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[00:00:38] >> Today from Duluth, Georgia, it's live first-round coverage of the Mitsubishi Electric Classic. TPC Sugarloaf has been the host since the inception of this event in 2013, a rich tradition with the PGA Tour playing here from 1997 to 2008. Spectacular Greg Norman design, par-72, just under 7,000 yards, Steve Flesch, the only two-time winner is your defending champion. Now Jimenez for birdie. Power it straight up the hill and in. Miguel Angel Jimenez from the front edge of the green, hits his first putt 12 feet by and in.

[00:01:25] >> Els for birdie, but it might be within making range, Phil, but it's dangerous.

[00:01:31] >> It is very quick coming down the hill.

[00:01:33] >> Yeah, not much break to this. I was putting this one. Very little break, just left of center. Not much.

[00:01:54] >> David Toms getting set to play his second, just avoided that bunker down the right-hand side.

[00:02:17] >> So I'm sure he's just going to say leave it.

[00:02:22] >> So Els has this putt for birdie. Darren Clarke in the group behind him will have that putt for eagle.

[00:02:34] >> Darren wants to run right up there and see what this does somehow. Breaker from left to right. And tell you what, Phil, he looks good with that putter. That putter head is releasing nice, that toe is releasing, it's beautiful.

[00:02:56] >> David Toms ready to go.

[00:03:12] >> Beautiful pitch shot. Capitalizes.

[00:03:18] >> Now Colin Montgomerie for his birdie at 14.

[00:03:22] >> Correct level at the 14th on the back part of the green. This will move to his right. Has to be a little bit careful with some speed here. He was. Not many birdies made at the 14th hole.

[00:03:46] >> Vijay Singh for his birdie at 13. Aggressive with the driver. Bunkers not a bad play, left. Over at 14, KJ Choi for birdie.

[00:04:03] >> Left and just past the whole. He will let it clank right off the flagstick. His first birdie of the day. Keep it here for David Toms.

[00:04:18] >> Little more aggressive off the tee with his club selection. Just 145 for David playing up the hill, so I suspect probably a good 9-iron right here.

[00:04:41] >> Let's go over to 16, Miguel Angel Jimenez 2014 champion here.

[00:04:46] >> Just wants to clear that front bunker by a couple of yards. Let it release to the back.

[00:04:53] >> That's pretty good.

[00:04:55] >> Watch out here for Miguel.

[00:04:56] >> Oh, it's a hole in one. He's seen it! Miguel gets a high-five from Bernhard and Davis. Love III and aces 16. Yeah, yeah, Miguel. Davis Love hit a good shot into 16 as well.

[00:05:21] >> Three good ones from this group right here. We've got an ace. This for birdie and Langer has a par putt.

[00:05:35] >> The breaker from right to left. Does it catch that edge? It does. Missed a couple shorties so far, Davis, but captures that one.

[00:05:47] >> Over to 17, Matt Gogol for birdie.

[00:05:51] >> Downhill and slightly uphill. Hey, walking it in.

[00:06:02] >> Off the par train.

[00:06:04] >> Steve Flesh for birdie.

[00:06:06] >> Good look coming straight up the hill. Very aggressive off the tee with the driver. Just a wedge approach. Taking advantage of that at 3.

[00:06:18] >> Back at 16, David Toms for his birdie.

[00:06:20] >> Coming back up the hill. This is a tough one to read. I think it would go to the right, but it doesn't. Oh, good putt.

[00:06:32] >> Els for eagle at 18.

[00:06:35] >> Very quick putt coming down the hill. Good pace to that stroke. And a good result.

[00:06:40] >> All right. Little bounce back eagle there for Ernie.

[00:06:45] >> Yeah, so that erases the two bogeys. So he's at 2-under. I'm gonna go Langer for birdie.

[00:06:57] >> That's a good look there for Bernhard, and capitalizes.

[00:07:03] >> Stephen Ames at 18 for birdie. This is his ninth hole of the day.

[00:07:08] >> Stephen had a good tee shot. A second shot to the back of the green. Put it down there and 12-footer for a two-putt.

[00:07:18] >> Saw the second by Matt Gogol into 1, his 10th hole of the day for his birdie.

[00:07:23] >> Nice approach there. Takes advantage of it. Continuing some good play.

[00:07:33] >> Jason Bohn for birdie at 18, his 9th hole of the day. You see the little raindrops in the water at 18.

[00:07:40] >> Carrying some speed. Good putt there for Jason. So he makes the turn 2-under. This is the fourth shot for 10 Ken Tanigawa at 10.

[00:07:54] >> We saw an unfortunate slip, topped his second shot into that fairway bunker. Could only play out to there and now have a chance to save par.

[00:08:09] >> Flesch now for his birdie.

[00:08:12] >> He sauteed a little gap wedge in there, a little slider, spun it down the hill. That was a well-earned four after a little bit of an errant tee shot.

[00:08:20] >> Over at the 2nd, Jason Bohn has this putt for birdie.

[00:08:25] >> Short 2nd, only 330 yards today. He's making his second start on the PGA Tour Champions. Making it count.

[00:08:47] >> Let's see if Tanigawa can get out of here with a par after his foot slipped and he basically popped the ball into the bunker and almost fell down. Wow, what a five.

[00:09:05] >> What a battle there for Kenny after the bad break on his second. Yeah, he goes well.

[00:09:16] >> Last five holes on his opening nine, he's at 6-under, Miguel Angel Jimenez made an ace at 16. He's at four. Stephen Ames a past champion, Langer a past champion here. He's at 3-under-par. Ernie Els with an eagle at 18. His ninth hole today gets him to 2-under par.

[00:09:38] >> It is moving day in Duluth, Georgia. Second round of the Mitsubishi Electric Classic from TPC Sugarloaf. Stephen Ames and David Toms share the first-round lead. They shot 7-under-par 65s, bogey free. Ames off to a fast start. Winner of this event in 2017, makes birdie at the 1st. That would get him to 8-under-par. David Toms playing with Stephen Ames answers with his birdie. So they each birdie the opening hole. Stephen Ames at the par-5 3rd. Beautiful third shot here, John Cook.

[00:10:14] >> Yeah, it goes down that slope and negotiates that very nicely. Leaves him about four feet. He'd make that.

[00:10:21] >> Yeah, that'd get him to 10-under. He bogeyed 4, then David Toms' second into the par-5 6th.

[00:10:27] >> Yeah, wonderful wedge player. David Toms right over top of the flagstick. And this is what I love. It checks and it holds its position.

[00:10:36] >> Ernie Els trying to navigate the par-5 10th with a birdie to get to within two of the lead.

[00:10:41] >> Yeah, beautiful Tiff eagle Bermuda greens. You see a little bit of grain, but not much. Greens roll absolutely perfect, right around 12 and a half on the stint meter. But they can putt faster than that with the sun out. And Ernie Els right in the center. Beautiful looking stroke there from Ernie.

[00:11:04] >> Now back over at the 9th, Y.E. Yang for birdie.

[00:11:09] >> And this is the putt you're talking about John right here. This is the exact same line that Owen was on earlier. He lipped out on the low side, but it didn't move at all. It was right behind him. It was just dead straight the entire way.

[00:11:19] >> Yeah, it kind of goes a little right and back to the left. So it's not much break to it. And it was a skin. First birdie today so far at the 9th for Y.E.

[00:11:39] >> Great look at the 11th for Davis Love III.

[00:11:43] >> For only the second birdie on the 11th. Very well done.

[00:11:54] >> Now here at the 10th, Tanigawa for birdie to get to within Two.

[00:11:57] >> Ken made a great par here yesterday. Had shot 30 outgoing on his front nine, drove it down there perfect at 10 and slipped on his second shot, topped it in the bunker. Ended up making a great par.

[00:12:13] >> More speed and catches the hole. Good putt.

[00:12:24] >> Langer for his birdie at 11. Turning left, and why not? A moment ago, Steve Stricker playing with Brett Quigley on the tee at 16.

[00:12:48] >> Take it in there nice and high. 171 yards, carries that left side, 180 all the way to the hole. Catches on that downslope, and oh my goodness, second hole in one of the week. Ken Tanigawa there at the 12th, using that slope.

[00:13:25] >> As short as that putt looks, it's still going to have him nervous. Alright, taking it back over to 13, Ernie Els has this for eagle, and a share of the lead. What a tee shot. Takes advantage of it. Ernie Els. Tanigawa for his birdie up at the green at 12.

[00:13:46] >> Saw Kenny use that slope to the left of this hole location perfectly.

[00:13:51] >> Over at 13, Langer playing his second shot. Well done. Langer will have that for birdie. Y.E. Yang, second in the 12th.

[00:14:10] >> Still a short par putt at the last, now 191 here, second at 12, going with a hybrid. Look at this shot.

[00:14:21] >> Langer pitched his second here, this to get to within three of the lead, and Langer right in the mix. Good opportunity here for Y.E.

[00:14:37] >> He's got to be wondering what to do at this point, because optically you just don't see the ball doing that. You're standing on that where the slope comes left of the screen, works its way up onto the green.

[00:14:55] >> Nice little bounce back there for Y.E.

[00:15:01] >> Jimenez has this putt for eagle for a share of the lead, and Miguel! So he joins Els and Ames at 10-under. Ames, birdie putt at the 12th, this would regain the solo lead.

[00:15:24] >> This definitely has some movement left to right.

[00:15:31] >> Great shot by Stephen. Final group up at the green at 13. David Toms getting set to play his second, just short of this drivable par-4.

[00:15:42] >> And with the green going away from him the entire way, this is all about predicting how much spin you're going to get on it, and how much it's going to react when it hits the green to judge the run out.

[00:15:50] >> I saw Bernhard Langer hit a real beauty in there from about the same spot a little earlier. Drove it in there low, had it check, and then it released all the way down. That's pretty well done as well.

[00:16:07] >> That's kind of what that's doing, isn't it?

[00:16:09] >> Yeah, it is. That's on a good line. Stretch it out, stretch it out.

[00:16:14] >> Boy, he's got some beautiful touch.

[00:16:18] >> Yang for his birdie.

[00:16:21] >> It's been a mixed bag today for Y.E. Some brilliant shots, and some not so brilliant shots, and a good birdie there.

[00:16:29] >> Y.E. Look at that.

[00:16:31] >> Look at that run.

[00:16:32] >> Six birdies over his last seven holes. The only non-birdie was a bogey. Nice birdie there for David Toms. Harrison Frazar has this putt for eagle. Really slick putt going down this slope.

[00:17:02] >> And Harrison buries it.

[00:17:10] >> Steve Stricker has this putt for eagle. This a moment ago.

[00:17:15] >> Up the slope, not much break, and pretty much count that.

[00:17:26] >> Ames for his birdie to push the lead to 12-under.

[00:17:30] >> All about getting the right pace to match your line. Now this one coming down the hill very quick.

[00:17:35] >> Yeah, you have to be confident and trust it, and he did. Right in the center, beautiful stroke, great pace.

[00:17:40] >> Stephen is 5-under today. Started the day at 7-under and a share of the lead with Toms. Now he leads Toms, Els, and Jimenez by two. Not sure how Ken Tanigawa's ball stayed where it is, but it did. And this for birdie.

[00:17:58] >> And this is up the slope and not a whole lot of break. Just have to be aggressive. Really well done, and fortunate the ball stayed up, but he took advantage of it.

[00:18:09] >> Y.E. Yang to join the party at 10-under.

[00:18:13] >> Only place you could have put it more simple than this would be closer. Right up the hill.

[00:18:18] >> Not much to this, huh, Phil? Maybe right of center, inside right at the most. Does take advantage of that.

[00:18:31] >> Langer's going to look at this round and probably take from it that could have had a lot better score than what I got. Now Stephen Ames has this putt for eagle.

[00:18:45] >> This would be an exclamation mark, wouldn't it?

[00:18:48] >> And it would give him a three-shot lead over Ken Tanigawa if this goes in for eagle.

[00:18:54] >> So this putt definitely moves right to left, but at the end it kind of straightens out. We've seen this putt miss to the right quite often. In fact, we haven't really seen anyone make this putt.

[00:19:17] >> Except Stephen Ames. Wow! A 64 for Ames, an eagle at 18. He's at 15-under and has a three-shot lead. Again, he set the scoring record for 54 holes here in 2017 at 15-under. He's at 15-under through 36, with a 64 including an eagle at 18. And he'll have a three-shot lead over Ken Tanigawa. Four over Miguel Angel Jimenez. Y.E. Yang will start five back. Then David Toms and Brett Quigley at 9-under. Boy, a lot of great scores today. Ernie Els had that tough stretch, 16 and 18 with bogeys, or he'd be right in the mix as well. But John Cook, this is setting up for a final fun Sunday here in Duluth.

[00:20:10] >> Love the way the golf course is playing. It's firm. It's fast. It's yielding birdies. How exciting tomorrow is going to be. Three shots. Well, okay. He can stretch that out depending on what his game plan is tomorrow. It'll be very interesting to see how things play out.

[00:20:30] >> Championship Sunday here in Duluth, Georgia for the 10th playing of the Mitsubishi Electric Classic. Stephen Ames starting the day with a three-shot lead. Can he win this event for a second time? TPC Sugarloaf has been the host venue for the Mitsubishi Electric Classic for all 10 years. A popular stop on the PGA Tour from 1997 through 2008. Fantastic Greg Norman design, a par-72. Just under 7,000 yards the test here this year. And what's at stake? Mitsubishi Electric Classic Championship. Stephen Ames won this trophy in 2017. Trying to become the second multiple winner of this event. Steve Flesch, the defending champ, also has won it twice. Ames, one under on his round today. He's at 16-under-par. Three-shot lead over Brett Quigley. Ken Tanigawa, four back. Miguel Angel Jimenez at five back. Ames has set the 36-hole scoring record with that 15-under through the opening 36. Trying to add to it today. Ernie Els for birdie at 11.

[00:21:48] >> Nice shot in here off the tee. A little bit left of the hole location. That goes a little to his right. And nice catch, hole. Maybe that'll get this group going.

[00:22:07] >> Now Tanigawa for his birdie.

[00:22:15] >> I think he really needs this one. It's going to wander to the right. Tan didn't take advantage of that par-5 that he could easily reach. Birdie and a bogey on Ken's card so far. Gonna have to put the pedal down.

[00:22:36] >> Ames with a par at the 8th. Started the day with a three-shot lead over Ken Tanigawa.

[00:22:57] >> Steve Strickler for birdie.

[00:22:58] >> Yeah, from behind the hole at 10. There's not a whole lot of room back there. So aggressive third. Not much to this. Strick doesn't miss many of these. Not many. I think that gets off the par schneid. In the good way, the positive way.

[00:23:23] >> Over at the par-3 11th, Lee Janzen for birdie.

[00:23:27] >> Big breaker from right to left. It goes down that slope right there. And Lee capitalizes at the tough 11th par-3.

[00:23:42] >> Langer missed the green with his third. Pitched it to here. You think he thought he missed it?

[00:23:56] >> Definitely thought he missed it left. There's no question about it.

[00:24:03] >> Steve Strickler on the tee at the 11th.

[00:24:04] >> 187 today. Hole location, the back center. Not much wind blowing. So not as intimidating a tee shot as it was yesterday. Right on line here for Strick.

[00:24:15] >> Made an ace at 16 yesterday. And that was right on line. So he'll have that for birdie. Y.E. Yang for his birdie? So Y.E. the only birdie in the group at 10. That gets him to 12-under, four off the lead. Keeping in touch with the leader. Over at the 11th, Stricker for his birdie. You saw his tee shot in there.

[00:24:48] >> Yeah, right underneath the hole. Only about 6 feet. Just like at the 10th.

[00:24:55] >> Well, and Stricker, that's back-to-back birdies after nine straight pars, which is shocking with Steve's talent level.

[00:25:05] >> Looks like Ames will be next to go. He's got the whole green in front of him, but extremely tight lie.

[00:25:15] >> Low follow-through, drives it in there. Nice and it releases up there. Really well done.

[00:25:19] >> Really accelerated through the ball well there. That was nice.

[00:25:31] >> So that's the lie of Ken Tanigawa.

[00:25:47] >> Did he spin it? He did. Beautiful shot off of that lie.

[00:25:49] >> You see how he got his right hand underneath the ball there and kept that speed up, use the grooves.

[00:26:00] >> Over at the drivable par-4 13th, second for Lee Janzen.

[00:26:04] >> Yeah, from the one of the right bunkers. Goes straight downhill from the front part of the green.

[00:26:12] >> Here we go.

[00:26:14] >> That's why we love this hole.

[00:26:24] >> Ames for his birdie to get to 17-under. Not much to this, pretty straight.

[00:26:37] >> Buries it.

[00:26:38] >> Buries it.

[00:26:39] >> He was talking about the only dangerous shots now that you can make more than a bogey are really the tee shot at 11 and the second shot at 12. Other than that, really have to mess up to make anything more than a bogey.

[00:26:55] >> Stricker for birdie at the 12th. Steve pours that in.

[00:27:08] >> Third in a row.

[00:27:13] >> As we go back to 10, Tanigawa must make the birdie. He does.

[00:27:18] >> I would say throw 13 in there only -- you're not gonna make a double but you can make a bogey which would be like making a double.

[00:27:24] >> But if you snap one hard left into that -- we heard one of the marshals today talking about it.

[00:27:39] >> While Ames made birdie at 10, Quigley for birdie at 11. Brett Quigley gets to 14-under and is back within three of the lead.

[00:27:52] >> Hanging tough, within sight.

[00:27:59] >> Alex Cejka who's 10th in the Schwab Cup standings at 18 to finish with a birdie.

[00:28:12] >> That helps the cause.

[00:28:13] >> Final round 70 for Alex.

[00:28:24] >> Quigley for birdie at 13, trying to cut into that Ames lead.

[00:28:28] >> Yeah, a little pitch shot just checked up on him way quicker than he thought, and the left edge catches it.

[00:28:37] >> Steve Stricker's second into 15.

[00:28:40] >> Middle left pin today, right side of the fairway for Strick, up over top of those trees. And that is really well done.

[00:28:58] >> Jimenez's got the firepower to get there. He could scoot it up there if he gets a good one.

[00:29:01] >> Yesterday he almost made an ace.

[00:29:03] >> Good one there yesterday.

[00:29:12] >> Get it just inside that right bunker. There's a little bit of a speed slot there.

[00:29:23] >> He likes it.

[00:29:24] >> There it goes. Here we go.

[00:29:29] >> Down the slope.

[00:29:30] >> Not sure it has enough steam to get all the way down there, but that was well done. He's hit three beauties right off the front of the green on Friday, then hit it about three feet yesterday.

[00:29:43] >> Brett Quigley has just made birdie at 13, within two of Stephen Ames at the Mitsubishi Electric Classic.

[00:29:56] >> Quigley for birdie at 13, trying to cut into that Ames lead.

[00:29:59] >> Yeah, a little pitch shot just checked up on him way quicker than he thought, and the left edge catches it.

[00:30:08] >> Defending champ and the only two-time winner of this event, Steve Flesch, his birdie at 18.

[00:30:14] >> Yeah, drove it out of position, had to lay the ball up, and not a very good wedge there for Steve Flesch.

[00:30:24] >> He really has played well around this golf course, but not his week this week.

[00:30:29] >> Winner in 2018. Steve Stricker, second into 15.

[00:30:41] >> Little left pin today, right side of the fairway for Strick, up over top of those trees. And that is really well done.

[00:30:54] >> Talked about Kris Blanks, now finishing up for his birdie. That's a heck of a week.

[00:31:02] >> Nice week there for the Tuesday qualifier.

[00:31:06] >> 68-68 on the weekend. Strick tapping in for his birdie to get to 11-under. So he's 4-under today, all on this second nine. Now Stephen Ames ready to go.

[00:31:29] >> And with that big tee shot, here's an example, just 138, just a wedge coming in here, probably gap wedge. Safe play right of the hole. Very well done. Only about 12, maybe 15 feet for birdie.

[00:31:40] >> Really well done. Used the slope, put the ball exactly where he needed to, wide side, play a little shaper in there. Well done.

[00:31:55] >> We have had 10 aces in the history of this event. Four have come here at 16.

[00:32:03] >> And 16, this hole location, look out.

[00:32:05] >> Oh, Strick!

[00:32:06] >> We thought we might see one on this, at this hole location today. That one took a peek.

[00:32:34] >> So two in a row, that gets him to 14-under. Three off the lead, at least for now.

[00:32:42] >> The players starting to press the leader a little bit.

[00:32:47] >> Stephen Ames will be quiet and calm over the ball. He's reunited with his sports psychologist, and they've hit upon something that is really working out nicely for him and has a lot to do with why he's been able to maintain his composure so well this week, if you will, and his concentration.

[00:33:05] >> Now we just got to get his son Ryan to take a step right as he settles in for this birdie putt to get to 18-under.

[00:33:12] >> Yeah, Ryan's just learning the ropes. Gotta know where those cameras are. Outside the right. Big, big putt. Confident stroke, right in the center.

[00:33:28] >> Third birdie of the day. 18-under, Stephen Ames with a three-shot lead here in the final round of the Mitsubishi Electric Classic.

[00:33:45] >> Stricker for birdie.

[00:33:49] >> Up that slope. Stretch and had it right on line.

[00:33:58] >> This could have been some second nine for Stricker. I mean, you have the short one at 16 that didn't go.

[00:34:11] >> Yeah, just have to be careful with speed. That's about it. Not a ton of break. Maybe move it a little left or right.

[00:34:17] >> This has been more the kind of putt that he's made of any length where it's been a little bit downhill. He hasn't had to hit it. And very, very good on these putts.

[00:34:44] >> Great camera view right there. See how delicately he hit that putt. Nicely done. Good pacing.

[00:34:59] >> Have we seen Stephen Ames have a par putt of any stress today?

[00:35:03] >> I was thinking about this earlier. Yesterday at the 10th hole, he blasted about a 12-footer four or five feet by and made it right in the center. From then on, he has really had great pacing and great speed.

[00:35:16] >> Take it back to 18. PGA Tour Champions rookie Tim O'Neil, even on his round today. And he rolls in this for birdie. So a nice finish for Tim. So that gets him the tie for 11th. His best finish on the PGA Tour Champions this year was a tie for 15th at the Hoge Classic. 16, Stephen Ames for his fourth birdie of the day.

[00:35:43] >> The lead is three and there's a big scoreboard just to the left of the screen. He was eyeing it as he was waiting for his turn to play. So he knows right where he stands here.

[00:35:55] >> Breaker from left to right.

[00:36:00] >> It's interesting seeing the lead was three with Quigley still on the course. He did give that one a little more pace that time.

[00:36:04] >> I'll tell you one thing. If he knew where Quigley just hit his second shot at 17, he might have cozied that up a little bit more, Phil. Quigley is in big trouble. Missed the green left. Lee Janzen trying to finish up with a birdie here at 18.

[00:36:26] >> Pretty good bunker shot from way into that right bunker. Didn't have a lot of room to work with him. Nice up and down and a nice week for Lee Janzen. Good for you, Lee.

[00:36:41] >> Ames for his par. On to 17 with a three-shot lead for Stephen Ames. Dominant performance this week. Ernie Els for birdie at 18, even on his round today. Had gotten it to 10-under yesterday, but bogeys at 16 and 18. Short circuited his day, and Ernie's going to finish with an even-par 72 today. A bunch of birdies. He made a bunch of bogeys too.

[00:37:37] >> Yes, he did.

[00:37:40] >> Stephen Ames picked up his third win of his career at the Trophy Hassan II earlier this year in Morocco.

[00:37:52] >> It's one of the most solid 3-unders that you're going to see. It's just a very conservative, beautiful, just like that shot after shot after shot.

[00:37:59] >> It's another fairway hit, Phil. He's only missed three.

[00:38:02] >> Only missed three fairways all week and he's only missed two greens the entire week. He's made one bogey. Steve Stricker for birdie at 18. Steve birdied 10, 11, 12. Missed a couple opportunities. Birdied 15. Missed a short one at 16, and then misses that one for birdie here at 18. So not the kind of finish we thought we'd get out of Steve Stricker, especially with putter in hand.

[00:38:34] >> 141 is all, coming a little bit down the hill. A couple yards downhill at front left hole location. This is right in his wheelhouse. I wouldn't expect him to aim right at the hole. Little right of it.

[00:38:50] >> He's got to be looking out right towards the middle of the green. Aggressive swing to that target.

[00:39:11] >> He liked it.

[00:39:12] >> Yeah, I'll tell you what, he was taking it right at it.

[00:39:22] >> Brett Quigley is hitting a provisional at 18.

[00:39:26] >> We have seen so many players drive it all the way down, you know, hitting drivers and they're not any longer than Brett Quigley.

[00:39:41] >> Back at 17, Stephen Ames for yet another birdie.

[00:39:45] >> Putt coming a little down the hill, moving slightly to his right.

[00:39:49] >> Putting through a little bit of sand, but that shouldn't really bother him.

[00:39:53] >> Right on line.

[00:39:54] >> Why not?

[00:39:55] >> Bury it, Stephen Ames.

[00:39:56] >> What an exhibition of golf Stephen Ames is putting on this week. Nearly flawless. You don't say that very often, but nearly flawless.

[00:40:06] >> Fourth birdie of the day. He's at 19-under. He's obliterating his own Mitsubishi Electric Classic tournament record, which he set in 2017 when he shot 15-under here at TPC Sugarloaf. Ames is now at 19-under.

[00:40:30] >> Back at the Mitsubishi Electric Classic, Stephen Ames has found his ball in that high grass there.

[00:40:52] >> Not sure what he's doing here. The lie wasn't bad.

[00:40:54] >> Yeah, well, he's not messing with it.

[00:40:56] >> He's not messing with it. He's going to take an unplayable. I guess he didn't want to try to hit it sideways.

[00:41:01] >> Interesting.

[00:41:01] >> Could he have advanced it over this native grass down into the fairway, do you think?

[00:41:09] >> He could have hit it 130 yards.

[00:41:10] >> Okay.

[00:41:10] >> The lie wasn't bad. Yeah, not taking a chance with a big lead. Just a smart play, I guess.

[00:41:18] >> Right. Phil, he said to his son, he said, look, you know, we take an unplayable. We drop it back. We knock it on the green. We make six. That's all we need.

[00:41:28] >> I think maybe Ryan might wanted him to hit it down the fairway, but Stephen had already made his mind up. He's taking control of the situation and not get down the fairway, knock it on the green, six. And like you said, out of here.

[00:41:40] >> Maybe that was a teaching lesson for Ryan.

[00:41:42] >> Maybe.

[00:41:42] >> Maybe showing him something. Right.

[00:41:43] >> Yeah. A little discipline. Don't try to be a hero.

[00:41:55] >> He could conceivably go for the green with his next if he wanted to. I don't think he will. He'd have to get it up really quick over that grass, but he's only 216 from it. Ken Tanigawa will be first to go. He's going to lay up.

[00:42:05] >> Yeah, he's got a short iron out. Phil, he's going to just wedge it down the fairway.

[00:42:09] >> Yeah, wedge it down the fairway.

[00:42:11] >> I think they're both going to do it at the same time here.

[00:42:18] >> Stephen just wants to go. I think he's, he stood around long enough on that 18th tee and just said, let's get this finished.

[00:42:30] >> Just wedging it up down there. Nearly in unison with Tanigawa, just slightly behind. That was kind of strange.

[00:42:39] >> Again, knowing he had a five-shot lead, you know, it made it a lot easier to just take all the danger out of the picture. Quigley for his bogey at 18.

[00:42:55] >> Little break from right to left. Can he finish it? No. Really tough finish for Brett.

[00:43:00] >> Yeah, bogey and now a double. And he's going to fall to 12-under once he knocks that in.

[00:43:22] >> So, Phil, you got a look at -- we couldn't see Stephen's ball. You know, in your professional opinion, if, you know, the circumstances were different, say the lead was a little bit closer, he definitely could have got a club on it and made a play?

[00:43:35] >> Yes, he could have got a club on it, but with that tall grass, like we saw with Quigley, you never know if that grass might -- the long grass might grab it, shut the face down and who knows what might happen. But it wasn't that bad of a lie. It was certainly attractive to where you felt like you could take a pitching wedge or a gap wedge and get it on down there pretty comfortably. But a smart play in the situation he's in, Bob.

[00:44:00] >> We talked about nearly flawless all week. That really was, you know, just an errant tee shot. Other than that, he really hasn't missed a shot.

[00:44:13] >> Miguel's waiting for the green to clear. So Quigley's going to make a double, so that's going to drop him to 12-under. Tanigawa was forced to lay up. So Miguel, who right now is in a tie for second, is going to put pedal to the metal as Quigley, disappointing finish. He was trying to hang in there and battle, 3-under 69, but finishes the last two holes 3-over. And Jimenez has an opportunity here now. Right now, he's solo second.

[00:44:43] >> Solo second.

[00:44:44] >> But he has an opportunity here to kind of put the pedal to the metal and lock it up.

[00:44:51] >> Well, I don't know that he knows exactly where he stands. There's no leaderboard there. I was talking to Alejandro's caddy up on the landing area and he's been talking about Quigley struggling here in the last two holes.

[00:45:04] >> He looks to the left, Phil. There's one down there.

[00:45:06] >> Yeah, but he can't see.

[00:45:07] >> It's up over the hill. He can't see it.

[00:45:09] >> Yeah.

[00:45:10] >> He's got 235 all the way to the hole, 226 to the front of the green. Big target. Something into the center of the green would be in order. A little breeze in from the left.

[00:45:21] >> Carlos Franco has the only eagle at 18 today, after 11 at 18 yesterday.

[00:45:29] >> Miguel has the 7-wood and a 5-wood that he's deadly accurate with, both of them. Now right over top of the flagstick, talking about putting the pedal to the metal. He didn't waste any time. He knew what he was going to do.

[00:45:45] >> He wants a utility nine. He has turned it on here at the end. Play some more.

[00:45:52] >> He just didn't get putts to fall. I mean, he had a lot of great looks on this incoming nine. Just the putts didn't fall. Tanigawa, his third into 18.

[00:46:04] >> He's played this as a three-shot hole the entire way. 3-wood off the tee. Lay up to here now, just to wedge to this left hole location. See if he can execute it.

[00:46:12] >> Ken hasn't made a putt for birdie since the 10th.

[00:46:23] >> Pretty predictable. That's where a lot of wedge shots come up, right there. A little short and to the right.

[00:46:32] >> What does Stephen Ames have in here for his fourth?

[00:46:35] >> Yeah, it's 91 yards. Just a little wedge shot here into the breeze.

[00:46:40] >> Anything out 10-12 feet to the right. If this has too much spin, it could go down off the left side of the green, so this has to be to the right.

[00:46:53] >> He's not messing around with anything here. He's playing smart.

[00:47:01] >> Well, that's why they have scoreboards and you look at them. You know you got a five-shot lead. You hit a poor tee shot. You don't try to do anything heroic. And you heard him say to his son, you know what? Make a six. It's fine.

[00:47:12] >> That's right. Make a six. Get out of here. Shake hands. Kiss babies.

[00:47:21] >> It's been a flawless week for Stephen Ames. We talked about the fact that he's only missed a couple of greens all week, a couple of fairways all week. He hasn't made a bogey since the 4rth hole yesterday. That was his only bogey this week. And he used course management to set up a bogey here on this last hole.

[00:47:41] >> Yeah, only got pressured a little bit in the middle of the back nine when Brett Quigley got within two. But still, he didn't really need to do any adjustments. He just kept doing what he was doing. He's confident with his golf swing. He knew he was going to strike the ball in the middle of the face. And that's how you win championships.

[00:48:09] >> Yeah, nine events. This is the ninth event this year on the PGA Tour Champions. And Stephen Ames is going to join David Toms as a multiple winner.

[00:48:23] >> You know, he likes this golf course. He's won here before. Beautiful playing conditions all week. Golf course in excellent condition. Firm, fast. And when you have control of your golf ball and you're driving the ball, firm and fast doesn't mean you're going to hit a lot of fairways. And he only missed four fairways for the week. That's not easy to do when the golf course is firm and fast, because there's not a lot of containment.

[00:48:52] >> And as a two-time winner, this sets him up for the Schwab Cup race as well here in a position he's not really been in before.

[00:48:57] >> He came into the week in eighth position, and he's going to move up some here today with a win and $300,000. This for par at 18.

[00:49:11] >> Pretty good breaker right to left. Does go slightly uphill. Might just make it for par.

[00:49:21] >> Wow, what a par by Stephen Ames!

[00:49:28] >> When it's your week.

[00:49:29] >> Finishing like a champion. He was actually playing for bogey, and he made par anyway.

[00:49:44] >> Let that be a lesson to you, son.

[00:49:47] >> His second win of the year, and he joins Steve Flesch as the only multiple winners of the Mitsubishi Electric Classic, and a hug for his son, Ryan, on the bag here this week. What a great experience for Steven Ames and Ryan. Ken Tanigawa for his birdie.

[00:50:12] >> Just momentarily to tie Jimenez for second. Will it? Got to stay just high, but a nice week for Kenny T. That'll be solo third.

[00:50:23] >> When you think about Ames, he shattered the 36-hole scoring record set by Olin Brown in 2015 at 12-under, 15-under through 36, and he blisters his own scoring record for this tournament. He had set it in 2017 at 15-under, and has posted 19-under here this week with one bogey. So Miguel Angel Jimenez has a solo second, but Miguel has the flair. And you know he would love nothing better than to roll this thing in for eagle. Get the saber out.

[00:51:07] >> Why not go out and in Jimenez style?

[00:51:18] >> That's going to be missed left, but he'll run up there, tap it in. Great week for Miguel.

[00:51:31] >> And that's for a 4-under 68 for the 2014 champion here. And a great job by the fans here in Duluth in the Greater Atlanta area for another spectacular Mitsubishi Electric Classic. And it really was a dominant performance here this week, John Cook. Picture perfect, one bogey the whole week.

[00:51:57] >> One bogey the whole week. Only missed three greens for the entire week, four fairways for the entire week, as close to perfection as you could possibly be. So second win of the year for Stephen Ames. And he is a Charles Schwab Cup contender. No doubt about it.