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[00:00:41] >> Day 1 in the Valley of the Sun. We welcome you to Phoenix, Arizona. It is the final event of the Champions Tour Season here, the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. Seventy-two holes of competition ahead of us this week. John Swantek, alongside Lanny Wadkins. And some highlights from earlier in the round. Paul Broadhurst for birdie here at 9.

[00:01:00] >> Yeah, wonderful shot in here by Broady, and still looking at the hole, and he got to see that one go in. Great three there. Now, Stewart Cink has hit it over the green in two on the par-5 7th. This is a wonderful little chip shot. Just really well played. That would lead to a birdie 4 at the par 5 for Stewart.

[00:01:19] >> Picked another one up at the 9th, and then here at 12 to get his nose back in front at 5-under.

[00:01:24] >> Yeah, great little hole location here at 12. He didn't get particularly close, but made the 25 footer.

[00:01:29] >> Cink, the winner of the Ally Challenge in Grand Blanc, Michigan. Tim O'Neal won just a couple weeks ago in the playoffs here in Richmond. It's Cink up top here early on Day 1. PGA Tour Champions proudly present Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs. And today from Phoenix, Arizona, it's live first round coverage of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. Champions Tour season that began in Hawaii and traversed 18 states and four countries across 10 months has reached the end of the line. Thirty-six players have arrived here at Phoenix Country Club, hosting the season ending event for the seventh consecutive year, and where we will crown the season-long Charles Schwab Cup Champion on Sunday evening. Great to have your company. I'm John Swantek. World Golf Hall of Famer Lanny Wadkins is alongside. John Cook, who won this event back to back years in 2009 and 2010, walking the golf course for us this week, along with three-time PGA Tour champion, Phil Blackmar. Stewart Cink has the lead by a shot at 5-under par. We're out at the eighth. Steven Alker is in the final group with Ernie Els and John Cook.

[00:02:56] >> Good to be with you guys. Steven Alker now right at hole high, about 30 feet on the tough par 8, 8th hole, two birdies, a bogey on Steven Alker's card.

[00:03:10] >> Let's get the 13, check in with the leader with Phil Blackmar.

[00:03:16] >> Well, they're certainly very quick coming down the hill. This looks pretty good to swing a little right at the end.

[00:03:20] >> Oh, yes. What a putt by Stewart Cink. That was kind of a defensive effort, and that found the bottom of the cup. Gets Cink to 6-under. That is some great playing through 13 holes for Stewart Cink.

[00:03:33] >> At the 9th, and right behind us here at the 18th, Lanny, Langer to close out his day with a birdie.

[00:03:38] >> Yeah, Bernhard had it going. He was 3-under at one point today. He made a double on the 14th, and that really kind of derailed his action for the day. But Bernhard, amazing story this year, playing after a torn Achilles. That's a great round of golf. Good start for Bernhard, and always a factor.

[00:03:58] >> So Els nearly flushes one here, and Alker's in there close, John, about 5 feet for birdie.

[00:04:03] >> Yeah, right at hole high, too. So two really nice opportunities here for Ernie Els and Steven Alker to keep pace with Stewart Cink. These have to go in. I know it's early, but you don't want to give Stewart Cink too much of a cushion.

[00:04:18] >> The one thing about it, though, is Stewart Cink cannot win the Schwab Cup. I don't think he was on that list. And so, I -- he's a guy that he can win the tournament and still not take down the Schwab Cup.

[00:04:30] >> Definitely a little right to left breaker, and pays it off.

[00:04:36] >> Birdie number 3. Well, after nearly holing it, this would be a shame if this one did not go down for Ernie.

[00:04:44] >> Yeah, just a couple of feet, though, so not too much movement. Has to be a little left of center, but not much there.

[00:04:51] >> Just got to stay in this.

[00:04:54] >> He can get to moving, Lanny.

[00:04:56] >> Yes, he can. He's got to stay right still, let the club hit release. There's a little bit of movement going on with that stroke. His head and body are both moving a little bit, but that worked out OK.

[00:05:12] >> Green's speed's expected to be ramped up to maybe 13 by the weekend.

[00:05:16] >> Yeah, they're saying, yeah, 13 plus, maybe even. So it's -- And when they get like that, they are -- they will really roll out because you get a lot of putts here. If Stewart Cink taps in for his par at 15, get it downhill down grain. Ball just -- nothing to stop it. It just goes and goes.

[00:05:35] >> Back to the 10th for the Els' par putt.

[00:05:41] >> Little 4 footers, got a little bit of break to the left.

[00:05:46] >> Always good confidence builders right there when you can get those quick ones downhill in the middle.

[00:05:52] >> This man took the tournament proper a year ago right in his hometown.

[00:05:55] >> Yeah, he was on a tremendous run those couple of years. Be a nice up and down and a nice par after being out of position with his tee shot.

[00:06:04] >> Two really nice up and downs there at the 10th for those two.

[00:06:07] >> Up a hole to 14. We'll look in on Richard Green. Just 2-over par in the opening round.

[00:06:16] >> Pretty simple look right here. Just up the slope and, yes.

[00:06:19] >> Got something going now.

[00:06:29] >> That's a par at 17 for Cink. So he will head to the 18 tee. Just a short walk over there.

[00:06:36] >> Winner of the Senior Open Championship at Carnoustie earlier this year.

[00:06:45] >> That's some win on a great golf course. And beautiful birdie there at 16. And K.J. is right in the middle of this movie as well. Be a heck of an up and down for Alker.

[00:07:01] >> Yup, about 5 feet, moving slightly to his left. And it's a nice up and down.

[00:07:08] >> Nice work from Alker to avoid what would have been the second bogey in a 3-hole stretch. Keeps him at minus-1 right here in his adopted hometown of Phoenix.

[00:07:27] >> He's been grinding.

[00:07:29] >> Yeah, his world class short game skills have been on display.

[00:07:34] >> Staying right there at 2-under. I mean, 2-under is tied for third right now. So he is actually, yeah, actually tied for second right now.

[00:07:47] >> We drop back with Ames here for birdie at 14.

[00:07:56] >> Little pace down the hill. Yeah, good try, being a little careful with it.

[00:08:13] >> Cink up near the lip here at 18, Phil.

[00:08:15] >> Yeah, the lie is good, uphill lie. Eighty feet though, and that water behind the hole is just doing jumping jacks, saying, look at me, you got to be careful here.

[00:08:30] >> It did not.

[00:08:31] >> That helped.

[00:08:32] >> Oh, that will stop it.

[00:08:33] >> That will stop it. But that did not sound like a good catch. There's a good chance that could have come close to going in the water. That thing was motoring when it hit the flag.

[00:08:45] >> Just a short birdie putt for Stewart Cink here at 18, Lanny. We were chatting with Phil Blackmar during the break. He said that bunker shot was definitely going in the water. So water break from Cink all the way to a 64.

[00:08:55] >> Yeah. I mean, he may have gone from 64 right there. So it's quite the break.

[00:09:00] >> Ames to get it to 2-under here at 16.

[00:09:05] >> Yeah. He needs something to go down, a little positive. There you go. Good putt by Stephen. That went in with some authority. That's what it's been lacking. He's been coming up short. More like it there.

[00:09:18] >> Jerry Kelly came into the week 11th in the point standings. He's one of those guys who needs a victory this week and some help from the Top 5. And he bird is the 18th for 68.

[00:09:29] >> Return to the winner circle for Jerry Kerry, and carry North Carolina outside of Raleigh at the SAS Championship.

[00:09:37] >> Big putt here for Ernie to keep it going.

[00:09:39] >> Yeah, about 6 feet down the hill.

[00:09:41] >> Yeah.

[00:09:41] >> Moving right to left. So, yeah, good putt, great save.

[00:09:44] >> Yeah, another good confidence builder for Ernie right there. He needs to go straight a couple shots together and just relax for a hole or two.

[00:09:54] >> And the third here at the home hall for K.J.

[00:09:59] >> Going upstairs with it. Needs to release. It does. That is really well played by K.J. Choi.

[00:10:08] >> Back at 15, Alker in for par. Stays at minus-1. To 18, where K.J. Choi hit a fabulous pitch shot earlier, and pays it off with a birdie. Closes out the day with three birdies over the final six for 67. Choi, sole possession of second place, three back of the leader, Stewart Cink. Ames for a round of 68 here.

[00:10:41] >> Yeah. Hanging in there very nicely, your early round pick, early week pick, Lanny.

[00:10:45] >> It was. Yeah, he's been my early week pick. And, yes, now he's even more. Attaboy, Stephen. I bragged on him yesterday. I think he's -- I just think he's due. I'm not -- I've always been a Stephen Ames fan, the way he swings the golf course club, but he hasn't had much happen lately. You know, just get the feeling that you can't hold that quality of golf swing down for very long.

[00:11:10] >> Back at the 18th for the third shot of Steven Alker.

[00:11:14] >> Yeah, 100 yards, little bit downwind. Pretty good lie.

[00:11:19] >> Still got to hit a good quality shot and be a little careful.

[00:11:22] >> Yeah. But I don't think that was a strike that he wanted. That didn't sound crisp.

[00:11:26] >> Careful now.

[00:11:27] >> That's gone. That's what we were talking about. I mean, that's where Stewart Cink Singh got lucky because his ball would not have stayed on the putting surface had it not hit the flagstick. It would have been in there as well. So, Steven Alker just played wedge right into the back water.

[00:11:42] >> Three for the defending champion. Overshot the green on Sunday last year, then got up and down for a gritty par to hold off Ernie.

[00:11:48] >> And I will tell you this, Ernie's shot, Cookie, he's got to be careful with this too.

[00:11:53] >> Well, there's no doubt about it. If he gets it going at all little bit past this flagstick, it'll go down into the water.

[00:12:00] >> I think --

[00:12:00] >> This green goes away from you, so --

[00:12:02] >> Yes.

[00:12:02] >> -- he's got to be careful.

[00:12:03] >> If you're Ernie, wouldn't you take this just a couple feet left of the flag?

[00:12:07] >> Definitely. No question. A little bit of slope.

[00:12:09] >> Give yourself just a little more room.

[00:12:18] >> Little check and release up that hill.

[00:12:20] >> And he took it left of the flag.

[00:12:23] >> Yes, he did. There's more room over there. And now, a good putt -- good shot.

[00:12:26] >> It gave him more room, and that's a pretty flat putt from over there.

[00:12:30] >> What a treacherous hole location we have at 18 here today.

[00:12:35] >> So Ernie Els will have a birdie putt at 18. Steven Alker, after finding the penalty area, will drop and play his fifth shot here in a moment.

[00:12:46] >> Yeah, he was just trying to figure out where the ball might have crossed because he couldn't see it from back there, but he's about right on it. Not an easy up and down from here, John.

[00:12:54] >> No, not at all. It's kind of short side. It's going to be dropping into the rough. Just depends on the lie. Don't want to be given two away on a par 5 when you've laid the ball up. Might as well have gone for the green, kind of knocked it up there wherever you could.

[00:13:16] >> For a player of Alker's quality, Lanny, who drives it as brilliantly as he does, he's going to have a lot of wedges in his hand during the course of a round. I know you'd like to see maybe a little more variety with some of those shots.

[00:13:26] >> Yeah. John and I have talked about this. We think that, you know, his short irons, he tends to hit everyone on full tilt and was trying to get the absolute most out of every short iron possible. And sometimes, that works against you. You watch Ernie play, on the other hand, he plays a lot of little undercuts, controls trajectory. He never sits there and blast a short iron. He's playing shots. That would --

[00:13:50] >> Yeah, I would agree with -- I would definitely agree with Lanny that he needs to play more variety, various trajectory a little bit, learn to play some -- you know, the pitching wedge shots from 100 yards. You know, you don't have to hit the same club from --

[00:14:03] >> No.

[00:14:04] >> -- yeah, wedge shots.

[00:14:07] >> I'd never seen him playing an undercut, Cookie. The closest we came was that second shot at 17 he just hit. And that was really cool.

[00:14:15] >> Yeah, exactly.

[00:14:16] >> That's a great look down there from our crew as Alker is in full damage control now.

[00:14:21] >> Yeah, that's going to wander on by about 8, 10 feet now for his bogey, and making a little mess of this hole here at the par 5. Yeah, I would too.

[00:14:34] >> Yeah, except he faked us out, Cookie. You'd already done it.

[00:14:39] >> Well, like you said before, I would not have hit my third there.

[00:14:42] >> No, you would not have.

[00:14:43] >> Hopefully.

[00:14:45] >> No, that's -- I've seen your action way too many times. It had been a cute little shot, probably at worst place you'd have been is about where Ernie is.

[00:14:54] >> Yeah, that would have been acceptable. We both have played here enough times --

[00:15:02] >> Yeah.

[00:15:03] >> -- to know that, like you said, you can't get ahead of yourself on this golf course. You've got to play the correct shots.

[00:15:08] >> Well, and, John, 7-iron down are called scoring clubs for a reason.

[00:15:13] >> Correct.

[00:15:14] >> Because you play shots to shoot scores. You don't let -- you know, give shots away with those clubs.

[00:15:21] >> This one for birdie in a round of 68 for Els.

[00:15:23] >> Yeah. And this is straighter than you think it is. It doesn't break a whole lot to the left.

[00:15:27] >> Yeah.

[00:15:28] >> Maybe just on the edge.

[00:15:29] >> He's got it set up right. Good call, John.

[00:15:39] >> Yeah. Curt Byrum and I were out hitting putts earlier, and we putted that because we knew that we were going to see it. A lot of that just kind of hangs there. It's right center, inside right. You get outside the hole, it'll stay there.

[00:15:51] >> Ernie said you don't have to lead after the first day, the second day, even the third day, necessarily. Just keep yourself in contention and keep plugging away. He opens with 69.

[00:16:00] >> I think Ernie's going to make it tough on someone getting him this week. I mean, it's going to -- I think one of the guys that has to win the outright Schwab Cup is going to have to do that. Otherwise, I think Els is going to be a tough guy to beat.

[00:16:13] >> Critical bogey putt here for Alker.

[00:16:16] >> Yeah. You hate to say critical bogey putt on a par 5, but no doubt about it.

[00:16:23] >> Oh, yeah, really well done.

[00:16:25] >> Oh, yes.

[00:16:25] >> That's great grinding right there.

[00:16:28] >> So Alker drops just one, bogeys at 11 and 18, and he will sign for 70 to begin the title defense here at Phoenix Country Club. And we are hustling on out of here. What a day for Stewart Cink. Stephen Ames talked about the difficulty of the golf course, how it kind of snuck up on the players here. But Stewart Cink was marvelous today. Three clear of the pack after opening with a round of 64.

[00:17:01] >> Champions Tour Season draws to a close here in Arizona. It's Day 2 of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship here from Phoenix Country Club. John Swantek, alongside Hall of Famer, Lanny Wadkins. Stewart Cink was the overnight leader. Bernhard Langer was trying to run him down with a string of front nine birdies.

[00:17:17] >> Yeah, really nice shot in here to four for Bernhard, about 12 feet and the green still have a lot of space. Good putt there at 4. Getting off to a good start for Langer at the 5. You can drive it. A lot of guys can. Langer can't reach it. But what plays a magnificent shot from short of the green. That's very old school running it up there for a tap in birdie.

[00:17:37] >> Short par 4 got to be exciting today. Langer would pick up another one here at the 7th to get to minus-7.

[00:17:43] >> Yeah, the par 5, he's got about another 12, 14 footer, and running stroke is working good for Bernhard. Very nice.

[00:17:50] >> First drop shot of the day came at the 10th. Stewart Cink shot 64 yesterday. This was his second into the 4th.

[00:17:56] >> Yeah, this is a great hole location at the 4th. It's all way in the back of the green, his own little shelf back there. Wonderful shot in here by Stewart Cink. Very aggressive play. Well done.

[00:18:05] >> Birdie there would get him to minus-8. He would take advantage of the short 5th as well.

[00:18:10] >> Yeah. And then, on the 5th, he drove it over the green where Langer was short. And then, wonderful little chip and run for Stewart back up for just a short birdie putt at the 5th.

[00:18:19] >> Nearly an eagle 2 there. So Stewart Cink picking up right where he left off yesterday after a 7-under par opening round. Ernie Els, the Schwab Cup points leader, still projected to be the man to win the Cup. But a lot of volatility unfolding here this week in Phoenix.

[00:18:38] >> Just a short birdie putt for Langer here at 12.

[00:18:40] >> Really not much in this one.

[00:18:43] >> Bernhard Langer came to play today. Look at that scorecard.

[00:18:49] >> Just one slip up at 10, but two birdies to follow.

[00:18:51] >> And this should be just a mere formality for Cink as well at 9.

[00:18:55] >> Yeah. After that pretty little approach shot from 92 yards, controlled the spin perfectly. Just a couple of feet here for Stewart. Missed a golden opportunity pack at the par5 7th for his fourth birdie in a row, but should be able to capture this one.

[00:19:11] >> About 12 birdies and 27 holes for the leader to start the week.

[00:19:25] >> Let's go to 15, and Miguel Angel Jimenez to get it to minus-3.

[00:19:30] >> Oh, good putt there by Miguel.

[00:19:43] >> Not a great day for Stephen Ames so far, but a chance for a birdie pick up at 12.

[00:19:47] >> Yeah, he needs a big grind. He's fallen way back off the pace. This one here needs to put about five in a row on the board to get back in this thing.

[00:19:59] >> Well, one of the best stories of this Champions Tour season has been the play of Jason Caron, the club professional from Oyster Bay, Long island, who made enough money in nine starts to crack the field here this week. And a couple of 71s to kick things off. And this is Alker for a closing birdie.

[00:20:21] >> Yeah, a little longer than he wanted, probably about 4 feet. And it was quick down that slope. Well done. Good four to finish.

[00:20:28] >> Second in the points race coming into the week. One of the players who wins the Schwab Cup with a victory here. Alker, 4-under through 36. Up a hole to the 18th, and Miguel to close out his Friday with a birdie. See, 68 on Day 2. Two better than yesterday's opening round effort.

[00:20:50] >> Must have been the wine in the bathtub.

[00:20:55] >> Can't hurt, right?

[00:20:58] >> He looks relaxed.

[00:21:00] >> Off we go to 17. Langer for birdie.

[00:21:04] >> Pretty straight putt coming back up the hill. Look at that.

[00:21:11] >> Birdie number 8. What has been a fabulous round for six-time Charles Schwab Cup winner, Bernhard Langer.

[00:21:31] >> So we've got cross handed pitching action from Stewart Cink, and then a little saw grip with the blade here.

[00:21:39] >> Yeah, a little right to lefter here for Stewart, save par. Nice little battle. Kind of late in the round battle for par.

[00:21:52] >> Still just the one bogey on the card this week, which came at the 10th yesterday.

[00:21:56] >> We'll see if Ernie can cap off his Friday with a birdie.

[00:22:00] >> Down the slope into the low area. Yes, good putt. It's going to move Ernie back to three. It's going to be close. That's going to make it a little bit closer with Alker. Might even get him back up into the lead. Going to be -- have taken a look. Oh, just 35,000. It's not much.

[00:22:21] >> Cejka with eyes on one here at the 18.

[00:22:27] >> Down the hill is quick. You got to pay attention to the pace. Just kind of get it on line and let the slope take care of the rest. Barely got in the edge but pace got it in there just right.

[00:22:44] >> A lot of movement on the short one there for the Pure Insurance Championship runner up, Alex Cejka. Nice work today with the 66. Langer got to take it on here, Phil.

[00:22:54] >> Very surprised, 3-wood. They're coming back all the way up in there. No room to work with. Narrow throat on a very good line.

[00:23:00] >> Wow, what a shot by Langer. Gets it right to the front edge in two. He could put platter on that one.

[00:23:10] >> Back at 16, Jerry Kelly to get it to minus-4.

[00:23:13] >> And sneaking back up to where he started today from.

[00:23:17] >> Mathematical chance for Jerry to win the Schwab Cup with a victory and some help this week. Still a good effort there by Bernhard and really nice round of golf.

[00:23:27] >> No kidding.

[00:23:28] >> Putted very well, made a little adjustment. Before the week started, his putter moved a little further away from the ball and it's paid dividends.

[00:23:35] >> Here is the leader for his par.

[00:23:37] >> Yeah, a little 5 footer, right to left.

[00:23:40] >> Yeah, just stepped right up and knocked it right in. Very Confident

[00:23:44] >> Confident, composed, and in control.

[00:23:53] >> This is the tail end of what has been an arduous second round for K.J. today.

[00:24:01] >> Yeah, it's just been exhausting, really, for K.J. I'm sure he hasn't played a round of golf like this in quite some time. Got to pitch it in.

[00:24:16] >> Five at the last for K.J., but a disappointing 75 with just one lone birdie back at the par-5 7th.

[00:24:23][ Applause ] K.J. was seventh in the points race coming into the week. So, outside of the Top 6 who controlled their own faith. This was the guy who was in the best position to win the cup with some help. But --

[00:24:39] >> Yeah, that's not going to happen, not the way he's been going. He's really struggled with this game. Just not the K.J. Choi we're used to seeing.

[00:24:50] >> Eight birdies for Stewart Cink yesterday on the way to that 64. There have been five on the scorecard today, and looking for one more to close it out here.

[00:24:58] >> Yeah. Should go a little bit to the right early, and then pretty straight after that. Does have to worry a little bit about pace.

[00:25:12] >> Needs to stay up. The ball moved all the way across the hole. Probably just need a little bit more pace would have done the trick. Really good playing by Stewart Cink.

[00:25:27] >> Sixty-six today without birding any of the three par 5s on the golf course. How about that 36 holes of work?

[00:25:34] >> Yeah. With his length there, you would think they would be gimmes for him. He probably had an iron at all three of them and didn't make a birdie.

[00:25:42] >> After that 66, and we'll be right back at the final pairing on Saturday. Take you through some of the highlights from Stewart's day. And there were plenty of them. This was the second at the 4th.

[00:25:52] >> Yeah, I like this shot at 4. This is a tough hole location, all the way in the back of the green. Really well controlled there by Stewart. That's an aggressive play. Beautiful shot.

[00:26:02] >> And that would kick off a string of birdies. He birdied 4, 5, and 6 in the middle of the opening nine.

[00:26:07] >> Yeah. Hit it over the green on this short par 4 with his tee shot. That was for eagle. Eagle chip down into a foot. So really good play there by Stewart. Then, at number 9, huge tee shot. Just a wedge in here at the 9th. Nice balance, good swing, and really great result.

[00:26:34] >> So 32 on the front side for Cink, and then, a string of pars, six in a row after the turn. And then, the lone birdie on the backside of the golf course came here at 16.

[00:26:51] >> Yeah. Aggressive off the tee with driver, and played a wonderful little pitch shot in there. Kind of bumped it up there and nice birdie there.

[00:27:02] >> He did not look like a guy that was nursing a lead either, Lanny. He was --

[00:27:06] >> No.

[00:27:07] >> -- uber aggressive today, and no reason the game plan is going to change.

[00:27:11] >> No. And I think that's the way to play. At least you can't be too conservative right here in the second round. He's got to stay aggressive today, which he did. Tomorrow, which I would think he would, then assess the situation going in to Sunday. That's pretty much where I would think he'd be looking.

[00:27:18] >> So the best rounds of the week produced by Stewart Cink on Thursday, Bernhard Langer on Friday. Both players with 64, the opening two rounds here. And they will have each other's company to start the weekend in the final pairing tomorrow. And welcome you to Phoenix Country Club, and the season ending event on the Champions Tour. It's Day 3 of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. Thirty-six players in the field here to conclude the season. And what a good looking leaderboard we've got going. Stewart Cink led by three to start the day. But Steven Alker has closed the gap. The man who won this golf course on the property last year is within two. So is World Golf Hall of Famer Bernhard Langer, who's playing with Cink in the final pairing of the day. And it has been a scoring bonanza out there on the golf course. John Swantek with World Golf Hall of Famer, Lanny Wadkins. And another Hall of Famer, Bernhard Langer, doing his thing today.

[00:28:27] >> Yeah. Nice shot in here at the 2nd. Being careful, got it past the flag, down the hill, moving left to right, and wonderful judge of speed there. Well done for Bernhard.

[00:28:50] >> Got him to minus-10 in the final pairing of the day with Stewart Cink. Ernie Els was the points leader coming into the week.

[00:29:07] >> Yeah. Ernie's been working hard with his game, but just nothing really happening. Sitting at 4, 5-under. Great shot here at the 9th. In there to about 2 feet just for tap in birdie.

[00:29:24] >> Needs a few more of those. Richard Green torched the opening nine in 29 today.

[00:29:28] >> Yeah, had the hot putter. When you got hot putter, these look easy. And he made it look easy coming down through nine today.

[00:29:36] >> Green can win the Schwab Cup with a victory here this week. Stewart Cink at the drivable par-4 5th.

[00:29:39] >> Yeah. Missed the green well to the right, but play the splendid pitch up just for a tap in birdie. Really well done there for Stewart. His short game has been outstanding all week.

[00:29:43] >> That moved him to minus-12. But Steven Alker was hunting him down. He holed a few long ones already today.

[00:29:46] >> Yeah, put this in there hole high at the 8th, and about 15, 18 feet, and bingo, another great putt, another wonderful two at the hard 8th.

[00:29:50] >> Birdies at 8 and 9 here, Lanny, to go out in 30 today.

[00:29:51] >> Yeah. He makes long putts. I mean, Steven Alker, when his putter is working, there's no distance he's afraid. That makes another 25 footer there at the 9th.

[00:29:55] >> And this was at 7, the only par 5 on the front side. Third shot for Cink.

[00:29:57] >> Yeah. Driver four into the front edge of this green. Anybody else even getting there. He's playing 4-iron. Pitches it in there to about 4 feet and he would take care of that.

[00:30:02] >> Well, we've got something going here today. Steven Alker projected at number 1, and he's a shot off the lead. Cink's three shot cushion has been trimmed to one. We'll get out to the 11th here, Phil. And Alker to keep it at 11-under.

[00:30:17] >> He had a very difficult first putt up and over some ridges. Negotiated the pace very well. That's a super two putt right there. Good par. Tough par 4.

[00:30:25] >> Yeah, it's a big tough hole today. Long hole with a really hard hole location. Get out of there with 4 and it's OK.

[00:30:33] >> Back to 10, and Langer just to polish this one off.

[00:30:37] >> Yeah, take your time a little bit on these, but good solid par here at the tough 10th.

[00:30:43] >> Stays one back for the moment pending the outcome of the Cink birdie putt there. Back to the 10th, and Cink with a birdie look.

[00:30:50] >> Yeah, very makeable putt here. Not much to this. Just a little bit of speed at the end. Pretty straight. He had really good shot from that right rough there, Lanny, to put it at hole high.

[00:31:00] >> Boy, did he ever. I didn't -- wasn't sure he could get it this close, but that was a wonderful play and legitimate look at birdie, if it will move. Oh, man, it wrapped around the hole.

[00:31:10] >> Yeah, there was not much to that.

[00:31:15] >> Here again being careful with the pace. That get past that hole from their angles and it was going to be quick.

[00:31:36][ Applause ]

[00:31:46] >> Alker for another one here, Big.

[00:31:48] >> So six out of seven. Look at this. Oh, man, on a roll.

[00:31:51] >> Man, that stroke looks really positive today.

[00:31:57] >> Richard Green looking for a two here at 15.

[00:31:59] >> Yeah, this is the can you make down the hill. All you got to do is get it on line in there. Yes, just like that. He hammered that in there.

[00:32:07] >> Nice bounce back after his first bogey of the day. And Richard Green, who shot 29 on the opening nine today, is in the picture to win the tournament and the cup. We're at 18 here. This is the most accessible hole location we've seen here this week.

[00:32:22] >> Yeah, it is. Yeah, the one we're going to see all week because tomorrow is going to be on the right front edge, I would imagine, right over against that water. Good place to make eagles. We've seen eagles by Pampling there and birdie by Goosen.

[00:32:34] >> Back at 11. And Langer to maintain the momentum of the round here.

[00:32:41] >> Yeah, just enough in this that you have to really pay attention. Moves pretty straight putt. Might move to his right slightly.

[00:32:50] >> Yeah, when you're going well, you make these.

[00:32:52] >> With authority.

[00:32:53] >> Yeah, with authority. Not surprised. He's -- Langer's dialed in today. He just looks like he's ready to go.

[00:33:00] >> Had that look in his eye, doesn't he? Langer one off the lead here as they head for the 12th here. Lanny, Richard Green looking up to pick up another one here at 16.

[00:33:14] >> Just a baby tap in there. Well done.

[00:33:19] >> Nine birdies on the day for the Aussie, and he's one back. Pretty good birdie look here for Bernhard.

[00:33:25] >> Yeah, about 14 feet. Really straight putt. If it does anything, it might for fall off to the right just slightly, but not much to it.

[00:33:38] >> Was a good looking stroke. Yes, it in.

[00:33:41] >> Get in there, Lanny.

[00:33:44] >> I was watching that putter head, and it went back properly, and just released. Great coming through the ball.

[00:33:57] >> Well, biggest putt of the day for Steven Alker, huh, Phil?

[00:34:01] >> Well, it really is. His ball's been rolling like a roadrunner. Looking for the hole here and up until the last hole, he left that one short. This is a little uphill as well. See if he can get the pace correct on this one. Big par save opportunity.

[00:34:13] >> Got to turn a little left, doesn't it?

[00:34:16] >> Just a bit.

[00:34:20] >> Man, what a save. And that is a confident looking stroke.

[00:34:26] >> Bernhard said earlier this week, people have been asking him for 20 years how much longer he's going to play. And he's always said, as long as I'm healthy, I'm having fun, I'm playing well, and I'm in contention, there's no reason why I'm not going to slow down, Lanny.

[00:34:39] >> No. And I don't think he should. I mean, he's in contention. Seems like every time he plays, if he's not at the lead, he's around the Top 10, which means he's having a successful week.

[00:34:49] >> He said if he starts finishing 50th every week, he may reassess things. But he's a long way from that.

[00:34:56] >> Yes.

[00:34:59] >> What a day from the incomparable Bernhard Langer. We'll take you through the highlights. And there were plenty, including this birdie at the 2nd.

[00:35:05] >> Yeah, down the hill, moving left to right. He got to be careful with the pace. He was. Very good.

[00:35:11] >> He stepped a couple in today. That one got him to 10-under. And this was a little deeper in the round for a share of the lead at the 12th.

[00:35:19] >> Another excellent putt. His speed was so good today. Never had really any stress. Then here at 16, just a left edge putt. Boom.

[00:35:28] >> Only slip up came early in the round at the 4th. That was the solitary bogey on the scorecard for Langer.

[00:35:40] >> He's got a chance to win the tournament. It seems odd that he doesn't have a chance to win the cup, something he's done six times in his illustrious career.

[00:35:51] >> He's got it now. He's got a whole shelf of Schwab Cups.

[00:35:57] >> Projected seven right now after today's round of 67. How about this final pairing of Langer and Alker on Sunday tomorrow, Lanny?

[00:36:06] >> Yeah, pretty good and pretty exciting. Players kind of got to like what Langer's doing. He hits it in a fairway and doesn't have the length that Alker has, plays more shots than Alker does. Putter has been really hard for Steven Alker. Going to be an interesting day out. You know, he's actually battling Richard Green, you know, for the Schwab Cup to get down to it, because either one of those guys wins the tournament, they win the Schwab Cup.

[00:36:43] >> We have reached the final round of the final event of the PGA Tour Champions Season. It is Day 4 of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship here at Phoenix Country Club. John Swantek, alongside World Golf hall of Famer, Lanny Wadkins. And another Hall of Famer, Bernhard Langer, doing some serious work today.

[00:36:59] >> Yeah. After birdied the first hole, he's looking at about 45, 50 feet here at the 2nd. And look at this. What a way to get your day started. Just bearing it from downtown here for Bernard Langer.

[00:37:12] >> And then, another one up here at the 3rd to push it to 16-under.

[00:37:15] >> Yeah, this is not a tap in. This is 20 feet down the slope, moving a foot to the right, again, right in the center. Boy, the putter is cooking for Bernhard. And then, at the 4th, this is a birdie hole. So he gets it into about 15 feet. Makes another one. Incredible start for Langer.

[00:37:33] >> Didn't birdie 5 or 7, probably the two easiest holes on the opening nine, but he did bag one here at 6.

[00:37:38] >> Yeah, he did. Just coming out of the short rough. Great second shot here at the 6. Watch this. Lands in a perfect place. Almost goes in. Catches a piece of the hole. Wow, right there. Leads to another birdie at the 6.

[00:37:53] >> And one more, why not, at the 9th to go out in 30 and get it to 19-under par.

[00:37:58] >> This might be as much footage of putts as I've ever seen made. Look at number 9. Another 30-footer. He made a change in the putting this week, Swanny. And boy is it paid off.

[00:38:09] >> Going to be a tough man to catch. Langer chasing career victory number 47. And he's in command by five. It is a big Sunday here in America's fifth largest city. We're about 5 miles or so from downtown Phoenix. Phoenix Country Club has hosted the season ending event for seven straight years. Energized galleries have been pouring in all week. We're ready to crown a tournament champion, a season-long champion as well. Could be the same player. The first tester for Bernhard today.

[00:38:45] >> Yeah, long bunker shot to this point right here, 12 feet from behind the hole. Doesn't do a whole lot. Like you said, first test for Bernhard Langer. First bogey of the day. Tough hole. He got a little bit of padding though.

[00:39:00] >> Yeah, he does. You don't want to make any more mistakes. But put it in the fair bunker off the tee, very unlike him. And this is one of the harder holes on this nine.

[00:39:11] >> Richard Green is in the second to last pairing of the day. This for birdie at 11.

[00:39:16] >> Yeah, just a tap in there, 11 for Richard Green. Wonderful second shot in there.

[00:39:22] >> Back to 11. And a little stress for Bernhard to manage here.

[00:39:25] >> Yeah. Cookie, I think this is a really, really big putt. I mean, you know, you -- I don't care what -- how great you have been and what you've won. You put two bogeys in a row together with a pretty good lead that he's had, all of a sudden, you know, bad thoughts get in your mind. And the best way to get him out of there is make this putt.

[00:39:46] >> Yeah, no doubt about it. This is a big putt for Bernhard. And we've talked so much about, Lanny, through the years, you know how you lose big leads. You put the ball out of play, you know, off the tee. You start hitting it, you know, not where you're looking. Put a little bit of stress on yourself, you know, approaching the green. You put the ball in the fairway, it's up to you. But if you start missing fairways, that puts some stress on you.

[00:40:08] >> Well, that means you're guessing on your second shot. And that's what he's had to do the last two holes. So, I mean, pretty straightforward shot out of the bunker at 10, just a long one here at 11. I mean, this was a guess. And you really don't want to put that guesswork into this thing. You want to take complete control of your game. And that means having the ball in the fairway.

[00:40:31] >> Definitely outside the right with some speed, cut that low lip.

[00:40:35] >> Never high enough. That started look like the left center. That's not a good bogey here at 11 for Langer. And all of a sudden, oops.

[00:40:47] >> The lead was five, at one point, and it has been sliced to three. Alker with a little cleanup work ahead of him to remain at 14-under.

[00:41:01] >> Just enough in this that makes you pay attention. All he can control is himself right now. And, you know, this will be his.

[00:41:14] >> Makes his home right here in Phoenix. He's been so comfortable on this golf course. Winning the tournament a year ago, claiming the Charles Schwab Cup on the property 2 years back. Alker looking to secure the cup for the second time. Up a hold of 13. Birdie putt for Cejka on the way, Phil.

[00:41:32] >> Yeah. Turning downhill to the right just a little bit. Those two bogeys by Langer have opened the gates. The cattle are wanting to come in. Look at this.

[00:41:41] >> Open the gates and open the door. There's another one for Cejka.

[00:41:45] >> Richard Green wins the Schwab Cup with a victory. Of course, he hasn't won the season. The last player to do that was Kevin Sutherland here in Phoenix in 2017. That was Sutherland's first and only victory of the season. It brought him the Cup, Phil, and this man has got his eyes on it. He's birdied his last three.

[00:42:03] >> He does. He hasn't won the PGA Tour Champions yet. So a lot of things running through his head, I would imagine, Lanny. Pretty quick putt here coming down the hill. If he's going to catch Bernard, you would think he's going to have to hole a couple of these type of putts.

[00:42:16] >> Hundred percent, Phil. He's got to find the catch lightning in a jar here at some point in time. This would be a good place to do it. Good par 3 coming up from here. Then some birdie holes.

[00:42:31] >> He didn't like that as soon as it came off the putter.

[00:42:34] >> Always a little bit on the weak side and going to the low side as well. So I don't know what happened with that second shot that it released that far. Looked like a pretty good shot going in there.

[00:42:45] >> Langer to extend the lead here at 13.

[00:42:47] >> Very makeable putt, about 15 feet, moving to his right.

[00:42:50] >> Yeah, this may be more his range anyway the way he's going today. Yes, it is.

[00:42:54] >> There you go.

[00:42:56] >> There you go. I mean, yeah, he got it too close to last hole. He's got to get it out there 20 feet. That's where he's been hammering it home from all day. How about that two there?

[00:43:06] >> Up a hole we go. Cejka will put this from off the green.

[00:43:10] >> Very, very fast coming down this hill. Got to be super careful. Richard Green watching the speed closely. Look at that.

[00:43:16] >> Might as well watch it closely, especially if he's going to keep rattling it off flagsticks.

[00:43:24] >> Alex Cejka says, hang on, I'm not out of this thing just yet.

[00:43:30] >> Big one for Alker here to cut into the lead a little bit.

[00:43:34] >> This was certainly go a long way. Has it on the proper level too here, Lanny. Will move to his left. Does not have to worry about speed.

[00:43:42] >> No, not at all.

[00:43:44] >> He's due to make one. Two putt birdie back at the 7th.

[00:43:49] >> Pretty good putt right there. That had a lot of speed. Boy, it slowed down quick. Going back up that hill just a little bit. As Cookie said, didn't really have to worry about pace.

[00:44:00] >> Just enough pace to hold its line. And Alker has his first birdie on the backside here. And he has joined Richard Green at 15-under, three off the pace.

[00:44:10] >> Now, this becomes a very big putt for Langer. Three feet, Cookie, a little bit more.

[00:44:18] >> That's what I would say, Lanny. Does have a little bit of movement to it. Has to move a little to his left.

[00:44:24] >> Yeah, I would say inside the right. That was a good stroke. That went back.

[00:44:50] >> Confident.

[00:44:50] >> No waving there. That was very confident.

[00:44:54] >> So Langer pops up one in for par. Alker picks one up with a birdie.

[00:45:00] >> Yeah, very holeable putt here. Fifteen feet, does go downhill, has some speed to it, but not a lot of break. Maybe just outside the left. No more than that.

[00:45:17] >> Got to stay. Yes.

[00:45:19] >> Huge putt right there for Steven Alker.

[00:45:25] >> A two at 15 for Alker, who is coming after Langer. That's two in a row.

[00:45:48] >> Bernhard Langer looking for an escape hatch at 18.

[00:45:50] >> And that's an escape, it would be. Just got to go low, at least 80 yards to get to that fairway. Does a nice job. So priority one back in the fairway.

[00:46:01] >> We had a great look at it. Low screaming hook has Langer back in business.

[00:46:05] >> Yeah. And he's down there far enough where he's got a scoring club to take this flag on. Cookie, Alker's got to be going at it. What's he got?

[00:46:20] >> Yeah, no hesitation here. He pulled a hybrid club. Two-fifteen front, 226 hole. No hesitation, whatsoever. Anything left is fine.

[00:46:33] >> Yeah. He's got plenty of green to work with. Even left bunker is found. We've seen that played from and played from very well today. So, just no right. Set up at the far left edge of the green. That's all over the flag.

[00:46:52] >> Right up the center of the green. Get to the back of the green, I would suppose.

[00:46:56] >> Just over the back of the green. Wow, he hammered that hybrid to get it that far. So it's over the back of the green and plenty green to work with. Pretty straightforward chip and run. Just depends on the lie. Can he get a good strike on the back of the ball?

[00:47:27] >> Starts to the left, cutting back to the right. Might be a little deep.

[00:47:31] >> Oh, it is too deep. Yeah, he's 20 -- He's a good 25, 30 feet away. That's not what he was looking for at all.

[00:47:38] >> And that reaction tells you the same thing.

[00:47:40] >> It's like he's going maybe pitching wedge or 54, 56.

[00:47:45] >> Yup.

[00:47:45] >> Putting him back in his stance a little bit.

[00:47:47] >> Yup. Just going to get it, you know, four, five, six steps on the green. Let it just trundle its way down the hole.

[00:47:53] >> Yeah, he's got to carry the air. What? About another 6, 7 yards.

[00:47:57] >> That's about it.

[00:47:58] >> Yeah.

[00:47:58] >> Yeah.

[00:47:59] >> That's about it. It's about 10, 12 yard shot and let it go.

[00:48:01] >> Yeah. It's not right off the edge where you have just little chip and get it on the ground and roll down like a putt. So -- And there is Richard Green just over there hitting a couple shots. Maybe off the front of the first tee actually.

[00:48:15] >> Just staying loose in the event of extra holes.

[00:48:24] >> Short game has been impeccable today or this week. Needs to go a little bit. Needs to go a little bit. That's going to be about 8 feet.

[00:48:32] >> That's left, I believe. Interesting.

[00:48:39] >> It will go back.

[00:48:40] >>> Here it comes.

[00:48:41] >> Oh, no.

[00:48:41] >> How about that? Incredible.

[00:48:52] >> He is simply amazing. Sixty-seven on the final day.

[00:49:01] >> He put it for the record Cookie was talking about. Great read there. I didn't see it going that much to the right. He obviously did. Cookie and myself did not. And that was an incredible putt. Perfect pace. Got that in the left edge.

[00:49:19] >> Birdied his first four holes of the day. Blitz the opening nine in 30. Gave the lead back at 17, and regained it at 18.

[00:49:32] >> Swanny, what did I tell you back at 17 before he hit this first putt? I said, he's going to two putt 17 and birdie 18.

[00:49:42] >> He did.

[00:49:42] >> And win at 18-under. Now, he's still got a chance to be tied by Steven Alker. But what a performance and a gutsy finished by Bernhard Langer.

[00:50:00] >> So that takes care of two things. It eliminates Richard Green, first and foremost, and clinches the Charles Schwab Cup for Steven Alker.

[00:50:05] >> Langer ought to tell him that right now, that I just won the Schwab Cup for you, you know. Then he can just, OK, I'm good.

[00:50:13] >> We'll just shake hands in the parking lot.

[00:50:15] >> Yeah, exactly.

[00:50:16] >> Yeah. But Alker wants two trophies in his hands, Cookie.

[00:50:18] >> No question about it. He got a great read off of Bernhard's putt. He actually had to move his marker. So, I'm going left edge, just outside the left edge, Lanny.

[00:50:27] >> After seeing how much Langer's broke, Cookie, has to be.

[00:50:33] >> To send it to extra holes.

[00:50:37] >> Get in, get in, get in.

[00:50:39] >> It'll be a par at the last. A disappointed reaction for Steven Alker. Bernhard Langer is going to secure his 47th victory on the Champions Tour. A pretty nice consolation for Steven Alker, who will be crowned the season-long champion. Eighteen consecutive years that man has captured at least one victory.

[00:51:07] >> And the Hall of Famer, Bernhard Langer, has done it again.

[00:51:11] >> And one more to cap off of a blazing opening nine in 30.

[00:51:15] >> Yes. Solid 25 feet here at 9. And look at this, perfect pace.

[00:51:19] >> A couple of slip ups at 10 and 11. Drop shots at both holes, but regained one here at 13.

[00:51:29] >> Yeah, not a hole you think it making birdie on really good par 3. Played a smart shot in left of the flag and just buried it here again for about 25 -- 20 feet.

[00:51:39] >> Issues at 17. There was a two-shot swing. So they came to the 18th tied, and then this happened.

[00:51:44] >> Giving it 30, 35 feet down the slope. What a putt.

[00:51:49] >> True class every step of the way. And Bernhard Langer closes it out in style for career victory number 47. What a dramatic road to the finale it was. Langer with a 66 wins the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. Steven Alker, 17-under par, wins the Charles Schwab Cup for the second time.