Production Transcript for REWIND\_24AMEX\_DUNLAP.mp3

[00:00:28] >> The PGA Tour is proud to bring you the season-long race for the FedEx Cup. Now, coverage of the 2024 American Express.

[00:00:42] >> Cold weather around the country. I know if you're inside, it's dark, it's cold outside, it's snowing. Sit back and just transport yourself here to the Southern California desert. PGA West, two courses here, the Nicklaus Tournament Course and the Stadium Course, Pete Dye, and La Quinta Country Club, which has been in play for over half a century here at the American Express. Beautiful sunshine, blue skies, temperature in the 70s today.

[00:01:13] >> Some of play, great play already. Take you out to this. Bronson Burgoon, the 36-year-old, his second at the 12th.

[00:01:19] >> How about this to get your year started. Sixth year on tour for this 6 foot 2 Texan. A little position hole here at the 12 and -- Oh, hello. OK, then. That to get him to couple under. Made his way to 4-under at this point. Scott Stallings, this is the tee shot here at the Stadium Course from 182.

[00:01:40] >> Yeah, started the day with a birdie at the 1st. Nice saves at 2 and 3. Scott likes to hit a nice little soft draw. This back left hole location sets up perfect for that flight shape, about 6 feet away. And he would make that.

[00:01:54] >> To get it to a couple under. A lot of people cheering for this man. Hayden Springer made his way through Q School out here on the PGA Tour now at the 9th.

[00:02:00] >> Yeah, great story. And what a shot this is. Six-under par already on the round, coming off an eagle at the 8th. This is a veteran move coming out of that right bunker, using the slope front left of this green to get at that front hole location. How about that? Turning in 7-under par.

[00:02:15] >> Near the top of the leaderboard and over at La Quinta, some of the big names. Xander Schauffele from off the green, his third at the par 5.

[00:02:22] >> Yeah. Last year, last round on the Stadium Course, shot 62. La Quinta today, beautiful. Out in 32, thanks to that eagle there.

[00:02:31] >> Get it to 6-under there. He's got the 8-under now. Number 5 in the world. Number 1 in the world is here. Scottie Scheffler for birdie at the 10th.

[00:02:38] >> Yeah, a little slow start for him. Turning 1-under par. And that's getting lapped over at La Quinta. But nice birdie there at the 10th.

[00:02:47] >> Got it to 2-under. Zach Johnson for birdie at La Quinta at the 9th to get it to 7-under. So Zach's got the putter going.

[00:02:56] >> Now, we take a look at Daniel Berger.

[00:03:03] >> Berger for birdie. Nice roll there.

[00:03:07] >> That's a solid front nine. Tom Kim over at the Nicklaus Tournament Course. This for birdie. There you go.

[00:03:21] >> Returning to the 9th from the fairway, it's Grayson Murray, last week's winner at the Sony Open.

[00:03:26] >> And this is just duck soup right here. Sitting right there in the front.

[00:03:30] >> It's the gap wedge. Good looking shot here. Little spin on it.

[00:03:37] >> He would make par from there.

[00:03:40] >> To the 4th. And Martin Laird here at the par 3, 182, the yardage.

[00:03:47] >> Yeah. He started on the back nine, birdied his first three holes of the morning. Added a couple more.

[00:03:57] >> Great shot.

[00:03:59] >>. Good chance for Zalatoris for birdie at 10.

[00:04:05] >> Coming back up the slope here. We'll move a little bit from right to left here, Will.

[00:04:09] >> Great read there.

[00:04:10] >> What a beautiful stroke that was.

[00:04:12] >> It was.

[00:04:14] >> Take a look now at Cantlay over at La Quinta. Sixteenth hole. He started here last year, by the way. Shot 65 on his way to finishing third.

[00:04:28] >> Cantlay would make par.

[00:04:30] >> This at the 9th after smashing his tee shot at the Nicklaus Course.

[00:04:35] >> Yeah, it's good to see this -- you know, get a look at this move. Kind of legendary amongst his teammates, and certainly on the Korn Ferry Tour. What a shot that was.

[00:04:48] >> Up to 18 at La Quinta. Cantlay, lengthy one. Yeah. Patrick Cantlay has made some putts on these courses through the years.

[00:05:00] >> I love the way he plays his wedges, Brandel. He flights it down. Really controlled follow through with these shorter shots. This has got a lot of spin, that's for sure.

[00:05:19] >> Berger would make par.

[00:05:22] >> Way right off the tee at 13, this is Zalatoris' second.

[00:05:27] >> He's got his work cut out from here coming from that mounding on the right.

[00:05:30] >> Make that look so easy. Sling it to the Stadium. Par-3 17th, Chez Reavie.

[00:05:39] >> Why not make it five birdies your last six holes?

[00:05:48] >> Back to La Quinta we go. Zach Johnson. Can he be the first player to get the double digits under par? Walking it in. This has been fun to watch. Zach Johnson, 10 birdies on the scorecard right now. He's leading by one.

[00:06:06] >> We're back here on the 15th, Daniel Berger. This for birdie.

[00:06:11] >> It'll get -- halfway starts going back downhill here for Berger. Is that enough?

[00:06:17] >> Stretch.

[00:06:20][ Applause ] Berger's first birdie on the backside. Nicklaus, this in the 9th fairway with Adam Hadwin, one of the 259s that we've seen here in tournament history. Two of the 12 sub-60 on the PGA Tour.

[00:06:45] >> He would make birdie.

[00:06:46][ Applause ] Billy Horschel for birdie.

[00:07:02][ Cheering ]

[00:07:05] >> Billy Horschel. Right on queue. Birdies on 16 and 17. He's now at 2-under with one hole to go.

[00:07:21] >> Alex Noren's last hole of the day. He's at 9-under par, one back of Zach Johnson. That left to tie the lead at 10. Tom Whitney. Here's how you know he's one of us, Brandel, was a public Muni golfer growing up. Said the only way he played PGA West was his buddies in the cart barn would let him out in the summer.

[00:07:47] >> That's right. He said he would tip him 5 bucks.

[00:07:53] >> Noren for birdie. Gets him to 10-under. What a round.

[00:08:03] >> About 10 birdies and an eagle and one double bogey.

[00:08:08] >> J.T. Poston, third at 16.

[00:08:20] >> Knew he liked it. Nearly.

[00:08:23] >> You could just hear how crisp that was.

[00:08:27] >> Drop back one to the 15th. Michael Block, even on his round. Last year, actually opened with a 65 at the American Express. Back of the cup, he's now at 1-under.

[00:08:42] >> At the Nicklaus from off the green, Alex Smalley's third.

[00:08:50] >> Get in. Come on.

[00:08:54] >> Get in there.

[00:08:56] >> Yes, sir.

[00:08:56] >> Nice way to close out the day.

[00:08:58] >> Little hooked chip there. It's kind of a Tiger Woods special.

[00:09:02] >> Don't be surprised here if he stuffs one in here at the home hole.

[00:09:12] >> Coming in very high. How about that?

[00:09:17] >> He ends his round with a birdie.

[00:09:22] >> Third shot for Min Woo Lee at the 9th. Min Woo's son over his Christmas break was in Vancouver. Saw snow for the first time.

[00:09:31] >> Seeing birdies here at 9.

[00:09:34] >> What did I tell you about chipping around here?

[00:09:39] >> A crowded leaderboard after Round 1 as Zach Johnson and Alex Noren tie for the lead at 62. Rico Hoey and Christiaan Bezuidenhout are trailing by a shot. Round 2 is next.

[00:09:59] >> The setting here in La Quinta, California, one of nine cities in the Coachella Valley, a couple of hours from LA. Three courses in play once again, the 65th edition of the American Express. Terry Gannon, Brandel Chamblee with you. Take a look at some of the highlights, Brandel, from this second round. Joe Highsmith out on the tee here at the Stadium Course at the par-3 13th with a 6-iron.

[00:10:23] >> Twenty-three-year-old rookie who played his college golf at Pepperdine. Shot 66 in Round number 1 at the Nicklaus Tournament Course yesterday. And what a way to get your second round started here on the Stadium Course. Celebration ensued. All by himself for a moment, but then others joined in. So the ace to get up to 8-under. Zach Johnson, great day yesterday at La Quinta. Made 10 birdie, shot 10-under, and a bogey early on. But this at 18th.

[00:10:50] >> Yeah, you're right. Slow start to his round. This is one of the tougher hole locations a player is going to see the first three days here at the 18th at the Nicklaus Tournament Course. But beautiful approach shot. Nice putt down that hill.

[00:11:03] >> Two-time major winner. Got it back to 10-under. Some of the young names out here, Nick Dunlap, US amateur champ, a star at the University of Alabama. Got it to 9-under par. This for birdie.

[00:11:13] >> Well, he certainly had the world of golf buzzing last year with his amateur success. He's got the professional ranks also buzzing out here.

[00:11:22] >> Yeah, kind of working out here, too.

[00:11:24] >> Yeah. Doesn't seem like he needs much of an apprenticeship. Just picking up right where he left off in 2023.

[00:11:30] >> We know the name. We'll remember it, though, with that kind of player. So the second round underway here at the American Express.

[00:11:38] >> Terry, this front nine has been electric for Dunlap. Birdie putt here on the 9th. Birdies on 3, 4, 5, 7, 8. Looking for his sixth this first nine.

[00:11:53] >> Justin Thomas playing with Rickie Fowler. This his second at the 2nd on the Nicklaus.

[00:12:05] >> He would make birdie.

[00:12:08][ Applause ]

[00:12:13] >> Here we are on the 9th now at the Nicklaus Tournament Course. Jason Day, uphill birdie putt.

[00:12:24][ Applause ] Dang it, that's a drop.

[00:12:29] >> He's now at 8-under par. But 8-under has you nine back of the leader. Sam Burns out in front by three at the moment, the second round of the American Express. Burns already at 17-under par. He's got two holes left in his second round.

[00:12:53] >> Good look for Paul Barjon.

[00:12:55] >> Beautiful.

[00:12:58] >> Well done.

[00:13:05] >> So we take a look at Burns now. Big putt here.

[00:13:08] >> This first fifth straight birdie on the backside. Just grazes the edge.

[00:13:18] >> Tell by his reaction, he really wanted that one to go.

[00:13:27] >> Alex Smalley, second at 12 at 10-under.

[00:13:31] >> Again, down this left side. So his view of this hole location be partially blocked. But using that slope.

[00:13:39][ Applause ]

[00:13:44] >> Burns now as they crowd around behind the green to take a look and see if this goes in. An eagle to shoot 59.

[00:13:50] >> Well, there's a slope just left of the hole that he can use to sort of bleed it to the right. Not that one. Absolutely fat. Hooked it.

[00:14:07] >> Nick Taylor on the tee here at the 4th, the par 3, 182. Same hole locations, same distances the first three days for these courses.

[00:14:16] >> Yeah, good par 3. Certainly the least intimidating of the four here. What a shot.

[00:14:21] >> To 17.

[00:14:24] >> Cam Davis on the front of the green for birdie. He's a winner on the PGA Tour back at the 2021 Rocket Mortgage Classic.

[00:14:37] >> Oh, Davis gets that to go at 11-under.

[00:14:39][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:14:43] >> Final green at the Nicklaus. And the putt for Burns. Sensational day here to take the lead. Set that number at the Top, 61.

[00:14:59] >> First hiccup for Min Woo Lee in the water here on 13. This is third for par, Woody.

[00:15:04] >> Yeah. Took his relief. Slow putt up the hill, but not much in it in terms of break. And that's how you do it.

[00:15:11] >> How about that save?

[00:15:13][ Applause ]

[00:15:18] >> Here at 18, Adam Hadwin. This for birdie.

[00:15:28] >> Yes, sir.

[00:15:29] >> Borrowed quite a bit, and it was perfect. What a read. A couple of 65s and great back nine for Hadwin to get it to 14-under.

[00:15:42] >> This is the third shot for Min Woo Lee. What's the play here?

[00:15:46] >> Well, you need to bump something into the hill or try and carry something if lie is good enough.

[00:15:51] >> Or just do that.

[00:15:54] >> He would tap that in. And we stay with Min Woo Lee at 17.

[00:15:58] >> One forty-five, 147. It's just a nice one today. It's a good number. Yup, good.

[00:16:05] >> As you're walking up here, you're thinking, what is my man going to ask me? And is he going to be wrong, and do I need to talk him into something here? And you're getting all those lines ready just in case --

[00:16:15] >> Yeah.

[00:16:15] >> -- so you're not fumbling with it when he does ask you. One seventy-four plays downhill to 167. This is a big 9-iron for Lee.

[00:16:24] >> And with the bad iron shots we've seen him hit, this wouldn't have been nerve free.

[00:16:31] >> All right.

[00:16:34] >> Beauty.

[00:16:35][ Applause ]

[00:16:44] >> Yeah.

[00:16:44] >> Up to the green.

[00:16:53] >> Min Woo Lee, such a good putter for birdie.

[00:16:56] >> Let's go.

[00:17:00] >> There we go. Birdie, birdie on 16 and 17.

[00:17:08] >> And Nicklaus 18. K.H. Lee for par.

[00:17:13] >> Par and a 64.

[00:17:25] >> At the 9th.

[00:17:27] >> This is Nick Taylor, second shot to the par 4. See him out of the fairway bunker. Taylor currently at 8-under. That has him in a share of 60th. How about that ground fade? Getting better and better and better.

[00:17:48] >> Taylor would make birdie.

[00:17:53] >> Back out to the last. And Dunlap setting up right of the fairway here.

[00:17:58] >> You know, pretty fortunate. The ball actually kind of ran through a little divot, but it's sitting OK out this dormant Bermuda grass. But it's off the downslope here. So you have to be really careful if you don't come up and out and then short side yourself on the right-hand side. One thirty-seven front, 157 total. He's got the ball played back and a stance just a bit there. Solid contact. This looks fantastic. It clears that little shoulder on the right-hand side.

[00:18:29] >> It did. Gorgeous.

[00:18:31] >> Oh, my goodness. What a play there. Brandel, he flattered that ball down to control that swing. It was fantastic. Spot on.

[00:18:38] >> Yeah. Yeah, absolutely, Billy. We'll take one more look at it. I said a little while ago it reminds me of Dustin Johnson's golf swing, you know. He gets a great spot at the top, sort of high hands, but I want you to watch how quickly this club exits to the left. Gets right on top of it. See that right there? And that's all on Ben Hogan right there. The way that exits to the left like that just tells you he's rotating beautifully and get on top of it, hit these high cuts. Can't hide a pin from this young man.

[00:19:14] >> Spin it to the front side.

[00:19:16] >> You saw that great right hop for Nick Taylor with his approach.

[00:19:22] >> Cleans up the birdie. He's at 9-under with a second round 67.

[00:19:35] >> All right, now, this for birdie.

[00:19:43] >> This putt will move ever so slightly back to the right here.

[00:19:57] >> Bottom line is the kid can play.

[00:20:00] >> Flat play.

[00:20:01] >> Right. And a little stuck in neutral, didn't take advantage of some good scoring opportunities, 11, 12, 14, 16. And still, he's just two back. And, you know, that was the hardest birdie that he had that he made all day.

[00:20:17] >> Mentioned he's played in big events, but you get in contention down the stretch on the PGA Tour. What he will learn from that, whether he comes through or not and wins or not, what you take from that is monumental.

[00:20:31] >> Amateur Nick Dunlap, 65, keeps him towards the top of the leaderboard. But Sam Burns holds the outright lead at 17-under. Round 3 is next.

[00:20:51] >> Great history here. PGA West, billed as the western home of golf in America. And the PGA Tour has been coming here since 1960. You got one more day of the three courses in play, the Nicklaus Tournament Course, Pete Dye Stadium Course, and over at La Quinta Country Club. Big galleries out here today too. Weekend underway, and they've turned out in full force. Overcast. We might have a shower or two this afternoon and temperature is a little chillier in the mid-60s.

[00:21:24] >> The story of the moment right now, the 20-year-old amateur from the University of Alabama, Nick Dunlap.

[00:21:30] >> Boy, isn't that the truth? He opened up with a 64. You thought, well, how would he come back? Round number 2, 65. OK. How would he follow that when he was flirting with the lead? He birdied the 11th. He birdied the 12th. Just kept this train right on the tracks. Come to the 16th, which is one of the tougher drives on the golf course. Good drive. Good second shot. And another birdie.

[00:21:49] >> Hey, look. La Quinta Country Club has been the easiest, numbers wise of the three for the first two and a half days now. But not sure we expected this. Goes out in 30, and then makes the turn, has another opportunity.

[00:22:00] >> Yeah. Off the back of the green here. Again, these are some of the best greens that these players will ever put on. You get it on line, nothing's going to stop it.

[00:22:10] >> At the 12th. And Justin Thomas, a chance for birdie here.

[00:22:16] >> Yeah, just one of the beautiful short fours here. Justin late, well back. Good look down the right side.

[00:22:22][ Applause ]

[00:22:29] >> Over to La Quinta Country Club, Dunlap's second at the 4th.

[00:22:33] >> Again, not a long hole. Just 384 yards. Hole location is over on the left.

[00:22:38] >> Hello. The difficult par 3, Justin Thomas. What around he is putting together so far. Six-under on the day.

[00:22:55] >> Yeah. I mean, the fat of this green is about five steps past that hole location, but he's taking dead aim.

[00:22:59] >> Yeah, come on.

[00:23:00] >> Let him in.

[00:23:01] >> Come on, come on.

[00:23:03][ Applause ] Seven-iron. Nearly an ace, Brandel.

[00:23:11] >> What a swing. I mean, again, I watched him warm up and, you know, it was like a video game. Just had it on a string. You see him setting up on the left side of that tee --

[00:23:23] >> How does that not stopped?

[00:23:24] >> -- trying to play a cut right off the middle of the green.

[00:23:30] >> Thomas would tap that in for birdie.

[00:23:32][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:23:36] >> Back over to La Quinta. This to get it to 23-under.

[00:23:41] >> Yeah, I said 10 feet. It's more like five or six.

[00:23:44] >> Automatic, Brandel.

[00:23:48] >> Par-3 17th on the Stadium Course. Nice week that Zach Johnson is putting together. Three-under on his round.

[00:23:55] >> I haven't really seen anybody get closer than 10 feet coming in here.

[00:24:01][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:24:07] >> Xander Schauffele, this is now his third of the par 5. Good leave, Brandel.

[00:24:12] >> Yeah, perfect. You know, nothing difficult about this. Throw it up there about 20 feet short of the hole. Let it release.

[00:24:24] >> It's early in the season for everyone.

[00:24:27] >> Looks like he's setting up for a little low tumbling draw chip here. That's what he hit.

[00:24:37] >> That's just gorgeous.

[00:24:40][ Applause ]

[00:24:46] >> Zach Johnson's got to pay this off after that gorgeous iron shot for birdie on 17. Really well done by Zach.

[00:24:53][ Applause ]

[00:24:58] >> Thomas, what you got, BR?

[00:25:00] >> I mean, I like this look here for J.T. It comes down the slope. It's a little tricky read, though. Right at the end, once it starts to lose speed, it will try to work its way back to the left.

[00:25:11] >> Everybody's been missing this one a little bit high.

[00:25:18] >> Stay there. It does.

[00:25:22] >> Dialed in.

[00:25:23][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:25:31] >> Back over to La Quinta. Another birdie try for the leader, Dunlap.

[00:25:36] >> Nice little pitch there.

[00:25:45] >> BR, it seems to be trending in the right direction. We're seeing it this week.

[00:25:49] >> No doubt.

[00:25:50] >> He's got 157 total here. He's going to try to bring this ball in from right to left. There is a little ridge just short of the flag around 150. Carry that and the ball should chase out just a bit here.

[00:26:01] >> Trying to work it in from right to left. Pretty good line here, guys.

[00:26:07] >> Yeah. He's liking this one.

[00:26:09] >> Go.

[00:26:10] >> Let's go.

[00:26:12] >> He is so dialed in right now.

[00:26:15][ Applause ] At the 9th, Adam Hadwin just short of this par 4 and 2 scrambling. And eyes all the way. Hadwin to 20-under.

[00:26:36][ Applause ]

[00:26:44] >> And that missed green at 18 for Zach Johnson. So this for par.

[00:26:51] >> Nice save there. Currently in 12th place.

[00:26:53][ Applause ]

[00:27:00] >> Looking now for his fourth straight.

[00:27:07][ Applause ] Wow.

[00:27:10][ Applause ]

[00:27:15] >> Take you over to the 6th at La Quinta Country Club, and the second here at the par 5 with Dunlap, the leader.

[00:27:21] >> Yeah. Pins over on the left, out of the right rough. Let's see if he can get enough club on it to get there.

[00:27:30] >> Yes, he does. How about hole high and then some?

[00:27:34] >> So he's going to have a good look at eagle.

[00:27:36] >> Oh, man.

[00:27:39] >> Thirteenth. This is second shot for Xander Schauffele. At the par 3, missed his tee shot to the right. Great recovery.

[00:27:51] >> All right. Back over to 6th at La Quinta. This for eagle, Dunlap. And a five shot lead. Count it again.

[00:28:02] >> Five shot lead.

[00:28:04][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:28:11] >> Thomas' eagle chip at 16.

[00:28:14] >> He's just going to skim the grass here and watch this thing take a couple of hops and check. Oh, he's going different. He's going a little bump and run.

[00:28:26] >> Very, very well done there.

[00:28:29] >> Well thought out.

[00:28:31] >> He moves to 22-under.

[00:28:37] >> Third. Sam Burns coming into the third round, one shot lead. He's now six back. Trying to shave one off the deficit here.

[00:28:46] >> And drove it around the right side and hit a great iron shot.

[00:28:49][ Applause ]

[00:28:57] >> Thomas on the tee at 17.

[00:29:01] >> This is just a caution light all the way here.

[00:29:07] >> He's been peppering pins on this backside.

[00:29:13] >> In the hole.

[00:29:14] >> Well, any indication this is just right -- left of the flag. How about that shot right there? The guy is locked in right now with J.T.

[00:29:26] >> Another one from J.T.

[00:29:32] >> Yeah. Just be gently work it to his right. Just ever so gently.

[00:29:39] >> Stadium Course record is a 61. J.T. at 10-under through 16. If he makes this, it'll tie his record on the PGA Tour with his sixth straight birdie.

[00:29:49] >> I don't think he's going to be 22-under for long the way he's running right now. This is a very good look for J.T. This would be for his sixth birdie in a row.

[00:30:02] >> Walks it in.

[00:30:03] >> Dead center and walks it in.

[00:30:06][ Applause ]

[00:30:11] >> That's just 20 putts through 17 holes.

[00:30:15] >> Over at La Quinta. OK.

[00:30:36] >> Thomas' second at 18. If he holes this out, he shoots 59.

[00:31:09] >> Oh, yeah.

[00:31:12] >> Oh, the kick. Wicked kick.

[00:31:23] >> Take it back to La Quinta.

[00:31:26] >> Dunlap from the fairway. This for 59.

[00:31:36] >> Right down the throat.

[00:31:53][ Applause ]

[00:31:56] >> Beautiful touch.

[00:32:02] >> So Cantlay is 61 back in 2021. And how about Justin Thomas today to match him with a 61 in the third round?

[00:32:11][ Applause ]

[00:32:21] >> Dunlap for birdie on the 9th. This would be the second ever 60 by an amateur on the PGA Tour.

[00:32:26] >> What a round by the 20-year-old. Nick Dunlap, a 60. He's at 27-under, currently leading by four.

[00:32:42][ Applause ]

[00:32:49] >> Burns to get to four back.

[00:32:51] >> Yeah, it can be aggressive with this putting back straight back up the hill.

[00:32:57] >> Tracking.

[00:33:01] >> On the 15th, Ryo Hisatsune, his third. Just do that.

[00:33:18] >> Shane Lowry on the 9th outside the cut line. Needs something spectacular to happen.

[00:33:25] >> Yeah. He needs a birdie and a prayer.

[00:33:28] >> Prayer answered.

[00:33:32][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:33:47] >> Burns for birdie at 8.

[00:33:54][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:34:00] >> Burns' birdie at 8 gets him to within three of the Dunlap lead. Nick Dunlap looking to be the first amateur winner on the PGA Tour since 1991. The final round is next.

[00:34:18] >> The calendar flips and PGA Tour Golf returns. That means one thing, Hawaii.

[00:34:24] >> When we grow up, we grow up imagining playing against the best players in the world.

[00:34:36] >> It's one of the most special places we get to go in the entire world.

[00:34:41] >> The 2024 FedEx Cup season begins at the PGA Tour's Opening Drive.

[00:34:51] >> It's building up to be a memorable day here in the Coachella Valley, a couple of hours from LA, at the base of the Santa Rosa Mountains, PGA West and the Pete Dyes Stadium Course. The site here, blue skies and sunshine. How about the story here? Final group, you got a couple of guys, 20 wins between them. Sam Burns, Justin Thomas playing along with the amateur who leads the way to start the final round. Nick Dunlap, just a sophomore at the University of Alabama trying to do something that we haven't seen on the PGA Tour since 1991. Earlier today, they meet on that opening tee, handshakes, game faces on, and the first swing. They gather around to see what kind of pressure the 20-year-old is going to feel. No problem off that opening tee. Just sailing through the opening hole, starting the day with a three shot lead. So it's Alabama and LSU in the final group. Terry Gannon, Brandel Chamblee. Out to the 5th, Justin Thomas, the par five trying to do this, Brandel.

[00:35:55] >> Well, this group hadn't made a birdie through the first four holes. And Justin Thomas did a terrific drive off the 15. Great angle. No time really to get greedy here. Twenty, 30 feet left of the hole. No problem. But he finds the water, misses a great scoring opportunity.

[00:36:10] >> You see it right there. But he would make par on the hole. However, Nick Dunlap taking advantage. His third.

[00:36:20] >> I watched Nick Dunlap warm up. The first wedge shot he hit today, he was hitting at the 50-yard sign, hit it right in the middle of the sign. And the layup, and then carved this one up. Meanwhile, Sam Burns has had a terrific shot in there, putting pressure on him. But at this point, he looked like he wasn't feeling it. But then, this off the 7th tee. All you got to do is find this fairway, and the hole sits in a little bowl. It had the easiest wedge shot in the world. That looked like a shank.

[00:36:48] >> First mistake of the day. Huge mistake.

[00:36:53] >> And eventually, Dunlap, a double bogey on that hole. Burns in that same group. This for birdie to get it to 26-under.

[00:37:00] >> And this is my point about this hole location. Sits back, you come up short, skips forward, off the back, spins back. It was the easiest hole location they'd have all day. Sam Burns makes the birdie. And the double bogey by Nick Dunlap just brought in about a dozen players into the field.

[00:37:17] >> Dunlap playing his third at the 8th.

[00:37:20] >> Coming off the upslope. This is really doable here. He's got a ridge about four paces short of the hole that he can navigate here, try to drive into that ridge.

[00:37:34] >> Textbook there.

[00:37:36][ Applause ]

[00:37:44] >> Thomas --

[00:37:44] >> J.T. --

[00:37:45] >> -- from the bunker.

[00:37:46] >> Long bunker shot. Plenty of green to work with. And on these long bunker shots with green to work with, you kind of want a downhill lie, which is what he has here. So that'll help him get the ball to the hole.

[00:38:01][ Applause ]

[00:38:03] >> Touch class.

[00:38:05][ Applause ]

[00:38:13] >> Here's Adam Hadwin for birdie. Hadwin at 23-under. He's now three off the pace.

[00:38:23] >> Ryo Hisatsune, this at 14 to get it to 23-under. So top 10 already. And got another one. Got closer to join that group at 23-under par.

[00:38:45] >> Dunlap to get sole possession again.

[00:38:49] >> What a bounce back this would be. Not much break in this putt here. Straight back up the hill.

[00:38:58] >> Nick Dunlap, not going away.

[00:39:01][ Applause ] You know what sense you get, Brandel? We are a long way from the end of this thing.

[00:39:12] >> Yes, we are. And it could be anybody's ball game on this back nine. Any one of a dozen or so players.

[00:39:19] >> OK. So they head to the 9th.

[00:39:30] >> Well, Adam Hadwin, who posted a 59 over at La Quinta a few years ago. Everything going in right now.

[00:39:43] >> Yu's second at 12.

[00:39:45] >> He has pins all the way in the back. You know, just as Billy Ray was talking about it, can't go over the 9th green. Certainly can't go over this one because beautiful shot. Played it perfect.

[00:39:55] >> Yu moves to 26-under.

[00:39:58] >> Back to the 9th. Dunlap for par.

[00:40:03] >> If he doesn't keep the speed up here on this putt, we've seen the other two putts that bleeds back to the right.

[00:40:08] >> Yeah, left, center and firm here, Brandel, would be the call.

[00:40:13] >> He said the hole looked like a funnel yesterday.

[00:40:21] >> How clutch is that?

[00:40:23] >> He's been using that putter for years. He's got real simple practice routine. He goes through every day with it.

[00:40:31] >> Sixty-three holes in, we have an amateur leading by one going to the back nine.

[00:40:36][ Applause ]

[00:40:41] >> Thomas playing his second at the 10th.

[00:40:53][ Applause ]

[00:40:57] >> Yu also at 26th. To stay there.

[00:41:03][ Applause ]

[00:41:09] >> Dunlap for birdie at 10.

[00:41:14] >> Look at this. Look at this.

[00:41:19] >> Tricky little read here. It looks like it wants to go left early, but I think it's going to have enough speed to stay straight through that part. As it dies, it wants to fall a hair to his right.

[00:41:33] >> There it is.

[00:41:34] >> Something like that.

[00:41:35] >> Missed quite a few of these chances. He needs to see one go in or it just starts getting tougher and tougher as you go into the round.

[00:41:48] >> Oh, yeah. Never a doubt. Walked it in.

[00:41:54] >> We move to the 11th for Thomas's second shot into the par 5.

[00:42:21] >> Kevin Yu, this for birdie at 14 to share the lead.

[00:42:24] >> Six birdies going out. Birdied 10, birdied 12.

[00:42:28][ Applause ]

[00:42:35] >> This putt for Nick is actually going to come back up the slope a little bit. And at the end, about a quarter way, it is going to start to move back to the right.

[00:42:45] >> Does this putter have some more magic in it?

[00:42:56] >> To save his par.

[00:43:01] >> Thomas will drop a shot.

[00:43:08] >> If anything, I think it's got a dimple of right to left in it. It's so speedy.

[00:43:15] >> Burns to go up by one. Dead center. Back to back birdies. And now, Dunlap will be a chaser.

[00:43:25] >> Yeah.

[00:43:25] >> Got to be a little careful here. He doesn't run this one pass. This is one of the -- You know, it's fast putt.

[00:43:31] >> Beautiful.

[00:43:32] >> Beautiful putt.

[00:43:34] >> Pretty.

[00:43:35][ Applause ]

[00:43:41] >> Yu from off the green. His third at 16.

[00:43:44] >> Yeah. This is a big hook and chip. Let's see if he plays enough break out there to the right. Come on, come on.

[00:43:55] >> Yu moves to 28-under.

[00:44:00] >> Yeah. This is one of the more conservative tee shots hit on this hole all day long. I mean, most of the birdies have come further up and further to the right.

[00:44:14] >> Yes, on a very good line, if it's enough.

[00:44:19][ Applause ]

[00:44:26] >> Christiaan Bezuidenhout's his second to the par-4 15th.

[00:44:29] >> This is that hole location I was talking about. I told the guys behind the green that were marshaling this hole, you guys might see one hold out here today. It's just cake.

[00:44:38] >> Poops it at 15.

[00:44:41][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:44:48] >> Shouldn't be too much in this. Just up the hill. But he can definitely be aggressive with it if he wants to. Man could putt too.

[00:45:00] >> Sometimes underrated.

[00:45:02] >> No, I don't think 28 is going to be enough, George.

[00:45:17] >> With that --

[00:45:19] >> Look at that. You've got that --

[00:45:21] >> Made some big putts, hasn't he?

[00:45:24] >> Yeah, he does.

[00:45:25] >> We stay with the final group. Dunlap's second at 15.

[00:45:40] >> Oh, yeah.

[00:45:42] >> Right there.

[00:45:42] >> Kisses his neck.

[00:45:45] >> What a show we're seeing.

[00:45:48] >> Yu for bogey to finish.

[00:45:52][ Applause ]

[00:46:00] >> I thought it was just going to be, you know, right there. You know, tap in for him. So, a little unlucky in my opinion there. But having fortunate to watch J.T.'s putt here inside.

[00:46:13] >> Dunlap to regain a share of the lead.

[00:46:19] >> Grazes the left edge.

[00:46:21] >> Right. I mean, he would have seen the putt of Thomas. I think Woody called that beautifully. Looks like it's going to break a little more, but it's just really pretty straight putt.

[00:46:35] >> We skip to Dunlap's third shot at the par-5 16th.

[00:46:41] >> Very fortunate to watch the ball of Justin Thomas as it reacted how much it ran out on that back portion of the green.

[00:46:48] >> Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. Easy. Easy. This putt doesn't break as much as it looks. See if they read it correctly.

[00:47:10] >> And one good thing, Brandel, here, we saw how racy it was going past the hole. This is back up the hill. Oh, yeah.

[00:47:24] >> Has not been --

[00:47:25] >> Oh, yeah.

[00:47:25] >> -- intimidated all day long.

[00:47:26] >> Oh, yeah.

[00:47:28] >> Made some big putts when he's had to, and that was huge. To 29-under.

[00:47:35] >> You know, look, in a situation like this, you know, he's been in big moments, obviously, in his career, so he knows his body. You're looking at the middle of the green. You're looking nowhere else, but you've got another, you know, 8 yards to play with past that if adrenaline comes into it. But nowhere right of the middle of this green. And if it fades, it fades.

[00:47:57] >> Dunlap right at it.

[00:48:05] >> OK.

[00:48:06] >> Eight-iron here. Sam Burns' probably a little bit longer than these guys with his iron. So I'd imagine he's got to take a little bit off this.

[00:48:11] >> A very aggressive play. Cutting right of. This has got to hang on, guys.

[00:48:21] >> That's --

[00:48:23] >> Oh, no.

[00:48:23] >> That's --

[00:48:23] >> Wow.

[00:48:24] >> That's been his miss. You know, last year, he had an awful year with the irons. He got really quick in transition, gets out in front of it. And that's the beauty of these holes.

[00:48:42] >> Yeah. This putt looks really fast. It's not as fast as it looks. But he's had -- other than the putty hit at 9, he's had really good speed all day.

[00:49:04] >> Dunlap for birdie.

[00:49:09][ Applause ]

[00:49:18] >> Job done on 17.

[00:49:23] >> Crucial bogey putt for Burns.

[00:49:26] >> In the hole.

[00:49:30] >> Bogey putt for Burns. Slides by Dunlap. The amateur will have a two shot lead to the 72nd hole at the American Express. What a story unfolding in the Coachella Valley. Nick Dunlap trying to win on the PGA Tour as an amateur.

[00:49:54] >> Let's see if he can get the job done. First things first, you got to find this fairway.

[00:50:01] >> Up by two with the honor.

[00:50:03] >> Yeah. The cluster of bunkers up the right-hand side. The first one is not in play at all. The one up -- The second one to the right, 304 to that bunker on the right.

[00:50:21] >> No. No.

[00:50:27] >> Asking for it to get left. It does not.

[00:50:31] >> So we'll see where the lie is and what the lie is like for that next. Up to the green, Bezuidenhout. This for birdie.

[00:50:39] >> Yeah. Could get to 28-under par. You never know. But Dunlap over there to the right.

[00:50:44] >> No question.

[00:50:47] >> Wow.

[00:50:48] >> And it is not over yet.

[00:50:49] >> Wow.

[00:50:50][ Applause ]

[00:50:57] >> Dunlap now with a one shot lead, playing his second into 18.

[00:51:03] >> In the hole.

[00:51:05] >> Take the bag.

[00:51:16] >> Look at this. Coming all the way.

[00:51:19] >> Wow.

[00:51:19] >> A great break.

[00:51:22] >> Brandel, Terry, I can report to you. He knows the situation now with the leaderboard. Just left of the green here at 18.

[00:51:29] >> Dunlap needs an up and down to be the first amateur to win on the PGA Tour since 1991.

[00:51:35] >> Come on, come on.

[00:51:37] >> Come on, come on, come on.

[00:51:41] >> Excellent. Not quite done.

[00:51:45][ Applause ]

[00:51:52] >> Five feet, 9 nine inches here from a piece of immortality.

[00:52:06] >> History in the desert. For the first time since 1991, an amateur has won on the PGA Tour.

[00:52:17][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:52:33] >> This concludes the PGA Tour's coverage of the American Express from La Quinta, California.

[00:52:38] >> You have no idea.

[00:52:41][ Applause ]