Production Transcript for 23INTCUTCH - BOEING CLASSIC.mp3

[00:00:38] >> PGA TOUR Champions flying to the Pacific Northwest on the 18th of 28 events of the PGA TOUR Champions schedule, the Boeing Classic, in Snoqualmie, Washington, 30 miles east of Downtown Seattle.

[00:00:54] >> Taking a look at the leaderboard here in round one, 4-under leads the way. Austin, Green, Hensby, Triplett, Allen, and Scott McCarron, all at 4-under par with Steven Alker leading that group just a shot back.

[00:01:13] >> It just passed hole high, right there on that front part of the green, so a great look here for Steven after three nice par saves at nine, ten, and 11. Like to get this one. And par-3 13 is a tough hole, so like to get to that 4-under spot right now. Not much to this.

[00:01:36] >> This is one of the strengths of his game. This midrange putting stroke is just like that.

[00:01:53] >> Let's go over to 7, Woody Austin started his day on the 10th, and this is his second at the 7th.

[00:02:02] >> What a shot. We saw Woody yesterday afternoon playing Sahalee Golf Club nearby.

[00:02:16] >> A man after his birdie, so really nice birdie there.

[00:02:21] >> It's his fifth birdie, wow.

[00:02:24] >> Over at 7 this is the third for Boo Weekley. This is his 16th hole, and ooh pours that in. So Boo Weekley gets to 4-under, a shot off the lead of Woody Austin, who he's playing with, and Michael Allen. Ninth hole of the day for Tim O'Neal, the 18th playing a second at the par-5.

[00:02:57] >> Talk about some speeding in golf swing, Tim O'Neal has a beautiful action -- ooh, how about this? Whoa. Ooh. That looked very easy.

[00:03:11] >> Woody Austin for birdie at the 7th.

[00:03:24] >> All right, Woody.

[00:03:28] >> Now Els third at 15.

[00:03:30] >> Yes, from 79 yards. Gets him 67 to the front, really all he needs. Okay lie; it should run out.

[00:03:38] >> Yes, that's a good shot.

[00:03:39] >> That's really good. Well judged.

[00:03:46] >> That's not good.

[00:03:49] >> Yes.

[00:03:49] >> Which male?

[00:03:50] >> I think that --

[00:03:52] >> Double birdie last year.

[00:03:59] >> Woody Austin's third; ran out to here. This for birdie and to get the outright lead, Woody Austin, who has had the 18 hole lead or co-lead here at the Boeing Classic, in two of the last three years, 2021, '23, and 2024. KJ Choi for his birdie.

[00:04:26] >> Yes, nice opportunity here from behind the hole; doesn't do a whole lot. See that big swale in the middle of the green that. Will have to contend with that the next couple days, I'm sure, depending on that left-hand side. Got to be careful of speed here a little bit. And there he sneaks it in.

[00:04:43] >> Here he has one back after that 3-putt at 14.

[00:04:46] >> Yes, I think this is probably the easiest hole location on this green, John. I know we go back left it gets really tough. Yes, the 4-par 5s out here, John, are all reachable and gettable.

[00:05:08] >> Yes, you really -- that's a great point, you've got to get the 5s, just maintain the 3s, because it's a great set of par-3s out here. So got to play these par-5s under par. Ah, that's a nice birdie there for Ernie; back to back.

[00:05:25] >> Drove the 14th, and the birdie at 15, so Ernie now at 2-under and four off the lead of Woody Austin. Let's go over to 15. This is the third for Stephen Ames.

[00:05:41] >> Now, this has got some speed coming down the hill. Well done. Again, he just -- he's so efficient with his game; just doesn't make any mistakes.

[00:05:51] >> Let's go over to 18. Richard Green's third shot at the par-5.

[00:05:58] >> Wow.

[00:05:59] >> How beautiful is that.

[00:06:00] >> Go in. What a shot. He carried that an inch over the rough as --

[00:06:06] >> Stephen Ames for his birdie to get to 2-under. Now Richard Green for his birdie at 18. Four-under 68. The man is fourth. Well, as we saw when he won his first major, since turning 50 at the Kaulig Companies Championship, which is the senior players at Firestone, where Ernie put on a show from the bunkers and always one of the best bunker players in the game. And John, for Ernie this is pretty simple, isn't it?

[00:06:52] >> Yes, pretty standard I would think, Bob. And you're exactly right, he's always been -- you know, for -- has -- powerful and as great a ball striker as he is, very underrated short game. And this part of the game right here has just been stellar throughout his hall of fame career now. It's just, you know, long, probably 30 yards. Will be touching on a downslope; has to guard against going long. You don't want it long here.

[00:07:17] >> See how deep that bunker is, too.

[00:07:20] >> Trying to run up that slope, and as we suspected.

[00:07:26] >> Boy, he has been good with his short game today, hasn't he?

[00:07:32] >> So Steven Alker, whose bogey 3 on his round today, will have this putt for eagle, and to match Woody Austin in the clubhouse at 6-under.

[00:07:43] >> This is very makeable from about 12 feet.

[00:07:47] >> John, this is Alker's fourth appearance here at the Boeing Classic. He's never finished outside of the top seven. He's got a tie for third of fifth, and a time for seventh. So he likes this place as well.

[00:08:02] >> Yes, he's got great memories here, great vibe. And he can absolutely see this one going in.

[00:08:15] >> Alker with eagle at 18. And finishes at 6-under, bogey-free matching. Woody Austin in the clubhouse with the lead.

[00:08:29] >> Ernie missed the makeable one at 16, and now has this here at 18 to post to 3-under par 69.

[00:08:37] >> Yes, this from three feet. Not much to this, maybe just left of center.

[00:08:48] >> The only man on the PGA TOUR Champions this year to win three times, Ernie Els in position, heading to the weekend with a 3-under par 69 today, leaving him three off the lead of that man, Steven Alker and Woody Austin. Take a look at the leaderboard, Steven Alker bogey 366, eagled 18 to match Woody Austin's 6-under par 66. Robert Karlsson, Gene Sauers still on the golf course at 5-under. Kirk Triplett with that great up and down at the 9th. He shoots a 5-under 67. Michael Allen, Tom Pernice, they're at 4-under with just two holes to play. So the scoring good. Hometown hero, Fred Couples with 2-under par 70, his first competitive round since the Masters. A lot of players in red figures. PGA TOUR Champions 30 miles east of Seattle for the Boeing Classic, Stephen Ames the defending champion. It's Saturday and moving day. Who's ready to make that big move on this Saturday? Stephen Ames, the defending champ who shot 63 in the final round last year, rolls in this putt for birdie at 17, and this would get Ames to 7-under; 6-under on his round. He did one back at the par-5 18th, put right in the mix. Robert Karlsson, he's trying to make a charge. Hasn't won on the PGA TOUR Champions. Dialed in with iron shot, Peter Jacobsen at the 10th.

[00:10:18] >> Yes, he's really not played well here in the past. This is his fourth appearance, so this is quite a change of fortune here at the TPC for Karlsson.

[00:10:29] >> Robert Karlsson would roll this putt in for birdie at the 10th. And this would get him the 9-under par and give him the outright lead. Robert Karlsson the only player in the field this week that is bogey 3; 3-under on his round and a two-shot lead over Charlie Wi. Defending champ Stephen Ames in the clubhouse at 6-under par.

[00:10:52] >> And he's been impressive so far today, three birdies, no bogeys. He's driving it. All the fairways they're having it very long. And this one right here only 111 yards. Straight down it went, so anything in there about 105 should get back to this hole location. There's really nothing guarding it from Robert going right at it. It's on a nice line. Pretty well controlled. Easy. And there's a little raise to the left of that, but that's all right, good shot.

[00:11:30] >> Charlie just has three top tens this year, a pair of tied for 10ths, and a tie for 6th at the Regions Tradition, his best finish, second, in 2023 where he lost the playoffs to Mark Hensby at the Invited Celebrity. He was the fifth alternate that week, and got into a playoff and nearly won. Right in the mix here this --

[00:12:00] >> Former Cal mayor. He was the first team all American back at Cal Berkeley. Just a heck of a college player. Wow, just --

[00:12:24] >> Just kind of release.

[00:12:25] >> One of the few that will bounce up.

[00:12:40] >> So now Karlsson will have this putt for birdie to become to first player so far this week to get to double digits under par; this to get to 10-under.

[00:12:50] >> And like you said, Peter, I think that Robert is tired of finishing second and having chances on Sunday, and not capitalizing. He's won a lot of golf tournaments in Europe. Been on two Ryder Cup teams, so he knows how to win, he just has not gotten himself to the finish line. And around the same line as what Woody Austin just putted from.

[00:13:11] >> Karlsson's been on Ryder Cup teams, won the order of merit on the DP World Tour. So he's a very accomplished player. Pours it in at 12. Karlsson gets to 10-under, 4-under on his round today. He remains bogey-free for the week, and has opened up the lead of a couple of shots over Charlie Wi. Heck of a birdie. Three in a row for Charlie. And he's at 10-under. Now Karlsson for birdie at 13.

[00:13:56] >> Kind of amazed that that ball flew right to hole high and stayed right there. That ball was way up in the air. And we know how he can spin it, so big advantage on par-3 13th. This goes up the hill, he doesn't have to worry about speed at all. If he gets it out on the right, it should work its way back, but not much to this.

[00:14:15] >> Well, he's leading the field with this club so far this week. That's what happens, when you make a lot of putts you jump to the lead. And there's another one. Kind of walked it in.

[00:14:30] >> Robert Karlsson has birdied three of his last four. He's at 11-under, and the lead is now two.

[00:14:48] >> Stankowski one over today, his birdie putt at 17. Will it turn left?

[00:14:52] >> Left.

[00:14:53] >> Yes.

[00:14:58] >> But I have to say, look at that setup from a design standpoint; is that not a beautiful green setting in the backdrop with the beautiful trees? There are so many spectacular views here on the golf course.

[00:15:19] >> What's Alker have here, John?

[00:15:20] >> Hundred and six yards. So he's going to have to control spin and, you know, Steven likes to take a little more club -- or less club and hit it hard. So he always has to control spin, so he's got to watch it here. They didn't spin it too much. He went at that nice. Going a little left. It's going to be little deep. Should spin back a little bit.

[00:15:44] >> Yes. Great shot. Yes, pretty well controlled. That -- we've seen him rip those things back in kind of uncontrollable spin, so that was a nice kind of controlled little wedge shot.

[00:15:57] >> Let's go over to 18. Charlie Wi has a putt for eagle, and a share of the lead.

[00:16:09] >> Three eagles already today here at 18. Playing this, the second easiest hole in the golf course; no surprise the first hole. Another reachable par-5 he's playing as easiest. This might move.

[00:16:37] >> Just want to report, Ernie Els did make that par putt at 17 to stay at 5-under.

[00:16:44] >> This is actually -- I think it's pretty straight up the hill. It could turn slightly to the left; yes like that.

[00:16:53] >> Oh.

[00:16:53] >> Wow, what a great putt.

[00:16:57] >> If that had fallen it would have been a 61 -- Or a 60, even 62. That Charlie Wi shoots --

[00:17:11] >> I'm going to have fall off.

[00:17:14] >> Charlie Wi for the birdie there shoots a 64.

[00:17:28] >> Woody Austin so good at pitching the ball playing his third.

[00:17:32] >> Yes, just wants to dump it on the green and let it run out; has a chance.

[00:17:35] >> Ooh.

[00:17:35] >> Oh, boy. I'd say so.

[00:17:38] >> Good call there.

[00:17:40] >> That's going to improve his mood greatly.

[00:17:42] >> Thank you for that.

[00:17:44] >> I always see him just off the green. Woody and Jimenez are guys that pitch the ball constantly. A lot of guys will take the putter out and use the putter. They always defer to the wedge and pitching it.

[00:18:00] >> Same thing, Robert Karlsson says --

[00:18:02] >> Back to back, huh?

[00:18:04] >> Anything you can do, Woody, I can do better.

[00:18:06] >> I was going to say, that wasn't that great a lie. He didn't have a whole lot of room to work with.

[00:18:10] >> How good was that, three in a row.

[00:18:12] >> That came out -- like it just dropped on the green and had nothing to it. It was a beautiful shot.

[00:18:16] >> He is fired up; three in a row.

[00:18:25] >> And now Alker the start of the day in his share of the lead. He's the only one that hit the green in regulation. Will he walk out of there with a birdie?

[00:18:36] >> And this is pressure right here. Third player to putt for birdie in -- after the first two of made birdie. Not much too, this might be just on that left edge. And can I stay in touch with Robert now? Yes, okay, good group.

[00:19:01] >> Just a long par-3, John. All players make three, love that.

[00:19:12] >> Paul Stankowski at 18 for eagle. Paul even on his round today. It's not going as much to the right as he wants. But a no-stretch birdie for Paul to shoot a 1-under par 71 today.

[00:19:32] >> Scores are bunching up. There are 40 players under par. And Karlsson has opened up a little bit of a lead. But still coming tomorrow a lot of guys in contention because you can go low.

[00:19:48] >> Woody Austin playing his third at 16.

[00:19:53] >> Always on the upslope so doable. And that was nicely done.

[00:20:02] >> These views for the Cascade Mountains.

[00:20:05] >> You see the width of this green here at 16, it's not that deep but it is so wide left to right that they can really tuck the flags if they want to. And this one here, like I said, is generally the Sunday pin that I'll be curious to see where it goes tomorrow.

[00:20:23] >> It will go front right tomorrow if they've used this pin already. So Robert now just has to breathe on this one. It doesn't have a whole lot of break. Might try to fall to the right just slightly. It looked like he thought he made that, John, and next thing you know he's holding up --

[00:20:53] >> Yes, he looked at it a long time, didn't he?

[00:20:55] >> He did.

[00:20:57] >> Steven Alker playing his second here at the par-5 17th.

[00:21:01] >> Yes; he must have missed hit that tee shot because he is well short of the green. Pretty standard pitch shot, though, just get it on the green and let it roll out. And well done.

[00:21:08] >> Yes.

[00:21:17] >> John, it sounded like that 6-iron that Steven hit was a bit of a miss; almost on the toe. Because I don't normally see him hit high draws.

[00:21:25] >> Yes, you know, no doubt about it. And I think it might have been high on the face and like you said, maybe out on the toe. And you know, you try to hit it so high sometimes you get that ball teed up. And that's something you don't practice on the practice tee is a teed-up iron shot. You don't practice that very often.

[00:21:49] >> Gene Sauers for birdie at 18.

[00:22:05] >> Now, Woody Austin for eagle here at 18. If this goes in, he'll shoot an even par 72. Somehow a couple times today up and at them quickly.

[00:22:42] >> And you think about Woody Austin has had the lead or co-lead here at the Boeing Classic now in three of the last four years after the opening round, and -- but sometimes you want it too much.

[00:22:58] >> Yes, I think the one thing we all know of Woody is you said it all day, he can drive his ball, he can hit his irons, but I think he puts so much pressure on himself with the putter that it's -- it almost becomes difficult. He's a good chipper, great competitor.

[00:23:25] >> Four-time winner on the PGA TOUR Champions. Two-putt birdie for Woody, so he shoots a 1-over par 73 today. Charlie Wi highlighted by an eagle at the 8th. His lone bogey came at the 11th. He shoots 64. That's the round of the day. Kirk Triplett at 2-under 70. Ernie Els never really got it going, back to back 3-under par 69. Stephen Ames, the defending champ, 5-under on his round today. He's a 6-under par. Tough day for Woody Austin. How about David Bransdon, the PGA TOUR Champions rookie on that first page of the leaderboard? Ricardo Gonzalez finished with a flourish. Bernhard Langer, past champion here, and coming back from that Achilles surgery at 3-under par 69 today. Angel Cabrera had it going early, made a double at 14, winds up shooting 3-under par 69 today. Mario Tiziani at 3-under par 69. Rod Pampling, who won here in 2021, shoots a 5-under 67. Update for Michael Allen, started today with eight straight pars, finished with a 3-over par 75.

[00:24:48] >> To see the scoring has been good all week; big bunch at 2- and 1-under par.

[00:24:56] >> Miguel Angel Jimenez, whose last win came here in 2022, in red figures after 2-under par 70 today. Doug Barron finished off 3-under par 69. But everybody's going to be chasing Robert Karlsson. Championship Sunday here in Seattle. Temperatures a bit cooler, wind up a little bit in the 19th playing of the Boeing Classic. Robert Karlsson in search of his first win on the PGA TOUR Champions, started the day at 13-under par. Ernie Els started seven back, but he rolls this putt in for birdie at the 7th. And Ernie ready to make a charge. He birdied his first three holes, two bogeys, then bounced back with that birdie at the 7th. And this just a moment ago at the par-4 11th, Els rolls this in for birdie to get to 10-under par. Els the leader in the Schwab Cup standings. A three-time winner this year, now in a share of the lead with Charlie Wi at 10-under par. Steven Alker is two shots back. Robert Karlsson no birdies on his scorecard today. He had gone 36 holes without a bogey. He made five on his opening 9 today.

[00:26:17] >> This is the defending champ Stephen Ames playing his 2nd at the 12th. Stephen shot 63 in the final round last year to win by 7 in capturing the Boeing Classic. And that should catch the slope and be really good for Stephen Ames.

[00:26:33] >> This might go in. This might go in. And it does not.

[00:26:39] >> Oh. How did that not go in?

[00:26:42] >> Hometown favorite Fred Couples on the tee at 17. Fred not able to get really anything going here. There's been a lot of birdies, but a lot of corresponding bogeys.

[00:26:54] >> He's had a good week. He's been having a great time here back in his hometown. Ooh, watch this. Could it be an ace?

[00:27:01][ Cheering and applause ]

[00:27:10] >> Well, now Steven Alker here at the 12th playing his third. Steven is just a shot off the lead, if Ernie doesn't make his long putt for par.

[00:27:21] >> How about it?

[00:27:24] >> Boom, he lands it in for birdie, with speed. That was moving. And Steven Alker gets to 9-under. And again, if Els does not make his lengthy par putt here at 12th, Alker is going to be in a share of the lead.

[00:27:46] >> Saw the tee shot -- at 17. And in fact balls in the birdie to get to 4-under.

[00:27:55] >> Group hug. Thought they were going for --

[00:27:57] >> Ken Duke.

[00:28:05] >> Ernie's made three bogeys today, along with six birdies. He's 3-under. Started today seven back, now he's in a share of the lead with Wi and Alker.

[00:28:26] >> This looks good. And he had it,; I think. Yes, I'd say so.

[00:28:36] >> Kurt Triplett, an eight-time winner on the PGA TOUR Champions, his last win PURE Insurance in 2019 at Pebble. He's won three times at Pebble Beach since turning 50; a three-time winner on the PGA TOUR as well.

[00:28:51] >> Hundred and 47 yards. Gives him 141. Clears on that left-hand side. Can go a little right. Use some slope, that should get down the left side of that slope or hangs up, but it has to be a tough 2-putt.

[00:29:03] >> And oh it's going to catch it. Yes, here it goes.

[00:29:07] >> Yes, that should be good then.

[00:29:08] >> Stephen Ames nearly made it on a similar line. It stopped just a rotation short.

[00:29:14][ Applause and cheering ] Let's take you out to the 13th, defending champ Stephen Ames just a shot off the lead, his second at the par-3.

[00:29:28] >> It's a good leave. Short of this hole is just fine pitching up the hill.

[00:29:37] >> This is Ernie Els trying to bounce back after the bogey at the last, and this for the outright lead to get to 10-under. Pours it in. So Ernie birdies 11, bogeys 12, birdies 13. And he has a one-shot lead here in the final round of the Boeing Classic. Now Karlsson ready to go.

[00:30:05] >> Robert now from 125 yards. Gives him 119 on a direct line. And he could also use that little bit of a slope. There's a big leaderboard right here, so these guys have to know what's going on. So it's game on from right here. Eliminate what just went on on the first, you know, two and a half hours. Let's get to the house as efficiently as possible.

[00:30:32] >> Little out to the right. Hard bounce, checks up. Nice shot.

[00:30:48] >> Kirk Triplett at 12 for his birdie. So Kirk Triplett bounces back. Stephen Ames taking dead aim, John.

[00:31:01] >> No doubt about it. Back by hole location, great angle, 120 yards, and this is on a nice line.

[00:31:09] >> Yes, nice bounce.

[00:31:11][ Applause ]

[00:31:18] >> Take a look at Robert Karlsson's tee shot here at 13, TrackMan Technology sponsored by ServiceNow. Had a great chance to get off the snide at the last birdie.

[00:31:37] >> Wow. Wow, great shot.

[00:31:39] >> And another good look for birdie here at 13. Again, he's only two off the lead, despite the fact that he's 5-over today.

[00:31:55] >> This is a great look; doesn't have to worry about speed, slightly down to like Peter mentioned, but not runaway speed. Tendency for this one is to maybe over-read it for going from right to left. I don't think it does a whole lot; maybe right of center, lit it dribble, maybe catch one of those edges.

[00:32:12] >> Well, this is where Ames caught fire last year, on this back nine to win by seven.

[00:32:40] >> Boom. Defending champ who's into his share of second at 9-under.

[00:32:45] >> Here he comes. Bernhard Langer, a two-time champion of the Boeing Classic, part of his 46th wins in the PGA TOUR Champions, making that incredible comeback from Achilles surgery, back on February the 2nd, rolls that in, and Minor now at 4-under par. Now Stephen Ames for birdie.

[00:33:13] >> Yes, Stephen putting from the right side of the hole. Telling me his ball is going to swinging a little bit from right to left and going downhill towards that left corner of the green. He's got to be a little careful, maybe send this up, reach its apex, and then just fall to the left.

[00:33:35] >> Wow, it's a good-looking putt.

[00:33:39] >> Only two good putts from Ernie and Steven that didn't go in.

[00:33:41] >> That's interesting with Stephen Ames, always had the talent, won four times in the PGA TOUR, won the players, got his first win out here at the Mitsubishi Election Classic in 2017, had some opportunities to win others but couldn't finish, always seemed the putter would betray him or an error in swing. He won at the Principal Charity Classic. But then starting last year in 2023, he's won six times, and now he's one of those guys when you have like an Els and an Alker and other top players, there's no back down in Ames. You would put your money on him as much as you would put on a hall-of-famer with the way his game has come around here in this last year and a half. Robert Karlsson missed a good look at birdie and now finally makes his first birdie of the day. That comes at the 13th. Alker from 104.

[00:34:58] >> There you go. At just wedges for these players here at 16 you would expect to see some short putts.

[00:35:07] >> Ninety-six yards for the defending champ, Stephen Ames.

[00:35:13] >> Bet you this one is really close. We've seen such an improvement in Ames' short game from a hundred yards and in. And he could be deadly.

[00:35:23] >> And an improvement in his putting as well. That's the third of Langer was with 18 --

[00:35:48] >> Go in.

[00:35:49] >> For the hall-of-famer.

[00:36:01] >> Birdie.

[00:36:01] >> Yes. He's going to turn 67 at the end of the month; 46 wins in the PGA TOUR Champions, Achilles surgery on February the 2nd, to come back and play and have some really good results. And he holds out for eagle at 18 and the week for the two-time Boeing Classic champion.

[00:36:25] >> You know, all three of these players have top-level caddies, Billy Carlucci on the bag of Stephen Ames, and with Mayo on the bag of Ernie Els. Now Ames for share of the lead.

[00:36:38] >> Yes, just like the Steven Alker this would be his stray with a miss on that left edge, so he's got to keep speed up right on that right edge.

[00:36:59] >> The defending champ matches Ernie Els at 10-under par with two holes to play. Ames and Els head to 17th, 10-under. Alker is shot back.

[00:37:18] >> Back at the Boeing Classic, Stephen Ames for birdie.

[00:37:22] >> Gets slightly down the hill, doesn't break a whole lot left to right but should move a little that direction.

[00:37:28] >> No good.

[00:37:39] >> So Ames stays at 10-under. Charlie Wi for his birdie; 5-over today.

[00:37:51] >> There you go, Charlie.

[00:38:01] >> Robert Karlsson on the tee here at 17.

[00:38:04] >> Yes, a situation where if Robert can make birdie here, an eagle at 18; how about a one? Excellent shot; got a nice bounce off the fringe.

[00:38:22] >> Big putt here for Charlie Wi at 17. This would get him to 8-under.

[00:38:28] >> There you go.

[00:38:43] >> Karlsson to keep any hope alive has to make this here at 17. And he does. So he's at 9-under.

[00:38:53] >> Once it gets up there, it's fairly flat. So Ames for eagle and the outright lead.

[00:39:12] >> Hmm, it's kind of struggling up that hill and needs to go a little bit. It ran out pretty good, but bring your coin, not good yet.

[00:39:21][ Applause ]

[00:39:26] >> So Ames will have that for birdie. Alker and Els have putts for birdie. Had that gone in, Karlsson would have had to hold his second shot at the par-5 18th.

[00:40:04] >> Did he get it? We'll have to look back at that short missed birdie at 17. So Els in at 10-under; 4-under par 68. Now, Alker for his birdie to match Els at 10-under.

[00:40:39] >> Yes, and he knows that Stephen Ames is not in yet. That's a tricky little left to right or so. You've got to stay in the ballgame here. You've got to keep your focus. You can't play anybody else's game, you've got to play your own.

[00:41:04] >> Alker pours it in, so he joins Els in the clubhouse at 10-under. But now all they could do is watch as Stephen Ames has a putt for birdie to post 11-under. Alker with a bogey free 4-under par 68. Now, the defending champ. John, what about this putt here for Ames?

[00:41:27] >> Yes, I think he's going to keep it inside the left, but it does have a little bit of movement to it.

[00:41:55] >> Stephen Ames with a birdie at 18. And the defending champ who started the day seven behind Robert Karlsson, shoots 67. And he's posted 11-under par. Now, Robert Karlsson, in the final group, must make eagle to force a playoff, but Ames inching closer, the back-to-back wins here at the Boeing Classic. Robert Karlsson's tee shot at 18.

[00:42:28] >> You know, he's got the length to carry the bunkers easily, get it up the hill far enough to where he can hit an iron. Yes, good drive.

[00:42:43] >> Robert Karlsson started the day at 13-under par, led Charlie Wi by two, Triplett by four, Alker, Ames, and Els by seven. Stephen Ames in at 11-under. Karlsson needs an eagle to force a playoff. Back at the Boeing Classic, Robert Karlsson needs eagle here at 18 to match Ames who's in at 11-under, his second at the par-5.

[00:43:11] >> Slipped. Well, he's still got a chance. You saw Langer hole it from the bunker on that left side for eagle.

[00:43:28] >> Karlsson started the day with a two-shot lead in bogey three, four, five, six, and eight, to shoot 41 on the front, made a birdie at 13, bogey to par-5 15, birdie to par-3 17, and must make that putt to force a playoff.

[00:43:54] >> Got to say, Bob, this is one of the most beautiful golf courses I've ever seen, the vistas and the views. I wonder what Steven's doing. He's on Facetime with somebody.

[00:44:07] >> Might be his wife Kelly, because I haven't seen her around this week.

[00:44:12] >> You know, Kelly's here. I saw her.

[00:44:13] >> Yes, she's here.

[00:44:14] >> I'm sorry.

[00:44:15] >> I know, everybody --

[00:44:17] >> I think the transformation of Stephen Ames is quite a story.

[00:44:22] >> Yes, it really is; because again, there were so many opportunities for more wins and something always went wrong on this putt here, and Aaron's shot didn't finish tournaments off. Had a chance to go win in Morocco, quite quickly wound up winning that year.

[00:44:41] >> He has to make a 40 -- he has to make a 50-putter to catch me.

[00:44:46] >> That was my job.

[00:44:47] >> But what's interesting is Steven now wins from the lead, and he wins coming from behind, too. So he's turning into the complete competitor that we know him to be.

[00:44:59] >> Eight-time winner on the PGA TOUR Champions, Kirk Triplett is 3rd into 18. Nicely judged there. He'll have that for birdie.

[00:45:15] >> That's probably Wi getting really a card pass.

[00:45:22] >> You got to take complete relief.

[00:45:25] >> Kevin Johnson rules official.

[00:45:28] >> Kevin used to play out on the PGA TOUR out -- and out here on the PGA TOUR Champions. He's played quite a few rounds with Kevin.

[00:45:39] >> Charlie Wi started this day at 11-under par and is just two shots behind Robert Karlsson. But we got off to a bad start, bogeyed two of the first four, bounced back with a birdie at 5. It got him to 10-under, and he had the lead at that point. But then a bogey at 11, and a double at 12, and then a bogey at 14 ruined any chances. Good birdie 15 and 17. And again, 43rd in the Charles Schwab Cup standings coming into this week, so he can get up and down here for birdie. Adds a few more dollars to that season-long total.

[00:46:25] >> Yes; this is a do or die shot. He's got to hit it straight up in the air. There's going to be no spin coming out of this rough; straight up, hopefully straight down quickly.

[00:46:40] >> Ooh.

[00:46:40] >> Actually not bad; keep it on the putting surface.

[00:46:54] >> All eyes are focused right now on Robert Karlsson here on the order of merit DP World Tour, Ryder Cupper. Illustrious career on the DP World Tour. Still looking for that first win on the PGA TOUR Champions. Started with a seven shot lead over Stephen Ames, now must make eagle here at 18 to force a playoff. His last win 13 years, 8 months, and 14 days ago, the 2010 DP World Tour Championship. He beat Ian Poulter in a playoff. Rory Mcllroy finished fifth in that field.

[00:47:36] >> And he's been close. Out here he's finished second five times. And we actually thought this was going to be the one. This was going to be the break for a win for Robert, but just got off to such a poor start, made five bogeys on the front to have 41.

[00:47:54] >> And kind of thought with Ames, Alker and Els seven back that if he could shoot 1-under, it would be good enough to win; but 41 going out derailed his chances. But he has this putt for eagle to force a playoff.

[00:48:19] >> Surprised he's going with the flagstick in?

[00:48:23] >> I am, because I would imagine that he's going to have -- he's going to make sure he gets it there. And count me as one of those players that think it's a detriment to leave the flag in, because we see chips hit the flag and cause it to miss. But we'll see.

[00:48:47] >> It's going to stay out to the left.

[00:48:48] >> Good effort.

[00:48:50] >> So with that, Stephen Ames has won again, his third win of the year and the first player to ever win the Boeing Classic in back-to-back years coming from seven back. This is going to be Stephen Ames' seventh win since January of 2023. Stephen Ames taking care of the great fans here in the Seattle area. Tremendous turn out. And Charlie Wi for his birdie.

[00:49:36] >> So it would be -- this would be big for Charlie, as we mentioned, on the Schwab Cup list.

[00:49:50] >> Right now he's solo fifth.

[00:49:52][ Applause ]

[00:50:02] >> All in all, a lot of positives that Charlie can take away from this week, in contention, in defeat.

[00:50:12] >> Three over 75. This will be Charlie's fourth top ten of the year. Best finish was at the Regions Tradition, a tie for sixth. So this will be his best finish of the year solo fifth.

[00:50:26] >> Funny about playing the tour, I know that you can go through and look at all the bad stuff, but don't forget, there's another tournament next week, and you've got to focus on the positive to keep the game moving forward.

[00:50:39] >> Kirk Triplett for his birdie. This will get him to 8-under. And that's Wi at that number.

[00:50:51][ Applause ] That leaves Kirk into a tie for fifth with Charlie Wi. And this is a big putt for Robert Karlsson in the sense that this would give him a share of second place if he makes this with Els and Alker. I'm sure he doesn't want to hear about second place, though, because this if it goes in will be his sixth runner-up finish; and may be the most bitter of them all.

[00:51:30] >> Two-putt birdie for Robert Karlsson. He, too, shoots a 3-over par 75, and finishes tied with Els and Alker in second place, one shot behind Stephen Ames. Shoots 67 here in the final round, makes birdie at 18 to edge Ernie Els and Steven Alker. And Robert Karlsson, 36-hole leader by one shot. Kirk Triplett and Charlie Wi split fifth place. Paul Stankowski, Bernhard Langer, Doug Barron, and Michael Allen finish at 6-under par.