Production Transcript for 24INTCUTCH - SANFORD - MASTER.mp3

[00:00:40] >> And welcome you to Minnehaha Country Club in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and our opening round coverage of the Sanford International on a blustery day here. John Swantek alongside John Cook. What a day thus far for Billy Andrade. This for birdie at the 2nd, his second nine of the day.

[00:00:57] >> Yeah. The tough second hole, par 3, his 11th, 202 yards today. Hit a beautiful tee shot. Capitalizes on that. Nice tee shot.

[00:01:06] >> Hey, when it's your day, you're -- It's your day, Cookie. How about a 50-footer for par at 7?

[00:01:10] >> For par at 7. Tough hole to start with and left of the green. Didn't have much pitch across the green, but tapped it in from there.

[00:01:19] >> Kept the scorecard clean and maintained a four shot advantage over Charlie Wi. Just getting going here from Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

[00:01:37] >> PGA Tour Champions proudly present the year-long race for the Charles Schwab Cup. And today from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, it's opening round coverage of the Sanford International. Champions Tour slides into South Dakota to the Queen City of Sioux Falls. Minnehaha Country Club has been the backdrop for the first six editions of this event. Always one of the most heavily attended events on the Champions Tour. And fans through the years have gotten a heavy dose of Steve Stricker. He's trying to win for the fourth time here and trying to successfully three peat. We'll be following Stricker pretty heavily today as well. John Cook, 11-time PGA Tour winner, is here. I'm John Swantek. John MaGinnes is on the ground. Billy Andrade is finishing up his round here at the 9th, second on the way.

[00:02:31] >> Just a wedge up the hill.

[00:02:32] >> That's a control spin going downwind. And we've seen a lot of that today there, John. But nice shot. Got it on the proper level.

[00:02:40] >> Last week's runner up, Bernhard Langer, denied by Y.E. Yang in a playoff in St. Louis, 2-over for the round today.

[00:02:46] >> Just off the right side of the green on this par 5. Playing back into the wind today, and pretty well done. Needs a couple birdies coming down the stretch.

[00:02:58] >> Up to 13, one of the past champions in the field, Miguel Angel Jimenez for par.

[00:03:04] >> One of the toughest hole in the golf course, the 13th, for par. A couple over today for Jimenez. A couple birdie opportunities coming down the stretch.

[00:03:15] >> We'll drop back to 12.

[00:03:18] >> The birdie opportunity coming up for Langer here.

[00:03:22] >> Just right of the green, hole high, pitched to here. Now, it goes downhill just a little bit here, John. But the greens aren't runaway speed. They can't get them too fast. Because of the wind conditions and they're supposed to blow all week and all weekend. And with the temperatures up as well, they couldn't get the greens super fast. Otherwise, it would get away from them. So you really don't have to -- They're not scary speedy, but this does go downhill just a little bit.

[00:03:50] >> Made some important putts down the stretch last week in St. Louis to force that playoff with Y.E. Yang, which lasted just one hole. Yang would birdie the first hole of sudden death when they went back to 18.

[00:04:06] >> Yeah, he did hole out really well last week on those shooting 64 on that championship Sunday, beat his age by three.

[00:04:19] >> So Langer picks one up. Stricker likely too as well here.

[00:04:28] >> Think about that face balanced putter. It's a little bit different than his old faithful, which was also an Odyssey, but he had used for so, so long. This doesn't quite toe swing like his previous putter. So it's a little bit different action when you have a face balance. More back and through, where before, it was more face rotation. So it's a little different to get used to. I know that because I've done it. I was a heel shafted putter all my life and had gone to a face balance, it took me a little while. Once you get it, it does feel pretty good. But it is a little bit of an adjustment.

[00:05:08] >> We bounce up to 15 and Richard Green to dip in the red numbers here.

[00:05:12] >>Yeah, we're going to see a little bit of this today at the 15 playing straight downwind. And if you negotiate the little fairway bunkers, you can get it on this green. Now, it does play 368 yards.

[00:05:28] >> Langer sizing this one up for birdie at 13. It was just extraordinary. You see him back at the Hunt trying to win last week, Cookie, considering he says he's only 50 to 75% fully recovered from the Achilles surgery.

[00:05:40] >> Yeah. And that's -- When he came out, you know, his first week out after that Achilles surgery, he was about 30%. So he's improving, but he's nowhere near 100%. And what a delightful second shot, his approach there, the 13th. First birdie of the day at the tough 13 comes from 67-year-old Bernhard Langer.

[00:06:01] >> Says another 5 months, he feels like he'll be back to full strength. He prefers to walk out here. He's riding a car just out of necessity. Let's take you up to the 18th. Tom Pernice closing out the day on a heater. Birdied 16 and 17. How about one more?

[00:06:16] >> How about that? Got it on the proper level.

[00:06:20] >> Thirty-seven coming in for 71.

[00:06:22] >> Up to 16. And here's Richard Green looking for birdie. Just eagled 15 earlier, trying to get it to 2-under here.

[00:06:33] >> He'll make that eagle at the drivable 15th and sprint to the finish there for Richard Green.

[00:06:43] >> Meanwhile, there's Harrison Frazar looking for birdie here at 16, or 17 rather.

[00:06:50] >> Even par for the day. Hit a nice tee shot in there. Capitalizes. Three putt par back at 15, but a two putt birdie there at 16. That's what you have to do here at Minnehaha is take advantage of 15 and 16.

[00:07:07] >> Up to 18. And Harrison Frazar to cap off his opening round with three in a row.

[00:07:12] >> After that nice tee shot, just short of the green. Nice pitch to there and a good finish.

[00:07:17] >> It'll run to the house for Harrison Frazar.

[00:07:22] >> Ernie, no choice but to lay off here, Cookie.

[00:07:24] >> Yeah, no choice. Out of that left rough on a downhill lie, tree trouble. Just put it back in position.

[00:07:30] >> Now, that needs to slow down. There's a little bit of a slope there. He almost got it to the green anyway.

[00:07:37] >> Wow.

[00:07:37] >> Not sure that was -- It was kind of a layup.

[00:07:41] >> Layup-ish. Look at the big man. He's like, almost went into the penalty area. Pit shot of Stricker. Just ran out about 6 feet here. This one coming back for birdie.

[00:07:55] >> But this is the range that he's been deadly on his entire career. Even when he struggled in the late part of his career, he was doing really good inside 10 feet.

[00:08:12] >> Just a whole different setup for him with the face balanced putter. Bigger grip, longer club. Ripping down on it, but starting to get the feel. If he gets the feel and starts running tables, we know what he can do.

[00:08:31] >> Back on the tee with Langer.

[00:08:43] >> This is up the right center.

[00:08:46] >> This is that bunker. So, he'll get down there.

[00:08:51] >> That's over 300 yards for a 67-year-old.

[00:08:53] >> That just says bye-bye to Steve Stricker.

[00:08:55] >> All right, Richard Green, the last year to close it out. This for 68.

[00:09:04] >> Not much to this. Not much to that.

[00:09:09] >> This guy fill it up.

[00:09:16] >> Back at 16. See Langer getting set for one that he may have a chance to hole out. But Stricker will be next to play down there, John.

[00:09:25] >> Right. Steve's ball hit into the face of that bunker and kicked left. He's actually still short of hole high, which means he has to deal with that downwind on this firm green still.

[00:09:38] >> Lie looks to be sitting down just a little bit, John.

[00:09:41] >> It is. It is on the upslope. And that should help. But I don't think he wants to carry it more than a yard onto the green. He's carried it, well, just about right. He's Steve Stricker after all.

[00:09:55] >> Yeah, that's pretty well done. Well judged out of that bluegrass, ryegrass, fescue bent.

[00:10:04] >> Got a lot going on there.

[00:10:06] >> All that.

[00:10:07] >> Langer will have about 6 feet coming back and similar flavor shot for Clarke here.

[00:10:13] >> He's a little more on the downslope, which increases the level of difficulty. So far he's hit two shots exactly like he wanted to on this hole.

[00:10:23] >> Let's see if the third will be the last one.

[00:10:27] >> That's what I was thinking.

[00:10:28] >> Well, he had a little --

[00:10:34] >> Wow.

[00:10:34] >> -- bit of check on that. So he slid that club under the ball, use the grooves to kind of slow it down. Really nicely done.

[00:10:41] >> He'll just tap in with the sand wedge. Back to back birdies.

[00:10:45] >> Yes, it is.

[00:10:48] >> Just one par on the card for Darren since the 8th hole. Look at that.

[00:10:52] >> A lot of geometry on that scorecard.

[00:10:56] >> Think about how many times Bernhard Langer has been in the media center for 17 years out here and how often he's been asked about his thirst for competition. He said, look, everybody out here loves competition. If you don't, then you wouldn't still be competing. Those who don't embrace competition and perform under stress, they don't last long out here.

[00:11:18] >> It's well said. That's exactly it. If you still have the fire and the hunger at 67, why not?

[00:11:25] >> And the talent. Let's not forget the talent.

[00:11:27] >> And the talent.

[00:11:29] >> There are those with plenty of passion --

[00:11:33] >> True.

[00:11:34] >> -- and a lack of talent. Boy, they make good broadcasters.

[00:11:41] >> There's another one. That's three in a five-hole stretch for Bernhard. He's got it into red numbers.

[00:11:51] >> Steve Stricker has won 17 times out here, but none in the last 12 months.

[00:11:57] >> I think he knows that.

[00:12:00] >> I think you're right, John. Highly motivated and very much in the picture now. Just four back of Andrade. Bernard would have been paying attention to Darren's putt, you would think. Try and get a feel for the pace of this one.

[00:12:15] >> We all were until you guys said Clarkey's corner. Now, I'm looking around. That would be the place you would want to be.

[00:12:25] >> Watch how long the stroke is after impact on these putts right where he has to get it going. It's unlike anything I've ever seen, really.

[00:12:36] >> His through stroke will end up almost hip high.

[00:12:42] >> Well, that one was actually more compact.

[00:12:44] >> It was.

[00:12:44] >> And a butter putt.

[00:12:45] >> And it sent it. Why not?

[00:12:47] >> And a better putt it was.

[00:12:50] >> Why not?

[00:12:51][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:12:57] >> The stroke was true and pure. And Stricker just handing out fist bumps like candy right now. Gets one for Bernhard.

[00:13:08] >> What a feeling.

[00:13:09] >> Three at the last. Four back nine birdies, 69. Extraordinary Langer.

[00:13:17] >> He just keeps doing it. It was a long follow through, but then, like a recoil, it still had energy to get in there. Look it up that slope, moving from right to left, and it would have went in a thimble.

[00:13:36] >> This man ever gets hard of competing? The answer is no.

[00:13:40] >> Hundred percent no.

[00:13:44] >> All right, Stricker's chance now for four birdies over the closing seven. This for 66 to start the title defense.

[00:13:53] >> This one's all about the magic. This is all about the feel. How far outside the hole do you play? Well, that depends on your pace. And maybe when you go to something completely different like that, that's the part that takes the most work.

[00:14:18] >> It's got it on. Setting it on a nice line. And --

[00:14:20] >> Didn't hit it.

[00:14:20] >> Yeah. It need a little bit more speed. He would have made it.

[00:14:27] >> Still, he's played himself into the final group tomorrow. And I think that had to be the goal making the turn.

[00:14:31] >> Absolutely.

[00:14:34] >> Familiar position there for Steve Stricker on the weekend here in the final group.

[00:14:42] >> It's rare to see this much separation. I mean, only six times in the history of the Champions Tour has anyone built a lead of five shots. That's the largest first round lead we've ever seen in more than 40 years of Champions Tour golf. So Andrade, with that 63, will have Steve Stricker's company on Day 2.

[00:15:02] >> And Steve Allan, who's been playing really well lately.

[00:15:10] >> Just a dozen players in red numbers on a flustery opening round here in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Twenty-second event of the season. Only three more in the regular season once we conclude our business here in South Dakota this week before the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs begin.

[00:15:38] >> Day 2 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. We welcome you to Golf Channel's second round coverage of the Sanford International, 22nd event of the Champions Tour season. John Swantek alongside John Cook. Billy Andrade was the overnight leader by four. This was his tee shot at the 6th earlier today.

[00:15:54] >> Yeah, comfortable start for Billy. Played the part. Just tough par 4, number 3 very well. And the tough par 5 here at the 6. Up the hill, 167 yards today, and keeps it right underneath the hole. Quality golf shot.

[00:16:06] >> Putted beautifully yesterday. Holed a couple of really long ones and rush this one in to get it to 9-under.

[00:16:12] >> Yeah, beautiful pacing right here for Billy. Very comfortable start, making a birdie before a bogey. That'll settle him in.

[00:16:21] >> In fact, he went 27 holes before he made his first bogey. But Andrade at 7-under par, trying to win for the first time in 9 years out here, leads by two.

[00:16:34] >> And we're on the move. We'll drop back to 14. Last week's runner up in St. Louis, Bernhard Langer for birdie.

[00:16:39] >> Who's this guy? What's he ever done? Right at hole high there at the 14th and pours in another one. He's been putting beautifully.

[00:16:48] >> Langer to 3-under, hanging around as usual.

[00:16:55] >> There it is, 16 straight rounds in the 60s here and open with 67 yesterday. That was maybe a byproduct of something he was building last week in St. Louis, John, when he shot 65 on the final day there at the Ascension.

[00:17:08] >> Yeah, he finally got that putter rolling. It's a whole new method, really, for Steve Stricker, one of the best putters in the history of our game, decided to kind of change things around a little bit. So, starting to get more comfortable. Made 11 straight pars to start his round. So this is a big putt here for Steve Stricker.

[00:17:26] >> I would not say a comfortable putt. Downhill, moving away from him for his first birdie of the day. When was the last time he went 12 holes on this golf course without a birdie?

[00:17:38] >> It's been 12 months since he's won a golf tournament. So it's -- he's got a few streaks to break today and this week.

[00:17:48] >> I guess. No matter where you are in the game, the demon are always chasing you.

[00:17:53] >> That's true. This game.

[00:17:57] >> You can't pour this one in. You've got to show some respect at the speed.

[00:18:09] >> Green aren't really breakaway speed, but you still have to be careful on some of these downhillers. And there it is. You can go one way or the other 1ith an 11-hole par streak. He goes the right direction.

[00:18:23] >> Back to 12. We go for the short Andrade birdie putt. Just a couple feet here.

[00:18:32] >> They're gathering a crowd out here. And there was a little movement.

[00:18:42] >> No problem, though.

[00:18:43] >> All right. Nice two putt birdie there for Billy.

[00:18:49] >> Tom Pernice looking to birdie the 18th to get it to 3-under.

[00:18:53] >> Pin today in the front left. A very accessible hole location at the 18th. Think you'll see a lot of birdies made today at the 18th.

[00:19:01] >> Bingo. TPJ in the house with a 66.

[00:19:05] >> We'll go to 17. And Steven Alker trying to play himself into the hunt. This for a fourth straight birdie.

[00:19:11] >> Yeah, that's a good read right there. It goes up a little slope and down the back side towards the back of the green. And for that bogey at 13, reeling off four in a row.

[00:19:22] >> Here's Ernie up at 18 to close the day with a birdie.

[00:19:26] >> Off to a really nice start today. And it just kind of slowed down, missed some really good opportunities for some birdies. Let's see if Ernie can bag one here at 18.

[00:19:40] >> Down the hill, breaking right. How about it? Hey, nice catch hole.

[00:19:45] >> Tried to wiggle out of there, but it went down for the big easy. So he reels in two of the last three for 66 to get it in the house at minus-4. Up a hole to 15, where Richard Green made an eagle here yesterday at the short par 4 and pick up a birdie today to climb within two of the lead.

[00:20:02] >> Really the scoring chances here, you got to pounce on those holes. Harrison Frazar trying to do that here at the par 5.

[00:20:08] >>Up to the green and two, has plenty of length. And how about it? We'll just do it two at a time.

[00:20:14] >> Frazar holes one from the bunker at 16.

[00:20:17] >> We jump up to 17. Closest tee shot we've seen all day here from Richard Green.

[00:20:21] >> Beautiful approach off the tee, and takes advantage of it.

[00:20:26] >> Three runner up finishes on the season. This man has been banging on the door.

[00:20:30] >> Michael Wright, get it to six under here.

[00:20:35] >> Shoddy hit in here, John. Some towering 7 or 8-iron that just sat down like a wedge. And there he is.

[00:20:46] >> Cool customer this guy, isn't he?

[00:20:48] >> Nice Saturday in the works for Tim Petrovic. Down the slope it goes. And it captured one.

[00:21:05] >> Sixty-seven for Petro to get it to minus-4.

[00:21:08] >> Big drive from Richard Green of 18.

[00:21:10] >> Sixteen and 17 greens in regulation. Just a little pitch into this. Big bounce. And really well done.

[00:21:23] >> Back with you at 17. Nice tee shot from Ken Tanigawa. Looking to pay it off here.

[00:21:28] >> Yeah. Just up the hill. Not much break. Two of uses, a little victory lap.

[00:21:37] >> Richard Green for birdie at 18. This to join Michael Wright at 7-under. Just pours it in there.

[00:21:45] >> Nice approach. Takes advantage of it. And nice round of golf there. Five-under par today for Richard Green.

[00:21:51] >> Michael Wright for birdie back at 17 to get it to 8-under.

[00:21:55] >> Right on the same line as Kenny T. And he learned -- What a run to the finish line for Michael Wright.

[00:22:06] >> This to get within three for Stricker.

[00:22:08] >> And to put himself in position to be in the final group tomorrow, which is exactly where he wants to be.

[00:22:26] >> Oh, it looked like he left that blade open, but --

[00:22:29] >> It sure did.

[00:22:30] >> -- Caught that hole.

[00:22:43] >> That looked like a better stroke.

[00:22:46] >> How about it?

[00:22:47] >> Yeah.

[00:22:51] >> How about it? He's missed some shorties, too. He definitely would have been a player in this movie if captured some of those really missed 3 and 4 footers.

[00:23:05] >> Go up to the green here. Charlie Wi pours that one in for a three.

[00:23:12] >> It's not a good day for Charlie, but good way to finish.

[00:23:18] >> Four birdies, five bogeys for Charlie today. In red numbers through 36. Steve Allan, member of the PGA Tour for about 5 years from 2001 to 2005.

[00:23:41] >> Hole them, hole them. Hold them up. Marshal. Streaming from in here.

[00:23:49] >> I have a feeling that marshal is going to do about as good a job with that as the offensive line is going to do for Billy's quarterback later.

[00:23:58] >> Just going to be pouring through.

[00:24:08] >> Right. Steve Allan was the forgotten man, but birdies at 16 and 17. Have him in a position with a sand wedge into 18. He bounce up right back into this.

[00:24:19] >> Nice tee shot up the right hand side. Stay in the fairway. It does. And turns this in a real good birdie opportunity.

[00:24:30] >> Allan absolutely crunched his drive here.

[00:24:36] >> He can move it 68 yards. It's almost too close.

[00:24:45] >> He's not afraid of to take a swing at it, that is for sure.

[00:24:50] >> Fewer things hurt on him than some others out here, I think.

[00:24:55] >> Just a young whipper snapping.

[00:24:57] >> Oh, bad break. Hit the flag stick, went down in the hole, stayed on the green. But that would have been really close.

[00:25:05] >> He hit it exactly 68 yards.

[00:25:09] >> Stricker will go to work on this one.

[00:25:16] >> Hard to imagine they left the property here 12 months ago. It would take that long to continue pursuit of his 18th victory out here. You never know with Steve's schedule, how many more times we're going to see him this season.

[00:25:37] >> That's true. Yeah. All of a sudden, he gets those permits pulled and he's often jumping in trees and aiming at things. And it's not flagsticks.

[00:25:57] >> If it comes through the fringe cleanly on the green, it'll move gently from right to left and it has to fit his eye nicely.

[00:26:16] >> OK. No harm done. Stricker will be able to handle that. Just those two birdies on the incoming nine par 5s. Other than that, clean card. But it's about survival of your four rounds out here. He's definitely survived that. Rolled nicely. Just didn't get it high enough.

[00:26:40] >> Card his first 11 holes of the day. The birdies that John mentioned at 12 and 16 on a clean scorecard for Stricker to get it in at minus-5. If Andrade can somehow hole this, he'd be at 5-under 36.

[00:27:15] >> Holed a long one yesterday, a 50-footer for parental. This would be a monster conversion if it goes down.

[00:27:22] >> Oh, maybe.

[00:27:23] >> Yeah. You know what? It was breaking and it stayed straight the mountain, wanders by about 4 feet.

[00:27:33] >> Said he's always been pretty good at getting out of his own way, as Billy said. His problem, as you described, was not getting into position often enough throughout his career.

[00:27:42] >> So we're just talking about once you get in the position, you don't forget how to win, you forget how to get there. You do get in your own.

[00:27:53] >> Well, after that dazzling approach shot from Allan that clattered off the flagstick, this would be some justice if it went down for birdie.

[00:28:00] >> Not only that, it would be three in a row to run through the tape here. Shoot 100 and then be four back.

[00:28:09] >> That was a nice stroke. Was just going to lose some speed, definitely from outside of 8 to 10 feet. His stroke is a lot more patient than inside a five, where he missed a number of putts today. So, still around. A lot of players in this movie, though.

[00:28:39] >> Stricker will wait just a little bit longer and we'll see the Android bogey putt coming in here.

[00:28:52] >> He said when he feels comfortable and he's on, as he described it, like yesterday, when he shot that blistering 63, said I'm not nervous at all. Players, he said, get more nervous when we know we're not on. You're just kind of hanging on and making sure you get through the day or get through the week. It's kind of like how today is probably felt for Billy.

[00:29:14] >> I don't think there's any question. And he held it together for the first nine, but the second nine was a real struggle.

[00:29:22] >> Thirty-three on the front and 72 in the end for Andrade. Be in the second to last grouping tomorrow.

[00:29:33] >> I think he'll be in the last group.

[00:29:35] >> Yeah, first in. That's right.

[00:29:36] >> He was first in. Well, he was not just first in ahead of Steve Stricker on this hole, but because he was first out. So he will be in the final group. Steve Stricker will be in the second group chasing him down. Oh, yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

[00:29:59] >> What? What?

[00:30:01] >> Stricker said that --

[00:30:02] >> He kind of went about that a little matter of fact, and he almost missed it.

[00:30:07] >> Get in there and sign that scorecard.

[00:30:09] >> Yeah.

[00:30:09] >> Sixty-eight has Stricker in the hunt to win the Sanford International for the fourth time tomorrow. A couple of Aussies, Michael Wright and Richard Green, both with rounds of 65, will have each other's company in the final group on Sunday.

[00:30:32] >> It is the final round of the Sanford International from Minnehaha Country Club here in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, the 22nd event of the Champions tour season. I'm John Swantek. John Cook is alongside on a windy day here in South Dakota. Richard Green on the tee at the 8th earlier.

[00:30:48] >> An early bogey, and then followed that up with an eagle here at the 8th hole, 161 yards today.

[00:30:56] >> Quality golf shot there for Richard Green.

[00:30:59] >> He has been all over leaderboards this season. Will it be the breakthrough? He's going to have to deal with Steve Stricker, though, Cookie.

[00:31:04] >> Yeah. And he birdied the tough 7th hole. And now, here at the 9th, beautiful putt. Starting to get a little more confidence in that new method he's got.

[00:31:14] >> So Stricker, 4-under through nine. Ernie Els trying to stay within touch. This for birdie at 11.

[00:31:18] >> Yeah. Down the hill, big slider from left to right. And Ernie feeling it as well. Schwab Cup points leader with three victories on the season. Els trying to stay in the hunt. This was Stricker at 12, the par 5.

[00:31:30] >> Had to lay it up, but we know how good a wedge player Steve Stricker is. You give him a go situation and he'll hit shots just like that.

[00:31:40] >> That would lead to a birdie for the guy trying to win on this golf course for the fourth time. And Richard Green trying to push through and win for the first time this season. It's a tight battle here on the final day in Sioux Falls.

[00:31:54] >> And up ahead, Stricker will have this one for par.

[00:32:00] >> He did not make a bogey yesterday and played the first nine holes today unscathed. But then, made a kind of sloppy bogey at 10, got it back at 12. And we're trying to avoid a bogey here, Cookie. This is the kind of putt that when you make them and you win the golf tournament, you look back and say, that was huge.

[00:32:21] >> No doubt about it. This is a big putt right here for Steve Stricker. Like you said, it's those middle round par saves, especially on Sundays. I always went into Sundays not wanting to make a three putt. You know, taking care of the par 5s, eliminate as many bogeys as you can. This is a tough hole, don't get me wrong. But, you know, just try to make a clean card on Sunday, always runs you up the leaderboard.

[00:32:46] >> Little left to right, uphill, and into the wind.

[00:32:53] >> He's made a couple nice putts on that front nine.

[00:32:59] >> It's a different one, but it's still Steve Stricker.

[00:33:01] >> It is still Steve Stricker, one of the best ever, and just lacked a little pace.

[00:33:09] >> So bogeys at 10 and 13 after he kind of cruised across the opening nine.

[00:33:14] >> A lot of opportunities left coming down the stretch starting at 14. May not be that much of one, but certainly 15 on in.

[00:33:23] >> Steven Alker searching for birdie here at 16.

[00:33:28] >> Oh, OK, Steven Alker. Couple of birdies in a row. Taking care of 15 and 16, which is what you need to do.

[00:33:41] >> Back to 14. A little bit coming back for Stricker's par to avoid a third bogey since the turn.

[00:33:48] >> And there's a lot more here than you would expect Steve Stricker to have for par after having 130 yards from the middle of the fairway. He and Henry are all over this thing.

[00:34:10] >> Dealing with a creaky back all weekend. It's a little bit of sciatica. Nothing tormenting, but just uncomfortable. And he said it's taken him several holes to kind of get loose at the start of each round.

[00:34:21] >> Yeah, a little bit cranky back.

[00:34:25] >> He birdied the first two today, Swannie. Maybe he should have stayed tight.

[00:34:34] >> It's the ones that he's been gaining more and more confidence in. It's a big putt right here, I think for Steve's psyche.

[00:34:44] >> I think these are the ones that send him to this particular putter.

[00:34:47] >> I think you're right.

[00:34:48] >> Go to 16 for the third shot of Langer.

[00:34:52] >> Just through and on the right. You see that a lot on this par 5. Now, pitching across the green off a downslope. Really well done. How about that? Bernard Langer, how do you keep doing it?

[00:35:06] >> Really well done.

[00:35:07] >> Seriously, dude.

[00:35:08] >> At this putt for hours, Langer for three at 16. Michael Wright for birdie. He's three shots off the lead right now. Plus-3 for the final round. With the lone birdie coming back at 12, the par 5.

[00:35:34] >> This will go up the slope. Pretty good look here. Doesn't have to worry about pace. He can give this a pretty good wrap. Staying out there to the right. Starting to arc in. And how about that? OK, Michael Wright.

[00:35:52] >> Yes, sir, Michael Wright.

[00:35:53] >> Stretch of holes right here for Michael Wright.

[00:36:08] >> Not much to this, I don't think, John. Just --

[00:36:11] >> I think that you probably want to hit it right center just because of how much wind there is.

[00:36:16] >> Yeah, that would be about right. That's pretty much where he has it lined up. Lines are pretty straight.

[00:36:24] >> That's straight. Dead straight.

[00:36:26] >> So nice two putt birdie there for Steve Stricker. Separates himself a little bit. Two shot lead now.

[00:36:32] >> Takes care of business. Drivable 15. We'll go to 18 now. And Alker to close out the week with a birdie.

[00:36:43] >> Saw that nice wedge shot back there into the proper plateau. It said it was a fairly easy putt. We'll see that putt made a lot.

[00:36:56] >> We had a great camera view of it there from ground level. Just spun off the top edge. So still hope for the chasers.

[00:37:06] >> Langer can get it to 7-under if this goes down.

[00:37:09] >> Not much to this. Have to keep the speed up. And how about Bernhard Langer? Eagle at 16, birdie at 18. Shoots his age for the 28th time in tournaments. Not overall.

[00:37:25] >> Back to 17. And if Stricker does not hole this, the lead over Langer, who's in the house, and Green, who's right behind him, will be trimmed to one.

[00:37:37] >> And this is every bit of 13, 14 feet. And you can't try to jam it in there because as soon as it gets to the hole, that starts going away.

[00:37:47] >> Certainly does. That putt back there at 16, not making birdie there. Might loom large. This doesn't go in.

[00:38:03] >> May not know what Richard's doing back there. Nothing on the scoreboard is updated. But he knows that he'll at least have a share of the lead if this doesn't go in. And he'll have a hand on the trophy if it does.

[00:38:18] >> Got a good read from Ernie. Got right off the -- right in the middle, though. It came back at the end.

[00:38:31] >> Wow. It was big.

[00:38:33] >> What a great read. Didn't look like he kind of got out there a little bit too far to right. That's got there left, right into the center. Huge putt there for Steve Stricker.

[00:38:44] >> Let's go back up top. And Els with a look at birdie to get it in at 7-under.

[00:38:52] >> Yeah, that would, at the moment, give him a piece of second place. It's downhill. Just have to get it started. This one's actually going to creep a little bit right to the left.

[00:39:13] >> That was a good, positive stroke.

[00:39:15] >> It sure was. Right in the center. That'll get him to 70under. Play right now for second. Got to remember, Richard Green is at 7-under par. He just hit a good tee shot. He could still make outside chance of making a two.

[00:39:33] >> What's in it, Johnny? To get it in the house, 9-under. Maintain a two shot lead over Richard Green, who's back in the fairway.

[00:39:50] >> Oh, no.

[00:39:51] >> That is shocking. Shocking.

[00:39:56] >> Three putts at the last after a clutch par conversion back at 17.

[00:40:03] >> Stricker falls to minus-8. It is out of his hands for the moment.

[00:40:09] >> For birdie at the last to force a playoff.

[00:40:20] >> Buries it. How about that? Good -- Great tee shot. Got on the proper level, uphill putt. For those little mistakes that he made early in the middle of the back nine, coming down the stretch, got himself with a chance to win.

[00:40:41] >> What a moment for the Aussie. Two shots down as he stood on the tee back at 17. And we're going extra holes. Green and Stricker.

[00:40:49] >> Stricker back to work. He was in the clubhouse watching this putt of Richard Green a moment ago.

[00:40:55] >> Uphill, never left the center of the cup.

[00:40:58][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:41:04] >> Stricker's reaction when it went down.

[00:41:09] >> Here we go.

[00:41:10] >> Here we go.

[00:41:11] >> Here we go. He's been in the situation before. He has won a playoff here.

[00:41:14] >> Back in Minnehaha Country Club. Richard Green, Steve Stricker being driven back to the tee at 18 to start a sudden death playoff in a few moments. Here's how we got there. John Cook, this was surprising. A par putt here for Stricker at the last.

[00:41:32] >> Yeah. Driving the right rough, had to keep it short down on that lower level cut to there, up that steep slope, and forgot one element.

[00:41:43] >> Richard Green lives to fight at least another hole. The playoff rotation, by the way, will be 18, if necessary, 18 again. If it goes to a third hole of sudden death, they'll go over to the par-3 10th.

[00:41:56] >> Steve, nice playing.

[00:41:57] >> Thank you.

[00:41:57] >> Richard, nice playing. Say hello to Bill Glasson.

[00:42:00] >> Bill, how are you?

[00:42:02] >> Miles Beckham.

[00:42:03] >> Premier bank and bank card.

[00:42:07] >> Congratulations.

[00:42:09] >> Sanford over there.

[00:42:12] >> You can stay in the cart.

[00:42:14] >> Hey, Denny.

[00:42:15] >> Denny right over there.

[00:42:17] >> Yeah.

[00:42:18] >> Hey, Denny.

[00:42:19] >> You and I have played several times --

[00:42:22] >> Yes, sir.

[00:42:22] >> -- on tour.

[00:42:22] >> Good to see you.

[00:42:23] >> My pleasure.

[00:42:23] >> Thanks for the week.

[00:42:23] >> Keep it going, guys. Have fun.

[00:42:26] >> We appreciate it. Thank you.

[00:42:28] >> We want a couple playoffs.

[00:42:30] >> Just one.

[00:42:30] >> That's the orders from the boss. That's Sanford there.

[00:42:34] >> That's the orders from the top guy right there. Yes, sir.

[00:42:39] >> Steve, you're first, so you'll have the honor.

[00:42:41] >> OK.

[00:42:43] >> Good luck.

[00:42:43] >> Thank you.

[00:42:44] >> Play to win.

[00:42:45] >> Thank you.

[00:42:47] >> Good luck.

[00:42:51] >> Stricker was first to complete regulation, so he will have the honor here at 18.

[00:42:59] >> Good tee shot here in the fairway. Really turns this hole into a birdie opportunity.

[00:43:10] >> Starts off the right hand side again. This is even further right.

[00:43:14] >> Yeah. That's going to get over into the trees. That's in real trouble.

[00:43:21] >> Yeah.

[00:43:22] >> Looks he's completely blocked out over there.

[00:43:24] >> Yeah, that's no good. Earlier, he was a lot further up the fairway and more left.

[00:43:38] >> See if he tries to hit the little hold off cut. He loves hitting a slinging draw, but he does have the ability to hit a little hold off cut.

[00:43:45] >> Yeah, he hit a good one here earlier with that little hold off cut. Got it over that tree on the left side of the fairway.

[00:43:55] >> He's leaning. Trying to cut it back, get through. Maybe just in that first cut. So advantage Richard Green.

[00:44:05] >> Steve Stricker going to have some trees to contend with here, the first sudden that playoff hole.

[00:44:21] >> First hole of sudden death. And before Steve Stricker arrived at his golf ball here, John MaGinnes got a full inspection of it.

[00:44:28] >> He's had plenty of time to visualize the shot. Can he execute it?

[00:44:34] >> I mean, maybe a ripped gap wedge to get it to turn that much.

[00:44:41] >> He's got a really low lofted club.

[00:44:45] >> This is like a 7-iron.

[00:44:49] >> Yeah, there is.

[00:44:51] >> He's going really low.

[00:44:57] >> Just missed that trunk of the tree. Look at this shot.

[00:45:04] >> Stay up there.

[00:45:05] >> That's all right. That's about as good as you could possibly do from there. Keeps him in the ballgame anyway. That's a fairly simple pitch shot, too.

[00:45:18] >> Now, the reply from Green.

[00:45:22] >> In the first kind of rough out here, you can get some interesting lies. This one sitting right on top, 102 yards. He can hit whatever kind of shot he wants to hear.

[00:45:34] >> Gives him 97 to clear that ridge.

[00:45:36] >> He's taking it up top.

[00:45:40] >> Just off the back. It's going to be tough to spin that, but no harm down there. That's holeable as well, both. Popped a little bit, but it did lose some energy. So that was what I was afraid of is if you eliminate that little variable, I think that was a more prudent play. But he was not comfortable with what he was seeing on the ground.

[00:46:18] >> It is very easy from up here to overestimate how fast this putt is. We hit some earlier today. I think we all came up short, thinking it's going to be super fast.

[00:46:31] >> Correct. And we've seen it most of the day from here that they're not really worried about the speed. Downhill to start, then it levels out.

[00:46:43] >> Four top three finishes for this man this year. This for birdie and his first PGA Tour Champions title. Did he do it?

[00:47:01] >> No. Just quite hit it. Might have just slowed it down early. It's a nice effort. Didn't want to rip that 3 or 4 feet by, which he could have done.

[00:47:15] >> Bogey on the 18th earlier is what opened the door for Richard Green to force extra holes. Now, Stricker must hole this one to extend the playoff. He's got it.

[00:47:35] >> Right in the center.

[00:47:38] >> And we'll see you back on 18 tee once more.

[00:47:43] >> Fourth hole of the sudden death playoff, the par-4 10th. And after the drives, advantage Richard Green, who's in the fairway.

[00:47:51] >> There's just so many things that can go wrong here. You could actually hit this and have it come out soft, short of the green.

[00:47:57] >> Yeah.

[00:47:59] >> You could have it jump just a little bit and knuckle over the green. Getting this to go the right distance would be a lot of skill and a lot of luck.

[00:48:12] >> Needs to be coming out tumbling. It does up that slope.

[00:48:16] >> Oh my. Oh my. Oh my.

[00:48:21] >> Oh, it the flag stick. Are you kidding me? I mean, it might have got to the back edge of the green, but what a great golf shot.

[00:48:33] >> Now, the response from Richard Green.

[00:48:36] >> I think he needs to take a minute here. People are moving around, everybody still talking.

[00:48:41] >> He's locked in.

[00:48:43] >> He has the exact same yardage he had in the last time we came up 18, 71 yards.

[00:48:54] >> Play basically the same shot, will get it up that slope.

[00:49:01] >> It should stop at the back edge at least.

[00:49:05] >> And it might get a little bit better as well. So two quality golf shots

[00:49:10] >> It's maybe the best shot of the week from anyone that we just saw from Steve Stricker.

[00:49:18] >> Fortunate a little bit, but again, that wouldn't have gone more than probably 10 or 12 feet by.

[00:49:25] >> Credit to Richard Green. I mean, he was standing up there 60 yards from the green when Steve's ball hit the flag. He knew exactly how close it was and exactly what he needed to do. Now, can he make the putt to seemingly extend the playoff?

[00:49:46] >> Yeah. Coin of Stricker's no more than 3 feet away. So you have to believe Richard Green knows it. This has to go down.

[00:49:49] >> Birdied 18 in regulation to force the playoff. Can he do it again?

[00:49:51] >> It's going to wander to the left.

[00:49:57] >> Might be outside of Sticker, Fax. We'll see. Everyone settled in.

[00:50:08] >> Well, I think they need to put this just inside the right lip. He's got a little right to left in a minute.

[00:50:27] >> Yeah. If he hits it straight, it might miss on the left. I think he does have to put it just inside that right like you said, John.

[00:50:39] >> Victory number 4 in Sioux Falls. He had to work for it.

[00:50:45] >> Yes, he did.

[00:50:51] >> Steve Stricker is the champion again. He takes down the Sanford International. First victory of the season and the 18th of his Champions Tour career.

[00:51:02] >> Yeah. Hadn't won in 12 months right from this day, 12 months ago.

[00:51:07] >> A winner on the fourth hole of sudden death at the 18, denying Richard Green would have been his first victory of his Champions Tour career.

[00:51:18] >> Big hug from this fellow Wisconsinite brand ambassador, Andy North, two-time United States Open Champion.

[00:51:28] >> Well, we had a lot of candidates, Cookie, for the shot of the tournament presented by Sanford Health. This was a fourth playoff hole just a moment ago.

[00:51:47] >> Yup. Bad lie. I want to get it on the front part of the green, get it back there to the hole location. Just kind of treadling up that slope, catches that flagstick. It wouldn't have gone 10, 12 feet by, but nice to see it up there 3 feet.

[00:51:55] >> Steve was seventh in the Schwab standings without a victory coming into the week. He will bump up a couple of spots to number 5 with his first victory of the season. Steve Stricker on the fourth hole of sudden death turns away Richard Green to win the Sanford International.