Production Transcript for REWIND\_23HERO\_SCHEFFLER.mp3

[00:00:29] >> The PGA tour proudly presents coverage of the 2023 Hero World Challenge.

[00:00:38] >> So here we are again at this beautiful property, Albany, the Bahamas, that 71 slip marina, one of the real great looking scenes here at another Hero World Challenge, the 24th. And it's hard to believe that Tiger's TGR Foundation, the primary beneficiary of this tournament, has been around since 1996. He and his father, Earl, founded the foundation, and now in its 27th year. And again the primary beneficiary of this tournament. And again, it is back in the big time news across the sports world with Tiger's latest comeback. In fact, this is the third time that he has come back in this Hero World Challenge. He says it's just a coincidence that this tournament has come up when he feels that it's right for him to get back into competition. So, here he is for the first time since that withdrawal at the Masters in April. And look at our leaderboard. You've got Finau, Harman, and Glover all 2-under par, just ahead of the host at 1-under. Well, look who is making yet another comeback in the world of golf. It has been 225 days since Tiger Woods hit a competitive golf shot. But he is back again in his latest return at his own tournament, the Hero World Challenge here in Albany in the Bahamas. And there was so much anticipation for that opening tee shot just a little while ago. The host teeing it up for the first time in, well, since the Masters. He's playing with his good friend, Justin Thomas, who's been all over the golf course today. Hit his first shot way right, ended up taking it unplayable, and he's hit his shot there at the fourth hole out of bounds. So this was the anticipation for Tiger. And what does he do on his opening shot first since the Masters back in April? Pipes it right down the middle of the opening par 4, 438 yards. Gave himself a pretty good look for birdie from 14 or 15 feet. Missed it, made par, found a greenside bunker at the par-3 2nd.

[00:02:39] Blasted out to there. And makes another one of those vintage Tiger par savers to stay at even par. Then, he comes to the par-5 3rd. This for birdie for his first birdie of the comeback. And so, Tiger has it to 1-under in the early going.

[00:03:02] >> We go back over to the host, Woody. What's he face here with this hole location we're looking at?

[00:03:06] >> One seventy-nine today. Wind is into him left to right. Got to carry this ball 170 to get it over that front bunker and get it on the green surface. So, that 179 total, probably playing closer to 191. The one thing I've watched this guy do over and over, no matter what condition he's been in, is be able to hit the trajectory he's looking for every time. He never floats one. He never hits one too low. It's always what he's looking at. So this is 6-iron. Wouldn't expect it to be too big. Slide it down. Chase is on a good line. Just left the flagstick.

[00:03:39] >> Still has that incredible sound when he flushes an iron.

[00:03:46] >> Max Homa playing with the defending champion Viktor Hovland in that final group. Long distance at 2. Look at him dial it up.

[00:03:59] >> Way to go, Max.

[00:04:05] >> Jordan Spieth, who's won this tournament.

[00:04:07] >> Second at the par-5 3rd from 258 yards.

[00:04:12] >> Yeah, quite a bit of breeze out there today. Not more than it's been a practice round. So what a shot from Jordan Spieth.

[00:04:22] >> Back over here at the par-3 5th, where Tiger Woods will be celebrating another birthday next month. End of next month, he'll turn 48 years old. Where has the time gone, right?

[00:04:36] >> Up the hill here. Maybe just a touch of left to right in it. Imagine it's been raining. A lot of putts for Charlie when he caddies for him, so assume that part of his game is sharp.

[00:04:46] >> He's got another one. Really sharp.

[00:04:47] >> Perfect speed, too. Wasn't it just perfect? Taking the break beautifully.

[00:05:00] >> Back out to the short par-4 7th, Matt Fitzpatrick. It is a reachable par 4. A lot of guys were taking a crack at it in the practice rounds.

[00:05:08] >> Yeah. There's a bunker up the right, about 320. If you carry that, you can get a rundown, but it's a very narrow green. He's down the left. Got a good bounce and a good second one. Wow, that's brilliant. Because that's a very, very narrow entrance in there with camber left and right off the green. What a shot from Fitzpatrick.

[00:05:25] >> Now up to the green.

[00:05:34] >> This for eagle. Just reigns it. So Fitzpatrick makes a big move. Three-under in the last two holes.

[00:05:43] >> A winner at the US Open, Wyndham Clark. Holding off Rory, holding off Rickie. That was some kind of week for Wyndham.

[00:05:53] >> Yeah, that would qualify as another one of those really kind of big time wins --

[00:05:57] >> Without question.

[00:05:58] >> -- on tour this year, right? A guy --

[00:05:59] >> It is.

[00:05:59] >> -- coming out of, I don't want to say nowhere, but --

[00:06:01] >> Look at that shot.

[00:06:02] >> You win a major big time.

[00:06:09] >> Long look here. Little uphill, slightly right to left.

[00:06:24] >> Good looking putt. And long range. Center cut for Tiger. A little smile on his face as he picks up that first birdie since the 5th. That was a cross country variety for woods. Gets it to 1-under within five.

[00:06:43] >> Tiger finishes the day at plus-3 after a double on 15 and two bogeys to follow. Brian Harman and Tony Finau pace the field after Round 1 in Albany. And Scottie Scheffler sits two shots back. Round 2 is next.

[00:07:06] >> And it's the 24th edition of Tiger's event, which benefits his foundation. And the eighth time it has been staged here at Albany, where the warm breezes are flowing again on this gorgeous 82 degree first day of December as this elite field is gathered. Again, 20 of the best in the world at Tiger's behest at his Hero World Challenge. And the host has been rising up at the leaderboard after that 75 yesterday. Again, the first competitive round out of the way yesterday. Tiger trying to finish off this second round with a little more Tiger like flourish. We mentioned the great start he had today. Striped his opening drive off the first tee again. And this time, unlike yesterday, converted to birdie at the 1st. So Tiger, after the 75 coming at plus-3, was quickly back to plus-2. And then, here at the par-3 2nd, 179 yards.

[00:08:04] >> Yeah, this was a brilliant shot. There's no room left to this flag, but he managed to find it. Another 1 or 2 yards to the left there and he was down on a big swale. So, that was a brave shot. Well executed.

[00:08:14] >> Birdie, birdie start. Then he gets to the par-5 6th and coming out of the bunker, flashing that brilliant sand game up and down for his third birdie in the first six holes. And then, up ahead at the short par-4 7th, just 344 yards, drove it to a tricky position. This was not an easy shot. The lie was not great.

[00:08:33] >> No, we're seeing the chipping is really challenging for the players this week. And we've seen Tiger earlier today chipping with a 5-iron and one hole with success. And again, doing it that time, lofting it in the air. So showing good creativity.

[00:08:44] >> All right. So, others trying to keep pace with the leaders, Harman and Finau, the co-leaders. That includes Justin Thomas, who Tiger played with yesterday, got off to a rough start. He was plus-3 through the first eight holes yesterday, but he's now 8-under in the last 13. And then, just a moment ago, Jordan Spieth getting things going with an opening birdie at the 1st to tie Justin Thomas.

[00:09:11] >> Final pair here playing the 1st. And Tony Finau with a little work left here to save par at the opening par 4. Shot the 567 along with Harman yesterday. And that's taking care of business, and then some. An unexpected birdie for Finau. Third for Justin Rose at the par05 9th. Rose even on the day. He's been all over the place. Two double bogeys to go, along with four birdies.

[00:09:41] >> He's going to have a good chance to get one back here. Absolutely. Let's give it to him. At the short par-4 7th.

[00:09:56] >> We saw him play a brilliant shot yesterday on the sixth hole from a similar yardage. Oh, that's well played. The old fashioned chunk and run.

[00:10:04][ Applause ]

[00:10:10] >> See how he plays this. A variety of ways to do it. He keeps that weight forward. He doesn't let it drop back to the right foot. Back on his back foot on these shots now. And that is an example. A great example. A perfect example of the improvements that he's made.

[00:10:27] >>Smile on the face of Viktor Hovland.

[00:10:37] >> All right, Smylie, Tiger Woods yesterday doubled 15, bogeyed 16, bogeyed 17. This time, he bogeyed 13, 15 and 16. He needs to gather himself here and try to finish strong.

[00:10:50] >> This is the club he's going to be kicking himself about. This was the 9-iron he hit back on that par 5 where he made a bogey and pulled it. This one is not pulled. Just to the middle of the green.

[00:11:04] >> OK. He wishes he had done that on 15. I know that.

[00:11:11] >> Now, up to the green.

[00:11:15] >> Yeah, I'd say a pretty makeable putt here for Tiger. Downhill, moving left to right the entire way, and kind of just watch all that unfold over the last, you know, 30, 45 minutes with Tiger. And really it was just that one shot that he hit in the bunker that he just did not take that extra breath on that putt. Give it the proper amount of time. Random putting it in the bunker. So, got to stay in grind mode here to the finish.

[00:11:41] >> Looking for his first birdie since the 7th.

[00:11:44] >> Go, Tiger.

[00:11:47] >> And there you go. Beautiful putt from Tiger. That's a two on the card, the par-3 17th.

[00:12:02][ Applause ]

[00:12:06] >> Go, Tiger.

[00:12:06] >> And kind of rattled home. There you go. Like we said yesterday, Paul, sometimes they give it, sometimes they take it. He lift out one yesterday, one or two of them, and this time, it falls down for him.

[00:12:27] >> We stay with Tiger playing his second at 18th.

[00:12:33] >> Now, Tiger, who just got into that first cut there.

[00:12:38] >> Yeah, not the best break. You all talked about it. This is one you have to have all the control in the world here. It's only 172 yards, but really just control the flight.

[00:12:48] >> It could fly, plus downwind.

[00:12:50] >> That was high on the face. Needs to go.

[00:12:53] >> Protecting against that big jumper plus downwind, it could have went 200 yards.

[00:13:13] >> Lie doesn't look great for Tiger's third at the 18th.

[00:13:18] >> No, it was not a good lie at all, Dan, but so well judged.

[00:13:25] >> Eight back.

[00:13:27] >> But again, as we said at the top of the show yesterday, Paul, it's all about seeing where you're at, how much should we really read into the scores of Tiger at this stage.

[00:13:42] >> Now, Brian Harman, first round co-leader, his third. It's been a rough day for Harman.

[00:13:49] >> Right. He's a competitor, though. He's not done yet. Yeah. He'll hunt down a few birdies, I'd like to bet, before this round is over with.

[00:13:56] >> And now, Keegan Bradley. Oh, and Keegan's trying to scratch and claw his way back to level par.

[00:14:14] >> That short right area yesterday was OK to that back left pin. Today, not so much. Not a lot of green to work with if you leave it there. So, if you can get something up that left side, be ideal. Aiming right, trying to play a draw in there. This is on a fantastic line if it's right at the dead center of the green.

[00:14:50] >> Oh, wow. Spieth with gorgeous tee shot.

[00:14:54] >> Good one.

[00:14:55] >> Yeah.

[00:14:57] >> Now, up to the green.

[00:15:02] >> Yeah. Cameron Young just played from off the green, similar direction. Jordan got over to the side just to watch the speed and saw how fast it was and moving to his right, so he knows exactly what this does.

[00:15:14] >> He would make birdie.

[00:15:15][ Applause ]

[00:15:22] >> Justin Thomas, how about this stance at 16? Yeah. How about that ball plugged underneath the lip there?

[00:15:28] >> Not much good here.

[00:15:29] >> Just square face with the sand wedge, chop down, you know, an inch behind the ball, into the sand, and hope it pops out and gets close.

[00:15:38] >> You got a feeling --

[00:15:39] >> Just don't leave it.

[00:15:40] >> If this was Tiger Woods playing this shot, it would be almost undoable.

[00:15:43] >> Yeah.

[00:15:43] >> That right foot planted in there. Imbalance.

[00:15:47] >> I think this is doable. I really do. And once he gets it out, it should find its own momentum up to the flag.

[00:15:53] >> Needs to hit it pretty quick before he keeps sliding down the hill.

[00:15:57] >> Yeah, that's for sure. You got to swing really hard into that sand. But it should come out with momentum.

[00:16:05] >> Could almost just leave the club head in there. Bones is in for a rake job. Yeah. Good call. Good shot.

[00:16:15] >> What the heck is that?

[00:16:21] >> Bones is like, "What the heck was that?" They could --

[00:16:23] >> Yeah.

[00:16:23] >> The sound and the hole.

[00:16:24] >> Modern bunkers have a base in them now for drainage reasons, as well as everything else. And that's how far down he went. He hit the foundation.

[00:16:38] >> Lucas Glover on the tee at 17.

[00:16:39] >> He had a bogey at 7. He had a triple at 9. Went out in 39.

[00:16:45] >> He's played well coming back in and -- Oh, yes.

[00:16:47] >> Baby, a hole in one at 17 for Glover. Now, you're talking. A late ace for Lucas.

[00:17:00] >> How about a one and eight on the card? That was incredible.

[00:17:04][ Applause ] The man who told me the other day he's never worn a glove in his life. If he put a glove on, he'd be a 10 handicap right now. This is not a 10 handicap. That is gorgeous.

[00:17:32] >> It's a motorcycle.

[00:17:32] >> You dream of those moments, don't you, Curt?

[00:17:34] >> That's incredible. It landed left of the hole and took a hop right.

[00:17:38][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:17:45] >> And Harman from a difficult spot at 14. Ball below his feet. Looks like he's got a decent stance. But --

[00:17:53] >> Wait, how good is this? This might go in.

[00:17:57] >> Man, is that good?

[00:17:58] >> Yeah.

[00:17:59] >> Wow.

[00:17:59] >> It's better than good. It's perfect.

[00:18:06] >> The Texas crew takes over in the Bahamas. Scottie Scheffler's 66 pushes him into a tie for the lead with Jordan Spieth. The third round is next.

[00:18:21] >> First weekend in December. And Albany in the Bahamas, not a bad place to be. Temperatures in the low 80s again, although it feels warmer with the humidity up. Eighth year Tiger's Tournament has been staged here. He and his late father Earl, starting Tiger's foundation, the primary beneficiary of this tournament back in 1996, the year before Tiger won the first of his 15 majors some 27 years ago. And Scheffler trying to win Tiger's Tournament after coming close the last two years for the first time. His lead is by three over his fellow Texas Longhorn in that final pairing. He's at 10-under, Spieth is.

[00:19:05] >> So we've got a bit of a sample size for Tiger. Let's show you what happened earlier today. We mentioned he did get off to a slow start with bogeys at 1 and 2, but then heating up in the middle and the latter portion of his front nine. This was his tee shot that you just saw Scheffler hit at the par 3, 189 yards. He still flushes it. And so, Tiger picked up his third birdie of the front nine there. And then, here, as he made the turn at the par 5, nice third 3rd for Tiger. And he picked up his fourth birdie of the front side after opening up with a couple of bogeys. So, Scheffler doing his thing after his best round of the week yesterday, a 66. This was his second at the par-5 3rd.

[00:19:56] >> And Scheffler would have an excellent look at eagle. We talked all week about his continued progress with Phil Kenyon to tighten up his putting to go along with his ball striking, which is just absolute world class, which has really propelled him to major champion status. And now, after finishing runner up in this tournament the last two years behind Viktor Hovland, Scheffler has designs on winning it. Birdie at the 7th for Scheffler to push it to 13-under in the third round here in the Bahamas.

[00:20:31] >> This is Finau at 11 for birdie to get into solo second. Yeah, he does.

[00:20:45] >> Ted Scott on the bag for Scheffler as they survey this next shot.

[00:20:48] >> I agree. You're going to try to land it short of the pace or into the pace.

[00:20:52] >> What do you think?

[00:20:53] >> I just want to make sure I clarify what I check. I think [inaudible] short of the head there.

[00:21:02] >> Yeah, make -- go towards that, right, just for safety?

[00:21:04] >> Yeah.

[00:21:26] >> Ted likes it. How would you agree?

[00:21:31] >> Yeah, that was a smart shot.

[00:21:34] >> Third in the field right now in strokes gain putting. If this continues, the way he goes from tee to green, 2024 is very promising. And 2023 was great.

[00:21:51] >> Boom. It's a lethal combination.

[00:21:53][ Applause ]

[00:21:59] >> Jason Day for birdie at 13. He'll move it to 9-under.

[00:22:09][ Applause ]

[00:22:18] >> Here come Tiger's par putt at the 17th to remain in the red. OK. Nice up and in.

[00:22:31][ Applause ]

[00:22:42] >> This is the 12th, and the leader Scheffler by two over Finau.

[00:22:45] >> Well, this is a wide green. It's a two section green. And this hole location is right in between those. It is as hard of a hole location as I have seen today. Back into the breeze. And this a 5-iron on it. A very aggressive.

[00:22:59] >> Really good. That's really, really, really good there. That's why he's one of the best iron players in the game, if not the best.

[00:23:07] >> Now, up to the green with Scheffler.

[00:23:11] >> And guys, you can always tell with a good ball striker. Similar to Tiger Woods, Scottie's always pin high. And that is just a sign of a guy that knows how to hit a number. And it's windy out here, too, which makes it even more impressive.

[00:23:26] >> Yeah. Here's an indication of how the putting has improved on Tour this past season. He made from 4 to 8 feet -- He made 64% of the putts so far this week, he's made 92% from 4 to 8 feet. This one a little longer than that. Man drops it in.

[00:23:48][ Applause ]

[00:23:58] >> Fitzpatrick for birdie at 14.

[00:24:03] >> Looking for another one here.

[00:24:05] >> Very good there from Fitzpatrick. So two birdies, the bounce back we talked about.

[00:24:19] >> We've seen Spieth through the years come up with a number of different kind of rehearsals, Curt. And this is his latest one when he kind of wraps it around his back.

[00:24:28] >> Kind of reminds me of Mike Weir back in the day, where Weir kind of rehearsed that backswing like that.

[00:24:34] >> This is right at it. He drove it on this green yesterday. Let's see.

[00:24:39] >> Settle in there now.

[00:24:49] >> This is Fitzpatrick at the par-5 15th for eagle. Coming off a nice stretch. Two birdies in the last three holes. After the bounce back from the double, he delivers the eagle. What a stretch for Fitzpatrick.

[00:25:06] >> What an incredible job by Jordan, getting it on the screen just like he did yesterday.

[00:25:20] >> Go get it.

[00:25:21] >> Oh, man. Spieth burns the edge.

[00:25:25][ Applause ]

[00:25:32] >> This is the third shot at the 16th for Morikawa. He's coming off back to back birdies at 14 and 15. But then, again, then you run into this hole. But there's more ways than one to make a birdie.

[00:25:48] >> Yeah. And Scottie Scheffler has no idea where that golf ball ended up of Jordan Spieth, knowing that it landed pin high and went over the green, hopefully plays a little short, kind of similar to what Paul said here. This is an 8-iron in his hand.

[00:26:01] >> Not only aiming a little right of it, more in the middle of the green here. He might try to play a draw.

[00:26:12] >> Pretty aggressive.

[00:26:13] >> And really good, Smylie. That is a great second shot.

[00:26:23] >> Yeah, it's an amazing look. I mean, he's just absolutely ball striking it in the par 5s. There's five of them out here. So you want to take care of those if you can. And he's doing that today. Two drivable par 4s as well. So there's plenty of scoring opportunities out here. But still, you got to hit the shots. And Scottie today continues to put himself in position after position to make birdies.

[00:26:43] >> He's made some changes with Phil Kenyon. A bigger grip on there. This is via John Wood, who checked in with Todd Scott -- Teddy Scott about this. But, yeah, another putt. Geez, he's putting so well.

[00:26:56][ Applause ]

[00:27:00] >> Seventeen.

[00:27:01] >> Matt trying for the bounce back birdie after the bogey at 16.

[00:27:08][ Applause ]

[00:27:18] >> Justin Thomas for birdie at 17. To get within six of the lead.

[00:27:41][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:27:44] >> Brian Harman lining up one last putt here, he hopes. There you go.

[00:28:00] >> Important up and down here. But even if he doesn't, he's still going to have a significant lead. And the guys chasing are going to have to get down to the mid-60s or lower tomorrow. I know the wind is going to be down a bit, but they're going to have to really go for it because this guy doesn't look like he's coming back at all.

[00:28:13] >> Yeah. His ball striking got even better today than it was the first couple of days. So, he's on top of his game right now. He's a little frustrated with that bounce out of the fairway into that rough here at 18. But Smylie had a chance to look at this shot for Scheffler coming up.

[00:28:32] >> Yeah, I wouldn't want to hit it. It is so difficult, guys. I mean, he's on a downslope. He's going to be hitting a bump shot. And right around where he was standing, there was two sprinkler heads, which I think are right in his way. So he's got a couple different things he's got to worry about. It's that first bounce, avoid the sprinkler heads. And then, when it gets on the green, I mean, it's straight downhill. So if it gets the wrong bounce, the penalty area is on the other side.

[00:29:14] >> Bumped it in the hill.

[00:29:16] >> All in all, I mean, even though it's rolling off the green, I still think that was a very good shot.

[00:29:24] >> And take a look at how it bounced through there. Took that first big bounce. Probably didn't kill it like he was expecting it to.

[00:29:41] >> Scheffler focused here on avoiding another bogey at the last, if he can.

[00:29:45] >> Definitely. He's got to be frustrated. He had a perfect drive off the tee, ends up in the rough. Really a good second shot, great chip. Let's see if he can get this to go down.

[00:30:00] >> These guys are highly competitive, you know. It's an unofficial event, but they still want to win.

[00:30:06] >> Scheffler was looking for just the third bogey free round this week. Jordan Spieth had one of the two yesterday. Max Homa turned it in today with one birdie, and all the rest pars. But still a 65 for Scheffler.

[00:30:24] >> Scheffler explodes in Round 3 with a 65, lengthening his lead to three shots over England's Matt Fitzpatrick. Who will claim Tiger's title in the Bahamas? The final round is next.

[00:30:38] >> The calendar flips, and PGA Tour golf returns. That means one thing, Hawaii.

[00:30:44] >> When we grow up, we grow imagining playing against the best players in the world.

[00:30:51] >> And he put it out of reach, and he knows it.

[00:30:56] >> It's one of the most special places we get to go in the entire world.

[00:31:00] >> You can take advantage and start the year on a good note.

[00:31:02] >> The 2024 FedEx Cup season begins at the PGA Tour's Opening Drive.

[00:31:11] >> Warmest day of the week here at Albany. Temperatures reaching the mid-80s on this first weekend of December in the Bahamas, in Tiger's 24th edition of his Hero World Challenge, which benefits his foundation, and the tournament hosts playing in it for the first time in four years coming off his latest surgery. And as we've talked about, the best in the world getting a little bit of a gauge of where his game is. And we all have found out where Scottie Scheffler's game is. World number 1 now has stretched it to a four shot lead over three other golfers, Finau, Sepp Straka, and Matt Fitzpatrick.

[00:31:50] >> And Jason Day over there at the 7th, playing with Thomas in the second to last group.

[00:31:58] >> So day, you can go low. And Jason Day hasn't taken advantage of it. Even par so far. Man, maybe that gets him started.

[00:32:17] >> Straka lines this one up for birdie at the 9th.

[00:32:20][ Applause ]

[00:32:25] >> Jordan Spieth trying to join the party as he makes the turn here for birdie at the 9th to get to 12-under. And he's with a handful. Never know.

[00:32:35] >> Back to 7.

[00:32:36] >> And Scheffler's turn, Woody.

[00:32:37] >> Yeah, really good leave here. If he to hit that drive about 10 yards farther, it goes all the way down the hill, which becomes a completely different shot. As this one has kind of take it in low, he was looking at a spot just short of the green. Maybe one skip and spin it from there. Should be able to spin it into the wind. But you can go real low with it.

[00:32:58] >> Oh, man, it almost dropped down.

[00:33:02] >> That's great break. It caught the edge of the fringe and kind of shot it forward. It's a good thing it hit the pin.

[00:33:09] >> Took a direct hit. Would have been an eagle. It's going to be a tap in birdie for Scheffler. Back to back birdies. This almost went down from two.

[00:33:28] >> Back over to Tiger.

[00:33:30] >> And uphill left to right putt. He's actually been better outside of 10 feet this week than inside of 10 feet.

[00:33:41] >> Over at the par-5 9th, third for Tony Finau. Blasting out from the sand.

[00:33:52] >> That's a birdie for Finau.

[00:33:54] >> And now, Tiger is over at 14.

[00:34:00] >> Gettable par 4, short as we talked about. Tiger not thrilled with it. One arm off.

[00:34:05] >> Interesting. He's talked pretty much all week about -- Oh, look at this.

[00:34:09] >> Well.

[00:34:10] >> Stay there and it's going to be great.

[00:34:12][ Applause ]

[00:34:18] >> Spieth for birdie at 10. And he adds one to the card.

[00:34:27] >> Never a doubt.

[00:34:34] >> Tiger for eagle at the 14th. This could vault him back into red numbers with one stroke.

[00:34:45] >> Yeah. Is it going to bounce through this grass at the start or not? That's going to be the key to this putt. Now, it runs out from there.

[00:34:52] >> Man, that was authoritative. He had a little bit of fringe in the back on that backstroke.

[00:35:01] >> Nice birdie.

[00:35:03] >> Over to 15, Hovland for an eagle. This to get to 10-under on his round today.

[00:35:12] >> Just incredible stuff.

[00:35:15] >> Took him a while to get started this week, the two-time defending champ.

[00:35:18] >> Back over to 12. Justin Rose lining up another birdie. Having himself a day. How about 7-under on the round?

[00:35:33] >> Rose and Hovland combined 18-under for 27 holes.

[00:35:39] >> Played his second from 189 yards out. Again, we're seeing some good signs that Tiger can still stripe it and flush it. That one gets away a little bit.

[00:36:00] >> Tiger for birdie at 15. Can he finally play it under par? Yes.

[00:36:08][ Applause ]

[00:36:15] >> Matt Fitzpatrick from just below the surface at 9. Dealing with that drainage. He would say par.

[00:36:44][ Applause ]

[00:36:51] >> Back over at the 9th. Scheffler for birdie from long range.

[00:36:57] >> Bit of a double breaker here. Goes right early, and at the end, it should come back a hair to the left as it dies. Just didn't take that last left.

[00:37:05] >> Another example, though, that's a really good putt from distance there, up to 2 feet.

[00:37:11] >> Scheffler to clean up his par.

[00:37:19] >> And he's also reading his own putts. Phil Kenyon told him, you're a great green reader. You do not need Ted Scott to help you read the putts. And he thinks that it'll better for Scheffler to do it that way.

[00:37:38] >> Spieth here trying to also get to 14-under. And that indeed makes it a four-way tie for second. So they're lined up, albeit four shots back.

[00:37:52] >> Tiger lining up his birdie putt.

[00:37:55] >> A little bit of a double breaker down the hill, left early. And maybe a little right.

[00:38:01] >> Oh, he almost thrilled the crowd with that one.

[00:38:11] >> And Hovland, third shot now at the last.

[00:38:16] >> Another example --

[00:38:19] >> Drove it in the rough, and then played his second shot to there. So, looks like it's going to be a par save for Hovland, who has just been on fire in his last four starts worldwide. Not as much here. Got off to a very slow start. But he won the BMW Championship, the Tour Championship. Those were consecutive weeks in late August. Fifth at Wentworth in September. A 63 for Hovland, two off the course record, and the round of the Championship this week.

[00:38:47] >> Jordan Spieth at 13.

[00:38:49] >> He has a Hero World Challenge win on his resume, but not here at Albany. That came in 2014 at Isleworth.

[00:39:02] >> This is Thomas for birdie on the edge of the green at 11. Got to have these coming home. And there's another one that drops for him. Moves him into a tie for second, three back.

[00:39:16] >> Tiger's third at 18.

[00:39:29] >> He sits at 82. He's got the 15 majors. Jacks the standard at 18. That does seem out of reach in a way. But if he can -- I think he really believes he can pick off one more PGA Tour event and be the all-time leader in victories on the Tour.

[00:39:47] >> I think the one thing that we found out this week is he can still get it out there, especially if the fairways are firm. So, he was pounding it out there with that driver.

[00:39:55] >> Well, you know, he's a pretty stubborn guy. He likes to play where he's had success in the past, Tory Pines, Bay Hill, of course, the majors. But wouldn't be crazy if Tiger said, "You know what, let's play some flatter courses." Let's give myself a chance to maybe pick off that 183rd PGA Tour victory at a place where maybe we haven't seen him ever or haven't seen him in a while. Fitzpatrick's birdie try at this par 5. Yes.

[00:40:34] >> There he goes speed.

[00:40:36][ Applause ]

[00:40:43] >> Spieth drove it left at 14, had to take an unplayable. So now has this for par at a very easy hole. But he's able to roll it in.

[00:40:58] >> Chance for the chasers to put a little more heat on Scheffler here at this par-5 15th. Straka coming up the slope for eagle. A little tougher to judge, though, putting out of this area down below there through that fringe.

[00:41:12] >> He did a great job of it. Made it really easy to tap in for the 4. It's almost a must birdie for these guys in chase mode. Back to back birdies for Straka. He's going to move it to 16-under. That's 7-under on his round without a bogey. Spieth over at 15 for eagle.

[00:41:35] >> This was a good second shot in here, even though it's 20, 30 feet away. Gives him an outside chance. It's a dangerous pin there on that right-hand side on the par 5.

[00:41:48] >> And just like Straka, going to be a birdie for Spieth, speed who won Tiger's Tournament back in 2014, last time it was not held here at Albany. Tore up Isleworth to the tune of 26-under par.

[00:42:02] >> He shot 1-under yesterday, but he was really frustrated. He plugged two drivers underneath the lip of bunkers on par 5s. It could have been a lot better.

[00:42:13] >> Matt's turn now to knock it close to 13.

[00:42:25] >> Oh, really nice. Here with the leader, Scottie Scheffler. Putting for birdie to get to 19-under par on the 13th. Well, he doesn't miss by much when he does.

[00:42:51] >> Fitzpatrick now with the birdie putt. Not going in for Scheffler, John. Perhaps Matt can get a little closer.

[00:42:57] >> Yeah. Gorgeous 8-iron, just past the hole, straight down the hill here.

[00:43:04] >> There you go. Left to right. And Matt climbs up the leaderboard just a little bit. Scottie is certainly not running away and hiding on this Sunday, Paul. He's allowing other guys to have at least a chance coming down the stretch.

[00:43:18] >> Yeah, absolutely. And, you know, he hasn't taken advantage of the scoring holes. That's been the difference. But the other side of it is he's not dropping shots. But, you know, the point that Curt made just a moment ago was a really good one. Fourteen and 15 are going to be really, really key here. Two great scoring opportunities.

[00:43:34] >> Straka with a little pitch up to the 16th green trying to save par. That is a beauty. Good chance to save par, the most difficult hole all week. Been just five birdies in four days at 16. Spieth has a chance to add another rare one here.

[00:43:58] >> Terrific approach shot in there. And the putt was maybe even better. Great birdie on a really tough hole.

[00:44:06] >> Hold still, please. Thank you.

[00:44:11] >> Fitzpatrick has already played his pitch up to about 10 feet short. Little level of difficulty here for Scheffler. It's on an upslope. Ball is above his feet and it's not a great area. So he tat both, what, two wedges out, kind of seeing which one sat better. Got to make really clean contact here.

[00:44:35] >> Out of that lie, that is a 10 out of 10.

[00:44:43] >> Fitzpatrick for his birdie at 14.

[00:44:50] >> I mean, he just continues to putt the ball so well. He's one of the best putters on the PGA Tour this past season. I

[00:44:57] >> 11 rounds at Albany, 67.7 scoring average and trying to improve on that this week. For birdie.

[00:45:07] >> No problem. Beautiful up and down for Scheffler to stretch the lead back to three. Those are the kind of putts once in a while, you know, not that long ago that he went to hit right out of the heel and missed.

[00:45:19] >> Sepp Straka is even better. Seven-under, seven birdies, no bogeys.

[00:45:24] >> He left it in a good spot too. Slightly uphill.

[00:45:27] >> Great spot, Curt.

[00:45:30] >> So Sepp to 17-under par.

[00:45:41] >> Spieth for par at 17. That'll cost him a shot. First bogey of the day for Spieth.

[00:46:10][ Applause ]

[00:46:15] >> Yesterday, we had 64 to the front and the drives almost coming out shorter. Yeah.

[00:46:23] >> On that bush? Down out of the left?

[00:46:25] >> Yeah, there you go.

[00:46:27] >> As you look at the stats for Scheffler on 15, in contrast to what Tiger's done this week, he has just torn up this hole. Thirteen-under par on this hole alone.

[00:46:40] >> One eighty-six front, 200 total. This is 7-iron. Should be a very comfortable one for him.

[00:46:48] >> Definitely looking a little left.

[00:46:55] >> Just left of the flag. Good looking shot if it's the right number.

[00:46:58] >> That's a great shot, bro.

[00:46:59] >> Oh, man.

[00:46:59] >> It's just precision.

[00:47:01] >> Another example of course management and on the right side of the flag.

[00:47:05] >> Scheffler looking to put this one out of reach.

[00:47:12] >> Now, up to the green.

[00:47:20] >> I think he's gotten to a point in his setup. His arms hang a little better, I think. And he's not even really having to think about the stroke now. It's just -- Now, he's just looking at his line, he's feeling it, and becoming more athletic as he goes along here and gaining confidence.

[00:47:36] >> Yeah. I like the fact that he's got a plan. He's got a process driven plan that he's working towards. And then, when you get validation on top of that, like he's having this week where he's one of the top putters this week, that's what builds the confidence. And every day you go in the range, you're putting on the same thing. You're putting in the same practice, doing the same processes. Nonetheless, it's going to be an important birdie.

[00:48:00] >> Yeah, just a tap in. He really made that hole look easy. One thing that hasn't changed with Scheffler since he's been a little kid is his coach, Randy Smith, back at Royal Oaks Country Club in Dallas. He's been him with him the whole way. Randy Smith has coached a number of Tour players, and he's never changed. Randy Smith got him here. He's won at every level. Up at 18, Straka to try to get to 18-under. He was the guy that was set to play in a competition called the Wolf Snake Cup that he started and created last year. Needing that putt just off the mark. He was about to tee off at a practice round last year when he got the call when the host Tiger Woods withdrew with plantar fasciitis and Sepp Straka stepped in for his first Hero World Challenge last year. What a round today. Sixty-four.

[00:48:52] >> Spieth for par. Speaking of a lot on his plate as he makes bogey at the last, he took another one of those player director spots when Rory McIlroy left. So Jordan Spieth and Tiger Woods a part of the leadership going forward as far as the player's representation goes.

[00:49:21] >> Now, Thomas hoping that this is his final stroke of the week to tie Straka.

[00:49:27] >> And walking up to the green. Dan, he took a look at that leaderboard, so he definitely knows where this putt would put him if this happens to fall in just a little right to left.

[00:49:43] >> In the hole.

[00:49:44] >> In the hole.

[00:49:44] >> In the hole.

[00:49:45] >> Yeah.

[00:49:46] >> Justin Thomas was lamenting the fact that he's not going to be a part of that century field at the new year in Hawaii, which he's had great success at over there in Hawaii. Didn't win, didn't make it to the Tour Championship. You make it to the Tour Championship, you get to be a part of that field. But it was not the kind of season that he's been used to. Scheffler looking like World number 1 indeed.

[00:50:12] >> For Scheffler, you know, you look at his record. I mean, this guy could have put away a lot more wins than he has in the last couple of years. He's had eight leads going into the final round of the Tour, but has held on to win only three of them. He had a six shot lead of the Tour Championship last year.

[00:50:30] >> One sixty, just a wedge.

[00:50:31] >> It may change with this new putting routine.

[00:50:36] >> Exactly. I mean, he can just pull away from the field convincingly in a lot more consistent manner with this more consistent putting to go along with his all world ball striking.

[00:50:50] >> A couple of things. I mean, he struggled -- you know, he struggled for a few years in terms of really getting to this level. And a couple of things ignited very quickly together. One of them was that getting that pick from Steve Stricker and performing well, as he did in Whistling Straits. And the other was the addition of Ted Scott as caddie. And since then, boy, he's really taken professional golf apart the way he's played. Certainly tee to green. Two years ago, you know, before that 17th off the tee. Now, he's number one. Two years ago, 83rd with his arm play. Now, he's number 1. That's some improvement.

[00:51:23] >> Now, Scheffler's par attempt and the win.

[00:51:30] >> And there's the breakthrough at Tiger's Tournament. Scottie Scheffler coming off one of the best ball striking seasons in Tour history this year, puts it all together in his third trip to the Bahamas. Joins Tiger as the only World number 1s to win the Hero World Challenge. Matt Fitzpatrick with a par at the last final round. Seventy for him, five back of Scheffler who was just too good for anyone to have a serious threat on him today.

[00:52:05][ Cheering and Applause ] And that bodes well for World number 1 to cruise into 2024 with all that confidence. Showed you the picture of Meredith consoling him in Rome. This is a much different embrace at the Bahamas.

[00:52:27] >> This concludes the PTA Tour's coverage of the Hero World Challenge from the Albany Golf Club in Albany, Bahamas.

[00:52:33] >> Scottie.

[00:52:33] >> Way to go, Scottie.

[00:52:33] >> Way to go.