Production Transcript for REWIND\_23AFC\_STRICKER.mp3

[00:00:38] >> State capital not far from where we're at, here in Madison, Wisconsin, University Ridge Golf Course. Robert Trent Jones designed par-72, just over 7,000 yards. Take a look at some highlights. Justin Leonard, in search of that first win on the PGA Tour Champions, made the turn 5-under with a 31 and then rolls in his birdie putt at 10 to get him to 6-under-par. Good playing. Host Steve Stricker hasn't won this event yet, his third at the par-5 6th.

[00:01:08] >> Yeah, doing what he does best, just hit wedges close. Laid up and beautiful wedge game by Steve Stricker. He's always got it inside 8 feet.

[00:01:18] >> How about Stephen Ames, the winner last week in Des Moines? Three wins this year. Birdie at the par-5 9th.

[00:01:28] >> Justin Leonard back at the 13th, excellent shot in here. Seems to have found his range. Great read here. Watch this, goes left, back to the right, double break, dead center.

[00:01:42] >> That'll get him to 8-under-par, and he sits atop the leaderboard right now by 3. Justin Leonard at 8-under. Three players at 5-under, Montgomerie, Stankowski, and Broadhurst, with Goidos and McKenzie four shots back, going low on a first-round Friday. Over at 16, this is the third for Billy Andrade.

[00:02:05] >> Yeah, the par-5, kind of an interesting green, almost two complete sections. Billy missed a lot of putts earlier. That might make up -- he almost clumped himself in the head with that one. Fred Couples on the tee at 12. 178 down the hill, probably plays at least a club shorter going down. That's a beautiful shot, all over the flag. Good strike there by Fred.

[00:02:39] >> John, Justin Leonard, good look for birdie here at 17.

[00:02:41] >> Really good, quick, just a little left to right.

[00:02:48] >> This is very doable here.

[00:02:49] >> He made everything else today, Lanny.

[00:02:53] >> Might as well keep it going.

[00:03:00] >> Yes, yes!

[00:03:10] >> Tournament host, Steve Stricker, for his birdie at 11.

[00:03:14] >> Yeah, nice play in here for Strick, and this is a little bit on the quick side. Just back down, maybe, I think it's gotta be about left inside. I'm not sure if he gets it out of the hole if it'll move enough.

[00:03:30] >> Steve has made five starts in this event. A tie for second, two ties for third, a tie for seventh, and a tie for 11th. Take it over to the short par-4 13th. Fred Couples to play his second.

[00:03:48] >> Just a little wedge in here for Fred, and really, really well done. And Fred's got Steve Stricker's oldest daughter on the bag.

[00:03:55] >> Bobbi is on the bag.

[00:03:57] >> Yeah.

[00:03:58] >> Paul Broadhurst on the tee at 17. Paul is bogey-free today at 6-under-par.

[00:04:04] >> Hole location way at the back here, 208 yards. Paul is really capable of driving it with his irons. Let's see if he flights this down, maybe just a little. Try and drive it, get it releasing back to the flag. There you go, he tried to turn it. Did he overcook it? No, he played just the shot I was thinking. He drove it in there.

[00:04:27] >> This is gonna be really good.

[00:04:27] >> That's exactly what he did. He's very good at that, hitting that quality shot.

[00:04:33] >> Stricker for his birdie at 12.

[00:04:35] >> Up the slope, maybe moving a little right to left, not much. Gotta be a little firmer with this. I'm not sure that's firm enough. Is that gonna get there?

[00:04:45] >> Yes, it did. Dead center.

[00:04:48] >> Wow, what a good putt.

[00:05:01] >> You heard Steven Alker say to his caddie, Troy Martin, 110 shot.

[00:05:05] >> Yeah, this hole is just here for the taking. Just get it in a fairway and then just a wedge in here. Green sits up a little bit. But the hole location is pretty much out in the open today. Pretty hard swing for a wedge. It should spin. There you go, it does. Very nice.

[00:05:24] >> Steve Stricker to play his second at 13.

[00:05:29] >> Boy, he is good at these shots. This is right in Steve's wheelhouse. You know, he gets a wedge in his hand from this distance and you're sitting here thinking, well, probably shouldn't be outside about 8 feet, would be his average.

[00:05:43] >> And you and I were talking during the break. I feel like Steve is tracking to shoot 64 today. He's got these two short par-4s. You got one of those. You got the reachable par-5.

[00:05:56] >> And there you go. That's pretty average for him, about six feet.

[00:06:03] >> Good stuff from Justin Leonard as he sets a new tournament record. Davis Love III. This for birdie at 14.

[00:06:10] >> Good putt by Davis. Nice stroke. Putter looks from here about 5 feet for Strick.

[00:06:29] >> Catches the right edge.

[00:06:30] >> That was a quick little putt. He didn't hit that very hard at all. I would venture to say his touch is probably better with that smaller grip right now, Bob.

[00:06:42] >> Saw the tee shot of Paul Broadhurst. This for birdie to get to 7-under.

[00:06:47] >> Just a great shot in there by Broadie.

[00:06:50] >> Alker to play his second.

[00:06:53] >> Yeah, it'll be interesting to see if Ernie pitches or putts it from down there now. Steven Alker, perfect leave right here. Just staring right down the throat of the flag from here. And really well done. That was excellent balance. Nice strike. Didn't overspin. It was just a terrific shot.

[00:07:23] >> Let's go over to 17. After a long wait, Fred Couples for his birdie.

[00:07:28] >> Yeah, great shot in here for Fred. Probably about left edge. Oh yeah.

[00:07:36] >> So Couples rolls that in for birdie. Gets him to 2-under. Alker for birdie at 15.

[00:07:46] >> Well, almost nothing in this one.

[00:07:54] >> So he's at 6-under. Three in a row for Steven. Now over at 16, Els for his birdie.

[00:08:03] >> This might -- John, if he gets this one in, this might be a better up and down than the last hole.

[00:08:08] >> I would say that back-to-back, that would be unthinkable.

[00:08:14] >> Did he hit it? Did he hit it? Oh, yes, he did. How about those two up and downs for Ernie Els? That's special. Not sure, is that high enough. Is it high enough? Yes, it is. What a putt for Steve. Steven Alker, I told you he makes a lot of long putts. Really well done. There you go. We finally see somebody birdie 18.

[00:08:53] >> So 7-under 65 for Alker.

[00:08:56] >> Look at the length of that backstroke. Gives him something to hit it with. It really controls the speed nice on the long putts.

[00:09:13] >> Now, Stricker for his par to finish with 65. Again, this is now Steve Stricker's 53rd consecutive round of par or better for PGA Tour-sanctioned events. He moves out of a tie with Tiger Woods.

[00:09:34] >> I'd say that's pretty good.

[00:09:35] >> Yeah, anytime you're beating a record held by Tiger Woods, you're probably doing something pretty well.

[00:09:42] >> When you think of the run that Hale Irwin and Bernhard Langer had in this field, bet they wouldn't have that record.

[00:09:49] >> No.

[00:09:49] >> It's saying a lot about what Steve Stricker has done.

[00:10:03] >> So Stricker with a 65 today, along with Steven Alker, Marco Dawson and Paul Broadhurst. Justin Leonard sets a tournament record. How good was that, Lanny, that 10-under 62?

[00:10:18] >> We've kind of been waiting all year. I'm not saying we've been waiting for a 62 from Justin, but we've been waiting for some kind of performance to maybe catapult him, to get him in the mix of winning a tournament. And today may have been it.

[00:10:39] >> Seventh year the PGA Tour Champions has been coming to Madison, Wisconsin, state capital of Wisconsin. Gorgeous place to be. Hosted by Steve Stricker, University Ridge Golf Course is the host venue. Robert Trent Jones Jr. Design opened in 1971, and we got the celebrities taking center stage today. Derek Jeter, Andy North, Zach Johnson and Michael Phelps. It will be a lot of fun as they will play nine holes today. Take a look at some highlights. Miguel Angel Jimenez started his day at the 10th. This is birdie at 18. It would get him to 7-under-par. He'd shoot 29 on his opening nine. Jimenez actually got it to 10-under through his first 12. How about Steve Stricker? His second at the par-4 7th, Lanny and Strick trying to win the event he's hosting for the first time.

[00:11:31] >> Yeah, and he's got it dialed in, Bob. Hole location right in the front. He's been flag hunting all day. And then Steven Alker at the 9th, par-5. Two big shots into the right greenside bunker. And this a wonderful bunker shot from way over there. Terrific shot by Alker.

[00:11:47] >> He'd go on to make birdie. That'd get him to 11-under-par playing alongside Steven Alker. Steve Stricker, birdie putt at the 9th. That would get Strick to 13-under. Started the day a couple behind Justin Leonard. Leonard has one birdie on his scorecard today. Miguel, the trail went cold after those opening 12, but still 10-under on his round today here in Madison. Steve Stricker at the par-5 11th, trying to add to his total. Stricker for birdie to get to 14-under and 7-under on his round today.

[00:12:21] >> Yeah, you don't want to let the par-5s get away. And Stricker does not, keeps that putter rolling.

[00:12:33] >> Stephen Ames has three wins like Steve Stricker. Stared him down last week in Des Moines and won the Principal Charity Classic. Pours that in at 17. So Ames is 7-under on his round. And he's at 10-under-par. All right, the celebrities are underway. So it's Zach Johnson and Derek Jeter against Andy North and Michael Phelps. Michael Phelps will be first to play, and John McGinnis is with this celebrity match.

[00:13:06] >> Michael Phelps plays a lot of golf. It's just a tad 150. A little pull.

[00:13:22] >> Justin Leonard, who made everything in sight in setting a new tournament record yesterday with a 10-under-par 62, can't buy a bucket today.

[00:13:32] >> No, and if he's going to make a run, he needs to do it right now, Bob. He's got a par-5 right here. The 12th is downhill. But then he's got three straight par-4s under 400 yards. He's going to have wedge at the greens. He needs some birdies through that stretch. And then the 15th, excuse me, the 16th is a reachable par-5. So this is the stretch Justin Leonard needs to make it happen right now.

[00:13:57] >> Made a birdie at the 2nd and now makes a birdie at the par-5 11th. All pars in between. Derek Jeter to play his second in the 10th.

[00:14:06] >> There it is. It's coming. It's coming.

[00:14:09] >> Same thing.

[00:14:10] >> Come back.

[00:14:12] >> Yeah.

[00:14:12] >> Very good.

[00:14:12] >> Thank you.

[00:14:13] >> Thank you for that.

[00:14:15] >> Did you get it?

[00:14:21] >> Maybe the only ones.

[00:14:22] >> Getting better all the time.

[00:14:29] >> Michael Phelps has this putt for birdie for his team at the 10th. How about that?

[00:14:38] >> Just hammered that in there.

[00:14:43] >> Justin Leonard. Two shots off the lead to play his second at 13.

[00:14:58] >> And good shot there by Justin. That's what he needed. We'll follow the second for Zach Johnson with tracer technology presented by Trackman.

[00:15:18] >> Looks like he was up to the task.

[00:15:20] >> Pretty much in there all over it. And good shot by Zach. That for eagle.

[00:15:27] >> See if Steven Alker can make one at 14 and cut into that Stricker lead. Yes, he does. So he's within three.

[00:15:45] >> For eagle.

[00:15:45] >> Oh, yeah. Zach Johnson. Well played hole there. That was all Zach.

[00:15:50] >> The used his drive. They used his second. Justin Leonard, great look at birdie here at 13.

[00:16:00] >> Yeah, needs to get this one to go down to start cutting into that lead of Stricker's. Yes. Couple good birdies where he's supposed to make them by Justin, 11 and 13. Now he's got two holes coming up, 14 and 15. Actually, three -- 16. You got three birdie holes in a row left for Justin. This is where he can make a big statement heading into tomorrow.

[00:16:29] >> Zach Johnson on the tee at 12. Their team coming off eagle.

[00:16:36] >> And that is a towering wedge.

[00:16:42] >> What a shot, too. Beauty.

[00:16:48] >> I mean, if it looked really fast, I mean, it's going to be down grain. And see how dark it is looking from the green back to Stricker? That means the grain is coming towards us looking at that. So from behind him looking down, it's going to be really shiny. Which means when this hits the ground, even with wedge, it's probably got to chase forward because it's hitting down grain.

[00:17:22] >> That's good.

[00:17:22] >> Are you kidding me?

[00:17:24] >> Zach just --

[00:17:26] >> You're a two-time Major champion.

[00:17:30] >> Hey, you know what? We do have four majors now. Right? We do.

[00:17:36] >> A lot of World Series.

[00:17:37] >> Yeah, well, that too. There you go.

[00:17:39] >> They got a lot of great stuff with these two.

[00:17:41] >> Yeah, they kind of like keep going on and on. Four Majors, a whole bunch of World Series, just a few gold medals in Olympics.

[00:17:49] >> David Duvall for birdie at 17.

[00:17:52] >> Get it. Go! Get it!

[00:17:56] >> Nice to see David play a little better, 6-under for the week.

[00:17:59] >> Yeah, having a good round here on this Saturday. Let's see if Stricker can pour this one in to get to 15-under. By the way, the tournament 36-hole low is back in 2016, the first year of this event. Stricker was not eligible to play in it because he wasn't 50 yet. Remember Jean Remesy?

[00:18:22] >> Yes.

[00:18:23] >> Came over here. He was at 13-under through the opening 36. The low 54 is 17-under set by Kirk Triplett in the inaugural American Family Insurance Championship as the winner.

[00:18:39] >> Well, you would think that would be blown by by tomorrow, but the chance of a little bit of weather and cooler conditions tomorrow. So scoring may not be as good tomorrow. We'll see.

[00:18:50] >> You got to believe Stricker should.

[00:18:52] >> And he's got a par-5 coming up he can reach in two. And 17 is not playing that difficult.

[00:19:02] >> Yeah, it's the third-easiest hole in the golf course today.

[00:19:07] >> Andy North for birdie.

[00:19:08] >> Always choked down to the end of the grip when he putted, even back in college days.

[00:19:14] >> This to tie things up. Oh goodness.

[00:19:18] >> Some things never change. He used to do that with an old Spalding Cash-In putter that he putted with forever.

[00:19:35] >> So Zach puts his on the fairway.

[00:19:38] >> Yeah, that was an interesting move. He made his partner play from out of the rough and he goes back with a tight line on the fairway.

[00:19:45] >> He gave him the option.

[00:19:47] >> Oh, really?

[00:19:48] >> Yeah. Because the ball was in the first cut of rough that they're playing within the club. Exactly. He could pinch it and spin it from the fairway. Derek was looking for a little cushion.

[00:20:03] >> Marco Dawson is hanging right in there. He's got this putt for birdie. Marco has won a major on PGA Tour Champions, won the Senior Open Championship at Sunningdale.

[00:20:19] >> Pretty good roll right here. Yes. Marco, beautiful play. That's a great read down that slope.

[00:20:28] >> He's at 11, four off the lead right now. So Zach will have this putt for birdie.

[00:20:37] >> John, Zach's had this same kind of style putter for a long, long time, hasn't he?

[00:20:40] >> Well, he got on tour what, 2003? He was putting with it then. So it goes back to when he was Nike Tour player of the year.

[00:20:50] >> Reminisce of the one Payne Stewart used to use.

[00:20:52] >> Yeah.

[00:20:56] >> And uses it about the same way too. Really well done.

[00:21:00] >> Zach was joking with us. We were talking with him earlier, Lanny. He was like, "Yeah, you know, good to see you. I'll see you out here in two and a half years." And he goes, "Yeah, I'm over 47 now." He'll turn 50 in February of 2026. So he's already making plans to play the PGA Tour Champions.

[00:21:28] >> North and Phelps are away at 15.

[00:21:38] >> It's a tough little pitch. I think you have to land it short of the green and sniff it up there.

[00:21:43] >> Could almost putt it. Stricker had it to about three feet. Michael Phelps has obviously played a great deal of golf, playing a shot like that, John.

[00:21:55] >> You know, Michael Phelps is best-dressed in this group for a guy that barely wore clothes in his work.

[00:22:04] >> Yeah, exactly.

[00:22:11] >> Yeah, he didn't wear much of anything, and Jeter had a uniform on all the time.

[00:22:24] >> No problem.

[00:22:26] >> So they each make birdie at 15. Johnson and Jeter at 5-under. North and Phelps 4-under.

[00:22:33] >> I'm just happy to tell you guys, that's like a win.

[00:22:35] >> I understand. I fully understand that.

[00:22:37] >> It's like become his new par.

[00:22:39] >> Yeah.

[00:22:40] >> Broadhurst with a birdie at 16. Back-to-back for Paul. And Paul is within one of the lead.

[00:22:49] >> I'll try and get over there.

[00:22:50] >> Yeah.

[00:22:50] >> Stricker getting ready to play his second here at 18. And not the angle you want in, Lanny, with that hole tucked along the right edge.

[00:22:59] >> No, if he's going to get this close, he's going to really have to challenge the right edge of the green with this shot. It's a ball well above his feet. He hits a draw anyway. So everything about this shot says draw. And he really needs to be hitting a holding shot or almost a cut to get this close. Basically this is a really hard shot. Want to hold it up a little bit. Just rotate through it a little harder, a little faster. Keep the ball from turning over. Hold the club face off. He went up the right side. He's being aggressive with it. Great line. Just another three yards and that would have gotten really close. But that's a good play there by Stricker. Nothing wrong with that. That was a good strike.

[00:23:57] >> Broadhurst second into 18. Yeah, tough shot for Broadie here. Hole location up the right-hand side. Not sure --

[00:24:07] >> That didn't sound great.

[00:24:09] >> Sounding a little on the clunky side.

[00:24:18] >> All the volunteers, American Family Insurance, celebrities here on Saturday each and every year, the staff here, Superintendent Phil Davidson, everybody's just rolled out the red carpet. Stricker now for birdie. Lanny, this one's going to turn hard from right to left.

[00:24:39] >> It's going to turn very hard right to left, Bob. Yes. And hard to keep the speed up here too. You lose some pace when you're hitting it up into the slope. Might pick up a little as it turns, but just hard to hit it hard enough. Just needed a little bit more. He was right on track. Good try.

[00:25:06] >> The one thing he didn't do is blow it four feet high and then have that tough one back. Well, just another Steve Stricker round. We're a ho-hum bogey-free 64.

[00:25:22] >> And he won three times in 2018, Bass Pro Shop Legends of Golf, Kitchen Aid Senior PGA Championship, a second major in the Allied Challenge. Hard to believe he hasn't won since 2018.

[00:25:35] >> It is. He plays a lot of good golf, very consistent. Let's see. All right. Yeah. I think he was looking at the hole on this long putt. And pretty well done. Look at that.

[00:25:46] >> Broadhurst ties Stricker at 15-under.

[00:25:50] >> How about that? Just going along very quietly, doing a nice job today. Played a terrific round of golf, Paul Broadhurst did, and matches Stricker's 64. Great putt there at the last.

[00:26:08] >> He's never revealed himself. It's a secret ballot. He's never revealed himself. How do you not vote for Derek Jeter? How do you still have a vote?

[00:26:18] >> Unfortunately, when you're an athlete and you play this sport for a living for a good number of years, which I did, which he did, you end up at the mercy of sportswriters who never put on anything and hit anything worth a damn. So it's kind of too bad.

[00:26:34] >> It's not even like he was a controversial figure.

[00:26:36] >> No, he was one of the all-time great people ever.

[00:26:38] >> Come on, do it, Derek Jeter. How good was that?

[00:26:49] >> Let's see how these elite guys always rise to the occasion, Lanny.

[00:26:53] >> Played a lot of pro-ams over the years, Bob. And always, if it was a putt that needed to be made, give me the athlete.

[00:27:04] >> Zach Johnson and Derek Jeter dug in there a little bit.

[00:27:07] >> Yeah, Zach was a little bit too much for him. I'd like to see this putt go in for these guys, though. This is a much easier putt than one that Zach and Derek had.

[00:27:19] >> We saw Steve Stricker have a putt from the same spot. It's going to break hard right to left. Keep the pace up. That's something that Phelps has not had a problem with.

[00:27:28] >> He doesn't leave any short, does he?

[00:27:43] >> I think North has made a bunch of nice putts today.

[00:27:45] >> Yeah, even the ones he hasn't made look like they could have gone in.

[00:27:59] >> This one has a chance. It snaps.

[00:28:04] >> High side, great pace.

[00:28:11] >> Well, once again, American Family Insurance Championship with a great show on this Saturday. Zach Johnson and Derek Jeter shoot 6-under to Andy North and Michael Phelps' 4-under in their nine-hole match. Tournament host Steve Stricker has a chance to win the American Family Insurance Championship going into Sunday's final round. He's in a share of the lead with Paul Broadhurst after both shot 64s today. Justin Leonard, the first-round leader, hanging right in there, only two off.

[00:28:39] >> And Bob, this is the third straight week that Stricker has been first or second heading to the final round of the golf tournament. And he's closed one, almost got one last week. And I would think he's the odds-on favorite again tomorrow.

[00:28:59] >> Take a look at some highlights. Colin Montgomerie making a run. World Golf Hall of Famer shot 32 on his opening nine. And then this birdie putt at the 10th gets him to 13-under-par. He birdied the 11th but give one back at 12. And, Lanny, Steve Stricker on fire, this birdie at the 8th.

[00:29:16] >> Yeah, par-3. Nice shot underneath the hole and buries the putt. Stricker is really playing well. He's got a nice, solid round going today. This is third at the 9th. Flights it down, trying to drive it all the way back to the flag. Really well done. Leaves a simple look there from about eight feet.

[00:29:36] >> That would get him to 17-under when he rolls in this putt for birdie. And Steve Stricker opening up the lead. Started the day in a share of the lead with Paul Broadhurst. Makes the turn at 2-under par. And now with Monty making that bogey at the 12th, the lead is four over Colin Montgomerie, five over Paul Broadhurst. Tough day for Justin Leonard and Broadhurst, both 3-over-par.

[00:30:03] >> John, how's the wind here at 11?

[00:30:07] >> You know, it's hurting a little bit. You get down in the valleys and you don't feel the wind very much. You get up here on top of these hills, though, and it becomes a big factor. So I think Steve's going to switch clubs.

[00:30:21] >> He did this at 9. It took a little bit longer than you would normally think to take to hit his third at 9, Lanny, and he hit a perfect one in to set up a birdie.

[00:30:30] >> Yeah, Steve's never going to be accused of being an overly fast player. He's very meticulous and does not play until he's ready.

[00:30:41] >> Quite often, it's worth the wait.

[00:30:43] >> Yeah, he plays a lot of quality shots and there's one right there. That's a beauty, just a beauty.

[00:30:53] >> Steven Alker for birdie at 12.

[00:30:58] >> Well, it's a great read there. Beautiful putt.

[00:31:05] >> So Alker, 1-under today.

[00:31:12] >> And Stricker for his tap-in birdie here.

[00:31:14] >> Still has a little movement.

[00:31:16] >> Not a ton. All the way down it has movement to the bottom of the hole.

[00:31:21] >> Stricker bounces back from the bogey at 10. Birdie at 11.

[00:31:27] >> Back at the 12th. This is the third shot for Justin Leonard.

[00:31:31] >> That's a par, John.

[00:31:33] >> Well, now he's hit a birdie shot.

[00:31:39] >> Marco Dawson for birdie.

[00:31:41] >> Right below the hole, just left center. Beautiful putt. Well-played hole there by Marco. Gets it to 10-under and solidly inside the top 10.

[00:31:54] >> Over at 17, Alex Cejka for birdie.

[00:31:57] >> And good putt there from Alex.

[00:32:07] >> At 13, a second for Paul Broadhurst.

[00:32:16] >> And good shot there by Broadie. Spins it back right in there tight. So good look for birdie there.

[00:32:23] >> Billy Andrade to finish up with a birdie here at 18.

[00:32:34] >> Quick putt down the slope for Billy. Did he hit it? Yes, he did.

[00:32:44] >> 2-under 70 for Billy today. Broadhurst has this short one for birdie. This will tie Colin Montgomerie for second. Alker is obviously making bogey up ahead.

[00:33:01] >> Pretty good money tournament here, Bob. And at some point in time, if you can't get to Stricker, then your tournament becomes second place. You know, who can get to second? I mean, that's when every dollar counts all year, leading to the Schwab Cup playoffs, you would like to have second by yourself, you know, if you can't win.

[00:33:21] >> Scott McCarron, who won the American Family Insurance Championship in 2018, beat Jerry Kelly by a shot, has this for birdie at 18.

[00:33:31] >> Get in there. Yeah!

[00:33:36] >> Good finish for Scott. Not a great final round, 75, but ends with a birdie to finish at 2-under.

[00:33:48] >> We'll follow the tee shot. Tracer technology presented by track man of Charlie Wi at 17. Rough second nine for Charlie today, 3-over

[00:33:56] >> 198 yards down the hill over near the right side of the green. And that's an excellent play by Charlie. Really, really nice.

[00:34:14] >> Madison, Wisconsin. Steve Stricker the host. The 13th of 28 on the PGA Tour Champions schedule. Broadhurst's second into 15.

[00:34:24] >> 110, slightly downhill, dead back into the breeze.

[00:34:33] >> Into the breeze, you got to take this all the way to the flag. His feet are close together, has that ball way back in his stance.

[00:34:44] >> Did he get there? Yes, he did. Beautiful shot by Broadie. Wonderful play.

[00:34:54] >> Justin Leonard contemplating his second. John, is the wind swirling there?

[00:35:00] >> No, I think he just hit a couple of bad red shots and is taking his time. It is Justin Leonard. He's about six yards behind Steve Stricker, right at 104.

[00:35:18] >> Again, nice little blueprint from Paul Broadhurst on what to do. Just take it right in there at the flag.

[00:35:32] >> Okay.

[00:35:34] >> And should come back. It does. Excellent play there by Justin.

[00:35:42] >> See if Charlie Wi after that nice tee shot at 17 can pay it off with the birdie.

[00:36:10] >> He put it pretty high. Let's see if it -- oh, it just snapped.

[00:36:13] >> Oh, it falls.

[00:36:15] >> Probably needed a little more pace. Yeah, you can't just get firing at that, can you?

[00:36:21] >> With the situation he's in, make them birdie the last four holes.

[00:36:27] >> Yeah, he just needs to put one on the board.

[00:36:38] >> Justin Leonard and Paul Broadhurst have birdie putts.

[00:36:44] >> This will be a slippery one for Justin.

[00:36:54] >> You know, Lanny, on Friday, he was a little more reactionary. Moving quite a bit faster from behind the ball into the ball to hit these putts. And everything is going in.

[00:37:07] >> Yeah, I can't tell if he's just grinding more or just unsure of himself. But definitely more positive than everything he was doing on Friday. And good three there for Justin.

[00:37:24] >> So his second birdie of the day. Still 2-over on his round. Currently in a tie for fifth. Now Broadhurst, to get to within three of the lead.

[00:37:51] >> Pretty simple look here for Broadie. Just kind of left center, left inside. Yes, very good. Two nice threes by those guys.

[00:38:08] >> Second birdie in three holes for Broadhurst after going the first 12 without a birdie.

[00:38:18] >> I thought we'd see him pull the hybrid. He's on a downslope. There's an oak tree about 50 yards short of the green that he has to go over. You actually can't see the flag when it's over there on that right-hand side. Solid, it's headed left of the flag.

[00:38:41] >> Oh, it got a great kick. Look at this.

[00:38:46] >> That's quite a shot there by Strickler. Didn't know he could get it that close to the hole. That was a heck of a strike right there.

[00:38:55] >> Now Alker on the tee at 17.

[00:38:59] >> Right hole location here at 17, 198. Do not want to miss right. This looks pretty good. Yeah. What a shot. Boy, he hits a lot of high-quality shots. Really solid strike there by Steven Alker. He plays smart. He plays to the strong part of his game, which is his short iron game, and he controls the distance to spin with those clubs just beautifully.

[00:39:25] >> Yeah, I mean, because there's plenty full of guys that can get to these par-5s in twos this week.

[00:39:31] >> Oh yeah.

[00:39:32] >> But Strickler has controlled the distance when he can't get there in two and, again, 13-under.

[00:39:37] >> And he's sneaky long. I mean, he's got enough pop. With the combination, he's got a really long 3-wood, and he's above average lengthwise with the driver, so that combination with the driver and 3-wood, that's a great combo to have that extra length there.

[00:39:53] >> Well, and how about to be able to reach this with driver, 4-iron when the other guys were laying up the driver 5-iron?

[00:39:59] >> Yeah, exactly. That was a bold tee shot, and he pulled it off and nailed it, so this look for eagle right here, don't be surprised.

[00:40:11] >> Should just turn a little right, back toward the front of the green.

[00:40:14] >> He got it out to the right. Came out of there slow. I'm not sure it came out of the fringe very good, John, but that is a pretty easy birdie.

[00:40:31] >> Let's see if Miguel can finish with a birdie here at 18. Jimenez really struggling down the stretch.

[00:40:41] >> Oh, yeah.

[00:40:43] >> He made double at 15, double at 17, but ends with a birdie at 18. 76 today, but always the showman. He really loves the competition.

[00:41:02] >> Back at the American Family Insurance Championship, great tee shot by Steven Alker at 17. This is for birdie. Gets him to within one of Broadhurst for second with one to play. Last group on the tee. Steve Stricker will be first to go after that birdie at 16.

[00:41:25] >> Hole location on the right side of the green. The mistake for Stricker would be the short side right. Anything in the center of the green would look lovely right now. This is all over it.

[00:41:39] >> He just can't help himself right now, can he?

[00:41:40] >> He just cannot help himself. You're exactly right. He just can't get out of his own way. Gosh, he's stuck on knocking the flag down.

[00:41:50] >> What a swing.

[00:41:52] >> But, you know, the thing I like about that, John, he plays his shot. His shot's a draw. Even to the right hole locations, he hits the draw.

[00:42:26] >> That's quite a save by Broadhurst. Great bogey.

[00:42:45] >> Stricker for birdie at 17 to widen the lead.

[00:42:48] >> And Paul gave him the line. Just going to swing to the left. And he's just going to tap it in for par.

[00:42:55] >> Looks like he almost reached up to backhand it in. I was starting to feel very familiar there all of a sudden.

[00:43:04] >> Big ovation for tournament host Steve Stricker. What a show American Family Insurance and the Stricker family put on here in Madison, Wisconsin. The celebrities yesterday, Andy North, Michael Phelps, Zach Johnson, Derek Jeter. The crowd's out here. The community support. The money raised for charity. Become one of the marquee events on the PGA Tour Champions schedule. And a lot of it has to do with that man, Steve Stricker.

[00:43:36] >> Not sure he wants to hit it.

[00:43:38] >> Well, it looks like he's going into four corners, no question.

[00:43:42] >> Justin is currently in a tie for fourth with Colin Montgomerie and Joe Durant.

[00:43:51] >> Going with an iron, which is probably -- I thought he had a 3 to 4 hybrid. He may have just a 3 hybrid. So this could be a 4-iron.

[00:44:01] >> I mean, there's a lot of wind. It could be a 5-iron, to be honest with you. Let's see if it just lands about 185 yards.

[00:44:17] >> Hit it solid. Got it up in the air. It's a hair right. Needs a bounce.

[00:44:21] >> It's going to catch that ridge. Will it get to the right level? No, it's going to hang back up on that -- all right. Well, here it comes.

[00:44:28] >> Here it goes.

[00:44:28] >> Yeah.

[00:44:29] >> It just got really good. But his key putt downhill moving left to right. But good shot.

[00:44:37] >> Well, Paul Broadhurst had his club out before Justin did. He was leaning on it waiting. He's ready to get this over with.

[00:44:47] >> That didn't sound like a great strike, John.

[00:44:49] >> It has potential.

[00:44:50] >> Yes, it does. But it needs to stop. That's going to go all the way to the back. That just released straight downwind over the back edge of the green. Probably can putt it from there if he wants.

[00:45:10] >> Steve Stricker, three wins already this year, tournament host here at the American Family Insurance Championship. Closing in on his first win at the event that he hosts, and his 15th win since turning 50.

[00:45:36] >> Has to be quite a moment for him and Nicki right now. I think as soon as this ball lands on the green, it'll be quite an exhale.

[00:45:47] >> It looks like a great line. Just needs to release. Oh, that's enough. That's going to go to the back edge as well. Paul Broadhurst going first.

[00:46:02] >> I can tell you the celebration has already started at the back of the green.

[00:46:09] >> This putt here for Broadhurst, if it goes in, Paul locks up sole second.

[00:46:18] >> Gotta be out to the left, moving left to right.

[00:46:23] >> Right there, make it slow.

[00:46:25] >> It's going to get right. Okay, he's got an uphill look, a couple, three feet or so.

[00:46:46] >> This will be Steve's 55th round of par or better. You know, probably one of the toughest days condition-wise he's had to do that, Bob. I mean, you know, the last two rounds were, you know, perfect conditions, the course was there for the taking. This was this was a pretty good golf course today to shoot under par on.

[00:47:06] >> Well, he could have shot over par today and still won this golf tournament.

[00:47:09] >> Yeah, and anything under par today by anyone is a good round of golf, John.

[00:47:14] >> Yeah, I agree with that.

[00:47:19] >> It's cold. Nobody was ready for cold weather or this kind of wind.

[00:47:35] >> Little frisky.

[00:47:57] >> Justin Leonard has this putt for birdie that would leap frog him over Joe Durant and Colin Montgomerie. To 12-under, into fourth place by himself.

[00:48:19] >> Well, this one's quick and it's going to move left to right pretty hard.

[00:48:22] >> Got to be quick right at the hole, isn't it?

[00:48:27] >> You could easily run this one down there. Fastball Broadhurst ball.

[00:48:38] >> Well, he's hit a lot of good putts today, just haven't gotten them to fall. Would be pretty cool if Justin can make this tough one to end the day with a birdie.

[00:48:53] >> Something up there fell.

[00:49:25] >> Either just a skosh too much pace or a hair too high. Either way, a pretty good effort. I would think Broadhurst would finish and then Justin. Leave the stage for Steve.

[00:49:41] >> But again, you know, the players are thinking about where they stand, and you want to finish and get out of the host's way who's going to win.

[00:49:48] >> But you don't want to give away a couple hundred thousand dollars.

[00:49:51] >> Correct. This is a par putt to remain in a share of second with Alker. Broadhurst is not in the top 15 in the Schwab Cup standings, so this is a big week for him.

[00:50:07] >> Yes, it is.

[00:50:14] >> Nice turnaround. Good playing for Paul. Great save at 17. That kind of kept him in right there. It was a tough day to play

[00:50:28] >> Now for Justin, again, we keep talking about money. This keeps him in a tie for fourth, this short par putt. Don't want to fall asleep on that and fall back to the group of 10-under. Justin opened with a 62, that the new tournament low. Fought through his second round 3-under, tough round today, 2-over 74. But finishes in a tie for fourth, his best finish since turning 50. And now all eyes on Steve Stricker, has this putt for par.

[00:51:17] >> Well, he knows what it's going to do. Just a little right to left in it.

[00:51:24] >> And he'd like to make it, always nice to finish on a positive note, even though he's going to win regardless.

[00:51:30] >> I think he'd like for it to curl right over the front lip. I don't think he wants to hit in the back of the hole.

[00:51:41] >> Just like that. Really well done. That's great playing by Steve Stricker. Wow.

[00:51:46] >> Steve Stricker has won the American Family Insurance Championship.

[00:51:50] >> Steve Stricker with his fourth win of the year. He has now won 15 times in 58 starts on the PGA Tour Champions. And the event that he started in 2016, finally, here in 2023, he sits atop the leaderboard here in his hometown of Madison, Wisconsin with a five-shot win over Steven Alker and Paul Broadhurst.