You've earned it.

[00:50:06] >> Steady each and every day. Opened with a 67, second round 67, made his big move going out in 30 on the front nine on Saturday. Tied the low round of the day with a 7-under 65 today. Has been steady under pressure in this final group.

[00:50:27] >> And has really played a beautiful back nine. Great birdie at 11. Hit that beautiful shot in there. Birdie at 14. Birdie at 15. Nice up and down at 16. He can be proud. It'll be a popular win.

[00:51:05] >> Carson Young in the third stage for Nico. And it was interesting coming up to the green hearing the galleries and the fans chant Nico up there, and Nico look down his arms like it gave him chills. So much more to come for this young player. Quite the performance.

[00:51:34] >> Big putt here for Carson, I think, Billy Ray, just confidence wise. He let one get away there at 16, don't want to finish bogeying the par-5.

[00:51:49] >> To close with a par.

[00:51:50] >> Solid. Not quite what he was looking for, not quite what he wanted, but you know what? It's a learning experience.

[00:52:10] >> Echevarria for birdie to set a new tournament scoring record.

[00:52:23] >> Just burned that left edge. Go ahead and tap that in, and there's your champion.

[00:52:32] >> The dream now reality. Echevarria a winner on the PGA Tour. The celebration starts now here in Puerto Rico.

[00:52:39] >> This concludes the PGA Tour's coverage of the Puerto Rico Open from Rio Grande, Puerto Rico.