Production Transcript for 23INTCUTCH - SCHWAB CUP MASTER.mp3

[00:00:39] >> The PGA Tour Champions proudly present the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs. And today, from Phoenix, Arizona, it's live first round coverage of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. So 10 months after the year began in Hawaii, we have reached the end of the line here in Arizona. Twenty-five regular season tournament, two playoff events in the books, then the stage is set for the culmination of the Champions Tour season. It's the finale in Phoenix, and a $3 million tournament purse on offer this week, along with bonus money to the Top 5 finishers in the Schwab Cup standings. A handsome reward for a year of hard work to get to the end of the line here. Great day for scoring. Thongchai Jaidee, the winner of Pebble beach earlier this season, birdie at 6.

[00:01:32] >> Yeah. Nice shot in here for Thongchai. And makes the putt, and he is cruising right now.

[00:01:40] >> Miguel Angel Jimenez hasn't won yet this season. Wouldn't it be something to cap the season with a W here?

[00:01:45] >> And this shows just how quick these greens are. Downhill, down grain. Beautiful putt by Jimenez.

[00:01:54] >> Up at 15, birdie attempt for Retief Goosen. Got him to bond his 4.

[00:01:57] >> Played here several times very well. And he is rolling the ball nicely. Look out for Retief.

[00:02:04] >> Strong run of form over the last several weeks coming into this tournament for Ernie Els. He birdie the fifth.

[00:02:09] >> Yeah. Missed one about this length for birdie at the 4th and comes back at the 5th. Ernie's cruising along very nice.

[00:02:17] >> Last week's winner by seven shots, Padraig Harrington taking on the fifth hole here.

[00:02:21] >> Yeah, 299 yards to the flag. He carries it somewhere around 296 or 7, almost to the flag, lands softly, and he's got 25 feet for eagle with.

[00:02:34] >> Two putt from there for a second straight birdie. So Harrington on the move in his title defense. Steven Alker left town with the Schwab Cup last year. Birdie here at 6.

[00:02:46] >> Steven playing very nice golf. Has a new driver in the bag after the one he was using cracked. So, got his game back in shape.

[00:02:54] >> So Jaidee, who turned 54 years of age yesterday, shared the lead with the reigning Schwab Cup champion, Steven Alker. And a host of big names lurking just one shot back here. The opening round, the final event of the season. We'll go to the 9th here, Lanny. Here's Miguel Angel Jimenez looking to get to 6-under.

[00:03:12] >> Well, he's got the putter rolling. And that normally hasn't been the case. Look at this roll here. Miguel is off to a very quick start.

[00:03:23] >> Got him to minus-5. Beg your pardon. So Miguel out in 31. Up to the 8th and four-time champion this season, Stephen Ames looking to join the others at 5-under.

[00:03:35] >> Hundred ninety yard par 3 whole location tight against the right side. Nice two there for Stephen Ames.

[00:03:45] >> Jimenez has about 8 feet to deal with for par back here at 10.

[00:03:50] >> He really is rolling the ball nicely.

[00:03:55] >> Back to 7. Just a short one for Langer's birdie here.

[00:03:59] >> Yeah, let's take notice here. Watch the backstroke here on these shorter putts. If it's long and fluid, he usually has great success from here because it's a little short and quick. All right. That will move him to 4-under par through the first seven. So, Langer got it running right now.

[00:04:18] >> Jaidee looking for another birdie. Push it to 6-under here. There it is. First one on the card since the 6th.

[00:04:31] >> Up to 18.

[00:04:31] >> How about this finish for Justin Leonard? Birdies at 16 and 17. One more. Yeah. Thirty-four on the second nine. And that's 68 for the Texan to kick off the week here.

[00:04:44] >> Thanks, bud.

[00:04:47] >> Brett Quigley, winner for the second time in his Champions Tour career in Jacksonville a month ago. Pours that one in for birdie at 11.

[00:04:55] >> Let's go to 12. Birdie attempt of Jimenez on the way. Oh, yeah. Good putt there at the 12.

[00:05:02] >> Gave one back at 11, gets it right back.

[00:05:07] >> Yeah. Good comeback there for Jimenez.

[00:05:14] >> Back within one of Jaidee. Els came up short here.

[00:05:18] >> And look at this. Just a wonderful bunker player. And that's kind of about average for Ernie right there.

[00:05:27] >> We'll move to 15. The par 3 playing 171 yards today. Richard Green was the runner up to Harrison Frazar to kick off the playoffs in a playoff in Richmond a few weeks ago.

[00:05:37] >> Good shot in here. Just right over top of the flag and buries that 30 footer. Just great putt there by Richard Green.

[00:05:44] >> One of five players who came through the qualifying school to earn his exempt status out here and has made it all the way to Phoenix.

[00:05:51] >> Good look here coming uphill for Ernie. I was having a little chat with his Caddie Rich Mayo about, you know, Ernie getting in the winter circle more. And he said the biggest thing really that he's seen is if he can just keep hitting fairways like he is right now. Sometimes, the driving accuracy gets just a little bit off and that hurts him. And that's his take on it.

[00:06:09] >> Seems like he's hitting more of a cut these days, which is probably finding the fairway a little more often for Ernie. Putting stroke really looks good. Bang.

[00:06:20] >> Up to 15, the winner of the Dominion Energy Charity Classic to start the playoffs, Harrison Frazar.

[00:06:26] >> What a good looking putting stroke Harrison has going now. He has found something with that putter and hope he can ride it for a few years and really enjoy himself.

[00:06:36] >> We'll go to 14. Jimenez missed the green. This one for par.

[00:06:40] >> Made a few of those today. Just a one drop shot back at 11 for Miguel.

[00:06:46] >> First look at Jerry Kelly here at 16 for birdie. One of the shortest par 4s out here at 356. And Kelly catches one in. And a chance for Harrington back at 15 to move it to minus-3.

[00:07:04] >> Quick little putt down the slope. Oh, yeah. Oh, it almost got out, and then it's back in. All around a good putt.

[00:07:15] >> Stephen Ames with a gorgeous shot in here at 17. Yes.

[00:07:21][ Applause ]

[00:07:30] >> Thirty-two on each side of the golf course for Ernie. That's the best round of the day. Sixty-three for Els to start the week here. Phoenix, Arizona, the Valley of the sun, the backdrop for the final event of the Champions Tour season. Live second round coverage of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship coming your way. And the players are getting after it at Phoenix Country Club. John Swantek, Lanny Wadkins. What a start for Harrison Frazar today.

[00:08:08] >> Yeah, the par-5 1st. He puts it about 45 feet in two. And look at this. Just falling in the edge. Great start. Eagle three for Harrison.

[00:08:19] >> Nice.

[00:08:19] >> The man who kicked off the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs with a victory in Richmond a few weeks ago. He's playing in the same group with Stephen Ames, who says, guess what, I'm going to match him.

[00:08:27] >> Yeah. From 30 feet, Ames pours it in. Quite a start for those two.

[00:08:33] >> Ames got to minus-8. Thongchai Jaidee, open with 65 yesterday. Tee shot here at the second.

[00:08:39] >> Playing with Ernie Els in the last group. And Thongchai is up to the challenge. What a great shot in here at the second. Hundred and fifty-eight yards today. And that's in there about a foot and a half.

[00:08:51] >> Got Jaidee to -7under par. Steven Alker, of course, the man who won the Charles Schwab Cup a year ago, picked up a birdie there at number 5, gets a minus-8. And he is very much in the mix here.

[00:09:04] >> Padraig Harrington has got it going again. Nice little wedge in here at the 12th and buries this. Padraig 8-under, just one off the lead.

[00:09:15] >> Harrington, the defending champion. Alker took the Schwab Cup right here at Phoenix Country Club. They're both very much in the conversation here on Day 2.

[00:09:25] >> Well, we got a good looking leaderboard for you. There's Alker, who's pushed it to 9-under with a 5-under par, second round going. Harrington coming off a seven shot romp last week at the TimberTech Championship as we close down the season here in Phoenix, Arizona.

[00:09:41] >> Fairways with a lot of clubs. Be happy to have greens as good as the fairways are this week.

[00:09:45] >> Pretty special place that's been around for more than 100 years, isn't it, Phil?

[00:09:49] >> It truly is. It truly is. A lot of history here. I remember playing here back in the day. Ernie now. This is not a long putt, but one he certainly needs. Missed a pretty short one for par at the last.

[00:10:05] >> Watching a stroke on the putting green day looks really nice for the putter in his hand right now. So Els avoids a second straight bogey.

[00:10:18] >> Needs to go take advantage of the par-5 7th.

[00:10:22] >> Up to the 8th, long birdie attempt. Probably about 50 feet here for Jimenez.

[00:10:27] >> Across the green.

[00:10:28] >> Look at this.

[00:10:30] >> Oh, hello.

[00:10:32] >> The third of the round for Miguel. And back at seven. Just a short one for the Ames birdies. That pushes him to 9-under.

[00:10:40] >> And, Lanny, to your point, talking about Stephen Ames' length, he has really started a pretty regimented workout program and has added some length to his game, that's for sure.

[00:10:48] >> I guess one of the reasons he's played so well and won four times this year. Putting is, I think, the biggest thing in his success.

[00:10:56] >> Just a short one for Els to get within 1.

[00:10:59] >> These greens are so good. No surprises in these short putts. If you hit a good putt, you're going to make it. Last week was a little different. New greens and we saw players a little perplexed at times. Although they were in great shape.

[00:11:16] >> First birdie of the day on the card for Els.

[00:11:35] >> That was barely getting the edge.

[00:11:37] >> I'm not sure that was the stroke or maybe just a misread. That thing went right hard.

[00:11:49] >> Birdie opportunity coming up here at the 8th for Thongchai Jaidee. One shot off the lead. Phil, he took this flag on here, didn't he?

[00:11:57] >> He really did. And it bounded over. But he got a good break there with it rolling back down that slope. This is now in a position where he can make this putt. He's coming downhill through the fringe. So it shouldn't bounce too much I wouldn't think. It's very makeable, Lanny.

[00:12:11] >> Yeah. It should be down grain right through that little bit of fringe. And if he gets this part to roll smooth, got a good chance. Just get it on line. It's going to be a little quick, I would think, too.

[00:12:24] >> A little for me.

[00:12:24] >> It's just from the flagstick.

[00:12:27] >> He banged that in there. That was about to motor on by a little bit if he didn't hit the hole.

[00:12:32] >> Two at the 8th for Jaidee. And we've got four tied at the top.

[00:12:43] >> Seventeen here. Harrington already with seven birdies on the card today.

[00:12:46] >> Great hole location here at 17. All the way back left. And nice birdie for Padraig. That's a wonderful shot in there to that hole location.

[00:12:58] >> We've got our first player to touch minus-10. And we've got a new leader. It's the defending champion. Alker stepping in to play his approach into the 12th here.

[00:13:09] >> Yeah. You play this all you're thinking birdie all the time. It's a layup off the tee. Get it in position, and just a wedge into this green. Pretty big swing for wedge right there. It should spin a lot. It did. And what a great shot. That's what you expect to do at 12. I mean, that's exactly how you would draw it up.

[00:13:28] >> Let's go to 11 and first peek at Marco Dawson, who's 3-under for the day, 7-under for the championship.

[00:13:35] >> Yeah, going along very nicely. And look at this shot by Marco. Hello. Going to have a little tap in birdie.

[00:13:41] >> Out of 12 here, and Alker looking for birdie. Had five of them in his opening seven holes of the round today.

[00:13:48] >> Yeah. And you like to take advantage of this. You don't want to hit this quality shot. Nice shot off the tee. Beautiful wedge in here. About 4.5, 5feet. Got to get this one to go down. Oh, he burns it on the left edge, the high edge. I thought he would -- trying to keep that in the hole and obviously trying to make it go right. Marco Dawson just stuffed it here at 11. Tap in birdie, no problem.

[00:14:20] >> Had a productive week at the TimberTech Championship finishing 6th with a 67 last Sunday to push his way into the field here in Phoenix.

[00:14:29] >> And Dawson is two off the lead.

[00:14:35] >> Ernie clipped a tree with his second shot, trying to scratch out a par here at 9.

[00:14:39] >> I think a big putt to set up the second inward 9 here. You got to red figures, birdie on 4, and gave it right back on 5. He got to red figures at 7 now trying to avoid giving it right back again. Tap this in, get a little par momentum going in. A good second nine.

[00:14:54] >> Yeah. It's got to go left to right as well. We've seen this putt a couple of times. It moves pretty good right at the hole. He puts it well out there. That's a great read for Ernie. He read that so much better than everybody else we've seen. That was wonderful.

[00:15:11] >> Let's go.

[00:15:13] >> Let's go, Ernie.

[00:15:15] >> About ten or 11 feet here, Billy Ray. This would be a big save.

[00:15:18] >> He may be just inside that, Lanny. But one thing I love about especially his short putts from Stephen Ames, if our viewers notice, watch how still his head remains through the putt. He will not look up until after the putt has left the putter face.

[00:15:35] >> I like the way he hangs and gets the left and then just lets the right hand just come on there soft. Yes. Solid.

[00:15:50] >> Really solid.

[00:15:51] >> That was very nice.

[00:16:06] >> Trying to accomplish a couple of things this week. Win in back to back weeks and also successfully defend after his dominant seven shot romp a year ago. The victory last week at the TimberTech was the third in the Palm Beach County Area for Padraig. He won the Honda Classic a couple of times during his PGA Tour days. And that's a bogey free 63 today, matching the opening round effort of Ernie Els, best of the week. And it has Harrington at the top of the leaderboard. Let's go to 13. And the Alker birdie attempt to get to minus-10 and join Harrington.

[00:16:54] >> Pretty good look right here. It can be a little aggressive with this one. And he was. After the short miss at 12, gets the uphiller that he can fire, you know, on 13 and makes that.

[00:17:06] >> So Alker pours one in and he is the co-leader. Harrington just about to sign his scorecard in a moment or two.

[00:17:13] >> Fifteen. First look at Alex Cejka. Looking to bang one in here for birdie.

[00:17:18] >> Yeah, down the slope. This is kind of quick. Gets it to go in. Very nice.

[00:17:25] >> No assist from the flagstick necessary. Birdie number four of the round for Cejka.

[00:17:31] >> To the 18th, Richard Green, runner up to Harrison Frazar at the Dominion Energy Charity Classic to kick off the playoffs.

[00:17:38] >> And pours that one in for birdie at the last. He also in his rookie season out here after navigating his way through the qualifying school. How about a 64 today?

[00:17:48] >> Yeah. Apparent left-handers in that group playing with Steve Flesch.

[00:17:51] >> Got 12 players within three shots of the lead, including Stephen Ames on the tee here at 13.

[00:17:56] >> Yeah. It's time to turn it around if you're Stephen Ames right here. Hundred and eighty-seven yards. Not much breeze here at the par 3. This green will slope a little bit from right to left.

[00:18:07] >> He definitely needs a good swing right now, Billy Ray. Hadn't made one in a while.

[00:18:11] >> This is a good looking shot here just right of the flag.

[00:18:13] >> And that's a beautiful shot right all the way back to that hole location. Hard to get it that far back. That's really well done.

[00:18:20] >> Beautiful tee shot into the 13th for Stephen Ames.

[00:18:22] >> Certainly so. And it's one that is timely for him right now. Struggling going in the wrong direction, but a fantastic look here.

[00:18:35] >> I'm sure not many players, Lanny, have fitted back in that back left.

[00:18:38] >> No, they really haven't been, Billy Ray. Not that we've seen. It's a hard hole location and get it all the way back. And no speed issues here at all, Billy Ray, correct?

[00:18:47] >> You know, it's slightly back downhill. But one thing he's thinking about as he looks at the leaderboard behind the green here at 13, he doesn't want to lose any more shots to the leaders here. And this is a great opportunity. I think he actually might try to force the issue a bit here. He's seen so many of his push just kind of die into the hole. This one might be a bit more aggressive.

[00:19:25] >> Oh, he's a little bit left.

[00:19:31] >> Let's go, E.

[00:19:34] >> I'll say nothing --

[00:19:35] >> Right there.

[00:19:35] >> -- nothing about the Els' birdie attempt. I'll let Phil take it from here.

[00:19:38] >> Well, he has a good opportunity here. This is a very good look, John. This is one certainly that if he can get it on a good line, he very well may make this a well-played hole up to this point. Thank you, golf gods. Please allow me to make this.

[00:19:50] >> Yeah. Well, you know, I mean, he played the hole with birdie in mind. That's what he's done. So all he's got to do now is hold the -- I'd say about 7 footer. Straight -- Pretty much straight in, too. Yup. That was a very well played hole, great tee shot, and really well done second shot.

[00:20:11] >> Second, another short par 4 on the back nine for Alker.

[00:20:15] >> Oh, and that's really well played. That's a nice shot. Controlled his trajectory, drove it in there, spin, kept it down. Wonderful little play.

[00:20:23] >> That to rejoin Harrington at the top at 10-under par. Goosen coming in from the left side of the fairway.

[00:20:35] >> Well, hello.

[00:20:36] >> All over it and down to the bottom.

[00:20:39] >> One hopping in. Always amazed we don't see that happen more often. That's great. After two bogeys in a row, he's going to come back with an eagle 2 at 14.

[00:20:51] >> So Goosen hoops one at 14 to get to 6-under par.

[00:20:55] >> Up to 16. This is a clean birdie look for Alker.

[00:20:58] >> Not going to let that one get away. Back to 10-under and back into his share of the lead.

[00:21:09] >> Back at 15, and the birdies have dried up for Jimenez. Three in his opening eight, but 2-over par since that point.

[00:21:16] >> He really has. He was in a position. It looked like he was going to just jump right in the middle of this tournament. And instead, he's just really backwards and neutral. Not a good combination when this many people are going forward. Quick putt here. There we go. Maybe that'll get Miguel turned around.

[00:21:50] >> Get in.

[00:21:51] >> Up ahead, birdie putt of Ames on the way.

[00:21:54] >> Yeah. Coming across the green here. A little left to right down the slope. Yeah. Finally sees one go in for birdie does Ames.

[00:22:04] >> So it's Alker and Harrington at 10-under. We'll see if Cejka can join them with a birdie here at the home hole. Yes, he can. How about 29 on the back nine today?

[00:22:17] >> Coached across the water here at 17. Check in on the Alker par attempt. Steven handles that one. Remains tied for the lead. Par-5 18th ahead. But it has not been a pushover despite playing at just 516 today at home hole. For now, we'll drop back to 16. Birdie attempt of Dawson just off the surface.

[00:22:42] >> Can he get it to roll through the fringe? He did very nicely. And smooth and beautiful putt.

[00:22:48] >> Quietly just kind of cruising along. Six-under par round going for Marco Dawson. We've got another player at 10-under.

[00:22:56] >> We move up to the par 4 at 16, second for Jimenez.

[00:23:03] >> Big tee shot and just a little pitch in here for Jimenez. And that is extremely well done.

[00:23:08] >> Crafty little shot into the 16th for Jimenez. Looking to pay it off for his second straight birdie.

[00:23:13] >> Yeah, that was classy. Just he's got great hands. And you'll play a variety of shots around the green. Just really whatever is called for. And nice three.

[00:23:22] >> To 15. Birdies have been very scarce today. Only three of them made. Jaidee just trying to salvage par here. This has been the hardest hole in the golf course today.

[00:23:34] >> Yeah. The shot from behind the green got away from him a little bit.

[00:23:38] >> Yeah. I think the reason this hole location with it being so quick around the hole and coming back down the hill is why it has been the most difficult hole. Straight up the hill, though here. Not much. Just keep up the pace. Hope that flagstick doesn't knock it out of the hole.

[00:23:57] >> Yeah. Well, he's one put it in there. How about those two par saves?

[00:24:06] >> Pretty big swing again. He makes some big swings at these wedges. Needs to stay there. It did. Got an uphill look. That's an excellent play right there.

[00:24:17] >> Alker for a closing birdie, a round of 64 and the lead.

[00:24:20] >> Yes. What a finish.

[00:24:23] >> That's some round of golf for Steven Alker. We've seen some great golf today, boy.

[00:24:35] >> Right in the mix at modest 9. Jaidee is 9-under for the moment.

[00:24:41] >> In this putt, only about I will say 3.5 feet. Possibly four. Not much. Shouldn't break hardly at all. It's exactly the line that Ernie's ball was rolling on too. So he's seen what it does. He saw what it did going past the hole. So, no secrets.

[00:25:07] >> Greens are still in beautiful shape. Only 35 players on these greens all day. So, they stay nice. No spike marks or scuff marks. They look perfect.

[00:25:17] >> Strong finish. Jaidee birdies the final two for a round of 67 on the heels of yesterday's 65. So Jaidee in at 10-under par, bidding to become the sixth multiple winner of the season. How about that leaderboard? Reigning Charles Schwab Cup Champion Steven Alker, Phoenix resident with a 64, matched by Marco Dawson. Padraig Harrington, the defending champion, matching the low round of the week. Harrison Frazar, winner in Richmond to kick off the playoffs, part of the pack of players at modest 10.

[00:25:58] >> And welcome you to Phoenix Country Club to start the weekend of the final event of the Champions Tour Season. It's our live third round coverage of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. John Swantek. Lanny Wadkins is alongside. We'll crank up some highlights. Stephen Alker, par 5 opening hole.

[00:26:15] >> Yeah, not a good tee shot, so he had to lay up with his second. But a wonderful third makes up for it in there to about 2 feet.

[00:26:23] >> Alker stuffs one, makes birdie, gets to minus-12. He's playing with Marco Dawson in the final pairing of the day.

[00:26:28] >> Yeah. Good putt by Marco. Nice way to get his round off and running.

[00:26:32] >> He got it to minus-12 as well. Alker up at the 4th for another birdie from close range.

[00:26:38] >> Yeah. Really nice shot in here for Alker. This is a tough hole location, back to the green. And he cans that putt to make it pay off. And then, Alker at 5 drove it in the bunker. Bunker shot to here. Gets it to go on the edge. Nice start for Alker.

[00:26:55] >> Sit --

[00:26:55] >> Ever.

[00:26:56] >> -- Alker to 14-under, coming off a 64 yesterday. Leads by two, a year after winning the Charles Schwab Cup here. The final event of the season. Two beautiful shots into the par-5 18th for Ken Tanigawa. Looking to close out his day with an eagle.

[00:27:16] >> And he does. Good putt there for Ken. Scottsdale resident.

[00:27:22] >> That feels good. Eagle at the last.

[00:27:25] >> Yeah. Home game for Ken.

[00:27:34] >> This is Harrington at 7. That's going to be a birdie pickup for Padraig. So he's tagged both of the par 5s on the front side at 1 and 7. He'll move back to minus-11. Cejka for a bounce back birdie at 7. Got it.

[00:27:49][ Applause ] Second shot for Jaidee coming into the 9th.

[00:28:00] >> Oh, good shot there by Jaidee. And hole location, kind of right there in the right front.

[00:28:11] >> Double Charles Schwab Cup points available throughout the playoffs. So, over a million points will go to the winner here this week. Big tournament purse as well. Beefed up to $3 million. Five hundred and twenty-eight thousand will go to the champion.

[00:28:26] >> Yeah. Phil, I really liked the shot Harrington hit here. That was under control and worked it towards the flag. Exactly the kind of shot you should have played.

[00:28:34] >> It really was. If he can hole this one, up and down he made it 6, birdie at 7. Another birdie here. If he can hole this, he will finally have some momentum on his side. It's been pretty lackluster to this point.

[00:28:49] >> Oh, he did. Beautiful putt.

[00:28:53] >> Watch out now.

[00:28:53] >> Yeah. I was afraid he might get that outside the hole and it wouldn't move. But he put it right on the edge. And that was a great read and matched it with the pace.

[00:29:00] >> Let's move to the 9th, where Harrison Frazar is looking for a book in birdie. Had one back at the opening hole.

[00:29:06] >> Can he keep it up? Yes, he can. Nicely good putt. Harrison down the slope.

[00:29:19] >> Looks like Dawson has putter in his hand. No, maybe not.

[00:29:24] >> Not the way he chips the ball. This is the one as a player, you're trying to actually almost make here. Ball sits on the upslope. Perfect lie. Just a quick note right now. This final pairing is on the clock early on in this third round. They'll be trying to play a little bit of catch up here. Very simple shot for Marco. He's wonderful around the green, these little pitches.

[00:29:46] >> And well done. Makes for an easy birdie.

[00:29:49] >> Little handsier than most, but a workable technique for Marco.

[00:29:52] >> He's got good hands. Yes. Early set and gets the descending blow right on top of the ball, makes for good contact.

[00:29:58] >> Technique that has helped produced 50 Top 10 finishes for Marco Dawson over the last 9 years, and two victories back in 2015. Gets us back to the 7th for the Alker birdie putt.

[00:30:09] >> A lot longer than what he anticipated after that second shot. But nonetheless, makes birdie. Man, he's got it.

[00:30:19] >> Meanwhile, we'll head up to 15. Bernhard Langer, long birdie attempt.

[00:30:24] >> And this is quick. He hardly hit this. Look at this. Look at this.

[00:30:33] >> It just kept going and going. We've always accused him of being the energizer bunny.

[00:30:37] >> Yeah.

[00:30:37] >> He keeps going and going. Maybe that's -- the golf ball was just like that.

[00:30:41] >> Always fighting. Langer to 9-under. Let's move up ahead as Harrington studies this important par attempt coming up here.

[00:30:49] >> Well, he has certainly studied it from all angles here. Given this one a good look. Must have a little maybe indecision as what it's going to do. He picked up all that momentum at the last. You hate to give it right back on a hole. Frankly, it's just a 3-wood wedge hole.

[00:31:02] >> Hundred percent big. I agree with you. If he gets it in the fairway, this is actually a birdie hole today. I think this hole location, even though it's close to the front, is pretty accessible if you have it in the fairway off the tee. Big putt for Harrington right here. Keep the momentum going. Solid 8 feet. That's so nice.

[00:31:27] >> Solid putt to follow.

[00:31:30] >> Back to 18. Jerry Kelly couldn't convert earlier. See if Monty can.

[00:31:39] >> Only birdie of the second nine, and a Saturday round of 68 for the Scott.

[00:31:46] >> Back to 10. Alex Cejka for birdie.

[00:31:51] >> Trying to cover up the skin here at the 10th. And does.

[00:31:55][ Applause ]

[00:32:01] >> To 15. Vijay Singh tugged his tee shot, ran this birdie putt well past the hole here.

[00:32:06] >> Yeah. Had a chip from down below. And boy, that is some great save from Vijay. That keeps a terrific round going. Look at this round. Nothing but a lot of circles on that card.

[00:32:18] >> We'll see what's happening up here at 18. Bernhard Langer ready to play his third shot into the par 5.

[00:32:24] >> Five-under today. And this hole location is pretty much out in the open with wedge. Kind of release more than I thought it would with wedge for Langer. But good shot.

[00:32:34] >> Up to 18. And Langer to close the day with the birdie. This for 65.

[00:32:41] >> He's going to go down the slope, move to the left and back right.

[00:32:45] >> Oh, no.

[00:32:45] >> The back right is what got him.

[00:32:48] >> K.J. Choi is at 15, looking to get a little closer to Alker.

[00:32:52] >> Yeah, this is quick. We saw Langer earlier make one that just kept on going. And does for KJ as well. Great two there at 15.

[00:33:03] >> Alker cleans that one up for his par at 11. Stayed 15-under.

[00:33:12] >> All right, we're at 13 now. Thongchai Jaidee open with 65 back on Thursday. Whoa. From long range. Second birdie of the afternoon for the man from Thailand. Par-3 15th, Richard Green for a birdie two.

[00:33:32] >> The Aussie lost in a playoff in Richmond to start the playoffs to Harrison Frazar. But he's had a wonderful year. Came through the qualifying school, made it all the way to Phoenix. That's a big accomplishment. So Green to minus-8.

[00:33:44] >> We're right here by the Veterans Outpost behind the 13th green. Appreciate all those guys and their service. Nice two for Cejka.

[00:34:00] >> I can't imagine there's been a lot of those today.

[00:34:04] >> I wouldn't think on this hole.

[00:34:05] >> Just the number of birdie putts that Alker has had from like the 15 to 18 foot range all week, BR, it's a testament to how superb his arm play has been.

[00:34:15] >> Yeah. That's a really good point. He's given himself a number of opportunities now here. Learned a lot from the putt of Marco Dawson. I don't think he's going to get this ball outside the hole if he's going to make it on that left-hand side. If anything, I think just maybe inside left at the most.

[00:34:50] >> Oh, yeah. Beauty. Just beautiful roll there for Steven Alker.

[00:34:55] >> Just felt like it was time to see another one go down now.

[00:34:58] >> Yeah. And he just looks like he is so in control of everything he's doing right now.

[00:35:12] >> Cejka with a chance just off the surface here.

[00:35:21] >> Try and come left. Not quite.

[00:35:28] >> I mean, all day long, Cejka has seemingly come up empty. Alker will take a three or a four shot lead into the final day tomorrow.

[00:35:38] >> Yeah. And if he gets it to 17, which is a four shot lead over Cejka. Now he's got a five shot lead over Jaidee and Harrington, and six over a whole five guys at 11-under. So, that's -- You know, the more people you can eliminate right now, the better for him. So that's -- he's not thinking about that right now. He's just trying to go as low as possible. But that's the end result.

[00:36:06] >> He made a fantastic point back there. We're talking about him going forward and --

[00:36:09] >> Possible, but that's the end result.

[00:36:12] >> Lanny made a fantastic point back there. We're talking about him going forward in two. But a man that's trusting his golf swing is exactly what we have right now in Steven Alker.

[00:36:22] >> Oh, 100%. And trusting his putting stroke as well.

[00:36:26] >> Yes.

[00:36:26] >> That was solid. Really well played hole there at 18 by Steven Alker. That's a spectacular, easy looking round of 65.

[00:36:35] >> How about those three rounds produced by the reigning Charles Schwab Cup Champion? Commanding four shot lead going into the final day, and a date in the final pairing of the day. Once again tomorrow, Alex Cejka will be alongside Steven Alker. Another fabulous day for scoring here. And a little late separation in the day. Harrington at one point was within a couple, had his issues at 18. Not for the first time on the weeks. It will be Harrington and Jaidee in the second to last grouping of the day on Sunday. Cejka and Alker, the final two.

[00:37:13] >> And we welcome you to Phoenix Country Club. Final round coverage of the final event of the season on the Champions Tour, the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. John Swantek and Lanny Wadkins. Steven Alker led by four to start today, Lanny. But Ernie Els is coming after him.

[00:37:29] >> Well, he sure is. And Ernie is swinging well. Has been swinging well for about a month now. Been waiting for it all to come together. And beautiful shot here at 4. Knocks that in for birdie.

[00:37:40] >> That would get Ernie to 14-under par. Padraig Harrington, one of the explosive chasers back in the pack. This is the 3rd.

[00:37:46] >> And he's been wielding a hot putter all week, actually into last week, and it's continuing today.

[00:37:54] >> So, Padraig got to 14-under. Alker did birdie the 3rd. That helped the cause.

[00:37:59] >> Yeah. Good putt here. Just grips it over the center. Birdied the tough hole in the 3rd, Alker did. And now, Ernie at 7, just off the back edge. Par 5, he should have had a closer look for birdie, but gets it to fall anyway.

[00:38:16] >> Five birdies in the opening eight holes for Ernie. This was a tee shot into the par-3 8th.

[00:38:21] >> Yeah, 192 yards. And, boy, Ernie is really swinging well. Balance looks terrific. And look at this shot. Right at the flag. He would make that for birdie. And he's already stuffed it at 9 right behind it.

[00:38:38] >> Chance to birdie the 9th to get to 17-under and make up four strokes through a half day of work here in Phoenix.

[00:38:47] >> Cejka's comebacker for birdie. OK. So he'll pick up one. Birdied the 5 and 7, sandwiched around the drop shot at 6. And Cejka within 3. Back at 9 as Harrington gets back to work here.

[00:39:09] >> Lanny, yesterday, we talked about Harrington should hit driver here at 9. What he did today, he only has 57 yards to the hole.

[00:39:16] >> Yeah. I think he's actually got more room hitting driver than he does 3-wood here, Phil.

[00:39:20] >> I would agree. And he's got a great lie there in the first cut of rough. Plenty of green to work with.

[00:39:26] >> Well, he needs birdie here right now after not getting birdie at 7. Seven really hurts. He needs to pick one up here. And that's getting better all the time. Outstanding. That turned out excellent. What a good play that was. That was really well judged.

[00:39:42] >> Trying to go back to back here in Phoenix and win in back to back weeks. Let's slip back to the 8th. And the par attempt of Cejka here, Billy Ray.

[00:39:50] >> Well, he's to the point now. In my opinion, Cejka is. He just can't afford to give any back right now. And this is a putt. As you said, Lanny, probably a good 14 feet left here coming across the little slope there. Go a little bit left at the end once it starts losing a little pace.

[00:40:12] >> Yeah.

[00:40:12] >> Cejka grinds one out here. He's a fighter. Stays at 14-under.

[00:40:18] >> Yeah, that was an up and down, but it was a better down than it was up.

[00:40:36] >> Thirty-three going out for the Irishman to claw within two.

[00:40:47] >> Up a hole to 11, Els for par.

[00:40:50] >> This distance has plagued him this week. Looked a little deflated when he walked off the 9th green, Lanny. Had a really good chance.

[00:40:56] >> Probably was.

[00:40:56] >> And the wind kind of went out of the sails a little bit for Ernie.

[00:41:05] >> Steven Alker for birdie at the 9th to get to 18-under.

[00:41:08] >> And a perfect position after a wonderful fairway bunker shot.

[00:41:12] >> Oh, yeah. Here we go.

[00:41:13] >> Oh my.

[00:41:14] >> Billy Ray, he told you he's going to get the second nine today. Maybe this is the start of it right here at 9.

[00:41:20] >> What a fantastic birdie after the errant tee shot there by Alker.

[00:41:24] >> And a timely one. Alker reengaged, leads by two.

[00:41:28] >> Up ahead, Harrington trying to avoid back to back bogey. Shot 33 in the opening 9 today. Dropped one of 10. Grinding over this one now.

[00:41:47] >> He won at a canter last week in South Florida, birdieing the final hole at the TimberTech Championship to increase the winning margin from six to seven.

[00:42:03] >> Can't afford any more mistakes here if you're Padraig.

[00:42:11] >> And he's looked a little fidgety over a few putts from what we've seen so far today.

[00:42:19] >> Some days you come out and you're just not as comfortable as you would like it to be. It's -- I don't know if he got up on the wrong side of the bed or what it was. But some days, your body just is a little different. Got that one in. I don't think that was his best stroke, but he got it in there.

[00:42:37] >> To 18. It has been a bounty for Colin Montgomerie. He made an eagle here back on Thursday. Birdie here yesterday. Why not one more?

[00:42:46][ Applause ] Up to 15, our first look at Bernhard Langer today. This to get to 13-under.

[00:42:57] >> Made a long one here yesterday. Down the hill, was quick. This one is as well. And he just walks that one in.

[00:43:07] >> Miguel Angel Jimenez hoping this will be the last putt of the week. And it is. That's a birdie at the 18th for Miguel. Sixty-nine on the final day. Strong season but no victories. First time he's never won out here since 2014.

[00:43:22] >> Drop back to 15 in the par saving attempt of Y.E. Yang.

[00:43:30] >> Nicely done.

[00:43:31] >> Keeps it at 11-under par. Els to stay at 16-under.

[00:43:42] >> Hanging by a thread, putting through the shade.

[00:43:43] >> We finally made one anyway, but it was for par.

[00:43:49] >> Want to keep his hopes alive here, Lanny.

[00:43:50] >> Yeah, it does. And now, he's got to go make -- he probably needs to go finish three, three. That would be special.

[00:44:00] >> Jaidee for birdie at 14.

[00:44:03] >> Off the back of the green, down the slope. And, yes, count it.

[00:44:10] >> Don't discount the chasers just yet.

[00:44:15] >> Harrington to get it to 14-under. Keep his hopes alive.

[00:44:20] >> Needs something.

[00:44:20] >> Oh, yeah.

[00:44:21] >> Yes. And he got one finally. There are enough holes left for Padraig, but he's got to go take it deep going in.

[00:44:31] >> Alker's testy par putt on his hands here back at 13.

[00:44:35] >> It's going to be interesting read here too. Depends on how he wants to hit this putt, Lanny. Because there is a ridge to his left that's going to influence his putt back to the right. And as it's back uphill, though, he can give this one a pretty, you know, nice hit. But, you know, that's not the way he putts though.

[00:44:52] >> No.

[00:44:52] >> He's the kind of guy that actually, you know, uses the correct speed and doesn't try to force putts in.

[00:45:00] >> No, he does not. I think it's an interesting sequence right now for Alker. He's got this putt, and then the tee shot at 14, which had been problematic for a lot of people all week. And that's what he's fighting today is the tee shot. Holy cow. What a putt, Billy Ray.

[00:45:21] >> I got to tell you, he is not making it easy on himself right now.

[00:45:39] >> What an incredible bunker shot a moment ago from Harrington at 15. Trying to get out of there with three.

[00:45:44] >> This would be some three. Look at this.

[00:45:46] >> Come on.

[00:45:47] >> No, he didn't. That may be the up and down of the week right there. That was crazy.

[00:45:55] >> Hanging out by a thread. Yeah. That's a souvenir for somebody.

[00:46:02] >> Can't ask any more out of that ball.

[00:46:08] >> Y.E. Yang, quality birdie look here at 16. Curls it in.

[00:46:12] >> Back to 17 with Els.

[00:46:17] >> Left himself a much longer putt than he would have liked. Probably 25 feet I'm guessing. IT may have been the exact distance he needed.

[00:46:25] >> I was going to say, this one has to go down. And it does. All of a sudden, this is a little bit of game on now.

[00:46:32] >> That ends an eight hole birdie drought and gets Els within one.

[00:46:37] >> Just the tap in for Stephen Ames' birdie here at 18.

[00:46:41] >> Thirty-three on the front, 32 on the back. Seventeen-under finish for the four-time champion this season. Will Ames slip into the Top 5 of the final Charles Schwab Cup standings?

[00:46:53] >> It's going to be close.

[00:46:55] >> So just a par for Alker here at 14. And the lead is one as Els plays the par 5 home hole.

[00:47:06] >> Yeah. And Stephen Ames has already finished at 17.

[00:47:15] >> But we'll stay right here for now. Let's see the Cejka par attempt. Takes care of that one. Double bogey 13, pretty much took Cejka out of the picture. He stays at 11-under, three to play.

[00:47:39] >> Up to 17. And Vijay Singh looking for birdie.

[00:47:43] >> Pretty simple look here for Vijay. Just up the slope. Yes, indeed. Nice putt.

[00:47:48] >> Let's go, Vijay.

[00:47:49] >> Back to the last. And K.J. Choi to cap off the week with the birdie.

[00:47:58] >> Found the bunker left with his second plate out to right here. Be a nice up and down. A good way to finish for K.J.

[00:48:15] >> Fine season for K.J. Choi. Highlighted by runner up finish at the Sanford International to Steve Stricker in Sioux Falls. And K.J.'s work is complete. Sixty-nine on the final day here. So this must go down for any hope with Stephen Ames already in the house at 17-under.

[00:48:43] >> I'm curious to talk to Ernie and see how well he hit that shot at the last because it was so close to being good.

[00:48:50] >> Got about 3.5 feet here.

[00:48:57] >> It's a fine up and down too, Lanny.

[00:48:59] >> It was. Good five, but he needed four or better.

[00:49:02] >> Most of the work done on the front side for Ernie today. It's a bogey free 65. He joins Stephen Ames in the house at 17-under. It's up to Alker now over the final three.

[00:49:17] >> With a lot at stake here, but we'll go up ahead. Another miraculous bunker shot from Harrington. Looking to pay it off with a birdie.

[00:49:25] >> Yeah. Had a horrible stance and live. It made it look awfully easy. And another good tournament for Harrington.

[00:49:33] >> Strong title defense for the man who won by seven here a year ago. After choosing the layup here at 18, Alker ready for his third.

[00:49:43] >> Perfect lie. Just 80 yards left here for Steven.

[00:49:46] >> Needs to be left and short. Oh, and it's right and long. What is he thinking?

[00:49:53] >> My goodness.

[00:49:57] >> Cejka will have this one for eagle. Make Alker wait it out just a little bit longer. How about three at the last? What a run at it from Cejka who will birdie the final hole of the week within a whisker of the big bird at 18.

[00:50:29] >> That was such a long putt. Once he hit, he started walking. He almost beat the ball.

[00:50:33] >> Yeah.

[00:50:33] >> That was great. A nice finish there for Cejka.

[00:50:38] >> Another look.

[00:50:39] >> Yeah. This thing was right on track and it looked like it was going to be there easy and just kind of went up and took a peek and --

[00:50:44] >> Stomping after it. Then it had his attention about halfway there, didn't it?

[00:50:53] >> OK. Here we go, fourth shot.

[00:51:03] >> Up and in from here for the victory.

[00:51:05] >> Yeah. Pitching back up the slope, and the ball is on the upslope. And like I said, this lie is not as bad as it looks. Not much green in here, so.

[00:51:14] >> I think the trick here is he's got to be sure he hits it hard enough. Easy to throw it up in the air to the edge of the green and have it not get there.

[00:51:28] >> Pretty well done. He's still got a little work, though. It's not dead yet. That was a hard fault win for Steven Alker. I'll give him credit. Not sure I dropped the putter on that one. I would at least enjoy the win. But that was a lot of work. A lot of unnecessary work.

[00:51:53] >> Had to sweat it out. But Steven Alker takes down the season ending Charles Schwab Cup Championship. Last year, he lifted the Charles Schwab Cup. This time around, he secures the tournament title. What a way to close out the season. For the second straight year, Steven Alker saved his best for last, the man up top who closes out this Champions Tour season with a tense, hard fought victory.