Production Transcript for REWIND\_23ROCK\_FOWLER.mp3

[00:00:29] >> The PGA Tour is proud to bring you the season-long race for the FedEx Cup. Now, coverage of the 2023 Rocket Mortgage Classic.

[00:00:39] >> We welcome you back to one of those classic tracks, the Detroit Golf Club, 36 holes of golf here. The north course is the home for the fifth playing of this event. First time PGA Tour events have been played in the city limits of Detroit. Metro Detroit had a lot of great golf and PGA Tour stops along the way. But this event over the last five years had a great impact on the community and great excitement in the summer.

[00:01:08] >> And what a story we have here in Detroit. This is Peter Kuest, who had a remarkable day and just his fourth PGA Tour start. Monday qualifier, shot 64, 8-under par this morning, and he is pacing the field at the Rocket Mortgage Classic. And that is the number to chase for two-time PGA champion, Justin Thomas, Masters champion, Hideki Matsuyama, among the players in the afternoon wave, and Max Homa as well. They know you've got to go low to give yourself a chance from Thursday all the way through the trophy on Sunday. We are in downtown Detroit at the Rocket Mortgage Classic. A bunch of birdies made in the morning wave and plenty more to come this afternoon.

[00:01:51] >> Go over to the 5th, Chesson Hadley has his putt for birdie. This the first of the short holes.

[00:01:58] >> Yeah, 165 yard par 3. And that is really well done right there. We talked about all the undulation in these greens. So you've got to get the ball in the right section of the green to really have a good look.

[00:02:14] >> Back to the 8th.

[00:02:16] >> Very holable, at the same time going down the hill. It can't get away from him. The strike isn't pure.

[00:02:24] >> He went to the first one.

[00:02:27] >> That was pure.

[00:02:28][ Applause ]

[00:02:39] >> It's the time of the year. We'll talk about this next bit where the guys are starting to see where am I in the FedEx Cup standings, where do I want to be as we get towards the business end of the season? Here's Im.

[00:02:57] >> He's in great shape going here at the FedEx Cup. And getting better. Thirty-four in the FedEx Cup coming into this week.

[00:03:10] >> Taylor Moore.

[00:03:11] >> This for birdie chance.

[00:03:12] >> Coming back up the slope. Not much breaking this putt.

[00:03:16] >> Yeah, well done. The greens were 12 on the stimpmeter.

[00:03:28] >> Kevin Yu, fourth shot now from beyond the green on the par 5.

[00:03:36] >> And 103 in the FedEx Cup Rae. He needs a lot more of that happening because time is running out.

[00:03:43] >> And we'll jump ahead to where they're going to 13.

[00:03:48] >> In the hole.

[00:03:48] >> Just in time to see the birdie putt drain from Moore.

[00:03:59] >> Par-5 14th, Adam Schenk.

[00:04:01] >> He's got a good day going here.

[00:04:04] >> Laid up water in front of this green, so he laid up his second shot. There's a slope back here. Yeah, he's going to use that slope and spin.

[00:04:14] >> He would go on to make birdie.

[00:04:21] >> Big drive for Dylan Wu who's three off the lead. Hundred and one yards, get home here in two.

[00:04:27] >> Easily down. I mean --

[00:04:28] >> Yeah.

[00:04:28] >> -- downwind, this is no more than seven. It might have been an 8-iron. And that is the kind of result he was looking for.

[00:04:35] >> Yeah.

[00:04:35] >> Took advantage of that huge drive.

[00:04:41] >> So, you think Dylan Wu had a good day in the par 5s? Double eagle at 14. He holed it from 262 yards to make a two. And here at 7, yeah, you got to make a three.

[00:04:56] >> Yeah.

[00:04:56] >> Boy, players had --

[00:04:57] >> Got to make a two.

[00:04:57] >> -- absolutely had taken advantage of that.

[00:04:59] >> That's the 11th eagle at number 7 today for the players.

[00:05:02] >> He's got an eagle --

[00:05:03] >> Yeah.

[00:05:04] >> -- a birdie, and a double eagle on the par 5. I won't mention that he has a bogey on the other par 5.

[00:05:10] >> Incredible day.

[00:05:14] >> Fifteen.

[00:05:16] >> Quick one, yeah. Mike, this is quick down the hill. So a couple of little bumps on that putter harm is that it's the nature of perennial grass as a mix here as well with Ben.

[00:05:26] >> Well, quite well. OK. I'd say fairly true.

[00:05:36] >> Now, Taylor Moore at 16 for birdie.

[00:05:49] >> And he moves to 7-under.

[00:05:52][ Cheering and Applause ] We stay at 16 with Im and his try for birdie. And Sungjae moves to 3-under.

[00:06:23] >> Nice birdie.

[00:06:33] >> Chez Reavie finished in a tie for fourth in the end last week, had a disappointing Sunday. But still overall, big performance and a big week being a designated event.

[00:06:44] >> That's a tap in for Reavie.

[00:06:48] >> Now, Taylor Moore.

[00:06:51] >> Yeah, really nothing in this putt, Nick. It's been quite easy today. He is. Taylor's been -- one of these rounds, it's been a lot of fairways, a lot of greens, quality putts, and continues there. So, Nick, he's kind of got locked in right now.

[00:07:18] >> Over at 9, Troy Merritt, you see his number 150 in the FedEx Cup. So here's a guy looking to get hot for four or five weeks and work his way into that Top 125 and Top 170. And stuff like that helps.

[00:07:32][ Applause ]

[00:07:39] >> Monday qualifier Peter Kuest shocks the Round 1 leaderboard as he's in a tie for first with Taylor Moore at 8-under. Rookie sensation Ludvig Aberg sits 1-back. Round 2 is next.

[00:07:57] >> Friday, June 30th, that means summertime. Started the summer weekend and a long holiday weekend for a lot of folks. And the weather here at Detroit Golf Club feels like summer. Temperature is about 87 degrees. A little bit of humidity, a little bit of the smoke from the fires in Canada in the air. So it's a hazy, warm summer afternoon. And a lot of fans are starting their holiday weekend right here watching the golf with the Rocket Mortgage Classic. Taylor Moore, than 29-year-old, had the putter going early as soon as he started his day over at number 10.

[00:08:30] >> He's really been great with the putter. He's gained almost 7.5 shots through two rounds on the rest of the field with just a putter.

[00:08:39] >> Watch another one here. He won on the Canadian Tour, he won on the Korn Ferry Tour, then got out here. And you were on the call for the Valspar winner after he made the turn a birdie at 3. It was actually a battle with Adam Schenk, but that first week kind of changed the view for the rest of the season for Moore, who missed a few cuts along the way here on the way into this week but found it yesterday with 64 and 67 today. First round co-leader is the leader alone midway through Day 2, and Rickie Fowler who's been red hot all month trying to chase him. And so is one of the new names that you need to get to know. We'll see Ludvig Aberg a bunch today, and Luke Donald, the Ryder Cup captain has a close eye on this European as well. And Collin Morikawa in action as well. As we've learned in the first four years, got to make a bunch of birdies. And the board lets the afternoon starters know that's what they need to do. So settle in for three hours of golf from downtown Detroit. It is the second round of the Rocket Mortgage Classic.

[00:09:42] >> Let's pick up the play, Nick, watching at the par 4, the eighth hole.

[00:09:46] >> And Rickie exactly where he wants to be, wedge in hand from the fairway.

[00:09:49] >> That's from 102. This is front hole location, Nick.

[00:09:56] >> That will absolutely work.

[00:09:57] >> Fowler moves to 8-under.

[00:10:00] >> Ludvig Aberg, this is a chance to get to double digits on the par.

[00:10:05] >> That drive that he hit set him up with that little wedge left for his second shot. I mean, he just dominated that hole.

[00:10:17] >> Fifteen. And doing it with the wedges around the green on the short par 3. Baddeley. Gets that right foot drop working.

[00:10:33] >> Turning that in nicely towards this battle of flag. Sensational.

[00:10:41] >> Baddeley would tap that in.

[00:10:50] >> Rickie after that nice second shot from out of the rough, long putt.

[00:10:56] >> Stepping over that little ridge really good. Dying speed.

[00:10:59] >> Oh, come on.

[00:11:00] >> Yes.

[00:11:00] >> That might be the best birdie we see all day, given where the tee shot was. Fowler from across the green to get to 9-under par.

[00:11:14] >> Just had enough speed to hang in there. Boy, what a great putt that was. Just a great lag putt that happened to go in.

[00:11:24] >> The Monday qualifier, Peter Kuest, started his day on 10, even par at this point, a little over 20 feet here at 18. And that'll send him to his final nine with a little bit of energy and at 9-under par.

[00:11:43] >> This group over at the 14th in the fairway.

[00:11:46] >> Yeah, you're comfortable just being a little --

[00:11:49] >> Have them all up?

[00:11:51] >> Yes. How about just going at the left edge of the town instead of like kind of trying to bring it back?

[00:11:56] >> Yeah.

[00:11:57] >> Just finishing like.

[00:12:00] >> Because you need to have --

[00:12:01] >> Anywhere on the green is actually responsive, right? We're thinking through that, right?

[00:12:07] >> Yeah. Just choke down like --

[00:12:11] >> Yeah.

[00:12:11] >> -- 235 shot.

[00:12:12] >> I love that.

[00:12:12] >> I love it too. Let's see.

[00:12:13] >> Yeah. I don't need to like slice it.

[00:12:14] >> No. Let's see the shot. Work out.

[00:12:37] >> Morikawa would go on to make eagle.

[00:12:45] >> European Ryder Cup Captain, Luke Donald as he holds back to the 12.

[00:12:49] >> In case you were wondering how good he is from the bunkers.

[00:12:57] >> Give me one. Luke Donald having a day too. How about this?

[00:13:02][ Applause ]

[00:13:08] >> Go back to the front, Taylor Pendrith to slide to second alone.

[00:13:17] >> Look out.

[00:13:18] >> Let's go back to the last of the short holes, 50.

[00:13:24] >> And a really good chance for Rickie Fowler.

[00:13:27] >> Yeah, just downhill is the only issue, Nick. And whenever you're putting downhill on soft kind of, you know, late in the day, you'd like to be able to give it a little bit of a hit. But you also don't want that 3-footer, 4-footer coming back. Fowler within two.

[00:13:53] >> Up here was that.

[00:13:55] >> That one certainly rolled over, didn't it?

[00:14:00][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:14:06] >> It wasn't best pitch by any means on the 4th from the right to the green. Still a birdie chance though. Taylor Pendrith to get alongside Moore. Oh, and the putter does save his bacon. Very nice.

[00:14:33] >> Morikawa to get to 11-under here. Like this one.

[00:14:37] >> Yeah, yeah.

[00:14:38] >> Yeah.

[00:14:39] >> Good putt. He deserves one. Been hitting some good putts.

[00:14:41] >> And finally, Curt, he sees one go in.

[00:14:44] >> Yeah.

[00:14:45] >> He talked about his putting stats. It's -- I think it's a little skewed a bit because he's always in a ton of greens, you know. If he's in the Top 50 or 60 putter, so he's been around the tables on there.

[00:14:57] >> Right, to Fowler. Eagle chip.

[00:14:59] >> Yeah. This is a warm up chip. Uphill, right to left.

[00:15:07] >> All day long for Fowler. Curt, you called that.

[00:15:10] >> That's a nice little move within one.

[00:15:14] >> I mean it was just sitting there waiting for him.

[00:15:16] >> How about that for a response? All good things, bogeyed 16, bounces straight back this first eagle of the week.

[00:15:27] >> You give them the simple things to do and he will deliver.

[00:15:36] >> Such a good chipping action, isn't it as well? So reliable.

[00:15:42] >> Looks so good, didn't it?

[00:15:43] >> We're making the turn. He had a fantastic two part at the par-3 9th to remain at 4-under par. Then, he just kicked it into gear, put the pedal to the metal. Good look here as well. Back up the slope.

[00:15:58] >> For four of the last five.

[00:16:00] >> Yes.

[00:16:01] >> Why not?

[00:16:02] >> Keegan Bradley birdies four of the last five, shot 67. And from hanging around the cut line to inside the Top 20 heading to the weekend. Aberg's second at 16.

[00:16:24] >> Yeah, he is one.

[00:16:26] >> Continues to impress. I mean, it's no wonder he was number 1 on the PGA Tour U.

[00:16:34] >> We are at the 16th, and Ludvig Aberg chance to get to 11-under par, this birdie attempt. There he is.

[00:16:44] >> My driver has been behaving quite well this week so far. So, it gives me a lot of chances, gives me a lot of birdie looks. And I've been able to take advantage of the par 5s, which is a key out here. And I know that I can hit the golf shots. But you got to be able to handle everything else kind of in this new setting for me. And so far, I feel like I've done a pretty good job of that. And I'm just trying to do my best and try to embrace it as good as I can and see where that takes me. Yeah, I really look forward to the weekend. It's going to be a lot of fun.

[00:17:19] >> Ludvig Aberg keeps pace and is just 1-back of Taylor Moore and Taylor Pendrith. Also continuing his strong play is Rickie Fowler, looking for his first victory since 2019. Round 3 is next.

[00:17:37] >> And this is not the way we wanted to kick off our holiday weekend in Detroit. Twelve minutes ago, play was suspended due to lightning in the area here in Detroit, Michigan, beautiful Detroit Golf Club. So, the players have been removed from the course and there's pop up thunderstorms in the area. So it's hard to predict, but we are hopeful that maybe this delay will be around 90 minutes. But again, there's a look at the radar and what we're dealing with. At 2:48, the horn blue here at Detroit Golf Club. Collin Morikawa, coming up on two years since his last victory, but he's off to a very good start this week.

[00:18:21] >> Yeah, that's a nice putt here. And that's always the thing for him like I just touched on. You got to get the putter going. If anything, that is the thing that slows him down at times.

[00:18:29] >> Peter Malnati came out of the gate strong this morning. For birdie at the second hole. Malnati at 14-under par. He's just one shot back. He kept it rolling. How about for eagle at the par-5 4th?

[00:18:44] >> Yeah, this cross country here up and over that ridge. Nice. He's got the right hat on for this weather too.

[00:18:52] >> He is 5-under through his first 10 holes.

[00:18:55] >> He came prepared, Peter Malnati. Now, Taylor Pendrith, the Canadian on Canada Day for birdie at the 4th.

[00:19:03] >> Beautiful technique. Wait for it. Chopping down on it. That came out nicely there.

[00:19:09] >> Taylor Pendrith likes this course a tie for second last year at this event. How about Lucas Glover with a long putter now for birdie at 17?

[00:19:19] >> There you go. Nice addition. We've seen some players use that club, Si Woo Kim, Adam Scott. So Lucas taken a little page out of their book and it is working well.

[00:19:30] >> A 64 for Glover today. That's the low round of the day. Andrew Landry shot a 63 yesterday. So the numbers are out here. And there's a lot of fans rooting for this guy, Trevor. Rickie Fowler for birdie at 2.

[00:19:43] >> That's just right in the heart. That's one of the things that putter and the ion play, but it's been a complete turnaround for Fowler this season and the reason he's playing so well.

[00:19:55] >> Up ahead at the 4th, another birdie chance.

[00:19:57] >> There's no tension in that stroke. Beautiful.

[00:20:02] >> Fowler's last win coming in 2019 at the Waste Management Phoenix Open. At the first hole, Dylan Wu with his approach.

[00:20:11] >> Kind of a tricky lie there, up against the longer cut, but judging it beautifully.

[00:20:18] >> Wu opened with a 65 on Thursday, a 69 yesterday. And so far today, 5-under through his first six holes.

[00:20:29] >> Just pouring it in. What a start.

[00:20:32] >> A share of the lead for Dylan Wu. And one of the guys who's sharing the top of the leaderboard with is this man, Taylor Moore.

[00:20:41] >> Going well down the grip there. Normally has a pretty low ball flight. That's one chasing to that back hole location. Nice.

[00:20:49] >> He opened with a 64 on Thursday. That tied his personal best in his PGA Tour career. This for Eagle at the 4th. I mean, how great are those three shots? Huge tee shot. The fairway went from 298 and then converted with that great putt.

[00:21:08] >> And here he is at the fifth hole and right after this, the horn sounded as you can hear. One of the worst sounds in golf.

[00:21:16] >> Yeah, don't like that. And so, when we come back out, Moore will have a birdie putt. Meanwhile, Carl Yuan for birdie at the par-3 15th.

[00:21:29] >> That was his third birdie in a row.

[00:21:33] >> He's 7-under on his day with three holes left to play. So here's the way it looks with Moore, Yuan, and Wu, all at 15-under par.

[00:22:00] >> So away we go again. Andrew Catalon, Trevor Immelman with you in the 18th Tower, joined in the Super Tower by Dottie Pepper and Frank Nobilo. Colt Knost is walking with the Rickie Fowler, Ludvig Aberg pairing. And Mark Immelman is walking with Taylor Moore and Taylor Pendrith. You've already seen Amanda conducting interviews. And Orlando Pope is our rules analyst. So we go right out to the action at the fifth hole, and we say good afternoon to Dottie Pepper.

[00:22:27] >> Thank you, Andrew. Taylor Pendrith on Canada Day, the Ontario native wearing his red and white.

[00:22:35] >> I was just a little tickle with a pitching wedge. Receptive hole location down there, Dot. And something to look for, Dot, with all the rain that fell, and it was a prodigious amount, green should slow down just a touch. That's when breaking left early should straighten towards the end of the journey.

[00:22:56] >> Green started the day at about 12.5 on the stint stimpmeter. Well, that is a very nice three two back to back at 4 and 5.

[00:23:27] >> And he was telling me too, Dot, that this golf course feels very much like home, Ontario resident.

[00:23:34] >> Watch the backswing. Picks it up quite a lot on that backstroke.

[00:23:38] >> Fix it up.

[00:23:39] >> Yeah. Ordinarily, you see a lot of players keep it much lower to the ground, but a nice birdie.

[00:23:48] >> Really enjoyed that interview with Aberg, Colt. I mean, we got to see a different side of him, watched him on the range warm up. We know he's talented.

[00:23:57] >> Frank, I got to question his decision making though. He was recruited by two schools, Texas Tech and Arizona State. And he chose Lubbock over Scottsdale.

[00:24:07] >> I think it worked out all right.

[00:24:10] >> What a golf shot. He's got the tools, man. He's really, really, really good.

[00:24:15] >> Aberg would roll that in.

[00:24:17] >> Come back a little bit.

[00:24:20] >> Wasn't going to have Colt lead him astray there in Scottsdale.

[00:24:24] >> Easy, Trevor.

[00:24:26] >> Well, that can often happen. Now, Hadwin comes up awfully short here at 10. But today is Canada Day. Hadwin from 50 feet. Seven.

[00:24:48] >> This was it. Morikawa, his third. And an eagle for Morikawa.

[00:24:55][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:25:01] >> Seven.

[00:25:02] >> You saw Morikawa chip in for Eagle. Now, his partner today, Aaron Rai, has an eagle putt at the 7th. Pretty good day for this group at the seventh hole.

[00:25:18] >> Back to 7.

[00:25:19] >> And the birdie putt for Fowler.

[00:25:22] >> Right around 12 feet, coming down the hill. And this club has been on fire the last few weeks.

[00:25:27] >> There's another one. Stay hot.

[00:25:30][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:25:38] >> Now, Pendrith.

[00:25:39] >> Ball back in the stance. Perfect lie on the upslope. A little draft, some check, and a little release, should be perfect.

[00:25:46] >> And it almost was.

[00:25:48][ Applause ]

[00:25:53] >> Fourteen.

[00:25:54] >> And we've got two eagle putts coming up here. Adam Hadwin, the first definitely goes to the left and actually falls off very quickly at the end. O Canada.

[00:26:06][ Applause ]

[00:26:14] >> Let's look at Pendrith's second.

[00:26:17] >> Isn't that interesting there? That's one of the trees that fell down. And so, because of that, he had a little gap. And look at the shot.

[00:26:23] >> He had a huge gap. And how about that from in the rough there, Trev?

[00:26:27] >> Wow, look at that.

[00:26:28] >> Would make birdie.

[00:26:29] >> Back to 15.

[00:26:30] >> OK. Hadwin, a chance to extend his lead.

[00:26:41] >> Yes, another birdie for Hadwin.

[00:26:44][ Applause ]

[00:26:49] >> Eleven.

[00:26:50] >> And Rickie Fowler.

[00:26:53] >> Dottie, these guys know going in they got to go crazy low around this golf course. Throwing the soft conditions, you got to put the gas pedal down.

[00:27:02] >> Speed matches line. That's a two.

[00:27:05][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:27:09] >> Now, the second shot for Pendrith at the 12th.

[00:27:13] >> Tee shot in the blueprint. Just a lower flat 9-iron. This too useful.

[00:27:22] >> Great shot. We have not seen too many close.

[00:27:26] >> That's another birdie for Pendrith.

[00:27:31] >> Morikawa, nearly two years after his last win. That came July 18, 2021 at the Open Championship.

[00:27:42][ Applause ] Thirteen.

[00:27:48] >> Fowler avoided the bunker down the right.

[00:27:50] >> Went with fairway, went off the tee. That's pitching wedge from 137. You have a backstop you can use here, Frank.

[00:27:59] >> He did too, Colt. Cool.

[00:28:02][ Applause ]

[00:28:07] >> Now, Morikawa for that birdie at 14. Downhill, moving a touch to the right. Got it. He gets within two. Hadwin settles in for his putt for four. Really loose, consistent grip on that putter, no tension. What a second nine there. Only three pars. All circles and double circles.

[00:28:42] >> Well, yeah, there you go, the Rocket Mortgage ambassador.

[00:28:52] >> Now, back at the 15, this is Rai for birdie. And you see Morikawa is getting a good look of this putt from behind. And Collin should do exactly that.

[00:29:05][ Applause ]

[00:29:10] >> To fourteen.

[00:29:13] >> And this for an eagle to get within one. Come on, Rick, get the people going.

[00:29:21] >> Golf is better when Rickie Fowler is playing well.

[00:29:26] >> Just the kind of guy he is. Remember, he stayed so late after the third round at the US Open signing autographs into the dark.

[00:29:34] >> We stay with Fowler and move to the 15th tee.

[00:29:39] >> Here at the 15th, it's Fowler.

[00:29:41] >> Get in the hole.

[00:29:42] >> That's 9-iron from 161. And this is pretty, Rickie.

[00:29:47] >> Oh, yeah, that's a good there for Fowler.

[00:29:53] >> Up at the green.

[00:29:54] >> All right, here at 15, Fowler just inside 5 feet for birdie.

[00:30:01] >> For four in the last five. Yes, sir.

[00:30:04][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:30:10] >> Just go take about 52 shot right over tee, OK? Let's see it.

[00:30:17] >> I would think he would love the look of the shot, someone that it's a draw, flag left of center.

[00:30:22] >> Oh, sadly he has 9-iron in hand. Little indecision though in the club selection. It's the right shape.

[00:30:32] >> Is it the right number? You bet it in us.

[00:30:35] >> Pendrith gets to 18-under.

[00:30:43] >> Up to 18.

[00:30:45] >> And Rickie Fowler left with 112 yards.

[00:30:47] >> That sand wedge from 112 going to land it past the hole, pull the ripcord.

[00:30:53] >> Oh, yeah. Hello, friends.

[00:30:57] >> How about it?

[00:30:58][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:31:09] >> It get to be a little hair raising and you really have to have the bravado enough to give them some speed.

[00:31:17] >> A weekly putt -- weekly hit putt will wobble off line. Nothing weak about that.

[00:31:32] >> Pretty nice there, bud. Let's go.

[00:31:42] >> Fowler has a putt for the solo lead at 20-under par.

[00:31:48] >> Just 2 feet, 9 inches, should be no problem.

[00:31:59] >> Look out for Rickie tomorrow. A third round 64, and Fowler in search of his first win since 2019. Will have a chance in Detroit tomorrow.

[00:32:17] >> Put his foot on the gas. Look at that, 6-under on his last eight holes. Remember at the US Open, the 54th hole, he missed a putt, kind of set the tone for his final round. Different story here today with the birdie at 18. And certainly, Fowler is hoping for a different result than the US Open Sunday.

[00:32:38] >> Fan favorite Rickie Fowler holds the solo 54-hole lead after a stellar 64. He'll need to hold off two Canadians, Adam Hadwin and Taylor Pendrith, along with surging major champion Collin Morikawa.

[00:32:53] >> They really need to buckle up for this stretch of golf.

[00:32:56] >> He's got to keep his foot off the gas pedal.

[00:32:59] >> The moment just got bigger.

[00:33:01] >> Good night.

[00:33:06] >> Are you serious?

[00:33:08] >> That's a big one. Come on, Jon Rahm.

[00:33:13] >> He's been a one-putt machine.

[00:33:27] >> Historic Detroit Golf Club, located within the city limits, was founded in 1899. And old school feel on this gorgeous Donald Ross design. The weather, it's a factor today. Thunderstorms are forecasted throughout the afternoon. So the decision was made to go early with groupings of three of two tees. Preferred lies are in place. The final round of the Rocket Mortgage Classic. And some early fireworks provided by Rickie Fowler. Forty-six feet away for birdie at the fifth hole. And on this course, you never know where the roars may come from. The par-3 15th, playing 140 yards today, Max Homa spin it back. An Ace. Flicks the tee, his second career ace on the PGA Tour. Should be a phenomenal day with Rickie Fowler trying to win for the first time since 2019. Let's get right out to the action at the 11th hole and Dottie Pepper.

[00:34:40] >> And Collin Morikawa looking to break a winless streak of his own for par at the difficult 11th. And gets it.

[00:34:48] >> That is huge with holes running out and being two behind.

[00:34:53] >> Let's go to 10.

[00:34:57] >> And Ricky Fowler, got a great front nine, 3-under. Colt Knost with this group.

[00:35:01] >> He's doing what he's got to do today, Frank. Has missed just one fairway and one green.

[00:35:06] >> Great effort there. And hopefully, this is the calm before the storm. Not much wind out there right now.

[00:35:12] >> And Frank, you look what he's done at this back nine this week. So far, 13 birdies and an eagle. Might have to do it again today judging by the look of the leaderboard right now. So Fowler stays on top by just a single shot.

[00:35:32] >> Go to 12.

[00:35:34] >> And the second for Morikawa.

[00:35:36] >> Right hole location. And that sets up perfectly for his shot shape, 7-iron.

[00:35:41] >> Looks like a nice line.

[00:35:43] >> Now, I'll tell you what, he's got that golf swing and good working order, Trev.

[00:35:48] >> Back at 12, Morikawa just inside 10 feet for birdie.

[00:35:53] >> Little break to the right. Should not be that fast downhill.

[00:35:56] >> In the hole.

[00:35:59] >> There's another. Four birdies in his last six holes, and Collin Morikawa is just one off the lead.

[00:36:10] >> Back to the beautiful par 3.

[00:36:14] >> Beautiful and long par-3 11th. Rickie Fowler with a putt for birdie.

[00:36:19] >> And Dottie, with these conditions, I feel like this is the one hole you just really want to try to make par and move on. The rest of them, it's go time.

[00:36:30] >> Little wiggle to the left.

[00:36:32] >> Let's go.

[00:36:34] >> Oh, just hugging the ground beautifully. Great speed.

[00:36:38] >> How great is that speed? You bet. That takes the stress off. Now, put it into overdrive again.

[00:36:49] >> Out to 12, and Peter Kuest has this putt for birdie.

[00:36:54] >> His 10th career PGA Tour starts, and he drops it in.

[00:36:59] >> This is a great story right here.

[00:37:02] >> He finishes in the Top 10 and gets into next week's field at the John Deere Classic. Thirteen.

[00:37:09] >> That's a big sigh after being in trouble off the tee. So he hangs tough. A lengthy one here at 13 for Morikawa.

[00:37:21] >> Up and over rise about two-thirds of the way to the cup. OK.

[00:37:29] >> A little bit of work there. That's a little bit of kill to it.

[00:37:35] >> Twelve.

[00:37:36] >> And we're live with Fowler's third.

[00:37:38] >> Perfect lie on the upslope.

[00:37:40] >> Has some angle at least.

[00:37:44] >> Oh, yeah.

[00:37:44] >> Yeah, that was beautifully played.

[00:37:47] >> Fowler would save par.

[00:37:49] >> Thirteen.

[00:37:50] >> Little tricky one here. Left turn. He knows putting better, but I think it starts with a hitting from Morikawa. Shot shape.

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

[00:38:03] >> Yeah. Carl has a chance to get to 16-under. He's just outside the Top 10. There you go. Despite the rain, that rolled beautifully.

[00:38:12] >> You can maybe build on something now with the par 5 coming up.

[00:38:19] >> Fowler now for a long range birdie at 13.

[00:38:21] >> And Frank, for the first time, you left me speechless.

[00:38:27] >> That's a slow one up the hill. It's like what these boys can take their time because there is a massive traffic jam over on 14. Frank, maybe you can give them some advice how to handle traffic.

[00:38:41] >> Yeah. Actually, probably could have come at a worse time. Maybe provide some clothes in the pro shop.

[00:38:45] >> Aaron Rai taking a little. I think Ranger can certainly get sold out. Rickie will be one of the last to put a jacket on too. He'll often play in inclement conditions just in his normal golf attire.

[00:39:02] >> This could throw the cat amongst the pigeons.

[00:39:09] >> To tie.

[00:39:11] >> Frank, back to the range jacket thing, you remember Payne Stewart changed the game when he cut the sleeves off at the US Open in Pinehurst.

[00:39:16] >> He got that from Sandy Lowe.

[00:39:23] >> That will be the first double for Taylor this week. This hole has not been its usual scoring opportunity. We've had a couple of triples, three doubles. Now, Collin is next, Mark.

[00:39:51] >> He is. And I was catching up with JJ Jakovac, his caddie, yesterday before the round and I asked them what the catalyst was for that 63 at Travelers on Friday last week. And he said, honestly, just a posture adjustment. Trying to keep his chest up a little bit more.

[00:40:06] >> Yeah, it's the same shot. You're going to hold it a little bit far as you know. Happy?

[00:40:13] >> Because he's getting kind of droopy at a dress. And that was sort of quelling the rotation through the ball. So better posture, better rotation, fade shots come back.

[00:40:24] >> He plays with quite a lot of spin and he fall behind it here to work with.

[00:40:28] >> Careful, Trev.

[00:40:29] >> It's a big one.

[00:40:32] >> He clipped out beautifully. Get in.

[00:40:38] >> Now, sit. Just stays on the proper level. That could be all sorts of pressure on Rickie Fowler. And Fowler would be back they're very aware of what's going on, holding on to that one shot lead and looking to break this winless streak that's been over four years. Now, Morikawa. First time he's played in this event. Four times that he's made a debut in an event he's won on the PGA Tour.

[00:41:25] >> Dottie, he and JJ are looking at a spot sort of midway down the length of this putt where they say if they miss that, the ball could go either way. So, it's all about precision on the start line. He has rolled it nicely today.

[00:41:42] >> This ties the lead.

[00:41:55] >> That is 23-under and company for Rickie Fowler. Perfect card.

[00:42:08] >> Here at 15, Taylor Moore has this putt for birdie coming off double at 14. OK. Let's say you get one back.

[00:42:17][ Applause ]

[00:42:21] >> Back to the par-5 14th.

[00:42:23] >> Rickie Fowler is back there, and Nick Taylor at the Canadian Open in the playoff sort of zip code 74 feet from here. Up over the ridge.

[00:42:35] >> Dottie, his heart rate had to be extremely high while that second shot was in the water. It just -- While it was going over the water, it just barely covered. Yeah, every bit of 70 feet goes upper ridge, should move to his left. Anything inside of 5 feet would be really good.

[00:42:52] >> No three putts this week.

[00:43:05] >> Pretty good.

[00:43:06] >> Colt, there's your 5-footer.

[00:43:08] >> Not too bad.

[00:43:18] >> Fourteen.

[00:43:19] >> Taylor Pendrith has just made a seven here, a double. Now, Rickie to get out of that tie.

[00:43:29] >> Four feet, very little movement. If anything, I could see it going just a hair to his left.

[00:43:34] >> Normally hits these rarely firm.

[00:43:44] >> Not to be.

[00:43:46] >> My, that was a massive miss, Trevor.

[00:43:54] >> Which makes this putt huge right now.

[00:43:57] >> And Frank, most of the day, he's called in JJ Jakovac to have a little look. Not this one. Maracaibo resolute on the read.

[00:44:06] >> Winners want the ball.

[00:44:15] >> That was a good putt.

[00:44:23] >> Fowler at 15, still tied for the lead.

[00:44:30] >> In the hole.

[00:44:30] >> That's one pretty good line just left of it.

[00:44:32] >> And going to get a read.

[00:44:42] >> Now, up to the green with Hadwin in his birdie try.

[00:44:50] >> In the hole.

[00:44:51] >> For a share of the lead. Yes. Hadwin to 23-under.

[00:44:58][ Applause ]

[00:45:04] >> Can Fowler follow him in?

[00:45:08] >> Two way off the ground. Pulled it on the last.

[00:45:18] >> Wow.

[00:45:18] >> Seventeen.

[00:45:21] >> In the hole.

[00:45:23] >> Morikawa with a chip for eagle. Well done.

[00:45:38] >> Flow the putter at three, remained tied at the top.

[00:45:51] >> A little Aimpoint express being done there by JJ before Morikawa putts for the solo lead.

[00:45:59] >> A lot going on really for something that's a foot and a half or so.

[00:46:07] >> One thing going on right now is a solo leader.

[00:46:10][ Applause ]

[00:46:16] >> Great game.

[00:46:17] >> This one came out hot.

[00:46:20] >> And really low.

[00:46:21] >> And not much of an angle to work with, Colt.

[00:46:32] >> Morikawa makes this, I think at worst, he's going to be in the playoff, maybe win the tournament.

[00:46:40] >> Or Trevor, I've seen the easier looks. This one with a lot of break off the left-hand side.

[00:46:46] >> I just got a feeling he's going to make it. His speeds been great the entire day.

[00:47:02] >> What a great putt.

[00:47:05] >> That close.

[00:47:08] >> Now, Rickie looking for a subpar score for the first time since the seventh hole today.

[00:47:17] >> It's just been stuck in neutral on this back nine. He's been destroying it all week.

[00:47:23] >> Wasted no time.

[00:47:26] >> Par both the par 5s on his back nine, Dottie.

[00:47:33] >> That's not going to get it done on a day like today. But still a chance at 18. Hadwin now to join Morikawa.

[00:47:50] >> Just inside of 4 feet. Got to keep it inside the hole.

[00:47:57] >> Company at the top.

[00:47:59][ Applause ]

[00:48:07] >> Morikawa waiting and watching as Fowler needs birdie here at 18.

[00:48:13] >> Ball sitting down just a little bit in this first cut.

[00:48:16] >> That from 149 fading right at it. Oh, Fowler with a beauty.

[00:48:25][ Cheering and Applause ] That's how you respond, Trevor.

[00:48:33] >> What a golf shot from Rickie Fowler. And the crowds are going nuts.

[00:48:42] >> Fowler delivers when he had to have it. And now, that to get to 24-under.

[00:48:52] >> Rickie kind of get nice a little longer here.

[00:48:57] >> I know I'd rather have Adam's putt. It's coming back up the hill, touch right to left.

[00:49:04] >> For a spot in the playoff. Yes. At least two will continue on, Hadwin and Morikawa. Will Fowler join them?

[00:49:16] >> We know how firm Rickie likes to hit these short putts, Colt, needs to hit the middle.

[00:49:23] >> Yeah. He cannot get this outside the hole with the speed he likes to hit them at.

[00:49:26] >> This is a great angle to not only see the crowd, but the left to right break. He needed birdie, and he has birdie.

[00:49:40][ Cheering and Applause ] And a three-man playoff coming up between Fowler, Morikawa, and Hadwin. His first birdie since back at the seventh hole. So the first playoff hole will be 18.

[00:50:02] >> Yeah. For the most part, Trevor, pretty much all this rough where he's at is trampled down.

[00:50:09] >> The other two in perfect position.

[00:50:16] >> In the hole.

[00:50:16] >> I'll tell you what, this is on a really nice line. What a golf shot.

[00:50:22] >> Will get up there? It will. What a shot from Fowler again on 18.

[00:50:29] >> And left himself in a position where he's going to be putting back up the hill.

[00:50:35][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:50:40] >> Nine-iron from 163.

[00:50:47] >> This too looks really good.

[00:50:49] >> And it is. With the spin though, you got to be careful.

[00:50:53] >> And that's the difference between the fairway and the rough there. He's carving this in there on a beautiful line. Too much.

[00:51:20] >> Breaking right. For birdie.

[00:51:27] >> Good line.

[00:51:37] >> Caught it right on top of the club face.

[00:51:43] >> It's been four years, four months, and 29 days since Rickie Fowler won on the PGA Tour, going back to the 2019 WM Phoenix Open.

[00:51:59] >> Trevor, he's got a great idea. It's just outside the hole on the left.

[00:52:18] >> And Rickie returns to the winner circle.

[00:52:21][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:52:36] >> This concludes the PGA Tour's coverage of the Rocket Mortgage Classic from Detroit Golf Club in Detroit, Michigan.