Production Transcript for REWIND\_23JDC\_STRAKA.mp3

[00:00:23] >> TPC Deere Run, where you have to dig deep to conquer the field.

[00:00:29] >> Oh my goodness, Sepp Straka!

[00:00:36] >> Jordan Spieth, the winner of the John Deere Classic.

[00:00:42] >> It's J.T. at the JD. J.T. Poston wins the John Deere Classic.

[00:00:50] >> With only six weeks left of the regular season and the FedEx Cup playoffs right around the corner, a spot in the postseason and 500 FedEx Cup points is on the line. Who will come out on top at the 2023 John Deere Classic? The PGA Tour is proud to bring you the season long race for the FedEx Cup. Now, coverage of the 2023 John Deere Classic.

[00:01:29] >> And we welcome you to the Quad Cities for the 52nd Edition of this long standing event. Formerly an Arabian horse farm, this beautiful property was donated by the John Deere Corporation to the PGA Tour, which then develop the land into the first TPC course in the state of Illinois. And since 2000, it's been the permanent home to this event. The course meanders its way along the Rock River, which is visible from nine of the 18 holes. So, good to be back here in the Quad Cities. Here's some highlights from earlier today. Everybody is chasing this guy Kurt. Jonas Blixt, here he is for eagle at 14.

[00:02:09] >> Yeah. Knocked it on on the par -- excuse me, the par 4. Drove it on this par 4 and then knocked it in from there. What a hole that was.

[00:02:19] >> So, Blixt was off and running, and here he is with the 2nd atop the hill at 18.

[00:02:24] >> With water left to the green, he took it out to the right just a little bit with a draw. What a shot. Using some slope and some spin.

[00:02:35] >> And here comes a relatively short birdie try, made with 118 feet worth of putts today in the first round. And one of his closest pursuers, Greyson Sigg.

[00:02:49] >> Just plopping it out at 9 trying to get it close. But guess what happened? It went in. On his way to 65.

[00:02:58] >> Man, how about Garrick Higgo from the left side hitting his 2nd?

[00:03:03] >> That's par 4 again.

[00:03:05] >> Yeah.

[00:03:05] >> Beautiful pitch off that tight lie.

[00:03:07] >> He would go on to make that birdie putt. Garrick Higgo with the 6-under par 65. Adam Schenk--

[00:03:14] >> Guy's been playing for -- he's been playing some really good golf at times this season. Had a couple good chances to win. He's getting really close to pulling that off.

[00:03:25] >> Like Sigg and Higgo, Schenk also with a 6-under 65. There's Nate Lashley now at 12.

[00:03:33] >> Past champ at the Rocket Mortgage, which they played last week. This was that tee shot at 12 using the slope, and he did a good job with that one.

[00:03:41] >> Also, with the 65 on Day 1.

[00:03:47] >> Now we'll get out to the action.

[00:03:53] >> Right. That's the one thing about the Midwest, they love to play the game, but they love to watch it. I was up at the USC Open last week, same thing up in Wisconsin. John, these players love their golf, and now, Nick Hardy, he's kind of a local favorite too, playing at Illinois.

[00:04:05] >> Yeah, no doubt about it. There is definitely some Illinois orange out here. No question. There is some Iowa black and gold, but lot of orange here for Nick Hardy. Twelve feet for birdie. Got to be careful with this downhill. Pretty good breaker from right to left. Coming off of that three-putt back at the 7th.

[00:04:26] >> Snuck it in the corner. Good catch. [Inaudible] little bounce back you always like those. Four birdies and a bogey on the cards, so he'll get it to 3-under heading to the 9th. But Blixt with that 62 this morning. Some great scores this morning with [inaudible] this afternoon.

[00:04:44] >> Let's go up to the 12th now, and Ben An at this par 3.

[00:04:47] >> Hole location all the way in the back. Oh, Ben. Ben bringing it in left to right. And a beauty. Get there and go in.

[00:04:59] >> Go, go!

[00:05:00] >> That's a birdie for An.

[00:05:06] >> Let's see if Cameron Young can keep it rolling here.

[00:05:08] >> He is straight up hill right here. This is about as good a luck as you're going to get on this hole.

[00:05:14] >> And took care of it too. I knew that was going to be a good lead for him. Be able to be a little more aggressive.

[00:05:25] >> All right. Grayson Murray now, third shot here at the 2nd. The par-5 hole location all the way in the back, 500 on his round. Trying to get back there and spin it.

[00:05:34] >> He does that. Oh, he did better than that. How about that?

[00:05:36] >> How about that, Kip?

[00:05:50] >> This is Nick Taylor here from 89 yards.

[00:05:51] >> Okay, pick your spot [inaudible] there.

[00:05:59] >> Much better angle from the right side of this fairway. Probably looking at strike his ball on the green to try to pitch it just passed that and put some spin on it.

[00:06:07] >> Yeah. Taylor's got it lined up just left of the hole. Let that wind push it over to the right. So, this has got the right distance if it's got the right amount of spin.

[00:06:21] >> Should spin. Oh, it's got a chance. We've had an eagle already.

[00:06:24] >> Yeah.

[00:06:25] >> That a boy. Good shot.

[00:06:27] >> Taylor would make birdie. Grillo made his tap, and here's Sung Kang putting for birdie at 3, and he gets it to go from long distance.

[00:06:39] >> Nice shot. Aberg now, his third shot.

[00:06:48] >> Yeah, he kind of wiggled one through the trees down here, perfect layup. And he's got 80 yards. Look for this to come in a little bit lower with less spin.

[00:06:57] >> [Inaudible] college golfing. Texas Tech for this beautiful day at [inaudible], not much wind.

[00:07:02] >> Yeah, drives it in there nice and low.

[00:07:03] >> Beautiful, yeah.

[00:07:04] >> Using a little bit of slope.

[00:07:08] >> Yep, beautiful shot.

[00:07:10] >> Aberg with a birdie.

[00:07:12] >> Carl Yuan. Look at this touch. Man, an unlikely 2 there.

[00:07:19][ Applause and Cheering ] At the 12, Cameron Young did make his short par putts. So, now just off the putting surface at 12 is [inaudible].

[00:07:36] >> Yeah. He's got it on the right plateau, so this should be moving pretty good right to left at the end.

[00:07:44] >> Sure did.

[00:07:45] >> That's exactly what it did.

[00:07:48] >> Great call by John. Great putt by Ludvig.

[00:07:51] >> I love the pace that he plays golf at. Cam Young now at 13 for birdie.

[00:07:59] >> Yeah, for more hole high, so this should have some pretty good break left to right.

[00:08:11] >> He split the difference.

[00:08:12] >> Got a good read off both those guys. Nice putt there, gets him to 500.

[00:08:17] >> Solid birdie. The back 9 at 11 and 13.

[00:08:20] >> [Inaudible] I just don't think the flag's doing the same thing either.

[00:08:37] >> Coming back as a defending champion can give a player a lot of confidence too. You know, he obviously was the best here last year, and you remember good things that happen. You're comfortable with the reeds on the greens, a lot of good things.

[00:08:58] >> Like that.

[00:08:58] >> Yeah, they got it figured out there, didn't they?

[00:09:04] >> Now Cameron Young from off the green at 14.

[00:09:23] >> Yeah.

[00:09:27] >> A hole out birdie. Three scores in the last four holes for Young.

[00:09:32] >> Yeah. I think I should play this more.

[00:09:39] >> Poston.

[00:09:40] >> Heck of a tee shot. And he too is trying to race his way into the FedEx Cup playoffs, and they all count. Pfeifer going to be next. And comes into effect some flags which become a salad Jack Clark trying to get the right club here. [Inaudible] he's taken over any shot.

[00:11:09] >> Not much room back there to make a mistake. They're--

[00:11:11] >> No.

[00:11:11] >> Trying to make sure they get this wind right. It's starting to quarter into their face a little bit more.

[00:11:16] >> It is.

[00:11:16] >> Since turning pro, half his rounds have been in the 60s. Only 1-over par round. He's 1-under today, so.

[00:11:23] >> Beautiful shot, was worth the wait. Awesome. Now for birdie.

[00:11:34] >> Yeah. He hit a wonderful second in here and now after that bad bogey back there at the 14th.

[00:11:40] >> Made a good birdie there though. We've talked about putting a lot today with different players. And here's a guy who typically is a very solid putter, and that's been a little bit of a struggle for him actually this season, 105th in strokes gained putting, which is unusual. Usually the strength of his game. But back on these familiar greens that he won on, that might be what changes it.

[00:12:12] >> Nice to see him playing well again after a couple of missed cuts of the US Open and the Travelers recently. Should snap right here.

[00:12:28] >> Is it enough?

[00:12:29] >> Oh, what to read, what speed.

[00:12:31] >> How about that read and speed all dialed in together.

[00:12:39] >> Jonas Blixt flies to the top after an opening 62. South African Garrick Higgo three shots off the lead. Round two is next.

[00:12:56] >> If you want to be on the leaderboard, you better go low, really, really low. The golf course is in terrific condition, but because of recent rain, it's a little bit on the soft side. And you add in a little bit of wind, very little wind actually, that combination means numbers are going to go deep into the red, because the best players in the world cannot be stopped. And here's part of the reason he is sitting atop the leaderboard. He started on 10 with a birdie, then at 11, here's his third.

[00:13:27] >> Showing you some touch here. Really well done and what a great start, birdie, birdie.

[00:13:34] >> Yeah, but also birdie in the 12th for three straight birdies. Made the turn and now here he is getting his third to 2nd to par 5.

[00:13:40] >> He eats par 5s alive. He does a lot of his scoring at these par 5s because of his length. That was an easy birdie at the 2nd.

[00:13:47] >> And how about the 7th? He talked about his putting yesterday, Kurt.

[00:13:51] >> Much improved and that's big. That's the -- that's a thing that needs to happen for him if he's going to win. It has to happen.

[00:14:00] >> 177th coming into the week, first this week this far. That's Ludvig Aberg from off the green at 10, his first hole of the day as he made his presence felt. And then at the 9th, his final hole of the day.

[00:14:13] >> Again, toughest hole on the golf course. This is a great birdie for the young man, who was just playing college golf like five or six weeks ago.

[00:14:21] >> Just like William Mouw was as well, and here's William on the move.

[00:14:27] >> Out of Pepperdine, taking advantage of the start here at the John Deere.

[00:14:32] >> 64 for Young, 64 for Aberg, and a 66 for Mouw, and they are the three men on top of the board. There you see Cameron Young and how his day unfolded. Let's drop back to 8.

[00:14:45] >> Yeah, Denny McCarthy now for birdie here. Should be just a little bit of breaking this putt for him. Kuchar and Zach Johnson, some veterans on the PGA Tour. Actually, trying to get that first win. He's been so close. This has been a weapon. It's really paid off for him, the putter, obviously. He's gotten a lot better though to the green, this year especially over the last couple seasons. And that's given him more opportunities to use this club right here.

[00:15:15] >> Yeah, he mentioned that. He says I'm known for my putting, but my ball striking's gotten a lot better.

[00:15:19] >> And just like that, putter still works. All right. Troy Merritt now here at the 4th. Got a nice little round of golf going, 4-under par through the first 12.

[00:15:37] >> [Inaudible] there you go. Took a while to go in. Back door, it works. Couple of birdies back to back, what a good run there since the bogey at 11.

[00:15:53] >> Remember how aggressive we saw Jonas Blixt get? Here he is with his third at 5. Ball sitting on the upslope, short sighted though.

[00:16:00] >> Boy, he's going to get out of there with a par, John. That is getting away with one.

[00:16:05] >> How about that par?

[00:16:10] >> Higgo now, second shot at the 4th. Got the left tee today, a little bit easier fairway to hit. This from 125, always tough to get the depth perception back here at this green. There's no trees behind it. They're in the distance, but he did a great job.

[00:16:23] >> Oh my, how did that not go in?

[00:16:25] >> It almost went in twice.

[00:16:27] >> And will it go back in that way? Nope. Oh. All right. Herman, I misspoke. He's had seven in a row, which [inaudible] this is the break that record of his, seven consecutive holes under par. Did he? He did.

[00:16:44] >> Yes.

[00:16:44] >> Good thing I corrected it.

[00:17:00] >> Zach Johnson for birdie at 12. That's it for birdie.

[00:17:19] >> Thank you. Seamus Power now, second shot at 15. That on the way from 160, tough front-right location.

[00:17:43] >> Not for Seamus Power. How about that shot?

[00:17:46] >> Power would make birdie.

[00:17:51] >> That's Mark Hubbard's caddy. He is back -- oh, there you go. Popping his head out there in the bunker at 12, and how about this shot? Wow!

[00:17:58] >> How good is that?

[00:18:06] >> It's Garrick Higgo on the tee at 7.

[00:18:09] >> Back left, this is on a good line if it's the right club.

[00:18:13] >> Oh, it is.

[00:18:14] >> Might be a perfect club. Get there.

[00:18:17] >> Higgo would make birdie and keep the vibe going the rest of the round.

[00:18:20] >> I hit it good again.

[00:18:23] >> Higgo-potamus!

[00:18:27] >> Didn't finish the way I would have liked, but it was still a great day. Yeah, solid all around, but driving is the strength. I think there's still a low one in there. I kind of didn't take it too deep. It's been really solid. Hopefully, I can make a few more putts tomorrow and take it even deeper.

[00:18:45] >> Higgo's 66 leaves him at a tie for second, two off the lead. Rookie sensation Ludvig Aberg close to 64 and is three back. Round three is next.

[00:19:03] >> This tournament is a staple of summertime. It's the 52nd Edition of a Quad Cities based PGA Tour event. We're in Silvis, Illinois about two and a half hours west of Chicago. We had a quarter of an inch of rain overnight, and because the thunderstorms took a little bit to clear out, we're going in groupings of three today off both tees. And now that that rain has moved out, it is a picture perfect day at TPC Deere Run, a bit breezy, 10 to 15 miles per hour. But we're used to temperatures in the 90s at this event. It's a very comfortable 77 degrees. It's the weekend at the John Deere Classic and everyone trying to go to win this awesome event on the PGA Tour. Alex Smalley, one of the ones going low to start this day. A birdie putt at the 12th hole. He is 7-under through his first 14 holes today. How about Brendon Todd, looking for his fourth career PGA Tour win? This for eagle at the 2nd hole, and Todd is just one shot off the lead. Cameron Young, the 36 hole leader, he's looking for his first victory in his PGA Tour career. A birdie at the 5th, but he's won over through seven holes. Everyone is chasing this man, Adam Schenk, also looking for his first career PGA Tour victory. At the par-5 second, his second shot and nearly an albatross. He would tap that in for eagle. Schenk is 3-under on the day. And as we take a look at the leaderboard, Adam Schenk, 14-under par, leads by one. Third round next. Take you right out to the action at the 9th hole, and Denny McCarthy has this putt for birdie.

[00:21:03] >> And Denny McCarthy has been playing some really good golf of late. And that's what he does best of anyone on the PGA tour.

[00:21:11][ Applause ]

[00:21:16] >> Here at 18, Matt Kuchar, who's making the turn, his third. Oh yeah, wait for it.

[00:21:31] >> Go to 15.

[00:21:32] >> And Alex Smalley has the best round on the course right now, alongside Kevin Yu. They're both 7-under at the par-4 15th. Smalley's approach. Oh, another chance for birdie.

[00:21:47] >> Now, back at 3, Yu. Ah, excellent birdie. So, now he pulls within one of Schenk.

[00:22:02] >> At the 9th, here is Aberg for birdie. Drops it in.

[00:22:09][ Applause ] We take you back out to 15, and Smalley has a chance to tie for the lead. Another birdie for Alex Smalley, and now he joins Schenk at 14-under par. As we go to 10.

[00:22:40] >> Denny McCarthy, let's see if he can warm up the blade.

[00:22:45] >> Oh!

[00:22:45] >> Speed, I'll tell you, he's got good speed. He can turn that into good green reading. Now, up ahead, 10th green. Aberg really needs a birdie, the par 5. And helps two 6s on the scorecard, Mark. To 5.

[00:23:12] >> Kevin Yu, a member of Mark Immelman's winning, oh, terrific shot there, Arnold Palmer International Cup team a couple of years ago.

[00:23:25] >> Higgo set up.

[00:23:26] >> You mentioned his work with Sean Foley. It's been about three weeks. Frank, he actually gets really pigeon toed, which kind of limits his hip turn and gets the club way too far behind him.

[00:23:36] >> Oh, tremendous there. Back here, Cameron young still vying for that first win here on the PGA Tour.

[00:23:46] >> Frank, I would have to say this one breaks almost a good 10 inches from right to left.

[00:23:50] >> Nearly a foot.

[00:23:52] >> Oh, I'll give that a 10.

[00:23:53][ Applause and Cheering ]

[00:24:03] >> Yeah, that is Higgo. Made eagle here yesterday. 17th.

[00:24:11] >> Alex Smalley for birdie and the solo lead. Absolutely. What a round.

[00:24:24] >> Take a look at Denny McCarthy's tee shots at 14. We have three eagles at the 14th so far today, and McCarthy in there pretty tight.

[00:24:37] >> That's a really good table right there. Landed on the downslope.

[00:24:42] >> And you're looking at Denny McCarthy, who is first in the putting statistics for the week.

[00:24:47] >> Again.

[00:24:53] >> His approach to putting, Ian, reminds me so much of you. It's just simple, and that is to the top of the lead with Alex Smalley.

[00:25:02][ Applause and Cheering ]

[00:25:09] >> And Lucas Glover to the right of the fairway trying to work it around these trees. Can he do it?

[00:25:15] >> Oh my god.

[00:25:15] >> Well, he's certainly got the body language right.

[00:25:17] >> Oh, what a shot from Glover.

[00:25:23] >> Glover would pay off that amazing shot with birdie.

[00:25:31] >> Ahead, Brendon Todd is 142 to the hole.

[00:25:37] >> Little right to left slope here, just started out where Denny McCarthy hit it 30 feet right of the hole and just bring it in a little right-left.

[00:25:56] >> Just like that.

[00:25:58] >> Caddy fumbled the bag, but the shot is good and a birdie putt coming out here for Brendon Todd.

[00:26:04] >> [Inaudible] this guy's been out here for a while.

[00:26:06] >> Twenty years, I've dropped the bag twice in two holes. First week.

[00:26:13] >> Keep your head up. Chin up, chin up.

[00:26:16] >> Keep up, chin up, shut up.

[00:26:18] >> That actually is his first week on the bag.

[00:26:20] >> [Inaudible] thank you, mate.

[00:26:21] >> Let's take another look up to the right of your screen. Now job number one when you caddy is you got to hold onto the bag.

[00:26:32] >> Poor David Clark isn't going to hear the end of that.

[00:26:35] >> Sorry about that, boss.

[00:26:36] >> He's already laughing before the ball stopped.

[00:26:39] >> I love that.

[00:26:47] >> 15.

[00:26:49] >> And here is William Mouw for birdie just off the green. Oh, he drops it in. Finished number 6 in the PGA Tour University standings. Earned conditional status on the Korn Ferry Tour and now his second PGA Tour start.

[00:27:07] >> Now Denny McCarthy here bunkered at 16, up sloping lie. For someone with your name on your bag, this should not be too big of an issue.

[00:27:17] >> Lots of green to work with.

[00:27:35] >> Once again, 15.

[00:27:36] >> Todd to join the lead, and he drops it in. Up to 18, Chris Kirk. He's got a chance to get to 13-under. Yeah.

[00:28:05] >> Lengthy one now for Brendon Todd. Speaking of putters, Ian, I mean, you've always sort of said too, people like having dinner with good putters. They're always in good moods.

[00:28:19] >> Yeah, definitely. Never eat out with bad putters, that's for sure. They're always moody.

[00:28:25] >> That's why I eat on my own. Grumpy.

[00:28:27] >> You aren't that bad.

[00:28:30] >> Oh, how good is this? One more, yes! On you, Todd, smiling all the way to the hole.

[00:28:40][ Applause and Cheering ]

[00:28:53] >> Our new leader, Brendon Todd. Now, Higgo for birdie at 15. The opposite of what happened to Todd.

[00:29:12] >> Back to 16th.

[00:29:12] >> Cam Young. Put the car on reverse today [inaudible].

[00:29:20] >> Yeah, not much offense going right now. He said golf is hard today, but this one looks good in the air. Oh, stunning. Now, Young for birdie.

[00:29:54] >> Well, finally, Adam Schenk took the lid off for this group. See if Cam Young can follow it up.

[00:30:02] >> He certainly did. About time.

[00:30:03] >> [Inaudible] it's a putt of similar length to the one he missed back on 16. But I would say as far as reads until to the green go, this is way more comfortable. Uphill slightly.

[00:30:18] >> Bingo. Just one back. Cameron Young, despite being kind of flat today, still a big part of this story.

[00:30:35] >> And this would be a heck of a birdie after about 180-yard drive.

[00:30:38] >> Looked like 4 all the way.

[00:30:40] >> How about it, Dottie?

[00:30:41] >> How about it? All right. Now, Brendon Todd. Five times in his career he's had a 54-hole lead. He's converted two of those five into wins.

[00:31:08] >> Just a little bit too much spin on that. Nice approach, wedge. Damage done with the driver, of course.

[00:31:19] >> And he puts another in.

[00:31:23] >> What a day on the greens for Brendon Todd.

[00:31:28] >> Brendon Todd with a 66 today. His caddy, Paul Tesori, trying to caddy a John Deere Classic champion for the third time. He was also on the bag when Vijay Singh won and Sean O'Hair.

[00:31:51] >> Well, this lies even better than Schenk's, 161, has a 9-iron. Lift shouldn't be an issue. Oh my, he laid the sod over it, but it's out of the sand, so that doesn't make sense.

[00:32:05] >> Wow.

[00:32:12] >> Now up to the green with Young.

[00:32:29] >> Hold it.

[00:32:31] >> What a disastrous finish. Finally got it going in the right direction, birdie in 16 and 17, then gives it all back. Today's his bad round, and now he's chasing, not leading. Tomorrow he can go out and be aggressive, because he's certainly got the ability to shoot a low round. We've seen that many times.

[00:32:52] >> The double on 18 bumps Cameron Young from the top spot, but Brendon Todd holds a one-shot lead. Round one leader, Jonas Blixt, three back heading into the final round.

[00:33:05] >> They really need to buckle up for this stretch of golf.

[00:33:08] >> He's got to keep his foot on the gas pedal.

[00:33:11] >> The moment just got bigger.

[00:33:17] >> Good night!

[00:33:18] >> Are you serious?

[00:33:21] >> That's a big one.

[00:33:21] >> Come on [inaudible]!

[00:33:22] >> He's been a one-putt machine.

[00:33:40] >> Chamber of Commerce Day in Silvis, Illinois for the final round of the John Deere Classic, and they are already going low. How about rookie Ludvig Aberg for birdie at 13? He is 8-under on his round so far today with one hole left to go. The overnight leader Brendon Todd for birdie at the 4th, and Todd is one shot back. That's because this man, Sepp Straka, has been the story of the day so far, for eagle at the second. Then he made birdies at 4, 6, and 7 and then on the most difficult hole here a TPC Deere Run for birdie at the 9th. A 28 on the front nine for Sepp Straka. He is through 10 holes, and he leads by one. Final round coverage next. And let's get right out to the action with our leader Sepp Straka at the 11th hole, and here's Dottie Pepper.

[00:34:41] >> Thank you [inaudible] hole cut in the front-right for the leader today and another one close in.

[00:34:54] >> To the action at the 6th.

[00:34:56] >> And Adam Smalley downhill.

[00:34:59] >> That from 16 feet, moving to his right and right in the middle.

[00:35:09] >> 18, let's see if Aberg can finish with a par and get in at 18-under.

[00:35:14] >> Come on now.

[00:35:15] >> Nicely done. The 23-year-old from Sweden posts 18-under par after a final round 63.

[00:35:28] >> Now to the man who is at the top at 11.

[00:35:32] >> It's been a very good year of approach shots for Straka. Today, the putting is even better than that.

[00:35:40] >> And Dottie, right now, those greens getting that dried out sheen about them. So, this is going to be hasty down the hill.

[00:35:45] >> And it is another one.

[00:35:54] >> Today, the 12th, playing 221 yards, Mark Immelmann.

[00:35:58] >> It is a brute, and that is a 6-iron. Helping breeze right now.

[00:36:08] >> Good safe shot there too, Mark, using that left bank and feeding it in towards the hole.

[00:36:15] >> And it's, you know, in our minds right now 11 rounds of 59 all-time including, as we told you, Paul Goydos here 13 years ago, and Jim Furyk has the record with a 58. Back to 7, and here's Todd. Ian, how aware are the other players on the course right now of what Straka's doing?

[00:36:44] >> Oh, I think they all know. Most of the guys that watch the leaderboard will see exactly what they have to do. But as we've said many times here, we've been together many years, and this course demands birdies. And you just can't rely on making pars. You know, you see someone there at 20. It might take 23 to win. So, if you're back there at 18, you better put the pedal down. Over at the 7th, Smalley tapped in for his par. Well, Andrew, despite all the hysteria and all the birdies, he looks very poised right now. Not a lot of emotion being shown by the tall Austrian.

[00:37:20] >> Looking for another birdie. It looks good. He's done it.

[00:37:24] >> That putter is on fire.

[00:37:27] >> And still has a drivable par 4 and a par 5 to come.

[00:37:34] >> Hit an absolutely perfect dripping speed putt at 11 and then another one here at 12.

[00:37:42] >> Let's go, Sal!

[00:37:43] >> Just keep it rolling. Now back at 7, Todd for par.

[00:37:50] >> One of the best putters on the PGA tour, this should be no problem for Brendon Todd.

[00:37:54] >> Look at those lines. From the ball up to the elbow, all in a straight line, that's perfect. Use the shaft.

[00:38:02] >> To 13.

[00:38:04] >> And Sepp is ready.

[00:38:06] >> With just a lofted wedge into a quartering breeze. And that's stalling just a whisker.

[00:38:11] >> Oh, some shot there, Mark.

[00:38:23] >> And Brendon Todd trying to close within two of the lead at the 8th.

[00:38:43] >> From just about 25 feet.

[00:38:54] >> Now, the birdie machine is set here again at 13.

[00:38:58] >> Not too much doing.

[00:39:01] >> Oh, it's another one.

[00:39:03] >> Hey Frank, Silvis, Illinois is feeling like Athens, Georgia right now.

[00:39:11] >> References from Vienna, Austria, most famous person ever coming from there, obviously, Mozart, but turned pro seven years ago. [Inaudible] already referenced Georgia Bulldogs FedEx Cup ranked 50th and also 37th in the world ranking. So, maybe even an outside chance for a potential pick for the European Ryder Cup team. Some playing today. Now Brendon Todd for 4 at the 8th. He was singing the praises of this club yesterday. Switched back to it a couple of weeks ago, and he is feeling super comfy, super confident. I know somebody who's really confident right now. That is Sepp Straka, 10-under and going to a drivable par 4.

[00:40:09] >> And Dottie, he's going to fairway metal, operative number about 300. There's a kick forward range there.

[00:40:15] >> Shocking numbers to see that he's played this par over -- excuse me, played this hole over par for the week.

[00:40:21] >> Well, this one's going to work.

[00:40:24] >> Yeah. That's a good, smart play.

[00:40:28] >> We move ahead to Strake's next shot.

[00:40:31] >> He's got any number of options. Can go high or something a little lower or skip forward.

[00:40:37] >> Contexture sounded good.

[00:40:38] >> Saucy.

[00:40:39][ Applause and Cheering ]

[00:40:43] >> Lucas Glover on the tee at the par-3 12th. When he won here two years ago--

[00:40:49] >> Do something favorable one time!

[00:40:51] >> It was his first victory in 10 years. Oh, he likes this one.

[00:40:56] >> Thank you.

[00:41:00] >> Back to 14.

[00:41:02] >> In our story, another chapter, another birdie, 11-under on the round.

[00:41:11] >> Well, Sepp Straka has just been on a tear right from the start. Now a five shot lead over Aberg, Todd, and Smalley.

[00:41:23] >> Glover for birdie.

[00:41:31] >> Let's go!

[00:41:41] >> There's that shape that we like, spinning to the left.

[00:41:45] >> [Inaudible] grouped low and didn't quite get on the [inaudible].

[00:41:52] >> Now, up at the green.

[00:41:57] >> Yeah. He just gets in there, and once he's ready to go, he goes. I like his pace of play.

[00:42:03] >> Yeah. Shooters are going to shoot. Right? This one downhill. Could get away from you if you're not careful.

[00:42:23] >> Once again--

[00:42:23] >> Still tracking! Oh, almost.

[00:42:25] >> Good golly.

[00:42:26] >> That close.

[00:42:34] >> 3rd for Smalley.

[00:42:35] >> Playing back into the wind. Really got to control your spin here.

[00:42:48] >> He's paced though. I mean, the entire day has just been downright delectable. I mean, it's just gripped around the hole entire round.

[00:43:03] >> So, he'll remain 11-under. Still needs at least one more birdie. Now 10, Smalley.

[00:43:11] >> I mean, Frank, not too often we say it's must make time at the 10th.

[00:43:15] >> Yeah. These boys got to get on a run. Yeah, a lot of work. Nine holes to go though for Todd.

[00:43:24] >> He's been filling it up all week. Oh, that's a big miss.

[00:43:30] >> Up to 11.

[00:43:34] >> Alex Smalley with his second away.

[00:43:36] >> And this pin is a sitting duck, just a pitching wedge and beautifully done.

[00:43:45] >> He and [inaudible] are just sticking to the job at hand. It's all about the numbers, and the numbers are 245 total, and that's a flat 5-wood.

[00:43:54] >> Should come in a little flatter off that baby downslope. Does he get the hop?

[00:44:00] >> Bunkered.

[00:44:06] >> We have Alex Smalley for birdie at 11.

[00:44:08] >> All right.

[00:44:14] >> And Brendon Todd trying to make a 3 of his own.

[00:44:19] >> Well, he knows what his -- what it does. His ball was about an inch from Alex Smalley's. But Dottie, like you said, I mean, for Alex Smalley to be in the final pairing, one back, 4-under par through 11, I mean, you would have took that immediately.

[00:44:36] >> Beautiful stroke, second 3 there at 11.

[00:44:38] >> Let's get hot, boys.

[00:44:39] >> There's a chance. Strake with his third. Got it up and down from this bunker when he did make birdie here in round one. His eye would see this comfortably.

[00:45:05] >> Yeah. There's not a lot of movement, and it's a little uphill, 9 feet.

[00:45:20] >> Never moved. I don't think that was a great read.

[00:45:24] >> Strake needs birdie at the last to shoot a final round 59. We move to the 18th fairway with our leader.

[00:45:33] >> All right. So, if he holds this out, it's a 58. A birdie and it's a 59, would be the 12th 59 all time.

[00:45:41] >> I love it.

[00:45:41] >> Yep.

[00:45:41] >> All right. Show it to me, bud.

[00:45:48] >> 7-iron.

[00:45:49] >> Oh no.

[00:45:51] >> Not too much draw. Lands soft there.

[00:45:54] >> Oh no. Was he too aggressive trying to shoot a 59? I mean, if you're trying to win the tournament, Ian, right, you just go into the center of the green.

[00:46:08] >> I think he was honestly just trying to hit the shot that he would normally hit.

[00:46:17] >> All the fans can't believe it. Well, all of a sudden, the final pairings right back in it at 13.

[00:46:28] >> See what Todd can do.

[00:46:29] >>And Frank, obviously he has no idea. That's an 8-iron from 150 and just gorgeous.

[00:46:36] >> [Inaudible] I've always believed, to back flags, you drive something in lower. Skip it in there. A little to the right wouldn't be too bad either because the green filters from right to left.

[00:46:46] >> His fourth.

[00:46:48] >> It's lower flighted.

[00:46:52] >> Spin.

[00:46:53] >> Okay, big putt for Straka for bogey at 18.

[00:47:02] >> Now up at the green, Strake to save bogey.

[00:47:04] >> Just inside 8 feet. We've seen a number of these go in today. Can he make another one?

[00:47:15] >> He cannot.

[00:47:16] >> Well, Colt, they'll have no idea but this for birdie.

[00:47:20] >> Tell you what, Frank, the boys around here are going to get rather excited when that leaderboard changes.

[00:47:32] >> Okay. A great ride but a bumpy finish for Sepp Straka. Double bogey on 18, shoots a 62, which is his career low round on the PGA Tour.

[00:47:45] >> And Dottie, they did end up right next to each other. Alex Smalley actually marked his golf ball in the bunker, but this one, I mean, plenty of green to work with. He's got to be -- in the back your mind, you're thinking just don't go long. Big fall up behind this hole and that's got to go.

[00:48:10] >> And Brendon Todd to get within one.

[00:48:13] >>12 feet, very slow, and he's walking after it.

[00:48:17] >> Sepp Strake's got somebody knocking on the door.

[00:48:19] >> He needed that, didn't he?

[00:48:20] >> He absolutely had to have it.

[00:48:25] >> See if he can pay off that beautiful bunker shot just over 3 feet.

[00:48:33] >> Indeed.

[00:48:34] >> He has entered the chat. And Frank, you've seen it all day, this 16th play, just 166, but that pin is just 3 off that left side of the green.

[00:48:46] >> Yeah. And then it's penalty area, so you've got to throw it out to the right. Got to fly that ball fairly deep into the green, Colt.

[00:48:54] >> He's got a little bit of a lower ball flight, so you can almost try to skip this back there. That's a 8-iron on the way.

[00:49:02] >> Right at the center of the green.

[00:49:03] >> Yeah. That's a good shot.

[00:49:10] >> After blowing the birdie putt passed, Todd has this to save par.

[00:49:19] >> This is a large moment here, Frank, every bit of 5 and a half feet.

[00:49:30] >> Wow, inexcusable. Well, Sepp Strake will be a little more relieved there.

[00:49:41] >> After laying up, Todd is playing his third at 17.

[00:49:46] >> These guys are just so precise. I mean, 70 yards, they're looking to land this probably right around 62 or three.

[00:49:52] >> One hop and stop.

[00:50:03] >> Oh, this needs to settle. Oh, boy.

[00:50:06] >> One of these two guys needs to make a putt here to make the 18th hole really exciting.

[00:50:16] >> Over 20 feet moving right to left and very quick.

[00:50:25] >> Sepp Strake dodged one.

[00:50:30] >> Got to make sure you give it enough speed.

[00:50:31] >> Yeah, uphill if anything. That sound you hear is another deep breath and sigh from Sepp Straka.

[00:50:49] >> We head to the last where Todd or Smalley need to hold their second shots to force a playoff.

[00:50:59] >> Well, this isn't going to do it. This is out to the right.

[00:51:04] >> Oh. And left himself another long putt like he did back at 17. Just hanging on a little.

[00:51:11] >> And Ian, he actually spent a lot of his warmup today in the practice fairway bunker. Told me it really helps with his release, and if he can hit it solidly out of the fairway bunker, he thinks he can hit it solid out of the fairway.

[00:51:24] >> Yeah. It's a great way to practice. Practice out of a fairway bunker or practice in bare feet on wet grass, just something for balance. And this is a difficult one though, because he's got that lip in front of him, a left hole location, and a left to right slope.

[00:51:39] >> Yeah. But the ball below his feet makes it a little more difficult to get the height on it that he wants. So, the question is do you take it on or do you just play to the right and make a nice check?

[00:51:57] >> I would take it right next to Alex's ball if I were playing that shot right now.

[00:52:02] >> So, would Sepp Straka.

[00:52:05] >> Second on the way for Todd. It is also headed right. Needs to get down.

[00:52:11] >> And Sepp Straka wins the John Deere Classic.

[00:52:15] >> Proud of you.

[00:52:16][ Applause and Cheering ]

[00:52:20] >> For the final round, 62. There could have been a little lower barring the shot of the last, but that is a fantastic win. Second of his career on tour.

[00:52:28] >> Strake started the day 4 back. He wins by 2 in the Quad Cities.

[00:52:34] >> This concludes the PGA Tours Conference of the John Deere Classic from TPC Deere Run in Silvis, Illinois.

[00:52:42] >> Pretty house.

[00:52:43] >> Still got it.