Production Transcript for 23INTCUTCH-KAULIG MASTER.mp3

[00:00:40] >> Firestone Country Club, the South Course. Fifth year that it's playing host to the Kaulig Companies Championship. A major on the PGA Tour Champions. The winner earns a spot in the players. Bernhard Langer has won this event three times coming off that Senior US Open victory. Win number 46, the most in PGA Tour Champions history. Langer missed the fairway at the par-4, 9. Getting ready to play his second out of that left hand rough. Billy Ray Brown is with the Langer group.

[00:01:10] >> Well, thank you so much, Bob. Great day here in Akron. Now, Langer ball sitting down in this rough. But he has to keep it low. He has plenty of room to run it up and chase it up the slope. That's from 157. That hole is position in that back right portion. This looks very, very good from the line which he had.

[00:01:27] >> Yeah, actually was able to move it right to left, Billy Ray, kind of surprised means the lie was clean in the rough he got a good strike on the back of the ball.

[00:01:37] >> Now, Ernie Els, Els, Langer and Jerry Kelly, grouped together here in round one.

[00:01:45] >> Certainly a marquee grouping here.

[00:01:46] >> Ernie Els, drifted in the right lift, great birdie. Unexpected birdie for Ernie.

[00:01:59] >> Now Jerry Kelly, who won here in 2020. It's his first birdie of the day and Jerry, currently at 1-over-par. [Inaudible] for his birdie.

[00:02:10] >> Coming down the hill a little bit. Pretty straight to the tail end. It ought to fade just a little to the right of the end.

[00:02:18] >> He's got it out there. I don't think it's going to move that much. We'll never know.

[00:02:28] >> He's got to be careful not to get this too far outside. It'll straighten out a little bit at the hole.

[00:02:35] >> Boy he hammered that. That was as positive stroke as you'll ever see from anyone.

[00:02:46] >> Stewart Cink, and he turned fifty about a month ago, went out in 1-over-par 36 started his day at the 10th. Birdied the first, the third, and the fourth to get to 2-under. And he adds another. David Toms who's won twice this year on the PGA Tour champion says this putt for birdie currently 6 then the Schwab Cup standings. Over at the 7, Stewart Cink for another birdie to get to 4-under.

[00:03:25] >> Yeah, another outstanding iron shot at the 7 tier. Stewart Cink on a roll. Man, he's lighting up this first few holes of the first 9.

[00:03:40] >> You know, take you over to the par 3, 7.

[00:03:48] >> Good shot in here by KJ. This is down the hill should go up just a little bit to his right. Yeah, beautiful putt.

[00:04:20] >> [Inaudible] he may go to 7 under when this is over. That's already 6 right there. Like I said he plays his shots in his game. He does everything better than anyone else out here.

[00:04:33] >> If Billy can finish this up to par and then get moving on his next 9. Now, Els trying to save his par.

[00:04:52] >> He got it set up. Center shafted, right on the shaft. And good read. Good stroke.

[00:04:58] >> Man, just don't point there. Very nice save there.

[00:05:01] >> That was a terrific saving. You know, ones like that, Billy Ray, are the ones who really keep your round going.

[00:05:08] >> Check our first par at the 9.

[00:05:10] >> Just two and a half feet. And good round of golf by Steve Stricker. Going to lament letting a couple get away coming in but still a great round of golf.

[00:05:34] >> Kelly pours in his par putt. So, Jerry, the defending champ remains 2-over. Little one for Langer for par here at 14. So, Langer remains at 1-under. Over at the ninth, Alex Cejka, playing his third. This is his final hole of the day. He's got 2 birdies and 2 bogeys on his second 9.

[00:06:15][ Applause ] Cejka finishes with a 3-under 67 here in round 1. Well played for David.

[00:06:35] >> David Toms staying in tight.

[00:06:39] >> Miguel Angel Jiménez, having a rough day. Jiménez is finished as a runner up in 2016. The Langer at Philadelphia Cricket Club. He enjoyed a rant with the runner ups. The winning score that year at Philadelphia Cricket Club. Langer the winner at plus-1 for the week. Ernie Els bio says World Golf Hall of Famer. Three-time winner of the PGA Tour Champions. His third.

[00:07:17] >> See if Ernie can rotate good through this. Yes, he -- look how much more rotation he had through the ball there and pretty good result.

[00:07:34] >> Now Kelly's fourth.

[00:07:36] >> And this ball is really nestled down the primary kind of rough coming off the upslope. And what you'll see here, and he'll definitely have to use the leading edge of this sand wedge here. And you will not see much of a fall through. He's essentially going to have to try to lay this ball. Use that leading edge to cut through some of the grass. Total guesswork from that position. Not bad.

[00:07:59] >> Kelly is still away for his par. Lanny as you said this was an opportunity here at 16. But if he can get his one birdie, let's say in the final two holes and get it to plus 1, you know? It's not great, but--

[00:08:17] >> Exactly but six shots on a course like this, Bob, I mean, you know, and if you're Jerry Kelly you don't try to make it all up on one day. Your thinking, okay, Stricker is probably not going to make mistakes. Can I outscore him by two shots a day? You know, maybe get a day where you get three or four but if you're playing well and that's got to be your mindset is a way back.

[00:08:38] >> And if he's able to get it in, in just 1-over-2. By the way he's played from tee to green today. He would have to be happy with that score as well.

[00:08:47] >> It's par for Kelly at 16. And the other thing he's got going for him is he's won two of the last three here. So, it's not as if he doesn't have good vibes about this property. Ernie for his birdie.

[00:09:09] >> All right.

[00:09:11] >> So, Ernie with a birdie at 16. Third Birdie of the day. He's at 2-under-par.

[00:09:25] >> Location a little different position today but an excellent shot by YE, nonetheless.

[00:09:31] >> Kelly for his par 17 is stay at 2-over.

[00:09:39] >> Y.E. Yang for his birdie. To post 3-under. Cejka is in at 3-under. Cink in at 4 and Stricker in at 5.

[00:10:10] >> [Inaudible] left it short. Backup hill with the end. Nobody -- a lot of players don't see that at the very end. It's coming downhill from the front. With that whole location it gets back up at the end and you just don't get it there.

[00:10:27] >> Langer could have been in the deep stuff, but the tree threw it right out to the middle of the fairway. Billy Ray, he's got a ways in doesn't he?

[00:10:34] >> He certainly does. This one headed left and a tree that guards the left-hand side of the green. Catches a bit of that tree. I believe it came down in that green side bunker to the left.

[00:10:54] >> Now back at 18, Jerry Kelly to play his second and Billy Ray when you stand on this fairway it's pretty claustrophobic.

[00:11:01] >> It certainly is. I absolutely love this. I think it's one of the toughest finishing holes in golf. Jerry Kelly ball on the way from 170 yards.

[00:11:12] >> And good shot there by Kelly underneath the hole.

[00:11:20] >> They've been 11 birdies at 18 today.

[00:11:35] >> Trying to bring in it from right to left to kind of hang it a bit.

[00:11:39] >> All right. Pretty much the right one. Just a little right about 15 feet there for Ernie.

[00:11:47] >> Justin Leonard, missed the fairway at 17. [Inaudible], okay?

[00:11:51] >> You know, Bob the lies not bad.

[00:12:01] >> Easy ball, lands short 30 feet, let it release. That's what he did. Really well done.

[00:12:05] >> You make a good caddy.

[00:12:14] >>: Lot of long clubs into some very difficult greens and wouldn't be surprised to see Jerry make this one. Of course. Hadn't happened all day but it happens here and there he is. Got it -- 2-over.

[00:12:35] >> Langer disappointed to be even par at this stage after that start. But sure does not want to let it get away to go 1-over. He'll really feel like he's let a round get away after being 3-under early.

[00:12:48] >> You have no room to battle back. I mean you can but it's just very difficult. Can he get it there? Right in the center short down the slope. Just being a little careful and it did not get there and going to be a very disappointing day I would think for Bernhard Langer.

[00:13:03] >> Yeah, he was three under through his first 5. Eagle the second birdie the fifth. And then plays the remaining hole is 4-over.

[00:13:21] >> Firestone Country Club for the fifth year playing host to the Kaulig Companies Championship. A major for the PGA Tour Champions in its 41st year. Ernie Els has not won a major since turning fifty, has three wins out here. This for birdie [inaudible] speed. We'll see Bernhard Langer in next year's US Open by virtue of his US Senior Open victory.

[00:13:51] >> I think that's at Pine House next year if I'm not mistaken.

[00:13:53] >> And Bernhard just wiggles one in the edge.

[00:13:56] >> So, he shoots 2 onto 68. He's in red figures. He's only six shots off the lead here. Clarke for his birdie.

[00:14:08] >> And totally different look here for Darren Clarke behind the hole. It's downhill, putty from the opposite side, so. And that's a possibility this ball just on maybe on that top right edge.

[00:14:20] >> Yeah, it's downhill down grain. So, this has to be hit a little softer, which gives it a chance to turn left more than what you saw was Cink's ball and Vijay's.

[00:14:32] >> Well done.

[00:14:34] >> That hole play pretty well by this marquee grouping.

[00:14:41] >> KJ Choi cleaning up his par here at the 9. And KJ Choi with a 4-under 66. Highlighted by an ace, a hole in one. At the par-3, 5. All right Clarke still has putt for par.

[00:15:11] >> You kidding me? He will certainly get a little smile there for Darren. That's a working man's 5 there.

[00:15:18] >> It was a lot harder than it needed to be, that's for sure.

[00:15:25] >> No doubt.

[00:15:25] >> Vijay's got a pretty straightforward one here for birdie.

[00:15:28] >> He also played that pitch. As he does you talked about Atlantic Cross, [inaudible] a wonderful little pitch.

[00:15:34] >> Grass over the green is really dry and sparse. All right.

[00:15:42] >> Back to the 18th Stewart Cink has this birdie

[00:15:46] >> Yeah, coming back down the hill here for Stuart. And it is definitely going to move back to the left. Gives it plenty of room out to the right. Is that enough pace?

[00:15:57] >> Oh, I can't believe he left he's short down the slope. But he did.

[00:16:01] >> That's a couple he left short and [inaudible] on this inward 9.

[00:16:05] >> So, he'll head to the weekend a shot behind Harrison Frazar. Three birdies and a bogey today for Cink.

[00:16:15] >> Well, this little chip shot is one that normally you might think would be a birdie chip. But he's got low grass playing against him just behind the ball. Really easy to catch this, just a hair heavy and come up significantly shorter. He's got to be very careful here.

[00:16:29] >> Yeah, probably look for him to putt it back in his stance maybe a little bit and try and hit -- there you go. He's trying to hit down on it, catch the ball first. Probably means he's got to take a little bit more loft than he would like to doing that. Yeah, the grass is growing the wrong way here, so. Try to hit right down on it. Like he caught it pretty well. Might have made it. Oh, he did.

[00:16:52] >> How about that shot. You know, [inaudible] on the Dallas area plan on Bermuda and grain really aided him in that shot, didn't it?

[00:17:09] >> And we saw what Jerry Kelly did yesterday. You know, he battle just to get it to 1-over and then he got off to a fast start. But Jerry's inside the top 10. The two-time champion and defending champion well within striking distance. Ernie Els is right there after his 67 today. Bernhard Langer, you know, he got off to a rough start yesterday, but Bernhard shoots 2-under. He's in red figures. So, is David Toms, who shot even par today. Goosen for his birdie.

[00:17:40] >> We first saw that prayer grip here in 2019 when he won this championship.

[00:17:50] >> Yeah, he's been using it quite a bit lately and it's really -- I think the more he stays with it, the better he gets with it.

[00:17:56] >> And he shoots 67 and, you know, he's aid off the lead again with 36 to play and he's a guy that's won US Open. So, difficult golf courses don't faze him.

[00:18:07] >> No, it's right up his alley. I think the harder he played, the more he would like it.

[00:18:15] >> Now, Alker for his bogey.

[00:18:26] >> Talk a lot about guys coming out on this tour and needing to be active in that 45- to 50-year-old range to really take advantage playing out here. It's really [inaudible] at playing. A lot of the [inaudible] who are putting in the time out there that work on this game. [Inaudible] pays his dividends for him.

[00:18:44] >> So, he battles for bogey shoots a 1-over 71. Currently at 4-over and 11 off the lead.

[00:18:56] >> This is I think, just a -- it's a big par putt for Stricker here, don't you think Phil?

[00:19:03] >> I do. And the question I want to ask him, yesterday when he got done, he missed it a couple poor iron shots coming in. He said he wasn't going to practice. This is a long week, I was curious whether he's going to the range where he gets done today?

[00:19:14] >> Boy, I would think so. The amount of hooks that he hit today, I think he's got to go there and figure out what it was. And quite honestly, it may be that he can figure it out in two or three swings and not be there very long. Looks like it's kind of affected everything. It's kind of creeped into his putting as well. I mean when you get fighting your golf swing, all of a sudden, you know, still hard to make grind and get these putts to go down. He has not made anything today to speak of, putting wise.

[00:19:45] >> Three-over 73 for Stricker. Start of the day in a share of the lead with Harrison Frazar. Now he's five back, Frazar shoot 68, he's in at 7-under. Stewart Cink at 6-under. Ernie Els, two shots back. KJ Choi made an ace today. At number five he shot 66. Bernhard Langer and Jerry Kelly, with 2-under-par, 68s. Though the tee times up, two hours, round three of the fourth major of the year for the PGA Tour Champions, Kaulig Companies Championship. The winner this week earns a spot in the players from famed Firestone Country Club, The South Course. Stewart Cink making his second start on the PGA Tour Champions. Playing his third shot out of that green side bunker.

[00:20:45] >> Steve Stricker who won here in 2021. He's 2-under on his round. His second into 4. And Billy Ray Brown with Stricker.

[00:20:54] >> Yeah, really well done though. That was some 140 yard. Stricker off to a very good start. Birdieing two of the first three holes. He's got [inaudible] par now.

[00:21:03] >> Stricker shot 5-under in the opening round, 3-over yesterday. Harrison Frazar long birdie putt at the third.

[00:21:11] >> Did he hit it?

[00:21:12] >> So, Phil Blackmar will be with this final group today. Bernhard Langer who won three in a row at three different venues. Fox Chapel, Belmont Country Club, and Philadelphia Cricket Club. And his tee shot on the way at the 5.

[00:21:27] >> It should work its way down towards the flag and it does. Nice play there by Bernhard.

[00:21:33] >> Ernie Els' looking for his first major since turning fifty. He's got this for birdie, Phil Blackmar.

[00:21:38] >> Made a nice putt. About this length for birdie at the second. Remember the driver off the tee here at 3 left him just a wedge.

[00:21:44] >> And takes advantage of it. Good start for Ernie.

[00:21:48] >> Boy, a heck of a start for Ernie. If you're the leaders, you don't want Ernie Els getting hot.

[00:21:55] >> Ernie Els has won three times on the PGA Tour Champions. Four-time major champion, one of six World Golf Hall of Famers in the field here this week. Trying to win one. As a PGA Tour Champions players, Stewart Cink with his wife Lisa on the bag.

[00:22:15] >> It's a very aggressive play out of those right trees, Lan you alluded to it. He couldn't go with green. He had to take it low, over water, under trees to get into that left bunker. A bold play. Played a very nice bunker shot. This would be a good par if can--

[00:22:29] >> It'd be a great par Phil. And I think that, you know, you were right. I think he played it to the bunker because had he hit at the green, he would have gone over. And the pitch shot over the green would have been much tougher than the bunker play and that worked out very well for Stewart, made a really nice par.

[00:22:45] >> Stewart Cink won on this property in 2004. WGC event, beat Tiger Woods by four shots. And right in the mix here at the Kaulig Companies Championship. Harrison Frazar, 8-under-par. Stuart Cink and Ernie Els just a shot back. Jerry Kelly's won two of the last three. He's in red figures. Well, KJ Choi aced the fifth yesterday, has this for birdie at five.

[00:23:15] >> He had three fantastic shots here at the par-3. Certainly Steve Stricker will have a watchful eye on this but from Choi as it works its way back down the hill. It will turn back to the right.

[00:23:27] >> Choi burdied this hole in round one and now in round three he's played the fifth hole 4-under through the first three rounds. Els for his par.

[00:23:43][ Applause ] So, Ernie off to a nice start, 2-under through his first four. David Toms for birdie at 7.

[00:23:54] >> Beautiful iron shot in here but David a nice 2, really good par-3. That whole play in 210 yards today.

[00:24:02] >> Langer for birdie at 7. Pours it in. [Applause] KJ Choi for birdie at 7.

[00:24:15] >> Really quick coming back down the slope here for Choi.

[00:24:18] >> Got to turn, yes it does. Wow. [Applause] And what he's doing in the 5 and 7 is phenomenal. It really is.

[00:24:25] >> He really uses tear on par-3 here on the front side.

[00:24:30] >> Stricker for his par. Steve remains four back. Jerry Kelly has this par, maybe this will keep the momentum going for Jerry who birdied the seventh. Jerry the defending champion, currently six back. He's one here two of the last three years. Second for Stricker at 8.

[00:24:54] >> He had green light here, 119. That was the gap wedge for Stricker.

[00:25:01] >> And beautiful shot there, just in left of the hole and past. Els clean up for his par. Good up and down for Ernie there.

[00:25:14] >> Ernie looks really nice over the putter. Billy Ray Stevens had a lot of good looks, birdie the second and third. The trail has gone cold as far as pots are concerned. Just in watching Stricker over the years, just feel like here's where he get going.

[00:25:34] >> Yeah. There's no doubt about that. The only thing off right now, his read has been pretty much on, his pace has been just a bit off.

[00:25:48][ Applause ] So, that gets Steve to 5-under and 2 off the lead.

[00:25:55] >> Scott Parel for his par.

[00:25:59] >> That was an incredible up and down. He also hit it in that bunker left but had a much easier play than KJ Choi but able to convert his par putt there.

[00:26:10] >> Well now, Frazar's got to be confused here, Phil, because Cink's pot went one way and Ernie's went the other.

[00:26:18] >> He does and this is so important for him to get this in the hole and that go back to back bogeys.

[00:26:23] >> Oh, this has got to be right inside for Harrison. Got to have some pace to it as well. Like that.

[00:26:29] >> That's a very important par, I think, playing for him.

[00:26:32] >> Yeah, 100%. Stop the bleeding quickly because he didn't deserve the bogey on the last hole, Phil, after the approach shot he hid in there. Stricker's second at the 10th.

[00:26:45] >> This actually looks very good. He was actually having worked that ball around that tree on the right-hand side over there.

[00:26:53] >> One-fifteen shot [inaudible].

[00:26:56] >> Scott Parel eagled the second hole. It's been all par since. Some missed birdie opportunites, some great par saves. This would be a great par save.

[00:27:08] >> You have to be careful with this when it will move back to the right. You don't want to get overzealous with it. [Applause]

[00:27:13] >> To the task.

[00:27:16] >> Really well done there. Stricker may, he's aiming like he's trying to make this go left -- excuse me -- go right.

[00:27:26] >> Seems to go right.

[00:27:27] >> Well, he set up for it, he made it. Langer to the left. Langer's actually went right to left.

[00:27:34] >> So, that's a great bounce back by Stricker and he's just two off the lead.

[00:27:47] >> David Toms rolls that in for birdie at 12. He's at 3-under.

[00:28:01] >> KJ Choi out of the thick rough at 11.

[00:28:04] >> Yeah, that's from 157. This is going to be really tough to judge.

[00:28:08] >> Well, he got the bounce.

[00:28:11] >> Well, he did a nice job of it Billy Ray.

[00:28:13] >> My goodness, what a play.

[00:28:20] >> Frazar tapped in for his par so Ernie has this to get to 8-under and the outright lead.

[00:28:41] >> There you go.

[00:28:42] >> It was at his range. [Applause]

[00:28:47] >> So, the third birdie of the day for Els and Ernie now sits atop the leader board at 8-under-par. His third here at 11.

[00:28:56] >> Coming off the downslope here, pulled another wedge shot, this is a really tough. Oh my goodness, really?

[00:29:05] >> It probably worked.

[00:29:07] >> You think? Pulled his wedge, had a downhill line in the bunker, and I'm thinking he can't get it within 10 feet, and he makes it.

[00:29:14] >> Wow, what a play. KJ Choi has this for birdie to get within one of the lead of Els.

[00:29:21] >> Such a wonderful shot. And when he played this second here at the 11th coming out of the deep rough. It's 7-under-par, that much in this putt. Keep it center, firm.

[00:29:42][ Applause ] No problem.

[00:29:45] >> Fourth birdie of the day for KJ Choi. Bernhard Langer playing with Jerry Kelly. Has this for birdie, Langer 1-over today and Langer even on the day and back to red figures. Kelly for his par, Jerry just hanging in there.

[00:30:10] >> It's a good save there by Jerry, let the chip shot get away.

[00:30:15] >> Steve Stricker has this for birdie at 17 to move into a share of the lead.

[00:30:32][ Applause ] And quietly, Steve Stricker is 5-under today. Steve Stricker trying to win his third major of the year on the PGA TOUR Champions. Frazar for an even par-70.

[00:30:54][ Applause ] Frazar able to grind it out but it is setting up for a fun final round. Steve Stricker shoots 5-under-par, 65. He shares the lead with Harrison Frazar through 54 holes. Stewart Cink will be in that final group of shot back then. Ernie Els, KJ Choi, and Scott Peral in that second to last group, all within striking distance. David Toms, a nice 268 today. He's at 3-under. Bernhard Langer, Jerry Kelly, and Brett Quigley each at 1-under-par. Quigley with a nice 4-under-par today. Steven Alker with a 4-under. Marco Dawson shot 3-under today with difficult conditions out on the golf course. Firestone is always difficult. Well, the golf course chains are expecting rain later today into the early evening for tomorrow's final round. Stephen Dodd, Scott McCarran each with 4-under-par, 66s today. There were some favorable scoring conditions earlier in the day as play started two hours earlier because of the impending weather. Jose Maria Olazabal, who won twice on this property, an even par-70. But in the end, Steve Stricker and Harrison Frazar share the lead through 54 holes. Championship Sunday, a major on the line of the PGA Tour Champions. The Kaulig Companies Championship from Firestone South Course. Take a look at some early highlights. KJ Choi starting the day in the second last group, two off the lead of Steve Stricker, and Harrison Frazar, and dialed in with his second in one.

[00:32:51] >> Yeah, he needed to make something happen. Good tee shot and excellent second, right below the flag about four feet and go on to make birdie there. But in the last group, Steve Stricker who shot 65 yesterday, rolls this in for birdie. That gets Stricker to 8-under-par and the outright lead. Bernhard Langer has won 12 majors on the PGA Tour Champions, including the US Senior Open just a few weeks ago. Coaxes that one in for birdie. At the fifth, Langer with three birdies in his opening five holes and suddenly Langer's just four off the lead. Ernie Els has made three straight pars. He's three back with the title on the line on this Sunday. Tiresome Fraser coming out of that first cut at four.

[00:33:44] >> Paul's sitting down just a bit but also he has to contend with that severe sloped wall. It's going to be above his feet.

[00:33:50] >> He's been fighting pulling his irons. He's already pulled several today, Billy Ray. It'll be interesting to see right here. He's choking up, which is probably a smart play here for Harrison. He's got to get this iron game dialed in if he really wants to, you know, be a big factor today.

[00:34:07] >> One of the things about a guy that plays predominant left to right, when you get the left going because you still set up for that little faded just makes it so much worse, then your start line comes out left.

[00:34:18] >> That's what are you doing. That looks like a pretty good pass right there.

[00:34:21] >> One-seventy-three as it works its way back up the hill.

[00:34:24] >> That was a good pass.

[00:34:26] >> Really well--

[00:34:27] >> There we go. That's what we need to see from Harrison.

[00:34:30][ Applause ] Alex Jacobs for birdie at the eighth. Up the slope, may be moving a touch right at the end. Oh, there it goes.

[00:34:46] >> So, Frazar with the short birdie putt. So, he's even for the day and one off the lead.

[00:35:01] >> Stricker from about two, two-and-a-half feet. Shouldn't be much in this.

[00:35:13] >> Par for Stricker is 4. He stays at 8-under, one shot clear of Harrison Frazar, two shots clear of Scott Parel.

[00:35:22] >> Back to the fifth now, KJ Choi with this for his par stay at minus 5.

[00:35:30] >> [Inaudible] He played that hole pretty well this week.

[00:35:34] >> Not bad, 400 on that par-3.

[00:35:35] >> Yeah, that's okay.

[00:35:40] >> Ernie Els with a long birdie putt has opened with six straight pars, watch what happens here. Given all the birdie putts that he has narrowly missed yesterday and today [inaudible] make that happen.

[00:35:56] >> Well, he just made -- all the footage he missed yesterday made up for it in one putt.

[00:36:00] >> Absolutely, put a smile on his face.

[00:36:06] >> So, Ernie is now just two off the lead. Frazar has to make this to stay one back.

[00:36:11] >> He got a little bit of read there from the putt of Stricker and he's got to give it the hit. It's relatively slow. He did that. Oh, that's a great [inaudible] by Harrison. That's a heck of a save there, Billy Ray. You feel like he never hit a shot till the putt.

[00:36:29] >> That's exactly right.

[00:36:34] >> Speaking of pars, KJ Choi with this for par at the seventh. Get up and down from shore to the green.

[00:36:48] >> Choi taking a stroke right there, rams it into the back of the [inaudible].

[00:36:54] >> Big power play here for Stewart Cink. Needs to try and stay in touch and he does.

[00:36:59][ Applause ]

[00:37:04] >> Probably just a little too much speed to take the movement at the end.

[00:37:08] >> Second for KJ Choi at the eighth. Good tee shot but look how far behind his playing partners. Look how far Ernie Els is ahead of him. Must be forty/fifty yards but he stuffs it anyway. Good shot there by KJ.

[00:37:27] >> Back to the seventh now. Steve Stricker with a very short birdie putt.

[00:37:30] >> I've been on the pace in which he wants to hit this putt. I just think it's inside left here.

[00:37:41] >> This club's been really good to him all weekend, inconsistent with the ball striking.

[00:37:46] >> He definitely played it better since he went back to this putter with a smaller grip, there's no question.

[00:37:59] >> Solid stroke right there. [Inaudible] That's a good two on this tough par-3. KJ Choi has a chance to get to 7-under and within two of the lead. Got to be a right edge putt for KJ, yes, beautiful. Great 3 right there. Wonderful second shot by KJ into the eighth.

[00:38:26] >> Harrison Frazar hit an incredible shot and has this putt for birdie at 8.

[00:38:32] >> I got to be honest with you, I was thinking, "How can he," I know we've seen it the last couple of days Harrison just scrambling and doing his best. I thought it was going to be difficult just to make a 4 from that position. Now he's got a putt that comes back up the hill that's very makeable to make birdie.

[00:38:47] >> Yeah, that's legitimate here, Billy Ray. What do you think? Left edge putt, not much in this?

[00:38:52] >> I think he can't get to the hole, actually, because it's pretty much straight back up the hill. Might lost the speed, it might try to triple just a bit to the right.

[00:39:01] >> Got to keep the pace up, then. Yes, he did. That is absolutely fantastic.

[00:39:11] >> I never saw that coming, to be honest with you.

[00:39:13] >> No, I didn't either. That's great by Harris. He, you know, he gambled, he tried his shot, and he pulled it off.

[00:39:21] >> Just derailed him as we go back to the ninth. Choi trying to save his par.

[00:39:25] >> Big putt to keep his round going [inaudible] by KJ. David Toms has this for birdie at 10. Toms get back to 4-under, 1-under on his round today. Another birdie putt for Bernhard Langer. Had a good look at nine, good look at 10, good look at 11, [inaudible] at 12.

[00:40:00][ Applause ]

[00:40:06] >> That's 9 now and Stewart Cink with a really good look for birdie.

[00:40:09] >> Great look. He let one get away from him, Phil, back at the eighth. Now, we got one to go.

[00:40:28] >> [Inaudible] back within 3, striking distance.

[00:40:31] >> Nine to go.

[00:40:34] >> But Jerry Kelly made an ace here at the 12th in the final round in 2020 and winning the Kaulig Companies Championship.

[00:40:43] >> About to do it again.

[00:40:48] >> Got a piece of it.

[00:40:51] >> Wow, what a shot. When Jerry Kelly won in 2020, Miguel Angel Jiminez was right in contention. Hasn't been a great week for Miguel. [Inaudible] birdie at 16. [Cheering] Now, Stricker to play his second. All right. Left-hand side of the fairway just, if he pulls it at all, those trees on the left-side up by the green will catch just the part of the golf ball but he's looking at 126. It plays back up the hill, eight yards. So, 134 really, against the breeze.

[00:41:35] >> Might fit in nice, though, Billy, I mean, Billy Ray. He likes to turn it over right to left. So, he's got plenty of room to hit that kind of shot to get it in there.

[00:41:42] >> Yeah, no doubt.

[00:41:49] >> Yeah.

[00:41:49] >> I would say.

[00:41:50] >> Yes, he does. Just like that. Wow. I think he likes a shot like that. It forces him to play the shot he likes and it's just a natural move for him.

[00:42:03] >> Stricker will have that to get to 10-under and open up a two-shot lead. Now, Cink.

[00:42:09] >> Just a massive drive here for Stewart Cink. Actually, his ball's on the upslope here in the fairway, just 109 yards coming off a birdie at the ninth for a really steep one. This one this is going to have a lot of spin and it's going to be landing pass the hole here.

[00:42:24] >> Well, it does and really not too bad. Gets it down there close. Nice shot by Cink. All of a sudden, he looks a little more dialed in.

[00:42:34] >> Well, Jerry Kelly nearly made another ace at 12. This is a birdie. Back-to-back birdies for Jerry. We saw Jerry Kelly nearly make an ace at the 12th in the group in front. Here's David Toms at 12. [Inaudible]

[00:42:54] >> Stewart Cink for birdie at 10.

[00:43:00] >> And even though it's in a close range, it's not an easy putt.

[00:43:06] >> Got it up high and stayed there. Frustrating there. He made two nice swings and can't get the putt to go down. So, Frazar stays at 8-under. He's about to go 2 back. It's just a formality for Steve Stricker. Steve Stricker, going along, bogey 3, 3-under today. Now, gets the 10-under and leads by 2. David Toms for his birdie at 12 after nearly making [inaudible]. Now, back over at the 11th and Steve Stricker for his fourth birdie of the day.

[00:44:05] >> Coming off that little shoulder on the right-hand side of the green it comes back downhill. He'll definitely have to get this ball outside right.

[00:44:31] >> Being a little careful with it.

[00:44:35] >> Once again, I never said it's stress free.

[00:44:37] >> Yeah, and pars are not going to hurt him at this stage, no question.

[00:44:50] >> Bernhard Langer got off to a fast start. Is this for birdie at 14.

[00:44:56] >> I think one of the toughest holes out here, 14. And good looking putt by Bernhard. Yes.

[00:45:07] >> That's Langer's sixth birdie of the day. He hadn't had a shortage of birdies. He's missed a couple putts, made some bogeys but--

[00:45:16] >> Dicky Pride for birdie at 18. Dicky came into the week 11th in the Charles Schwab Cup standings, five top 10s, and 14 shorts and that's a bogey 3, 65 for Dicky Pride.

[00:45:33] >> Stricker has a short one for bogey and the lead will be back to just one. Frazar cut it to one with a birdie at 12, gave it right back with a bogey at 13. Now, Stricker with this first bogey of the day at 14 and the lead is 1. Alex Cejka, 13th in the Schwab Cup Standings this year. He's got three tied for second. He's not able to finish off with a birdie. Final round, 3-under-par 67.

[00:46:10] >> That was Steve Stricker in 2021 trying to become the sixth player to win multiple Kaulig Companies Championships. This is for birdie at 15. Just about getting the pace right the Strick. It's going to go a little bit left back right at the end and that is beautiful. [Inaudible]

[00:46:28] >> Man, are you kidding me?

[00:46:33] >> Yeah, well, he got the pace right okay. Only the third birdie of the day at the difficult 15th and Steve Stricker moves to 10-under and now has a two-shot lead with three holes to play. Ernie Els for birdie at 16.

[00:46:50] >> Aggressive lay up [inaudible] and finally they use to get to birdie.

[00:47:00] >> Yeah, just one under today. KJ Choi has this putt for birdie. This would get KJ to within three of the lead.

[00:47:08] >> He's been rolling this length of pipe very nicely all day. See if he can knock another one in here.

[00:47:14] >> This is a touch read right here on this green. And that's well done. Good putt there by KJ. Excellent read. He won the plays in 2011. A win here today would get him back to the players. David Toms for birdie at 17.

[00:47:30] >> Yeah, must make here. This is outside the left. Did he, oh, yes. [Applause]

[00:47:35] >> Stricker can hit one really good shot right here. He makes the walk up 17 and 18 a lot simpler.

[00:47:50] >> Well, you know what? Given the situation -- and we seen so many tough shots here coming off a tight line here. We got it measured right at 73 yards but he does have a little backstop behind here.

[00:48:00] >> Exactly. I mean, even if he leaves at like 10, 12, 15 feet right behind the hole, Billy Ray, pretty simple look. [Inaudible] Like that. Just like that. What a play. That is spectacular. That's why he's the best on the PGA Tour Champions in 2023. Ernie Els for birdie at 17 at the right edge.

[00:48:31] >> Ernie's played well this week.

[00:48:37] >> And now, Stricker to push the lead to 3, the short birdie putt. Made bogey at 14 and then made only the third birdie of the day at the difficult 15 and plays it ski stripper style. How about the disappointment here, Phil, for Ernie. He's got three wins since he turned fifty but he's watching Stricker win these majors and, you know, Langer winning another major, and you know Ernie wants to win a major badly.

[00:49:16] >> I think you'd be more disappointed with [inaudible] running through your head going onto the [inaudible] is missing a lot of balls, talking to his caddy, [inaudible] missing the ball left. So, really did a nice job today of just getting it around.

[00:49:30] >> This has just been incredible if he's able to get this down in 2 from here. this is just brutal. It's got a ton of break. He's got to run this ball up the left-hand side of the green here, and that comes over this slope and turns back hard right. [Inaudible]

[00:49:49] >> That's pretty well done. I don't think he could have gotten any closer than that.

[00:49:54] >> I don't either.

[00:49:55][ Applause ]

[00:50:02] >> A really, really slow putt here for Stewart. The next swing of the putter there trying to get it up that ridge.

[00:50:12] >> That one went right, it looked like he was trying to make it go left and it went right.

[00:50:16][ Applause ] Cink won here at Firestone in 2004, the WCG event. Four shots over Rory Sabbatini and Tiger Woods and winning here. Cink currently in a tie for seventh right now at 4-under.

[00:51:10][ Applause ] And you saw the entire golf course today and then some.

[00:51:17] >> And then some is exactly right.

[00:51:33] >> The dominance continues. Steve Stricker has won his third major of the year, his fifth victory of the year. He is the 2023 Kaulig Companies Champion.

[00:51:46][ Applause ] Steve Stricker wins his third major of the year. Shoots 11-under-par, 66 in the final round and landing this dominant year that he's had. Well, Bob, I mean, he closed at 131 on the weekend at Firestone. That's just unheard of. That's spectacular golf. I don't care, you know, what tour you're playing on. This is, you know, kudos to Steve Stricker. He is so dominant, so fun to watch.

[00:52:15][ Music ]