Production Transcript for REWIND\_24JDC\_THOMPSON.mp3

[00:00:28] >> The PGA Tour is proud to bring you the season-long race for the FedExCup. Now, coverage of the 2024 John Deere Classic.

[00:00:40] >> As we are celebrating Independence Day here at TPC Deer Run, and we're expecting a record setting week, you see the fans on hand with the red, white, and blue celebrating our nation's independence back on July 4, 1776, the 248th birthday here in America. And we've had some soft conditions. The weather right now, high 70s, wind, not much, 7 to 10 miles an hour. There was rain earlier in the area on Tuesday, more than an inch, so the guys had been able to take it deep.

[00:01:18] >> We saw historic round for PGA Tour rookie Hayden Springer to open up the John Deere Classic after eagling two from off the green at three. Somehow escapes with an unlikely birdie. He went out at 8-under 27. Springer, though, 9-under through 16. This is third to the par-5 17th. More short game magic for eagle. Now, the 59 watches on. He's 11-under through 17 on this par 71 layout. Needs to birdie the last for a 59. And he did that in a big way. From 12 feet, Springer, the 14th sub-60 round in PGA Tour history, second one in the span of 12 days as Springer is atop the board Round 1 of the John Deere classic.

[00:02:12] >> Sami Valimaki for the second in Mexico. This to get the 6-under to par 5, 10th hole. Not much in this one.

[00:02:19] >> Yeah. Has it on the proper level there, Jim.

[00:02:21] >> Yeah.

[00:02:21] >> And takes advantage of it.

[00:02:23] >> Absolutely.

[00:02:24] >> And we're going to jump up to the 12th, Alejandro Tosti on the front of the screen, 1-under on his day.

[00:02:33] >> Good par 3 here, 203 yards today, whole location, that right corner.

[00:02:39] >> Tosti from downtown.

[00:02:42][ Applause ]

[00:02:51] >> Chandler Phillips off to a fast start so far today, 5-under. This on an aggressive line to the par 3.

[00:03:00] >> Right at it.

[00:03:01][ Applause ]

[00:03:07] >> Jason Day playing his third at 10. He would make birdie.

[00:03:23][ Applause ]

[00:03:28] >> To 9.

[00:03:32] >> Dunlap for birdie in the 9th.

[00:03:33] >> Yeah, this has got a substantial amount of break to the right. Coming across the green and just buries it.

[00:03:44] >> Tosti at the par-3 16th.

[00:04:02] >> He would make that for birdie.

[00:04:08] >> Back to 14.

[00:04:11] >> Cole's birdie putt from the fringe once again.

[00:04:14] >> Had it right on the front of the green. Aggressive tee shot.

[00:04:18] >> Can he make the comebacker? All is well that ends well.

[00:04:22] >> Didn't hit the green. It's a zero putt birdie.

[00:04:32] >> First time we're taking a look at this tee shot. Par-3 16th, 166 yards. And by the way, it's the second toughest hole on the golf course today.

[00:04:41] >> Oh, Valimaki throws a dirt in there.

[00:04:44] >> He moves to 8-under.

[00:04:46] >> To 17, Svensson. Now, 5-under par and round balls a little above his feet. Looks like a hybrid. Might have turned in a little much. All right, not much. Got a good slope there. There you go. Yeah, it's getting better and better.

[00:05:08] >> And better and better.

[00:05:09] >> And continue to get better.

[00:05:12] >> Here we go. A little big quiet. Just it takes turn.

[00:05:15] >> Just take a little right hand take.

[00:05:17] >> Beautiful.

[00:05:18] >> All right. Denny McCarthy's third shot. Going to use that slope over to his left. Maybe a little bump shot here. There's the bump. There's the slope. There's the result. Is that any good?

[00:05:35] >> Oh, get out of here. This is so fun to watch.

[00:05:40][ Applause ]

[00:05:46] >> Svensson now for eagle at that beautiful shot in here.

[00:05:50] >> I got to get this outside that right.

[00:05:53] >> Center cut.

[00:05:54] >> Never going to miss.

[00:05:56] >> Seven-under. Never. Finished 18th, best finish here, fourth start here. So good start here. Tied for sixth tight now at 7-under.

[00:06:10] >> Same side. Spin it back to the 14th. Big tee shot from the am Luke Clanton, just short of the par 4.

[00:06:17] >> Yeah, beautiful little pitch up that slope, down the backside. And great control there for the young amateur.

[00:06:26] >> Up to the green.

[00:06:28] >> Clanton to get to 6-under on the day.

[00:06:33] >> Beautiful little pitch from just shore of the green. Pressed it up there off the tee. Pays off.

[00:06:39] >> The 14th sub-60 round in PGA Tour history belongs to Hayden Springer. He holds a two shot lead over Finland, Sami Valimaki. Round 2 is next.

[00:07:01] >> Since 2000, TPC Deere Run has been the host site for this event. This sprawling property was originally an Arabian horse farm, with the land donated from the farm that was owned by Patricia "Tish" Hewitt, who is the great-great-granddaughter of John Deere. For the past 25 years, John Deere has had their name attached to this event. Yesterday, we had a record setting opening round as the field took it deep on Thursday. Scoring average just a tick over 68. That's the lowest we've ever seen on this D.A. Weibring design. It was the lowest scoring average in any day, Period.

[00:07:40] >> Florida State stud Luke Clanton coming off a Top 10 last week in Detroit. Twenty-year-old amateur is 12-under at the halfway mark. He's going to be a big factor into the weekend here. Currently tied top of the leaderboard, C.T. Pan, who struggled coming in, just making two of his last six cuts, but he's gone 65, 63 to race out to 14-under par. And right next to C.T. Pan, Aaron Rai, once again playing great. Runner up at the Rocket Mortgage Classic last week. A 63 this morning, tied the low round of the morning wave. He's 14-under as well. Jordan Spieth starting the day well back. But Friday, historically, has been his day at the John Deere Classic and off to a fast start. That was his approach at the first of birdie out of the gates. We'll see what he can do Round number 2. And how good a story is 48-year-old Zach Johnson? Grew up just an 1.5 drive away in Cedar Rapids. That was on the 6th. The Ryder Cup captain a year ago, Johnson with birdies on 6, 7, and 8. Here's the leaderboard right now.

[00:08:51] >> Spieth at the 9th.

[00:08:52] >> Just trying to figure out this wind, though, John. It's kind of moving all over the place.

[00:08:58] >> Tee shot, 343 for Spieth.

[00:09:00] >> Yeah. It should come out pretty low off that little downhill line. It's a nice play there for Jordan. Give him a nice look for birdie there at the 9th.

[00:09:14] >> Now, up to the green.

[00:09:16] >> Colt, what do you make of Jordan's season so far?

[00:09:22] >> I know it's been very frustrating for him. Just the iron game hasn't been what he's used to. John mentioned he's been driving the ball great, longer than he ever has.

[00:09:36] >> Yeah, it's just every once in a while, you get the flinch. And, you know, he talked about that turf interaction. And, yeah, that'll get him going.

[00:09:47] >> As they make their way to the tee up on the green, Sungjae Im.

[00:09:51] >> Really nice look here for Sungjae. Should move slightly to his right.

[00:10:03] >> Center cut, fourth birdie on the day.

[00:10:06][ Applause ]

[00:10:12] >> Hayden Springer, the overnight lead. And to start the day as a chaser, this to regain a share of the lead for birdie.

[00:10:20] >> Nice shot in there underneath the hole. And just last roll. He's starting to heat up a little bit.

[00:10:29] >> Starting to find it. Two birdies his last three holes. We got three tied at the top.

[00:10:34] >> Jake Knapp now. He's currently at 4-under. He needs at least one more, 96 yards.

[00:10:40] >> Took a pretty big divot on that one. Well, it worked.

[00:10:46] >> Knapp would make birdie.

[00:10:50] >> Birdie putt here at 13.

[00:10:51] >> Yeah, for his 11th of the week.

[00:10:52] >> Got to keep the pace up right here. And he does.

[00:10:57] >> And he does.

[00:10:59][ Applause ]

[00:11:06] >> Seventy-five players currently at 5-under or better. Spieth would certainly like to make it 76.

[00:11:17] >> John, how much fun are Friday afternoons grinding out a cut?

[00:11:21] >> You can find out a lot about yourself, no doubt about it, the good, bad, and the ugly. Never pack it in. A lot of times, you know, those are kind of little stepping stones. What do I do to make the cut? You know, it's kind of the same thing you do to try to win a golf tournament. Right down the stretch.

[00:11:39] >> There we go.

[00:11:40] >> Nice up and down.

[00:11:42][ Applause ]

[00:11:50] >> Im for birdie at 16. He bounces back from the bogey.

[00:12:02][ Applause ]

[00:12:07] >> All right. Hubbard now here at 17. This for eagle. He's at 3-unde4, cut lines at five. He needs it.

[00:12:14] >> Must make.

[00:12:15] >> Got it.

[00:12:17] >> Needs to make par 18 now.

[00:12:19] >> Yeah, he does.

[00:12:19] >> Playing for the weekend.

[00:12:20] >> Absolutely.

[00:12:21] >> And he hasn't missed a cut this season.

[00:12:23] >> That's correct.

[00:12:23] >> That's a streak dating back to last year. So very important.

[00:12:29] >> Young now for birdie.

[00:12:31] >> Here at 13. This to get the minus-11.

[00:12:36] >> Should break right.

[00:12:37] >> And it does. Right in the middle. Nicely done. Look at that front nine, 30. And then bogey -- birdies 10 and 13. So off to a good start.

[00:12:48] >> All right, four shot, Hayden Springer.

[00:12:51] >> This is where to could get away from him right here. Made a couple mistakes, coming back up the slope.

[00:12:58] >> Or save it.

[00:12:59] >> Or hole it.

[00:13:00] >> Are you kidding me, guys?

[00:13:00] >> Are you kidding?

[00:13:01][ Applause ]

[00:13:11] >> We're out at 15 now.

[00:13:12] >> Yeah. Harry Hall, 155 yards, currently 11-under. Needs to spin it towards the goal. And he does just that.

[00:13:19] >> Hall would make birdie from there.

[00:13:20] >> All right. Sungjae Im now trying to make the birdie out of the bunker.

[00:13:24] >> Just to get to 12-under. It'll be just three back. Got a great view here.

[00:13:28] >> Yeah. A little right to lefter.

[00:13:33] >> No issues. Drove it in the fairway, hit the bunker there. Look at that. Five birdies on the last six hole. He's been on a roll since 12. Spieth is next.

[00:13:42] >> The last time he hit this club, it didn't go so well.

[00:13:44] >> No.

[00:13:46] >> Two hundred and thirty-two yards left. Got to be looking out towards the left side of the green here.

[00:13:55] >> Got it lined up on that left side.

[00:14:00] >> This one up the left wind. Trying to move it to the right.

[00:14:04][ Applause ]

[00:14:10] >> Back a couple to 16, Harry Hall.

[00:14:14] >> See if he could snag a share of fourth.

[00:14:17] >> Nice tee shot in here. Didn't capitalize on a good approach on 15, but he does at 16.

[00:14:29] >> Yeah, this would make the 18th a little less stressful. Right around 4, 4.5 feet up the hill. Got to give it some speed or it'll move to his right.

[00:15:11] >> All right, nice save there. Made bogeys at 11 and 12. He did birdie 14 and birdied 17. That gets him to minus-6.

[00:15:24] >> Spieth would make the cut on the number, while C.T. Pan and Aaron Rai to the top with a pair of 63s. The third round is next.

[00:15:41] >> Fourth of July weekend, and we have spectacular weather in the Quad Cities. We're in Silvis, Illinois, right near the border with Iowa, about 2.5 hours west of Chicago. And earlier this week, PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan called this event the "Soul of the PGA Tour". It's the third round of the John Deere Classic. And Jordan Spieth going out early this morning. Beautiful tee shot here at the 12th. Spieth with a 63 today. He's currently just three shots back. Andrew Novak, his third at the par-5 10th. Beautiful shot. And Novak is only two off the lead. C.T. Pan held a share of the overnight lead for birdie at the sixth hole. And Aaron Rai, also in the overnight lead, came so close a week ago in Detroit at the Rocket Mortgage Classic. Wonderful shot here at the par-5 2nd. He would miss the eagle putt, but make birdie. And right now, everyone is chasing this man, Davis Thompson, out of the bunker at five and aiming for birdie. Thompson just made a par at the challenging ninth hole, and he leads by one over Pan and Rai. It's the third round of the John Deere Classic.

[00:17:13] >> Yeah. Further up. Last year's rookie the year, Eric Cole, his third.

[00:17:18] >> And Frank, I would call this the real strength of his arsenal.

[00:17:24] >> Well, if it spins.

[00:17:25] >> Oh, man. Wonderful control of trajectory and spin there.

[00:17:32] >> Now at 15, J.J. Spaun has a chance for a seventh birdie of the day. This looks good. He's got it.

[00:17:42][ Applause ] Back to 10.

[00:17:50] >> And now, Eric Cole comfortably taps that one in. And we'll go back to 10. More important things happening over here. C.T. Pan.

[00:18:03] >> Just a sand wedge from 102. Driving in really low. This looks good. Oh, how about it, Frank?

[00:18:14] >> Oh, had some zip on it.

[00:18:17][ Applause ]

[00:18:23] >> Clanton for birdie at 11. The amateur moves to 14-under.

[00:18:32][ Applause ]

[00:18:43] >> Back to 10.

[00:18:48] >> C.T. Pan, he makes his four as well. Now, we have two tied at the top.

[00:19:04] >> And here's Davis Thompson, our co-leader, at the par-3 12th.

[00:19:07] >> That is 7-iron painting the flagstick.

[00:19:12] >> He does a lot of that, Mark.

[00:19:15] >> What a shot, man.

[00:19:17] >> Oh, man.

[00:19:19] >> Thompson moves to 18-under.

[00:19:24] >> And to 13.

[00:19:27] >> Well, this would have been OK on Thursday, lift clean in place.

[00:19:31] >> Correct.

[00:19:31] >> But not today.

[00:19:32] >> It's in the front side of the divot, which will help. He has driven that in there really low, Frank.

[00:19:41] >> Oh, that's superb from there. None better.

[00:19:45] >> Just shows no emotion. He got to that ball in the divot, did not even blink an eye.

[00:19:50] >> And Ian, he just went straight at this.

[00:19:59] >> Now, we move up to the green.

[00:20:08] >> Oh, what a three, especially after being in the divot hole.

[00:20:13] >> What divot hole, Frank? This guy's a machine.

[00:20:15] >> Yup. Three times a runner up in just his two years of being a professional.

[00:20:23] >> Back to the 14th tee. And Laura Baugh, her son, Eric Cole.

[00:20:29] >> Swings as gracefully as her as well.

[00:20:32] >> He absolutely does.

[00:20:34] >> He loves that draw. That better get to turning.

[00:20:37] >> He's going to say hello to the gallery. Yup, there it is. Got a decent bounce. But that mark from riding around this morning, that'll be a challenge. Hole high, just sort of hole high to the right. There is not much margin from over there.

[00:20:59] >> Back to 13.

[00:21:01] >> One of the three found the fairway, right.

[00:21:04] >> Ball above his feet will help him draw it to this left hole location. Needs a ground hook.

[00:21:11] >> That's popular side. Got a little bit of hook to it, that putt.

[00:21:21] >> Dottie, as Colt pointed out, the lie is perfect, but the ball will be slightly below his feet. And that's 6 foot 4, and he's a tall man, so he's going to have to get down to get to this one. A lot of green with which to work.

[00:21:33] >> Maintain the knee flex. Must accelerate.

[00:21:39] >> And the spine angle. Just like that.

[00:21:44] >> Just like that.

[00:21:48] >> That's another birdie for Thompson.

[00:21:54] >> Let's take a second look at the downswing. Kind of drags that handle. Left hand hangs on, face open through impact. Didn't release it too hard.

[00:22:07] >> Excellent bunker players, all them, no matter what the age. Now, Rai, downhill.

[00:22:12] >> Not much movement in these greens, Frank. You can make a lot of putts.

[00:22:16] >> Oh, yeah, they are. They're good speed.

[00:22:26] >> From the short side, Eric Cole.

[00:22:28] >> Ball way back in his stance. Slamming into the hill. Oh, Dottie, watch this.

[00:22:33] >> That is such an old school way to play it, and so good.

[00:22:37] >> Cole would knock that in, and he's to 17-under.

[00:22:42] >> Up to 15.

[00:22:44] >> And the third for Luke Clanton, after a 345-yard drive.

[00:22:49] >> Just a little aggressive with the second. And, oh, it goes in.

[00:22:54] >> A little aggressive with the third. Amateur hour.

[00:22:57] >> Go back to 15.

[00:23:03] >> And Aaron Rai in the fairway, getting set for his second.

[00:23:07] >> Not a breath of wind at the moment. Going with 7-iron from 188. Sticks that finish every time, Ian.

[00:23:20] >> He sure does. Little shot at the top. Controls the club face on the way through.

[00:23:30] >> Going with one more club than Davis Thompson. This is 9-iron. This should be ample club for him.

[00:23:47] >> Currently, the best is just over 2 feet.

[00:23:49] >> There you go.

[00:23:52] >> Unlucky with the bounce. Otherwise, that would have been the closest. Still a superb shot. Fifteen.

[00:24:03] >> And Aaron Rai is eyeing up a birdie chance.

[00:24:06] >> He has looked at it from every angle. Finally settling in here.

[00:24:13] >> Probably putting better than anyone else in the tournament so far. Numbers are perfect.

[00:24:20] >> Like Ian Baker-Finch back in his prime. Yeah, in the old days. Come on in.

[00:24:25] >> What a call.

[00:24:26] >> Bottom of the cup for Rai, and within two of Thompson. Sixteen.

[00:24:38] >> Uphill putt for Cole.

[00:24:40] >> It is going to drip to his right-hand side. This is all about the start line, something he does really well with the low hands.

[00:24:50] >> Yeah, it's good. Could afford to hit that in the slower putts you'll get around here.

[00:25:08] >> Does he have a pretty stock shot?

[00:25:11] >> Yeah, it's a pretty stock shot, Dottie. I do expect, though, from this lie, you're going to see something beyond the hole. The last mistake you want to make is tweak one left or leave one short.

[00:25:22] >> Yeah. There's a pretty good mound that protects the flagstick from this location.

[00:25:27] >> And bear in mind, from his angle, Dottie, only about 10, maybe 15 paces to the right of the hole, there's that huge fall off to the right-hand side on the green.

[00:25:45] >> First time we've seen him, maybe a little bit unsettled, Mark.

[00:25:50] >> A little antsy. He was kind of antsy back on 16 green. He was marching around the edge of the green, kind of prowling, you know, like the tiger in the cage. Ordinarily quite decisive, but they're just trying to figure out the wind from this angle.

[00:26:06] >> Yeah, you can accept a five here, you just don't want to bring six into the equation. You know, 15 feet long and right and, you know, give yourself a putt for birdie.

[00:26:15] >> Terrific point. Well, it's got his attention.

[00:26:25] >> It's aggressive.

[00:26:27] >> It's spectacular.

[00:26:29] >> Oh, my goodness.

[00:26:32] >> Copy that one.

[00:26:33] >> Yeah, beautiful.

[00:26:39] >> Cole for eagle at 17.

[00:26:51][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:26:55] >> And that was an eagle three for Eric Cole, followed up the two with a three and is now, at the moment, just one shot back. Let's take a look from an angle toward the back of the green. Uphill, held the finish. Pick it out of the hole. That reaction.

[00:27:18][ Applause ] Well, can this be just an all-world four?

[00:27:32] >> Well, it's been an odyssey thus far. Circuitous, I'd call it. In the trees, down the left, over the trees. Only issues with this, Dottie, is in the shadows of these hardwoods, really tough to pick the line. It is downhill and fast.

[00:27:52] >> He's been putting well all day.

[00:27:55] >> For A two shot lead. Absolutely. What a four.

[00:28:00] >> look like Four All day long.

[00:28:02] >> All day long. Never shot the short grass, not once.

[00:28:09] >> Meanwhile, up ahead at the green, Luke Clanton hit a 319-yard drive and then stuck his approach to 4 feet. So Clanton has a chance to finish with birdie and get to 16-under.

[00:28:23] >> Really hasn't putted as well as we would have expected today. That's kind of held him back a little bit, actually. He missed four putts inside 10 feet. So let's hope he can finish knocking this one in with good, confident finish. There you go. Little fist pump as well. He was pumped up for that. Needed that exciting finish. He's right there.

[00:28:53] >> Sixty-seven, and he's got a chance tomorrow, Ian.

[00:28:56] >> Yeah, he's right there. Sorry.

[00:28:59] >> Back to 17.

[00:29:01] >> C.T. Pan with his third.

[00:29:04] >> Caught a great break, ran through the bunker, now driving it in really low. And that is fancy.

[00:29:08] >> There'll be no break left in that putt.

[00:29:10] >> How good was that shot?

[00:29:13] >> Pan jumps to 18-under. And now, we move to Cole at 18.

[00:29:19] >> Long birdie putt.

[00:29:36] >> No hesitation when he arrived here. Just went straight to the putter and spent a lot of time reading the final 5 feet of this putt. It's uphill initially, then turns downhill. All about speed.

[00:29:55] >> Has he got the speed?

[00:29:59] >> He'll take it.

[00:30:01] >> Fantastic. Very smart play. The great putter, Ben Crenshaw, said to me, I used to talk to him about putting a lot, and he said he'd go and he'd figure out the last 4 feet and figure that out. He'd spend more time on that and then figure out how to get it to that position. And that's a 62 there. Ties his low round as a professional on the PGA Tour.

[00:30:25] >> Rai's second into 18.

[00:30:40] >> Approach for Rai is well done at 18.

[00:30:43] >> Fantastic shot. Loves that shape.

[00:30:50] >> Now, up to the green.

[00:31:07] >> How pure is that roll?

[00:31:08] >> Wow. So for the second straight week, Aaron Rai will be in the final grouping on Sunday.

[00:31:18] >> Davis Thompson, Eric Cole, and Aaron Rai are all looking for their first victory on the PGA Tour. Can Thompson hold on, or will a chaser prevail? The final round is next.

[00:31:39] >> Time ticks by. In this game of ebbs and flows, it remains resolute, with no regard for failure and success. Pressure melts. Momentum swings. And opportunities are running out. The time to earn a spot to finish this race is now.

[00:32:01] >> Next on the team, please welcome --

[00:32:04][ Applause ]

[00:32:12] >> Since 2000, TPC Deere Run has played host to each and every edition of the John Deere Classic, with the lead standing at 21-under. That was through 54 holes. We were thinking, could the tournament scoring record of 27-under set by Michael Kim back in 2018 be in jeopardy today?

[00:32:31] >> Twenty-five-year-old Georgia product, Davis Thompson, handled the nerves of his first outright 54-hole lead on the PGA Tour at the 1st. The answer from 44 feet out for birdie, Thompson, now 22-under, leading by three. Going to be a fun one for the final round of the John Deere Classic.

[00:32:51] >> Carson Young, just off the green.

[00:32:53] >> Hundred ninety-seven yards a day up the hill. Cannot see the green from the tee. And a nice little pitch in for Carson.

[00:33:04] >> We go to the second hole with Thompson playing his third shot.

[00:33:09] >> Gets up, that could be really good.

[00:33:10] >> Yeah, it starts to go down right here. That is fantastic.

[00:33:14] >> Absolutely. Remember, the last five winners here buried 1 and 2, so.

[00:33:21] >> This is a tricky one. Uphill to start, and then starts to move away from him the last 4 or 5 feet. And it should move pretty good to his right, Jim.

[00:33:32] >> Yeah, he's normally a pretty good putter. This season is down from last year, but it's starting to turn in the right direction. It needs to turn as well.

[00:33:44] >> Making that long putt at the first and then hitting such a great chip. Shows where your nerves are. He's got his hands under control.

[00:33:54] >> No problem there. His hands are definitely controlled. He's in control. He now has a four shot lead as they'll head up to number 3. All right, C.T. Pan to pay off this birdie.

[00:34:13] >> Beautiful approach in here and takes advantage of it.

[00:34:15] >> That gets him within four shots. That gets him to 19-under. Birdie at 2 and 4, likes the even holes. Davis Thompson, kind of an average lie, Colt.

[00:34:27] >> No, it's a really good lie. The problem is it's just way above his feet. So he's choking down to the steel. I think he's trying to land something just over that front edge. He has gap wedge from 123, 104 front edge.

[00:34:48] >> You're right about choking down to the steel.

[00:34:56] >> That's just so well judged in that lie.

[00:34:59] >> Yeah, excellent play. Absolutely. About 20 feet for birdie now.

[00:35:04] >> All right, Spieth for birdie.

[00:35:09] >> Yeah, putting back up the hill. Hole's position in that back portion, just a little crown.

[00:35:19] >> This one was kind of strange because it has the fall line going right, but there's also one kind of just to his left. I think the influence more is to go to the right. He's got it lined out about two balls out.

[00:35:30] >> What time did you get out here this morning?

[00:35:32] >> 9:30.

[00:35:35] >> Oh, how about this start?

[00:35:36] >> How about it?

[00:35:37] >> Absolute dream start there for Davis. Talked about patience and discipline. That's all it's going to take right now for Davis.

[00:35:49] >> Carson Young to get up to 19-under. This up on the fifth green. Strong start by Carson Young. C.T. Pan up ahead of the green. First chaser to get to 20-under par after he rolls it in for birdie.

[00:36:14] >> That's not a quality lie.

[00:36:16] >> Doesn't look like it, Colt.

[00:36:18] >> I tell you what, I think it's actually a good break. He's at the back half of an old divot, which will allow him to get cleaner contact on the ball. Not as much grass between the ball and face.

[00:36:27] >> If anything, you want this a little bit long. You don't want in those front bunkers.

[00:36:33] >> Yeah, smart play.

[00:36:34] >> Something right there.

[00:36:36][ Applause ]

[00:36:43] >> Pop up to the 6, this par putt for Clanton. Clanton keeps it at 17-under. He'd love a second straight Top 10 finish. Thompson for birdie.

[00:37:08] >> A little careful with the speed on this, but boy, does this look good.

[00:37:11] >> Another one.

[00:37:15] >> Hot plate.

[00:37:18] >> Thompson in the zone.

[00:37:21] >> Just tapping those in like they're 2 footers.

[00:37:25] >> For Aaron Rai and Eric Cole now, it's just a matter of, you know, just chip away at par, get under par, try to get it 20 or so. Like the lead is pretty much out of hand for them.

[00:37:44] >> Rai, birdie number 1 on the day.

[00:37:47][ Applause ]

[00:37:56] >> Luke Clanton on the box.

[00:37:58] >> Two twenty-nine today. If you go right at it, 218 clears that bunker. But you can use a little bit of a slope out to the right. But he's pretty aggressive line and right at it. Sungjae Im, this for birdie at 11. This ticket to minus-18. He got off to a hot start early.

[00:38:20] >> Pretty good breaker from right to left. Got it in that left side. Nice putt.

[00:38:33] >> Back to 7.

[00:38:34] >> How about this group? Got the young guys. Carson Young is the old Wiley veteran in his second year of the PGA Tour with Michael Thorbjornsen.

[00:38:44] >> I think they call him mister, don't they?

[00:38:46] >> Luke Clanton. Young birdie putt. Bottoms it out. Two on the card at the 7th.

[00:38:56] >> Gets him to 20-under.

[00:39:01] >> They're obviously planning for some wind.

[00:39:06] >> Yeah, I really hope they're not playing for 145-yard shot. No. I was, yeah, thinking the same.

[00:39:16] >> Oh, boy, this has got plenty on it.

[00:39:17] >> Yeah, it does. It should spin. Just stuck right there.

[00:39:23] >> Up one to the 7th. Luke Clanton's only birdie on the front side was a two on the par-3 3rd.

[00:39:30] >> Beautiful tee shot there for Luke.

[00:39:33] >> Clanton goes two, two on the two par 3s. He's 18-under.

[00:39:36] >> All right. Davis Thompson trying to add to that lead.

[00:39:41] >> I mean, why not? He hasn't really missed today.

[00:39:48] >> Ninety-two feet of putt to that. Let's just --

[00:39:55] >> This is a clinic.

[00:39:58] >> Yes, it is. Flawless. Right over to 10. Denny McCarthy, his third shot. Really thought he'd have a big week this week. He's having a decent week, but everybody else is going so low. He's due to win his first event. It's going to happen.

[00:40:14] >> Pin on that right side. Dangerously close to that.

[00:40:17] >> Oh, dangerously to go in.

[00:40:18] >> How about that?

[00:40:20][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:40:29] >> At the challenging par-4 9th hole. What a show he is putting on.

[00:40:39] >> It is an absolute stripe show here for Davis Thompson.

[00:40:46] >> Up to the green.

[00:40:49] >> To 27-under. What an opening nine for Davis Thompson. A 29 for Thompson as he is search of his first career PGA Tour win.

[00:41:09] >> Now, also at the par 5 by the green, another chance for birdie for Thorbjornsen.

[00:41:16] >> Spinning wedge to here. This one down the hill, sweeping.

[00:41:19] >> Birdie. Got his first paycheck the other day, Travelers, $85,000.

[00:41:25] >> He's got some game, Frank.

[00:41:28] >> We stay at the 10th.

[00:41:31] >> Just a little bit of hook here. Whether you put it on the edge or just outside. Well done, too.

[00:41:46][ Applause ] To 11.

[00:41:53] >> Michael Thorbjornsen making his third start on the PGA Tour.

[00:42:00] >> That is pitching wedge and he is flag hunting.

[00:42:05] >> Promise you that hole location is not that easy.

[00:42:12] >> Take you right back out to the 10th.

[00:42:15] >> And the third shot for our leader.

[00:42:17] >> Just a perfect angle. Has a slope long and left he can use to bring it back. But he's taking it right at it.

[00:42:26] >> Well, a little bit of spin. It is such a good shot, isn't it?

[00:42:30][ Applause ]

[00:42:36] >> Luke Clanton for birdie at 11.

[00:42:39] >> Gap wedge to here. This one will be sneaky fast.

[00:42:44] >> Struggled with that length putt mid-round yesterday, but so much better today.

[00:42:53] >> Back to 10 with Thompson's birdie try.

[00:43:03] >> Sit it up in the middle of the putter, hit it out of the middle. Chances are it's going to go in. Twenty-eight-under.

[00:43:12] >> Now at 12.

[00:43:16] >> Let's see if Thorbjornsen can make a birdie.

[00:43:20] >> It's a pretty simple read.

[00:43:21] >> Yeah, and it's pretty simple stroke. Beautifully done. Another young player, left hand low.

[00:43:27] >> On the 12th green, C.T. Pan for birdie. Yes to 22-under.

[00:43:34] >> Hardest hole on the course today, 220 yard, par 3.

[00:43:42] >> Thirteen.

[00:43:43] >> Birdie putt for Michael. Knocks it in. Place with a 10-finger grip. Go back to 1996, Ed Fiori won this event, nicknamed Gripper. He had the 10-finger grip.

[00:43:57] >> A little bit of an awkward lie. He's got to put it way back in his stance, but that's not bad for this shot. Got a lot of green to work with. Boy, that came out really high.

[00:44:09] >> First blemish we've seen.

[00:44:11] >> He would make bogey. And the lead shrinks to three shots.

[00:44:17] >> Fourteenth, the 2017 Furman Invitational champion.

[00:44:23] >> You're familiar with those putts.

[00:44:25] >> Indeed. Now, Thorbjornsen for par.

[00:44:35] >> Basically straight up the hill.

[00:44:38] >> What a camera angle.

[00:44:44] >> At 16.

[00:44:46] >> Big putt now for Ben Griffin. We'll run it out. One more roll.

[00:44:55] >> Yes.

[00:44:57] >> Ten-under for the round. So he has to be thinking 59 now. His lowest ever on the PGA Tour last year. RSM Classic shot 61.

[00:45:06] >> Real still and real quiet, folks. Thank you.

[00:45:10] >> Davis Thompson ready with his second.

[00:45:12] >> I think a good tip for the people at home, when you got a downhill lie like this, set your shoulders to match that angle. Swing with the slope.

[00:45:22] >> Yeah, shoulders and even hips, too. Is that any good?

[00:45:28] >> Fantastic.

[00:45:30] >> Exclamation point.

[00:45:32] >> Yeah, tournament winning shot right there. Stayed left shoulder low, hit through it nicely.

[00:45:38] >> See that trim exit.

[00:45:43] >> Sixteen.

[00:45:45] >> Just the fourth greenside bunker Thorbjornsen has been in this week.

[00:45:48] >> That's pretty crafty landing on the downslope there, Frank.

[00:45:53] >> He would save par.

[00:45:58] >> Go to 14.

[00:46:00] >> Now, as Ian said, this could be a tournament winner to get to 28. Got it. Big birdie for Davis Thompson. And we're going to go up high to take a look at the shot that set it all up. Got relief from the cart path. Catches with the bottom, executed left, and beautiful position. Paid it off.

[00:46:32] >> C.T. Pan for birdie to get to 23-under.

[00:46:40] >> And here is Griffin for a 61.

[00:46:49] >> Oh, he'll be disappointed with the finish. A six at 17 and the par here, but still a great round of golf.

[00:46:59] >> Spieth playing his second from the trees on 18. He would make birdie and finish his return to Silvis tied 26.

[00:47:18] >> Clanton for birdie at 17. To 23-under.

[00:47:31] >> To 18.

[00:47:35] >> And a big putt for Carson Young.

[00:47:41] >> Wonderful effort too. A lot of extra pressure there.

[00:47:49] >> And Luke Clanton trying to finish with a birdie. How about this? How about it? What a breath of fresh air this young man has been the last couple of weeks. How about that? He could be that second player that gets to the Open Championship. Top 2 that aren't already exempt, play at Royal Troon in two weeks' time. What a special performance. Two Top 10s in a row.

[00:48:18] >> But this could be a second place. Amazing. These kids are unbelievable. Yeah, why not? OK. Thorbjornsen, 22 years old, Luke Clanton, 20 years old, and they're in a tie for second. All right. So C.T. Pan, not into the Open Championship, but if he makes par here, he will be.

[00:49:05] >> Loves to hit that big high fade. He can just set it up at that left fairway bunker and let it move.

[00:49:12] >> Four stroke lead.

[00:49:16] >> This one up the very right side. Could be close.

[00:49:19] >> Oh, what about a bounce.

[00:49:22] >> Long and perfect for Davis Thompson. Couldn't have driven it any better.

[00:49:36] >> And this will be just his second top ten of the season. Davis Thompson making the enjoyable walk up 18.

[00:49:51] >> And what a beautiful walk this must be for Davis Thompson, that first victory on the PGA Tour. I'm sure he'll crack a big smile of relief when it finally happens. There it is. That's all you're going to get from him.

[00:50:05][ Applause ]

[00:50:11] >> I said it at the start of the show, I've been watching this young man, his second year out here.

[00:50:17] >> We watched Scottie Scheffler for a couple of years before he won, 2021, had some good finishes. And we're now watching Davis Thompson. I think he's got the same pedigree, same style of play, same style of man. Big body, big, strong engine. And I think he can be a Scottie Scheffler. He's got that ability.

[00:50:50] >> Davis, a two-time All American at Georgia. His dad was a two time captain, Todd, now the tournament director of the RSM Classic.

[00:51:08] >> Looking good. Really good lag effort. He can mark that with confidence. Let the other guys putt out, and then enjoy the moment.

[00:51:17] >> And we told this story back on 15, but that rental house is coming through again. Three straight years that a rental property in the area that a group of golfers have shared here in the Quad Cities is going to produce the champion of this event. And now, the stage is set for this man. With his wife watching. Davis Thompson, remember the name, his first career PGA Tour win.

[00:52:03][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:52:10] >> Big hug there from Joe Etter. And here comes his wife for that congratulatory kiss and hug. Emotional moment.

[00:52:21] >> I'm so proud of you

[00:52:26][ Cheering and Applause ] You're so good.

[00:52:35] >> This concludes the PGA Tour's coverage of the John Deere Classic from TPC Deere Run in Silvis, Illinois.

[00:52:42][ Applause ]