Production Transcript for 24INTCUTCH - REGIONS MASTER.mp3

[00:00:46] >> The PGA Tour of Champions proudly presents the yearlong race for the Charles Schwab Cup. Today, from Hoover, Alabama, it's coverage of the Regions Tradition. First Major of the year for the PGA Tour of Champions, and Hoover, Alabama, getting hit with a storm this morning. We're in a weather delay. The 35th Edition of the Regions Tradition, Steve Stricker has won the last two. There was thunder and lightning in the area. Play was supposed to begin around 9:20 local time. And over the last several minutes, the rain has intensified. It's expected to blow out of here, and hopefully, we'll get round number one underway here at Greystone Golf and Country Club, the Founders Course. Scott McCarron and Scott Parel were runners up to Bernhard Langer in 2017 on this property. Langer shot 20-under that year, and the group of McCarron, Mediate, and Estes will start off at the par-3 10th, which today is playing 147 yards.

[00:02:00] >> Yeah, playing up the slope, got a little bit of a backstop. Should be a hole location that he could get pretty close to, Bob. Pretty tough opening shot. It's just something you're not used to being an iron up the hill to a par 3.

[00:02:16] >> Scott McCarron, a past Charles Schwab Cup champion. And going off the first, which is a par 4, Justin Leonard, Brett Quigley, and Richard Green. Green and Quigley have a lot of length and precision over at the 10th, where Scott McCarron waits. Scott trying to find his game, Lanny. He won that Schwab Cup Championship, injured himself, tried to play through that injury, and he hasn't been the same since.

[00:02:52] >> No, I think he probably made a big mistake in trying to swing with -- I mean, we saw videos of him on a cart with his knee on it swinging. You can mess up your swing in a heartbeat, and he's kind of struggled since he'd been back. He is healthy now, and you know, every now and then you see a little glimpse of what could be for Scott McCarron.

[00:03:14] >> So, ready to get round one of the first Major of the year, the Regions Tradition, underway.

[00:03:23] >> Welcome to the first round of the 2024 Regions Tradition in the beautiful Birmingham, Alabama at Greystone Golf and Country Club. This is hole number 10. The 12:30 tee time, first up for Mooresville North Carolina, please welcome Scott McCarron.

[00:03:41] >> Scott had such an incredible run in winning the Schwab Cup Championship. He was a dominant figure on this tour along with Bernhard Langer. Eleven wins, his last coming in Japan in 2019.

[00:04:05] >> The tracer's got it going a little bit right, and he's missed the green to the right and short. That is not an easy up and down, so not the start he was hoping for.

[00:04:14] >> From Greensburg Pennsylvania, let's hear it for Rocco Mediate.

[00:04:18] >> Rocco!

[00:04:20] >> We're going to follow the tee shot of Rocco Mediate. We saw McCarron's ball curve to the right. This one will most likely curve right to left.

[00:04:36] >> Rocco, four wins in the PGA Tour of Champions. Trackman technology sponsored by ServiceNow.

[00:04:43] >> Actually, pretty straight, just off the right of the green where he set it up, did not turn right to left.

[00:04:48] >> Rocco has won one Major on the--

[00:04:50] >> And from Austin, Texas, let's hear it for Bob Estes.

[00:04:52] >> [Inaudible] PGA Championship in 2016. Bob Estes won four times on the PGA TOUR, last coming in 2002. Has not won on the PGA Tour of Champions.

[00:05:16] >> I thought he would too. I think he's got a very simple nice golf game, keeps the ball in play, usually a very good putter. Kind of one of those guys you really expected to see in the winner's circle out here. Hasn't happened for Bob.

[00:05:30] >> And 147 yards at the 10th today.

[00:05:37] >> Pretty straight, right at it. Just needed one more club.

[00:05:43] >> So, round one is now officially underway here at Hoover, Alabama, Greystone Golf and Country Club, the Founders Course, the 35th playing of the Regions Tradition.

[00:05:57] >> I've never seen anybody over there.

[00:05:59] >> Well, it's probably not -- there's not many divots over there.

[00:06:02] >> Wow.

[00:06:02] >> He's going to have to punch it through the trees, terrible angle trying to get to the green. It's kind of at an angle going away from here. It'd be a good shot if he gets it on.

[00:06:12] >> If he doesn't like it, he can catch a bus right there.

[00:06:14] >> Yeah. Here comes another.

[00:06:22] >> Man, talk about lucky catch again opening and then play it a heck of a shot from over there. Wow.

[00:06:28] >> That was tremendous.

[00:06:30] >> That was impressive. Look at this, just coming -- didn't have much of an opening. I don't think he had any options. I don't think he really had a punch out to get it even in the fairway. Figured, what the heck? I'll just take on that little opening, get it on the green.

[00:06:49] >> And then that rough kind of deadened it a little bit.

[00:06:52] >> It hit right to the slope. He drove it in there. It was -- it was -- that was something special there.

[00:06:58] >> So, our first look at the par-4 11th, all three players made par at 10. Scott McCarron on the tee.

[00:07:06] >> Yeah, awkward tee shot here for Scott. He has -- he likes to work the ball from left to right, but this hole goes from right to left. I love this tee shot here, Lanny. It tells you exactly what you need to do. Put it in the fairway.

[00:07:19] >> Yeah. You stand right there, you see the bunkers down the right. It's got issues down the left, so you've just got to sit up there and make a really good swing. You got a penalty area on the left side, and that was a very good swing by Scott.

[00:07:31] >> Brett Quigley, after his remarkable second shot, for birdie.

[00:07:36] >> Just love his putting stroke, such beautiful rhythm in it. He is a really fine putter.

[00:07:41] >> Yeah, and it works really well, doesn't it?

[00:07:49] >> Now Estes to play his second.

[00:08:02] >> Bob, he's got 158 all the way to the pin. 150 kind of clears everything on the left. He doesn't really have to go out to the right and use slope. He can go a little bit to the right, use slope. With his ball flight, he could cut it into that slope and, oh, feed down to the hole.

[00:08:21] >> Yeah, he likes to work it left to right, but you know, he can play it very straight as well.

[00:08:25] >> This is a good looking golf shot.

[00:08:26] >> Oh, I guess. Beautiful play. He hits a lot of high quality shots, Cookie. He really does.

[00:08:33] >> Yeah, he does. He's always been a good striker of the ball, good putter. Just hasn't won a ton.

[00:08:38] >> Now, McCarron, after a huge tee shot.

[00:08:40] >> Yeah, 144 for Scott. Right in the center of the fairway. This is go time, especially after that nice little par at -- par save at 10 with a nasty little 3 footer for his first putt of the day. Trying to work back from left to right, not a good looking shot.

[00:08:56] >> Yes, it was. Cookie, how are the conditions out there? Pretty dry? Has it drained well?

[00:09:02] >> There's some spots that are a little bit wet.

[00:09:04] >> How about that? Look at you.

[00:09:04] >> But all in all, the course is pretty dry and the greens are perfect.

[00:09:08] >> Now, Pavine for birdie at 10, his first hole of the day.

[00:09:16] >> Different look with a putter for Corey. Usually, he had an 8802 or a Bull's Eye in his hand. This -- it works like all the others he's ever putted with. It works very well.

[00:09:31] >> Estes for his birdie.

[00:09:34] >> Yeah, a great look, 3 feet, very little to it. Nice birdie on a tough hole.

[00:09:40] >> And number three on the tee box from Orlando, Florida, it is Lee Janzen.

[00:09:49] >> Two-time US Open champion, likes to hit a little tight draw. See if he plays it in here or goes with the straight shot that may fall a little left to a big part of the green. Really, you don't want to miss this thing right. It is -- that's a really tough shot off the right side of that green. Lee also won the Players in 1995. He's won twice on the PGA Tour of Champions.

[00:10:16] >> Pretty straight shot right there, right at it. Yes. Oh, my goodness, almost in 1.

[00:10:21][ Applause ] Now, Justin Leonard for birdie.

[00:10:32] >> Yeah, he laid up with his second big. Played a beautiful wedge into here.

[00:10:36] >> Yes, he did. Had about 75 yards, had a nice little, low draw in there, one hop, skip, checked. So, he got about 4 feet. It's a pretty quick putt though coming down the hill. May move just to his left.

[00:10:48] >> Made a really good par at the first over in the bunker. Hit it kind of heavy then had a nice up and down from about 20 yards short of the green. Oh, got it. That was a good read there.

[00:11:03] >> Over at the 10th, Ken Duke has this putt for par.

[00:11:17] >> Seen some nice up and downs from right and short of the green. Ken will struggle a little bit with his second and does not like the putt. Pretty quick little stroke there.

[00:11:28] >> Always a great turnout here at the Regions Tradition. Fans kept off the golf course because of the storm this morning.

[00:11:36] >> I'm betting they've been in those hospitality areas waiting for a while. Please play.

[00:11:42] >> Yeah, we had a 3 hour and 10 minute weather delay this morning, but we are underway, first Major of the year, the Regions Tradition. Justin Leonard, Bob Estes, Brett Quigley, and Corey Pavin with early birdies here in round one. Steve Stricker has won three of the last four, including the last two. And he's been dominant, winning by six shots every time that he's won.

[00:12:18] >> PGA Tour of Champions has been coming to Birmingham for over a decade. And for the eighth year, Greystone Golf and Country Club, the Founders Course, being used to host the first Major of the year for the PGA Tour of Champions, the Regions Tradition in its 35th year. Golf course took on some rain yesterday. The start of round one was delayed about 3 hours, and then more storms came in yesterday afternoon and last night, but out on the golf course 8:00 AM local time this morning to get round one completed, Ernie Els, Padraig Harrington, bogey free, 7-under par. Steve Flesch in that group as well. Bob Papa, World Golf Hall of Famer, Lanny Wadkins, so glad you can join us. Phil Blackmar calling the action, and John Cook out on the golf course. And Bernhard Langer, who'd been cruising along, John Cook, rinsed his tee shot here at the par-5 18th with an awkward lie. Played his third shot to here.

[00:13:16] >> Yeah, awkward lie, like you said there, Bob, and just kind of rolled his third shot. Now, this is his 4th from 175 yards and at the center of the green. Could use a little bit of a backstop. Oh, right up against the backstop, and Joe Terry is here. I'm sure he'll give him a favorable ruling.

[00:13:37] >> You know, Langer just had it cruising along. Lanny, we watched him have a good look for birdie at 15, hit the flax that grows. He would have been in tap in range. Had a birdie putt at 16 as well. Didn't cash that in, as David Toms is playing his third into 18.

[00:14:05] >> Yeah. And Langer had a chance to really go a little bit lower, maybe take the lead, Bob, and just didn't make the putts. But he's got a nice round going right here at 18. He's just got to minimize the damage. He's got to get out of this hole with a stick. He cannot afford a double bogey. It'd kind of ruin his round if he did.

[00:14:35] >> John, what does Retief Goosen have in?

[00:14:39] >> Yeah, he's just short right of the green, so only about a 25-yard pitch shot. He just wants to drive it in there low, land it on the green. Kind of check hole type shot. He's so good with his hands right there. There's the check, a little release. Not too bad.

[00:14:47] >> Now over at the 9th, Phil, Kenny Perry for birdie.

[00:14:49] >> This to get to 7-under, coming down the hill very quick. See how he just touched it?

[00:14:51] >> Oh yes, Kenny Perry, man, look at this.

[00:14:52] >> Now back over at the 10th. Again, Tim O'Neil starting his second round, has this putt for birdie.

[00:14:54] >> Up the slope, not a lot in this. This is one you can actually get a little aggressive with it if you want to.

[00:14:57] >> And good putt. Great way to start your day right there. Now we're over here at 10. This is Thomas Bjorn. He's got about 10 feet up the slope, maybe moving a hair to the left. Got to keep the pace up with this. This is back up into the grain a little bit. He did too. That was a very positive stroke. Good put there. I think, Lanny, you talking about the conditions, the one thing that will really determine the scores a lot today is the wind is forecast to blow 10 to 20 out of the northwest if it does come up. It hasn't yet. Right now, it's practically calm out there, but if it does, nothing will raise scores like a little wind will.

[00:15:45] >> Oh no, especially if the greens are quick like they are, and you know, you get down wind, down grain, you've got some putts. You've really got to think about speed first, no question.

[00:15:56] >> Tiziani for birdie to start his second round, and he pours that in. So, birdie on the opening hole of round two for Mario Tiziani.

[00:16:04] >> Sutherland now for birdie here at number 1. Bogey free in his opening round, 68, and a good start here. That's about as good as you can do.

[00:16:14] >> Joe Durant for birdie at 10.

[00:16:18] >> Got to keep this up. He's going to go a little left. Oh, got it in the left edge, good putt. He had a nice pace on that one. Good start for Joe.

[00:16:29] >> Par-5 2nd, Sutherland for birdie.

[00:16:34] >> Good look here for Kevin. Nice shot in here. You want to get out of here with 4 if you can, and that is a great start. Kevin Sutherland, birdie, birdie.

[00:16:44] >> David Toms for birdie.

[00:16:48] >> Yeah. He needs to get this round going early. Good tee shot there off the 10th tee and after kind of a sloppy first round, 73. So, not much to this either.

[00:17:03] >> The other thing is John, he shot even par on the front. He made nine straight pars in his opening round, then he birdied 10, 11, and 12. That makes a double at 14 and bogeys 17 and 18 to shoot that one over.

[00:17:17] >> Yeah, that's very un-David Toms like when you have a scorecard like that. He doesn't make a whole lot of mistakes and make bogeys and doubles.

[00:17:26] >> No. At one point in time, you would think that that round was going to have 5- or 6-under looking at it. You know? Good work there.

[00:17:33] >> Yeah. It was a good start for DT.

[00:17:37] >> Goossen for his birdie.

[00:17:41] >> Well, he got two pretty good reads, so he knows exactly what this is going to do.

[00:17:51] >> Still going with that prayer grip, where he's got fingers down both sides of the shaft. But it seems to work for him.

[00:17:58] >> Yeah. He just kind of keeps that triangle moving, does he, Lanny? Just the shoulders and the arms just hang and he just moves that triangle.

[00:18:05] >> You got to have a big wide grip to do that grip though, and he's got that on there. There you go.

[00:18:20] >> Ames for birdie.

[00:18:28] >> So, after missing a short one at 10, makes one at 11. Joe Durant getting his second round started, has this putt for birdie at the 12th.

[00:18:43] >> Oh, good roll down the slope. Couple of early birdies for Joe, maybe get things going.

[00:18:50] >> Justin Leonard getting his second round started, 1-over this morning -- or yesterday and this morning in round one. But Justin pours in 15 footer, and he's back to even as he starts his second round with a birdie.

[00:19:05] >> Toms' birdie putt on its way.

[00:19:07] >> Yeah, how about that birdie right there? Yeah, off the rocks, off the trees, everything is birdie.

[00:19:13] >> He called every shot there, bank shot, off the stone guy, all of that.

[00:19:17] >> Well, let's see if he can match what he did in round one. He birdied 10, 11, and 12 and was cruising along, got to 3-under and then calamity hit. Jaidee for birdie at 13. Really, nicely done there. Joe Durant has this for eagle at 13. So, he suddenly goes to red figures at 1-under. Bernhard Langer playing his third at the 12.

[00:19:49] >> Yeah, he had putter out, went back for a little pitching wedge, way back in his stance. And I like this play, because you can -- you can spin it a little bit going down that slope.

[00:20:00] >> If it keeps going and it looks like it's going to -- that is excellent. Really nice play by Langer. Long putt for Goosen here. Not what he was hoping for, now with a short iron in his hand.

[00:20:15] >> No question about that, Lanny. Now big breaker from right to left and slow, going up that slope, and a little bit of work left, go 3, 3 and a half feet.

[00:20:25] >> Jerry Kelly playing his third at 13.

[00:20:27] >> Just a little sandwich after laying up on the par 5. Normally a pretty good wedge player, see what he does with this one.

[00:20:37] >> He almost holed it. What a shot. Now, Alker playing his third at 13.

[00:20:44] >> He's got it down to where he's only got about 50-55 yards. A little bit of a downhill lie of green going slightly away from him, so he needs a very good catch here and be very precise where he lands.

[00:20:54] >> Is this too close, Phil?

[00:20:56] >> It's challenging from there for sure. He handled it quite nicely.

[00:20:59] >> Yes, he did. That was excellent. Really well played, especially with that water right behind the hole.

[00:21:06] >> 2nd hole of round two for Steve Flesch. This for birdie at 11.

[00:21:11] >> Yeah, a beautiful shot in here by Steve. Good iron player, great golf swing.

[00:21:22] >> So, Flesch gets to 8-under. Going to share the lead with Kenny Perry. When he gets going, he can go as low as anyone.

[00:21:31] >> He got going pretty good in round one, bogey free, 65.

[00:21:42] >> Alker will have this for birdie. This is where Joe Durant's eagle putt came from.

[00:21:49] >> Must have been some shot to get that close to the hole.

[00:21:51] >> It was. In fact, it was probably a little closer than this, Big. I think it was -- couldn't have been more than a foot that Joe had left. He makes birdie, his first in round two leaving him at 3-under. Jason Bohn playing with Kenny Perry, his third shot at the third.

[00:22:23] >> I bet that was a better lie than Kenny Perry had. He carried it a little further. Well, actually, he holed it. That was a great shot. Wow.

[00:22:34] >> Ames for birdie.

[00:22:35] >> Coming down the hill. It's a putt you want to play move into the left, but it doesn't move much.

[00:22:40] >> He came in nearly walking. It went in the left edge, so confidence was high that that was going to stay there.

[00:22:46] >> Jerry Kelly has this putt for birdie at 14.

[00:22:52] >> And that's nice work. Couldn't miss that one after hitting such a good shot in there.

[00:22:58] >> Now back at 13, Langer for his birdie.

[00:23:02] >> Yeah. After that beautiful little wedge shot from 85 yards, just about 3 feet, 3 and a half feet. Tricky little putt though going towards that water. Got to be a little careful. His putts are usually straighter than you think they are, but it's got a little movement from right to left.

[00:23:31] >> Birdie for Langer.

[00:23:32] >> Textbook. Laid the ball up to a perfect number.

[00:23:37] >> Kenny Perry trying to bounce back at the par-3 4th after a bogey at the 3rd.

[00:23:42] >> Yeah, good shot in here to the 4th. This is nice par 3. Sitting this out to the right. This has to move right to left pretty good for Kenny. Oh yeah, that stroke looks really -- I see why he's happy with that putter, Man, that stroke looks good.

[00:24:08] >> Mario Tiziani for birdie at 17, 3-under. This is his eighth hole of round two.

[00:24:16] >> Yeah, really good shot in here and capped it off with that putt. So, he's made two twos this night.

[00:24:24] >> Steve Flesch, kind of a long birdie putt a 13 from what we've seen earlier. This is his fourth hole of round two.

[00:24:33] >> Oh yeah.

[00:24:33] >> And it falls right in, so Flesch birdie at the 11th, birdie at the 13th, and he now has the outright lead at 9-under here in round two, but a long way to go on this Friday. The sun is out. The weather is through. The first Major of the year for the PGA Tour of Champions here in Hoover, Alabama.

[00:24:59] >> Six different venues have hosted, but the Regions Tradition has found a home here in Hoover as Greystone Golf and Country Club steps in for the eighth straight year. Terrific crowds on hand, and they're really glad that the weather forecast is as promising as it is for the weekend. It was soggy earlier in the week. The opening rounds spilled into Friday before it was concluded. The forecast looks fantastic, and the scoring does as well. Eight players currently within three shots of the lead, shared by Steve Stricker and Ernie Els. They're in the final group of the day along with Steve Flesch. I'm John Swantek. It's great to have your company. Lanny Wadkins, World Golf Hall of Famer, is alongside. We'll hear from our encore skies, Phil Blackmar, and John Cook, who's with Steve Stricker's group. They've reached the 12th.

[00:25:53] >> Yes, they have. Strong golf hole right here. Back into the wind, turns gently from right to left, and the nasty back-right hole location.

[00:26:01] >> That is a tough hole location. It changes the whole perspective of this hole.

[00:26:10] >> Four miles away, still here--

[00:26:11] >> This is kind of a new driver for Stricker. He played a different model for a long time, the last few years, and that driver cracked on him when he played the Players Championship this year. So, he's put this in the bag. I don't think he turns it over as much as he did the other one.

[00:26:28] >> Yeah. He's kind of gone through, you know, different iron setup, and he got a new driver. But this one, it just roasted right down the middle.

[00:26:37] >> Yeah. He's got plenty of length with it. That's for sure. Nice tee shot there.

[00:26:44] >> Up ahead the third shot for Wi here. Phil?

[00:26:47] >> He's having to pitch the ball with a wedge to go over some sprinkler boxes. Green going away from him. Not a very easy pitch right here. Cutting it pretty good it looks like.

[00:26:55] >> Yes, he did. He spun it good enough to give himself a -- I think a share of the lead. Did he?

[00:27:04] >> Indeed, he does at 11-under, along with Stricker and Big Ernie.

[00:27:10] >> Ernie's setting up right, Cookie.

[00:27:12] >> Yeah. He set up right on the last hole as well and hit it right where he was set up. And this is also going a little right, should catch the fairway though.

[00:27:25] >> Ernie hits a big, long tee shot. Doesn't chase out as much as a lot of guys do.

[00:27:29] >> Up to 13 and just a short one here for Barron's birdie for a share of the lead. Nice pickup for Doug.

[00:27:42] >> It's amazing. Now, John Houston at 18. Hello. That'll get your round over with quickly. Johnny Ray with a 4 at the last, and he's in with a 70. Kenny Perry not playing a whole lot of competitive golf these days, just his second start this season. Kenny has kind of shifted into the role of primary caregiver for his wife, Sandy, who's been fighting Alzheimer's for a couple of years. Sandy's out here this week, in fact, with some friends of the family.

[00:28:19] >> Get your out to 15, and Barron looking to get it to 12-under.

[00:28:22] >> Oh, that's a good roll. Oh, Doug Barron in the fight, joins Ernie Els at the top.

[00:28:31] >> I've never made that shot.

[00:28:32] >> Just kind of quietly going along and about his business here today. Alabama native, Stewart Cink birdies the last. He's in at 8-under par.

[00:28:41] >> Well, he's staying in touch, you know, a really low round by Stewart tomorrow in front of the leaders. It could get their attention. Right, now Stricker for par at 16, Cookie.

[00:28:56] >> Yeah. You got to pay attention to this one. It's got a little bit of left to right in it.

[00:28:58] >> Yeah.

[00:29:01][ Applause and Cheering ]

[00:29:05] >> Only three players have captured more champions through a Majors than that man, Langer, Player, and Nicholas.

[00:29:16] >> Doug Barron to tie the lead.

[00:29:17] >> Yeah, the eagle putt ran about 3 and a half feet by but nice comebacker and a terrific round. The low one of the day, 66 for Barron. The coleader at 13-under.

[00:29:33] >> Kenny Perry had the layup. Here comes his third up ahead here.

[00:29:46] >> He needs to get down here just a little bit or spin it back. How about the spin on that?

[00:29:51] >> He really nipped that shot well.

[00:29:53] >> Back at 18, where the second shot of Charlie Wi earlier landed in the Styrofoam water cup one of the members of the gallery right of the green. Charlie took his drop, played his third from a tight lie, flipped it over the bunker, and now has a birdie ahead of him to close out the afternoon.

[00:30:13] >> Just because when he toured--

[00:30:13] >> It was a 24-ounce Styrofoam cup there of water that--

[00:30:16] >> Yeah, I was going to say--

[00:30:18] >> [Inaudible] from.

[00:30:18] >> Are you sure that -- it was clear when he pulled it out. Are you sure it was water?

[00:30:21] >> I asked. He said it was water. I think there was too much of it for it to have been vodka. He would have been saying, wait a minute. Anyway, he was -- the hard pin lie ahead was one where -- really dangerous to have gone at the hole and bring the water into play over the green. So, he played out a little right to this point. He's only got about 22, 24 feet for birdie now.

[00:30:56] >> Just bogeyed 17, and this to get it in the house at 11-under through 54.

[00:31:00] >> Good looking putt. Good looking putt. Oh yes.

[00:31:03] >> Oh, wow, what a finish.

[00:31:04] >> That is a great birdie for Charlie Wi. Probably where that ball was sitting, very unexpected, but that ended up being a great up and down. Good plan.

[00:31:15][ Cheering ]

[00:31:24] >> Yeah. It was a strange kind of round. It was one who he felt like he lets him get away, but he also didn't take advantage of some as well. This would be a great way for Kenny Perry to finish up his day here. It'd be a nice up and down for birdie on the last.

[00:31:36] >> Yeah. And he gets into 9 if he makes it, which is really in striking distance of the leaders.

[00:31:44] >> Particularly with his ability to make a lot of birdies.

[00:31:46] >> Yeah, if he gets it going he can make birdies by the boatload.

[00:31:56] >> Didn't get a lot of cooperation from that club today but a good stroke at the last. 4 for Kenny, matching the second round output.

[00:32:05] >> Big putt for Stricker right here. Number one, he needs something positive to happen, and number two, it gives him most just one shot off the lead going to tomorrow.

[00:32:17] >> Yeah, very doable because he's done nothing today.

[00:32:20] >> Nothing.

[00:32:20] >> Just absolutely blanked on the scorecard.

[00:32:24] >> Cookie, it almost thinks you -- it makes you think, well, he's sitting on 65 tomorrow is kind of what you -- that'd be my first thought, because this guy has played -- he's just birdie this course to death the last four years.

[00:32:37] >> He certainly has. I promise you, he's thinking about that. Get this one and forget about today, go shoot something in the low 60s tomorrow.

[00:32:47] >> And he'll be the group in front of the leaders either way, so that means they're going to have to watch him do that if he can go, you know, lay a number on tomorrow.

[00:32:56] >> Quick little putt, not much to it.

[00:33:11] >> Twenty-seven rounds in tournament history for Stricker has never shot and even par round or higher. And he's going to sign for 73 if he can handle what's left of that one.

[00:33:21] >> Yeah, a frustrating day there for Strike. You don't see him get blanked very often, and I think he's still got 64 five in him tomorrow.

[00:33:35] >> Yeah, sometimes you just have to put, you know, mind out -- I mean a round out of your memory banks and just, you know, say, hey, that was an aberration. That doesn't happen to me, and I'm going to go be myself tomorrow.

[00:33:47] >> I would think it's going to be a highly motivated Sunday for that man after a very lackluster Saturday.

[00:33:52] >> Yeah, I don't think any of us expected that today from Steve. We -- you know, he's kind of spoiled us around here with the way he's played.

[00:34:02] >> Yes. A big one for Ernie just to keep everything steady here and not cough one up at the last.

[00:34:15] >> Yeah. This one's a good 3 feet right here.

[00:34:17] >> Stay tied to the lead.

[00:34:26] >> Just the confidence of making this would be nice too.

[00:34:36][ Cheering ]

[00:34:37] >> Back in the final group on Sunday. 2-under par round of 70 and Ernie Els and Doug Barron are your coleaders through 54 holes. At the age of 54, still in pursuit of his first PGA Tour of Champions Major. That would have surprised a lot of people. We were saying that four years after Ernie Els joined the Champions Tour. But he'll play in the final group of the day along with Barron and Harrington tomorrow. Good looking leaderboard. Stricker looking for a bounce back. Charlie Wi chasing his first ever victory out here. First Major of the year for the PGA Tour of Champions, the Regions Tradition from Hoover, Alabama. Doug Barron and Ernie Els started this final round in a share of the lead at 13-under par after birdieing, the par-5 2nd. Doug Barron rolls in this birdie putt at the par-5 5th. This would get him to 15-under par.

[00:35:48] >> Kind of settling him down kind of quick, making those putts for birdie. And then Stewart Cink trying to get in this movie. Having a really nice run 9.

[00:35:56] >> Yeah, rolls that in to get to 13-under. Shot 31 on the front, Steve Stricker, who's won this event three of the last four years for birdie at the 8th.

[00:36:06] >> Just blanked yesterday, no birdies at all, but he makes this one here at 8 with [inaudible] back [inaudible] bogey at the 9th.

[00:36:14] >> Steven Alker, who leads in the Charles Schwab Cup standings, went out in 31, rolls in this birdie at the 11th, landing to get to 12-under.

[00:36:22] >> Yeah, he's trying to stay in touch. I think he can get a little hot run going with par 5s coming up. You never know. Watch out.

[00:36:29] >> After a poor tee shot at the 9th, Doug Barron had this lengthy fast putt for birdie. And Lanny, he's got the Midas touch today.

[00:36:36] >> Well, he really does. He's staring at three putt here and slam dunks that thing right in the hole. All of a sudden he walks off there with 3.

[00:36:47] >> That would get him to 16-under par. Ernie Els playing with Barron, trying to match him.

[00:36:54] >> Yeah, trying to stay in touch. Cannot afford to miss one at this point [inaudible]. He does, and Ernie just buries in.

[00:37:01] >> Els would go on to make a bogey at the par-3 10. So, Doug Barron has a three shot lead over Steven Alker. Ernie Els and Stewart Cink with Steve Stricker, four shots back. Now let's go over to the 11th. John Cook is with this last group, and Doug Barron, the few times he's had a little bit of trouble, John Cook, he's been able to wiggle out of the damage. At the 9th, he made that long putt for birdie and now has to try to save this par here at the 11th.

[00:37:26] >> Yeah, drove it barely in the primary cut of rough on the left-hand side. Had a horrible lie, left him 15 yards short of the green. He had a nice, nifty little pitch shot, about 3 feet. This does have a little movement though left to right.

[00:37:39] >> He's been holding out very well and continues to. That's solid. Good save.

[00:37:50] >> Big birdie pot here, Phil, for Stewart Cink at 13.

[00:37:53] >> Truly is not a lot in this putt. Just need to strike it solidly.

[00:37:56] >> And he did, and he's staying in touch at 14. He's right behind Barron. Ernie Els missed his spot with his second into 12, long birdie putt.

[00:38:10] >> Yeah. And it's a difficult one as well. He has a aim way out to the right, get it to the top of that hill, then down the backside of it. Pace wise, pretty good.

[00:38:22] >> Now, Harrington taking -- oh, that's just a magnificent little pitch for Padraig Harrington.

[00:38:29] >> Yeah, was not very good lie either, Lanny, but he took a big swing and flipped it right up in the air. Really well done.

[00:38:46] >> Barron for birdie at the 12th to widen his lead.

[00:38:49] >> And this is a good look here, guys. Not a whole lot of break, good at 15 feet. Might just fall to the left at the end but not much.

[00:39:00] >> That was a good looking stroke. Just maybe hit it through the brake. Stroke looks pretty relaxed, Cookie. You don't see any flinching going in. It looks nice. Looks like he's under control. Yeah.

[00:39:15] >> So far. We got a little ways to go but he's -- looks pretty much in control right now of his game.

[00:39:20] >> Well, and when you get down to it, that's all you can control is your own game.

[00:39:29] >> Stricker a little bit more for birdie than he would have thought.

[00:39:33] >> Was a very good effort though. Made a good run at it. Tough read here. We saw Charlie Wi's putt stay up on the right-hand side. This is similar line, not as long obviously. This has got to be in the hole. Cannot get outside the hole. Familiar sight, Steve Stricker going after one.

[00:40:05] >> Cookie, what does Doug Barron have left in for his third?

[00:40:08] >> [Inaudible] hit the full 50.

[00:40:10] >> He's got 123 yards.

[00:40:12] >> Flowing down--

[00:40:13] >> All the way back.

[00:40:15] >> Just a little left of the flag. It should feed a little left to right.

[00:40:19] >> I think I can go right at it from here.

[00:40:21] >> Yeah.

[00:40:23] >> Hold on, please. Stand. Thank you.

[00:40:26] >> What's [inaudible] doing?

[00:40:28] >> Waving his hand [inaudible].

[00:40:30] >> What do we got behind it?

[00:40:34] >> [Inaudible] five.

[00:40:35] >> I can only hit this 123 [inaudible]. Oh no, we got 123. I just hit 121.

[00:40:42] >> Yeah, 121.

[00:40:44][ Inaudible ]

[00:40:52] >> I mean, I hit it. Sorry, [inaudible].

[00:40:53] >> Oh, all right. I forgive you.

[00:40:54] >> I don't like the little wedge.

[00:40:57] >> I'm good with that.

[00:41:02] >> You got all the info.

[00:41:03] >> Yep. They don't--

[00:41:05] >> [Inaudible] 123.

[00:41:06] >> Yeah, they don't lack conversation.

[00:41:08] >> No, not with Doug. This is his 50-degree wedge. He wants to max it out. He wants to go right at it and he has done just that. How about it?

[00:41:18] >> [Inaudible] the flag stick. Beautiful shot. Actually, had a club that really fit the length, and he went ahead and was aggressive with it. That's a great shot.

[00:41:29] >> Stricker on the tee at 14.

[00:41:31] >> Tough shot for Stricker. Hole location back right, not something he likes to take on. He'll hit a draw on you in a heartbeat, and that's an excellent shot. Really good shot there by Steve Stricker, need one.

[00:41:48] >> Alker's second in the 16th, coming off a bogey at the par-5 15th.

[00:41:53] >> This hole location is right on the front of the green. It is really quick around this hole today. That needs to stay there. That can go back. Oh, it stayed, good. Steven Alker has this putt for birdie at 16.

[00:42:08] >> This is uphill, maybe just right edge or so. Got to be firm with this to hold the line. He was, very nice. It's not bad this week. He's rolled it pretty well. The stroke looks good. He's not getting a lot of -- oh, as Barron makes a wonderful birdie, 4 at 13 after a great third shot.

[00:42:44] >> Alker just off the front of the green for birdie at 17.

[00:42:48] >> Yeah, not what he was needing here. He needed something inside 15-20 feet. Takes a -- oh my goodness.

[00:42:56] >> Doug Barron, lengthy birdie putt at 14.

[00:42:59] >> Yeah, from running hole high, so that means this putt is fast and it's got a lot of left-to-right break. If this gets across the hole, it can wander by a good 4 or 5 feet. So, he's going to be careful.

[00:43:09] >> We've seen a lot of putts get by this hole quickly today from this angle. Looked like he hit that pretty hard.

[00:43:16] >> This is going to miss low.

[00:43:19] >> It didn't miss much low. It caught that hole to slow it down.

[00:43:22] >> Man, that ball was traveling.

[00:43:24] >> That may have been almost off the green had it missed the hole.

[00:43:27] >> Langer for birdie at 16, most wins and most Majors on the PGA Tour of Champions. And Langer rolls that in. He really is amazing. Had to play 36 holes last week in his first tournament back. Had a long day on Friday where he had to finish his first round. Now Doug Barron for par at 14.

[00:43:48] >> Yeah. No, this putt's got a little bit of movement from right to left. Once it starts breaking, it's got a little speed as well.

[00:43:57] >> Wow, beautiful. Beautiful.

[00:44:01] >> Come on, Doug.

[00:44:02] >> No problem whatsoever.

[00:44:05] >> Caught the edge of the hole to slow it down and then Barron turns it into par. His lead remains three. Doug Barron back on the tee.

[00:44:23] >> He's playing this at a three-shot hole, no doubt about it, and he's got driver out of it. Even with his best one, he wouldn't go at this green.

[00:44:30] >> No, I don't think there's--

[00:44:31] >> Not a chance.

[00:44:32] >> No, and I think -- I think even though he won't go at it, he still would like to put it up the left side. It's an easier play up the left side. He's way left in the rough, may kick out. Almost. Probably got to lay a little further back than he would have liked from there.

[00:44:52] >> Steven Alker playing his second into the par-5 18th.

[00:44:56] >> Well, he's 4 and -- 14-under. He probably needs an eagle here. Hole location back left, and what a great shot. He has a legitimate look at eagle right there.

[00:45:11] >> After a wonderful third shot in, K.J. Choi for birdie at 15. K.J. 14th in the Schwab Cup standings coming into this week. Has a tie for 4th and a tie for 5th and his 9 starts this year. It's only the 13th birdie at 15, and it goes to K.J. Choi. Doug Barron playing his third at the par-5 15th, got a three-shot lead.

[00:45:47] >> 85 yards, cannot miss it to the right here. He's going to be looking just a little bit left of this whole location. You said that's wedged down in though, Cookie, so not going to be surprised he takes dead aim here.

[00:46:03] >> He certainly has. Got a nice motion on those wedges. Drives it in there low. How about just take dead aim? Exactly.

[00:46:12] >> That was--

[00:46:12] >> The only reason it didn't stop closer to the hole is because it's on a downslope but a good shot.

[00:46:17] >> Everything on the line, you come up short? No speed issues, anything.

[00:46:24] >> So, birdie for Alker, so he is posted 15-under.

[00:46:29] >> Great round of golf, 63. That's by far the low round this week and great plan, but I don't think it's going to be enough the way Doug Barron's going.

[00:46:40] >> Charlie Wi for birdie. Wonderful shot in here, going to take advantage of that, and he does.

[00:46:47] >> Charlie back to 10-under, 1-over for the day. Now, Els for birdie.

[00:46:52][ Applause and Cheering ] So, Ernie is now even for the day. He made birdies at 8 and 9, thought maybe, just maybe, but then a bogey at the 10th and a bogey at 13 derailed any chances of winning his first Major since turning 50. Cookie, he's been very confident with these putts, Dough Barron has.

[00:47:17] >> That he has, and this one'll test you right here. It might not look like much, but it is definitely off the hole with a little bit of speed, but he made one just like this one back at the 14th, the par 3.

[00:47:29] >> It's important too, because the 17th has been the second hole on the golf course today.

[00:47:35] >> He's been holding out really, really well though. And continues.

[00:47:44] >> K.J. Choi trying to end his day and week with a birdie and at 18.

[00:47:51] >> 14 feet up the slope, pretty straight. Yes.

[00:47:59] >> K.J. finishes the day at 2-under par. Take you back out to 18 and defending champion Steve Stricker trying to end with birdie.

[00:48:09] >> I guess he spoiled us, Bob, the last few years. You just expected, you know, when he had those first two rounds, we'd see a couple more 66s and fives and sevens maybe on the weekend and -- but he is human, I guess.

[00:48:29] >> Another Hall of Famer, Ernie Els will play his third. Ernie birdied the 2nd, bogeyed 3 and 4, then birdied 8 and 9 and was right back in the mix, only two off the lead, but the bogey at 10 sort of derailed his chances.

[00:48:46] >> Yeah, the bogey, I think the ones at 2 and 3 and 4 were really big for Ernie. I mean, you get off to a good start. You've got the lead right there, and then you bogey two holes that aren't -- they're good holes, but they're not that difficult, ones he should have handled and he didn't See a little pitch and run for Ernie right here, trying to force it back to the hole. Pretty well done, a little strong.

[00:49:08] >> Pretty well done. That was kind of a tight little lie, not easy to get good contact. If he makes that, he'll share 3rd place with Stewart Cink and Steve Stricker.

[00:49:19] >> Yeah. I go back to -- the reason I go back to 3 and 4 is he's got to get the positive start he wanted, and then just like a kick in the mouth and all of a sudden, you're set backwards and he's 1-over for the day after four holes. And he's got to find his way back into it again, so he never got out front and stayed there. Barron did. He -- played together, he birdied two and then kept going forward.

[00:49:48] >> He's very confident with his putts.

[00:49:52] >> Yeah. This is as good as I've ever seen Doug Barron putt consistently. I mean, particularly -- I mean, Cookie, he has not even threatened to miss a short or makable putt.

[00:50:02] >> No. Every one of those posts has gone straight in the middle of the hole, so like you said, just very, very confident.

[00:50:08] >> And with a two-shot lead, he has three putts to win, but you know he wants to finish bogey free for the day.

[00:50:17] >> Oh, 100%, you always want to finish like a champion. Last thing you want to do is stagger to the finish.

[00:50:23] >> This should move a little bit back to his left and watch out.

[00:50:32] >> There you go.

[00:50:33] >> Again, going against some of these Hall of Famers and guys who have one big time throughout the course of their careers, Doug Barron has stood right in the fire, hasn't blinked, and has been in total control here today. And he'll let Harrington and Els finish and then will tap in for a bogey-free final round, 68. It was 68, but if--

[00:51:08] >> [Inaudible] but Harrington finally makes a birdie, 2-under par, 74.

[00:51:14][ Applause ] Now, Doug Barron with the sweetest tap in of his life. Doug Barron has won the Regions Tradition and the first Major of his PGA Tour of Champions career.

[00:51:31][ Applause ] Final leaderboard, Doug Barron, bogey free 68, beat Steven Alker by two, three-time champion Steve Stricker by three, along with Ernie Els. Stewart Cink with a good final round. Alker matches the tournament low, since it moved here to Grey Hawk with that 63 today. Bernard Langer, well, what can you say? Winds up finishing in the top 10 at 10-under par.