Production Transcript for 23INTCUTCH - BOEING CLASSIC MASTER.mp3

[00:00:39] >> The PGA Tour Champions proudly present the yearlong race for the Charles Schwab Cup. Today, from Snoqualmie, Washington is first round coverage of the Boeing Classic. And what a breathtaking backdrop it is in the foothills of the Cascade Mountain Range. We're about 30 miles or so southeast of Seattle. Just next door to dramatic Snoqualmie Falls lies the club at Snoqualmie Ridge, Jack Nicklaus designed, that's been the host venue of the Boeing Classic every year since the inception of the tournament, dating back to 2005. The 18th event of the PGA Tour Champion Season is underway. I'm John Swantek. It's great to have your company along with that of seven-time PGA Tour Winner, Peter Jacobson, and five-time PGA Tour Champion, Mark Wilson. Boo Weekley making his Champions Tour debut this week.

[00:01:35] >> Always loved this man's golf swing. A very accurate player. This looks good.

[00:01:49] >> Keep it right here with Couples.

[00:01:50] >> 136 yards for Fred, and same thing, even though he's in the fairway, he can certainly spin it a little bit. But we got that little bit of helping breeze. Hole location is just 8 on, and he's got a lane that's [inaudible] in front of the green and hope it stops quick. Mid-trajectory, just a little right of it.

[00:02:11] >> Still jumped about 20 feet. Good shot.

[00:02:15] >> Back at 13. This is birdie, Justin Leonard, playing with Boo Weekley and just one for birdie. A little bit of a struggle for Boo to get his PGA Tour Champions career going today. To the 9th and [inaudible] hole today here for Harrison Frazar.

[00:02:35] >> Oh, another birdie. Wow. That's his sixth of the day.

[00:02:40] >> Three in a row to close it out, the former Texas Longhorn, and we've got another player at 4 under. Frazar with the clubhouse lead after 68. Get you up to 14, and this is a clean look for birdie here for Davis Love.

[00:02:56] >> And what a day. Four birdies for Davis, all the rest pars.

[00:03:04] >> Back at 13, this is Fred Couples who worked from off the green, as he has the last couple of holes here, Mark.

[00:03:10] >> Kind of a gnarly lie. Ball's sitting down here and he's got a bit of a mound about 15 feet. And from that, can kind of kick it to the left, so a lot of green to work with but not an easy shot at all.

[00:03:29] >> Wow, great touch.

[00:03:34] >> And back at 13 now for the Cejka birdie attempt.

[00:03:37] >> This is back up the hill and [inaudible] work from left to right for Alex. [Inaudible] the strike on his iron shot, he said it's impossible to hold this green. Do it.

[00:03:48] >> [Inaudible] after dumping three shots the last couple of holes.

[00:03:55] >> Crazy game.

[00:03:59] >> Wow, that is a -- that looks like a FedEx tracking number right there.

[00:04:08] >> A lot of upheaval through the middle of the round for Cejka.

[00:04:13] >> Birdie sends him back to plus 2. Couples has a short one on his hands for par here.

[00:04:18] >> He's kind of gone I think, from what I've seen, a little bit conventional and then crossing, which he's going for this one. So, pretty just, you know, not totally certain on the greens right now.

[00:04:33] >> We're searching for it a little bit here, Peter.

[00:04:35] >> That was better.

[00:04:35] >> Slow start here for Freddy, who would dearly love to win here. He's been third on three occasions, including 2019 most recently.

[00:04:46] >> They're dry. It's firm. It's fast, which is the way the players love it.

[00:04:52] >> Alker birdie at 15. No problem with that one.

[00:04:55] >> I don't know why he was putting it. I gave it to him. Didn't -- he must not have got the message.

[00:05:00] >> All right. Back at 14, the short par-4. Second shots coming up for the group here.

[00:05:07] >> Alex is off on a bit of a downslope on his. Nice lie, fortunately, in the fairway, 136 yards total in that hole location over there on the right. So easy to kind of catch this one just a little thin and maybe squeeze it to the right. So, I think you can see this over there a little left of the hole location.

[00:05:23] >> Well, you can see that deep bunker on the right side there. This one right here, you want to avoid that at all costs, whether off the tee or with your second shot. Because it is about 10 feet deep, but it's -- as you said earlier, Mark, it's hard to even see the flag, much less get it close.

[00:05:48] >> At a safe point.

[00:05:57] >> And we're up at 16 now with Alker.

[00:06:08] >> Close.

[00:06:09] >> Back to 14, down at the bottom of the fairway is Jimenez.

[00:06:14] >> A really nice spot. I mean, you don't try to hit it here, because he just really cleared the cavern, but 120 yards and kind of [inaudible] the throat of the green.

[00:06:21] >> That's how you do it.

[00:06:22] >> Really.

[00:06:23] >> He took a little bit more of an aggressive line off the tee. Back to 14, Couples from the fairway bunker.

[00:06:32] >> An even 100 yards for Freddy, a really nice lie. Lip is not an issue at all, and he's kind of got that same angle that Miguel had coming right up the throat of the green.

[00:06:45] >> Good shot. He's just starting to show off.

[00:06:51] >> Well, that's a Tour player job, isn't it, Mark, to show off?

[00:06:53] >> Back to 15, Love for his second straight birdie, fifth of the round here. Good start for Davis Love. We don't see a whole lot of him out here but making the most of the opportunity here today. Freddy at 14.

[00:07:09] >> Wasted no time here. This should go to the right as well.

[00:07:11] >> Yeah!

[00:07:13] >> Great. Fancy shot under the fairway bunker that he [inaudible] in there. Fourth birder of the day, has the Couples contingent in the gallery going. And Miguel for the second birdie in the group here.

[00:07:35] >> He would have learned a little bit from Freddy's, and this is going to break a good, I'd say, 3 or 4 inches to the right. It's quick, so it's one of those left-to-right sliders that so easy to be a little tentative on. And this is on the low side.

[00:07:48] >> And you can tell from that angle right there that it's slightly downhill. Greens have got some speed today.

[00:08:04] >> Didn't take the break I thought I saw and him as well.

[00:08:07][ Applause ]

[00:08:11] >> 14 playing just shade under par today. At 16, a mere formality here. What a shot from Stephen Ames, and he pays it off. So, the first player to 6 under on the leaderboard. Drop back to 15, this the third for Ernie into the par 5.

[00:08:28] >> He must have hit some trouble off the tee, because this is a reachable par 5, especially for Ernie with his length.

[00:08:35] >> What a shot.

[00:08:37] >> Thank you.

[00:08:37] >> Langer just inside 10 feet here for his birdie at 16.

[00:08:47] >> Should move a little bit to his right.

[00:08:56] >> Four birdies since the turn for Bernhard. Colin Montgomerie looking to close out his day with a birdie and does so. Pickups at 16 and 18 for Colin as we drift back to 15 here.

[00:09:12] >> We're 65 yards away. Wasn't thrilled with the pitch that he hit to get here, but this also stayed kind of up on that top tier. So, he's got a chance.

[00:09:25] >> There we go.

[00:09:25] >> Very nice.

[00:09:28] >> Defending champion pours one in for birdie at 15. Our first peek at Justin Leonard. This one for birdie at 16.

[00:09:34] >> There you go.

[00:09:35] >> There you go, finally in the red.

[00:09:41] >> As we're back at 18 now, Alker just outside the bunker that Ames was in.

[00:09:46] >> That adhering to, got a bad break for it to miss the green, but with an eagle--

[00:09:52][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:09:57] >> This is 17, and Davis Love now in the penalty area with his tee shot. So, he's 8 double after a bogey on the previous hole.

[00:10:05] >> And tough way to end your round. Davis with 5 birdies.

[00:10:10] >> And here's Vijay Singh for a round of 69.

[00:10:13] >> There you go. Vijay's had so much trouble with his feet. It's good to see him shoot a good opening round.

[00:10:23] >> Over at the 9, that will be the final part of the day. A birdie for Shane Bertsch to close a round of 69. Kevin Sutherland, the runner up here in 2018, finishing up over on the other side of the golf course. This at the 8 to get to 6-under.

[00:10:41] >> One thing we've learned about Kevin, he can go low.

[00:10:50] >> Back at 18 and Jimenez for eagle, followed by Couples for eagle.

[00:10:55] >> This will make him feel a little better about the day. And he's kind of thrown some holes away with some bogeys, but boy, this would feel really sweet. That's probably a 12-inch break left or right.

[00:11:12] >> Pours on in at the last and finishes with a flourish.

[00:11:16][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:11:20] >> In style for 68, two better than his opening round of a year ago on the way to victory. Freddy looking for one run on top of him here.

[00:11:27] >> Yeah. Good visual, to see a putt go in on the same line.

[00:11:31] >> I think it's straight up the gut.

[00:11:32] >> The boys are putting on a show here. Twelfth appearance here at Seattle for [inaudible] Jefferson Park. And he, along with the defending champion, closes out the day with a 3. Well, what a day for Woody Austin and Kevin Sutherland, the runner up here a few years ago. They share the lead after matching rounds of 66. Strong title defense being put forth by Jimenez through the opening 18 holes.

[00:12:05] >> Yeah. He didn't play that well today. Made a couple of bogeys but that closing eagle was huge.

[00:12:13] >> Davis Love at one point added to 5-under. He spilled a few coming in, consigned for 70. And we welcome you to the club at Snoqualmie Ridge outside of Seattle, and it's Golf Channel's third round -- second round coverage of the Boeing Classic. And there have been some aggressive moves up the leaderboard on this Saturday. I'm John Swantek. Peter Jacobson is alongside, and look who is threatening? Bernhard Langer for birdie at 9.

[00:12:50] >> Big surprise. He's so good from that [inaudible].

[00:12:55] >> Now minus 7 briefly, had a share of the lead, Miguel Angel Jinenez, the defending champion here at the 8th. Lovely touch. If he would handle that comeback or to get to minus 6. Kevin Sutherland, twice he's been a runner up here through the years.

[00:13:13] >> He can shoot some low scores, and it's a beautiful shot here at the par-5. Leads to a birdie.

[00:13:22] >> That would get Sutherland to minus 7. He's in the final group of the day along with Stephen Ames operating from the bunker at the 8th.

[00:13:30] >> Yeah, 5 birdies and an eagle yesterday, and this almost another eagle. Taps in for his 4th birdie of the day, so far 28.

[00:13:40] >> Ames briefly had the lead at to minus 8, and then it just a moment ago rattled that one in for birdie at the 10th. Just crashed it in, like the eagle putt, to close out his opening round on Friday. And the defending champion coming off a three-win season. Trying to break group for the first time this year, is within 1. Catch up to our final group here at the 10, Sutherland plays his third.

[00:14:07] >> Yeah, John. Spun it off the green there with a second shot, and that was -- Kevin's going to leave himself a quick one down the hill. And the wind is freshening. Greens are firming up, guys. It's going to be an interesting back 9 here.

[00:14:18] >> Yeah. That's an awkward hole, Mark, up the hill. It's hard to keep the ball on the green, especially with this back-right hole location. Everything's going to come spinning back.

[00:14:29] >> Yeah. So, then you do what Stephen Ames did, make sure you get it up into this little section. He flew it over into the rough, so then, of course, it does -- the spin doesn't take. And you get to see a lazy flop shot here from about 20 feet. See what Stephen's got.

[00:14:43] >> Yeah, this is tricky.

[00:14:48] >> And he's got a decent lie at least. He can kind of lay the blade open completely, and -- but it's all downhill when it hits the green. I mean, anything, I think if he's not going to hit the flagstick, getting this within 6 feet past the hole is tremendous.

[00:15:01] >> He's got to hit this about right there.

[00:15:07] >> Oh, he took the gamble, bouncing it through the rough.

[00:15:10] >> It's not bad.

[00:15:10] >> That's really good.

[00:15:12] >> Boy, another foot and it would have been perfect.

[00:15:18] >> And it gets us to 12, first look at the reigning Charles Schwab Cup Champion, Steven Alker, for birdie.

[00:15:27] >> I think this is fairly level, fairly straight and back up the -- there you go.

[00:15:37] >> So, Alker to 500, trying to get his name in the picture here, as it often is. Lone victory for KJ out here, coming with Pure Insurance Championship three years ago. Missed opportunity there. He remains at minus 5, and here's O'Neal's par saver here at 17, just staying 1 back of Ames.

[00:16:00] >> Oh, very good. He is an impressive young man to watch play.

[00:16:08] >> We'll take you to 13. Steven Alker has this one for birdie, the move to 6-under.

[00:16:22] >> Yep. Here he comes.

[00:16:29] >> Well, Miguel Angel Jimenez gained relief, Peter, from a sprinkler head here at 12. Was able to place it just on the edge of the green there.

[00:16:36] >> Yeah. That's a huge break. What he can do is he puts a putter in his hand and can at least try to get it within striking distance.

[00:16:47] >> We'll keep it right here at the 12. Tim Herron has this one to move to 5-under.

[00:16:50] >> Tim got off to a good start yesterday. He's continuing his good play.

[00:16:55] >> Well done.

[00:17:02] >> Par saving attempt for Jimenez at 12 to keep the scorecard clean today. A little activity in his peripheral vision, get everything settled back down here.

[00:17:18] >> Yeah. We saw him in a few shots yesterday, uncharacteristic of Jimenez, kind of in the middle of the round, he lost a few to the right, struggled a bit. But that eagle on 18, that made up for a lot of -- a lot of poor shots.

[00:17:42] >> Oh, gained the benefit of a favorable ruling from a sprinkler head and capitalized on it. Jimenez pars the 12th to stay 1 back. This is what Tim O'Neal has coming back for birdie at 18 for a share of the lead. Oh, what a marvelous day by O'Neal in his rookie season. Best finish attempt this year at 66, matching the low round of the week. Slippery one for Herron's par at 13. Handles it to stay 5-under. Par saving except down for Sutherland back at 13.

[00:18:31] >> It's been kind of a roller coaster day for him too. I mean, coming out of the gates, birdie, birdie. [Inaudible] going to shoot something super low, three bogeys since, and you get one of those days you're making lots of bogeys, you don't want to continue. He's made a couple of really good saves on 10 and 13 to keep this round intact.

[00:18:46] >> Another nifty little pitch shot from Ames from off the green. This will make Stephen [inaudible] of 11, scrambling here this week. And keeping his nose in front at 9-under. Gets us to 16, Steven Alker, one of the chasers, pours that one in.

[00:19:12] >> Speaking of being in control.

[00:19:20] >> Sutherland stalking this one back at 14.

[00:19:22] >> You know, he's made a lot of great saves for par on this 9 but no birdie. So, this is the time to change things up. Since I know these are sprint, basically, on PGA Tour Champions with 54 holes, but you're going to have some low spots. If you can kind of get through them, come out the other side, look out.

[00:19:44] >> And there you go.

[00:19:47] >> First birdie since the 7th hole for Kevin Sutherland. Back in 18, Richard Green is in the group with Fred Couples. This one to get in the house at 500 through 36.

[00:20:01] >> From Australia, played most of his golf around the world, did very little on the PGA Tour. Never won out there. Still looking for his first win out here on the Champions Tour.

[00:20:13][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:20:17] >> [Inaudible] finishes for the Aussie, including one in Morocco back in February. That's a nice round of 70 for Day 2. Back with our defending champion at 15. Can move to 8-under par here. Trying to position himself for what would be the first victory of the season, after a strong campaign a year ago that saw the Spaniard win three times. He was a Champions Tour player of the year, a finalist in fact. Twenty-one wins around the world. He's got 13 out here. He didn't play much on the PGA Tour. Never won out there but such a fun guy to talk to. I talked to him on the range this morning. Always has a kind word, a big smile.

[00:21:15] >> And a stogie.

[00:21:15] >> And a cigar going, yep.

[00:21:31] >> Yep, got it. He was grinding over that one, 430 of the day for Miguel. No drop shots on this Saturday. Back at the home hole, and Bernhard Langer are looking to secure his first birdie of the back 9 today.

[00:21:49] >> So good from this range.

[00:21:51] >> Get in!

[00:21:52] >> Get in.

[00:21:54] >> Sink in. So good from that range.

[00:21:58] >> Right on queue, stumbles across the second 9, and Bernhard will sign for 70. That gets us back to 15 for the Austin birdie putt.

[00:22:07] >> A little right to left here. We'll learn from Stephens, and you just got to love the perseverance for a guy like Woody Austins. Fifty-nine years old and he's still trying to figure out how we can putt the best.

[00:22:18] >> There we go. Well, we learn, don't we, Mark, that you don't make them all. All you can do is put a good stroke on it.

[00:22:27] >> Sometimes we expect to make them all. That's the problem.

[00:22:28] >> Yeah, yeah.

[00:22:35] >> Ames had a really awkward third for his pitch. Long birdie attempt went by, but secures that one for par. Let's scoot ahead to the green here. Herron has had a couple of good birdie looks, but the last one he converted came back at 12. Able to jump that one in to get to 6-under. Just long enough here to keep Ames's full attention on it.

[00:23:07] >> Yep. Unlike Alker, who kind of took that for granted, I think Stephen giving this his full attention.

[00:23:13] >> This would just be right-center if anything.

[00:23:22] >> Birdie number 6 of the round. Again, it's just one drop shot back at the 7. So, the final group stumbles home here at the last. That's bogey-bogey finish for Woody, assigned for 75. Nine shots higher than yesterday's sparkling opener.

[00:23:44] >> Only stumble for Stephen Ames game at the 7th earlier today, and that was the only bogey on the scorecard. And that is a fine round at 67, matching yesterday's effort. And there's your leader, he had 36 holes at work.

[00:23:59] >> [Inaudible], guys.

[00:24:00] >> [Inaudible] tomorrow.

[00:24:01] >> Good luck tomorrow, guys.

[00:24:04] >> That is the man right now, three times a winner PGA Tour Champions this season, and will be in the final group of the day on Sunday here. Looking for a quartet of victories this 2023 season. Going to be fun championship Sunday as Ames leads by 1. He'll play with Alker and Jimenez, the defending champion, in the final group of the day. We've reached the end of the line outside of Seattle. We welcome you to the club at Snoqualmie Ridge and Golf Channel's final round coverage of the Boeing Classic. I'm John Swantek. Thanks for your company. Peter Jacobson is alongside as well. Let's catch you up on what's been happening out here. Stephen Ames trying to win for the fourth time this year, Peter. What a start to his day.

[00:24:50] >> Yeah, he's had a lot of these little shots from around the green, and that was perfect.

[00:24:55] >> Eagle at the 1st gets Ames to 12-under par. Tim O'Neal on the second to last group of the day, really impressive rookie season going.

[00:25:03] >> Yeah, birdie, bogey, birdie start at the first three. And here at 4, makes his 16th birdie so far in the Championship. He leads the field in that category.

[00:25:16] >> O'Neal would get to minus 10. Miguel Angel Jimenez, of course, is the defending champion, trying to go back to back here.

[00:25:22] >> He's putting well this week, especially from that distance. We saw him make a few of those yesterday.

[00:25:27] >> Miguel in the mix again at minus 10 within a couple, but this was Ames at the 6 serving notice that he is going to be a tough man to track down today.

[00:25:37] >> Yeah. Alker had just made a putt like before Ames made his birdie, so he topped him. Very well done.

[00:25:44] >> So, the lead is 3 for Stephen Ames, who's won three times this season. At the 10th here, Ernie Els looking to get to 6-under.

[00:25:55] >> There you go.

[00:25:56][ Applause ]

[00:26:02] >> And we'll check in on the leader here at the 8. Mark?

[00:26:05] >> Seventy-two yards for Stephen, and the straight downwind, actually, I feel like he's got the easiest shot of the three here to try to get them out for birdie.

[00:26:15] >> He's in control.

[00:26:21] >> Up to 11, let's see what Freddy Couples is up to.

[00:26:23] >> Yeah!

[00:26:23] >> There's a big sign out there on the green that says, go Freddy. Got his picture up there, huge sign, hometown favorite.

[00:26:37] >> Tim O'Neal looking for his fourth birdie in the opening 9 holes, offsetting a couple of bogeys along the way.

[00:26:44] >> Oh yeah, that's number 17 for the week.

[00:26:50] >> [Inaudible] out to 34. O'Neal 3 off the lead. Dicky Pride for his birdie at 10. Saw the approach shot earlier, and he pays it off. Ken Tanigawa at 17, looking to follow up an eagle and a birdie. What a run here, late in the day on Sunday for Ken. Here's Ames. That good lie, straightforward. Just caught a little heavy, but that'll work, keep it below the hole. Sometimes you catch it heavy by design, huh Peter?

[00:27:33] >> Yeah, you do. You want to -- you have plenty of green to work with there.

[00:27:36] >> [Inaudible], okay. Okay.

[00:27:36] >> You can take a wedge with less loft and just splash it and let it run.

[00:27:42] >> How about this one now, Mark?

[00:27:44] >> Well, Peter, that's not as exciting. It's fun to fly into the hole with a spin.

[00:27:47] >> A spin for sure. Now same thing for Stephen. He could go ahead and do something similar and a little bit more downslope though over the bunker. He took that out of play. L

[00:27:57][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:28:07] >> Let's go to 11 and the Aussie, Richard Green. He finished 7th in the Senior Open at Royal Porthcawl and those brutal conditions a couple of weeks ago. Here's the second birdie of the final round.

[00:28:17] >> [inaudible] he's a great putter. He's really solid with his fundamentals. He stays very still. He started out the year with Troy Martin. Troy Martin has now moved to Steven Alker's bag following the death of Alker's caddy -- longtime caddy, Sam Workman. And Ames picked up Billy Carlucci, another very experienced, veteran caddy.

[00:28:42] >> It's an interesting player-caddy dynamic in this final group today for sure.

[00:28:46] >> It really is. It really is. You're always trying to improve your position. Sometimes it works out. Sometimes it doesn't. I remember when my caddy, Fluff, he left me to go to another player. I can't remember that player's name.

[00:29:00] >> The name escapes me. It was a risky move by Fluff.

[00:29:03] >> Oh yeah, Tiger Woods.

[00:29:04] >> Oh, right.

[00:29:05] >> I think it worked out really well for Tiger, Mark.

[00:29:07] >> Yeah. I think [inaudible] end of the year that he told him, you've got to take this job, after the golf shots that Fluff saw there at one of those first turns. I think it was in Milwaukee. This little right to left for Steven.

[00:29:20] >> There you go. Yeah, it was Milwaukee. Fluff went to work for Tiger, and Fluff said, oh my gosh, this young man hits shots like I've ever seen before.

[00:29:34] >> On the topic of Tiger, this was the man Y.E. Yang, who held him off the PGA Championship at Hazeltine in Minnesota. He's at 17 here and our tracer technology is presented by TrackMan.

[00:29:46] >> This course is -- or this hole is played so difficult all week long. Second most difficult today and all week. That's how you do it.

[00:29:59] >> Back to 10.

[00:30:02] >> Good look from Miguel here down the hill, a little right to left. You got about 200 people out here following this final group, their starved for professional golf in the state of Washington. So, they're coming out in droves.

[00:30:13] >> Well, Jimenez looks good with his putter, really good.

[00:30:21] >> Second birdie the day for Miguel. He's pushed to double digits under par, joining Alker and O'Neal. Saw that beautiful tee shot from Y.E. Yang earlier. That's the blueprint if you can curl one into that back-left hole location at the par 3. That's 3 birdies since the turn for Y.E. A good finish to his week. The par-5 18th ahead. On the final day here, with Stephen Ames in charge. Jimenez working from off the green here.

[00:30:59] >> On the upslope, John, making this a little bit easier, and it's all downhill from -- once it hits the green.

[00:31:09] >> So, that remains to stay at minus 10. Let's go to 17, look in on Justin Leonard and also our TrackMan technology, presented by Single Store in real time. [Inaudible] going for just his second full year out here, four top 10s, 25th in the Schwab Cup race.

[00:31:27] >> Oh yeah. How about it? Go in!

[00:31:29] >> Got to love this one.

[00:31:30] >> Go in! Great shot. Much flatter lie for Alker to work with.

[00:31:38] >> Sure is. 109 yards to the front, 123 hole, helping breeze. Still going to try to land this, just a couple paces on. Want to have something that you could hit nice and full here. See that full finish, and that was a full wedge of some sort.

[00:31:56] >> Beautiful. Dancing underneath the flagstick, you're in position to pick one up. Get through 11-under. Let's jump up to 14, Ernie Els has a look at birdie.

[00:32:14] >> He's got the claw grip working. And yeah, it's working.

[00:32:21] >> Ernie, winner of the Hoag Classic earlier this spring for the second time in his career out here. Ames from underneath the hole here, Mark, to get it to 14-under.

[00:32:32] >> Yeah, just a little longer than the par putt he made at the last but a big moment and a big tournament here. Being a Canadian citizen as well, you know, he [inaudible] of this thing on his hometown event for a long time. Wife Kelly and a lot of her family are out this week cheering him on.

[00:32:56] >> It was so good. Just lost its speed.

[00:33:05] >> Well, it appears as though Alker is going to get one step closer here if he can handle this one.

[00:33:10] >> Just about 24 inches away and you just kind of keep chipping away at it.

[00:33:14] >> Remember, yesterday on 18, he had a beautiful bunker shot to this position and missed it for birdie. So, he's got to pay attention right there and he does.

[00:33:29] >> Bernhard Langer at 8-under par, playing his second into 16. This is a pretty inviting hole location here today, Peter.

[00:33:35] >> Yeah. It's in a bowl. I think we're going to see a ton of good shots here at 16. Well, there's three of them right there.

[00:33:42] >> They've got it surrounded.

[00:33:47] >> Good visual for Ames to watch that shot from Jimenez.

[00:33:50] >> Sure is. It's pretty much a flat lie, if anything slightly on the upslope. 120 yards for Steve into the hole. That's nice.

[00:34:13] >> Oh my, even better. Man, he is -- he's dialed in.

[00:34:22] >> Get you up to 16 here. Langer looking for his first birdie of the back 9.

[00:34:28] >> We've had three excellent shots out of the 16th. That one gets Bernhard to 9-under. So, this to get some 14-under and a little separation here.

[00:34:59] >> He's been confident on these all day.

[00:35:04] >> Wow.

[00:35:07] >> Yeah.

[00:35:07] >> That was big.

[00:35:08] >> With authority, Ames pops another one in. And the lead is 3, with four to play and two par 5s. Up to the 18th, and K.J. Choi, who we checked in on early on our coverage. Remember, he birdied 6 of his opening 10 holes today and was right in the thick of it at 9-under. But just even par through the remaining stretch of his back 9, but a chance to close the week for the birdie here at the last.

[00:35:34] >> He has 7 birdies through 15 holes and then slowed down a bit. But it'd be great to get another one right here.

[00:35:53] >> Indeed, K.J. Choi with a very productive Sunday. Started the week tied -- rather, the day tied for 17th and will sign for 65, matching the low round of the week. Back at 16, second shot of [inaudible] on the way.

[00:36:18] >> Boy, he works hard on his swing. When we worked together on the road, on -- for NBC telecasts, we were always out hitting balls. Oh, how about a 2? Good shot, noted.

[00:36:29] >> See if Langer can salvage par here at 17.

[00:36:34] >> Come on, go in!

[00:36:35] >> Oh, [inaudible] those are the kinds of pars you dream about. Third for Jimenez at the 15.

[00:36:43] >> 35 yards and sitting down a good bit, so not going to spin it all with plenty of green to work with. Got more spin on it than I thought he would.

[00:36:50] >> What a shot.

[00:36:51] >> Oh, how about this one? Marvelous.

[00:36:54] >> Could be a birdie pickup for Miguel. That would get him to 11-under.

[00:36:59] >> It's incredible, Mark. A lot of these players are magicians with wedges around the green, and you have to be if you want to win.

[00:37:07] >> Yeah, yeah. You're okay with me.

[00:37:08] >> Yeah.

[00:37:08] >> They really are. I was talking to Mark Hensby this morning about that a little bit, how he's winning this year on the PGA Tour Champions. But how we'll go about so many rounds and feel he helped play somebody tee to green and then adds it up. And they're not just one or two shots better, they're three, four, five shots better than his scores. And what just happened? It's the short game.

[00:37:26] >> Yep. It's all a short game. You can get away with a bad drive. You can get away with a bad iron, but if you miss the 4- or 5-footer, that's painful.

[00:37:38] >> A little flip coming up for Ames's third now.

[00:37:41] >> Yeah. It's one of those were, when you're practicing this at home, I mean, you hit 9 out of 10 within 5 feet. But under the heat of it, what's your mind thinking right now?

[00:37:49] >> He likes to drive these in low.

[00:37:56] >> Nice strike.

[00:37:58] >> Wow.

[00:37:59] >> He likes it.

[00:38:01] >> Yep, as he should. Ames now to continue to build some separation here.

[00:38:16] >> It's just a conscious effort to kind of play like you're playing alone at your own home club. Like not really thinking too much about what they're going to do in terms of break. No problem.

[00:38:27] >> Yeah, this is a clinic. Steven is putting on a clinic today. Look at that. Eagle at 1, 3 birdies to follow. He's just -- total command of his game.

[00:38:39] >> Doesn't even really have to step on the gas until he needs to. He's just kind of in cruise control right now. Jerry Kelly's winning score of 19-under in 2017, by the way, is the tournament scoring mark. Ames at 15-under. That was the winning number for Jimenez a year ago. Alker simply just trying to keep pace at this point.

[00:39:07] >> It should be right-center.

[00:39:16] >> So, birdies from all three of the final group as they capitalize at 15. They'll get another crack at a par 5 at the closing hole. It's been a strong top of the fence put forth by Miguel [inaudible] this week to be sure.

[00:39:46] >> That was interesting, because last year, Stephen Ames had the lead, and Jimenez blew by him on the backside. Ames finished third here last year. Jimenez would [inaudible]. A little reversal of fortune here.

[00:40:17] >> Wind definitely fresh, and that 30 that Stephen shot on the opening 9 last year going on, you thought he was just going to run away with it. And in the end, he stalled with 39 coming home, and Miguel, door was open, and he went right through it.

[00:40:31] >> He chased him down.

[00:40:36] >> 115 yards here for Miguel. I'd say he can 125 shot with this wind. Just got the distance right.

[00:40:44] >> Well, he cut that off. He really tried to spin that. Beautiful shot.

[00:40:51] >> Cool little shot, but back to the bag for a little bit more weight. So, Ames in command here. Has not really let anyone get closer than 2 along the way. This 5-under par final round going and looking for a third straight birdie here to close the door just a little bit more.

[00:41:31] >> And [inaudible] I haven't seen a whole lot of him looking at the putt from the other side. This one he did, so maybe a little confusion on what this is going to do. It looks like it's got to go a little right to left, just for about 9 feet away.

[00:42:12] >> Why not? Why not one more?

[00:42:14] >> Well, if you look at his card, before he made it 11 I think was the key shot for Ames on this back 9. He hit a -- he hit a poor second shot to the green. He had a long putt up the slope. Ran it, what, 8-9 feet by? And he made that putt for a par, which was just so clutch.

[00:42:36] >> What a great ground level view of that one. It just twisted the final foot and a half of its journey and dropped in there for a third straight birdie for Ames, who's pushed it to 16-under. And just outside of 4 feet here for Jimenez.

[00:42:58] >> This is a delicate one down a hill. This is the small, little practice strokes. You hit those small, practice strokes when you -- it's so soft, so easy to push it a little bit.

[00:43:12] >> Yes, sir.

[00:43:16] >> [Inaudible] birdies at 15 and 16 for Miguel. [Inaudible] for what could be a runner up finish year and his title defense. Still searching for the first victory of the season, however.

[00:43:29] >> Sutherland twice the runner up here. So, you said it was a hard lesson that Tim O'Neal is going to absorb here, Peter. He's going to have to let it sink in and reflect. What is the lesson he hopefully will walk away with?

[00:43:42] >> Well, I think maybe in the position he was in, he just got a little bit ahead of himself. He got excited. He liked being in contention with a chance to win, and then he took his -- he took his eye off the ball. In situations like this, you've got to keep focusing on the little picture, not the big picture. The big picture being, I'm going to win. The little picture is the next shot. But you look at that golf swing and it's as good as anybody out here. How about this? Go in!

[00:44:15] >> What a finish.

[00:44:17] >> My gosh.

[00:44:18] >> A spectacular shot from O'Neal, who's really been roughed up over the second 9 today. Ames for four in a row here.

[00:44:27] >> Trying to birdie his way to the house, isn't he? Birdies on 14, 15,16. Why not another one?

[00:44:33] >> Sure. It's his routine.

[00:44:34] >> Game seems easy right now.

[00:44:37] >> Wow. Talk about slamming the door. Yeah, it's beverage time down here at 17. Stephen Ames is buying.

[00:44:54] >> Look at that. It's the easiest stretch, 14 through 18, but this 17th hole is played as the most difficult hole today. But Stephen Ames, there's no stopping him.

[00:45:03] >> Up to the 18th with Tim Herron, this amateur is being contested. [Inaudible] in Denver this weekend. [Inaudible] Carson, who is going to be on the field.

[00:45:15] >> Yeah, 21-year-old, how about that? What a [inaudible].

[00:45:22] >> What a glorious second shot from Tim O'Neal.

[00:45:25] >> Much of the back 9 is utterly forgettable for Tim, but that's a beautiful finish. Free at last.

[00:45:32] >> Yeah. He'll learn. He'll learn. You hate to learn lessons like that, but unfortunately, we all go through them.

[00:45:46] >> If Ames could somehow make eagle here, not only would it be 30 on the back 9, it would equal the tournament scoring mark of 19-under.

[00:45:54] >> 197 yards to the front for Stephen.

[00:46:02] >> Wow. This is a laser beam, right at it.

[00:46:09] >> That is how you finish.

[00:46:12] >> Incredible. Why let up now? Long walk, not with a putter in hand just yet, but with victory in hand for Stephen Ames. Alker will bang this one in for his birdie before the eagle putt of Ames coming up. Good finish, after the pretty long shots at 16 and 17. So, this for 30 on the backside and a round of 63 today to close it out. Challenges chased him, but Ames brought his A game. [Inaudible] victory number four on the season.

[00:47:17] >> And he made it look so easy, John. It's just really, a really impressive performance all week for Stephen Ames. The tournament tying score of 19-under par, matching Jerry Kelly's total back in 2017. Three shots off the lowest round we've ever seen here at the club in Snoqualmie Ridge. A truly dominant performance from Stephen Ames.

[00:47:45] >> Well, we knew that the easiest stretch was 14 to 18. But Stephen made it look like a pitch and putt the way that he played those last few holes.

[00:47:56] >> He was 7th through the Schwab Cup race coming into the week, but it's got to make some inroads. [Inaudible] was idle this week, of course, and Harrington was also. And Ames slips inside of Alker, behind the top two in the current standings through 18 events this season.

[00:48:13] >> Well, that lead looks insurmountable, but if Stephen Ames keeps playing the way that he's playing, he's going to -- he's going to narrow that gap quickly.

[00:48:26] >> Well, Stephen Ames was flying high at the Boeing Classic and so was the 737 Max. That's the largest aircraft in Boeing's 737 family.

[00:48:39] >> Oh, that is cool. A little wave.

[00:48:43] >> Ames delivers a dramatic approach in the 18 and so does the 737 Max. How about it? Mark, how about a word with our champion there?

[00:48:51] >> Well, while he was flying high and Stephen you ruined it. You were trying to birdie into the house, but you had to eagle the last hole, 30 coming home. You said you changed your goals a few times there on that back 9. So, you were aware of whatever he else was doing and just -- you're trying to figure it out.

[00:49:05] >> I was. I was. You know, I started the day, I put a number in there at 15, was my number. And I kept having to push myself because I was 3-under on the front, and I said, you're okay. I needed two more. Birdied 14 and 15. I went, okay, what am I going to do for the last three holes? I got to keep pushing myself. So, I said, okay, let's birdie one of the next three. And then I birdied 60, and I went, okay, maybe one more for the next two. I didn't think I'd finish the way I finished. But you know what? It's all icing on the cake.

[00:49:29] >> You've become an incredible closer here, four times this season. What's gotten into you? You talked about workouts, but it's got to be more than that.

[00:49:35] >> You know, it's all combination of everything. The working out has been very rigid, and I'm doing a lot of work mentally. And then I've got a new coach that I've been working with the last four years. It's always a quick flash by. If we look at the same things and we see the same things that we need to continue trying to get rid of, you know, and the nice thing about it, that it's working. It's getting better and better every week, which is nice. So, all right, it's just all these accumulation of things that are working right now. And you know, life is great right now too. That kind of helps.

[00:50:02] >> Yeah. And then, to win here, you know, this kind of feels like a hometown event, being a Vancouver resident for so long, wife Kelly's here, a lot of her family's here. It's got to feel extra special to win, sir.

[00:50:12] >> [Inaudible] they actually -- don't tell them, but they actually think it's them that's actually making me play well every time this week, every time they come out here. But I think on the whole, you know, you're right, it's a family affair with me. I mean, [inaudible] got a two-hour drive home back home to Vancouver right now. So, yeah, it's a big family affair this week.

[00:50:25] >> Well, keep it going, Stephen. You got another week in Canada next week. So, just keep it rolling, man. Stay on this train.

[00:50:31] >> I will. Thanks. I'll see you, Mark.

[00:50:33] >> Back to you, John.

[00:50:34] >> Thank you, Mark. That is an ear-to-ear grim, Peter. He talked about the mental adjustment he made. There's a -- there's a lightness and a relaxed demeanor to Stephen Ames that we haven't always seen in years past.

[00:50:44] >> Yeah. I think he's been the hardest on himself, and I think he would admit that. Here is his second shot at 18. He had such a huge tee shot yesterday, and he followed that up with another bomb today and look at this laser. A long iron shot here to the par 5 to just about 3 feet, made eagle, but Stephen is becoming a complete player, not only physically with his golf swing, but mentally as well.

[00:51:14] >> And go ahead and close it out. Why not? Four birdies followed by an eagle at the last. He scorches the back 9, 30 coming home for 63, and that is called slamming the door shut. Moves to third in the Schwab Cup standings and wins at a cancer by 7 on the final day, distancing himself from everybody trying to run him down.

[00:51:39] >> And it was close. He was a couple of strokes at the turn, and he looked like he might three putt 11. But then boom, he just -- he plays the last five 6-under. And as Mark said, he's becoming quite a closer.

[00:51:53] >> Difficult day for Tim O'Neal. He signed for 74 after playing in the second to last group of the day. But we'll look to build on this and take it all in.

[00:52:02] >> The positive out of this is this is the best finish for Tim O'Neal. He finished 9th, so his career is going in the right direction. I know he had a couple of slips coming in, but that eagle at 18 was very impressive.