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[00:00:28] >> The PGA Tour proudly presents the FedEx Cup Fall. Now, coverage of the 2023 RSM Classic.

[00:00:37] >> And unfortunately, the Golden Isle is a little soggy today. Rain overnight continued into the morning hours and delayed play, which didn't begin until 9:00 a.m. local time. And because of the wet conditions, players will have ball in hand the first two days. Rules officials made that call, because two courses are used the first two days and with two different setups on the Seaside and Plantation Courses to make it equitable for the entire field. Preferred lives will be in place until at least the cut is made. And here is a look at the current radar. Spoke to PGA Tour Rules Official Steve Rintoul a little earlier today. Steve said conditions will only improve throughout the day and throughout the week. So hopefully, that comes to fruition and play will be uninterrupted the rest of the way. We talked about two courses being used, the Seaside and the Plantation Courses, the first couple of days. Then after the cut is made, everybody moves over to the Seaside Course to hand out the trophy come Sunday afternoon. The next 10, the Top 125 will be determined at conclusion of play on Sunday. We'll dive into those two storylines as the day wears on. Final event of the 2022-23 PGA Tour season. It has been an awesome FedEx Cup Fall thus far. And today, we've seen some big names rise to the top. Cameron Young looking for his first ever victory. Villegas will be next to her. What an emotional win for him. And just I think there wasn't anybody that wasn't really cheering for him last week.

[00:02:13] >> I would have to agree with you. You know. it was interesting as he came to Bermuda. He had a fantastic week the previous week before Bermuda in Cabo where he played very well, finished tied for third there. And just parlayed that into an incredible week last week in Bermuda. And now, a golden opportunity for Camilo here. Just 74 yards.

[00:02:36] >> Rounds -- Consecutive rounds in the 60s. I think the thing that was amazing is how calm he was. And he had a sense of peace, and I think that's when any player plays their best. Excellent shot right there.

[00:02:48] >> He would make birdie.

[00:02:50] >> For birdie now at the 9th. Good Korn Ferry Tour season and nice putt there.

[00:03:02] >> Seaside, 13th. Russell Knox, great start for him. Currently 4-under par.

[00:03:10] >> About the easiest win you can have for the 13th today playing down off the player's right.

[00:03:13] >> Right. Svensson for birdie here at 7. Very fortunate that ball didn't go about 3 or 4 more feet. Would have been down off the green, down towards the marsh. And well, takes advantage of it. Nice putt there. Back to 8.

[00:03:33] >> Little tricky one here for J.T. Poston out of the bunker, Smylie Kaufman.

[00:03:37] >> Yeah, clean contact as well, 109. Does he see Adam Svensson's ball that almost kissed at 2? Very nice shots here at the 8.

[00:03:45] >> Second shot for Henley now at 9.

[00:03:55] >> Yeah, 169 yards. Another shot that's right at it for Henley.

[00:04:00] >> Absolutely. Spins towards the hole as well. So three good chances for birdie.

[00:04:06] >> Augusto Nunez putting for birdie.

[00:04:09] >> Putting downhill, downwind. Got to be careful with the speed.

[00:04:18] >> The Argentine has it tracking. And it falls. How about that?

[00:04:24] >> What a putt.

[00:04:30] >> Three really nice shots by this group that's really trying to get it going. I'd say J.T.'s probably looked the best of this group so far. He's been pin high virtually the entire day. And he's probably been playing the best of these three as well. I mean, he's, like I said earlier, five Top 10 or five Top 7s, I mean, in his last seven starts. That's pretty dang good golf.

[00:04:52] >> He's turned into such a consistent ball striker. He's always going to have that putter and short game to rely on, but being able to get it out there a little bit farther, take advantage of some of the long par fives.

[00:05:01] >> Yeah. And just a little double breaker. There's a Crain change at the beginning, and then a grain change at the end. Left early, right late.

[00:05:13] >> There you go. Makes another one.

[00:05:21] >> Adam Svensson, looks like he's in a tough spot there.

[00:05:25] >> Yeah, 142 yards. Cannot see the hole location at all.

[00:05:30] >> His caddie actually stood on top of the hill trying to help him out a little bit. That's pretty good.

[00:05:37] >> Yeah.

[00:05:37] >> Yeah, I'll say so.

[00:05:40] >> Wow.

[00:05:40] >> That would be a birdie.

[00:05:47] >> Now. Horschel's next.

[00:05:50] >> It's interesting out on this point where the marsh -- where the 11th hole just backs up to the marsh. It's swirling big time there. So, you have to be able to choose the club at the correct time here. There's a lot of gusts now. Horschel from 144. Rain starts to come down just a bit once again. There's some ominous clouds just behind us. We might get hit with some weather here shortly once again

[00:06:13] >> Be nice to hit one close, and he does.

[00:06:19] >> He would knock that in.

[00:06:21] >> Back out to 17 underneath those gray clouds, Jim.

[00:06:24] >> Absolutely. Tommy Gainey now on the left side of the tees, currently 4-under. Trying to bring it out from right to left. He's asking for it to be right.

[00:06:32] >> Be right one time.

[00:06:33] >> Oh, it is. It's just left of the hole, though. It worked.

[00:06:37] >> Gainey goes to 5-under. Rain has started to creep into the Sea Island, Georgia area. Players taking cover to wait it out. The horn has not sounded. Russell Henley and company just trying to wade through the waters. Harris English will take a shot at birdie in the rain. A Sea Island, Georgia resident. And that's in for birdie.

[00:07:19] >> The worst sounding golf.

[00:07:21] >> That's Stephen Cox from the PGA Tour blowing the horn. They are going to shelter the guys in place, Johnson. This squall, just as heavy as the one we had about an hour ago. But if you tack it onto what we had an hour ago, that's why the horn had to blow this time. As you look at the current radar, it is a little bit of a mess out there. They were not expecting rain all throughout the whole day. Hopefully, this gets out of here quickly.

[00:07:43] >> Yeah, it just seems to keep building behind it. But holding in place, these guys are used to this. The greens just seem to puddle up a lot faster than they did earlier with that previous squall. I certainly wouldn't want to be hitting tee shots out there in this sort of condition. So, the guys that are on 13 tee, 14 tee, they're pretty happy to be holding in place.

[00:08:00] >> PGA Tour players say this all the time. They're used to it. You guys are always used to all these experiences. We saw during the playing through, by the way, that man Harris English had a wonderful up and in with that plugged live.

[00:08:15] >> After the conclusion of Round 1, Austin Eckroat and Denny McCarthy share the lead at 7-under. Rookie of the Year hopeful Ludvig Aberg sits two back. Round 2 is next.

[00:08:31] >> Weather was a factor on Day 1. It is again on Day 2. But instead of rain, it's wind that is wreaking havoc on the Golden Isles. Doesn't matter if you're playing the Seaside or Plantation Course, both are in play today. It is awfully tough out there. Only three rounds remain in the season, which means one last chance to make the cut and put yourself in position heading to the weekend. And again, two courses being played the first couple of days. The cut will be made either tonight or tomorrow morning, and then they'll all play the Seaside Course, the final 36 holes on the weekend, and hand out a trophy at the 54th event of the season on the PGA Tour, the next 10, the Top 125. We'll get into those storylines as the day wears on. This is it, the last weekend of the season on the PGA Tour. And it's the last wraparound season on the PGA Tour as well. We talked about Austin Eckroat, 9-under par. He's 2-under today as he plays the back nine now on the Seaside Course. Danny McCarthy is right behind him. As we take you over to the Plantation Course in the 5th, and welcome in Jim Gallagher, Jr.

[00:09:43] >> Thanks, Steve. J.J. Spaun now at Plantation here for birdie on the 5th. Up over the slope. Yes, he's got it.

[00:09:56] >> One of the bright young stars in the sport, Ludvig Aberg is on the tee at the 6th

[00:10:02] >> Wind working left to right and down, helping the players get access to this right hole location.

[00:10:11] >> Good shot there from the youngster.

[00:10:15] >> What is it that you guys see in a kid like him?

[00:10:22] >> Well, it's his ball striking. He is probably already one of the best drivers of the golf ball in the world. He's worked a lot this summer on his wedge game. Rory McIlroy famously said after playing with him at the BMW that the wedge game is the most impressive part of his game, how he can flight it and control his spin. So he's just really well rounded.

[00:10:41] >> The first time he's ever played in this RSM Classic, and he pours in another one as he climbs a little bit closer to the lead. He's now just two back. He's known for his power, he's known for his distance, the driving, all of that type of thing. But this part of the game, if it's sharp, he will be in contention week in, week out.

[00:11:08] >> But the way he can break a golf course down with that prolific driving, it just sets everything up for a little bit easier. But he's got tremendous touch around the greens. I mean, he's had six second place finishes in just two seasons on the PGA Tour. So he's very well rounded, 18th in the world. Just needs to get that win. And once he does, he'll probably break out and win in bunches.

[00:11:27] >> He was the Rookie of the Year last year on Tour. OK, two for two. Had that hole surrounded. Cameron Young joins Aberg with a birdie at the 6th.

[00:11:47] >> Back at the 5th, Brian Harman now for birdie.

[00:11:55] >> Bit surprised with this wedge shot. It didn't spin any, actually went forward.

[00:12:01] >> Smylie, a little surprised with that wedge shot?

[00:12:05] >> Just ran out a little bit on him, but uphill into the grain.

[00:12:19] >> Yeah.

[00:12:19] >> Brian Harman, not a great start, but he does make a birdie there at the 5th.

[00:12:25] >> At the 6th, this is David Ford. He's an amateur playing in North Carolina. And look at that. All tar heels in that group. He's playing with his brother and probably one of their golfing heroes. Davis Love III is in that group. All right. At the 16th, Davis Thompson punting for birdie.

[00:12:58] >> Yeah.

[00:12:58] >> Really impressed with this young man.

[00:13:01] >> Almost took down Jon Rahm at the AMEX earlier in January.

[00:13:05] >> Eric Cole now on the green at 18 for five in a row. Did he get it there? Oh, he drips it over the front edge. How about closing out your back nine with five straight circles?

[00:13:26] >> As you take a look at Cameron Young.

[00:13:31] >> He got a really good read from the putt of Ludvig. I like his chances here. It will move right. And once it starts moving back to the right, then it starts to work its way back down the hill and pick up a little speed. And with all the moisture we've had on these greens, they are fantastic.

[00:13:50] >> The wind helped drying everything out a little bit more. A bit quicker anyway. There you go.

[00:14:05][ Applause ]

[00:14:14] >> Here's Chris Kirk playing the Seaside, hitting his second at 10.

[00:14:19] >> Drawer of the golf ball with the wind off the right. Going to be tough for him to get this close. What do I know?

[00:14:28] >> That was a really good shot.

[00:14:35] >> Right, Aberg for birdie now at 11. This just a moment ago. This to get to minus-9. Excellent putt. So got away with kind of a wayward drive for him. Nice birdie, gets him two back.

[00:14:53] >> Kevin Kisner for birdie at 7. He'll move one closer.

[00:15:13] >> Yeah, he said, you know, when he played here as an amateur a couple of years ago, they said, you know, I'm a different player now. I have more experienced. I know my own gain. I know my tendencies. Three Top 10 finishes in the last 15 events. Second at Sanderson, of course, lost in that playoff. And then, you just think of what the confidence, you know, winning on the DP World Tour, and then having the experience he had at the Ryder Cup, because that could have taken him either way, being the pick, a lot of pressure on him. Of course, winning made such a difference.

[00:15:41] >> Yeah. To your point, Jim, I think you hit it spot on there. It could have gone either way as the amount of confidence he would get or lose there at the Ryder Cup, you know, just being a captain's pick there. But he performed just magnificently. And now, he's got more confidence than ever.

[00:16:05] >> How about Si Woo Kim, a Players champion from last decade?

[00:16:11] >> Sony Open champion from this season.

[00:16:16] >> How's that shot? Oh, man. So good.

[00:16:21] >> All right. Aberg is ready to go here at 13. This to get to minus-10. Be just one back.

[00:16:28] >> Jim, he was just waiting for the tee to clear at 14. It was the direct line of his putt. Now all set to go.

[00:16:41] >> Is he any good? Is that putting stroke any good?

[00:16:45] >> I'm jealous.

[00:16:46] >> Me too.

[00:16:49] >> Kevin Chappell, he's playing alongside Eric Cole. And Smylie, Kevin has a nice look at birdie here. Or maybe not a nice one.

[00:16:55] >> He does just push that wedge shot just a little bit towards the middle of the green. But I tell you what, that wind is really pumping right now. And it's off his back. So it's definitely going to move that ball just a little bit to the right of a putt. It's probably already going that way anyways.

[00:17:15] >> I guess it was a nice look at birdie.

[00:17:18] >> A confident walk in there. I couldn't tell if he liked it or not when he started moving.

[00:17:23] >> Harry Higgs at the 18th.

[00:17:27] >> Playing off that 125, or excuse me, 126 to 150 category. Currently projected to be back in that category again next year. But Q School awaits.

[00:17:37] >> Yeah. The only man to find the green in this group.

[00:17:48] >> Corey Conners. But he finds every green, Billy Ray.

[00:17:51] >> He does. And now, he's going to have to factor in the wind on this putt as well. Putting back into the wind. I guess he gauged it correctly.

[00:18:00] >> Yes, he did.

[00:18:09] >> Eric Cole now for birdie at 5, Smylie.

[00:18:11] >> Yeah, that was a great pitch shot. He get it to here and it's a great look he has. I'll tell you what, if there's no wind, I'm playing this maybe just outside the right edge. But I would say, right now, you could probably play it pretty straight. It's a hunt with that wind coming straight off of the left. It's a very difficult one to stay down and through, but a very easy putt if he does that.

[00:18:30] >> The key here is you got to commit to whatever you choose to do. That's the difficult part.

[00:18:39] >> Yes.

[00:18:39] >> There you go. Get in the right corner. So nice birdie for Eric Cole. He takes the lead again.

[00:18:48] >> Davis Love now here at the 13th.

[00:18:50] >> That is an awkward spot to be over the back of this green.

[00:19:01] >> Not that awkward. How awkward? That wasn't awkward. That was pretty dang good.

[00:19:05] >> That was pretty good.

[00:19:06] >> And that was a birdie. And that gets him to 1-over.

[00:19:09] >> Roasted that one.

[00:19:13] >> Here's Stephan Jaeger.

[00:19:17] >> Remember, he's second this season in birdies to Eric Cole. He's used to making them. There goes another one.

[00:19:24][ Applause ]

[00:19:29] >> Aberg jumps out to the 36-hole lead, his first ever on the PGA Tour. You'll have other Rookie of the Year nominee Eric Cole chasing him just one shot back. Round 3 is next.

[00:19:48] >> And the sprint is now officially on. The final cut of the season was made last night. The weather on this Saturday much, much better than the previous two days. So many goals are attainable this weekend, on land and by water. A win, a spot in the next 10, and the Top 125. They're all right in front of the 78 players who've made it this far and are trying to tame the Seaside Course. Gorgeous look from high above. And we take a look at the leaderboard updated now after Aberg just made that birdie at 13. He's now at 13-under par. To that birdie at 7, excuse me. Three men at 13-under par. Greyson Sigg, 4-under par, is playing very nicely. Eric Cole now two back of the lead. He's 1-under. Greyson Sigg, he's been on the move today. Here's his second at 10, Johnson.

[00:20:41] >> He certainly has red hot start coming out of that left rough. A bit fortunate to avoid the penalty area.

[00:20:48] >> Take advantage of a good break.

[00:20:52] >> Yeah.

[00:20:52] >> Now, the 2019 champion, Tyler Duncan for birdie at 7.

[00:20:57] >> Boy, does he roll these greens well.

[00:21:00] >> How about Ludvig? His second at the 5th from off the green.

[00:21:05] >> Well, he drove this green yesterday. Today, aggressive tee shot again setting up a beautiful pitch shot.

[00:21:10] >> He's got a lot of power. He also has tremendous touch around the greens. Mackenzie Hughes now for birdie at 8.

[00:21:20] >> Just a great putting stroke. One of the strengths of his career.

[00:21:24] >> There you go. Gets it to drip over the front edge. And Mackenzie has his eyes set on another title here in the Golden Isles. Here's his second at 9.

[00:21:33] >> A big tee shot downwind. Set up just a wedge to this front right pin.

[00:21:37] >> With a great look at birdie, Mackenzie would get to 13-under par.

[00:21:43] >> Tyler Duncan once again for birdie at 8.

[00:21:49] >> They are going in from everywhere. They are going low out there today, where Saturday's sole focus is at Seaside. Eric Cole has a nice look here.

[00:22:01] >> Putting from just behind the hole, slight bit of left to right break.

[00:22:09] >> OK.

[00:22:11][ Applause ] Mackenzie Hughes.

[00:22:18] >> Five-under par on the day. Three straight birdies. This will be four.

[00:22:24] >> I mean, man, they're pouring them in, Johnson.

[00:22:27] >> All the way up at 16, here's Kevin Tway hitting his second.

[00:22:33] >> Big drive off the tee to get it past that bunker. Front right hole location.

[00:22:46] >> Whaley is off the green At 14.

[00:22:50] >> Had himself a nice week in Bermuda last week. Keeping up a positive momentum.

[00:22:55] >> Had himself a nice shot there. Makes a birdie. He climbs within three of the lead.

[00:23:01] >> Great look from above. Such a beautiful day out here today. And Aberg now, his second shot here at 9.

[00:23:14] >> That was from 131 after a massive tee shot by Ludvig.

[00:23:18] >> Another good shot.

[00:23:22] >> Now, up to the green.

[00:23:24] >> Nicely done. He said, every morning he wakes up, he has to pinch himself to believe he's playing the PGA Tour. And he's got an opportunity to possibly win his first event on the PGA Tour. He's already won on the DP World Tour.

[00:23:49] >> Cole down the hill.

[00:23:50] >> Oh, Eric. This is Alex Noren at the 16th hitting his second.

[00:23:59] >> Boy, he came close last week in Bermuda, Johnson.

[00:24:02] >> He played unbelievably. He played great on Sunday. Just had a little slip up making the turn, and that was enough for Camilo to take him. But finding himself right back in the hunt again with shots like that.

[00:24:10] >> He would make birdie from there.

[00:24:13] >> Now, second shot at 16 for Whaley.

[00:24:16] >> Coming off his best finish T8 last week in Bermuda.

[00:24:19] >> Took a peek.

[00:24:19] >> Whaley goes to 13-under.

[00:24:24] >> Alex Noren now for birdie at 17. This to get to minus-13. As we mentioned, playing some great golf these last few weeks. And it continues. Nice putt.

[00:24:35] >> Sends a 6-under on the day. Beautiful putt there.

[00:24:38] >> All right, over to the 13th. Eric Cole will be next. Hole location, there it is over that right side. Just over that bunker, .but just no wind. This is usually an exposed part of the golf course. So he's going to go right at it. He's lined up right at it. Expect to hit this within 8 or 10 feet.

[00:25:00] >> Jim, you see him Top 50. He's in all the signature events. Didn't have much to play for in the fall. And he's had four, or excuse me, three Top 4 finishes this fall. Just keeps adding to that great resume he already accumulated this year.

[00:25:13] >> Bhatia for birdie. Long putt for birdie here at the 17th. Just to get the minus-9. Did he read it right?

[00:25:23] >> Yes, he did. Nice putt.

[00:25:26] >> Unexpected birdie, but he'll take it.

[00:25:28] >> Young man's been playing some great golf.

[00:25:31] >> Three in a row. How about that?

[00:25:33] >> All right. Second shot for Mackenzie Hughes here at the par 5.

[00:25:38] >> Two hundred nineteen yards here, Jim. And everybody's birdie in this hole today. Holes cut right in the front of this green and just a little bit of downwind to this shot. And these two bunkers pinch very hard at the front of this green, making the shot feel very narrow.

[00:25:54] >> NeSmith hit it in there about 10 feet. Well, I'll correct myself. It's actually 22 within three.

[00:25:58] >> He hit it really nice. Just left of it. Should catch the green.

[00:26:06] >> It does.

[00:26:07] >> Eric Cole hit a wonderful shot in here at 13. Let's see if he could pay this one off. Expect him to make this one. Just to get to minus-15. I think, Johnson, you get in when these numbers are so low, it keeps you playing aggressive. And I know for me, I love that fact because it kept me going right at the flags and not trying to hold on and trying not to make a mistake. You got to stay aggressive and positive. Does just that. Nice putt there.

[00:26:40] >> Hughes for eagle now here at 15.

[00:26:43] >> Yeah. After a long wait, he got a great opportunity.

[00:26:48] >> Did he? He did. What a putt. Oh, man, he took advantage of that shot in there. Great eagle here at the 15.

[00:27:02] >> Here's Eric Cole, one back. Fabulous tee shot. Great chance to be aggressive. Right down the middle of this front hole location.

[00:27:18] >> Yeah.

[00:27:18] >> Not often you see three shots like that into the 14. You can see that wind, this is a very exposed part of the property, and the wind is just not blowing.

[00:27:28] >> Aberg is trying to avoid that beach just short of this hole here. Now, from 102 yards.

[00:27:37] >> Yeah. This awkward hole location, players cannot see the base of the flag because of the steep face on the bunker, guards at front right. That's going to be OK, though.

[00:27:48] >> Up to the green at the 13th with Aberg. And he takes it to 15-under. Up to the green with Eric Cole.

[00:28:10] >> Is it going to stay up? Oh, it does. So Eric Cole joins Mackenzie atop the leaderboard.

[00:28:19] >> Smylie, Mackenzie Hughes is a winner here already. How much more comfortable can a player be when he's had success on a golf course previously?

[00:28:30] >> Oh, it definitely helps. I mean, you go to a place that you've won at. And I attribute a little bit of the weather today too, Steve. I mean, it was pretty windy and really not the best of weather the first two days with some rain as well. I mean, it is just absolutely perfect today. The greens are soft. They're perfect. Mackenzie Hughes, 8-under on his round and a chance to go to 9 par 70. I'm just saying.

[00:28:54][ Applause ]

[00:28:58] >> All right. Eric Cole, he got through the bunker, so that's a good break. This is his second shot now. Trying to hit a low runner. There's the low. There's the run. There's the result. Did he do it? Wow. Nearly makes the albatross. What a shot.

[00:29:21] >> This position at 14 from the pine straw, Billy Ray. Ludvig now has his third.

[00:29:26] >> Like I said, he's got to put a lot of spin on it.

[00:29:31] >> What the -- kid has it all, doesn't he?

[00:29:38] >> That was just spectacular.

[00:29:39] >> Yeah. He turned a five into a three. Now, Mackenzie Hughes here at 17.

[00:29:44] >> Yeah, playing the tee box up as well. It's not a very difficult shot today. And very nice contact just right of it here.

[00:29:53] >> Oh, wonderful shot.

[00:29:55][ Applause ] Eric Cole hit that wonderful shot in here. Let's see if he can pay it off. That was a given.

[00:30:08][ Applause ] All right. Mackenzie Hughes now for birdie. This to get to minus-18, co-lead.

[00:30:19] >> Yeah, uphill, right to left. He is putting the ball good today.

[00:30:22] >> Yes, he is. That's minus-10, par is 70. You do the math. And Billy Ray is down with this group.

[00:30:30] >> Yeah, trying to determine exactly who's away. Ludvig Aberg is in the right-hand side of the fairway. The other two players are in that bunker up the left-hand side, and will be Ludvig first to play in just 200 yards coming off the downslope. Little helping breeze here. And that flag is right in that front portion of the green, right in the opening.

[00:30:51] >> Stroke average today --

[00:30:52] >> This is a wonderful opportunity.

[00:30:54] >> Yeah. Stroke average today is 4.67 on this pa4 5. And that's going to bring it down a little bit even more.

[00:31:05] >> Up to the green.

[00:31:06] >> Aberg for eagle now at 15.

[00:31:08] >> Coming down the slope here.

[00:31:11] >> Fantastic look.

[00:31:13][ Applause ]

[00:31:20] >> Eric Cole. Can he make another one? The answer is yes. It's amazing. Amazing. So while our eyes are on Mackenzie Hughes trying to make a birdie at 18 for a 59, that would only match Eric Cole at 19-under par. Now that Eric has the lead all to himself. So again, this would be for the 13th sub-60 round in the history of the PGA Tour.

[00:31:57] >> And Steve, it's a bit of a tricky read as well. I got to be in a little bit of a double breaker, pushing slightly right in the beginning. The last 8 feet is going to be moving to his left. His speed has been unreal today.

[00:32:22] >> Only at the very end, back to the right possibly here. But not much overall. So good. So, so good. And now, there are two men at 19-under par.

[00:32:49] >> We go to 17 tee with Aberg.

[00:32:52] >> Aberg now on the tee at 17.

[00:32:54] >> As you said, no wind whatsoever here for Ludvig. One seventy-one, this is another great looking shot.

[00:33:02] >> Oh my goodness.

[00:33:03] >> Oh, man.

[00:33:05] >> I didn't jump out of my seat, but I nearly did.

[00:33:08] >> Abaerg would make birdie at 17, taking a one shot lead into the final round, looking for his first victory on Tour. Stay tuned for a thrilling Sunday finish. The final round is next.

[00:33:20] >> And the Calendar flips and PGA Tour golf returns, that means one thing, Hawaii.

[00:33:29] >> When we grow up, we grow up imagining playing against the best players in the world.

[00:33:36] >> And that should put it out of reach, and he knows it.

[00:33:41] >> It's one of the most special places we get to go in the entire world.

[00:33:45] >> You can take advantage and start the year on a good note.

[00:33:48] >> The 2024 FedEx Cup Season begins at the PGA Tour's opening drive.

[00:33:57] >> The curtain comes down on another PGA Tour season at the conclusion of play today. And what a backdrop. Sea Island Golf Club on the Golden Isles. The week started with rain, wind, knit caps. It ends with beautiful blue skies and a gentle breeze. The defense of this golf course for the best in the world is that wind. Without it yesterday, we almost saw 59. And with these ideal conditions on this Sunday, combined with a soft course due to that early week rain and a fourth straight round of preferred lies, expect more low scores again today. Sam Ryder, Steve Sands, pleased to be alongside Johnson Wagner. And here is Sam hitting his second at 5.

[00:34:36] >> Perfect position from the center of the fairway. And Steve, he just jars it. Actually blew the hole out enough, the rule staff had to come out and change the hole location by a couple of feet.

[00:34:45] >> What a shot. Mackenzie Hughes hitting his second from off the green at the 3rd.

[00:34:49] >> Showing a lot of confidence with his chipping skills. Not taking the putter out.

[00:34:53] >> They were going in from everywhere. Now, the leader, Aberg, 24-years of age. How will he handle the Sunday pressure?

[00:35:03] >> Birdie at 4. Played a really smart shot to the center of the green and paid off with a beautiful long putt.

[00:35:08] >> And off to a great start by birdie in the 1st as well.

[00:35:11] >> Tyler Duncan has good vibes on this golf course. Here's a birdie putt at the 5th.

[00:35:16] >> Past champion of this event. This tournament seems to get that putter heated up for him every year.

[00:35:20] >> Yeah. The 2019 version was Duncan's. Back to the leader. How about this tee shot at the 5th?

[00:35:28] >> Had to wait for all the commotion with the group in front. Sam Ryder blowing the hole out and just hits an absolute laser right at the green, 317 yards in the air, holding the surface for the second time of the week.

[00:35:42] >> You were just shaking your head here in the booth. You couldn't believe it. He would two putt for another birdie, and that lead was starting to climb. And then, he went to the 6th tee and did this.

[00:35:53] >> Downwind, perfect number. Nice full swing. Getting a lot of spin on this to stop it close. Why not?

[00:36:04] >> That is a fourth birdie for Aberg in six holes. But Tyler Duncan's not going away. Here he is for birdie at 7 at the par 5. OK. He's trying to keep pace, trying to keep Aberg in his sights.

[00:36:26] >> To 7.

[00:36:27] >> And Mackenzie Hughes now for birdie.

[00:36:28] >> Yeah. I thought Mackenzie described yesterday's round perfectly. It was a subplot in the tournament, trying to shoot 59 on a Saturday. And he has been rolling it great this week, Jim.

[00:36:39] >> Sure has. Another good putt there. Took advantage of the par 5.

[00:36:45] >> At 14, Adam Svensson.

[00:36:50] >> A really nice defense of his title from last year and keeping it going with the birdie on one of the hardest holes today.

[00:36:59] >> Now, Mackenzie hitting his second at 8.

[00:37:01] >> Oh, he's in a great spot here, Steve. Seventy-six yards off a down slope. He can carry it all the way back there.

[00:37:08] >> Oh, he does. Beauty. Mackenzie Hughes with a little one here, Smylie. What a second shot that was.

[00:37:18] >> Yeah. And to cut it to two shots too. That's just a birdie and a bogey one hole. So he is knocking down the door. This guy's gone on 49 straight holes without a bogey, Johnson. He is playing some good golf.

[00:37:37] >> It's one of those situations here. And to see if he starts making these with confidence like he did there.

[00:37:51] >> Bhatia for birdie at 17. Uphill and in.

[00:38:06] >> All right, Aberg now, second shot.

[00:38:10] >> Yeah. Coming off the upslope here, Jim. One thirty-five pitching wedge here. Bringing this ball in very high and also on a decent line.

[00:38:20] >> OK, pin high once again. Another good shot. It's inside 15 feet. It seems like just about every hole.

[00:38:27] >> There's a great look down at the 9th hole. Gets great views. Beautiful day here at the RSM Classic.

[00:38:41] >> Let's go back to 2016, and Mackenzie Hughes here at the RSM Classic. First ever PGA Tour victory in his sights. Oh, man, Mark Russell down there. We're going to play some golf, even if it's a little dark out there. Close with a 69, 17-under, 265 for Mackenzie.

[00:39:05] >> He has added another victory in his career, but that was the first one. The other one came a year ago at the Sanderson Farms in Jackson, Mississippi. Mackenzie trying for win number three today. And by the way, give himself a push into 2024 with the President's Cup at Royal Montreal. How special would it be for a Canadian to play for Mike Weir next fall?

[00:39:26] >> It would be incredible. And he was really close to making the team last year at Quail Hollow. Kind of used that as motivation to get off to such a hot start last fall.

[00:39:34] >> And you play a lot of golf with him back home in Charlotte. He is not only a fabulous player, he's a wonderful guy.

[00:39:40] >> Oh, he's great to have a game with. And I'm just very impressed by his work ethic. He's always out there putting the time in. Ball striking's kind of let him down most of this season, but this week, he has found it.

[00:39:50] >> But he's right there, Jim.

[00:39:51] >> It is. This to get within one.

[00:39:55] >> Yeah. Up the hill, maybe it would have left to right.

[00:40:01] >> You know, we always talk about following up a great round with another one, but it has not slowed him down. Maybe a little motivated. Felt like he should have shot 59. But great start here on the front.

[00:40:13] >> Well, that four shot lead went away quick.

[00:40:14] >> Yeah, very fast. That's why you got to stay aggressive. I mean, we talked about, you know, you have Aberg being in a defense mode. I think you just have to stay aggressive. But Johnson's point, you don't go back at some of these pins, but flagsticks. But when you look at where, you know, these guys' going, these guys are going BR, you've got to be aggressive and you got to kind of stay in that same mode.

[00:40:46] >> Texted Greg Sands, his coach at Texas Tech. I said, has he always been this calm, speaking of Aberg? He said yes.

[00:41:00] >> And once again, he just calmly knocks that one in. Any questions?

[00:41:07] >> That's solid as a rock there, Jim.

[00:41:12] >> Wow, 30. Twenty-five-under.

[00:41:18] >> Two shot lead.

[00:41:19] >> Goya for birdie at 16. The Argentine moves to 16-under. Hughes' second at the 10th.

[00:41:44] >> This came up really high. Oh, goodness gracious. How good is that?

[00:41:51] >> He would make that for birdie. Now, up to the green with Aberg with a birdie putt to match.

[00:42:01] >> It's just incredible to have that type of relationship.

[00:42:03] >> And he makes another one. He goes out in 30, Johnson, and he makes a birdie at 10.

[00:42:12] >> J.J. Spaun for par at the 9th, his final hole of the day. He's in at 17-under.

[00:42:22] >> Issues for Mackenzie Hughes now, Smylie.

[00:42:28] >> His ball is -- it's embedded in this natural sandy area right above the bunker. Currently, Steven Cox is walking him through this ruling.

[00:42:40] >> Hughes would take a penalty drop and is playing his third shot from 160 yards out.

[00:42:45] >> He mishit that. That is out to the right.

[00:42:48] >> That left for par.

[00:42:51] >> Tough for him to get there.

[00:42:52] >> No, not his best. All right, Aberg will be next.

[00:42:56] >> Yeah, from this right-hand side of the fairway, Jim. Just a terrific angle. Just 98 yards. Wind is picked up, helping here. He also drives this ball down.

[00:43:08] >> Excellent play.

[00:43:10] >> Now, up to the green.

[00:43:17] >> All right, Mackenzie Hughes for par here at 11.

[00:43:19] >> Did he?

[00:43:23] >> Oh my, he did. Is that any good?

[00:43:28] >> The streak continues.

[00:43:29] >> Absolutely. Don't ever quit.

[00:43:32] >> Putter makes up for a lot of mistakes.

[00:43:33] >> Yeah.

[00:43:36] >> Now, this is a big putt. If he misses this, the momentum goes right back to Mackenzie Hughes after that incredible par. Yeah, not the case.

[00:43:43] >> He's not going to miss. He's so good.

[00:43:46] >> What am I thinking, guys?

[00:43:52] >> Looking down at the gorgeous Seaside Golf Club, the Seaside Course. The par-3 12th is right there. You see the green. First errant shot, Billy Ray, we've seen all day from Ludvig Aberg. What does this second one look like from your vantage point?

[00:44:09] >> Well, I've checked the lie over here. The ball is sitting pretty cleanly down just a bit. One advantage he has, he'll be pitching back into the breeze with the soft conditions. But on the other hand, he only has 18 feet of green to work with. Yeah, pretty smart play there.

[00:44:32] >> I expect this to have a really good chance.

[00:44:40] >> Putting up the hill, just got to hit it.

[00:44:43] >> I can't believe it.

[00:44:47] >> I would believe he's up to the task here. I think it was a very smart second shot. Give him a chance to save par here. This comes across the slope. The green slopes from back to front. It's going to move right here.

[00:45:00] >> First bogey of the week for Aberg.

[00:45:16][ Applause ]

[00:45:20] >> All right, Billy Ray, what's he have left?

[00:45:22] >> You know, he's going to open the face here and come in low and try to spin it. This needs to go.

[00:45:28] >> See, practice does pay off.

[00:45:29] >> Aberg saves par.

[00:45:32] >> Alright, this is Carl Yuan --

[00:45:35] >> Yeah.

[00:45:36] >> -- for birdie at 9. He has projected 126. So this is a must needed putt. Sneaking that top 125.

[00:45:44] >> Not sure it's going to be enough, Jim.

[00:45:46] >> May need a little bit of help from Ryan Moore, who's still out there.

[00:45:54] >> Here's Ryan Moore at 15.

[00:45:55] >> Yeah, he's over the green in two. Now, this for birdie. Little short on that backstroke.

[00:46:01] >> Yeah, he did take that back up a couple of inches.

[00:46:04] >> Got to think he knows he's around that 125 number.

[00:46:06] >> He knows. He said he knows. He's been watching. He knows.

[00:46:09] >> Well, there was nothing squirrely about this approach shot. I was very surprised that he took on this flag, Johnson, in his back left. Now, he's trying to pay off an aggressive shot here.

[00:46:23] >> Back here at the 15th green, looking above. Back there's the green in the distance. Hughes will be next to play out here just short of the green.

[00:46:34] >> And about 40-yard shot here for Mackenzie. Ball enhance, a perfect lie. That wind is off his left. So that means something for this little cut spinner shot. I imagine he's going to try to hit here.

[00:46:58] >> Oh, is that any good? Excellent play. Some pressure on this next shot now. That was well played. Well thought out. Aberg now, his third shot. Lie looks fine.

[00:47:11] >> Yeah. Ball sits on the upslope. Perfect lie. Now, the pressure after that shot from Mackenzie Hughes goes right back to Ludvig here. Back into the breeze, though. Very doable.

[00:47:23] >> Excellent play. Whoever raked the bunker did a nice job because that was a pretty good lie.

[00:47:29] >> Aberg and Hughes matched with birdies at 15.

[00:47:31] >> All right, Ryan Moore for birdie. You see the green's little mark up there, 122nd projected. This is the birdie putt. And this is the big putt here. Yeah.

[00:47:41] >> There you go.

[00:47:42] >> It's played himself right inside there. That project to the 117.

[00:47:51] >> It's just absolutely a perfect spot to putt from here.

[00:48:04] >> The lead stays at two for Aberg. Now, we move to the 17th with the final group and Mackenzie Hughes.

[00:48:20] >> This started on line. Did he hit it, though?

[00:48:25] >> He did. That's about the average distance. Pretty solid shot, though. I think he thinks it was a little bit -- going to be a little bit better than that.

[00:48:35] >> And Jim, with the two shot lead here, you got to think. He's thinking just center of the green now. He's taking a club, 7-iron from 202, a club that he cannot put over the green to Smylie's point. There's definitely some wind up there from right to left. Coming in very high there for Ludvig.

[00:48:54] >> OK. Got enough to carry to the front, but that was a smart play. Did not want to hit it long. But he's got a chance for birdie. That was a really good iron shot there.

[00:49:05] >> Another one of the storylines we're following, the Top 125. Ryan Moore finishing up at the 18th.

[00:49:13] >> Just a fabulous way to end his fall.

[00:49:16] >> Securing his card.

[00:49:17] >> With the end of this putt, I think he can go ahead and give this one a wrap. Never got it started on line.

[00:49:30] >> I would be very surprised here, Jim. If this ball goes in, it'll be on the last couple rolls.

[00:49:37] >> Let's go right in the middle with a lot of rolls.

[00:49:42] >> Are you kidding me? Wow.

[00:49:44] >> That's why you put the graphic up. Got to take a look at this. This is moving, folks. Now, watch how it hits the back of this hole. Almost had to call bank on that. Yup.

[00:50:03] >> So Ludvig walks to the 18th with one more bit of cushion. A three shot lead, an enormous difference between three and two.

[00:50:20] >> We jump ahead to Aberg's second shot on 18.

[00:50:23] >> Here's the story of the day.

[00:50:24] >> Aberg stepping right into it, Billy Ray.

[00:50:26] >> Not taking much time. Right-hand side in the first gut, center of the green.

[00:50:40] >> So much for not taking that flag on with a three shot lead.

[00:50:44] >> Just creeps it on to the green.

[00:50:47][ Applause ]

[00:51:09] >> Vincent Norman getting his first win this year on the PGA Tour. The future of Swedish golf is looking very good, both on the men's and women's side. One last birdie putt for Aberg. And of course, it falls. Another goal reached for the 24-year-old Swedish sensation. Save of the moment, Ludvig. You are now a PGA Tour winner.

[00:51:46][ Applause ] You might be looking at one, two, two, one right there for the Arnold Palmer Award for PGA Tour Rookie of the Year.

[00:52:00] >> I think I have to give it to Ludvig Aberg after that performance today. The wind trumps. He only played 11 events. He's moved into the projected 53.

[00:52:12] >> Winning is what matters most. Look at how he closed it out. We were wondering if he was going to play defensive golf coming down the stretch, trying to hang on to that lead. Aggressive the whole way. And it paid off.

[00:52:32] >> This concludes the PGA Tour's coverage of the RSM Classic from the Sea Island Resort on St. Simons Island, Georgia.