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[00:00:40] >> From St. Louis to Sioux Falls, the Champions Tour season rolls along and brings us to Minnehaha Country Club here in South Dakota for live opening round coverage of the Sanford International. I'm John Swantek, great to have you along. John Cook is with us as well. And this is Bernhard Langer earlier today for birdie at 6.

[00:00:57] >> Yeah, the uphill par-3 there, John, 167 yards today, and we've seen Bernhard do that a couple times.

[00:01:04] >> Got him to minus-3, Wes Short Jr. got it going in the early part of the day here.

[00:01:09] >> Yeah, started on the back 9 and is on his front side. Par-5, number 4, takes advantage. Nice birdie there for Wes.

[00:01:16] >> Moved him to minus-6. Here's David Toms, twice a winner this season, this at 11.

[00:01:21] >> Yeah, silky smooth at the 11th for David Toms, another birdie.

[00:01:25] >> Toms to 5 under par. Of course, Steve Stricker is the defending champion. He shot 30 in the opening 9 and poured another one in here at 11.

[00:01:32] >> Good par-3, 195 yards, tee off by that clubhouse, and Steve Stricker ho-hum.

[00:01:40] >> That was at 10. Would get him to 5-under. He's playing in a group with Darren Clarke. This was at 11.

[00:01:45] >> Nice stroke there for Darren, also playing well in that same group. And Stricker would indeed add one at 11 to get to 6-under and get his nose in front here.

[00:01:55] >> Yeah, just kind of wasting daylight here now with Steve Stricker. He's taking up time, making more birdies.

[00:02:01] >> Supposed to be rusty. We haven't seen him since the Ally Challenge. One more highlight here, Cookie, from earlier today. That's Fred Funk back on the tee at 17, par-3, playing 199.

[00:02:12] >> Yeah, 199 today there, John, 180 yards to the front for Fred. That's all he kind of wants. Just put it on the front of the green and see where it ends up, and, well, it's going to end up right there.

[00:02:22] >> Oh, yes.

[00:02:23] >> Get the people there at the ranch, get them all excited early in the day.

[00:02:27] >> Big celebration back on the tee, hole-in-one at 17 for Fred Funk. What a feeling to snatch that one out of the hole.

[00:02:35] >> That's a big ticket there at the ranch. There's a lot of people around there that saw that one go in.

[00:02:39] >> Perfection at 17 from Fred Funk earlier in the day, and Steve Stricker has played nearly perfect golf all season long, trying to win for the sixth time and the third time here in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Great to have your company here for day one. We'll go out to the 12th here, and last week's winner of the Ascension Charity Classic in St. Louis, Steve Flesch.

[00:02:59] >> From across the green, just left of the hole.

[00:03:07] >> And a birdie look for Jimenez back at the par-5 here.

[00:03:09] >> Well, you know he loves a party, and Darren Clarke and Steve Stricker are having a party right now. Miguel Angel Jimenez, not so much. Pretty bad bogey back at 11. See if he can get on the birdie train. There we go.

[00:03:25] >> A couple of runner-up finishes this year for Miguel, who won three times last season, but is yet to hoist a trophy this season. Over at 15, Alex Cejka, this for a third birdie in a five-hole stretch. Stricker with his sights on another birdie here.

[00:03:48] >> I think a little tougher putt for Steve, like most right handers, when it breaks away from you, a little harder to see the line. I say that because he's made every right-to-lefter that he's seen today.

[00:04:04] >> Carries his hands nice and high, get the heel off the ground, which you can't see very often, but boy has he used that well. Great birdie there at the 13th.

[00:04:30] >> Darren Clarke's been employing a new putting method, Cookie, that he kind of clued you in on in Flint, Michigan, didn't he?

[00:04:35] >> He did, yes. It's kind of Stan Utley-ish, where it's two-thirds back, one-third through, kind of hold that finish, create some energy, get that energy hit through the striking zone, then hold that finish.

[00:04:52] >> We'll get to 15. Flesch ready to play his second here at the short par-4.

[00:04:55] >> He chose to lay the ball up in between all those bunkers. He's got plenty of length to get it there, but maybe didn't feel good with that pin position there. Coming off that win last week. Did he get it up far enough? He did. Be a nice little look there for birdie for Steve.

[00:05:16] >> Back at 14, three birdie putts upcoming for the group. Stricker will get the first chance here.

[00:05:23] >> And this is an interesting putt. I think he's going to push a little bit to the right early and then actually toward the back of the green at the end, going back to the left.

[00:05:33] >> Yeah, it does go towards the back of the green.

[00:05:35] >> By the way, do you have to be named Steve to win this year on this tour?

[00:05:40] >> Pretty much. Yeah, we have Ames. Well, he goes Stephen, Steve Stryker, Steven Elker. So it's either Steve or Steven winning most of the events.

[00:05:51] >> And then Flesch last week.

[00:05:52] >> Yeah, Steve Flesch. There you go. Right.

[00:05:55] >> That's 11.

[00:05:55] >> Wow.

[00:05:58] >> Uh-oh. Do we dare say? Par 70. 9 under par. Do we dare say the watch?

[00:06:06] >> Well, let's tread lightly. We'll tell you that Robert Karlsson shot 62 in the opening round last year, so that's in serious jeopardy.

[00:06:19] >> A little out of position off the tee. Had to be a little careful with his second. He might take a go at this next hole at the 15th. He's got plenty of length, got plenty of pop in his bat. Meanwhile, Jimenez hasn't seen a whole lot go in today. Three birdies. One dropped shot back at 11.

[00:06:47] >> Back here at 18, Appleby has this one for 65.

[00:06:50] >> He had to shoulder that ridge.

[00:06:58] >> Let's take it to 16. Shaw Charity Classic champion Ken Duke watches that one wander by a good six feet or so. Kenny, a couple over par today. Another good showing in St. Louis, last week's Ascension Charity Classic finishing tied for fifth.

[00:07:21] >> Nice little run there for Ken Duke. Might be running out of mental gas. It can happen. You get those long, nice streaks of playing so well you're at the lead or near the lead a lot. You kind of get mentally fatigued a little bit, especially if you haven't done it in big bunches like a Stricker or Langer.

[00:07:43] >> Had to wait a while for it. His 100th start produced victory number one for Ken Duke in Calgary.

[00:07:53] >> Kind of waved at that one.

[00:08:00] >> Right where he was making that practice stroke from, that is when this ball starts downhill to the hole. It's going to go slightly up the hill and then back down to the hole.

[00:08:11] >> Doesn't do a whole lot here, John. We've seen this putt hit many times and usually is missed on the right.

[00:08:17] >> Certainly. Same side of the hole that Darren Clarke just missed his pitch on.

[00:08:22] >> Correct. That one got left, but good effort.

[00:08:30] >> He just doesn't do anything like everybody else.

[00:08:33] >> Little unfortunate with where his tee ball ended up that he couldn't get that little bit closer, but he's got the par-5 coming up.

[00:08:44] >> Drop back to 15. KJ Choi, 6-under-par round working.

[00:08:48] >> He's hit all 14 greens thus far. Can he get this one close? He does. Good shot there for KJ.

[00:08:59] >> A torched drive and a top-quality mid-iron into the par-5 16th for Darren Clarke and an opportunity for eagle to move to 8-under here.

[00:09:07] >> Well, I just realized something. This run of his started at number 8 where he birdied five in a row. He was just waiting for happy hour.

[00:09:17] >> There you go. Coming up on it. A little breaker from right to left. Really nice opportunity here for eagle.

[00:09:27] >> And he has stroked it beautifully today.

[00:09:29] >> Yeah, he kind of talked about his stroke in a little bit of an adjustment, kind of an old way that he putted years ago.

[00:09:44] >> Here's KJ Choi back at the 15th, quietly just kind of humming along. There's another birdie for KJ. He's at 7-under. Stricker's been feasting throughout this opening round, but just pars at the short 15th and the par-5 here at 16th, so he'll stay at 9-under. And you can tell a little agitated, wanted to squeeze more out of those last two holes.

[00:10:24] >> Furyk to close out the day with a birdie here.

[00:10:26] >> He can give this one a go, it goes up the slope.

[00:10:35] >> Not feeling in top shape since he's been dealing with a back injury really for the first time in his career.

[00:10:41] >> Yeah, I'm sure it's shocking.

[00:10:47] >> David Toms, one final birdie attempt up here at the home hole.

[00:10:50] >> Got on the proper level too here, John, and good look, just wandered to the left, thought it might go to the right.

[00:11:03] >> But an excellent opening day for David Toms, shot 30 on the front, brought it back home in 33. 2019 champion, Rocco Mediate, this for birdie at 16.

[00:11:17] >> Ooh, uses that left side to curl it in.

[00:11:24] >> So this was just a minute ago, back at 15, short par-4, second shot for Robert Karlsson.

[00:11:29] >> Just off that right edge of the green, took driver out and tried to run it down there, well done.

[00:11:39] >> Up ahead here on the green, closing birdie attempt for Els.

[00:11:43] >> Little turn. Good look there on the proper level.

[00:11:51] >> Flesch's come-backer for par here.

[00:11:53] >> Head short of the ridge, powered it to there, nice two-putt.

[00:12:07] >> Well, hopes of the 59 were dashed a little bit earlier, but still a chance to equal the course record if this one goes down.

[00:12:15] >> This one's still delicate.

[00:12:20] >> Breaks pretty good from right to left.

[00:12:23] >> Grinding till the end. A bogey at 17, undeterred, a bounce back at the last, a really nifty up and down for Steve Stricker. And opens with 62 to start the title defense. Becoming the fourth player to sign for 62 in Sanford International history. Steve Stricker flirted with 59, although he told John McGinnis he wasn't really thinking about it, but settles for 62, the fourth player to sign for that number here in the six-year history of this event. Second round coverage of the Sanford International. I'm John Swantek. 11-time PGA Tour champion John Cook is alongside. What a story we have developing today, a John Daly sighting.

[00:13:23] >> Yes, we have a John Daly sighting at the par-3 10th down the hill, 197 yards today. That's a great birdie too at the 10th.

[00:13:31] >> Got him to 7-under and got these massive galleries following him around, jumping, and then he would add an eagle here at the par-5 12th.

[00:13:39] >> Right in the center of the hole. A little wave there for the fans. And how about this out of the right trees, John? Right, just trying to get it up the shore of the green, maybe try to make a par somehow, but this is John Daly. Says, heck with that, I'm going to chase it all the way up to the front part of the green, right where the flagstick is. Get it in there about 10 feet.

[00:14:00] >> Hey, when it's your day, it's your day. Daly has been incredible during this second round today. After that miraculous recovery, he paid it off with another birdie, 10-under par. And he's got the lead here in Sioux Falls. Best finish of the season for Big John, a tie for 38th. He's had one top-10 finish in his last 42 starts out here, but he leads. Steve Stricker, the defending champion, who opened with 62 yesterday, is one back. A bottled-up leaderboard here in the second round of the Sanford. We drop back to 13. Joe Durant has a pretty clean look for birdie here.

[00:14:38] >> Yeah, tough 13th hole, 467 yards today. Pin in the front. This would be a good birdie. Coming off the eagle at 12, and there's another one for Durant. He gets to 10-under par. A little bit of a run there for Joey D.

[00:15:04] >> And here's Alex Cejka at the 12th. So you've got Cejka and Stricker who've combined for four senior major titles this year alone in the same group of the day.

[00:15:13] >> About wrapped them all up, didn't they? Alex, not a good start. A couple of bogeys on his first nine holes. He's going to get both of those back. Flank, right up the stick.

[00:15:43] >> Turning point in the round, perhaps, for Cejka. Takes advantage of the par-5. Picks up a couple. Pushes it to 8-under. Here's David Toms up ahead at 13.

[00:15:54] >> Yeah, just to the left side of the fairway, opens up that pin position on that front right. And a quality golf shot there for David Toms.

[00:16:02] >> Yeah, give it to him. That'll get Toms to minus-9. Back at 12. Stricker looking for eagle right on top of Cejka here.

[00:16:09] >> Thinks he got a pretty good look off of KJ Choi's putt. Should go downhill just a little bit to his left. Do have to be a little careful with speed. Easy to hit this one through the break. Steve Stricker though, that was wasted daylight.

[00:16:34] >> A couple of eagles from the group. He had it to 9-under through 14 holes yesterday. Told John McGinnis he was not thinking about 59, but the rest of us were. So the eagle putt of Choi slipped a good four feet past the hole here at 12.

[00:16:50] >> Good news is he saw what it did going by the hole. So maybe just left of center with some speed.

[00:16:58] >> Here's the birdie attempt for Daly at 15.

[00:17:01] >> Tough putt. There's a knob in the middle of the green. It's going to push this ball to the left right here, and then it should go back to the right at the end.

[00:17:08] >> Just ran out of steam there, John, but pretty good effort. Got the par-5 coming up. If he hits a good tee shot, I'm sure he'll take a go at it.

[00:17:16] >> He is a beautiful human being, isn't he?

[00:17:19] >> Gotta love him.

[00:17:20] >> Although good play from him has come around less often than Santa Claus these last few years.

[00:17:26] >> That's a good point, Cookie. When he's engaged, he's highly competitive, isn't he?

[00:17:30] >> Absolutely. He still drives the ball beautifully, can hit some nice iron shots, great little hands around the green. It's that putter right there. If he's engaged on the putting green and his speed is good and he's making some puts, seeing something positive, seeing the ball go in a little bit, he engages and he can still play a little bit, but that's been few and far between.

[00:17:54] >> Marco Dawson, third member of the group.

[00:17:57] >> He's been struggling, but the birdie back at 14. This for two in a row. All right.

[00:18:04] >> Marco's starting to feel it.

[00:18:08] >> 39 on the front and has fired up the engines on the second nine.

[00:18:13] >> That's a rough start.

[00:18:15] >> Up to 14. We saw the Karlsson approach into the par-4 earlier.

[00:18:19] >> Yeah, got her on the proper level. Nice look and takes advantage of it. Not many birdies at the 14th.

[00:18:25] >> Back to 13. And Cejka will patrol this one for birdie.

[00:18:28] >> Trying to make a little late run. A couple of bogeys, a birdie, and then coming off that eagle at 12. Nice look here. He got a little bit of a read off of KJ Choi's putt.

[00:18:45] >> Tenacious competitor whose three victories out here all have come in senior majors, including the Senior Open Royal Porthcawl most recently.

[00:18:58] >> Just kind of wiggled it down there. That's all right. Fifth toughest hole today on the golf course.

[00:19:17] >> That will keep Cejka at minus-8 if he can handle this one. A couple of second place finishes on the season for the big Swede, former European Ryder Cupper.

[00:19:43] >> Sneaky good career over in Europe. Won maybe nine times, at least.

[00:19:51] >> Nice work. Karlsson stays at 9-under. David Toms as well. He's got another chance for birdie here at 14.

[00:20:02] >> From the proper level, right at hole high.

[00:20:06] >> Back at 14. This is a little bit of an uneven stance for KJ Choi.

[00:20:09] >> Yeah. Ball well above his feet. Chokes down to the steel. Puts it up in the air. Pitches on that down slope. And all in all, that's a pretty good shot. Very awkward.

[00:20:21] >> Darren Clarke will work from off the green here at 15.

[00:20:26] >> Good news is he's got plenty of green to work with. Up that slope. He's going to run out. That's pretty well done.

[00:20:39] >> 17, Daly ready for his birdie attempt.

[00:20:42] >> Well, uphill, moving from right to left. Comes over a little ridge. If you hit this one too hard, it can get away from you.

[00:20:53] >> Talked about how flat John Daly's putter is. It's five degrees flat.

[00:20:59] >> Oh.

[00:20:59] >> So well. Great pacing. Got that little nugget from Brian Radigan, one of our PGA Tour Champions. And he is engaged today.

[00:21:22] >> So we might have a little swing at the top. But Toms has this one for birdie. And he buries it. Three in a row for David. He's at 11-under. Cejka to get it to 9-under here at 15.

[00:21:37] >> Right at hole high, starting to heat up a little bit.

[00:21:44] >> Eagle back at 12, birdie here at 15. Back with you at 18, John Daly for par and a round of 64.

[00:21:52] >> Yeah, tricky little 3-footer here, but steps right up, knocks it right in. Confident-looking John Daly.

[00:21:59] >> Amazing how he energizes the crowd. Even when he plays poorly, he still moves the needle, doesn't he?

[00:22:04] >> He had a lot of people out here just watching him play yesterday morning. I was out driving around, and he had as many people around him as anybody.

[00:22:12] >> Let's go to 18. Here comes the Gogel birdie attempt back down the slope.

[00:22:17] >> A little to the right. Come on. It does. A little finish.

[00:22:25] >> And a little payback at 18. That's where Gogel made his only bogey of the week yesterday. Stricker peering in now at this short birdie attempt for a share of the lead.

[00:22:34] >> After a nice little pitch shot.

[00:22:35] >> Yeah, there's not much in this either.

[00:22:41] >> He's missed some opportunities the last few holes. He bogeyed 14, missed a pretty easy putt at 15. Not that one.

[00:22:49] >> Birdie at 16 puts Stricker back to 11-under. Joe Durant has this to be the first player in an 11-under.

[00:22:57] >> Saw that beautiful little short iron shot from the right side of the fairway to that left pin, takes advantage of that great angle. Great distance control.

[00:23:07] >> 64 for Durant. One better than yesterday. 67.52, that's the scoring average for Stricker coming into the week. We told you he's likely to leave town with the most money ever earned in a single season. A top 20 will do it. He's also trying to eclipse Fred Couples' career scoring mark of 67.96 established 13 years ago. So a couple of 64s on the board from Durant and Daly, the low rounds of this Saturday in Sioux Falls.

[00:23:53] >> A much tougher day for scoring with a little bit more wind today. Some tougher hole locations. KJ trying to push 2-under for the day.

[00:24:13] >> Oh, catches that right edge and goes in there, John. And to your point, the scoring average today is over a shot tougher than it was yesterday.

[00:24:24] >> So Choi, who shot 62 yesterday, birdies the last. Stricker, who shot 62 yesterday, looking to do the same here.

[00:24:33] >> The putt that Alex Cejka hit that looked like it was going in snapped at the hole going up the hill. He's not lined up for as much break as Alex's putt indicated.

[00:24:48] >> We have seen this putt missed on the left a couple of times, John.

[00:24:52] >> It looks like it's just inside left or left lip at most. Really depending on your pace. Slightly back down the hill.

[00:25:11] >> Never a doubt, birdie at the last for Stricker. 66 on day two. And the lone man at 12-under par.

[00:25:26] >> Nice finish there for Steve Stricker. Birdies two of his last 3 after that bogey at 14.

[00:25:31] >> A complete turnaround from yesterday when he played the final three in 1-over. And Cejka will wrap that one in after lipping out the birdie attempt. 68 for Alex here on day two. So Stricker in the house at 12-under. What do you like from the pack of chasers there as we point to our championship Sunday here?

[00:26:03] >> Well, wouldn't it be great if JD just kind of found that old magic? Robert Karlsson looking for his first win on this tour. He's an accomplished player. Pretty much, you go down to Alex Cejka, there's just too many for the 7-unders, too many players in between them and the 12-unders. Boy, it's going to be a great day tomorrow with Steve Stricker, Joe Durant, David Toms, and that last group all used to winning golf tournaments as well. Just some great, great stories, great names.

[00:26:32] >> Yeah, those players trying to run Stricker down are going to need a little assistance from Steve who has been unwilling to grant it throughout the season as many times as he's been in position to win. And perhaps victory number three in Sioux Falls on the horizon. And we welcome you to Minnehaha Country Club, final round coverage of the Sanford International here in South Dakota. I'm John Swantek alongside John Cook. Highlights from earlier today, Alex Cejka had a string of birdies in the middle of his opening 9.

[00:27:09] >> And this is the third one in a row at the par-4 5th hole, 437 yards. Nice little birdie there.

[00:27:17] >> Got Cejka to 12 under par. KJ Choi, next group, same hole.

[00:27:21] >> Same hole for KJ and the same result.

[00:27:26] >> Choi on the move trying to win for the second time out here. He was at 13-under and played a beauty into the 9th here.

[00:27:33] >> Hole location today cut barely over the top of this ridge. Not a whole lot of room back there. Has to play it perfectly, gets it up on top of that ridge. Uses a little bit of spin and the slope, and what an outstanding golf shot.

[00:27:46] >> That moves KJ to 14-under. He was out in 30 in the opening 9 today. But the defending champion Steve Stricker is not going to go away easily.

[00:27:54] >> Birdie and a bogey so far on his card. Slippery putt down the slope. Beautiful pace. Nice birdie.

[00:28:03] >> Stricker in the hunt in Sioux Falls yet again, trying to win for the third time here and the sixth time this season. KJ Choi missed his second at the par-5 12th.

[00:28:14] >> Yeah, left rough here. Dangerous shot. That's out of bounds there, all those trees. Gets it up over top of those trees on the par-5. Lands it on the green. It will chase all the way to the back. Front left hole location, but a nervy shot. But he pulls it off.

[00:28:34] >> And here comes a long birdie attempt for Stricker.

[00:28:36] >> Down on the wrong ledge. Going up the slope. Made a long one at the 9th. Lacked just a tiny bit of pace. Right in the center, though.

[00:28:47] >> Up to 14, Bernhard Langer with a 3-under-par final round going.

[00:28:54] >> Tee shot is less than driver here. So he's in the fairway. 404 yards today. Back right hole location. Tricky little pin. Anything to the right could fall off the right side of the green. Anything long could go off the back. Right over top of the flag stick, and that was a nice shot.

[00:29:12] >> No let up for Bernhard since win number 46. Five straight top 10 since the US Senior Open title. 12th is a beautiful hole, isn't it, Cookie, from this elevated teeing ground.

[00:29:21] >> Beautiful. Plays downhill about 25 yards, John. If you get it in the fairway, it's just a middle iron into this par-5 green. But it's a beautiful vista. But it's a tricky little tee shot. John McGinnis is down there. John, what have you noticed so far?

[00:29:39] >> Well, right now there's actually not a breath of wind to worry about. I think it's a hard tee shot from this high elevated to find a target.

[00:29:49] >> It's playing so far downhill. Not quite sure how long this ball is going to stay in the air. Steve made eagle here yesterday. Kind of kickstarted his round after kind of a slow start. This is a good start here on this hole.

[00:30:15] >> Get in this fairway and that right there, that should be his middle, maybe even a short iron.

[00:30:21] >> KJ Choi has a long one up ahead for eagle.

[00:30:24] >> Down the hill to the right. Hit that slope right there, now downhill again, back to the left. Carrying some speed. That's not too bad from back there.

[00:30:35] >> Back up ahead, Robert Karlsson coming off birdie at 11. Dropped a couple shots early in the round. But he's gotten it back to 10-under. And in the hunt again after finishing second to Stricker in a sudden-death playoff here a year ago.

[00:30:50] >> Yeah, must have drove it out of position here, because he's got plenty of length to hit some sort of iron into this green. So this for birdie. It does go up the hill a little bit. Looks like it wants to break pretty good right to left, but it actually doesn't. It's fairly straight and pretty slow as well.

[00:31:11] >> The Swede still in pursuit of the breakthrough victory out here. He has banged on the door more than a few times, including two runner-up finishes this year, one of them coming at the Region's Tradition. Second to Stricker that week. A lot of guys have said that this year though, haven't they?

[00:31:28] >> They sure have. Steve Stricker looking for his sixth win of the year. Very tall man right here. I like his putting stroke. His set-up is very square. Yes, creeps over that front lip. Good putt.

[00:32:03] >> Carrying just enough energy to topple in for a second straight birdie, and Karlsson still in the picture here. Oh boy, out at12, KJ, about 6 feet coming back for his birdie.

[00:32:15] >> Nice two-putt birdie from the back of the green there for KJ. Gets him to 15 under par.

[00:32:25] >> This was the tee shot of Jerry Kelly just a moment ago.

[00:32:26] >> Tricky little pin right here, John. It's on the back part of the green, but it's just past the downslope, so right there it'll chase all the way back to the hole. And look out! How about that hole-in-one there for Jerry Kelly!

[00:32:54] >> Back to the 12th here, as Durant steps in.

[00:33:01] >> Joe with a perfect tee shot, front left hole location. He likes to work the ball left to right, so we'll see what type of shot he wants to get here. An over par on his round today. Takes it right at it. Now there's a little bit of a slope right there. Should slow it down and maybe bring it back just a little bit. There it goes. Yeah, it might pick up a little bit more speed too. That's a good shot though for Joe.

[00:33:35] >> These greens are really firmed up. Trying to land it right on the front fringe. Just get it over the bunker.

[00:33:40] >> Yeah, he's got to put this one way up in the air. Not a whole lot of room between that bunker that you see right there and the hole location.

[00:33:50] >> I would say it's quartering, just you have a fraction of help off the left.

[00:33:57] >> It's mostly left to right.

[00:33:58] >> All right.

[00:33:59] >> Play 63 to 65.

[00:34:08] >> I like how confident Henry was giving the marching orders there.

[00:34:16] >> Trying to hoist it way up in the air. And has a tendency to miss those a little bit to the right, but not much to the right. That is going to give him a really good look at eagle.

[00:34:28] >> Back with the final group at 12 where Stricker delivered a glorious second shot just earlier, but we'll see the eagle attempt of Joe Durant first.

[00:34:36] >> Downhill and swinging from right to left.

[00:34:44] >> Be a little careful with speed here. As it starts to break to the left, it might pick up a little bit of speed. So get it out there to the right.

[00:34:53] >> Good aggressive putt.

[00:34:54] >> Got it.

[00:34:55] >> Great aggressive putt.

[00:34:57] >> Exactly what he needed at the right time. One over par going into this hole for the day. Closes the gap a little bit.

[00:35:07] >> Just an 8-iron into this par-5 for Stricker after walloping his drive and an opportunity to move it to 15-under here.

[00:35:14] >> And this one just a little bit uphill. And some right to left in it.

[00:35:22] >> Yeah, that's exactly right. I was hitting this putt earlier today. I thought I read way more break than there actually is. It does go a little bit left, but not what I was thinking. So got a good look here. You can give it a nice run. Doesn't have to worry about pace.

[00:35:38] >> If this doesn't go in, I think it's going to come really close.

[00:35:58] >> There it is. How about it?

[00:36:00] >> Eagles are flying at the 12th here.

[00:36:04] >> Had a little bit of a slow start yesterday. Made an eagle there at the 12th yesterday. And another one today after a semi-slow start. So he's right on pace.

[00:36:15] >> And David Toms to get it to 11-under here.

[00:36:18] >> And to hit last on the next hole.

[00:36:21] >> So collectively, they play the 12th at 5-under today with this three. Par-4 15th, playing 299 today. Bernhard Langer drove it just short of the green.

[00:36:30] >> Yeah, 291 front, 271 over that right bunker. Drove it just short of the green.

[00:36:34] >> He likes to putt it.

[00:36:36] >> We talked about there's going to be some fireworks there at number 15 today.

[00:36:40] >> Players will have options there. Bernhard electing to keep that one along the ground. And it was a sound strategy. Alex Cejka needs this one at 14 to avoid a second straight bogey.

[00:36:52] >> Over the back of the green pitch to here. Nice putt right there. Nice little par saver, I think at the right time. Coming off a bogey there at 13.

[00:37:03] >> Back on the 14th fairway with John Daly.

[00:37:05] >> Nice little tee shot here for John. Trying to chase it in there. Drop it in there low. Get up that slope. Come back down. It needs to slow down, because there's a little bit of a fall off right there.

[00:37:19] >> Stricker trying to grind one out here and stay 15-under.

[00:37:22] >> I don't want to manifest the negative here, but this is a similar putt to the one that did not go in at 10.

[00:37:31] >> Similar length. Got a little bit of a read off at David Toms. Great shot from the worm cam here. Get outside too far? No. Walks it right in.

[00:37:52] >> And hangs on to a share of the lead for the moment, pending the outcome of the KJ Choi birdie putt over at 14. Choi with a bit of work left for his par here as well.

[00:38:03] >> Big putt right here for KJ. Looks very confident, very comfortable. Sometimes when you're not playing with the other leader, you're not quite sure what you need to do, but he knows what's ahead of him.

[00:38:18] >> So Choi looks rock solid, shares the lead with Stricker. Stricker has drawn a decent lie here at 14, hasn't he?

[00:38:30] >> Down grain. Just have to worry about a little bit of a jumper from just outside 150.

[00:38:39] >> Boy, that was really good contact, Cookie.

[00:38:46] >> Up at 16, Bernhard Langer coming off Eagle back at 15, holed one from off the green. Just a short one there to get to 6-under for the final day.

[00:38:55] >> Little late run here for Bernhard. Comebacker for Durant.

[00:39:04] >> And all three of these guys are veterans of the old Korn Ferry Tour from way back in the day when it was three-day tournaments.

[00:39:11] >> Back there now, Stricker with a little cleanup work remaining. Just a shade outside three, four feet here.

[00:39:17] >> I mentioned the old Korn Ferry Tour days for these guys because back then you had to put that throttle wide open and keep going to win on that tour, and all of them did and all of them have out here as well, and it's the same mentality. You're not going to power your way to victory on this tour.

[00:39:37] >> No, you're not. That's exactly right. And birdie attempt here for Daly now.

[00:39:48] >> Yeah, John has plenty of length to reach the green in two. Out of position and how about it? Daly getting back to level par for the day after a horrendous start. See that bogey and a double, birdie, and another bogey, but 3-under-par coming down the stretch. So KJ will wait before playing his second from the 16th fairway because up ahead Cejka has this one for birdie to move to 12-under.

[00:40:22] >> Yeah. Hit a good drive and hit a second over the back of the green, and a pitch to here. Cejka's been going the wrong direction since that birdie, birdie, birdie at 3, 4 and 5.

[00:40:34] >> Taps that one in for his first birdie since the 5th for Cejka. Senior Open champion at Royal Porthcawl. That was a war of attrition in Wales. 5-over the winning score for Alex that week. Karlsson's had three birdies since the turn as well. Just a short one to take care of here.

[00:41:02] >> Yeah, this to get to 12-under-par.

[00:41:23] >> Very diligent with that one. Didn't want to let it get away.

[00:41:25] >> Just a matter of time, I think, for Robert before he crosses that finish line first.

[00:41:34] >> And he got a nice little break with the other two players going for the green and then hitting one putt and one pitch down to the hole. He's gotten to see balls roll around this hole. And that is very useful. Slightly back uphill now and he knows the line.

[00:41:52] >> Should just slide to his right just a little bit. Not much though. If he gets it outside the left, I think it'll miss inside the hole. Aggressive pace.

[00:42:12] >> That was a no-doubter. I mean, just pours it in, another birdie for Stricker. And at 17-under, he's one ahead of Choi, who's over at the 17th, closing in on victory number three here in Sioux Falls. Keep it right here. The Daly par putt to follow and then the final group of the day.

[00:42:34] >> You saw JD over the back of the green hit a really nice pitch shot to here. We just saw Robert Karlsson. It's the same putt. It's got to be just inside that right.

[00:42:53] >> Always has possessed a soft set of hands. A lot of creativity on and around the greens. An even-par final day. Sincere show of appreciation from Stricker, a handshake there off the edge of the green as Toms takes care of that one. They will exit the 17th for the last time this week. Class and professionalism exhibited by all the players out here week after week. Robert Karlsson, a little stumble back at 17, made double there and just trying to salvage par here.

[00:43:33] >> You hate to finish like that. Tried to make a nice little run, but a bogey at 13.

[00:43:45] >> It looks like it may not be enough. Stricker marches toward victory number six on the season. This birdie at nine, Cookie, really got Stricker into gear, didn't it?

[00:43:58] >> Yeah. Birdie and a bogey to start his day. All pars up to the 9th. Back edge of the green. Down that slope. Super fast. And just went in, perfect speed.

[00:44:08] >> And he has manhandled the 12th all week long. Two eagles and a birdie this week.

[00:44:15] >> Yeah. This one really an opportune time, kept him real close with KJ Choi, beautiful eagle there at the 12th.

[00:44:23] >> Took care of business at the short 15th. And then that one at 16 was the dagger.

[00:44:28] >> Yeah, had it out of position on his tee shot, laid the ball up, nice wedge to there, and in Steve Stricker fashion, right in the center.

[00:44:37] >> We'll have to wait just a little bit longer. David Toms, little out of position after his drive.

[00:44:47] >> Got relief from the cart path and taking it right at it. Oh my.

[00:44:55] >> Just cut through the green there, John. What a shot, had some heat to it.

[00:45:05] >> Durant will be next.

[00:45:09] >> 127, and that back shelf is pretty narrow. You have to get dialed in for this one.

[00:45:18] >> Yeah, only three on top of that little slope. Just got over it a little bit there for Joe trying to hit a cut, but pretty well done. He'll have a nice birdie opportunity.

[00:45:40] >> There is a scoreboard about 40 feet to the right and it is right now showing the two-shot lead. But I don't think it's shown it previously. So he may think he needs par to win. Only 120 yards. May not be anybody better in the world from 120 yards.

[00:46:07] >> So solid with this controlled trajectory, controlled spin. And he's a stay up. It's a little bit of a mishit. It will go all the way down to the front. He's happy he's got a two-shot lead, not a one-shot lead.

[00:46:25] >> No kidding.

[00:46:26] >> That was a little bit of a mistake there. Needed another couple yards.

[00:46:37] >> Began the week needing $21,000 in earnings to become the single season earnings leader in Champions Tour history, eclipsing Bernhard Langer's mark in 2017. He's going to do it. He is the man to beat each and every time he tees it up out here. Another highly efficient season from Stricker, and he'll get a little more time to sort out his long putt as Toms gets back to work.

[00:47:03] >> And he may end up -- I was about saying he may end up down there and show Stricker the way home, because that was a really tough shot as well right up against the thicker cut.

[00:47:14] >> That was just going to be brutal. Really difficult there for David on that position off the tee. That's what will happen around here. Get out of position, especially on Sundays, trying to close out events.

[00:47:31] >> But 80-foot par putts are not much fun, are they?

[00:47:35] >> And this may be the slowest putt of the year right here.

[00:47:38] >> He has got to slam this up that slope.

[00:47:46] >> Just barely got up there.

[00:47:49] >> Leaving about 7 feet now for his bogey.

[00:48:08] >> So many of the hopefuls who began their day chasing like Toms and Joe Durant certainly would have hoped for more out of this day. But knowing that this was the man to catch, it squeezes you a little bit, doesn't it?

[00:48:21] >> No doubt about it. Like we said at the top of the show, you know you have to get into the mid-teens. Whatever you need to do, and you know that Steve Stricker is not going to cough it up. He may not shoot 63 or 64, but he's not going to shoot over par. He's just too good of a putter and too good of a short game player to shoot that much over par on a day like today. So you knew you had your work cut out for you to get to 15 or 16-under-par.

[00:48:49] >> Just a little right to left. Up the hill. Needs to go. It's going to be good enough.

[00:48:59] >> Easy. Better run up there and mark that.

[00:49:01] >> A lot of head shaking going on in this group right now. But the advantage of a two-shot cushion at the last, massive on a Sunday.

[00:49:19] >> At that board, you just needed to know what you had to do. Sure didn't want it over the green. I get the play where he just wanted to get on top and take the back out of play. Let's see, Joe Durant, if he can finish with a flourish.

[00:49:39] >> This would be for three straight to close out the week for Joe.

[00:49:41] >> This looks good.

[00:49:43] >> Three straight.

[00:49:43] >> There we go.

[00:49:44] >> How about that?

[00:49:47] >> That will give him solo third.

[00:49:53] >> Birdies at 16, 17 and 18 coming home for Joe D.

[00:49:59] >> Just make a three or four back there at 15, it might have been a little bit different. Good week there for Joe Durant.

[00:50:11] >> Well, if you're trying to run this guy down on Sunday, you can't afford to make any mistakes, because typically, John McGinnis, he will not.

[00:50:18] >> No, and he certainly hasn't, and he can afford one here if this doesn't go in. Birdie at 9, eagle at 12. Birdies at 15 and 16. It's just too tough.

[00:50:37] >> We've seen here at the last and the build out here at the 18th in Minnehaha, one of the best we've got out here. Two putts to win.

[00:50:53] >> Doesn't have to really worry about speed.

[00:50:56] >> He just can't help himself. Oh. It was right in the middle as it rolled up there.

[00:51:04] >> He will clean it up, make it six for Strick. A half-dozen victories across this monster season for the Charles Schwab Cup points leader who takes down the Sanford in Sioux Falls.

[00:51:19] >> What a performance. Expect nothing less from Steve Stricker.

[00:51:26] >> And some very heady company in Champions Tour history, among players who have won six events in a season. Even if you're the favorite coming into the week as he always is, still got to get the job done and execute. Stricker did flawlessly this week. Toms will pop that one in. Opened with 62 for a share of the course record, closed with 66 for victory number six on the season and the third year.