Production Transcript for 24INTCUTCH - CHUBB CLASSIC MASTER.mp3

[00:00:40] >> Thirty-seven years in PGA Tour Champions, has been coming to the West Coast of Florida and spectacular Naples. Tiburon Golf Club, the Black Course, the 10th venue used to host the Chubb Classic. Par 72, just over 6,900 yards. Golf course in excellent condition for this 37th playing of the Chubb Classic. Field of 78, the first place check of $270,000 on the line. Rocco Mediate got off to a fast start. Rocco, 5-under through his opening 13. Ernie Els, one of the five World Golf Hall of Famers in the field here this week. He's at 4-under par with Scott Dunlop, Alex Cejka. Steven Alker won the season opener this year at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai. He's just a couple shots back. Let's go over to the 8th. Stephen Ames won four times last year. His putt for birdie. Alex Cejka for birdie. So Cejka now at 5-under. Back at the 11th, the third for Ernie Els. And John, talk about the difficulty of chipping on these surfaces.

[00:02:03] >> Yeah, no doubt. They're pretty tight. There's a grain going all different directions. So Ernie into the grain here going uphill, and kind of shortsighted himself. But he has had such great touch and hands throughout his career, and that was really well done. Pitching around these greens, Bob and Pete, it's not easy.

[00:02:24] >> Now over at 14, Rocco Mediate for birdie. Rocco went out in 29, bogeyed the 13, but he bounces back here to get the 6-under again.

[00:02:43] >> Davis Love III for par.

[00:02:48] >> He's yet to win out here on the Champions Tour. He suffered through some ailments. But 21 wins on the PGA Tour in his career.

[00:03:12] >> Scott Dunlap for eagle at 18.

[00:03:22][ Applause ]

[00:03:39][ Applause ] Got third shots coming up here at the 12th.

[00:03:57] >> Yeah. I thought Ernie was going to turn out a little better than it did. It was kind of up the center of the green. And like Peter said, tabletop greens go off the right and left. And I think it's going to be Ernie first.

[00:04:13] >> Steve Alker looks like he's just in that pine straw or is that a dirt.

[00:04:18] >> Yeah, he's in the pine needles.

[00:04:19] >> Yeah.

[00:04:20] >> No real issues. Just figuring out what type of shot he wants to hit, whether he wants to run it, bump it in there, or fly it onto the green.

[00:04:31] >> Well, I live in the area, John, as you know, and we did not have much rain in the December to early January timeframe. So the golf courses all around here are pretty firm and fast. And this golf course usually plays pretty firm and fast, but --

[00:04:51] >> Yeah. You also mentioned how small these greens are. But they only play about even half that size just because of the runoffs.

[00:04:57] >> Yeah. Yeah, center of the green should be, a lot of time, your target.

[00:05:05] >> Yeah. Looks like Ernie is going to go. No real issues. Decent lie. Pretty flat. He's got a little bit of green to work with. A little bit different shot than he had previously on the 11th hole. A little more room to work with. Drives in there low with some spin that checked up on him pretty quickly. Not quite sure that that was the contact he was looking for, but give himself about 4 feet.

[00:05:52] >> Rocco at 16 coming off back to back birdies after the bogey at 13 and --

[00:05:56] >> Looking rock.

[00:05:57] >> -- flag hunting.

[00:05:59] >> He's got to be the most casual guy on the golf course, Bob.

[00:06:06] >> No doubt.

[00:06:07] >> No matter where you are, he's got a smile on his face and he's got a funny comment to make.

[00:06:13] >> Els for birdie at 12th.

[00:06:16] >> Give him 4 feet here after a pretty good pitch shot from left of the green and takes advantage of the par 5.

[00:06:23] >> That's two pretty good up and downs at 11 and 12.

[00:06:29] >> It certainly is sticky, as John mentioned. Harrington, second at the 12th.

[00:06:40] >> Pretty big tee shot right up over the trees to this par 5. He flies it all the way there. He may have had pneumonia, but he still got the power.

[00:06:55] >> Yeah. Well, we saw the tee shot of Rocco Mediate at 16. Rocco played the front nine bogey free shot 29. Pars at 10, 11, and 12. Bogeyed 13. And then, birdies at 14 and 15, and as good a look as you're going to get here, at 16.

[00:07:15] >> Wow.

[00:07:15] >> He's on it.

[00:07:20] >> Now, over at the 12th, Harrington for eagle.

[00:07:28] >> Well, he -- It's just a total misread right there.

[00:07:41] >> Harrington for his birdie. You know what the PGA tour means to communities.

[00:07:52] >> Yeah.

[00:07:53] >> Thirty local charities are going to benefit and have benefited over the years, the Chubb Classic for the Greater Naples area. One of the cool spots to the right of the green at 17 is the Hero Outpost, in which complimentary food, courtesy of Mickelbob's, for all those who served our country. Look at this shot by Rocco.

[00:08:16] >> Wow, look at Roc.

[00:08:18] >> We got to get Lou to run out there and hand him at least a jalapeno cheddar sausage for that shot. Over at the 12th, par-5 3rd for Davis Love III. What a piece. Fred Couples to play his fourth shot at par-5 12th. Couples was 4-over through his opening two holes.

[00:08:55] >> Great shot.

[00:08:56] >> Not bad.

[00:08:57] >> Still have that to save par, but not what he was thinking. First of three par 5s on the incoming nine, the 12th, the 15th, and the 18th.

[00:09:11] >> The finest designs in the world. I know a lot of people talk about Pebble Beach and Cypress Point, Torrey Pines, but Riviera, that seems to be in a class by itself.

[00:09:21] >> Stricker, as we showed you, a winner at Riviera. Good roll right there for Steve.

[00:09:36] >> Rocco for four in a row. So after the bogey at 13, Mediate has birdied four in a row, and he currently sits at 9-under.

[00:09:46] >> Gap wedges, wedges, 9-irons.

[00:09:49] >> And John, it looked like, did Ernie try to play a little shot in there, too?

[00:09:54] >> He's been trying to hit that little hold off cut to that back right pin. So that was a beautiful looking shot. So, yeah, I think he was trying to play a little shaper. Steven Alker now at 120. Good line. There you go.

[00:10:14] >> That's more like it. Steven is saying or thinking.

[00:10:28] >> Justin Leonard, currently 1-over, his third at 12.

[00:10:33] >> Here's another guy who's usually great with the putter.

[00:10:36] >> Jerry Kelly for birdie at 13.

[00:10:40] >> Slow start for Jerry. There we go.

[00:10:46] >> Cejka the native area going with putter.

[00:10:49] >> Oh, watch where this bounces. Yup, see, it's unpredictable. Look at the route that took. Looked like a roller coaster at Universal Studios.

[00:11:01] >> Alex Cejka for birdie at 12.

[00:11:08] >> I like his putting routine. He goes further down the shaft. As you'll see, his arms are extended from his shoulders, so everything moves in one piece. He just rotates his shoulders. There's not much manipulation of the blade. He just -- He moves from his chest. There you go. You see his right and left arm are just straight down. Very simple. And he makes it look simple.

[00:11:44] >> It's a heck of an up and down, huh?

[00:11:47] >> Putter from the native area.

[00:11:55] >> So, Cejka, three off the lead of Rocco.

[00:12:04] >> I feel like Justin Leonard's getting a little closer to get into that winner circle.

[00:12:11] >> Well, I think he's going to win this year at some point. As you know, he spent a lot of time with us in the tower, working television, and he's spending all of his time now working on his game. And he's too good. He's a major championship winner on the PGA Tour. So he'll find the winner's circle soon.

[00:12:43] >> That was nice.

[00:12:44] >> Thank you.

[00:12:47] >> Moved his family down here to the State of Florida. I think he's up in Jupiter now.

[00:12:58] >> Davis Love III for birdie at 13.

[00:13:01] >> Yeah, finally.

[00:13:02] >> It's him into red figures.

[00:13:07] >> Two in a row.

[00:13:09] >> Richard Green has this putt for eagle here at 18.

[00:13:13] >> Kind of a skinny green, long from front to back, and a lot of slope from our camera angle toward the front of the green. So this putt from Richard Green should break. He's a left hander, so it will break toward the front of the green. Should be right to left.

[00:13:34] >> Yeah. And remember, this is sort of the middle part of the field in the sense that here at the Chubb Classic, everybody starts off one. It's not one in 10. So, there have been no eagles at 18 yet, but a lot of the field has yet to get to 18.

[00:13:55] >> Never hit it.

[00:14:00][ Applause ]

[00:14:06] >> So keep it here for Rocco, who has this putt for 62.

[00:14:11] >> After wonderful second by Ernie Els at 15, now playing his third at the par 5.

[00:14:26] >> Yeah, really nice leave here for Ernie. Doesn't really have to contend with the bunker at all. Little bit of a little odd angle. He's just going to get this ball back in his stance, kind of drive it in a little check and release. Hit a couple really nice pitch. That little check and release.

[00:14:46] >> Wow, that was clean, wasn't it?

[00:14:48] >> So that catch, Peter, was absolutely spot on.

[00:14:54] >> When you've got such closely mowed area around the green, it requires a lot of precision just to clip it off that tight grass.

[00:15:04] >> Yeah, but that clip has to be perfect. Awkward little pitch shot for David Toms, and I think he got a little too much ball.

[00:15:13][ Applause ]

[00:15:25] >> Pretty straightforward here, John, for the bunker.

[00:15:27] >> No doubt. Got plenty of green to work with. Falling the upslope just a little bit, but good lie. If you're practicing at all, this is pretty easy bunker shot. And didn't release like he thought. Give him about 7 feet.

[00:16:00] >> Stephen Ames rolls that one in. David Toms for birdie.

[00:16:07] >> David, a little frustrated on the greens right now. Talking to his caddie, Scott Gneiser, and just having trouble reading some of these putts. Now, this goes up a little bit of a slope and got to keep the speed up or this will break to the right.

[00:16:25] >> There we go.

[00:16:26] >> There's one.

[00:16:28] >> Sometimes, John, when you move further away from the hole, you can make more of a free stroke and catch your line.

[00:16:34] >> I think your expectations are a little lower.

[00:16:36] >> That's right.

[00:16:37] >> Free it up like you said.

[00:16:38] >> You get within that 50foot range and you expect to make it.

[00:16:52][ Applause ]

[00:16:55] >> This man has made a lot of.

[00:16:57] >> Yeah, he's really a marvel. Like you said, he never went on the PGA Tour, maybe once on the Korn Ferry or smaller tours, and came out here and really found his spot.

[00:17:12] >> Yeah, he won four times on the Korn Ferry Tour. And Padraig Harrington had a really good assessment. He said when you come out on the Champions Tour, you kind of become the player you were on the PGA Tour. But in Alker's case, he didn't have much of a career on the PGA Tour. So, it's just incredible how dominant he's been.

[00:17:32] >> He's missed a few of these today, but not that one. Last two have been beautiful strokes. Kind of kept in there. Nice little rally.

[00:17:40] >> It's an interesting comment because there are -- obviously, there's so many tremendous players on the PGA Tour Champions. Every so often, there's the outlier, like the Steven Alkers that kind of come out of nowhere, so to speak. And then, you have people like Ernie Els, Hall of Famers. But a lot of times, you know, there's players that are in contention a lot and have been, you know, notable players for a long time. But then, you go back and look at the PGA Tour record, and you realize, didn't win that much.

[00:18:13] >> Boo Weekley at 17 trying to get to red figures. Coming off a birdie at the par-3 16th.

[00:18:24] >> Would be huge. Just that -- There's the fifth birdie here at the Top 17th.

[00:18:31] >> There's the Boo cheers for Boo Weekley. And Heath Slocum from the back of the green at 17 trying to match Boo with this putt for birdie.

[00:18:40] >> Yeah, first week out here on the PGA Tour Champions for Heath.

[00:18:49] >> And now his putt for par. I mean, it's been a struggle here the last couple of years. He had three Korn Ferry Tour wins, but missed all six of his cuts on the Korn Ferry Tour last year. Missed nine -- all nine in 2022. Doesn't have to worry about that on the PGA Tour Champion.

[00:19:10] >> Harrison Frazar for his birdie at 18. So 4-under 68 for Harrison.

[00:19:19] >> Five off the lead. Tanigawa after that bogey at 17 for birdie at 18. So he's in with a 5-under 67. Over at 15, 3rd for Steve Stricker.

[00:19:40] >> Pretty simple chip. Just get it running down like a putt. He'd make it.

[00:19:45][ Applause ]

[00:19:51] >> Boo Weekley for eagle.

[00:19:57] >> We've seen a lot of putts here at the 18th come up short, whether they're going uphill or downhill. So, hard to judge the right speed here at the home hole.

[00:20:20] >> Boo Weekley for birdie at 18. Milton, Florida having trouble getting it to goal.

[00:20:29] >> Yeah, high school buddies. They're doing the same thing.

[00:20:33] >> Stephen Ames has this putt for birdie. Gets Stephen a 4-under. Mike Weir has a putt for birdie. With the great Bernhard Langer injured and not able to play Terry Holt on Mike Weir's bag this week. I was driving to the course yesterday, and I was -- I think I was on Vanderbilt or whatever I was, and Terry Holt pulled up alongside me. Didn't get a chance to ask him who he was looping for. Rolled down the window, said, hi, light turn, there went Terry.

[00:21:15] >> Yeah, I came on him -- up on him in the Pro-Am, and I saw Weirsy, and then boom. Terry jumped out of the cart and said, "Hey, good to see here."

[00:21:26] >> Longtime caddie for the great Bernhard Langer, who has won five of these Chubb Classics. Joe Durant for birdie at 14.

[00:21:40] >> There we go. Finally got someone to read it correctly at 14. Still a good comeback for Alker after those bogeys in the middle of the round.

[00:21:57] >> Yeah, nice, tidy little round of minus-5.

[00:22:06] >> Els for birdie.

[00:22:08] >> He'd love to get this one in after that kind of sloppy second.

[00:22:14] >> Well, the way things are going, this could guarantee gets into the last group.

[00:22:20] >> Should move a little to his right when it slows down. Nice up and down.

[00:22:25] >> Wow.

[00:22:25] >> That looked to me like it was going to miss right from our camera angle.

[00:22:30] >> So after --

[00:22:31] >> He got it to fall.

[00:22:33] >> After the bogey at 17, Els with a birdie at 18. That puts him in solo second, at least for now. Three behind Mediate.

[00:22:45][ Applause ] So Stricker for birdie at 17.

[00:22:57] >> Yeah, it changes your mindset knowing that Sunday is in question. And right now, Rocco -- Oh, how about this? Right now, Rocco is sitting pretty. Of course --

[00:23:12] >> Ken Duke for birdie at 16.

[00:23:16] >> Ken pours that in. He's at three.

[00:23:21] >> Yeah.

[00:23:32] >> Here, Hensby for birdie.

[00:23:34] >> I thought Hensby was going to win last year in that battle with Ames in Morocco.

[00:23:45] >> Steve Flesch for birdie at 16. We saw Steve's son, Griffin, caddying for Fred Couples. Dad rolls in the birdie at 16 to get to 3-under.

[00:23:57] >> One thing we know about Flesch is he can make a lot of birdies quickly. Look at that, five, six, seven and eight.

[00:24:05] >> Jerry Kelly for birdie.

[00:24:08] >> I think Jerry, in his PGA Tour Champions' career, I think this is the biggest improvement in his game from the 3 to 6 foot range. He makes a lot of putts from that distance.

[00:24:23] >> Two-under-par 70. Kind of like at Hualalai. You know, Jerry usually makes a lot more birdies per round.

[00:24:31] >> You mentioned five World Golf Hall of Famers in the field, Couples, Els, Harrington, Love, Montgomery. Really six, because Harrington gets inducted this summer.

[00:24:45] >> He said he is going to jump back and forth between the Champions Tour and the PGA Tour just to see how he does. He wants to keep testing himself against the PGA Tour. But we know how he has dominated out here on the Champions Tour with his length.

[00:25:03] >> What he did last year making the cut in majors on the regular tour and contending in majors here is absolutely phenomenal. We haven't seen that, really. Now, Stephen Ames for birdie.

[00:25:23] >> He's always had great fundamentals with his golf swing. He's got a narrow stance, just makes a really nice turn, nice rotation.

[00:25:38] >> There we go.

[00:25:40] >> Ames finishes with birdie. And he's in at 5-under and right in the mix.

[00:25:49] >> But we've got a packed leaderboard. Take Rocco out of it right now. We've got a lot of guys in that four, five, six range. Going to be a dogfight tomorrow.

[00:26:02] >> Rocco Mediate with a 9-under 63 today has posted that number. Ernie Els and Alex Cejka in the clubhouse at 6-under. Steven Alker, Stephen Ames, Scott Dunlap, Ken Tanigawa, Mark Hensby at 5-under. Hensby with a hole to play. Then, you got Harrison Frazar with that 68 today. Ken Duke at 4-under, Stricker, Harrington, and Brian Gay with 3-under-par 69s today.

[00:26:40] >> Tiburon Black playing host to the 37th edition of the Chubb Classic from Naples, Florida. Weather expected in on Sunday. Round 2 underway. Rocco Mediate had the lead at 9-under par to start this second round. He's even on his round today. Stephen Ames, with four birdies in a row, has jumped to 9-under par. Steven Alker, 3-under on his round. Steven Alker has won eight times, including his last three starts. He won the season finale last year and won the season opener this year at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai. Has this putt for birdie to move to 9-under in a share of the lead.

[00:27:24] >> He missed a couple of short putts yesterday. At 10 and 11, made those two back to back bogeys, but he has been on fire the rest of tournament. Those are the only two drop shots all week. There, he has three birdies on the front nine, 32 going out. He's lurking.

[00:27:47] >> Stephen Ames nearly won this event in 2019, has this for the outright lead. And Ames pours in another one. So that gets Ames to 10-under and one shot clear of the field.

[00:28:01] >> Now, we go over to Alex Cejka at 10.

[00:28:08] >> Right at hole high, just in one of those little pitching areas, trying to decide whether he's going to pitch it or putt it. I kind of like this play. Was not that great of a lie to be quite honest. Kind of shortsighted. We talked about this yesterday, Peter. It's a little inconsistent going through this fairway cut around these greens. So, be really careful.

[00:28:30] >> Obviously that drain is not in his line.

[00:28:33] >> Barely.

[00:28:33] >> From this angle, it looks like it might be on the edge of it.

[00:28:36] >> Barely off his line. Slammed it, and that is really well judged.

[00:28:43] >> Wow.

[00:28:44] >> It looks like some bumpy terrain that he had to go through.

[00:28:50] >> That scares me. I just like taking the wedge and taking that out of play, carry it all the way to the green. But Alex knew what he was doing there.

[00:28:59] >> Yeah, it just wasn't that good of a lie. I think that was probably the deciding factor that he was going to putt it.

[00:29:08] >> One thing about these greens here at Tiburon Black, John, is if you do miss a green, there is a lot of room around the greens, a lot of runoff areas that you do have the option to chip it or putt it or hit a hybrid or really hit any kind of shot you want.

[00:29:22] >> Yeah, you can use any club in the bag basically.

[00:29:30] >> Ernie going with putter from just off the green.

[00:29:33] >> Yeah. I like that play too. It's just he's close enough to the green that the fairway cut, fringe cut shouldn't really pose much of a problem. And he got a little bit of a read off of Alex Cejka's. Yeah, kind of got caught up a little bit, but not bad. Take your par at the 10th and happily go to the 11th.

[00:30:08] >> So Els now two back. Steve, a six-time winner last year, won the Charles Schwab Cup. Now, Rocco, for his par.

[00:30:26] >> I think maybe a crucial point in this round right here with a one shot lead. Hasn't his stride yet. Birdie and a bogey and an incredible par at the 9th. He really liked to get this one in. That's his second long range three putt.

[00:30:49] >> So Rocco started the day at 9-under, three shots clear of Els, Cejka, and Hensby. And now, he's two behind Stephen Ames. Cejka for his par.

[00:31:01] >> Good little 3-footer. And he likes to keep the flagstick in. Wind blowing today, though. That flagstick is moving all over the place.

[00:31:09] >> Yeah, that would be a -- that'd be a tough visual for me. I'd take that thing right out of there.

[00:31:15] >> Let's go over to Love. Scott Dunlap covered himself a nice week. Had a good day yesterday. Shot 5-under 67. He's currently 1-over on his round today.

[00:31:37] >> This hole today is playing surprisingly difficult. Fifth most difficult today. It's kind of a narrow green. Big, wide fairways here at Tiburon black.

[00:32:00] >> So Els in trouble off the tee at 11. Ames cruising along. Five-under on his round today. And he's got a two shot lead here in Round 2 of the Chubb Classic from Naples, Florida in its 37th year of competition.

[00:32:33] >> Thirty-seventh play of the Chubb Classic. Tiburon Golf Club in Naples, Florida. And let's take a look at the highlights here in Round number 2. Rocco Mediate had the lead by three starting this second round. But Stephen Ames, after birdie, is at 5 and 6, playing his second at the par-3 7th. Knocks it in for birdie. That would get Ames to 8-under par. And Stephen wasn't done. Iron play is fantastic. The swing is perfect, Peter Jacobsen. And we see it on display here.

[00:33:06] >> Yeah, it sure is fun when it gets easy like this. And Stephen Ames can take advantage of it.

[00:33:12] >> He'd make birdie there and that get him a 9-under. Ernie Els then rolls this in at the 7th.

[00:33:16] >> Like I said, it's fun when it gets easy, especially when you make these unexpected birdies.

[00:33:23] >> That would get Ernie Els to 9-under par. Rocco Mediate made bogey at 8. This is an all-world par. Missed his tee shot right, tried to punch out, hit the standard bearer, and gets up and down for par from 200 yards out. Watch out for Stephen Ames. This at the 11th. And Ames, who won four times last year, rolls that in to get to 10-under par. And now, Stephen Ames sits atop the leaderboard here in Round 2. He's 5-under on his round. He's got a two shot lead over Steven Alker, Ernie Els, and Rocco mediate. With Stricker and Broadhurst mounting a charge.

[00:34:05] >> Thank you, John. And Alex Cejka ready to hunt for birdie at the 11th.

[00:34:13] >> Now, it would be nice if the weather did cooperate and we can get out there and play some golf. But these players know that the forecast is not positive.

[00:34:29] >> Plus, the players will be heading to Miami after the round and jumping on a charter with next week's event Trophy Hassan II in Rabat, Morocco.

[00:34:46] >> Stricker for his birdie at 14 to get to within two.

[00:34:50] >> Oh, my. I think took a peek in and said, no, thank you.

[00:35:04] >> So the trail has gone cold for Stricker. Four-under through his first six.

[00:35:10] >> Rocco has a chance to bounce back here, John, after bogeys at 8 and 10.

[00:35:16] >> What a nice golf shot he hit in here. Actually got a little bit of a read off of Ernie Els. So he knows what it does. And good comeback. Nice little bounce back birdie there for Rocco.

[00:35:32] >> You know, Ames had gone through a stretch, too. And then, last year was in contention a lot and won four times.

[00:35:42] >> What was impressive about that last year, Bob, was he played well all year. He started in Morocco, which is next week, and he won four times all the way through Boeing in August. So he had a real consistent, solid run all year long. A lot of times, players play well in a quick stretch, maybe a month or two, but Ames was really good all year.

[00:36:06] >> Over at the 12th, Steven Alker for birdie. And that is the fourth birdie of the day for Steven.

[00:36:20] >> Padraig Harrington over at 14. He gets this putter go. We saw that a lot last couple of years.

[00:36:31] >> Now, Hensby to clean up his birdie here and to get 7-under.

[00:36:40] >> Yeah. He was in contention, as you mentioned, last year in Morocco. Battled Stephen Ames down the stretch.

[00:36:53] >> Brian Gay has this putt for birdie at 14. And that was to get him to within four of the lead. Cejka.

[00:37:08] >> Playing quickly.

[00:37:10] >> Tell you what, that was a really good shot. It was on a downhill lie. It wasn't a great lie either. And he had a very little green to work with and chose to hitch that ball up onto the green. And wonderful pitch shot.

[00:37:24] >> Playing quickly. He didn't want to think about it.

[00:37:26] >> No, exactly. He hit that on the run, didn't he?

[00:37:29] >> What's Rocco have left for birdie here, John?

[00:37:31] >> Give him 25 feet. Slightly into the wind and a little uphill. These are the first leaderboard these players have seen in a while and they're looking up there and going, "Wait, what?"

[00:37:41] >> Come on.

[00:37:42] >> Who's this Stephen Ames guy? And why is he in double figures? They need to go now.

[00:37:49] >> John, have players -- is word filtered to the players about what the deal is for tomorrow?

[00:37:54] >> I haven't really got an idea yet whether they have. It would come through in a text message that the Tour would send out. But I don't -- I haven't seen anybody go to their phones yet.

[00:38:05] >> Well, you know, you think about it, Peter. You know, we talked about it in the open. A lot of these guys thinking tomorrow might be washed out have that goal mentality that today is the day. It could change your game plan a little bit if you know that you're at least going to have nine more holes tomorrow.

[00:38:21] >> Yeah. I think some of these players will breathe a sigh of relief saying, OK, I have a chance. I got nine more tomorrow if we get to the nine holes. Depends on the weather, of course. But Rocco had such a great round yesterday. Everybody -- Normally out here on the Champions Tour, you have three rounds. But with the weather forecast, you're thinking, wow, it's going to be a 36-hole sprint. I better get going.

[00:38:48] >> Over at 15, Harrington for birdie.

[00:38:53] >> He had pneumonia this winter, so he admitted he's trying to kick some roughs off. That's a good way to do it. Four in a row.

[00:39:08] >> Steve Stricker for birdie to get to 8 and three off the lead. And his first birdie since the 6th.

[00:39:26] >> Davis Love III finishes up for the birdie.

[00:39:30] >> He had it going. Had it the 7-under, made a double at 14.

[00:39:36] >> Stephen Ames playing his second over at 14.

[00:39:43] >> So good with his short irons. I'm predicting this is going to be within about 8 feet. How about 8 inches?

[00:39:53] >> Wow.

[00:39:54] >> Yeah.

[00:39:55] >> Stephen Ames is dialed in and he's going to have that to get to 12-under.

[00:40:02] >> It's incredible. His swing is -- He's on balance. He doesn't make a hard swing, but he hits it a long ways and he puts it up there to a tap. And you could make that one.

[00:40:14] >> Maybe. Stephen Ames has had some near misses here at the Chubb Classic. He is on fire right now. Two shot lead, about to be three.

[00:40:26] >> Brian Gay for birdie at 16.

[00:40:54] >> So now Ernie, four back, has a great opportunity for birdie here.

[00:40:59] >> That he does after that nice little wedge shot. Got about 6 feet and I'm going to -- definitely has a little left to right in it. Can't get it off the hole, though.

[00:41:16] >> Well, you called it. Just a little bit sluggish through the ball.

[00:41:22] >> Yeah. Kind of noticed that. Looked like he kind of chased after it.

[00:41:25] >> Yeah.

[00:41:25] >> Didn't stay down and through.

[00:41:30] >> Stricker for birdie to get to 9-under.

[00:41:35] >> That would have been the first birdie of the day here at 17.

[00:41:38] >> Boy, he thought he made it.

[00:41:42][ Applause ] Ames for par.

[00:41:55] >> Oh my goodness. I just put the horns on.

[00:41:59] >> Well, he hit a good putt right there.

[00:42:01] >> I think he thought --

[00:42:03] >> He made it, but I think he just -- That is the success of Tiger Woods. Tiger Woods not only drives it great, hits great irons, but his short game is impeccable.

[00:42:15] >> Richard Green for birdie at 16.

[00:42:23] >> There we go.

[00:42:24] >> So he's at 7-under and four off the lead.

[00:42:28] >> And we take you out to the 18th. Paul Broadhurst has this for birdie to get to 9-under. Broady has won five times on the PGA Tour Champions. Steven Alker, who won the season finale last year and the season opener this year, trying to win three in a row in consecutive starts. Currently finds himself five off the lead of Stephen Ames and has a good look at birdie here.

[00:43:06] >> That slip he made at 13 hit it in the water, short right of the green, led to a triple bogey that just stopped his momentum. He was on the move with four birdies up to that point.

[00:43:20] >> Again, the final round is scheduled to be only nine holes tomorrow morning. So, it makes catching somebody when you're five back a little bit tougher. Lot tougher. Now, Ames will have a chance to bounce back with birdie after the bogey at the last as Alker cleans up his par. Let's just set the scenario for you. The players, via text, have been informed today that the final round will be reduced to nine holes, par 36. They'll use holes 1 through 4, and then 14 through 18. So they'll skip going through the tunnel to that other part of the golf course, and they'll start at 7:15 a.m. approximately.

[00:44:19][ Applause ]

[00:44:23] >> Wow. Walked it in. Good bounce back for Ames. Gets high five from his caddie, Billy Carlucci, from the great state of New York.

[00:44:40] >> Yeah.

[00:44:41] >> Yeah.

[00:44:42] >> Hensby rattles that one in at 15 to get to 8-under, four off the lead now. Now, Els for his birdie. Kirk Triplett has the only birdie at 17 today. Nice two putt birdie for Ernie. And he's at 9-under. Realistically, what do you have to be? Let's just say they can get the nine holes in tomorrow by hook or by crook. In the rain, tough conditions, what do you say? Three back is doable?

[00:45:19] >> Yes, without a doubt. Especially if they're playing in the rain, and the inclement conditions, and there's water around. It's going to change the whole face of the golf course. The ball's not going to be running. So, I put the advantage to the longer hitters, the guys that can carry it farther, Ernie Els. Stephen can bang it. Steven Alker can hit it.

[00:45:45] >> Rocco for a much needed birdie.

[00:45:57] >> The other thing is, everybody will be in carts. If they do get out tomorrow and they play, everybody will be in carts trying to get it round as quickly as possible. But it just changes the golf course completely.

[00:46:12] >> Let's see if Stricker could save his par here at 18.

[00:46:20] >> Yeah.

[00:46:25] >> So Stricker, with a bogey free 67, started 4-under through his first six. The lone birdie came at 15. Stephen Ames has a chance to add to that total. Joe Durant has missed his birdie.

[00:46:47] >> John, are you going to get Stephen a nice plate of ribs from Michelbob's over there if he makes this?

[00:46:52] >> Well, it sure smelled good when I was walking by.

[00:46:56] >> Heroes Outpost, feeding those who served our country here at the Chubb Classic. They do a great job every year.

[00:47:05] >> Really good look here for Stephen Ames. Right at hole high, little right to lefter.

[00:47:13] >> Wow.

[00:47:16] >> Only the second birdie of the day at 17. Ames and Triplett have them. Back to back birdies for Stephen Ames, and now, to 13-under par.

[00:47:25] >> You look at that six at 15, and that kind of stands out like a sore thumb in those run of birdies today. Good birdie for Roc.

[00:47:46] >> Nice birdie Rocco. So he gets the 9 back to back.

[00:47:49] >> Go, Roc.

[00:47:50] >> Let's go.

[00:47:54] >> Scott Dunlap finishing up his par here at 17 up at the green.

[00:47:57][ Applause ] Big par putt for Rocco at 17.

[00:48:05] >> There we go. He's putted great all week. He's missed a few today, but I've been impressed with --

[00:48:13] >> Well, good. But I know. I hit it solid. It just doesn't go anywhere.

[00:48:17] >> I know.

[00:48:23] >> Ames made pars on all those holes today and played the final five holes 2-under.

[00:48:30] >> And depending on --

[00:48:34] >> Birdie for Joe.

[00:48:35] >> Well, depending on how big a lead Ames has got, that's going to -- as John said, that's going to change his mindset if we do play nine tomorrow. It'll be interesting tomorrow if we do get out and have a chance to play that nine holes.

[00:49:01] >> Scott Dunlap for birdie putts.

[00:49:02] >> Yeah. No putts seem to go in at 18.

[00:49:09] >> Nobody is making putts. We did see Joe Durant make one, but that's the only one we've seen in two days.

[00:49:20] >> Starts at midnight and continues on all day.

[00:49:26] >> Yeah, he's doing a rain dance over there.

[00:49:29] >> This is a fourth for Ernie.

[00:49:31] >> Uphill lie, a lot of green. Always been so good.

[00:49:39] >> Wow. Great save.

[00:49:43][ Cheering and Applause ] Talking about the gust of wind and amount of rain.

[00:49:51] >> But as we all know, you get a gust, suddenly a front moves in another direction. The apps is just a forecast.

[00:50:02] >> Yup.

[00:50:03] >> Alex Cejka has this putt for eagle, which would put him at nine, and at least get him in shouting distance. Because six back with nine to play and having to hop over a lot of people, your chances are slim and none.

[00:50:21] >> Now, this thing is going to just turn. It's slightly downhill, and it's going to turn just like that, just a little bit.

[00:50:31] >> I wonder why he is electing to have the flagstick out now.

[00:50:35] >> That's curious.

[00:50:38] >> Maybe the shadow. I don't know. Late in the day, the big long shadow.

[00:50:45] >> We've seen him keep it in when, like the wind is blowing sideways.

[00:50:48] >> Yeah.

[00:50:48] >> He likes that.

[00:50:49] >> It's bouncing back and forth.

[00:50:55] >> Let's see if we could see one made from this direction.

[00:50:59] >> It does.

[00:51:00] >> Alex Cejka with an eagle at the closing hole.

[00:51:10][ Cheering and Applause ] Els for his par. So he'll start tomorrow's nine holes. Four back. What could have been for Ernie, though.

[00:51:24] >> Yeah, just a couple of loose tee shots cost Ernie a way better score than that.

[00:51:31] >> Now, Rocco to finish with a birdie here and wind up shooting 1-under.

[00:51:36] >> Pretty gutsy finish for Roc.

[00:51:38] >> That puts Rocco in the final group tomorrow with Stephen Ames and Paul Broadhurst. Stephen Ames, after that 64 today, will head into potentially a nine-hole final round with a three shot lead over Rocco Mediate. Ames only misstep came with 15. Mediate, 1-under-par 71. Paul Broadhurst being a heck of a move today with that 6-under. The same for Steve Stricker and Davis Love III.