Production Transcript for 24INTCUTCH - SIMMONS BANK CHAMP - MASTER.mp3

[00:00:39] >> For the first time ever, the PGA Tour Champions is in the great state of Arkansas for the inaugural Simmons Bank Championship. The race is on for the Top 36 on the PGA Tour Champions. Race for the Charles Schwab Cup. The PGA Tour Champions proudly present the season-long race for the Charles Schwab Cup. Live from Little Rock, Arkansas, it's the inaugural Simmons Bank Championship. The 27th of 28 on the PGA Tour Champion schedule. The State Capitol building resides here at Little Rock, Arkansas. The PGA Tour Champions is so honored to be here at Pleasant Valley Country Club in Little Rock, Arkansas. First time this venue has been used for a Tour event. And it is setting up to be a great scene. The largest build out of any event on the PGA Tour Champions happening at the inaugural Simmons Bank Championship. Vijay Singh, World Golf Hall of Famer, with a birdie of 14. He moves to 7-under par. Jason Caron cards a 7-under par 65, including a world class par save at the 18th. Miguel Angel Jimenez hasn't won in over two years. He's off to a really good start. Padraig Harrington, 3-under through his opening eight. How about the win by Jerry Kelly just a few weeks ago? Winning for the first time in 2.5 years. He's under par. And Richard Green still looking for that first win, has had a marvelous season. Now, Steven Alker playing his second at the 7th. Alker, second in the Schwab Cup standings behind Ernie Els. His lone win came in the season opening event at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai.

[00:02:29] >> And just a layup here, and beautiful shot there by Alker.

[00:02:38] >> Ricardo Gonzalez, who won the Trophy Hassan II in Morocco earlier this year, has been in contention quite a bit here over the last couple of weeks. And he pours that in.

[00:02:48] >> He was right there with a chance coming down the stretch last week. Just could not get the putts to go.

[00:02:54] >> Stephen Ames, who's won three times this year, has this putt for birdie.

[00:02:59] >> Stephen needs to get something going. He's in contention for the Schwab Cup and really has not had a good run here the last several weeks. Really needs to kind of find his stroke. And that may help right there at the 7th. Just get going, make a few birdies, get in contention. If a guy like Stephen Ames can get in contention, the juices will start flowing and he'll start smelling that lead.

[00:03:21] >> To go over to 17. And Steve Flesch has this putt for birdie.

[00:03:26] >> Great shot in here at the long par-3 17th. And Fleschy has been in contention the last Few weeks and looking like he's going to be there again this weekend.

[00:03:38] >> Now, Alker for his birdie at 7. So Steven Alker gets to 4-under. Hard to believe that he has not won since --

[00:03:47] >> It is.

[00:03:47] >> -- the season opener at Hualalai.

[00:03:51] >> Thomas Bjorn playing his third, John. Just missed the green with his second.

[00:03:55] >> Yeah, had a nice little layup right in the middle of the fairway. A little wide right with his second, right at hole high. Now, this has a pretty good break from right to left. Once it starts breaking, it goes downhill. So, needs to be a little careful. Just clank it right off the flank side.

[00:04:12] >> Yeah, I would say he was very careful. That's really well done.

[00:04:14] >> Yeah. He missed a short birdie putt 10 and the makeable putt at 11. But from off the green, I think he found his range.

[00:04:24] >> Stephen Ames playing his third at the par-5 8th.

[00:04:29] >> He's got enough green. This is probably doable. Yes, it is. This for eagle coming about 2 yards off the back of the green. It is down green right there. So should roll nicely coming out of there. Oh, it does.

[00:04:50] >> Kenny Perry.

[00:04:54] >> Keep it right here for Steven Alker's birdie putt. Alker and Ames just have pretty simple looks from really almost inside 2 feet. Great little pitches both of them played.

[00:05:14] >> It's been an odd year with Stephen after he won in such dominant fashion at Hualalai. And then, he had a chance at the Gallery Classic and several other chances during the course of the year, but just always off a little bit.

[00:05:28] >> Yeah. At the Gallery, he just kind of handed it to Retief Goosen there at the end. Kind of a questionable play he made at 18, and it really did not work out obviously. Stephen Ames needs to get something going. He's got a lot of game and knows how to win out here, that's for sure. Still, Schwab Cup is still in his grasp, within his grasp. But he's going to need a good week here and next week to get it done.

[00:06:03] >> Par 5s are very gettable here at Pleasant Valley Country Club. Now, look at Padraig Harrington at the 7th. This is his second shot. He hit the cart path and, excuse me, at 11, and basically hit it almost hole high.

[00:06:20][ Applause ] So he's going to have that for birdie.

[00:06:28] >> This is a tricky shot, John.

[00:06:30] >> Yeah, it's a tiny little pot bunker. It's not very deep, but right up against the face at 132 yards. Coming off that double at 13. Last thing he wants is to compound that. Pretty good contact. Got to get up a little bit. That's pretty well done from right there.

[00:06:55] >> Over at the 10th, par 5, Ricardo Gonzalez for birdie.

[00:07:02] >> He makes a lot of putts, a lot of birdies. Good example right there. That's his fifth of the day.

[00:07:08] >> This is the third shot for Vijay Singh at the par-5 18th.

[00:07:13] >> Yeah, drove it right. There's bunkers, rough over there. Had to lay up with his second. Water left on this, but good shot in here by Vijay. He's got that to take the first round lead.

[00:07:26] >> This is the third for Steven Alker after that poorly struck tee shot.

[00:07:32] >> Yeah, hit a tree off the tee, went backwards just to layup. And now, short iron in here for Alker. And it's going to be good now. Got a great release off the fringe. Really nice shot.

[00:07:49] >> Hall of Famer Vijay Singh has this putt for birdie at the par-5 18th to post 8-under and the lead here in Round 1.

[00:08:01] >> And Vijay pours that in. So the Hall of Famer birdies the 18th despite the errant tee shot. And he shoots an 8-under par.

[00:08:15] >> Be like stealing for Alker after that poor tee shot, hitting the tree going backwards. Had to layup and played a nice short iron in here. Probably around 6 feet for Steven. Back up the slope. That was a really nice read right there. Guided outside the hole and proper base.

[00:08:43] >> Let's see if Miguel Angel Jimenez can make this putt for birdie after leaving his eagle putt some 8 feet short. And he pours it in. So, Miguel, a clean scorecard. He shoots 6-under 66 and right in the mix. That's for his fifth birdie in the last six. Now, Bjorn for birdie at 16.

[00:09:06] >> See if he can take advantage of that nice shot back there. He walked by me earlier and said, this first good shot I've hit since you've been on the property. And I went, yeah, they don't call me the cooler for nothing.

[00:09:16] >> No, you've got a reputation to uphold, Cookie. And, you know, we all appreciate it.

[00:09:20] >> Well, he's out here long enough. He'll understand.

[00:09:22] >> Exactly.

[00:09:23] >> Mr. Free shows up.

[00:09:24] >> Yeah, you got to --

[00:09:25] >> You better play hard.

[00:09:27] >> Let's go over to 11, where Steven Alker is playing with Ernie Els and Stephen Ames.

[00:09:33] >> Got to stay up. It does. Yes. Maybe the putter's heating up for Stephen Ames. That's, you know, four birdies in the last five holes.

[00:09:42] >> Hasn't made a par since the 5th. Steven Alker won the Mitsubishi Electric Championship in Hualalai to kick the season off. Four shots over Harrison Frazar. He played the last 45 holes 24-under for his eighth win. And coming off that, you said, can Alker have a Stricker-like year or the year that Alker had in '22 and he's going to rip off four or five, six wins? Hard to believe that's his last win.

[00:10:10] >> It really is. It was so dominant there at Hualalai, I just expected him to keep it going. Yeah. Who knows, Bobby. You know, there's a big break from, you know, early in the year. We play a tournament, then it's almost like 3, 4 weeks off for another one. So maybe he -- you know, you go back and you get a little complacent and it will catch up with you quickly.

[00:10:37] >> And you got to think what happened at the Gallery Classic. Go up to 18 and Mark Hensby, currently at even par for eagle at 18. We saw Kenny Perry make one earlier. And Hensby adds his name to the list. So he shoots 2-under with that eagle at 18.

[00:10:59] >> Let's see if Thomas Bjorn can make a birdie putt here at 17.

[00:11:08] >> He had to move his coin from Ken Duke's line, so now, he knows exactly what it does. It doesn't do much.

[00:11:21] >> Two in a row.

[00:11:21] >> So Thomas Bjorn, back to back birdies, erases that disaster at 13.

[00:11:30] >> Y.E. Yang at 14. See if he can pay off the birdie.

[00:11:36] >> Down the slope, not much in this. There you go.

[00:11:43] >> Y.E. got his first win at the Ascension Charity Classic.

[00:11:51] >> Bjorn to match Goosen and Caron at 7-under. This for eagle.

[00:11:57] >> Yeah, about 3 feet, down the slope.

[00:12:00] >> What a finish there for Thomas Bjorn.

[00:12:03] >> Yeah. After the double at 13, 16, 17, birdies, eagle at 18, and Bjorn in the mix heading to the weekend. Padraig Harrington playing his second into 18.

[00:12:24] >> Good angle from this left side of the fairway just in the first cut. And that's a wonderful second by Padraig. He has that for eagle at 18.

[00:12:35] >> We've had five eagles so far. This back up the hill, it'll turn from right to left for Stewart Cink.

[00:12:43] >> Toughest thing is hitting it hard enough. He does.

[00:12:45] >> Oh, Stewart sinks it for eagle number 6 at 18, and he shoots at 4-under 68.

[00:12:57] >> Will we get eagle number seven from the Hall of Famer, Padraig Harrington? Yes, we do. Man, the Hall of Fame -- There's four Hall of Famers in the field, Singh, Goosen, Harrington, and Els.

[00:13:11] >> So far, three of the Hall of Famers have made eagle at 18. So, John, I'm thinking here as I look at Alker's putt and I see the mark of Ames, clearly, he doesn't need to remark it. What's the line here for Steven?

[00:13:25] >> Yeah. It's inside that mark. It doesn't go a whole lot to the right. Might go slightly uphill just a little bit.

[00:13:31] >> Got to keep the pace up if he wants to make this one.

[00:13:34] >> Yeah. Be left center with some pace.

[00:13:37] >> Yeah.

[00:13:37] >> This for the share of the lead.

[00:13:46] >> Yup.

[00:13:46] >> So Alker --

[00:13:46] >> Making some twos on this hole.

[00:13:49] >> -- with his --

[00:13:50] >> I'm seeing a number of twos made.

[00:13:56] >> Three straight birdies for Ernie Els. He shoots 3-under par 69 here in Round 1. The question is, will he be five off the lead, six off the lead?

[00:14:08] >> Yeah. Moves downhill slightly to his right. You've seen this putt all day long. It's been made a lot.

[00:14:19] >> Yeah. And not much -- maybe right on the edge. I wouldn't think much out of the hole at all. Maybe just on the edge or inside, John.

[00:14:27] >> Yeah

[00:14:27] >> No doubt.

[00:14:35] >> For eagle and the outright lead here in Round 1. And there it is. Steven Alker with an eagle at 18, matches his career low on the PGA Tour Champions at 10-under par 62. Alker, who won the season open at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai in the 27th event of the year, makes eagle on 18 and shoots 62, and now, has a two shot lead over Vijay Singh.

[00:15:18][ Cheering and Applause ] What a way to finish the day. Bogey free for Alker. So Steven Alker shoots bogey free 62, leapfrogs Vijay Singh, who had a brilliant day in his own right with that 8-under par 64. Goosen, Caron, Bjorn at 7-under. Jimenez, Choi, Yang at 6-under par. Padraig Harrington, Billy Andrade, 5-under par. Sixty-sevens right in the mix on that first page of the leaderboard. Take a look at some of the highlights. And Stewart Cink, who won earlier this year at the Ally Challenge, trying to make a run on this moving day Saturday.

[00:16:14] >> Cink, who wanted just his 10th start since turning 50, rolls in this putt for birdie in the 7th. That would get him to 8-under par. And then, the rain starts to intensify. Miguel Angel Jimenez, who hasn't won in over two years, playing his second into the 7th, and lips out. He'd go on to make birdie to get to 9-under par. Padraig Harrington, with the rain pouring down, this isn't going to faze the Irishman. His third at the par-5 8th. Manages the slope, and boom, knocks it in for eagle. That gets Harrington to 8-under par. And another Hall of Famer. Vijay Singh, rolling in this putt for birdie at the 7th. And this gets Vijay to 9-under and just a shot off the lead. After firing a bogey free 10-under par 62 yesterday, Steven Alker even today. He leads Goosen, Jimenez, Singh, and Choi by one, with Harrington leading that group at 8-under.

[00:17:40] >> Alker, his first birdie of the day.

[00:17:42] >> Yeah, and we --

[00:17:43] >> Like you said, this is an important one I think for Steven Alker.

[00:17:47] >> Hundred percent, Cookie. I think he's got to do something to go forward. He should have had a good idea how much it's going to turn from Vijay's, even though it's not exactly the same line.

[00:17:57] >> Yeah. Definitely has to move to his left.

[00:18:03] >> Actually, that one stayed pretty straight. That was kind of right edge, right inside, stayed right there. Good putt by Alker. He's now moved to 11.

[00:18:14] >> So his lead is 2.

[00:18:17] >> Over at 18, Michael Wright has this putt for birdie. Michael, 54th coming into this week. And he pours that in. Shot one over yesterday, but puts together a nice Saturday and shoots a 6-under 66.

[00:18:35] >> Padraig Harrington for eagle at the 10th. Remember, he holed out for eagle at 8. Can he do it again.

[00:18:45] >> Now, Ken Duke for birdie at 17.

[00:18:48] >> Right on track. Oh, yeah.

[00:18:52] >> Yeah. The Arkansas native, Ken Duke, who's instrumental along with Glen Day at getting the PGA Tour Champions to come to Little Rock and Arkansas for the Simmons Bank Championship.

[00:19:12] >> Now, Miguel for his birdie.

[00:19:26] >> Again, he won three times in 2022. Boeing Classic was the last of those wins, and he hasn't won since. He had won every year since turning 50. Going back to 2014, when he turned 50, and in his debut, went wire to wire and winning the Mitsubishi Electric Classic at TPC Sugarloaf.

[00:19:50] >> Well, he's cooking today, Bob. He's got it right there. One shot off the lead and looks pretty much under control right now.

[00:19:59] >> It's pretty sporty leaderboard.

[00:20:01] >> Yes, it is.

[00:20:03] >> Couple Hall of Famers up there.

[00:20:05] >> Yeah, kind of a who's who of the PGA Tour Champions. Goosen kind of stay in touch here. He's 8. Put him back to 9. It does. Only a couple back. He's right there. So, Goosen, 1-under today. Excuse me, 2-under today.

[00:20:38] >> Padraig Harrington's second into 12.

[00:20:42] >> Downhill, second shot to the 12th. Hole location is gettable. And good shot there by Padraig. Nice play. Right underneath the flag.

[00:20:53] >> Rod Pampling on the tee at 17. Rod currently three off the lead.

[00:21:01] >> Six-under today. He's tugged this a little bit. Needs to hang in there. It does. And good shot there by Rodney.

[00:21:14] >> Padraig Harrington, a chance to join him at 10-under over at the 12th.

[00:21:19] >> There you go.

[00:21:22] >> So Harrington started his day with a bogey, birdied 4 and 5, eagled 8, birdies 10 and 12. So he's 5-under today.

[00:21:33] >> Jason Caron for his birdie. So how about this? Jason Caron came into the week at 53. Right now, where he stands, if you give him the solo points for seventh, he would move to 43rd. And this birdie would move him inside the Top 36. Again, these are just projections. That does not take into consideration the fact that he's tied for seventh with four other players. But he's got an opportunity here. He keeps doing that. And he doesn't have a bogey on the scorecard yet this week. He, K.J. Choi, and Steven Alker are the only players that are bogey free this week.

[00:22:15] >> Pretty good considering --

[00:22:16] >> Yeah, this is a golf course nobody knows. This is a debut event.

[00:22:21] >> It's a golf course nobody knows. And this is not his real job.

[00:22:24] >> Rod Pampling can roll this in for birdie after that nice tee shot at the par-3 17th.

[00:22:32] >> Yeah, about 23 or 4 feet for Rodney. Did he hit it? Yes, he did. What a round Rod has going today. With a bogey no less.

[00:22:48] >> Y.E. Yang here at the Simmons Bank Championship for birdie at the 12th. Y.E., seventh in the Charles Schwab Cup standings coming into this week.

[00:22:59] >> Beautiful putt there for Y.E. Been playing a lot of good golf last few months.

[00:23:10] >> Now, Vijay Singh did control the spin, Cookie. So he has a chance to match Jimenez and Alker at 11-under.

[00:23:17] >> That he does. A beautiful little wedge shot back there, just over 90 yards. Like we talked about, no spin. Just kind of held its position. And that's the sign of a great wedge player and a good Hall of Famer.

[00:23:30] >> Yeah. Should have gotten a little bit of a read from Alker's putt that didn't go right.

[00:23:34] >> Yeah, it doesn't do much.

[00:23:35] >> So, very straight for Vijay. Wasn't sure he hit it, but he did. Great birdie three for Vijay. Really a well-played hole.

[00:23:47] >> So now, three atop the leaderboard at 11-under.

[00:23:51] >> Goosen for his birdie at 12.

[00:23:58] >> Good look for Goose in here. This is simple. Yes.

[00:24:02] >> So he's at 10-under.

[00:24:06] >> A shot off the lead.

[00:24:08] >> Rod Pampling has this putt for birdie to shoot 64. And he does. Goosen has this left for par. Missed the green at the par 3. This to stay a shot off the lead. And money for Goosen.

[00:24:34][ Applause ]

[00:24:41] >> Thomas Bjorn for birdie at 13.

[00:24:44] >> Got to keep it up. It will go right. Good putt.

[00:24:48] >> So he gets within two of the lead.

[00:24:51] >> Big improvement over yesterday. He was three shots better on this hole today.

[00:24:55] >> Yeah. Made double there yesterday, and then, finished birdies at 16, 17, and eagle at 18. Padraig will tap in his birdie putt at 15. So, Harrington joins the group at 11-under.

[00:25:25] >> Good putt by Thomas Bjorn over at 14. Really well done. And Thomas has jumped back after the bad bogey at 10.

[00:25:39] >> Now, back at 14. Goosen for his birdie to join the party at 11-under.

[00:25:45][ Applause ] Alker has this putt for birdie to get to 12-under and regain the outright lead.

[00:26:00] >> Second birdie of the day for Alker.

[00:26:09] >> He gets to 12-under.

[00:26:12] >> Over at 18, Stewart Sink playing with Ricardo. This putt for eagle. And this gets him to 9-under.

[00:26:20] >> It gets him right in this tournament is what it does.

[00:26:27] >> Sixty-seven for Stewart Cink.

[00:26:35] >> Down the hill. Yes. Bounces back after the bogey at 15. How about this fan turnout, Lanny, considering the rain that we had this morning, and then, at the start of the second round? But Little Rock, Arkansas loves their golf and are supporting the Simmons Bank Championship in its inaugural year. So now, this is Harrington's birdie putt at 18 to give Padraig the outright lead. So Padraig Harrington bogeyed the opening hole and played the final 17 at 7-under.

[00:27:13] >> Wow. That's quite a round with an opening hole bogey.

[00:27:26] >> Putt of the day belongs to Steven Alker. Alker birdied the 8th, birdied the 14th, bogeyed 16. And this to match Padraig Harrington in the clubhouse through 36 at 12-under.

[00:27:46] >> Yeah, not much to this couple of feet. Just right of center.

[00:27:57] >> So Steven Alker shoots 2-under 70 here at Round 2, and has a 36-hole co-lead with Padraig Harrington heading into tomorrow's final round of the Simmons Bank Championship. So here's the leaderboard through 36. Alker projected to move to number 1 in the Schwab Cup standings. He and Harrington share the lead going into Sunday. Goosen, Jimenez, Singh, Caron, Pampling, Fujita, all just two back, with Stewart Cink and K.J. Choi leading that group at 9-under par.

[00:28:47] >> Stewart Cink picked up his first win at the Ally Challenge, off to a fast start. This birdie at the 8th would give him four in a row.

[00:28:57] >> And that would get Stewart Cink to 14-under par.

[00:29:05] >> Cameron Percy over at the 5th, rolls this putt in for birdie.

[00:29:09] >> Yeah, nice putt there by Percy. He's trying to hang right near the leaders today.

[00:29:14] >> That would get him to 13-under par. And then, Padraig Harrington, who started the day at 12-under, in a share of the lead with Steven Alker, rolls this putt in for birdie. This would get him to 14-under par.

[00:29:27] >> And Harrington would add another for good measure. This at the 5th to get to 15-under.

[00:29:33] >> Yeah, good putt up the slope here. Great pace. Gets it to fall on the outside edge. And that's right two there.

[00:29:41] >> So here's the updated leaderboard. The Top 36 players in the field advance to the Schwab Cup Championship. Padraig Harrington could move all the way up to number 4. He's at 15-under par with a one shot lead over Stewart Cink at the Simmons Bank Championship.

[00:29:56] >> Pleasant Valley Country Club playing host in then inaugural Simmons Bank Championship. It has been absolutely spectacular all week long. Little Rock has rolled out the red carpet for the best of the PGA Tour Champions. Fifty-four players qualified for this week's event. The Top 36 advance to the Charles Schwab Cup Championship in two weeks at Phoenix Country Club. That's the trophy on the line. Three hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars goes to the winner and 730,000 points to the winner as well.

[00:30:32] >> Now, Harrington to widen his lead and get it to 16-under.

[00:30:37] >> There are really good opportunity here for Padraig. Does have some break from right to left and it has some speed. So he's got to get it out there and kind of let it catch that right edge of the hole.

[00:30:50] >> It's got to be a soft, but he can't try and force this in. He hit it pretty firm.

[00:30:58][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:31:07] >> Padraig Harrington, four birdies through his opening eight, now at 16-under par, two shots clear of Stewart Cink. Y.E. Yang for birdie at 11.

[00:31:29] >> Pretty good stretch right here at 10, 11, 12.

[00:31:32][ Applause ]

[00:31:39] >> Cameron Percy for his birdie to get to within two of the lead.

[00:31:44][ Applause ] Five-under on his round today.

[00:31:54] >> Y.E. Yang.

[00:32:04][ Applause ]

[00:32:16] >> Up at the green, this is Fujita's putt for birdie.

[00:32:22][ Applause ]

[00:32:42] >> A nice up and down birdie there for Padraig. Fifth birdie of the day.

[00:32:48] >> Padraig kind of stretching this out a little bit here, Cookie. Three shot lead now.

[00:32:57] >> Alker for birdie.

[00:32:59] >> Yeah, must make there.

[00:33:04] >> So Steven Alker makes his first birdie of the day, and that comes on the 10th hole. He's even on his round, and now, five behind Harrington.

[00:33:23] >> OK, ready?

[00:33:27] >> Yeah.

[00:33:27] >> And look at what Fujita is doing. He is inside that Top 36. Ernie Els has this putt for birdie. Ernie having a nice day today. The leader in the Schwab Cup standings.

[00:33:47] >> Did he hit it? Did he hit it?

[00:33:48] >> Oh, Ernie Els gets to 10-under par, 6-under on his round. And with Alker doing nothing, Ernie Els, who is projected to fall out of the top spot, now is projected to keep the top spot.

[00:34:10] >> Jason Caron, who's been a great story here this week, currently at 11-under par.

[00:34:18][ Applause ]

[00:34:21] >> So that gets him to 12-under. Again, Jason Caron started the week in 53rd position. And obviously, the quest is to get to the Top 36. That gets you into Schwab Championship, the Phoenix Country Club in two weeks. But, you know, if he can make a few more birdies coming in and keep moving up, if he could get at least somewhere around 40, were in the high 30s, he will wind up finding himself in quite a few events moving forward.

[00:34:54] >> Yeah, I want to say that, like, Top 41, 42 players last year got in everything they wanted to get in. So it's -- Even though the Top 36 is totally exempt, they do go down the list to get in each week. Guys don't play for one reason or another. Somebody's injured, somebody sick, somebody's got a kid, get married, golf game sucks. I mean, could be anything.

[00:35:24] >> Just ran the gamut there.

[00:35:25] >> Yeah. Parent's weekend at school.

[00:35:27] >> Yeah, exactly.

[00:35:28] >> Yeah.

[00:35:28] >> That happens with these guys. They're at that age that things like that do happen. Grandkids being born. I mean, you name. It's all there, Bob.

[00:35:49] >> Percy has made a huge move, not only this week, but today.

[00:35:53] >> He's made some club spots, too. Very nice.

[00:36:02] >> So he's at 15-under. Fujita for another birdie. Looks at it.

[00:36:16] >> He's jumping back up there. He went to 37 a minute ago with a bogey. I would guess he jumped back inside that 36 with that one.

[00:36:29] >> Yeah.

[00:36:37] >> Cameron Percy, who earned a spot on the PGA Tour Champions through Q School in the fall, he didn't turn 50 until May 5. Had one win on the Korn Ferry Tour in his career. His best finish on the PGA Tour Champions, a solo third at the American Family Insurance Championship.

[00:36:55] >> Very interesting they let you do that. Go through the school when you're 49, and then, wait till you turn 50 and you get to start playing. Look at that putt.

[00:37:08] >> And he's just two off the lead. Again, he started this week 40th in the Schwab Cup standings.

[00:37:19] >> He's just one off the lead right now.

[00:37:23] >> Hiroyuki Fujita.

[00:37:26] >> He's kind of hanging around that 36th spot.

[00:37:30] >> Right now, he's got that 36th spot projected, of course. He is a very popular figure in Japan and would love nothing better than the PGA Tour Champions. And boom, he knocks that in. And now, he's only two off the lead as well.

[00:37:51] >> Yeah. And that's going to put a hurting on Rod Pampling, honestly, because that's going to probably jump him ahead of Pampling.

[00:38:03] >> Over at 16, Y.E. Yang has made a mess of this hole. He has this for bogey. Mow, Y.E. is not in any jeopardy. So he's going to have that for double. He is in no jeopardy. Obviously, he came into the week seventh overall. However, a really high finish would have given him a much better chance to win when we get to Phoenix for the Schwab Cup Championship.

[00:38:31] >> Yeah. And the Top 5 payout as well at Phoenix.

[00:38:35] >> And here's why this is important. Not as much for Y.E. I mean, obviously, his chances of winning have just crumbled. But again, he's inside the Top 10 in the season-long race. But that just helped Fujita. Let's go up to 18. And our buddy Ricardo Gonzalez has this for eagle. Grilling steaks, chorizos on Friday night for the caddies and players. And, yeah, Ricardo. Head into the week ninth in the standings and shoots 55 in the final round. And he's at 12-under par. And that gets him, at least for the moment, inside the Top 10 for this week. Y.E. Yang for birdie at 17 after that disaster of a double bogey at 16.

[00:39:25] >> Down the slope here for him. And this was a -- had to be a good looking shot going in. Yes.

[00:39:38] >>So he's only two off the lead. Eighteen is getable.

[00:39:41] >> Can Jimenez make a run to the clubhouse?

[00:39:43] >> Into the hole.

[00:39:44][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:39:50] >> There are birdies and eagles to be found the last three holes. You never know.

[00:39:58] >> Stewart Cink hit the chalet.

[00:40:02] >> Right off the top.

[00:40:03] >> And went into the bunker. Just your ordinary par.

[00:40:12] >> Well, now, this is interesting. This is more than a little tap in, but Padraig is going to go ahead and clean up his par putt rather than move his marker. Because it's going to be in Steven Alker's line.

[00:40:29] >> Kind of surprising.

[00:40:30] >> A little bit, yeah.

[00:40:31][ Applause ]

[00:40:37] >> It's kind of like, you know what, Cookie, what's the rush?

[00:40:42] >> Yeah, exactly. Maybe he just doesn't like to move his marker in case he forgets it to move it back.

[00:40:47] >> I guess. Well, he's --

[00:40:50] >> Y.E. Yang for eagle at 18.

[00:40:53] >> This might be the first bullet he's got a dodge right here. Up the slope. Can he get there? He did. Turn.

[00:41:08] >> Turn.

[00:41:08] >> Wow. Great drop.

[00:41:09] >> Y.E. Yang for birdie at 18. And Y.E. shoots 65, and that includes a bogey and a double. Cameron Percy has this putt for par here at 17. And Percy is just giving it all back. That's three straight bogeys after he had gotten it to 16-under and with a shot of the lead.

[00:41:46] >> Difficult third shot for Jason Caron. Jason, the head pro at club on Long island in New York. Kind of tough to slow that down. Mill River Country Club.

[00:42:05] >> And can still make that one, though, and post 15-under.

[00:42:08] >> I have to feel for Cameron Percy, though. He started at 40th and he was just rolling along. He'll move up if he can make this birdie.

[00:42:21] >> Well, that's how high the money is right now. He can go up. And that misses. So there's a real good chance he has bogeyed his way out of playing at Phoenix.

[00:42:33] >> Seven-under through the first 14 holes, and then, bogeys at 15, 16, and 17. And --

[00:42:42] >> A really, really bad tee shot at 18 when he needed a good one.

[00:42:50] >> Again, Lanny, you said he was aimed so far to the right.

[00:42:52] >> He opted for the I'm not going to rinse it swing. And he didn't. But he also took birdie out of the equation, essentially.

[00:43:01] >> This is Alker a moment ago for his birdie.

[00:43:06] >> You know, Bob, you'd like to be playing in Phoenix as Alker makes one.

[00:43:15] >> It's been that kind of weekend for Steven.

[00:43:18] >> Huge putt right here. Just lost it to the right. Great playing for Jason Caron, though. That's outstanding tournament. Just really, really good playing. Tied to third right now.

[00:43:39] >> Go, go, go, go, go.

[00:43:40] >> Harrington for his birdie. Will turn left. No.

[00:43:45][ Applause ] And you know that Alker birdie, right, I mean that helps him. Ernie's still going to stay number 1 --

[00:44:01] >> Yes.

[00:44:01] >> -- but it's going to cut into Ernie's lead even more.

[00:44:04] >> Well, the other thing for Jason Caron here also, got to be careful if Fujita, who he's tied with, birdies 18, he goes to third by himself, and Caron goes back to fourth by himself. That little bit of money difference could, you know, make a difference in where Caron finishes. Pampling needs this.

[00:44:30] >> Yeah, just on that left edge, Lanny. Beautiful iron shot in here. Could really use this one. He walks it in.

[00:44:39] >> Rod Pampling birdied the 1st, played 2-over since, and a huge birdie at 17, gets him to 10-under. And he knows what that meant, teetering on that 36 number. Started the week at 33. Projected to finish 35th.

[00:45:14] >> At stake, the Simmons Bank Championship Trophy.

[00:45:18] >> Three hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars, 730,000 Schwab Cup points in the inaugural Simmons Bank Championship from Little Rock, Arkansas.

[00:45:31] >> Padraig Harrington safely aboard the green too. All he needs is par. And again, we talked about this build out and the crowd support. And once again, you got to tip your cap to the people of Simmons Bank for bringing the PGA Tour Champions to Arkansas for the first time ever.

[00:45:52][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:46:00] >> George Makris, the Chairman of Simmons Bank, Freddie Black, the Tournament Chair and Executive Vice President, Bill Simmons Bank, bringing this all together. And what a show they have put on this week, and so the players of the PGA Tour Champions.

[00:46:21] >> And from Australia, Rod Pampling.

[00:46:25][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:46:31] >> The Honorable Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the Governor of Arkansas supporting this event. Senator Tom Cotton, Lieutenant Colonel Dan Rooney, who founded Folds of Honor, all putting their energies behind this event. And wow, it's really amazing. It's a playoff event. So only the Top 54 qualify. And just look at that clubhouse.

[00:46:55] >> Yeah, look at the gallery, Bob. I mean, I don't think I've seen a gallery this big outside of a Senior US Open somewhere. This is spectacular, John Cook.

[00:47:04] >> I'll tell you what, the atmosphere out here is pretty good. I mean, for a PGA Tour Champions event. And, you know, there's some great parts of the country that we go to, and the community support is incredible. But this right here, this might be new territory. This is really something.

[00:47:22] >> Yeah. And it's not just around 18. It's at 18.

[00:47:24] >> Yes.

[00:47:25] >> It's at 17. It's at 16. You have 14. You have that entire tailgate area yesterday with the college football and all the stuff going on there. You have the military outpost off the tee at 10. I mean, a tremendous vibe throughout the property. And in the inaugural Simmons Bank Championship, what better way to kick it off in the first ever Simmons Bank Championship than have a Hall of Famer get a win. And Padraig Harrington has three putts to win.

[00:48:02] >> Yeah. Padraig's played exceptionally well all week. He's been right there. Finished good the first day. Kind of stayed in the mix. He is so explosive. We saw it early today when he jumped out to the big lead. He can get in some trouble sometimes because he's so aggressive. Ended up hanging on. But it looked like earlier in the day, he might win by three to five shots. And two putts here, and he wins by two.

[00:48:30] >> And what could have been --

[00:48:31][ Cheering ]

[00:48:39][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:48:43] >> Gave it a run, did Harrington.

[00:48:44] >> Got a mark here, Padraig.

[00:48:45] >> Yeah. That's outstanding stuff. Great playing by Padraig. May have hit his best tee shot of the day at 18. He hammered that thing.

[00:48:58] >> This will be his third win of the year for the Hall of Famer.

[00:49:03] >> And puts him right in the mix for next -- for Phoenix, Bob, coming up.

[00:49:07] >> Absolutely.

[00:49:08] >> Moves him probably -- And moves it does, move him into the Top 5. They're the ones that really have the legitimate shot of taking the Schwab Cup down.

[00:49:17] >> Yeah. Richard Green didn't have a good week, so he's going to fall back a couple spots. And with this win and the 730,000 points, Harrington is going to vault up to number 4, and Steven Alker is going to remain at number 2. Has this putt for par here at 18.

[00:49:39] >> The way he was going on Friday, he shot 10-under, bogey free, eight birdies and an eagle, but it has been just neutral the entire weekend.

[00:49:54] >> Yeah, if I'm Alker, I'm going -- I go back and think, well, I didn't do what I wanted. My game's close. I've got a week off. Let me do a little refining and be ready to go in Phoenix.

[00:50:05] >> And it looked like he was going to put a big dent in Ernie Els lead. And with that bogey, he drops to 11-under, tied with Ernie Els, who shot a final round 65 today. Now, Rod Pampling, who is sweating it out down the stretch, has this putt for birdie.

[00:50:23] >> Yeah, wonderful little third shot in here by Rodney, wedge. And that is some finish for a guy who is sitting there as the bubble boy. Had to have two birdies last two holes to finish 36. Wow.

[00:50:40] >> And Padraig Harrington has won the Simmons Back Championship in Little Rock.

[00:50:49][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:51:06] >> What a performance by Padraig Harrington as he picks up his third win of the year, winning the inaugural Simmons Bank Championship.

[00:51:14] >> Padraig Harrington picks up 730,000 points. So Ernie Els lead over Alker, just what it was when we started the week, 132,000 points. Ames remains in that third position. But here comes Padraig Harrington. Remember, double the points at the Schwab Championship, Phoenix Country Club. Y.E. Yang moves up to the fifth position. Richard Green falls down a couple. K.J. Choi, Steve Stricker not in the field, he drops to eighth. Ricardo Gonzalez in that ninth position. And Paul Broadhurst stays at 10. But Padraig Harrington, in his first time in Arkansas, loving the trip as he comes way with the victory in the 27th of 28 events on the PGA Tour Champions. And another good week for Y.E. Yang, Jason Caron. How about that? He gets to play in the Charles Schwab Cup Championship in two weeks at Phoenix Country Club. Hiroki Fujita as well.