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[00:00:40] >> The Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs are underway in Richmond, Virginia. We welcome you to the James River Course here at the Country Club of Virginia. Opening round coverage of the Dominion Energy Charity Classic. John Swantek, Lanny Wadkins, and some highlights from the 72 players who qualified here this week. Retief Goosen for birdie at 7.

[00:00:58] >> Yeah, having a quick start to his day, especially bearing putts like this at the long 7th. Great birdie there.

[00:01:05] >> Got him to minus-5. Ernie Els, swapped cup points leader, tee shot at 4.

[00:01:09] >> Yeah. Cute little par 3 over water. This is a quality shot in here by Ernie Els. He's having a really interesting day. A lot of birdies, bogeys, and a lot of good shots like that.

[00:01:19] >> Picked one up there to get it to minus-2. He's grouped together with Stephen Ames and this man, Steven Alker. What a shot into the par-5 6th.

[00:01:27] >> Yeah, over water. This is a daring second shot, but he needs to make something happen at 2-over already. And this is quite a shot by Alker in there to about 3, 4 feet. He would go on and make that for eagle. Great hole there for Steven Alker.

[00:01:42] >> Had a couple of bogeys earlier in the round and got both of those drop shots back right there. And we've got a four-way tie for the lead at minus-4 here to start the week in Richmond, Virginia. Beautiful early autumn day here in the Commonwealth of Virginia. We welcome you to the capital city of Richmond, the country club of Virginia, where the James River Course is hosting the opening leg of the Charles Schwab cup Playoffs, after 25 regular season events, 72 players qualified for the right to sustain their hopes of winning the Charles Schwab cup.

[00:02:13] >> Up to the 7th. And Alker trying to grind one out for par here.

[00:02:17] >> Got to be just outside the right edge and has to have enough pace to hold the line. Really well done. Good two putt there for Steven.

[00:02:31] >> Back to 11. And Goosen, who birdied five of his opening seven holes today, gave one back with a bit of a sloppy bogey at the par-5 9th. A chance for birdie here.

[00:02:42] >> Yeah, the par-5 9th was kind of a head scratcher as he drove it perfect and tried to go for the green, missed it left in a bad spot. Very holeable putt here.

[00:02:51] >> Give him about 18 feet, slightly left to right, uphill, doesn't have to worry about much speed.

[00:03:03] >> One thing about Goosen, Cookie, when he gets rolling the ball well, he's -- when he played his best in one, two US Opens, he made everything. So, when he gets the confidence going, he's still capable of making a lot of putts.

[00:03:18] >> Yeah, he is. Just like that one.

[00:03:19] >> Just like that. And I mean, that's -- You know, when you've been a good putter in the past, and all of a sudden you find something, like he is obviously found today, it can manifest itself pretty nicely. And it's doing that for him today.

[00:03:38] >> Back to 11. And not a lot of room behind the flagstick, Cookie, but Langer fit one in there.

[00:03:43] >> Yes, he did. He hit that little 6-iron right through the wind and landed it perfectly right in that slope. And now, from the back of the green, he's got to be a little careful. Got a little bit of quick to it. Pretty good breaker from right to left.

[00:03:55] >> Nice those two birdies right there. Bonus birdies.

[00:04:03] >> Yeah, no problem right there for Langer. That looked very nice. He looks very in control with the putter today.

[00:04:10] >> We're at the 10th here. And look in on Stewart Cink trying to move it to 3-under.

[00:04:14] >> Should turn left. Oh, it did at the very end. There you go. Miguel Angel Jimenez who won here in Richmond back in 2019.

[00:04:28] >> Good hole location for Miguel. He likes to hit a little draw. If he doesn't overcook, it will be fine.

[00:04:37] >> And there you go. Oh, we got some action here.

[00:04:43] >> We got action. Oh, it broke to the right.

[00:04:47] >> Third at the par-5 18th now for David Toms.

[00:04:51] >> Probably didn't have the firepower to reach this, so laid up short of the bunkers. And that is a really well played shot there. In past the hole, bringing it back.

[00:05:03] >> Slocum for a share of the lead back at the 4th. Just turned 50 in February after winning five times on the PGA Tour. Just getting his Champions Tour career started. Getting his playoff run started here this week in fine fashion. Beautiful third shot into the 18th a little bit earlier from David Toms. Looking to pay it off.

[00:05:24] >> Yeah, can he take advantage? And he does. Nice birdie four there for DT.

[00:05:29] >> And a round of 70 to kick off the week here. Langer to keep it at minus-1 here.

[00:05:38] >> Yeah, tricky little putt here. Does move slightly to his right. Maybe slightly.

[00:05:43] >> Be great up and down. Yes, it was.

[00:05:46] >> Confident. Boy, he's making those with authority. I like that.

[00:05:50] >> Yeah, he looks good with that putter.

[00:05:55] >> Steve Flesch looking to close out the day with another birdie at the 9th. This for a round of 67.

[00:06:01] >> Yes. Great playing for Steve Flesch.

[00:06:05] >> Good for a share of the lead for the four-time Champions Tour winner. Gets his nose in the fight. This guy usually hangs in there.

[00:06:12] >> Yes, he does. Yes, he does.

[00:06:16] >> Par-5 18th. And Vijay Singh is the first player we've seen actually hit the green in two today.

[00:06:22] >> At least have a good look at eagle. And I always thought this was an easier hole to reach than 16. And did he hit it? Yes. That was beautiful. I love to see putts drip in like that.

[00:06:35] >> Late rally from the big Fijian. Birdie at 16, eagle at 18 for 73. Let's go to 14 here. Thirteen rather. And Stewart Cink to get it to 3-under.

[00:06:47] >> Back up the hill with his second putt. And that's really well done. Nice birdie. Gets Stewart to 3-under. He's kind of sneaking up on everybody.

[00:06:58] >> Getting comfortable out here. He said after the win in Grand Blanc, Michigan, this is where I belong. This is my tour. And true to his word, he nearly won in St. Louis the very next week. Chalmers for a third straight birdie here at 17.

[00:07:10] >> Up the slope. It's not going to go -- It is turning back in there that way. Yeah, that was an excellent read. I was going to say it's not going to go left and it did not. It actually moved to his right. Beautiful putt.

[00:07:24] >> Just a couple feet for Greg Chalmers to clean up here for a round of 67. Matching Steve Flesch for the low round of the day in the clubhouse.

[00:07:33] >> Left handers day.

[00:07:34] >> That's right. Back at the par-3 17th. Ken Tanigawa in these breezy conditions. Looking for a birdie two.

[00:07:45] >> See number of putts from here come up short. Kenny got it there. Yes, he did. Great read. And beautiful birdie two for Ken Tanigawa.

[00:08:00] >> To 14. And Alker just off the left edge of the green here.

[00:08:04] >> Bounce coming out of the fringe. Still well done. Got it to go in. Good putt.

[00:08:11] >> Hasn't had his best up today but fighting back. And Alker has got it back to level par. Six consecutive pars for Goosen over the last half dozen holes. But chance for 66. The low round of the day is in his sights.

[00:08:30] >> Twenty feet. He does have to worry a little bit about speed. There is some pace to this putt for sure. Down the slope.

[00:08:38] >> Falling left a little bit, Cookie, at the end or hanging straight?

[00:08:42] >> Pretty straight. Might move a little to the right.

[00:08:45] >> Oh, yeah. The whole part of that green kind of goes right to that right side of the greens. A little past hole high. Very careful with this one.

[00:08:57] >> He got it out to the right, and it turned.

[00:08:59] >> Well, there you go.

[00:08:59] >> Yeah.

[00:08:59] >> You read it correctly.

[00:09:00] >> It was kind of right edge and it turned right in there. That was beautiful putt.

[00:09:16] >> Off we go to 18. And Mediate to get it in the house with a 70.

[00:09:22] >> That left edge, good putt.

[00:09:24] >> Took down Bob Estes in a playoff to win the Constellation FURYK and FRIENDS. Estes was trying to win for the first time. Denied by Rocco. Back at 17, Alker for a birdie. There've only been 11 converted here at the par 3 today. Make it 12.

[00:09:43] >> And that gets Alker back to even par with the par-5 18th ahead.

[00:09:55] >> Playing with Y.E. Yang, who shot 63 here in the second round last year. If you recall, that's the low 18-hole score in tournament history. We're about a decade into it here at the James River Course. The winner in St. Louis at the Ascension Charity Classic with a disappointing starts of the week of 76 for Y.E. Yang. Breeze kicked up toward the tail end of the afternoon. And the scoring got a little bit tougher. We've got just 25 players. A little more than a third of the field in red numbers. Retief Goosen birdies 18 for 66. And a very eclectic mix of players and playing styles represented on the first page of the board here. A lot of green in that column to the right. That's what you're looking for. If you're in red, as Gene Sauers is, that means you're outside the Top 54 with the next week's Simmons Bank Open ahead.

[00:11:12] >> O'Neal, Weekley, Janzen all outside the number. Lee was the last man to claim a spot in the field here this week at 72nd in the points race after 25 regular season events.

[00:11:38] >> The James River Course at the Country Club of Virginia is the backdrop for the second round of the Dominion Energy Charity Classic, the opening leg of the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs. John Swantek, Lanny Wadkins, and good scoring out of the golf course today. Retief Goosen at the 4th.

[00:11:54] >> Yeah, just 148 yards today. Probably just 9-iron for Goosen. He takes this flag on. Just a beautiful shot in there. And he would make birdie two at the 4th.

[00:12:05] >> To get to minus-7. He's got some company at the top, including Ricardo Gonzalez, the winner in Morocco earlier this year.

[00:12:11] >> Yeah, this is a big boy par 3. Up the hill, 187, playing every bit of the yardage. Carried on the front of the green. Let it try and release to the flag. And Ricardo does that just beautifully. Wonderful shot.

[00:12:24] >> As we've seen today, that got Gonzalez to minus-7. Steve Flesch from long range here. He was all over the lot at the 6th.

[00:12:31] >> He was. Hit a very poor shot. Had to lay up at 200 in for his third shot and makes birdie four. That's like stealing one there for Fleschy.

[00:12:40] >> Flesch got to minus-7. He was joined by Ken Duke, who popped one in for birdie here at the 8th.

[00:12:45] >> Yeah, nice shot in here. Hole high for Ken. This is just a little right to left swinger. And he bears it. Very nice.

[00:12:52] >> Seventy-two men qualified for this event. Fifty-four will qualify for next week's event, the Simmons Bank Championship in Ken Duke's home state of Arkansas. And he is one of four players tied for the lead right now at 7-under par here in Richmond. Up a hole to the 9th. And the third shot now for Ken Duke.

[00:13:12] >> Yeah, tough hole for Kenny to reach into. Just lay it up. It's a very good layup. Got to play a quality shot to get in position. And he plays a nice little three quarter in there. Using the slope really fast right there. These greens are running almost 14. See how quick they are coming down the slope there at 9.

[00:13:28] >> At the 9th. We saw the approach shot of Duke a little bit earlier. And this to get him to minus-8.

[00:13:34] >> Yeah, this looks like one he shouldn't have any issues with, but it is very, very quick. He cannot fall asleep on this. And then, that's a wonderful birdie four at the 9th for Ken Duke.

[00:13:53] >> And this is the best round going on the golf course to start our Saturday coverage. Ken Duke just jets to the top of the board at 8-under.

[00:14:03] >> Yeah, just a couple of feet here for Retief. It's a golden opportunity back there at the par-5 6th. Had just short of the green in two and did not get up and down. Did that a couple times yesterday.

[00:14:15] >> And it wasn't because of the chip shot here at 6 this time. He chipped it to about 3 feet. Actually putt a nice pitch. Missed the putt. This shouldn't be an issue here for Goosen.

[00:14:26] >> Up to the 10th we go. And Ricardo Gonzalez to join Ken Duke at the top.

[00:14:32] >> Up the slope. Going to move a little right to left. Oh, and it does. It turns right at the end to get in there. Great putt. I think the speed got that in there. That was really well done.

[00:14:45] >> Very classy looking scorecard for the Argentine, and one of the co-leaders now at 8-under.

[00:14:51] >> This should be just a formality for Goydos. Sensational shot in there. And he pops that one in to get to 6-under.

[00:15:02] >> Eight pars, followed by birdie.

[00:15:09] >> Up to 13. And Tim O'Neal looking for birdie number 6 of the round.

[00:15:13] >> From the back of the green here at 13. Hard to get it back there. Not much room behind this flag.

[00:15:26] >> Very little breathing room to start the week. O'Neal was one position outside the number at 55th. But the projection looking a lot more positive based on this 5-under par Saturday that Tim's got going.

[00:15:47] >> So Chalmers and then Flesch, both with far more manageable putts here.

[00:15:51] >> Yeah. But Chalmers' putts got some movement, though, doesn't it, Cookie?

[00:15:55] >> It does. It's going to move from left to right. Fairly level. Neither up nor downhill. So you can give this a pretty fair run. Down that slope and -- Goodness. Right on that left lip.

[00:16:20] >> That was a power lip out. That was awfully good right there. I thought it was in the whole way.

[00:16:25] >> Yeah. You can tell by his reaction.

[00:16:29] >> Yeah. Maybe just a touch too much space. Not much, though.

[00:16:33] >> That was good. Ready to step that one in, wasn't he?

[00:16:38] >> Yes, he was. He was almost early call, but not quite.

[00:16:45] >> Tim O'Neal looking for another birdie here at 14.

[00:16:49] >> Yeah, wonderful shot in here at the long par 3. This is back up the hill. Probably moving a little bit right to left. Can be aggressive with this one. Oh, man, that just snapped on him to miss.

[00:17:06] >> Some sharp edges out there with these guys.

[00:17:08] >> Yeah, there are. Sure are.

[00:17:12] >> Said he's still learning. Feels like he's a better player than he was last season. A little more complete player and trying to be more patient. That's the mission for O'Neal. Looks good today. Goosen just outside 3 feet for his par.

[00:17:25] >> I think this is a big putt for Retief. Making bogey here yesterday. Doesn't want to make another bogey. Going for the green.

[00:17:32] >> Hundred percent, Cookie. I think he needs something positive right now. He missed one probably shorter than this for birdie at 6. Needs a good stroke right here.

[00:17:41] >> And roll the ball nicely. OK, good two putt.

[00:17:44][ Applause ]

[00:17:52] >> Harrington's got probably close to 60 feet here at 17.

[00:17:56] >> Yeah. From the front left all the way to the back right. Very well done. Yeah, I guess.

[00:18:05] >> What a bonus.

[00:18:06] >> Hello.

[00:18:07] >> And look who's in the mix here after three straight. Harrington within three of the lead.

[00:18:16] >> Got a par 5 coming up for 18. He can reach in two.

[00:18:22] >> On 10 green. And Cink has left it in the proper spot, underneath the hole here.

[00:18:26] >> Yeah, he's got a good look here. We like it a little shorter, but overall, this is very doable for Stewart. Not much movement and can actually be aggressive with it. Just like that. Buried it. Well, you get yourself underneath the hole here, you can make some putts. These greens are pure.

[00:18:48] >> Let's look in on O'Neal here at the short par 4. Looking for birdie.

[00:18:55] >> Up the slope. This is very doable. Oh, just burns that left edge.

[00:19:09] >> So par at 15 for O'Neal, again, playing just 278 yards today.

[00:19:16] >> Back at 11. And Goydos from some range here to get to 7-under.

[00:19:21] >> Oh, hello.

[00:19:23] >> Yes, sir.

[00:19:23] >> Look at Paul Goydos.

[00:19:25] >> Birdies at 9 and 11 for Goydos, who has hit 26 of 28 greens this week, and is also first in driving accuracy. Let's see what O'Neal can do this with this one here at 16.

[00:19:39] >> Well, the lie is clean. Has to bounce it short. Pretty well done. Very well done.

[00:19:48] >> How about it? How about it?

[00:19:49] >> Oh, yeah, it was doable.

[00:19:51] >> Got to be another birdie. Number 6 of the round for O'Neal to get him within a shot of the lead now. Let's go to 18. And look in on our man Kenny Perry trying to close out his Saturday with a birdie. Look at KP with a 67.

[00:20:05] >> Yeah, the ageless one. Just keeps hanging around and sneaks back out here. Plays a couple tournaments, gets right in the hunt.

[00:20:12] >> Flesch has had to dig in a couple times in this round for par back at 8, for bogey back at 10, And having to do so again here, Cookie.

[00:20:20] >> Yeah, this is another one of those, you know, 5 footers that, middle the round, they go a long way. But he, like you said, he's kind of struggled from 8 on in so far.

[00:20:30] >> Yeah, this keeps the round going. If you make it, though, got to have it. Oh, beautiful.

[00:20:37] >> Tell you what, he's confident on those right there. That's good.

[00:20:40] >> Yes, he is. He's burying those, Cookie.

[00:20:44] >> So Flesch hanging in at 6-under, couple off the lead for his par.

[00:20:50] >> Got the tough 12th coming up.

[00:20:51] >> Down the hill at 11.

[00:20:52] >> Yeah.

[00:20:53] >> Back up top at 12. It's all you want.

[00:20:55] >> I want to watch Goosen at 12 again. He took it over that bunker up the right yesterday. It was impressive. This is Caron for his two at 17. What a birdie two at a big boy par 3.

[00:21:07] >> It's almost looks like he's going to grab a birdie here at 15. Playing just 278 today. So, you're thinking three when you stand on the tee, maybe even two. That's a busy scorecard for Ricky Gonzalez. Just one slip up at 11. Tim O'Neal, double bogey at the 17th and has a chance to eagle the 18.

[00:21:34] >> Yeah, could really use this. Be a serious bounce back. Either way, it's a good hole and gets him back one shot closer to the leader.

[00:21:45] >> Yeah, that'll be 67 for Tim, who started the day tied for 18th and has moved up the leaderboard swiftly. And the bigger picture looks a lot brighter as well. Projected at 41st through 36 this week. And Goydos has this one for his par back at 14. Bogey free yesterday and through the opening 11 holes today. And Paul drop shots at 12 and 13. I can grab one out here.

[00:22:14] >> Yeah, 13 is sounding good. Thirteen is a bad bogey.

[00:22:29] >> He was outside the bubble to start the week at 59th in Schwab Cup points.

[00:22:36] >> Speaking of whom, here's the leader at 15, and trying to remain atop the board at 8-under.

[00:22:48] >> Yeah, tough little second shot in here. And he didn't really get it where he wanted to. Now, the third and has this left for par on a hole. Lot of guys can take in a run at trying to drive the green. So, don't want to make a complete mess of this hole. To get out of here with four would be OK. Good six6, 6.5 feet. Should move a little to his right. Coming off that shoulder right behind him. Yup.

[00:23:14] >> Yeah, with confidence.

[00:23:18] >> Yeah, he's holing those out very nicely.

[00:23:21] >> Duke avoids what would have been just the fourth bogey of the day here at 15. Little shake of the head. He certainly wanted more out of that one. But nothing wrong with four.

[00:23:29] >> Goosen is due to make something.

[00:23:31] >> Something. I just feel like he can make a run right to the house right now. Got the par 5 coming up reachable. Eighteen is definitely reachable for Retief.

[00:23:42] >> He did this yesterday, Cookie.

[00:23:43] >> Yeah.

[00:23:44] >> He didn't birdie 13 from right off the edge. Didn't birdie here, didn't birdie 16, but finally got one at 18. So you could just feel like these holes owe him a little bit.

[00:23:55] >> Yeah. Just off the left edge here. Got to get it off the hole.

[00:24:22] >> Got his set up over there. He started it there. Oh, yeah.

[00:24:27] >> There it is.

[00:24:28] >> That was --

[00:24:29] >> That'll break the ice.

[00:24:30] >> He had that aimed perfectly and put it right on his line. That was really well done.

[00:24:34] >> First birdie since the fourth hole for Goosen.

[00:24:37] >> Yeah. Now, he's got two par 5s he can reach coming up. Just needs a couple of good tee shots, and he could have some fun.

[00:24:45] >> Work to do for the Gonzalez par here at 18 to get it in the house at 8-under.

[00:24:53] >> Well, he does. That's well holed there. Very nice.

[00:24:57] >> Rattles it in for 67. That's the clubhouse leader, Ken Duke at minus-9, in the group behind Gonzalez.

[00:25:06] >> Stewart Cink said he's understanding just a short time out here that it's not easy. The guys out here are in these fields for a reason. You've got to produce high quality golf for a long time in your career to be able to make it into these fields. Everybody out here is deserving of a spot in the field. And he said they don't forget how to close the door when they get in the hunt.

[00:25:29] >> Chalmers with a chance to birdie the last.

[00:25:32] >> Give him 20 feet now and slightly up the hill, moving to his left.

[00:25:43] >> How about it?

[00:25:44] >> Just ran out of gas.

[00:25:45] >> Just ran out of steam.

[00:25:48] >> Birdie is dried up for much of the day for the Aussie after the sixth hole. It's an even par 72 for Greg Chalmers on Day 2.

[00:26:08] >> Goosen has made two pars and a bogey on the par 5s today.

[00:26:12] >> Yeah, they both hole these putts. And Goosen goes in the last group with Ken Duke and Ricardo Gonzalez. And then, Flesh makes his. He goes in the second to last group with Harrington and Lee Janzen.

[00:26:28] >> With the exception of the 16th, already hit it out of position on the par 5. He's had it in perfect shape off tee shots on the par 5. So he really butchered the 5s.

[00:26:38] >> Yes.

[00:26:38] >> He could have taken total command of this going into tomorrow.

[00:26:42] >> Yeah. And Goosen's had chances yesterday and today, Cookie. Think about the ones he kind of threw away yesterday as well. Something in 16 does not suit his eye. He has hit two really poor tee shots at 16, Goosen has.

[00:26:59] >> That's the first back nine birdie for Steve Flesh. And that will produce a 2-under par round of 70. Flesch is in at 7-under, just a couple shots off the lead, trying to win for the fifth time his Champions Tour career. Retief Goosen trying to win for the second time this season. He'll be in the final group of the day with Ricardo Gonzalez and Ken Duke on Sunday here. Everybody in the right column there in green. That means they're in good shape for Little Rock, with the exception of Lee Janzen, who's going to have to do some work tomorrow to slide inside.

[00:27:35] >> Today from Richmond, Virginia, it's final round coverage of the Dominion Energy Charity Classic. Ninth year here in Richmond, just outside the capital city, to start the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs. Seventy-two guys qualified for this event. It is surviving events this time of year with only 54 moving on to Little Rock, Arkansas for next week's Simmons bank championship. And then, 36 in Phoenix for the Charles Schwab Cup Championship in a couple of weeks. Really interesting leaderboard. A lot of variety up there as we crown a champion later on today and determine who moves on to Little Rock. Will it be Tim O'Neal winning for the first time out here? He's through eight holes at 9-under par with a one shot lead over Stewart Cink, Steve Flesch and Ricardo Gonzalez. Cink and Gonzalez, winners earlier this season on the Champions Tour. With World Golf Hall of Famer and Richmond native, Lanny Wadkins. I'm John Swantek. Eleven-time PGA Tour champion, John Cook, is walking with Stewart Cink, Tim O'Neal, and Tim Petrovic. And they're out the 9th. And John Cook is down there.

[00:28:47] >> Yeah. Beautiful afternoon here. Not a breath of wind. Tim O'Neal drove it in the right rough, had to lay the ball up. That's from 122. Needs to control spin. This is a good looking shot.

[00:28:58] >> It's a good story here. David Bransdon, the Aussie who came through the qualifying school to earn his card, and trying to play his way into a second playoff event next week. Just made birdie at the 9th.

[00:29:12] >> Well, if he's 46 right now, he doesn't have wiggle room with the amount of money that's up there at the top right now, John. So it's double points. So, you know, you can get in or out very quickly right now.

[00:29:27] >> A lot of volatility around the 54 number.

[00:29:36] >> Fist pump there. He knows the meaning of that. He knows that's going to give him a little more of a comfort zone.

[00:29:45] >> And what a fabulous tee shot struck by Gonzalez at the 8th.

[00:29:49] >> And that's a birdie that you just don't see coming. You get birdie there, you just run quickly to the next hole.

[00:29:58] >> Drop back to the 9th. And Steve Flesch has really brought it back after bogeys at 3 and 4. He birdied 5, birdied 8, and adds another here at the 9th.

[00:30:07] >> Yeah. Look out for Fleschy. When he gets going, he gets hot. He can make birdies in bunches.

[00:30:17] >> Bogey on the 54th hole last week was what cost him. Had a couple shot cushion over the final stretch of holes there at Prestonwood, outside of Raleigh.

[00:30:32] >> Jerry Kelly, the champion, and a little banged up with the rheumatoid arthritis in his back, and taking this week off. So, send Jerry his best. Hope to see him back out here soon over the final couple of events.

[00:30:49] >> For a two putt birdie for Padraig. Hit the hole for eagle. This is downhill, moving left, probably on the left edge. Gets it in there.

[00:31:05] >> First birdie of the round for the Irishman. He'll turn in 37. Five shots off the lead.

[00:31:11] >> And this is a beautiful opportunity right here for Tim to start to distance himself from the field. Doesn't do much if the speed isn't up. It might move a little left. Does not have to worry about speed.

[00:31:31] >> Got it too far right, I think. No, it fell in.

[00:31:34] >> Wow.

[00:31:35] >> There you go. That's ace getting that in. I thought he was too far right, but the pace was so soft, it made the hole bigger, ball falls in the edge.

[00:31:49] >> Pretty ordinary third shot from Retief Goosen at the 9th. Has set him up for a long birdie putt, about 50 feet.

[00:31:57] >> Yeah, not one of his better plays, but almost made up for it with the big one. But another disappointing five here at the 9th. He has not played this hole well after some really good tee shots.

[00:32:10] >> Almost stole one there. But Goosen will make the turn in level par today. Thirty-six going out to remain at minus-7. And to capture his second victory of the season, the winner of the Gallery Classic in California back in the spring. Gonzalez for birdie to get it to 10-under.

[00:32:30] >> Yeah, just a wonderful bunker shot. Really two big shots to get in that left bunker.

[00:32:37][ Applause ]

[00:32:41] >> Nice little run at the tail end of the opening nine for Ricardo. And O'Neal for his par here to stay at 11-under.

[00:32:50] >> Yeah, this would be a nice two putt like we're talking about. Kind of shows us where his mindset is. After a little bit of a miscue off the tee, kept his wits about him and played a proper shot. Got out of there with par.

[00:33:02] >> Yes, he did, Cookie. Exactly. A very proper shot. Got it on the green. Trust his putting to get him out of the hole. And that's really well done. That's. That's good golf right there.

[00:33:12] >> Back at the 10th, after a very nifty little chip shot down the hill, Gonzalez pops that one in for his par to keep it at minus-10. Schwab Cup points leader coming into the week. Ernie Els birdies at 16 and 18 there to close out the week with a 69 today.

[00:33:30] >> Never really was in the mix through 54 holes at all this week.

[00:33:33] >> It's been an arduous stretch over the last four or five holes for Stewart Cink.

[00:33:41] >> Yeah, a little bit sloppy here for Stewart. Now, a good 12 feet. The only good news is he got a little preview of Tim Petrovic. Doesn't do a whole lot.

[00:33:51] >> That's a good little battle. Needed that.

[00:33:54] >> Yes, he did.

[00:33:54] >> Keep it steady at 7-under. Avoiding any further damage to the card after that spurt of birdies, 3, 4, and 5.

[00:34:08] >> Good two putt. Nice par.

[00:34:10] >> Yes, it was. Four is always a good acceptable score at the 12th.

[00:34:25] >> Back with O'Neal and Cink here.

[00:34:27] >> Oh, boy, these are not fun, neither one of these. Stewart's might be a little easier than Tim's, but he's in the rough. Going to have to bounce it in from the right, get down that slope. That was pretty well done.

[00:34:41] >> It was very well done.

[00:34:43] >> Excellent. Excellent shot.

[00:34:44] >> How about this? How about that?

[00:34:46] >> That looked like a three right from the get go, didn't it?

[00:34:48] >> Yeah. It was always three. Perfect drive, right in great position, and really well played second. And then, holy, really difficult chip. Wow.

[00:34:58] >> Maybe that'll jump start Stewart Cink's round. What a pickup for a three here at 13.

[00:35:03] >> Yeah. A lot of ways to do it. They do not draw pictures on the scorecard.

[00:35:10] >> So that could Cink within three. And we'll see how things unfold for O'Neal now.

[00:35:14] >> Yeah. He's got an OK lie. He does have to get it out to the right and use that slope and kick it to the left. He's got some room. It's all about contact and catch right here. Has to be spot on.

[00:35:26] >> Yeah. And I'd like to see this well out to the right, too. I think he'd better served keeping it really high here. If he gets away left, it's not going to be good.

[00:35:36] >> Let's see where his mindset is right here. A little bit of stress. Oh, that's really nicely done. Now, that's going to go down to the left. I like that play. That was really well done.

[00:35:50] >> That was a nice play. Good touch. Good nerves.

[00:35:52] >> Yeah. Showing us kind of where his nerves are.

[00:35:54] >> Yeah, he sure is. That was well done.

[00:35:58] >> Let's jump up to 17. Shortest distance the par 3 has played all week at 167. Here's Jason Caron for a birdie two. Just pours it in right the center.

[00:36:12] >> That pretty much went dead center.

[00:36:19] >> One little nerve check executed by Tim O'Neal. Here's another.

[00:36:22] >> Yeah, he's been working hard, 10, 11, or 11, 12, and now, 13.

[00:36:28] >> Only sinks that one. Nice up and in for a four. Stewart Cink holes one out to get a little closer to O'Neal's lead. Back up to the 12th. And Gonzalez has this one to get to 11- under.

[00:36:50] >> Yeah. Great chance right here for Gonzalez. And he just burns it through that high side. Think he thought that was going to move right. It did not. Good try. Well played hole. Comes up a little empty, though.

[00:37:08] >> There he is. Long one on the way for birdie in the tough -- the touch from long range has been bang on for O'Neal on the last few holes here, Cookie.

[00:37:16] >> Yes, certainly has. Eleven and 12 is pretty much the same length putt that he's had. Now, this will be going uphill. So he doesn't really have to worry about speed. He's got some pretty significant break from right to left. One thing I'm noticing about Tim is he's staying in his routine, Lanny. He's staying -- You know, every -- The pacing is the same, which has to be on Sunday. You don't want, you know, too quick or too slow. He's staying the same. He's very consistent.

[00:37:53] >> Yeah. That enables him to just keep doing what he's doing. Means he's not overthinking it. He's just, you know, playing with the same mentality and same approach that he has all week. And that's a good thing.

[00:38:08] >> Up the hill, moving right to left. Asking for it to go a little bit. Doesn't need to go that much. Another great pace here. Long putt.

[00:38:18] >> Really well done.

[00:38:21] >> Such a highly skilled and athletic guy. You want the approach to be reactive, right? Not bogged down too much by thought, but that's difficult to do when you're trying to win for the first time.

[00:38:31] >> Yeah. I mean, that's kind of what it looks like I think.

[00:38:47] >> Keep an eye on the guys around the bubble, including Paul Goydos. This would help at 15. There's a birdie pickup. Gets to minus-5. And that will push the projection to 56. Needs to do a little more work for Little Rock. Up to 18, Jason Caron trying to birdie the final three to close out his week here in Richmond.

[00:39:07] >> Can use this one. Yes. He is on his way to next week.

[00:39:15] >> Projected at 52nd. The club professional will be part of the field next week. Third shot here at 18 for Justin Leonard. Trying to play his way into the field next week in Little Rock.

[00:39:26] >> Yeah, normally a beautiful picture of the ball. And good example right there. Really well done. Nice shot.

[00:39:32] >> Let's hop back up to 18. See what's happening there. Vijay Singh has this one. Trying a birdie three of last four today.

[00:39:41] >> Just outside the left. Oh, good putt there for Vijay. Nice read. Good putt. Good tournament.

[00:39:48] >> Sixty-eight, 69 weekend for Vijay Singh. And just a shade inside 3 feet for O'Neal's par putt here.

[00:39:59] >> Might move a little right.

[00:40:01] >> Just a little. Up the slope, though.

[00:40:03] >> No problem.

[00:40:04] >> OK. See if he can put a good swing on the tee ball here, open up this hole.

[00:40:08] >> Three holes to play. Tim O'Neal closing in on his first Champions Tour victory.

[00:40:13] >> And Gonzalez just needs to take care of this one back at 14. And does to remain at minus-10 and one back of O'Neal. We'll see how he decides to strategize up at 15.

[00:40:32] >> David Bransdon is at minus-8 here. Looking for --

[00:40:38] >> Got to turn, got to turn. Yes.

[00:40:41] >> -- four at 17. This man is playing his way into next week's field at the Simmons Bank Championship. Look at that projection.

[00:40:49] >> Yeah. He's trying to play his way all the way to Phoenix right now.

[00:40:53] >> Bob Estes finishing up here at 18. Birdies four of his final five for a 70. Petrovic for a birdie four back at 16.

[00:41:07] >> Yeah, good tee ball. Second shot, left of the green. Pitch to here. And that is the exact same putt Tim O'Neal is going to have.

[00:41:16] >> Yeah, he was watching it really closely as well.

[00:41:25] >> So Petrovic provides the blueprint for O'Neal to move it to 12-under here, potentially.

[00:41:30] >> Yeah, it's a tough putt. It's not an easy putt. It's one he would like to have, but he knows what he's got to do.

[00:41:38] >> And there's a scoreboard right there. He was looking at it. He knows exactly where he stands, which is much needed. This has to feed this down that little slope, Lanny, just on that left edge.

[00:41:51] >> Going to match the pace up. Oh, did he ever. What a confident stroke that was. Very well done.

[00:42:00] >> That was a big one from O'Neal. Undeterred by driving into the bunker here, sensibly played his second.

[00:42:06] >> The other thing he's gone through, he hasn't changed his routine. He's not standing over the ball any longer. He's doing the same things he did early in the round.

[00:42:22] >> Ken Duke has waited a long time for his first birdie of the day. Will it come here? There it is.

[00:42:31][ Cheering and Applause ] Energetic reaction from the gallery. And Duke will be in his home state of Arkansas next week's Simmons Bank Championship. Just roughed up on that opening nine. Kind of doomed his chances of winning here.

[00:42:49] >> Well, the third hole right off the bat, that's got a -- you're thinking, you know, everything's upbeat going into the day with the lead. Trying to move forward, and you double your third hole, and instantly, you're behind the eight ball.

[00:43:04] >> Gonzalez missed one from about this length back at 13.

[00:43:18] >> Didn't miss that one. That was dead center. Straight in 3 feet up the hill. Wonderful second shot in there.

[00:43:25] >> Tim O'Neal's two shot lead lasted about a minute and a half. Gonzalez cuts into it as heads for 16.

[00:43:31] >> Tim O'Neal trying not to miss his shot over the final two holes here.

[00:43:36] >> Yeah. Just one of those you got to pay a little bit of attention to.

[00:43:40] >> No question this stage of the game.

[00:43:43] >> A little more on that than I thought. So, well holed.

[00:43:47] >> It was solid 2.5, wasn't it? Maybe three.

[00:43:50] >> He has hit those with great conviction today. No doubters. How about David Bransdon with a big fist pump as that one goes down for birdie at 18?

[00:44:14] >> Take an extra second. Really see this. You've done it a thousand times before.

[00:44:19] >> Oh, that is good confirmation from the caddie here.

[00:44:22] >> Yeah, I like that. Just like you've done a thousand times before, same thing. So, nothing different. Practice tee swing. Go play your shot.

[00:44:30] >> He just saw a very good shot from Stewart Cink in there about 8 feet. Controlled his spin. Hundred and six yards. Slightly uphill. Wind down the right.

[00:44:42] >> Go ahead and get it there. Even a pretty good hit.

[00:44:50] >> Yeah, needs to go. It needs to not spin too much or go in. What a golf shot.

[00:44:56] >> That was really good. He got helped by give it a little bit. You know, that almost hit the flag. That would have been special. Still was very, very good.

[00:45:09] >> O'Neal will wait just a little bit longer. We'll see the Petrovic birdie putt next.

[00:45:14] >> Yeah, not much to this. Uphill, moving slightly to his left. This would go a long way to that Top 36. And sure does. Nice little finish there for Tim Petrovic.

[00:45:27] >> Yeah, birdie in the last three holes. That's very good. Good putt there.

[00:45:33] >> Likely to improve the projection, which was 36 coming into the week. And now, a big moment for O'Neal to stretch the lead to two here. I think he's got to get this outside the right edge. Just kind of let it curl in there.

[00:45:51] >> Just staying right in his normal routine. Nothing different here.

[00:45:54] >> Love it. Oh, yes. What a hole for Tim O'Neal. What a round of golf that was. That was spectacular.

[00:46:10] >> What a birdie. What a day. Sixty-five for O'Neal. Is it going to be enough?

[00:46:18] >> Well, actually, I thought Gonzalez was in the driver's seat if he made the one at 16. But missing that, now, he needs two to tie.

[00:46:25] >> And you can see how popular a player Tim O'Neal is with the other guys out here on the Champions Tour. Stewart Cink, Tim Petrovic, as happy as anyone at that putt, just went down.

[00:46:36] >> Yeah. One thing I'd like to see right now is Tim O'Neal stay in it. Don't celebrate too early. Things happen. Things happen. Whoever that was.

[00:46:48] >> He's done all he can. Sixty-five on Sunday. Tim O'Neal leads by two for now and will wait to see if it will hold up, and produce his first victory on the Champions Tour. That is the ball of Ricardo Gonzalez. It appears in the bunker. So, things have gotten a lot more difficult.

[00:47:20] >> Yeah, he got it up there a long way. Not sure. He probably believed he could get it to that bunker. I wouldn't think he would have put that in play on purpose. This about as difficult as it gets from here. The lie did not look particularly good. Not sure he has a great stance. And this is a really awkward distance on top of all that. Can't even get in the bunker hardly. This will have to be something special just to get it up on the green somewhere. I think he's had his son on the bag as well --

[00:48:08] >> That's right.

[00:48:09] >> -- for the majority of the year out here.

[00:48:24] >> Has to go in to force sudden death.

[00:48:27] >> And it will not even make it to the green. And that means that Tim O'Neal has survived, and he is a winner for the first time on the PGA Tour Champions here in Richmond, Virginia. What a moment for the native of Savannah, Georgia. And a hug of congratulations from Tim Petrovic. And Cookie, let's hear from our champion.

[00:48:53] >> Oh, boy. I could talk to you for an hour right now, your emotions right now. PGA Tour Champion's first win, your emotions.

[00:49:02] >> I don't know what to think, you know. It's been a long season. And for me to get it done when I had to, that means a lot.

[00:49:13] >> You knew where you stood coming into this week. What flipped this week? Why did you have your game? I played my last competitive round of golf with you, and I said, man, it's not going to take long for Tim O'Neal to win a golf tournament. Why this week?

[00:49:28] >> I don't know. It was just how it supposed to happen, I guess. You know, I've been playing well in the past few weeks, just given too many shots back. And the last two days was really solid. And, you know, it only takes one week, right? And this is my week.

[00:49:44] >> Holes 11 through 15, you hung in there. How did -- How were you able to do that? You played such a great front nine, great birdie at 10. Eleven, 12, 13, 14, 15 were kind of, you know, you had to, you know, reach down inside, deep inside. How were you able to survive that little stretch?

[00:50:03] >> Really, you know, I'm just playing one shot at a time. I know that's cliche, but that's all I was doing. I didn't really scoreboard watch. I just kept telling myself, just keep hitting greens, and give myself birdie looks. And when I had long birdie putts, I was able to lock it down there and not have a lot of stress. So, that was definitely helpful to be able to do that.

[00:50:20] >> You know, Lanny and I both agreed that what really was impressive of you is you never got out of your routine. You never got out of your pacing. You never got out of your speed. You didn't get too high, too low, too fast, too slow. Is that something that you've learned out here?

[00:50:33] >> Yeah. I tried to walk slower this week. I tried to do everything a lot slower. I get to go in a little bit too fast sometimes. And this week, I was really focused on just trying to do that. And turned out to be a good week.

[00:50:46] >> Congratulations. We're really proud of you.

[00:50:48] >> Thank you. I appreciate it.

[00:50:49] >> Swanny.

[00:50:50] >> Congratulations, indeed. What a performance. Low round of the week, 65 to stamp out Champions Tour victory number 1, Lanny.

[00:50:57] >> Yeah. He sure looks like he's got plenty of talent. And I would expect a lot more wins from Tim O'Neal. I'm sure John Skeadas and all his buddies back in Savannah probably over the moon, excited for this man. They're all good friends, and he's got a great support group back there. And really happy for Tim. Nice, man.

[00:51:15] >> Things can really speed up in a player's head when you're trying to win for the first time. You know that. And he was in the moment all day long. It was impressive.

[00:51:23] >> Well, he plays fast anyway, which is a good thing. So by playing quick, it's -- sometimes, it's hard to get too quick. If you -- If it's already your pace and he takes the time to walk slow, then it fits in better. It's the guys that play slow and all of a sudden get fast at the end, they get out of whack.

[00:51:43] >> There's the Top 10 as Tim O'Neal nearly crashes the Top ten 10. Moves all the way from 55th to 13th in the standings.

[00:51:51] >> Yeah. And Gonzalez got inside the Top 10 with that. But the Top 3 stay the same. So we'll see them on Friday of next week as they'll be paired together again.

[00:52:02] >> Pleasant Valley Country Club, Little Rock, Arkansas, the next stop for Tim O'Neal and the PGA Tour Champions. Second leg of Charles Schwab Cup playoffs. Congratulations to Tim O'Neal.