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[00:00:29] >> The PGA Tour is proud to bring you the FedExCup Fall. Now, coverage of the 2024 RSM Classic.

[00:00:39] >> The Golden Isles is once again the home of the final PGA Tour event of the season. The first round of the RSM Classic began early this morning as the picturesque southeast coast of Georgia entertains some of the game's best players. And tucked up against the Atlantic Ocean, the Seaside and Plantation Courses at Sea Island Golf Club are playing host to this tournament that is celebrating its 15th anniversary. And because of its proximity to the shoreline, the weather can sometimes be on the tricky side. Today is one of those days. Bright sunshine, looks gorgeous out there, but temperatures were in the 40s this morning, just 60 right now. And wind could be a factor. It's blowing about 10 to 15 miles per hour. Welcome to the final Thursday on the PGA Tour calendar as we take a look at the leaderboard for the first time. Will Gordon still leading the way at 5-under par by one over Patrick Rodgers. Kevin Chappell and Maverick McNealy off to a nice start. Let's check out some highlights from earlier today, Smylie. Will Gordon, he started on 10, just short of the green, putting for birdie to open his day.

[00:01:47] >> And you can see a little chillier this morning. When you miss the green at 10 and you're able to roll one in on the fringe, a great way to start the round.

[00:01:56] >> He would add a couple of birdies all the way up to 17. This for three in a row to get to 5-under.

[00:02:01] >> He's a player that's very comfortable out on this golf course. Makes his home in St. Simons Island, and off to a very nice start today.

[00:02:10] >> Out to Maverick McNealy at the 16th.

[00:02:16] >> Pours that one in. Nicely done by McNealy. And suddenly, he is the solo leader at 5-under par. He is hot right now. Ludvig Aberg, long birdie putt at 12. All right. So there you go.

[00:02:32] >> OK. Ludvig Aberg, we saw a little bit of that last year. A couple 61s on the weekend, 64 on Friday.

[00:02:40] >> An amazing record setting performance. Now, back on the tee with J.T.

[00:02:51] >> That's a 5-iron and it is going right at it from 223.

[00:02:57] >> Oh, yeah. Good looking shot there.

[00:03:00] >> Looking for a bounce back birdie after the frustrating miss at the 11th.

[00:03:06] >> Let's go to the Plantation Course. Keith Mitchell getting comfortable over this putt at the 18th. And he knocks it in.

[00:03:14] >> That's a hole that you just have circled that you got to go in birdie.

[00:03:18] >> J.T. Poston. What a nice tee shot that was. And he does make his two coming off that bogey.

[00:03:31] >> This 12th hole is always one of the more challenging holes. When you make a birdie, you definitely feel like you're stealing one.

[00:03:38] >> Let's go back to 13 and see if Nico can get back to even par. Yeah, he can. OK.

[00:03:49] >> Nico's played plenty of golf here in Sea Island. Played college golf at Arkansas, SEC championships here every spring.

[00:03:59] >> Matt Wallace is bunkered at the 17th.

[00:04:03] >> Played golf in Dubai last week. Wow.

[00:04:07] >> Hooped it.

[00:04:09] >> Yeah.

[00:04:10] >> Now, when you're that great, you shouldn't be that shocked.

[00:04:14] >> You can hit that shot a thousand times and you wouldn't be able to do that again.

[00:04:19] >> Adrien Dumont de Chassart continuing his good play from last week in Bermuda.

[00:04:28] >> A lot of people were really high on him coming into the year, but really has not found his footing. But that week in Bermuda, who knows, finish the year strong. He can play his way inside to that Top 125.

[00:04:39] >> Keith Mitchell made the turn. He's putting for birdie and to extend his lead at the 3rd.

[00:04:47] >> This was one of the many template holes out on this golf course. And Keith Mitchell makes a birdie at the 3rd, which is a Redan style green. And boy, does he got it going today, Steve?

[00:04:57] >> You know he's a ball striker when the putter cooperates like it is today in these windy conditions, look out. Up at 17, Patrick Rodgers.

[00:05:09] >> Good two.

[00:05:12] >> So a couple of birdies in his last three holes. Head up to the 16th. The Canadian Adam Hadwin set to play.

[00:05:21] >> Yeah, just 87 yards left.

[00:05:24] >> Yeah. Love it. Matt Wallace out of the bunker now. Adam Hadwin at 16 from the fairway.

[00:05:34] >> And from where he was playing from the fairway, I'm not even sure if you could see that ball go in. But some spectators up around the green letting him know he rang the bell.

[00:05:46] >> Echavarria in the fairway at 16.

[00:05:48] >> He's in that final group with Justin Thomas and Max Greyserman at the Zozo.

[00:05:54] >> Nico hit a really nice flighted wedge. That one hop and stop was absolutely spectacular.

[00:06:00] >> Man, that was awesome, Johnson.

[00:06:02] >> Aberg is looking to save par at the 17th.

[00:06:05] >> It just takes a little bit of time to get that feel back at this level.

[00:06:10] >> We all know the mindset of Aberg. It's -- He's not going to panic. By no means, that's not any part of his makeup, the way he plays the game.

[00:06:27] >> Oh, he makes up for it. There you go.

[00:06:29] >> Never a doubt. And that's a big putt.

[00:06:31] >> Never a doubt.

[00:06:32] >> To play the weekend though, you know, to not end up shooting a 5-over round today, at 3-over, now, he's got some room now to maybe make a birdie at 18. That's a big putt for Ludvig.

[00:06:44] >> Luke Clanton with a birdie attempt from short range.

[00:06:47] >> You still have to factor in this wind. It's -- You'll have those gusts. It will certainly affect, even from short distance.

[00:06:57] >> I think seeing how Aberg's ball rolled into the hole definitely aid Luke Clinton.

[00:07:06] >> Yup.

[00:07:06] >> That didn't bother him at all.

[00:07:10] >> Working his way inside the top 25.

[00:07:14] >> Nico Echavarria at 17.

[00:07:21] >> Should snap a left here at the end.

[00:07:24] >> Something like that. Oh, Nico. Three in a row for Echavarria. Dumont de Chassart, his second. Can he get it to spin? Yes, he can.

[00:07:43] >> He would tap that in for birdie to move to 5-under.

[00:07:48] >> Dumont de Chassart for birdie at 18.

[00:07:52] >> He walked in the last one.

[00:07:54] >> That's good. Yeah, looks really good.

[00:07:57] >> Look out for this guy this weekend, Steve. A lot of people were really high on this player heading into the season, and maybe it just takes all the way to the end to really find your footing.

[00:08:08] >> At the top of the leaderboard, you have to imagine that Maverick is starting to get those sensation that this week could be a big week.

[00:08:15] >> Yeah, he's been playing pretty well as of late. But once you see your name on top of leaderboard for a player early on, your mindset definitely changes. You know, a lot of players when you kind of just know, you know, Top 20 at the end of the first day, kind of forget about that first round. Nice birdie there. But you see it up there, it is definitely on your mind the whole entire next day.

[00:08:40] >> He began the year, guys, on a medical extension. Now, here he is with a chance, at least after one day, to make a run at the title here.

[00:08:49] >> Sitting at number 61 in the FedExCup fall rankings, Kevin Yu started strong with an opening round 67 to keep his hopes alive of pushing into the Aon Next 10. At the end of Round 1, Maverick McNealy and Michael Thorbjornsen sit atop the leaderboard. Round 2 is next.

[00:09:18] >> And this beautiful spot along the Georgia shoreline normally provides an easygoing atmosphere. But one week a year, there's a palpable pressure on the Golden Isles, a pressure born from jobs being on the line. After a nearly 11-month season, career arcs will change over the next three days. The two courses that make up the Sea Island Golf Club, Seaside and Plantation, will share the backdrop for one more day. And it's a bundle up kind of day. The wind is gusting up to 30 miles per hour. The mercury will not reach 60. The current real field temp is about 47 degrees. Nice day to be in the booth, huh, Smylie?

[00:10:01] >> It sure is.

[00:10:02] >> Maverick McNealy had the overnight lead. He's under par again today. Much more difficult conditions today than we saw in Round 1. There's Michael Thorbjornsen and Patrick Rodgers, the closest pursuers. They are only two shots back as we get right out to the action. At the 18th, Mackenzie Hughes. He was a winner here 8 years ago. And look at the knit caps. It is really, really cold out there, Smylie.

[00:10:27] >> Thirty-mile an hour gusts, feels like it's in the 40s. Here's the guy that played incredible golf here last year. Got up to 25-under par.

[00:10:36] >> Hughes would hole that for birdie.

[00:10:38] >> Plantation, certainly more protected from the elements than the Seaside Course is. That's where we find Maverick McNealy at 13.

[00:10:48] >> Just a punchbowl green here at 13.

[00:10:50] >> Look at this.

[00:10:51] >> Iron shot from Mav.

[00:10:53] >> Man. Maverick looks like he's going to race out to 11-under par.

[00:10:57] >> Let's drop back to Michael Thorbjornsen.

[00:11:03] >> Trying to chase down another Stanford Cardinal. Maverick McNealy inching his way up there, Steve.

[00:11:09] >> Yes, he is. From red to green right now for Michael. Tenth hole in the Plantation, Patrick Fishburn.

[00:11:20] >> Just went out and shot a pretty easy 30 on his front nine and keeping it going. I said nobody was going to shoot 62 like Maverick McNealy yesterday. And here we are, Patrick Fishburn having no issues with the Plantation side.

[00:11:35] >> Fishburn joined McNealy at 10-under par, but Maverick has a chance to grab the lead all to himself again. And does. So he reaches 11-under.

[00:11:45] >> We're going to head over to the Seaside Course. Austin Eckroat, a winner a couple of weeks ago.

[00:11:52] >> An up to a down is always a very difficult play, especially straight downwind, unless you're Austin Eckroat.

[00:12:01] >> Gets that one to roll home. Joel Dahmen, he's off the green as well.

[00:12:11] >> Well, this is about as good a look as you can have. Putting back into the wind, you can be aggressive with it. Needs something.

[00:12:18] >> Oh, there it is. So Joel Dahmen does climb his way onto the number. Currently, even par will make it to the weekend. And Joel Dahmen is squarely on it.

[00:12:32] >> Another man who's squarely on the cutline is Sepp Straka.

[00:12:38] >> I've talked to Sepp about this golf course. He's played for the University of Georgia, so he's played the SEC Championships here. And he's played the RSM Classic plenty of times. And for whatever reason, he does not play this golf course well. He is one that he's just trying to figure out how to get around it. And I think in these conditions, potentially to play the weekend is a win for him.

[00:12:58] >> Interesting, the percentages there. The cutline probability has it moving to minus-1.

[00:13:03] >> It's a better chance of that than potentially going to plus-1. I'm not sure if our cutline probability has the wind blowing at 30 miles an hour though.

[00:13:14] >> Bryan for eagle. Needed to make a birdie here at 15. An eagle would have been a bonus. So he's back to even par. But as you said, that might not be enough. Just depends on how the next few hours go.

[00:13:39] >> Kevin Yu, a winner of the Sanderson Farms in the early stages of this FedEx Fall.

[00:13:47] >> We have not seen very many birdies on that 11th hole today. Well done. Straight back into the breeze. Second birdie of the day.

[00:13:57] >> Michael Thorbjornsen. That same bunker shot. Similar bunker shot to Joel Dahmen.

[00:14:05] >> Coming in very high and soft out of that really fluffy sand.

[00:14:10] >> That would lead to a birdie for Thorbjornsen.

[00:14:15] >> Dahmen from the fairway at 16.

[00:14:17] >> Laid back off the tee with the 3-wood, 114. Nice distance to be able to spin it.

[00:14:24] >> Oh, yeah.

[00:14:25] >> Huge shot.

[00:14:26] >> That's just an absolutely clutch shot for Joel Dahmen.

[00:14:32] >> Patrick Fishburn, still tied for the lead.

[00:14:34] >> You can see 365-yard hole. It's not far. That was a little on the stabby side for a little pitch shot. It is Bermuda grass in the Plantation. And hey, I'm not judging it because it was a really nice shot.

[00:14:49] >> Yeah, this would be big. Get a cushion going into the last two holes.

[00:14:53] >> That's a well played 16 for Joel.

[00:14:58] >> And it's exactly the type of golf you want to play today. Keep the bogeys off the card.

[00:15:02] >> You see that? He made a birdie and moved down from 125 to 126th.

[00:15:08] >> Fishburn.

[00:15:10] >> Eleven-under. And there's a new leader at the RSM Classic, Patrick Fishburn. You have to figure, nobody has more experience playing this golf course than Davis Thompson.

[00:15:23] >> Oh, that potentially was to make the cut.

[00:15:27] >> Remember, he started out his day with the triple bogey at the first hole. Able to climb back to shooting a 1-over par round today. That's a lot to be proud of for the St. Simons resident.

[00:15:39] >> This was Joel Dahmen, Smylie, looking for that two putt par.

[00:15:44] >> Oh, man. That is in the knee knocker range.

[00:15:53] >> There will be some stress there for Joel. Now, Bryan. And that must make.

[00:15:58] >> And he took his time over this one. Right to left breaker, may straighten out and go back right at the end.

[00:16:04] >> Joel Dahmen put his putter in the air. I think it was a kiss of death.

[00:16:08] >> Zac Blair in the same situation as Wesley. He has to make this.

[00:16:15] >> And it's another great look, Steve. Downhill, right to left, should just break a hair, but the wind's blowing left to right. So it may stay a little bit straighter than he expects. He said good putt after good putt. Just got to commit and pour this one in.

[00:16:28] >> Can he finally get one to fall? No.

[00:16:31] >> That was his worst part of the back nine. He had been burning edges, and that one wasn't even close.

[00:16:35] >> So now, he will sit and wait and see how the weekend unfolds.

[00:16:40] >> Yeah, him and Wes. Now, Zac did start at 123, so he definitely started with more points than Wes. He's got a chance.

[00:16:49] >> Bryan cleans up his parents. Oh, man. You enter the week squarely on the number, and you don't make the cut. Now, you're just waiting.

[00:17:02] >> This putt for Joel Dahmen, I mean, like you said, Smylie, he can move the cutline. But this is going to make the next couple hours a lot more pleasant if he just goes ahead and buries this one. Shouldn't do too much.

[00:17:17] >> Yup. And he knew it.

[00:17:19] >> Fist pump right there.

[00:17:21] >> Yup, he knew it, Johnson.

[00:17:24] >> Talk about guts. Joel Dahmen needed to go out and shoot at least 1-under on that back nine in some of the most challenging conditions. That birdie on the 14th hole, you see the embrace from Geno on how much this meant to these guys. They've been thinking about it this entire FedExCup Fall. And Steve, you can see that Top 125 bubble and where he sits now.

[00:17:47] >> Mackenzie Hughes for birdie. Does that have enough? Yes, it does. Center cut.

[00:17:55] >> I mean, what a heck of a round for Mackenzie Hughes. Sixty-seven, 3-under par. Look out for this guy. He knows how to play this golf course.

[00:18:03] >> After two rounds of play, Patrick Fishburn is your leader. Ludvig Aberg fired a 64 on Friday to move inside the cutline in his first start back from injury. Round 3 is next.

[00:18:18] >> From St. Simons Island, Georgia, it's live third round coverage of the RSM Classic. And with the cut now in the rear view mirror, the final weekend of the PGA Tour season has arrived. As this event celebrates its 15th anniversary, we celebrate all the things that are in front of the 69 players who remain.

[00:18:39] >> Storylines are abound. With just 36 holes left, there is a lot on the line on the southern tip of St. Simons Island.

[00:18:49] >> So let's check out some of the highlights from earlier today. Maverick McNealy on the tee at the par-3 3rd, Smylie.

[00:18:57] >> This hole location tucked over the greenside bunker. Very difficult to get it close.

[00:19:05] >> Well, he did.

[00:19:06] >> He did.

[00:19:06] >> And he would make a birdie there to get to 10-under par. Vince Whaley making a nice early move for birdie at 7.

[00:19:13] >> This is exactly where we saw Maverick McNealy and Lee Hodges putting from. And Vince Whaley able to knock it down.

[00:19:19] >> And he too got to 10-under par. Check in on the 36-hole leader, Patrick Fishburn for birdie at 6.

[00:19:26] >> This was a big putt for him. Rough start to his day. Him and the rest of his group birdied that sixth hole.

[00:19:32] >> That got him back in gear for sure. Michael Thorbjornsen looking for his first ever PGA Tour victory. Here's his third shot at the par-5 7th.

[00:19:42] >> Landing it just on the front of the green. Everything's working to the back with the grain and downwind. Judged perfectly.

[00:19:51] >> First year as a professional on the PGA Tour. So close to being an amateur like Luke Clanton currently is. Florida State kid for birdie at 7.

[00:20:00] >> And listen to the noise of the crowd after this goes in.

[00:20:03][ Cheering and Applause ]

[00:20:07] >> They have come to root on their man. Vince Whaley now for birdie at the 8th. And he gets that one to go. He took the outright lead at that point. Fishburn has caught him now at 11-under par. It is time for the players to make their move on this Saturday. Daniel Berger hitting his second at the par-4 13th.

[00:20:33] >> Best round on the golf course. This is a tucked front right pin over the greenside bunker.

[00:20:38] >> Berger would convert that birdie to move into a tie for the lead.

[00:20:41] >> Patrick Fishburn is a player that a win would go a long way.

[00:20:45] >> At Riviera, and also there at Pebble Beach. That would be a great way to start your year.

[00:20:51] >> Oh, yes. Gets that one to fall. So after a double bogey at the 4th, birdie at 6, birdied 7, and now 9. And Patrick Fishburn has regained the lead all to himself.

[00:21:05] >> Mackenzie Hughes, see if he can inch just a little closer to the lead. And he does. He walks that one in. The Canadian is now those three back. Great vibes on this course.

[00:21:18] >> Nico Echavarria, he's a winner already this fall. And he pours that one home. He has played some outstanding golf.

[00:21:37] >> Michael Kim at 12 for birdie.

[00:21:40] >> Should have some left to right in this putt over the last 4 feet.

[00:21:45] >> A bonus birdie for Michael Kim. He will take it and he'll move to 10-under. Clanton now.

[00:21:55] >> Should just want to turn a hair towards the front of the green. Right to left for him at the very end.

[00:22:00] >> Like that.

[00:22:01] >> Lock it in.

[00:22:01] >> Confidence steps it in.

[00:22:04] >> He's made a couple putts today from that 15-foot range. Here comes the amateur.

[00:22:08] >> Boy, he is not just hanging around. He is pressing forward. Thorbjornsen hitting his second at 13.

[00:22:16] >> Just 110 yards. And Smylie, this is looking really good. You may get your close wedge shot.

[00:22:20] >> There you go.

[00:22:21] >> That would lead to a birdie for Thorbjornsen.

[00:22:25] >> Back with Daniel Berger. Ball well below his feet.

[00:22:27] >> And hole location cut 12 and 6 off from the right. Straight downwind as well off the right. Oh, yeah, went right at it.

[00:22:39] >> Keeping the pedal down is Berger.

[00:22:42] >> Berger back over at the 13th with Maverick.

[00:22:47] >> He continues to give himself opportunities. Let's see if he can pay it off.

[00:22:53] >> Looks good. Looks really good. Maverick McNealy now shares the lead with Vince Whaley.

[00:22:59] >> Yeah, he's the one player in this final group, Steve, that really has, from a ball striking perspective, given himself birdie looks.

[00:23:07] >> This could potentially put Daniel Berger in the final group on Sunday. Big birdie putt.

[00:23:12] >> Oh, yeah, what a round.

[00:23:16] >> What a way to finish. Daniel Berger, 7-under 63. Nico Echavarria. It's been an outstanding fall thus far for Nico. He already picked up his second victory on the PGA Tour. Now, he's birdied four of the last five holes to put himself in contention here at the RSM. Up at the 16th, Mackenzie Hughes. Just a little deep with that second.

[00:23:41] >> This can be a double breaker. Left and then back right.

[00:23:45] >> Oh, Mackenzie.

[00:23:45] >> I said he should be playing for four. What do I know? Mackenzie Hughes.

[00:23:49] >> Mackenzie Hughes. Look at the run he's been on the back nine. And now, he's only one back. This 2016 winner of the RSM classic. And back to the par-5 15th. Just beyond the green is Patrick Fishburn.

[00:24:05] >> Well, I like the ball. It's come to rest in that first cut. So he's got plenty of cushion to work with there. Plenty of green as well. I look for this to be a good one here.

[00:24:15] >> Yeah, good call there, Billy Ray.

[00:24:18] >> Fishburn would make his birdie at 15.

[00:24:21] >> Luke Clanton.

[00:24:23] >> That first 4 or 5 feet is where we saw most of the break. And then, it should straighten out. See if he gets it high enough early.

[00:24:33] >> Yeah, he did. And he knows how important it is with a fist pump. And the amateur moves within one. We've already seen an amateur win this season all the way back at the American Express with Nick Dunlap. Here's the veteran Mackenzie Hughes.

[00:24:48] >> Ball slightly below his feet. That's a 9-iron from 168. He's going to have to catch this solid. Seems like not quite enough club. Wind just slightly off the right.

[00:25:01] >> That's on a very aggressive line. Just right of it. If it's up, it's great.

[00:25:06] >> No, it was enough. He was juiced, I think, Johnson.

[00:25:11] >> Hughes would miss that birdie look to finish the day at 12-under.

[00:25:16] >> Whaley now in the fairway at 18.

[00:25:18] >> Switch from pitching wedge to 9-iron.

[00:25:20] >> Going to have to hold this one up into the wind from 148. And it's on a very aggressive line as well. Just a hair left of it.

[00:25:26] >> Yeah, very nicely done there, Johnson. Henrik Norlander for birdie.

[00:25:33] >> And he was a bubble boy coming into the week. Having a nice day today.

[00:25:38] >> Henrik finishing things up on the 9th. And now, he suddenly finds himself from red to green.

[00:25:44] >> Yeah, 63 helps.

[00:25:46] >> Yeah, big time. Whaley to become the first player to get to 14-under.

[00:25:51] >> Uphill, left to right. Think you got to be just outside the hole starting it.

[00:25:57] >> OK. Vince Whaley now leads by himself.

[00:26:00] >> He spent the whole back nine just trying to make a putt. Nothing was going in. Finally hit an iron shot close to enough to the hole where Vince Whaley never missing that. What a Saturday.

[00:26:13] >> Par-3 17th again, Michael Thorbjornsen.

[00:26:18] >> Also likes to hit a cut right. Luke Clanton said he liked it.

[00:26:27] >> Why wouldn't he? Look at that shot. Lee Hodges just off the green at 16.

[00:26:35] >> There's not going to be much break in this putt for Lee. Hasn't seen anything go in the whole day. You'd like to see one go down now.

[00:26:44] >> Oh, there you go.

[00:26:50] >> Finally, Lee Hodges.

[00:26:51] >> The seal has come off, Billy Ray. Back to back birdies.

[00:26:54] >> Michael Thorbjornsen is on the green at 17.

[00:26:59] >> What a two this would be.

[00:27:01] >> Yup.

[00:27:05] >> Loved his ball striking today, especially his irons. Look at the par 3s today. Birdie at 3, 6, and at 17.

[00:27:13] >> You know, Maverick really stretched this tee shot out. Just 129 gap wedge here from Maverick. And a really good angle. He's on that left-hand side, so he's looking right down the barrel of the flagstick here.

[00:27:26] >> This would be a statement type of shot here heading into tomorrow.

[00:27:32] >> Flights it down. Pretty good line here if it's enough to carry the bunker.

[00:27:42] >> It is. Oh, it's a beauty.

[00:27:43] >> McNealy would go on to miss his birdie putt and tap in for par to stay tied at the top with Vince Whaley after 54 holes. Berger, Fishburn, Hughes, and Thorbjornsen all sit two shots back at 12-under. The final round is next.

[00:27:59] >> These players know how important it is to improve their spot during the FedExCup Fall.

[00:28:04] >> Probably more nerve-racking than any of the tournaments in the meat of the season.

[00:28:11] >> This fall is really important for a lot of guys.

[00:28:15] >> There's a lot of guys that are very hungry to win.

[00:28:18] >> Who will prove themselves?

[00:28:21] >> And make their move?

[00:28:25] >> So much remains on the line. Tune in to the FedExCup Fall.

[00:28:33] >> From St. Simons Island, Georgia, it's live final round coverage of the RSM Classic. And what a gorgeous day to close out another PGA Tour campaign. And the venue equals that beauty. The Golden Isles is a golfing oasis. And the Sea Island Golf Club is a centerpiece. The Seaside Course demands precision. It rewards excellence and punishes bad shots. So far this week, players have had to deal with cold temperatures and high winds. But today is picturesque. Ideal conditions with a temperature in the mid-60s and a slight breeze. Exactly what you'd expect when you arrive on the Golden Isles. Here's a look at the leaderboard. Up to date, Maverick McNealy still leading the way by one. Lee Hodges has joined the fray at 14-under par. Luke Clanton is just two shots back. The third event of the year, the American Express, was won by an amateur, Nick Dunlap. Luke Clanton is trying to make it two in 2024 from the amateur ranks, which would be remarkable. Some of the numbers we're going to follow today, the Aon Next 10. Very important to get into the signature events at Pebble Beach and also at Riviera. Right now, Taylor's in the 60th spot. McNealy in 51 is in very good shape. As far as the Top 125 bubble, currently, Sam Ryder is 125th. We're going to talk a lot about Joel Dahmen. He is just outside the number. He made the cut on the number trying to keep his card, which he has kept six consecutive years.

[00:30:09] >> Let's go to some highlights from earlier in the day. Daniel Berger for birdie, Smylie, at the 3rd.

[00:30:14] >> Yes, the par 3, playing 208 yards today, the second hardest hole on the golf course. And no problems for Daniel Berger.

[00:30:22] >> Up at the 6th. Mackenzie Hughes taking full aim.

[00:30:26] >> This can't be anything more than an 8-iron. Just a right to left wind. This hole location cut just over top of the greenside bunker short.

[00:30:36] >> Yeah, very well done. Now, Michael Thorbjornsen, his chance on the tee at 6.

[00:30:44] >> We just saw Mackenzie Hughes do it. And he's been playing the par 3s just fantastic. Made three birdies on the card yesterday. And he's going to do it here today.

[00:30:54] >> A couple of beauties from those two gentlemen. Lee Hodges is at the 8th, hitting his second.

[00:31:01] >> I just love his golf swing. This hole location is just prime for the taking, just like we saw with Maverick McNealy.

[00:31:11] >> He would make that putt move to 14-under par. But everybody's looking up at Maverick McNealy trying to win for the first time in his PGA Tour career. Birdie putt at the 5th.

[00:31:21] >> And Vince Whaley hid in that marsh like we saw a minute ago. McNealy playing with him even more so now he's got control of this golf tournament. > That got him to 15-under par. And he is the leader. Here we go, it's the final round of the final event of this season. Up ahead to the 9th, Nico Echavarria, the winner in Tokyo at the Zozo Championship, continues his excellent play in the fall.

[00:31:43] >> He sure has. And he definitely got a teach from Luke Clanton's putt.

[00:31:51] >> Oh, yeah. Nico with back to back birdies to close out his opening nine holes. Now, we're looking at Maverick McNealy.

[00:32:04] >> He's left in a really good position here. The first little quarter of the putt is going to be with the grain, then against the grain as it works its way back up this gentle slope. It will move from left to right. This is a really tough read here for Maverick.

[00:32:32] >> OK. Confidently pours that one in. So McNealy in search of win number 1. Now, Luke Clanton to inch a little closer.

[00:32:45] >> Yeah. Just putting up this subtle ridge.

[00:32:48] >> Look out for the amateur.

[00:32:53] >> He's had a crowd this entire week. Anytime he's made a birdie, he's had his fans cheering him on.

[00:32:59] >> Go to Hisatsune. He has a birdie putt.

[00:33:10] >> Oh, yeah.

[00:33:11] >> OK. Looking good. Nico Echavarria, his second at 11.

[00:33:18] >> This is nothing more than just a sand wedge. If you're with us earlier this week, you saw some players take head covers off into this hole. We saw 7-woods and 5-woods.

[00:33:33] >> Let's go to Luke Clanton, the amateur.

[00:33:36] >> And coming off a birdie at 10. Is he going to be the one to put some pressure on the leader? Yeah, that's really good. That's not going to be a very difficult putt. Hardly any break. Just keeps it going.

[00:33:52] >> And Mackenzie Hughes.

[00:33:54] >> Gap wedge in hand, 136 yards.

[00:34:02] >> Hughes would make par. Luke Clanton now to get within one. Oh, look out for the amateur from Florida State. Luke Clanton, back to back birdies to begin this back nine. Back to 10. And Michael Thorbjornsen to limit the damage.

[00:34:24] >> And this putting is not easy either. It's outside the hole left.

[00:34:28] >> All right. That's his first bogey of the day. Drifts him three back and it also takes him outside of the Top 125. At the 13th, Michael Kim putting for birdie.

[00:34:41] >> Should be some right to left in this putt for Michael. Gets it out high enough.

[00:34:47] >> Yup. Solid effort there for Michael.

[00:34:52] >> Michael Thorbjornsen missed the fairway here at 11. A tough approach from the rough. What a fantastic shot.

[00:35:05] >> Up at the 16th, J.T. Poston. This is what he does best.

[00:35:10] >> Yeah, this is up the hill too. This is one he's definitely trying to make. Well, he's trying to make it from anywhere on the green, how good he putts it.

[00:35:18] >> Just an outstanding putter. An incredibly silky smooth stroke. Five -- he's got four birdies in his last five holes now.

[00:35:26] >> And seven birdies on the day.

[00:35:28] >> Oh, boy. Look at the golf ball of Luke Clanton. All that momentum, and now, he's in a heap of trouble.

[00:35:44] >> Would look like he's going to have a shot at the pin. But it's a -- that lie did not look great. Definitely going to have some type of restricted follow through.

[00:36:02] >> Luke is someone, Smylie, who's not afraid to go low. Tied for second at the John Deere Classic. Shot 63 in the first and final rounds. Also shot a 62 at the Wyndham. So Johnson, this kid is not afraid, but this is a bit of a scary shot.

[00:36:18] >> Well, he's got actually a clean strike. And he's got a chance to get this at the hole. The only problem is he's got to go a little bit right and play a draw. It's certainly going to restrict his follow through. And do not want to miss this green, right. Really nice contact. Drawing just left of the flag. This looks excellent.

[00:36:33] >> Oh, what a shot. That is so good. There were so many options that could have happened there. He could have scolded over the green. He could have chunked it short of the bunker, shortsighted. Double bogey was in play. And now, he's got an opportunity to make a long putt for birdie. That's just an incredible hand-eye coordination.

[00:36:52] >> Clanton would three putt from there, though, dropping to 14-under.

[00:36:58] >> Lee Hodges.

[00:36:59] >> You get him in the fairway with the wedge, it's point and shoot.

[00:37:05] >> Gorgeous.

[00:37:06] >> That's a second wedge shot he's almost made today. He had a dance around the hole at the eighth hole.

[00:37:13] >> Mackenzie Hughes, his birdie putt at 11.

[00:37:16] >> Oh, you got to be kidding me. He is in disbelief.

[00:37:24] >> Nico Echavarria making a late charge.

[00:37:31] >> Just a little feeder left to right putt downhill.

[00:37:34] >> Oh, look out for Nico. Again, he was the winner a few weeks ago in Tokyo.

[00:37:42] >> As we go to the 11th, and Daniel Berger.

[00:37:46] >> Just under 60 feet, coming back up the slope, turning right. Two putts from here will be very good.

[00:37:53] >> Come on, Daniel.

[00:37:57] >> How about one?

[00:38:00] >> Wow. Luke Clanton.

[00:38:05] >> Up the hill, slightly right to left. Good chance to get aggressive.

[00:38:10] >> And Luke Clanton is now at 15-under par.

[00:38:15] >> If you're going to win this golf tournament, a birdie at 15 feels like a must.

[00:38:19] >> Couldn't agree with you more. And I think Nico's got to be thinking the same thing. He's got a nice putt though. You mentioned it, putting back up the hill. Just a hair left to right in it. I think it's on the edge if you hit it with authority.

[00:38:33] >> Just love the way he's playing with such great intensity. Been putting tremendous this week. Got to expect this ball to go in.

[00:38:43] >> He has been fist pumping and smiling as well.

[00:38:47] >> And he's going to do more of that. Maverick McNealy now has some company atop the leaderboard at 16-under par. Nico Echavarria.

[00:38:58] >> Over to McNealy with a big par putt at the 14th.

[00:39:07] >> This would be huge. See if he can continue the magic here.

[00:39:11] >> You got to think he got a little bit of a teach from Daniel Berger's putt. Just seeing how it falls over the last 3 or 4 feet will definitely beneficial for Mav here.

[00:39:22] >> Well, it's interesting too. Once it starts breaking back to the left here for Maverick, it's going to pick up speed. So you have to be very careful with this putt as well.

[00:39:30] >> This broke right across the hole.

[00:39:34] >> That bogey would drop him out of the lead.

[00:39:37] >> Luke Clanton still sitting there one shot back of the lead, Johnson.

[00:39:44] >> Perfect position. Hole location tucked just over this bunker. Ball's slightly below his feet. He's been playing these shots really low all week. They like a nice little driving gap wedge.

[00:39:54] >> He buried this hole yesterday. It's not too bad. It's only about 12 feet left. Definitely a putt that he can make.

[00:40:03] >> Nico, now just a little bit closer. I like this angle from the left side, Smylie. And this has got to be a comfortable number, 107.

[00:40:10] >> You can't see the bottom of that flagstick.

[00:40:15] >> This is right, maybe short.

[00:40:17] >> Oh, what a huge mistake for the leader. This is a guy that's been chasing the entire day.

[00:40:26] >> Norlander for birdie at 18. Well, Henrik accomplished what he needed to this weekend.

[00:40:36] >> You can breathe, Henrik.

[00:40:38] >> Big time effort for Norlander. Yeah, there you go. Tongue wagging. He knows. These guys always know, right, Smylie?

[00:40:46] >> Oh, they know. Trust me. He knew what he had to do today.

[00:40:50] >> Luke Clanton to get to 16-under. Oh, man. Luke Clanton is now going to wait and see what Nico Echavarria does because Luke could have the outright lead, depending on what happens.

[00:41:04] >> How about this kid?

[00:41:09] >> Nico Echavarria trying to remain bogey free.

[00:41:13] >> This putt's got to look a little bit longer than it did just a minute ago. Wow. Really nicely holed.

[00:41:18] >> What an up and in for Nico when he had to have it. But he has some company now at 16-under par, the amateur, Luke Clanton. This man has been a massive story all week. And now, with just a couple holes remaining, Johnson, Luke Clanton has a share of the lead as an amateur.

[00:41:38] >> Really incredible. And I mean, guys, I think back to yesterday, a couple of the soft bogeys he made, and today, the three putt on 13. I mean, he just has so much firepower. Makes an incredible amount of birdies. Seven-iron in his hand. One-ninety-one wind, mostly off the left, maybe a touch of help. Hole location's just tucked right over that bunker. Want to take it right at it, you got to fly it about three paces short of this flag.

[00:42:02] >> Johnson, this seems like an absolute perfect club for Luke. Saying it's 191 with a little help, probably about a 185 shot. And that's a perfect 7-iron I imagine for Luke.

[00:42:13] >> Given the fact that he works left right this wind, he doesn't have to take it right at it. There's those two or two TV towers, kind of center of the green. I think he could start it there, let the wind and his fade just bleed it right over towards that hole. Starts out a little left, cutting just left of it. Maybe 10 feet left of it. It's the right distance.

[00:42:35] >> Yup.

[00:42:35] >> Oh, yeah. A little fade spin with the wind, inches its way closer to the hole.

[00:42:42] >> Now, let's see if Nico can answer, Johnson.

[00:42:45] >> He's also got 7-iron in his hand. And the blueprint has just been given to him. Nico also likes to fade the ball.

[00:42:56] >> Solid strike of the golf ball. This starting at it, cutting just a hair right of it.

[00:43:01] >> Oh, it landed just on the down slope short of the green. That was a bad break.

[00:43:09] >> Now, to Dahmen. A par putt on his last hole of the season. And he gets that one to go. A pressure packed par save.

[00:43:22] >> Joel Dahmen needed the round of something in the mid-60s today. You can see the emotions. Man, oh man, making the cut on Friday, we saw the emotion, the fist pump. What a round from Joel.

[00:43:37] >> Luke Clanton. Just think about the amateurs who have won on the PGA Tour. The last guy to do it was earlier this year, Nick Dunlap, Alabama. Then, he turned pro. Then, he won again this season. Phil Mickelson in 1991. Before that, 1985 at what is now the BMW Championship, Scott Verplank got it done. It's just something that does not happen often on the PGA Tour. As Clanton lines this one up to grab the solo lead once again, Johnson.

[00:44:09] >> And this putt, Smylie, this putt is fast. It's downhill, left to right. I know he got a good look at the tail end of Lee's putt, but this is a little bit different. I don't -- And, you know, Smylie, he's hit all these putts with such conviction. I think this is one he's got to be a little bit more tentative about. It could get by him. It could get by that hole pretty quickly.

[00:44:34] >> Oh, it just curled a little bit at the end.

[00:44:39] >> Gosh, it looked like he hit a perfect putt too.

[00:44:41] >> Really did.

[00:44:43] >> Last time two amateurs won in the same season on the PGA Tour, 1945.

[00:44:50] >> This par save is right ahead of him.

[00:44:53] >> Really steady with that par putt on the last. This should just have a touch of right to left.

[00:45:00] >> Oh, that was big. Really big. So Clanton misses. Nico gets it up and in with the two putts, excuse me, and the two of them are still at 160under par as they march to the final hole. Nico and Luke Clanton both tugging their irons left. Both needing to get it up and in.

[00:45:25] >> Now, Johnson, this is almost like match play or almost like a playoff. Would you rather be hitting first here like Nico and setting the pace, or would you rather wait and see what Nico does and be Luke Clanton here?

[00:45:37] >> I like being Nico right here. I also like his shot better. Good lie in this tight apron grass chipping back uphill. When his ball lands, Smylie, it's going to land into the grain. And so, I think the way he's controlled himself out of these tight lies today, I think he's got a chance to make this.

[00:45:58] >> That contact wasn't that great.

[00:46:01] >> Well, the doors opened again for Clanton.

[00:46:07] >> Smylie, I don't see him being able to put a lot of spin on this. I think he's going to have -- If he's going to stop it softly, it's going to have to come with trajectory. So on this upslope, I think he can manage it. But he's going to have to land this, I would say, just on the green or maybe even in the fringe still.

[00:46:24] >> Yeah, that was a great look at the ball sitting down just a touch. By the way, not only the shot difficult, but the situation as well.

[00:46:35] >> See how much speed he puts on this swing. He's going to have to throw it under there really quickly from the top.

[00:46:49] >> Wow.

[00:46:51] >> He just wasn't able to get any spin on that.

[00:46:54] >> The first of the two huge par saves coming up. Nico.

[00:47:00] >> Smylie, this putt looks like it should be left edge. But I think as you said, the grain, it almost something tells me it wants to go left early. I am right behind him and I think left center, hit it with some authority.

[00:47:21] >> And he got it outside of the hole.

[00:47:24] >> Started at a ball outside, it just didn't want to move.

[00:47:27] >> And it was --

[00:47:27] >> Clanton's right on the other side of the hole too, Smylie. He got a good look at the end of it.

[00:47:31] >> And Johnson, that's kind of the opposite of how he's putted the uphill putts on this back nine with a little bit more conviction and taking the breakout.

[00:47:41] >> Over to Clanton to save his par at the last.

[00:47:44] >> I like him to make it, and I like him to have a nice fist pump. I can tell you right now, this crowd is very pro Luke Clanton. It'll get loud here in a second if this drops.

[00:48:00] >> Oh, and he misses it as well.

[00:48:05] >> You dream about that putt as a kid. He's only 21 years old. Opportunities like this don't come around often. Putts inside of 7 feet to potentially post the number that everybody's chasing.

[00:48:18] >> Remember that four-way tie we thought we were going to have after the par-5 15th? Now, we do have that four way tie. Daniel Berger, it's a big moment for him. He's tied for the lead. Now, to hit his second shot at the 18th on the fairway.

[00:48:33] >> This is a 6-iron from 193. He's going to have to step on it here. The ball's below his feet. You look at the flags, the green though, it's not moving. But there is wind up there into their face here.

[00:48:53] >> He gave it the full treatment. Trying to cut it in there. This is on a really good line if it's steep enough.

[00:48:57] >> OK. That's a really good shot. It's a great look for birdie.

[00:49:07] >> Now, let's see what Maverick can do.

[00:49:12] >> Well, this is the situation you want if you're trying to win your first PGA Tour event. One-ninety-one, 7- iron off the downslope here. Check that 183.

[00:49:37] >> Oh, yeah, it's a really good one from Maverick McNealy.

[00:49:44] >> What a shot from Maverick McNealy. And it's such a big moment. Yesterday on Saturday, almost made it to digging deep on the 18th hole. Try to win on the PGA Tour for his first time.

[00:49:57] >> Daniel Berger, first to putt, 20 feet, 9 inches.

[00:50:03] >> Well, Maverick definitely will have a watchful eye on the putt of Daniel Burger. On a similar line, just a little bit further to the left.

[00:50:26] >> Kind of drifted away on him. So Berger, like Nico and Luke, will finish at 15-under. And now, all three of them will wait to see if Maverick makes his birdie putt at 18 for the win, or there's a four-man playoff.

[00:50:48] >> It's right in front of him, Billy Ray. Maverick McNealy has a chance to get a win. In his 142nd PGA Tour start, Maverick McNealy is finally a winner on the world's grandest stage. And he gets to share the moment with one of his brothers, Scout. Amazing.

[00:51:23] >> Nico and Luke looking on the range. Kind of that odd feeling of being happy for someone else, but being upset for your own chances. Oh, all that emotion pouring out of McNealy's there.

[00:51:37] >> I mean, I give so much credit to Scout. He -- I was -- It was -- I was struggling on the back nine. Things weren't coming off quite as clean. And he had me bust in the gut laughing on the 17th green before I hit that birdie putt. And that's just something I didn't think is possible. And that's just something I'm so grateful that he was there for. And that settled me down a little bit. And I've hit a putt on a putting green to win a golf tournament in my mind thousands and thousands of times. You know, it was almost like deja vu standing over that last one. And it came off perfect. And I don't know, man. I'm so -- I'm at lost for words.

[00:52:19] >> That was an amazing performance, A clutch performance from 185 yards to knock it to less than 6 feet and make the putt. And there is Joseph Bramlett. They're very close. He's awfully proud of his good buddy Maverick for getting the win.

[00:52:32] >> Yeah. Team Mav rolls pretty deep. Congratulations to Maverick McNealy.

[00:52:38] >> This concludes the PGA Tour's coverage of the RSM Classic from St. Simons Island, Georgia.