Production Transcript for 23INTCUTCH - SAS CHAMPIONSHIP.mp3

[00:00:38] >> This is the man who won here back in 2020, Ernie Els. This was a moment ago at 7 for an eagle. Pours it in for a three. Twenty-five regular season tournaments contested across four countries and in 16 states. And we have reached the end of the line here in North Carolina. The SAS Championship represents the final opportunity for players to crash the playoff party next week in Richmond, Virginia, the start of the free event stretch of the Charles Schwab playoffs. I'm John Swantek. World Golf Hall of Famer Lanny Wadkins is alongside. We'll get a quick early peek at the leaderboard here. Ernie Els just went birdie at 6, eagle at 7to draw within one. He won this championship three years ago. Jesper Parnevik and Ken Tanigawa are the co-leaders at the moment here on Day 1. Steven Alker next to Begay at the 8th. He looked a lot like the guy who won the Schwab Cup a year ago. Lanny, last week at Jim Furyk event in Jacksonville, in fact, had a chance to birdie 18, which may have forced the playoff.

[00:01:49] >> Yeah, he's getting there. He's played a lot of good golf this year. Played very well. I mean, look at this setup and this golf swing. How can you not play well with what he does? I mean, this is -- Everything he does just looks textbook. Amazing alignment. Really good. Gorgeous golf swing. Plenty of speed. That may be goes left of the flag. Yeah, a little -- That flag is all the way in the back right. You got to be a little on the conservative side there.

[00:02:19] >> Up to 17. Notah Begay has a chance for birdie number four of the round, which began on the back nine here. Good week. He slipped the Top 72. Look at that. Projected inside the number off that strong start through the opening eight holes. Up to 10. First look at David Duval. You see that red chip next to Duval's name, 79th. That's his Schwab Cup projection. More shots like that are going to help get him into the Top 72, though. Kelly's second upcoming here at 9.

[00:02:55] >> Ball slightly on a downslope. Has it back in the middle of his stance. Going to try to keep it down underneath the wind.

[00:03:01] >> Was just green light situation and hole location right out in the open saying, come get me. And Jerry Kelly does. Beautiful shot.

[00:03:09] >> So Kelly fighting one in there close. Good look at birdie at 9. That's back at the 8th. Alker banging that one in for par. So Steven stays at 1-under. So Ernie drops one, and Kelly looking to pick one up here.

[00:03:33] >> And there's just a little left right in this. Yeah, keep the speed up.

[00:03:37] >> Hammer that in there.

[00:03:41] >> Second at the 9th. All the way for Alker.

[00:03:45] >> The other two balls sitting right up there. Oh, beautiful shot by Steven. Really nice. Quick little putt, though.

[00:03:55] >> To 11. Darren Clarke has the tee.

[00:03:57] >> Hundred and eighty-eight 188 yards. Hole location on the left-hand side. Darren likes to hit a little draw. Starts it in the center, turning it towards the flag. This could be good. Yes, it is. Beautiful shot.

[00:04:12] >> Will go to the 9th. Just a short one here for Alker's birdie.

[00:04:15] >> Maybe left edge. Yeah, good read. Good putt.

[00:04:19][ Applause ]

[00:04:25] >> Langer next to take on the 10th here.

[00:04:28] >> He drove at 15 yards past Jerry Kelly. So, 165 in.

[00:04:32] >> Call me back and tell me when he drives at 15 past Els. And good shot there.

[00:04:44] >> Gorgeous shot into the 11th from Darren Clarke.

[00:04:47] >> Oh, yeah, that shot he hit it here was all over it. And just a tap in birdie. Nice two.

[00:04:52] >> See if we can get a birdie from the group here at 10.

[00:04:58] >> Pretty good look here, John. Just up the slope, right?

[00:05:01] >> Yeah, I agree. It feels like you should try to move a little bit to the left. But I don't think you want to put it on top of the hole just inside.

[00:05:08] >> And go ahead and be a little firm with it would be nice. Oh, yeah. Nice read, Johnny Boy.

[00:05:26] >> To the 10th. And Alker's second on the way here.

[00:05:30] >> See if he can take home this hole location. Get it back to the flag. He does. What a beautiful shot that is. Great set up right here. Good hole. Hundred and eighty-eight for Langer. It's out to the right. Needs to carry that bunker.

[00:05:49] >> Just a little bit late on that one, Lanny.

[00:05:52] >> Yeah. Hang on. And he can get the putter on it. Long way from the hole, though.

[00:05:56] >> Drop back to 10. Check in on Goosen in and this birdie look here.

[00:06:06] >> Good shot in here by Retief. Pretty much straight downhill putt though. Not a lot in this.

[00:06:19] >> Think of his US Open victories and his stone cold putting performances. It's strange to see him with a long putter.

[00:06:25] >> It is. Especially the putting performance at Shinnecock when he won there was just magnificent. And then, seemed like he hold everything. Pretty solid looking move right there. He's got it firmed up where there are not a lot of moving parts. So, who knows? That might work for him. Thinking birdie, I'm thinking more about the pace. Trying to get the pace correct. If it goes up there and falls in like a drunk sailor, then that's OK. But I really want it to just be somewhere up around the hole where I don't have a lot of extra work for my two putt and par.

[00:07:02] >> Like that.

[00:07:03] >> Yeah, that one did a lap. Did a victory lap. And of course he finds it. That was motoring too. That would have been a good 3, 4 feet by at least, John.

[00:07:21] >> Smiles and knuckles and all of those things.

[00:07:28] >> Yeah.

[00:07:28] >> Look at what I found.

[00:07:32] >> Seventeen, the shorter of the two par 5s on the back nine. Five hundred eleven yards, Jesper Parnevik aboard and two.

[00:07:41] >> Did he hit it? Yes, he did. Beautiful putt. Jesper.

[00:07:44] >> Just the sixth start of the season for Jesper. Hasn't played a whole lot. Looking very sharp today.

[00:07:52] >> Alker looking for another birdie here at 10.

[00:07:54] >> Just going straight up the hill, maybe right center. We saw this putt earlier. The group in front of him. Yeah.

[00:08:11] >> There's really not enough wind to worry about. Just inside 140 yards.

[00:08:16] >> Yeah, they're not going to get this -- The ball is not going above the tree level here for starters. And that's a great shot by Jerry Kelly. Maybe all the wind was much to do about nothing. Good play. Very nice.

[00:08:30] >> Final hole today, the par 49 for Billy Mayfair. Third shot.

[00:08:35] >> Send it really quick.

[00:08:40] >> Little assist in the flagstick.

[00:08:44] >> Are here at the SAS, including 2020 champion here.

[00:08:52] >> That was definitely a wedge.

[00:08:57] >> And that was definitely a really nice shot.

[00:08:58] >> Gets Goosen to minus-3. Gets us back to 13. Kelly with a clean look at a birdie here.

[00:09:07] >> Yeah. He has hit these short putts so hard today.

[00:09:10] >> He makes the hole kind of small when you do that.

[00:09:13] >> Yeah. Let's see if he just drips this one in.

[00:09:16] >> I wouldn't say dripped it in, but it went in with nice pace. That was very well done.

[00:09:24] >> We'll go to 14. Second on the way for Jimenez.

[00:09:28] >> Had a good tee shot then. And this green is sitting there kind of in the open. And beautiful shot by Jimenez. Lovely.

[00:09:40] >> That should produce the fifth birdie of the round for Miguel. Els for the second birdie of the group back here at 13th.

[00:09:47] >> See if you can keep that head steady. You can peek and open the blade on these short ones. That was much better.

[00:10:04] >> That was a good stroke. The putterhead released right in front of him. That was very nice.

[00:10:10] >> So birdies for Kelly and Els at 13.

[00:10:14] >> Miguel for birdie. Just a couple of feet to deal with here at 14. Birdie number five of the round. Three drop shots along the way.

[00:10:24] >> Kelly at 14 now.

[00:10:27] >> One sixty-one. His ball was about 40 yards from Ernie's and only about 5 yards closer to the hole.

[00:10:36] >> And good shot there by Kelly. Almost hole high.

[00:10:39] >> Back at 13. Three quality iron shots struck by the group here. And Goosen for a birdie.

[00:10:51] >> All around good putt for Retief. Pretty simple look here for Kelly, John.

[00:10:57] >> Yeah, I wonder. They're putting from the sun back into the shadows, that was Ernie. That can affect your read a little bit. But I agree. I think this one's just on top of the left lip, if not inside the hole, depending on speed.

[00:11:19] >> Oh, yeah.

[00:11:20] >> Two in a row for Jerry. Pushes it four deep and within one.

[00:11:27] >> Just a minute ago, this was the approach shot out of the pine straw for Rod Pampling at 18.

[00:11:36] >> A little wayward off the tee, but a really nice recovery. Beautiful second shot for Rodney.

[00:11:45] >> Do it.

[00:11:45] >> Nice play.

[00:11:47] >> Up to the last, Jeff Maggert closing out his Friday here.

[00:11:52] >> Hole high. This is straight down the hill.

[00:11:58] >> How about it?

[00:11:58] >> Oh, yeah. Gets in.

[00:12:02] >> Three in a row.

[00:12:03] >> Yeah. Nice putt. Good round of golf for Jeff.

[00:12:14] >> Didn't like it. What happened there? Oh my.

[00:12:20] >> Just sort of flipped at the bottom, didn't he?

[00:12:22] >> Yeah, body quit rotating. Body just completely stopped. That's very unlike Bernhard. But --

[00:12:29] >> Now, back at 18. Here's Pampling.

[00:12:32] >> Yeah.

[00:12:32] >> What a finish. What a day.

[00:12:36] >> Great bury there for Rodney. Gets it in. Good round of golf.

[00:12:40] >> Sixty-six. Low round of the day for the Aussie. He is the man up top for the moment. Here's Kelly.

[00:12:47] >> And this is one he should like, John. He likes to work it right to left a little bit, doesn't he?

[00:12:52] >> He certainly does. One twenty-eight, just a wedge. The wedge game has been good today.

[00:12:59] >> Staring it down. Yes, very nice.

[00:13:05] >> Not much real left in the flagstick there. Kelly squeezes one in there. Another really good birdie look.

[00:13:11] >> Up to 18. We've already seen a couple of birdies from this spot above the hole where Vijay Singh is. Here's another. They've got that one figured out. Thirty-three for Vijay. He's just the latest player who will sign for 67. Back with Ernie here.

[00:13:31] >> We had to move up some 30 plus yards to get to Ernie's ball. Just 95 yards in.

[00:13:38] >> This thing with this wedge with the backstop, he's got to feel like he's got to put this inside 6 feet. I mean just -- That would be a standard good shot if he hits it like he wants.

[00:13:51] >> He likes it. I like it.

[00:13:53] >> How about in? Yes, he did. Almost.

[00:13:57] >> Spectacular delivery into the 16.

[00:14:03] >> Well, he gets so many of them. He -- I mean --

[00:14:06] >> He's going to hold the strong wedge.

[00:14:08] >> Yeah, here he is. But I mean, I got to tell you, it looks like he's trying to stay out sometimes, Ernie.

[00:14:12] >> It's short to long.

[00:14:13] >> Right, it's really nice.

[00:14:17] >> Langer back to work from off the green. Got his hands full here.

[00:14:20] >> He certainly does. Green runs away from him. Coming out of this even short Bermuda. You have to be firm with your wrist of the ball. You have to be accelerating through. But you don't want to hit this one too hard. You just want to get it over the thick stuff. Just like that.

[00:14:39] >> Get in.

[00:14:40] >> Just like that.

[00:14:42] >> It always looked like birdie, didn't it? I mean, how about that?

[00:14:46] >> Never a doubt.

[00:14:47] >> Probably as bad as short on as you'll ever see Bernhard Langer hit. And he makes birdie. That's why you win that many tournaments.

[00:14:55] >> Let's go, Bernie.

[00:14:56] >> Mike Weir just birdied 16 and 17. How about one more at last?

[00:15:02] >> Yeah. Good luck here from off the back fringe. No problem.

[00:15:06] >> A late rally from next year's President's Cup captain for the international side in his homeland, Montreal.

[00:15:20] >> Well, you actually should have learned a little bit from that pitch shot.

[00:15:24] >> It was going slow enough. No reason not to. That's just like a putt would be.

[00:15:30] >> John, you and Jerry would have broken in on the Nike Tour around the same time, right?

[00:15:34] >> He was Player of the Year in '95. We were both rookies in 96. The difference is he has never stopped. Played right into his 50s, right out here. And he's been really good ever since.

[00:15:48] >> That's an understatement. That's another birdie as well. Kelly in 5-under.

[00:15:53] >> He may be trying to get rid of that goose egg he's got going this year right now the way he's going today.

[00:15:59] >> And Langer rounds out the group back here at the par 5.

[00:16:05] >> There's a creek out there that you have to hit it about 230 in the air to get it over. It doesn't make any difference to these guys, but if we get it into the wind and into the rain tomorrow.

[00:16:16] >> You can --

[00:16:16] >> Hope they move the tees up.

[00:16:17] >> Exactly. You get some bad weather and it could be a thought. That's for dag on sure.

[00:16:25] >> Second shot on the way here for David Duval at 18.

[00:16:29] >> Yeah. Nice tee shot down the left side. And great look at this hole location. Over in the left center of the green. Kind of down in a bowl. So, really good chance to get this close for David with a good swing. Should spin off there. Come on. Well done. Very nice shot. Thought he could get there. I thought Jerry and Langer could both reach this green. They've got to hit their best ones, don't they, John?

[00:16:59] >> Well, the flag is on 26.

[00:17:02] >> Yes.

[00:17:02] >> So, yeah, for Langer, it's only 220 to the front. So I don't -- This may not be 3-wood.

[00:17:11] >> Whatever it is, he had it choked. I think it's 3-wood. He had it choked up a little bit.

[00:17:14] >> All right. Yeah. Trying to hit a sweeping cut in there.

[00:17:17] >> Yup. And he flew it all the way back there. And it's on the proper level. Just left of the flag. Actually goes down a bit. That's going to stay on the green. But it works down that slope. Just gets further from the hole. But he is hole high. Looked like he tried to hit a cut that didn't cut.

[00:17:34] >> Up to the last in Duval to close it out with a birdie here.

[00:17:37] >> Yeah. Pretty simple look for birdie for David. Yes. Nice round of golf.

[00:17:45] >> It'll be a 68. Duval in the early mix here. Trying to play his way into the field in Richmond. Just a whisker inside the early projection at 71.

[00:17:57] >> Back at 17, Langer still with about 5, 6 feet to deal with here for birdie.

[00:18:04] >> All the slope coming. It's got to be kind of a right edge putt, I would think, for Langer.

[00:18:08] >> Yeah, I would think.

[00:18:12] >> Pretty straightforward. I don't think there's any pace issues.

[00:18:16] >> I think that he was pleased with the first putt. Just played a little extra break there, so.

[00:18:23] >> Setting up to hit it pretty straight. He -- Oh, yeah,

[00:18:29] >> OK.

[00:18:29] >> Straight putt right in the center. Very nice.

[00:18:36] >> Steven Alker from the center of the 17 fairway.

[00:18:41] >> Trying to take it right up the gut of the green. Get it back to the flag. And that is an excellent shot. Best we've seen today. That is really well done for Steven.

[00:18:53] >> Back at 17. Here's Padraig Harrington looking for an eagle. Fourteen and 15 earlier.

[00:19:01] >> We had a good read there from Padraig. How about this run? Got a bunch of bogeys and birdies and eagles. This man's all over the place this night.

[00:19:12] >> Alker looking for an eagle at 17 where Harrington just made one. How about another?

[00:19:17] >> Wow. Well, we've been saying all day that people should be back there putting for eagles, not birdies. And this group took advantage of that. Three excellent shots in there.

[00:19:27] >> The scoring really picked up late in the day here, Lanny, didn't it?

[00:19:30] >> It really did. I mean, it was ideal out there, John. I mean, we had really no one to speak of the majority of the day. The golf course is perfect. Weather was gorgeous. If you were ever going to shoot a round a golf, today was it. The course was playing fast, yet the greens were really receptive. That just says good scores, come get me. It was sitting right there for the taking today.

[00:19:53] >> Top 72 in the Schwab Cup standings will make it to the start of the playoffs next week in Richmond, Virginia. There is a wild card spot available. If a player finishes inside the Top 10 here this week and doesn't get inside the Top 72, he gets an automatic spot into the first playoffs event next week. That wild card concept was created in 2016. It hasn't been used yet. It would be to the benefit of Jesper Parnevik, still very early in the week. But Parnevik's 67 has him in wild card position. However, Mother Nature has been the most formidable foe on this Saturday, just offering confirmation of an early week forecast that always looked a little bleak for today. Tee times originally were scheduled to start at 10:00 a.m. this morning. They were pushed back one hour. Play started at 11:00 a.m. and lasted exactly four minutes until the skies opened up again. And we have been in stand down for the ensuing three hours as we look to refire this second round. Rain subsiding a little bit, but it hasn't stopped yet. Rod Pampling was the overnight leader after a round of 66 yesterday. There were 10 players tied for second after rounds of 67. Among them Steven Alker, the reigning Charles Schwab Cup champion, and Ernie Els, the winner here back in 2020. So we are in a weather delay and hopeful of getting this second round started in short order. While we have a moment, John McGinnis standing by with the Vice President of Rules and Competition, Brian Clare.

[00:21:36] >> Brian, what are we looking at in terms of the rest of the day? I know it's already been a long day and we've barely gotten started.

[00:21:43] >> Yeah. It's a little bit of a guessing game still, John. We're going to update the players again at 2:15. The greens are OK. It's the fairways now. And we just have to see if they're going to drain down. So it's a little bit of a guessing game and we're going to hopefully make a fairly educated decision at 2:15 to let them know what's going on.

[00:22:02] >> It does seem like if the greens are OK, we can work around the puddles if we need to. Is that accurate?

[00:22:08] >> That is. But right now, the first ferry, there's really no relief anywhere. It's still very wet. We've got a couple of ferries like that. So we're just going to have to see, you know, where we go. And hopefully, we'll give it a go.

[00:22:20] >> What is the goal for the day then with -- given the situation?

[00:22:24] >> Well, we need to play some golf today if we're going to get 54 holes in. So it's an important week. It's to get into the Schwab Cup playoffs. So we're going to do everything we can to play some golf today.

[00:22:36] >> We appreciate your time. Let's hope so.

[00:22:39] >> Yeah. Fingers crossed, John.

[00:22:41] >> Thanks, guys.

[00:22:41] >> All right. Thank you, John. Appreciate Brian's time as well. He said it's an important week. Lanny Wadkins, it is. Last chance for the Top 72 to qualify for the Schwab Cup playoffs next week.

[00:22:51] >> Well, it is. And a lot of guys are sitting on edge trying to maintain their position. Looks to be in the short rough, which I would think would not be lift clean in place. Might have had casual water and pretty good play right there getting back to the hole. That was really well done.

[00:23:16] >> Back to the 1st. And Mark Calcavecchia in the group. Birdie to get the 3-under for the 63-year-old. Still chugging along out here. Back at the opening hole where John Senden has a chance for birdie. Bingo. Senden connects just after the restart of the second round here. Over to our group at the 2nd. We got a birdie opportunity here for John Huston.

[00:23:51] >> John Huston can make birdies and putts in bunches when he gets it going. Plays fast. Makes things very simple. And there's a good example right there. No wasted movement for John.

[00:24:08] >> Yes. Set the PGA Tour scoring record, in fact, when he won in Honolulu 1998, one of his seven titles on the regular tour.

[00:24:18] >> Drop back to the second and look in on Mario Tiziani. Chance to get it to 3-under here.

[00:24:26] >> Mario having a nice year. He's kind of hanging around the outskirts. Oh, a good putt right there.

[00:24:33] >> Yeah. Eighteenth start of the season, Lanny. And he's 54th in the Schwab Cup standings coming into the week. Back at the 1st and 30 feet here for Chris DiMarco's birdie attempt.

[00:24:43] >> Yeah. Every bit of it up the slope. Should work a little to his left. And boom.

[00:24:57] >> Richard Green able to bag that one in from just off the edge of the second green. Six Top 10s for the Aussie this season. All right, Lanny, what's the mentality here for the rest of the day for these fellas?

[00:25:10] >> Well, I mean, you've got to just treat it like a regular round, even though Rod Pampling, Steve Alker, Ernie Els, Kelly, those guys are probably only going to play anywhere from four to five holes, they've got to go out like they're going to play 18. I would be really ready. They've got plenty of opportunity to get ready. A good start would be really advantageous for them. Get ahead of the game. It makes sleeping overnight a lot easier. And they know they've got a long day ahead of them tomorrow.

[00:25:41] >> Fifty-four-year-old Rob Pampling seeking his second win on the PGA Tour Champions in his 85th start. Hasn't won since the Boeing Classic in Seattle a couple of years ago, making his 24th start of the season. Just three Top 10s thus far. But yesterday's 66 was as low as the Aussie has gone all season long, and he's got the lead by one. Still an hour away from starting a second round, though. Last chance to qualify for the playoffs, which begin next week in Richmond, Virginia. And there is a wild card spot available, remember, for any player who Top 10s this week, but still doesn't climb into the Top 72, he would crack the field in Richmond.

[00:26:32] >> And welcome you to Cary, North Carolina, just outside of Raleigh. And Golf Channel's final round coverage of the SAS Championship, the final event of the regular season on the PGA Tour Champions. With Lanny Wadkins, I'm John Swantek. We'll crank up some highlights. This is Steven Alker for birdie at the 3rd a bit earlier.

[00:26:49] >> Yeah, 194 yard par 3. Really good hole. Nice shot in here by Steven. And a beautiful putt. Well read there. The man who won the Charles Schwab Cup a year ago.

[00:27:03] >> He's trying to run down Rod Pampling, who's had the lead since Friday.

[00:27:07] >> And Rodney just watched Alker make birdie here at the 3rd and hits this shot. What a great strike. Rodney is right on point.

[00:27:15] >> He would pick up a birdie there. Pampling would move to 11-under. In blustery conditions, he would be matched here by Alker at the 6th.

[00:27:23] >> Yeah, great tee shot. Beautiful waves right underneath the hole. And beautiful putt. Really well played hole there for Steven Alker.

[00:27:31] >> He's coming off a runner up last week's Constellation FURYK and FRIENDS in Northeast Florida. And he'll defend next week in Richmond when the playoffs begin. Seventy-two players will punch their ticket to Richmond next week.

[00:27:43] >> To the 10th. And Bernhard Langer has got a birdie look here to get to 8-under. He's hanging around once again.

[00:27:51] >> Stays in touch, doesn't he? Seems like every week he's right there waiting for something hot to happen.

[00:27:57] >> Ernie Els had a birdie of the 4th earlier in the round. Beautiful shot here into number 7.

[00:28:03] >> And he's off with another birdie. So he got it on the front of the green in two. And that was a nice two putt from just off the front edge for Ernie.

[00:28:16] >> Wanted.

[00:28:16] >> Jaidee can this one for eagle and a share of the lead.

[00:28:23] >> Pretty good effort right there.

[00:28:27] >> Jaidee will pick up one. Third birdie of the afternoon.

[00:28:29] >> At the 8, Ernie Els, 154 yards. See if Ernie takes his flag on. He likes to hit a draw. Nice shot in here. This is downhill, moving left to right. Oh, yes. Very nice. Ernie sneaking up on the leaders. Puts him just 1-back.

[00:28:59] >> Here's Jerry Kelly for birdie. Pretty nifty sand save back at 7.

[00:29:04] >> Follows it up with two here.

[00:29:09] >> They're all coming after the co-leaders. Kelly within a couple shots right now. Pampling has the tee back at the 8th.

[00:29:17] >> Iron play has been really good for Rodney all week. This is a pretty tight little hole location and that's a really nice shot in there for guy that's leading. Puts it over there. Oh, yes. Rodney stroking the ball nicely. How about this?

[00:29:38] >> John McGinnis referenced the roar at 17. Maybe it was produced by this Padraig Harrington shot.

[00:29:45] >> Second shot, iron shot into the par 5 and almost a little double eagle.

[00:29:53] >> You saw that brilliant second shot into the 17th from Harrington earlier. Curls that one in for an eagle.

[00:30:00][ Cheering and Applause ] Let's go to 10. Here comes the second for Els.

[00:30:13] >> Oh, there you go. Pampling has left his -- Well, here he is. It's his first putt up over the slope, down the hill now trying to get the pace correct. This is really well done. Now, he's the only one we've seen hit that putt and not have any issues with it.

[00:30:33] >> Good nerve check there from the leader. Stays two clear of the chasers.

[00:30:37] >> Steven Alker laid it up at the 12th. Third shot coming into the par 5 now.

[00:30:48] >> Front hole location. This is the chance to get one close here. And he does. That thing is right there with a backstop.

[00:30:56] >> Mario Tiziani with an eagle chance.

[00:31:00] >> Mario having a very nice week.

[00:31:03] >> Got to tee it up for the 19th time on the season next week. Fifty-fourth in the Schwab Cup race coming into the week. Nice tournament for this man, the leader.

[00:31:15] >> And the wind has just died for the moment. So this remains on 150 yards. This was an opportunity.

[00:31:23] >> And works out very well for Rod. See if he can continue to roll it well. Yes, he can. What a putt. What a little roll Rod Pampling is on. Look at that scorecard.

[00:31:38] >> Here at 13 at Prestonwood Country Club. Second for Steven Alker.

[00:31:51] >> He just always looks good. I mean, I love his -- Everything about his golf game looks good. There we go.

[00:32:01] >> OK. Able to shake that one in there after missing a short one on the previous hole. And Alker to 12-under. Rob Labritz, one of the many club professionals trying to making a go of it here on the Champion, Stewart, through the years.

[00:32:16] >> Got it here a couple of years ago and he's got a lot of game. Needs to get this club working and it seems to be working now. That's a beautiful putting stroke right there. And he's got a little run of three birdies in a row.

[00:32:33] >> Rod here did a beautiful shot into the 15th. And he paid it off.

[00:32:36] >> Look good that short one to push it 10 deep.

[00:32:45] >> Looking for a share of fourth. Second on the way here for Els.

[00:32:50] >> Boy, Ernie is really swinging the club nicely.

[00:32:56] >> Ernie Els for birdie at 13.

[00:32:58] >> Pretty simple look here for Ernie. Maybe left edge.

[00:33:04] >> Count it. To 10-under, but how costly will that bogey at 12 prove to be?

[00:33:11] >> Alker is at the point that he really needs to go flag hunting every single swing. And that's outright. He was looking for something a little better than that.

[00:33:28] >> Up to 18 we go. And Langer closing out his week here.

[00:33:31] >> Yeah, nice tee shot here for Bernhard. And hole location way back in the right side, back right of this green. See if he can get it back there. Going the direct route. Very nice. Over, you know, from 7:30 till, you know, almost 12 hours out here.

[00:33:50] >> How about another birdie from Alker? He needed it.

[00:33:53] >> Not dead just yet.

[00:33:54] >> No, he's trying. He can very easily run it out to the house here. Karlsson for the first birdie of this Sunday.

[00:34:03] >> Really struggled today. Kind of surprised. Gets one here.

[00:34:10] >> Something to build on, perhaps, with a man --

[00:34:13] >> Up to 18. The closing birdie attempt for Bernhard Langer. This for a round of 70.

[00:34:18] >> Get in.

[00:34:22] >> Of course. Langer delivers at the last.

[00:34:25] >> The champion here back in 2018 and currently second in the Schwab Cup standings.

[00:34:31] >> To 16 we go. First look at Paul Goydos today. Looking for his third birdie of the back nine today.

[00:34:39] >> Hole location on the back right here at 16. And look at this putt for Goydos. Down below, uphill into the green. And really well done there.

[00:34:52] >> Gets Goydos to 6-under par.

[00:34:55] >> I guess he was right.

[00:34:59] >> Good looking swing by Rodney if it's the right one. Oh, it is. What a shot. What a strike that was, John.

[00:35:08] >> That was beautiful, 167.

[00:35:11] >> Let's take you to 17. David Duval with a birdie would project inside the Top 72.

[00:35:19] >> Long putt for birdie here on a hole that he should have reached in too easily. Had some issues somewhere. Got a need to birdie 18 now. He's got a good routine. And that produces another birdie. That was a wonderful. Can't tell you how good a second shot that was. Far and away the best we've seen in here.

[00:35:51] >> Second shot here for David Duval. Probably needs the birdie the last to get to Richmond.

[00:35:57] >> Hole location all the way back right. And that may be what he need.

[00:36:01] >> Under par round to get to 8-under for the week. How meaningful will it prove to be? Will that birdie at the last be enough to push Duval into the playoff field in Richmond?

[00:36:23] >> Parnevik looking for birdie here at 15.

[00:36:26] >> From the lower level to the top level.

[00:36:31] >> Oh, yeah. Yes, bird.

[00:36:32] >> There it is.

[00:36:34][ Applause ]

[00:36:41] >> Here comes the second for Mike Weir.

[00:36:42] >> See if he can turn it over left to right. Get it back to that hole. He does. And really nice shot there by Mike Weir.

[00:36:54] >> He's aboard the green and two, but eagle from here would be unlikely.

[00:36:57] >> Yeah. A good 50 feet or more for Steven from here. Got that left shoulder. Should work a little left to right from here and then back to the left as it gets around the hole.

[00:37:07] >> You can hear Alker just barking at it to creep down there a little bit closer. Not exactly a tap in. Going to have to work a bit more for the birdie.

[00:37:19] >> So with that back right hole location, we are at 18. Yes.

[00:37:27] >> Good for a one under round of 71. And Mike Weir's week is complete. He'll finish at 8-under par.

[00:37:36] >> This has to happen for Alker for any hope of catching Pampling.

[00:37:41] >> Yeah. This to get back within two. Good putt. Nice two putt there for Steven. Didn't hit the second shot like he wanted, but boy, two really nice putts there to walk off with birdie.

[00:38:02] >> Seventeen, Ernie with putter in hand. Chance for an eagle if this one goes down.

[00:38:12] >> Ernie's 10-under. Makes that, gets to 11. Still, I like Ernie for next week. He looks like he is swinging really well. He's driving it straight. Hitting a lot of high quality iron shots. Putter looks solid. It's a good golf course for him in Richmond.

[00:38:34] >> Goosen firing one into the last.

[00:38:42] >> Yeah, that's what Steven Alker wanted right there.

[00:38:45] >> Back to 17. Ernie's comebacker for birdie. Is in there. Building some momentum on the way to Richmond.

[00:38:58] >> Probably a disappointing day for him. Looked like he was in position to go out and make a run and just really nothing ever happened. It'll be interesting to see how that putting method he's using travels into next week, if he stays with it. He's tended to jump around time to time.

[00:39:25] >> Back to 17. And Vijay playing from off the green. Third shot. Oh, yes, sir. Late eagle from Vijay Singh pushing him to 9-under par. A little short game from Vij at the par 5.

[00:39:43] >> Wonderful Pampling spot. This is kind of quick right here. Past the hole for Rodney and just gets away a little bit. He gets that up and down, then he's got a really pleasant walk the last hole.

[00:39:55] >> I mean, Jesper's got a swing that really hasn't changed much. Still strong.

[00:40:00] >> He just made some bogeys that when you're seasoned, you tend not to make.

[00:40:07] >> Putting stroke over the last few years has gotten a little short and quick and not what he was when he was at his best.

[00:40:14] >> He just got a read from Kirk Triplett. Now, Triplets didn't go in, but --

[00:40:25] >> Two is a nice lead. Three is a wonderful lead.

[00:40:28] >> Well --

[00:40:28] >> It's going to be three. Boy, Rodney --

[00:40:32] >> Just pouring it on.

[00:40:36] >> That will make the stroll very comfortable up 18.

[00:40:39][ Applause ] It has been flawless. No -- Not one mistake. And anytime he's had a long putt, he's hit it up there for just 6 inches, tap in. So, it's been a pretty stress free round as well.

[00:40:57] >> And it was none other than the leader during this flawless final round. His delivery into 14 here.

[00:41:03] >> Yeah. This is when it was maybe getting a little close. And this thing was some strike. Never left the flag, in there to about 4.5 feet. And that would be a birdie that would really kind of give him the solid lead from there on out. And just no mistakes from here on.

[00:41:20] >> Fourth hardest hole in the golf course. Only seven birdies made at 14. And that one from Pampling put him to 15-under.

[00:41:27] >> Only missed a couple of fairways and they were just right in the front fringe. And there was --

[00:41:32] >> That's the Golf Channel guy. They know what they're doing.

[00:41:39] >> Hey, easy, Rodney. It may not be us. Good chance it's one of our officials.

[00:41:51] >> There's a lot of movement there.

[00:41:53] >> Yeah.

[00:41:53] >> That grandstand behind 17 is emptying out and everybody's trying to get a position down 18.

[00:42:02] >> Come on.

[00:42:03] >> Little right.

[00:42:04] >> Yeah. It's got some tree issues over there. It's probably going to be OK. He can get it on the green. Can't really go with the flag.

[00:42:14] >> Par-4 18th. Birdie putt out of the way for Jaidee.

[00:42:17] >> On the lower level, this is into the grain up the slope. See how shiny it is from going back from here to Jaidee. That means he's into the green the whole way. He hammered it. Vijay got a good look at that. Just kind of watching for speed.

[00:42:46] >> Necessitating 33 holes from Rod Pampling and the others in the final group of the day. Long one for Vijay. Nearly an eagle birdie finish there. A good week for the Ally Challenge winner. Not under par finish here for Singh.

[00:43:05] >> Still plays a lot of really nice golf. Hits a lot of quality shots.

[00:43:11] >> Final round 72 for Vijay, who was 12th in the Schwab Cup race coming into the week. Next stop.

[00:43:25] >> Well, there's a tree about 15 yards in front of him. And he's going to play to the right of it, which gives him a direct line to the flag that's in the back right corner. It's a little riskier than trying to play to the front left corner of the green. But as Lanny said, he has three shots to play with. It's kind of a hot lie. And the way the grandstand set up here, if it comes out a little bit hot, it's not going to get that far from the green.

[00:43:54] >> No, he's probably looking, if anything. I mean, he's got a backboard back there. So carry it up around the hole if he can. And then, if it goes over the back of the green, he's got pretty much the same pitch that we saw from Brian Gay.

[00:44:09] >> Just outside 140 yards.

[00:44:18] >> Said he hooked it, so it's got to be left, just off the back edge. That's a pretty good leave. He can put putter on that. That's OK. He can enjoy the walk.

[00:44:36] >> Keep it here for the Triplett shot.

[00:44:44] >> Just 135 yards.

[00:44:47] >> Yeah. Nice tee shot. Hole location with his little baby cut that he should like.

[00:44:55] >> This needs to go.

[00:45:02] >> Bad club or just not such a great strike maybe.

[00:45:05] >> I think that there was a little missed contact there. There was some tired in that golf swing.

[00:45:17] >> Yeah. He's definitely the best dressed sweet in the group. Figured my caddy could at least add and subtract a little bit.

[00:45:31] >> And I'm not sure they got the arithmetic right there.

[00:45:43] >> Ladies and gentlemen, now entering the green from Brisbane, Australia, please welcome Mr. Rod Pampling.

[00:45:48] >> And from Brisbane.

[00:45:49] >> And we saw him in Dallas for many years.

[00:45:54][ Applause ]

[00:45:59] >> Playing his 33rd hole of the day. Has yet to record a bogey. Just one rather.

[00:46:05] >> Please welcome Mr. Kirk Triplett.

[00:46:10] >> Warm ovation for Triplett, the champion here nine years ago.

[00:46:16] >> And from Stockholm, Sweden, please welcome Mr. Jesper Parnevik.

[00:46:23] >> Pretty productive week for Jesper. Just his sixth start of the season. Kind of grinding to the finish down here.

[00:46:33] >> And that's a nasty lie to finish up with, with a shortsighted pitch. All you can do here is really try and hit some kind of little flop shot and land it about where he is right now. Not much.

[00:46:54] >> And although I think Pampling in the way.

[00:46:58] >> Yes.

[00:46:58] >> Going to go ahead. I mean, Pampling brought Triplett over to just to make sure to -- This is in a fairway cut, right? He could have said yes. So he can lift it and clean it and give himself a little better angle if he wants.

[00:47:22] >> I mean, nobody stands closer to it than Jesper. Look at this. Just carried it a little far. Pretty good little play right there by Jesper, though. Nice technique. Well done.

[00:47:37] >> Don't worry, Tony. We didn't go from that.

[00:47:40] >> They brought him right out.

[00:47:43] >> Two day total for Pampling, by the way. One thirty-four is his low 36 hole output of the season. This was actually the first time leading or co-leading, entering the final round of the PGA Tour Championship.

[00:47:56] >> Yeah. And he's about to go wire to wire. Pretty impressive.

[00:47:59] >> Really comfortable.

[00:48:00] >> Yeah. Had the first round lead and actually ended up with the second round lead after it was all said and done. So, little wire to wire performance for Rod Pampling. This is impressive stuff.

[00:48:12] >> And when he got to 6-under in that first round, there were 10 players that shot behind him at one point in time.

[00:48:20] >> Yes, exactly. You would never have bet that it would have been a wire to wire win, would you, John?

[00:48:25] >> No.

[00:48:25] >> Not with that many people that close. And they were all pretty good players. Bunch of Ernie Els types, you know. Although there's only one Ernie Els type. But --

[00:48:42] >> Three Top 10s on the season for Pampling at 23 starts, but hasn't really been a factor in terms of threatening to win. Solid campaign, 30th in the Schwab Cup standings coming into the week. But everything came together for the man from Australia here this week on the final day.

[00:49:01] >> This is as far as he's been from the hole all day.

[00:49:09] >> Well, if he hits this one up there for tap in, I'll really be impressed.

[00:49:14] >> A lot of movement right there climbing the hill.

[00:49:20] >> First time he's going to have to stand over a putt of any significance. It wasn't for birdie. But with a three shot lead, that's OK.

[00:49:29] >> It's never easy, though, isn't it, locking down on Sunday?

[00:49:32] >> Yeah.

[00:49:33] >> Till the bitter end. That is the smile of a man about to become a champion for the second time out here. Eighty-fifth career start for Rob Pampling since turning 50. Three years removed from his win at the Boeing Classic. Kirk Triplett, a former champion out there in Seattle as well.

[00:49:57] >> Kirk's won a lot of places. He's very capable and never surprised when he gets in the mix and gets it done.

[00:50:06] >> Eight victories out here for Triplett. And rough final 36 for Kirk.

[00:50:17] >> You know, you could see him just trying to stay out of the way here for the last couple of hours. Always a gentleman.

[00:50:36] >> Jesper has had one par since the turn. It came at 14. All birdies and bogeys the rest of the way. Trying to get it in with a four here at the last.

[00:50:46] >> Yeah. Let's do something different. Let's make a par.

[00:50:57] >> And for an even par 72, that would feel pretty good.

[00:51:04] >> That's not the score it seemed like.

[00:51:08] >> Did we see a little balk backstroke right there?

[00:51:10] >> Yes. There is no question that there was some involuntary motion in that stroke. You know, Jesper's a player that has no problem experimenting. I wouldn't be surprised if we saw him with a different apparatus on the greens coming up.

[00:51:30] >> Doesn't need to hole this. But if he does, it would be a bogey free final round for Pampling. And this for a round of 66.

[00:51:40] >> He knows that, too.

[00:51:43] >> It went right on him. I think he was putting it right edge to go left and it went right. That was a tough putt to read right there.

[00:51:53] >> Bogey at the last will not matter.

[00:51:56] >> No.

[00:51:57] >> Rod Pampling outlasts them all. A marathon final day in Cary, North Carolina. Thirty-three holes of work to produce the SAS Championship title.

[00:52:08][ Applause ]