**2018 THE PLAYERS Official Film**

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**Tease**

**HOME. FOR THE PGA TOUR, THAT'S THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP.**

SPIETH SOT: “It is one of the toughest tests in golf with the best field golf in all of golf. If you win here, you can win anywhere else.”

**IT'S A HOME FOR PLAYERS TO COME BACK TO YEAR IN AND OUT.**

DAY SOT: “This tournament is heightened. The level of it just goes up every single year.”

ANNC: "The Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass"

FOWLER SOT: “As a player, you always look forward to this week. It's our tournament. It's the strongest fields we play all year, and it's a great venue.”

**IT'S A HOME BUILT ON ONE OF GOLF'S LEGENDARY COURSES.**

TIGER SOT: “There's no way of faking it around this golf course. You have to hit the golf ball well.”

ANNC: "Designed by a hall of fame architect to test the game's best"

THOMAS SOT: “I've always said I love this design it just requires a lot of different shots, a lot of different trajectories, a lot of different decisions while you're out there.”

**IT'S A HOME THAT MARKS HISTORY.**

ANNC: "For almost 4 decades it's provided great theater and identified true champions."

ANNC: "Be the right club today!"

ANNC: "Better than most!"

ANNC: "Rickie Fowler with an incredible run down the stretch!"

**IT'S A HOME FOR ALL GAMES, ALL STYLES.**

ANNC: "A layout that challenges everyone while favoring no one."

RORY SOT: “It doesn't suit a long hitter, it doesn't suit a short hitter it always produces a great winner.”

ANNC: "Phil Mickelson finally has his PLAYERS Championship!"

PHIL SOT: “We have such a great mixture of champions on this golf course just the beauty of the design and the setup and the overall architecture.”

**156 PLAYERS ENTER THE TOUR'S BACKYARD, HOPING TO MAKE IT THEIR OWN. BUT ONLY ONE WILL RISE ABOVE HIS FELLOW COMPETITORS.**

ANNC: "Wow, what a performance."

**AS THE PLAYERS CHAMPION.**

**WELCOME TO THE PLAYERS OFFICIAL FILM 20-18.** [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5C%5CUsers%5C%5Cjamesm%5C%5CDocuments%5C%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22StoryIndex)

**Tournament Setup**

ANNC: "The Players Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass once again welcomes the deepest field of the season for the 45th addition of THE PLAYERS."

**THE ANNUAL RETURN TO PETE DYE'S MASTERPIECE IS ALWAYS HIGHLY ANTICIPATED, BUT THIS YEAR ARRIVES WITH A SPECIAL BUZZ.**

ANNC: "Super group they're calling it."

**THE ANTICIPATION EARLY WEEK COMING IN THE WAKE OF A HISTORIC PAIRING BETWEEN TIGER WOODS AND PHIL MICKELSON**

ANNC: "First time together at THE PLAYERS Championship since Tiger won in 2001."

PHIL SOT: "I love that we're paired together. We've always had a mutual respect for each other over the years and I've always appreciated what he's done for the game of golf."

TIGER SOT: "We're both later in out careers and for me to be able to play against a person that I've gone against for over two decades, it's a lot of fun." [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5C%5CUsers%5C%5Cjamesm%5C%5CDocuments%5C%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22StoryIndex)

**Thursday Part 1**

**THE TWO ARE JOINED BY 2015 PLAYERS CHAMPION RICKIE FOWLER**

ANNC: "Four PLAYERS titles between these 3."

**BUT THEY ARENT THE ONLY ONES DRAWING FANS ATTENTION ON DAY ONE.**

ANNC: "The other super group / Rory along with Justin Thomas and Jordan Spieth."

**THE PAST THREE FEDEXCUP CHAMPIONS ALSO TEE IT UP TOGETHER - BUT SPIETH AND THOMAS STRUGGLE WITH BOGEY FILLED OPENING NINES**

ANNC: "Not necessarily what we were expecting from the first of the super groups."

**PHIL ALSO MAKES THE TURN OVER-PAR, WHILE TIGER OFFSETS TWO EARLY BOGEYS WITH AN EAGLE AT THE 9TH.**

ANNC: "That's the Tiger roar that we've missed."

**MCILROY AND FOWLER LEAD THEIR GROUPS MIDWAY THROUGH THEIR ROUNDS…BUT THE PACE IS BEING SET BY ANOTHER BIG NAME IN THE FIELD AS DUSTIN JOHNSON CARDS A BOGEY-FREE FRONT NINE**

ANNC: "They chase DJ at the top."

**HOPING TO MATCH THE SUCCESS OF DEFENDING CHAMPION SI WOO KIM…**

ANNC: "Si Woo Kim playing very well as the defender."

**WHO LOOKS TO BECOME THE FIRST EVER BACK TO BACK PLAYERS CHAMPION AFTER HIS BREAKTHROUGH A YEAR AGO.** [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjamesm%5CDocuments%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM#StoryIndex)

**Si Woo Kim Feature**

KIM SOT: "I couldn't believe it after I won, it was like a dream."

**KIM ARRIVED AT LAST SEASON'S PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP WITH VETERAN-LIKE POISE, DESPITE MAKING JUST HIS SECOND START AT TPC SAWGRASS.**

KIM SOT: "There was no pressure even if it was a big event. I had confidence in myself. I arrived at TPC Sawgrass a week earlier, I didn't play full rounds, but I worked on my short game around every hole, so I could check the lie of the greens, that really helped me during the tournament.

**AFTER THE 3RD ROUND, SI WOO WAS ONLY 2-SHOTS BEHIND CO-LEADER KYLE STANLEY…BUT HIS BACK TIGHTENED UP OVERNIGHT, LEAVING SERIOUS QUESTIONS AS TO HOW EFFECTIVE HE COULD BE IN THE FINAL ROUND.**

DAD SOT: “In fact, his condition was too bad to play on the last day, so I just hoped that Si Woo could just finish the full round, but I think the birdie at the first hole made him forget about the pain."

KIM SOT: "30 minutes before I teed off, I had a little bit of a muscle problem in my back, so my physio helped me to ease the pain, it was still there, but I didn't feel it because of the pressure of the event.”

**DESPITE THE PAIN AND THE PRESSURE, HE MADE BIG STRIDES ON THE FRONT NINE, CARDING 3-BIRDIES OVER HIS FIRST 9 HOLES…HIS BIRDIE ON 7 GIVING HIM THE LEAD ALONE.**

**AND AS KIM MADE HIS WAY AROUND FAMED TPC SAWGRASS' BACK NINE, THE OUTCOME WAS BECOMING APPARENT TO EVERYONE…EXCEPT HIM.**

KIM SOT: “Since the 16th, 17th and 18th holes have a lot of hazards, I had so much pressure, even though I was lead comfortably. After the 2nd shot on the 18th hole, I finally felt it coming, then it felt even more nerve wracking than before.”

ANNC: "21-year-old Si Woo Kim from South Korea, he is the youngest PLAYERS Champion ever."

DAD SOT: I think I've done my part, from now on, he's on his own…he's on his own."

MOM SOT: "It was really good, I felt like I own the world.”

KIM SOT: "Regarding this 'youngest' title, I am very proud of it, since it's hard to do that at my age and I'm hoping that nobody can break my record at the PLAYERS. I want my name remembered as a household name for golfers." [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5C%5CUsers%5C%5Cjamesm%5C%5CDocuments%5C%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22StoryIndex)

**Thursday Part 2**

**KIM BEGINS HIS TITLE DEFENSE WITH THE LOWEST OPENING ROUND BY A DEFENDING CHAMPION AT TPC SAWGRASS, A 5-UNDER 67**

ANNC: "Pretty impressive what we've seen from Si Woo Kim."

**BUT AS KIM REFLECTS ON MEMORIES OF HOISTING THE PLAYERS CHRYSTAL A YEAR AGO, IAN POULTER RETURNS AFTER COMING UP JUST SHY IN 2017.**

POULTER SOT: "That was a huge turning point in last season." [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjamesm%5CDocuments%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM#StoryIndex)

**Ian Poulter Feature**

**FOUR AND A HALF YEARS REMOVED FROM HIS LAST WIN, POULTER PUT HIS STRUGGLES ASIDE IN ADVANCE OF LAST YEAR'S PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP.**

POULTER SOT: "I played the Players Championship like I had a clear mind. And that was kind of refreshing."

**HE EARNED THE START TWO WEEKS PRIOR BY ACCUMULATING ENOUGH FEDEXCUP POINTS FOR A MAJOR MEDICAL EXTENSION**

ANNC: "He went from the lowest point of his career three weeks ago when he thought he was gonna lose his PGA TOUR card."

POULTER SOT: "That was the biggest roller coaster I think I've ever been on in my life. And that kind of put me in a position of, okay, you've been given this opportunity, albeit I earned that opportunity."

**POULTER MADE THE MOST OF IT, TYING FOR THE FEWEST BOGEYS IN THE FIELD FOR HIS BEST FINISH IN OVER 3 YEARS ON TOUR.**

ANNC: "Just another example of this guy's grit. Never say die."

**HIS SECOND CAREER RUNNER UP AT THE PLAYERS PROVED TO BE JUST A STEPPING STONE…**

ANNC: "Poulter buries it of course he does!"

**…AS POULTER WOULD CAPTURE HIS THIRD CAREER VICTORY AT THE HOUSTON OPEN IN APRIL.**

POULTER SOT: "It was emotional from a standpoint of the longest break I've ever had between wins. The situation of where we've come from in the last couple of years, very fulfilling to know the hard work I have put in has payed off."

**SINCE THAT MEMORABLE WEEK AT TPC SAWGRASS, THE REVITALIZED ENGLISHMAN HAS RACKED UP 9 TOP-25s INCLUDING 4 TOP-10s.**

POULTER SOT: "I was almost energized from a fact of getting the call to say, you've now got your card it was just refreshing to play golf without the pressure it just was a factor of, go play golf."

**AND AS HE MAKES HIS RETURN TO TPC SAWGRASS THIS WEEK, THE IMPACT OF HIS PERFORMANCE A YEAR AGO IS NOT LOST ON HIM**

POULTER SOT: "Having me finishing second in the Player's Championship changed the rest of 2017. Which then has changed 2018 into the position that I am today." [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5C%5CUsers%5C%5Cjamesm%5C%5CDocuments%5C%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22StoryIndex)

**Thursday Part 3**

**POULTER CARDS 6 BIRDIES IN THE FIRST ROUND, FINISHING HIS DAY 2-UNDER.**

POULTER SOT: "There was a lot of good stuff in there if I come out tomorrow and play the golf that I've played today I think I can put together a nice round."

**BUT THE COURSE CONTINUES TO CHALLENGE THE STAR-STUDDED FEATURE GROUPS. JORDAN SPIETH TIES HIS HIGHEST SCORE AT TPC SAWGRASS WITH A 3-OVER 75.**

ANNC: "It's been a disappointing day as he struggles to find his feet here."

**PHIL MICKELSON, RICKIE FOWLER, AND JUSTIN THOMAS ALSO HEAD TO THE CLUBHOUSE OVER PAR.**

ANNC: "The Golf Course said excuse me I'm the super star."

**BUT TIGER WOODS BATTLES ON THE BACK NINE, RANKING TOP-15 IN STROKES GAINED AROUND THE GREEN TO END HIS DAY WITH AN EVEN PAR-72.**

ANNC: "He never gives up does he?"

TIGER SOT: "I feel like I have my playing feels back. Now it's just a matter of just going out there and staying fine tuned."

**AND RORY MCILROY IS THE ONLY ONE IN THE TWO GROUPS IN RED NUMBERS AT DAY'S END, FINISHING 1-UNDER.**

RORY SOT: "Looking at the scoreboard, it looked like it played easy out there but our group didn't feel like that, with what we shot."

**WEBB SIMPSON IS ONE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF FAVORABLE CONDITIONS…**

ANNC: "How about Webb Simpson? The game coming back."

**HE GOES ON TO MAKE NEARLY 140 FEET OF PUTTS, ALMOST DOUBLE HIS SEASON AVERAGE, AND TAKES THE CLUBHOUSE LEAD AT 6-UNDER**

SIMPSON SOT: "I feel like I've been playing pretty solid golf for a long time now, and my goal is to continue to get better and play good consistent golf because I feel like if I do that, I'm going to have chances Sunday."

**HE'S JOINED BY DUSTIN JOHNSON WHO KEEPS A CLEAN SCORECARD ON** **HIS WAY TO A 6-UNDER 66, HIS LOWEST SCORE IN 31-CAREER ROUNDS AT THE PLAYERS.**

DJ SOT: "I felt like it was a really solid day, I drove it really well, hit a lot of greens and rolled the putter very well."

**BUT THE TWO AREN'T ALONE ATOP THE LEADERBOARD, AS 4 OTHERS PLAY THEIR WAY INTO A TIE FOR THE LEAD ON A RECORD BREAKING DAY.**

ANNC: "A good scoring day as far as the scoring average what was possible today."

**THE 23 EAGLES RECORDED ARE THE MOST EVER IN A SINGLE ROUND AT THE PLAYERS**

EAGLE ANNC: "Exactly what they wanted get the players to be more aggressive and have chances to make eagle."

**THE SIX PLAYERS TIED FOR LEAD AFTER DAY ONE IS THE SECOND MOST IN TOURNAMENT HISTORY AND THE MOST SINCE ITS MOVE TO TPC SAWGRASS IN 1982.** [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5C%5CUsers%5C%5Cjamesm%5C%5CDocuments%5C%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22StoryIndex)

**Round 1 Leaderboard**

**THE PACKED LEADERBOARD HAS WIDE VARIETY AT THE TOP, FROM DUSTIN JOHNSON WITH HIS 17 PGA TOUR TITLES TO ALEX NOREN, STILL SEARCHING FOR HIS FIRST. IN ALL, THE 12 PLAYERS WITHIN A SHOT OF THE LEAD HAVE COMBINED FOR 54 TITLES OVER THEIR CAREERS.** [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjamesm%5CDocuments%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM#StoryIndex)

**Friday Part 1**

ANNC: "The supreme test for the best field in golf, they're here once again, as are the people, it's day two and they're out in droves."

**THE MASSIVE CROWDS OUT AT TPC SAWGRASS FOR ROUND 2 OF THE PLAYERS HAVE PLENTY OF ACTION TO FOLLOW, THE 26 PLAYERS WITHIN 2 SHOTS OF THE LEAD, THE MOST IN TOURNAMENT HISTORY.**

ANNC: "It brings so many different kinds of players into the mix."

**ONE OF THE EARLY LEADERS TRYING TO SEPARATE THEMSELVES IS CHESSON HADLEY, WHO REACHES 12-UNDER THROUGH 16, BUT DROPS 3 SHOTS ON 17 AND 18.**

HADLEY SOT: “The round was great. Obviously I didn't finish the way I would have loved to, but it is what it is. I did a lot of great things, and we've got a chance to win. certainly very pleased with where I'm at.

**WHILE HADLEY SEEKS A FIRST PLAYERS TITLE, ONE PAST CHAMPION ON THE COURSE LOOKS TO RECAPTURE THE SUCCESS HE FOUND A DECADE AGO…** [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjamesm%5CDocuments%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM#StoryIndex)

**Sergio Garcia 10 Year Feature**

GARCIA SOT: "2008 PLAYERS Championship at Sawgrass, y'know, after Valderrama it's my favorite golf course in the world. To be able to finally win it there was amazing. I remember it very well, even though it's been 10 years."

**IN 2008, 28-YEAR OLD SERGIO GARCIA WAS KNOWN AS THE BEST PLAYER WITHOUT A MAJOR TITLE.**

GARCIA SOT: "I remember it was very warm, it was windy, the course was playing tough, and Paul Goydos played really well all week too, so it was a great battle."

**GARCIA ENTERED THE FINAL SUNDAY 3 STROKES OFF THE LEAD, AND WITH THE WINDS OVER 40 MILES PER HOUR, IT WOULD NOT MAKE FOR AN EASY VICTORY, BUT MOST CERTAINLY A MEMORABLE ONE.**

GARCIA SOT: "Obviously on Sunday there were a lot of great moments. The putt on 14 I remember was massive."

ANNC: "Ole ole Murph! Ole, ole, 47 feet! Buh-boom."

GARCIA SOT: "Then the up and down on 18 was very big to be able to get into the playoff."

ANNC: "Scared it, and it'll be another pressure packed putt that really matters for Garcia."

**HAUNTED WITH PUTTING TROUBLES OVER THE FIRST THREE DAYS, HIS 7-FOOTER FOR PAR WOULD FORCE A PLAYOFF WITH UNLIKELY LEADER PAUL GOYDOS.**

ANNC: "Time and time again he's come up short. Not this time, Garcia in at 5-under! And that reaction as if to answer all the critics who've been talking about how he can't make the big putt."

**IT WAS THE FIRST PLAYOFF AT THE PLAYERS IN 21 YEARS, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IT WOULD START AT THE FAMED 17TH HOLE.**

GARCIA SOT: "I mean it didn't matter what anybody said, y'know, at the end of the day the only thing you can do is do the best you can, play your hardest, sometimes it goes the right way, sometimes it doesn't, and I'm glad this time it went the right way for me."

ANNC: "What a shot!" Here it comes, his ball striking is gonna pay off!"

GARCIA SOT: "As soon as I saw the ball roll down the hill I was like, y'know, I think, unless Paul does something amazing, I think we've got this one covered."

ANNC: "The long wait is over for Sergio Garcia's big win, he's THE PLAYERS Champion in 2008!"

GARCIA SOT: "I guess that sometimes you look back and you say, y'know, how fortunate I am and the things I've been able to do and the things I've been able to achieve, but at the same time you think, well, nobody's given me anything for free. I've worked hard for it, to be able to win there, under those conditions was very special, and it meant a lot to be THE PLAYERS Champion."[Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5C%5CUsers%5C%5Cjamesm%5C%5CDocuments%5C%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22StoryIndex)

**Friday Part 2**

**IN HIS QUEST FOR ANOTHER PLAYERS TITLE, GARCIA TAKES 27 PUTTS FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT DAY, POSTING A 69, ONCE AGAIN IN CONTENTION AT A VENUE HE LOVES.**

GARCIA SOT: “It helps to know that you've done well, that it is one of your favorite golf courses in the world. So hopefully we'll keep building on that tomorrow and Sunday and see where we can finish.”

**ANOTHER PAST CHAMP ALSO RISES UP THE BOARD FRIDAY…**

ANNC DAY: "He's taking advantage of a hot hand"

**JASON DAY GAINS OVER 3 STROKES ON THE FIELD APPROACHING THE GREEN, COMBINING THAT WITH OVER 105 FEET OF PUTTS MADE, MOVING INTO THE TOP-10.**

DAY SOT: “I'm very motivated. I think I'm more motivated about winning and trying to get back to the top. Right now I'm in good form, I've just got to keep kind of pushing along.”

**ALONGSIDE DAY AT 8-UNDER IS XANDER SCHAUFFELE, ONE OF 21 MAKING THEIR DEBUTS THIS WEEK.** [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjamesm%5CDocuments%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM#StoryIndex)

**First Timers Feature**

LANDRY SOT: "It means a lot, obviously to be here at the home of the PGA TOUR, and to be in the stadium course, play up against the best players in the world, the best field in the world."

**BEFORE UNDERTAKING THAT CHALLENGE, THE FIRST TIMERS AT THE PLAYERS GOT A CHANCE TO EXPRESS THEIR EXCITEMENT FOR THE WEEK.**

SCHAUFFELE SOT: "It's awesome. The crowds, the support, and the infrastructure they put up for the event and just how big this property is, it's got that big course feel and big tournament feel."

SPAUN SOT: "You got tons of people out on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, I just know those crowds are gonna grow bigger as the week goes on, and you can feel the vibe out here for sure."

BLAUM SOT: "I love how the whole city of Jacksonville, Ponte Vedra, Jax Beach have just, it's their own tournament, and they've embraced it."

**WHILE THE ATMOSPHERE AT TPC SAWGRASS IS UNIQUE, SO TOO IS THE CHALLENGE PRESENTED BY THE COURSE…**

SCHNIEDERJANS SOT: "You've gotta hit the fairways and you've gotta hit the greens more so here than anywhere else it's unpredictable around the greens, so gotta hit your ball straight this week."

KRAFT SOT: "I love the course it doesn't really cater to any certain type of player I don't think so I think anyone can play well here as long as your game is trending in the right direction."

**IN PARTICULAR, THE PROSPECT OF THE ICONIC ISLAND GREEN LOOMED IN THEIR MINDS.**

HOGE SOT: "I'll definitely be feeling some nerves for sure, just because there's such a big number possible at all times, but I think you get that buzz and some of the energy from everybody there to just kind of build off of that."

LI SOT: "I just want to put it in the middle of the green, make two putts, and go."

COOK SOT: "It's a very cool and it's an iconic hole, and I think I have a pretty good par-3 scoring average, so I'm looking to build on that."

**THE 17TH, A CENTERPIECE OF A MEMORABLE FINISH, THAT THEY ATTEMPTED TO GIVE ITS OWN UNIQUE MONIKER.**

BLAUM SOT: "Dye-abolical stretch Pete Dye designed the golf course and that's his signature."

COOK SOT: "I don't know if I could say it the Devil's Claw, it's pretty tough."

LANDRY SOT: "Beast, the beast, it’s a beast."

KRAFT SOT: "The anxiety holes, or something like that. 17, 18 are pretty stressful, maybe something like that."

SCHNIEDERJANS SOT: "It's just water everywhere, I don't know, just water everywhere."

SPAUN SOT: "I don't know, the water trap, water monster or something, H-2oh no."

SCHAUFFELE SOT: "H-2-no is good, was he prepped for that, he's not that smart. I'm not gonna say anything because I don't want to jinx myself for the rest of the week." [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5C%5CUsers%5C%5Cjamesm%5C%5CDocuments%5C%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22StoryIndex)

**Friday Part 3**

**BY FRIDAY'S CLOSE, 14 FIRST TIMERS SIT INSIDE THE CUT LINE, BUT FOR SOME VETERANS, MAKING THE WEEKEND WILL BE A CHALLENGE…**

ANNC: "Mickelson, Fowler and Woods one of those super groups / that has not delivered."

**WHILE PHIL MICKELSON, RICKIE FOWLER, AND RORY MCILROY COMBINE FOR 16 BIRDIES, TOO MANY BLACK MARKS LAND ALL 3 OUTSIDE THE CUT LINE. WHILE THEY HEAD HOME EARLY, TIGER WOODS FIGHTS FOR THE WEEKEND.**

ANNC: "Tiger has delivered his usual style of hanging really tough."

**SCRAMBLING ALL DAY LONG, HE GUTS OUT 15 PARS AS PART OF A 1-UNDER ROUND.**

TIGER SOT: “I didn't have much of what I wanted. With these greens as soft as they are, I didn't take advantage of the opportunities I had today to really shoot a good number.”

**AS A RESULT, HIS FUTURE REMAINS UP IN THE AIR, FALLING INTO THE HANDS OF JORDAN SPIETH AND JUSTIN THOMAS.**

ANNC: "All these young superstars could knock out Tiger by the end of the day."

**WHILE SPIETH LEANS ON A TOP-10 DRIVING PERFORMANCE, THOMAS TAKES ONLY 24 PUTTS ALL DAY, AS BOTH CLIMB THE BOARD.**

SPIETH SOT: “I was pretty nervous the entire day/it felt like trying to win a tournament, even just to feel like I can beat this golf course. So it was nice to do so.”

**BUT IT'S THEIR FINAL HOLE THAT PROVES MOST SIGNIFICANT FOR TIGER'S WEEKEND PLANS.**

ANNC: "The cut line now with those two finishing up here back to 1-under"

**AFTER LOW OPENING ROUNDS, DUSTIN JOHNSON AND SI WOO KIM ARE UNABLE TO RIDE THE WAVE OF LOW SCORING.**

ANNC DJ: "That is costly."

**KIM FALLS DOWN THE BOARD WITH AN EVEN PAR 72, WHILE DJ LOSES OVER A STROKE TO THE FIELD ON THE GREENS, DROPPING 10 SPOTS DESPITE AN UNDER PAR ROUND.**

DJ SOT: “I think I'm in a good position. Tomorrow I need to come out and shoot a really solid score, I feel like I’m in a really good spot heading into the weekend. The golf course you can shoot really low scores, but you have to play incredibly well.”

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON, WEBB SIMPSON PLAYS INCREDIBLY WELL.**

ANNC: "He's making it look easy on the greens!"

**RIDING A HOT FLAT STICK, SIMPSON TAKES ONLY 23 PUTTS ON THE DAY, HOLING OVER 142 FEET OF PUTTS, RACKING UP BIRDIE AFTER BIRDIE.**

ANNC: "He ties the record for the most consecutive birdies made here at The Players 6 in a row"

SIMPSON SOT: “Its rare as a golfer where everything is working well, driving, iron play, chipping and putting, and today everything came together.”

**AS RED NUMBERS STACK UP, ANOTHER RECORD ENTERS VIEW, THE COURSE RECORD, REACHING THE 17TH 11-UNDER.**

ANNC: "Oh it's off the boards and ahh… Pete Dye and the golfing gods were watching."

**EVEN WITH THE DOUBLE, A 9-UNDER 63 ADDS HIS NAME TO HISTORY.**

ANNC: "It matches the course record here and the 36-hole total."

**IN ONE DAY, SIMPSON'S HISTORIC ROUND GIVES A TIGHT CONTEST A CLEAR FRONTRUNNER, HIS 5 SHOT LEAD, THE LARGEST AFTER TWO ROUNDS IN PLAYERS HISTORY.**

SIMPSON SOT: “I'm 15-under through two days here, which is a lot lower than I ever would have expected to be. It's a lot of fun to play good golf, and hopefully I can keep that up.” [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5C%5CUsers%5C%5Cjamesm%5C%5CDocuments%5C%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22StoryIndex)

**Round 2 Leaderboard**

**AMONG THE CHASERS WHO WILL TRY TO NARROW THE GAP ARE DANNY LEE, CHARL SCHWARTZEL, AND PATRICK CANTLAY. CANTLAY ONCE AGAIN IS SHOWING AFFINITY AT TPC SAWGRASS AFTER BEING TIED FOR 5TH AFTER 36 HOLES IN 2017. BOTH LEE AND SCHWARTZEL ARE IN POSITION FOR THEIR BEST FINISHES AT THE PLAYERS IN THE TIE FOR SECOND.** [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjamesm%5CDocuments%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM#StoryIndex)

**Early Week Feature**

NATS: "Let's go for a warm, loud Jacksonville welcome for Luke Combs."

**FANS ROCKED OUT ON TUESDAY AS LUKE COMBS HONORED VETERANS WITH A CONCERT ON THE FAMOUS 17TH HOLE**

COMBS SOT: “It's awesome to be able to give back in this kind of way and be able to do what we enjoy doing and make some people happy at the same time."

**THE ANNUAL MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY EVENT PROVIDED PLENTY OF ENTERTAINMENT BEFORE TOURNAMENT PLAY BEGAN**

COMBS NAT: "I think I'm gonna hit a golf shot right now."

**AND THE PLAYERS CARRIED ON THAT SPIRIT OF GIVING BACK WEDNESDAY**

REMINGTON NATS: "Thank you so much for making this happen."

**NEWLYWEDS TIFFANY AND CALEB REMINGTON SPENT THE DAY INSIDE THE ROPES AS PART OF A WEDDING GIFT FROM THE GROOM'S FAVORITE GOLFER**

NAT: "Turn around and face the screen."

SERGIO VIDEO MESSAGE: "Hi Caleb and Tiffany. Congratulations on your wedding. I wish you love and happiness in your life together."

**SERGIO GARCIA SURPRISED THE COUPLE DURING THEIR WEDDING-TURNED-FUNDRAISER THAT RAISED NEARLY 200 THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR CHARITY**

SERGIO VIDEO MESSAGE: "I would like to give you a special wedding gift with planned a wonderful honeymoon for you and Tiffany at THE PLAYERS next week."

CALEB NAT: “What!?”

**CALEB MET GARCIA TEN YEARS AGO AS PART OF A MAKE-A-WISH SURPRISE**

CALEB SOT: "I was born with cystic fibrosis, I have a life expectancy of 37."

SERGIO SOT: "When we met the illness was a little bit stronger in him but he was always a fighter."

**AND THE TWO WERE REUNITED AT THIS YEARS PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP**

TIFFANY AND CALEB NAT: "We are on our way to the PLAYERS Championship"

TIFFANY SOT: "To have someone with such big hearts reach out to us and give something to us, we are just blown away by the love and support."

NAT: "Thank you so much…brand new ball no pressure…good job, babe"

SERGIO SOT: "Good to see him achieve some of his dreams it's made me very proud to see how far along he's come."

**ALSO ADDING TO THE EARLY-WEEK BUZZ WAS THE TOURNAMENT'S IMMINENT MOVE TO MARCH IN 2019.**

FOWLER SOT: "Temperatures can be a bit different, wind, rain, there's a lot of things that can come into play in March."

THOMAS SOT: "All of us on The TOUR feel that this event can stand on its own this is our championship, this is THE PLAYERS Championship." [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5C%5CUsers%5C%5Cjamesm%5C%5CDocuments%5C%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22StoryIndex)

**Saturday Part 1**

ANNC: "Great crowds streaming in on this Saturday"

**AS THE WEEKEND GETS UNDERWAY, THOSE NEAR THE TOP FACE A STEEP CLIMB AHEAD**

ANNC: "They want to see if anyone will make a run at Webb Simpson."

**AND WEBB SIMPSON STRIKES EARLY WITH BIRDIES AT 2 OF HIS OPENING 4 HOLES TO EXTEND HIS LEAD TO 7**

ANNC: "Webb Simpson getting off to another great start."

SIMPSON SOT: "There were some low scores, so I think it helped me a little bit continue to think about making birdies and making that 15-under a little better."

ANNC: "Yes. Kick in birdie!"

**AMONG THOSE LOW SCORERS IS JUSTIN THOMAS, WHO CARDS A BOGEY-FREE 68**

ANNC: "Low numbers from the big names this morning."

**ALONGSIDE HIS PLAYING PARTNER FROM THE FIRST TWO ROUNDS, JORDAN SPIETH, WHO IS HAVING A DAY OF HIS OWN**

ANNC: "9 birdies in all rocketing up the leaderboard."

SPIETH SOT: "I was 14 back starting today and anything inside a top-10 is an incredible feat over the weekend from that far back. And I've got a chance to potentially make more noise than that"

**SPIETH'S 7-UNDER 65 MARKS HIS LOWEST CAREER ROUND AT THE PLAYERS – AND THE BEST SCORE OF THE DAY – MATCHED ONLY BY A FELLOW FEDEXCUP CHAMPION WHO HAS HIS OWN HISTORY AT THE STADIUM COURSE…**[Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjamesm%5CDocuments%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM#StoryIndex)

**Tiger at TPC Sawgrass Feature**

**TIGER WOODS’ STORY AT TPC SAWGRASS BEGAN AS AN AMATEUR IN 1994, WINNING THE FIRST OF HIS THREE STRAIGHT U.S. AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS. SIX YEARS LATER AS A PRO, WOODS WOULD BATTLE HAL SUTTON AT THE PLAYERS, COMING UP ONE SHOT SHORT OF GLORY.**

ANNC: "Hal Sutton is the Players champion again."

WOODS SOT: "I worked on most of the Spring that year to get ready for the Players."

**ON HIS RETURN, HE WOULD AUTHOR ONE OF THE MOST ICONIC MOMENTS IN PLAYERS HISTORY AT THE 17TH ON SATURDAY.**

ANNC: "That is better than most, better than most!"

WOODS SOT: "To come right back the very next year to get it done was pretty cool."

ANNC: "Tiger woods is the 2001 Players Champion."

**FOR THE NEXT TWELVE YEARS WOODS MANAGED JUST 7 ROUNDS UNDER 70, GOOD ENOUGH FOR 5 TOP-25 FINISHES, BUT NEVER TRULY CHALLENGING FOR ANOTHER TITLE.**

WOODS SOT: "Either I play really well, or I play really bad. And I haven't had the type of consistent success that I've had with other venues, because that golf course, if you start struggling just a little bit, you get hammered out there. I just didn't quite always have my game."

**AFTER THREE WINS IN THE 20-13 PGA TOUR SEASON, WOODS CAME INTO THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP UNDENIABLY ON HIS GAME.AND SHOWED IT.**

ANNC: "Tiger Woods is a players champion again, a dozen years removed from his first."

TIGER SOT: "It was 12 years between wins here / and that week in 2013, Joey kept hounding me in my ear about the fact that this golf course suits me and you're going to win here."

**RETURNING FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2015, HE ENTERS WITH 3 TOP-15 FINISHES ON THE SEASON, GRATEFUL TO BE BACK.**

ANNC: "Now that was vintage Tiger Woods there!"

TIGER SOT: "To sit here 12 months ago and you would have said, yeah, you're going to be playing THE PLAYERS Championship I would have said, you've got to be kidding me. I can barely walk. I'm just so thankful to be able to have this opportunity again because I didn't know if I would ever have it.”

**THE TWO TIME CHAMPION LOOKS TO TIE JACK NICKLAUS FOR MOST PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIPS BY ADDING A THIRD THIS WEEK…**

TIGER SOT: "Not too many guys who've won there twice. Pete Dye has done a fantastic job of making it very difficult on us."

**…AND HE'S PLENTY EQUIPPED FOR THE CHALLENGE COME MOVING DAY.**

TIGER SOT: "To be able to go against the best players in the world and take them down, it's a good feeling. I've always looked forward to preparing for them." [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5C%5CUsers%5C%5Cjamesm%5C%5CDocuments%5C%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22StoryIndex)

**Saturday Part 2**

**THE 79-TIME CHAMPION BURSTS OUT OF THE GATES, BIRDIEING 4 OF HIS FIRST 5 HOLES**

TIGER SOT: "I finally got off to a good start. I birdied the first couple of holes and I just kept it rolling from there."

**CONTINUING HIS CHARGE, TIGER BIRDIES TWO MORE BEFORE THE TURN, TO TIE THE SECOND LOWEST FRONT-NINE IN PLAYERS HISTORY**

TIGER ANNC: "30 for the opening nine. Tiger putting up a good number."

TIGER SOT: "I got my playing feels back. I was able to convert today and got rolling early."

**HE ADDS BACK-TO-BACK BIRDIES AT 11 AND 12 BEFORE CARDING HIS ONLY BOGEY OF THE DAY AT 14 - SLOWING HIS MOMENTUM - BUT STILL PIECES TOGETHER HIS LOWEST SCORE IN 66 CAREER ROUNDS AT THE PLAYERS**

TIGER SOT: "Eventually I was going to put all the pieces together and today for the most part I did that."

**THE SENSATIONAL ROUND JUMPS TIGER UP 59 SPOTS INTO THE TOP-10 - ALONGSIDE JORDAN SPIETH AT 8-UNDER PAR**

TIGER ANNC: "So two guys who made the cut on the number shoot 7-under 65."

**AS THAT DUO CLIMBS THE LEADERBOARD, OTHER CONTENDERS MOVE IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION - INCLUDING THE DEFENDING CHAMPION - WHILE A DOUBLE BOGEY AT THE LAST SPOILS A PROMISING DAY FOR LAST YEAR'S RUNNER UP**

POULTER ANNC: “Brings a really good round crashing to a halt.”

POULTER SOT: "Its going to be difficult now you're going to need to do what Tiger did on that front side tomorrow to catch someone who's out in front."

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE SHOOTS JUST 1-UNDER ON THE ROUND, FAILING TO CLOSE THE GAP - SO TOO DOES JASON DAY WHO JOINS HIM IN A TIE FOR 4TH**

DAY SOT: “I just didn’t have the momentum kind of swing my way today. I need a big round tomorrow.”

**FEW NEAR THE TOP ARE ABLE TO GAIN ANY GROUND, AS DANNY LEE’S 2-UNDER 70 MOVES HIM INTO SOLO SECOND, WHILE DUSTIN JOHNSON GETS TO 10-UNDER TO TAKE OVER THE 3RD SPOT**

ANNC: “He does jar it.”

DJ SOT: "I knew it was going to play fairly difficult this afternoon. I played solid and felt like I put up a good number."

**HE IS JUST 1 OF 2 PLAYERS IN THE FINAL 10 GROUPS TO POST A NUMBER IN THE 60's. THE ONLY PROBLEM: THE OTHER TO SHOOT A SUB-70 ROUND IS THE LEADER HIMSELF**

ANNC: \*German announce call\*

**THE TWO BOGEYS ON WEBB SIMPSONS CARD ARE SMALL BLEMISHES COMPARED TO THE SHOTMAKING HE DISPLAYS - BUT EVEN HE ISN'T CONTENT**

SIMPSON SOT: "It was a good solid day but I'd like to clean up those mistakes and come out tomorrow with an even sharper round."

**YET HE GETS VENGEANCE ON THE 17TH HOLE AFTER HIS SECOND ROUND STUMBLE.**

ANNC: "From double to birdie."

**A CLUTCH UP AND DOWN FINISH SECURES A 4-UNDER 68 AND A SHARE OF THE 54-HOLE SCORING RECORD**.

ANNC: "I'm comfortable on this golf course. I've been confident, I've been working hard, and I'm really hungry. I'm hungry to get back in the winner's circle."

**SEEKING HIS FIRST WIN IN NEARLY 5 YEARS, SIMPSON TAKES A PLAYERS-RECORD 7-STROKE LEAD INTO SUNDAY, WHERE 18 HOLES STAND BETWEEN HIM AND HIS GOAL.** [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5C%5CUsers%5C%5Cjamesm%5C%5CDocuments%5C%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22StoryIndex)

**Round 3 Leaderboard**

**THE ODDS FALL IN SIMPSON’S FAVOR AS THE FINAL ROUND AWAITS, AS NO ONE HAS FAILED TO CONVERT A 7 SHOT LEAD IN PGA TOUR HISTORY. THE CROWDED LEADERBOARD BELOW WILL TRY TO BE THE FIRST TO CLOSE THAT GAP, NOTABLY DUSTIN JOHNSON LOOKS TO TOP THE TIE FOR 12TH FROM 2017 AS HIS BEST FINISH AT THE PLAYERS.** [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5C%5CUsers%5C%5Cjamesm%5C%5CDocuments%5C%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22StoryIndex)

**Sunday Scene Set**

ANNC: "Championship Sunday, where another name will be added to the history of THE PLAYERS."

**AS HISTORY AWAITS, A TRULY HISTORIC COMEBACK WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR ANYONE TO OVERCOME WEBB SIMPSON'S 7-SHOT LEAD.**

ANNC SETUP: "Can anyone supplant Webb Simpson?" [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjamesm%5CDocuments%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM#StoryIndex)

**International Village**

**AND AS SUNDAY'S ACTION UNFOLDS, THE WORLD TUNES IN AS THE PLAYERS IS BROADCASTED IN 23 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES ACROSS 226 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE**

NAT: \*Spanish and French announce calls\*

**17 MEDIA PARTNERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE PUT THEIR OWN UNIQUE FLAVOR ON THE FINAL ROUND AS THE FIELD CONTINUES TO CHASE WEBB SIMPSON.**

**AND THOUGH THE TASK IS FORMIDABLE, EARLY RESULTS INDICATE A STADIUM COURSE OPEN FOR THE TAKING.**

ANNC "How about that 6-iron, one bounce and in for the albatross…" [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5C%5CUsers%5C%5Cjamesm%5C%5CDocuments%5C%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22StoryIndex)

**Albatross at 16**

**BROOKS KOEPKA'S TOWERING SHOT FROM 208 YARDS MAKES IT THE SECOND STRAIGHT SUNDAY 16 HAS SEEN A DEUCE.**

ANNC: "Takes a big kick forward right at the flagstick. Wow, double eagle, albatross, whatever you want to call it, it's a really big bird!"

CABRERA BELLO SOT: When I hit the shot, I hit it perfectly. Exactly how I wanted it hit the pin. It went in. People started going crazy. But I didn't know exactly what had just happened. I'm like why are they shouting? Where is my ball? Then I realized it was in and, yeah, I just enjoyed the moment.” [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5C%5CUsers%5C%5Cjamesm%5C%5CDocuments%5C%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22StoryIndex)

**Sunday Part 1**

**WHILE KOEPKA'S CELEBRATION IS MORE MUTED THAN THE SPANIARD’S, HIS FINISH IS ANYTHING BUT, A BIRDIE AT 17 AIDING HIM IN TYING THE COURSE RECORD WITH A 63, JUMPING 52 SPOTS INTO A TIE FOR 11TH.**

KOEPKA SOT: “We were about like 20 back it felt like, so, I mean, what are you going to do? It's like you just stay where you are in 60th place or you start moving up. Today was the day.”

**IN TOTAL, NEARLY HALF OF THE PLAYERS IN THE FIRST 10 PAIRINGS RECORD ROUNDS IN THE 60'S, PAVING THE WAY FOR SIMPSON'S CHASERS, WITH ONE GROUP IN PARTICULAR STANDING OUT.**

ANNC: "From Jupiter, Florida, Tiger Woods!"

**AS THE MASSIVE CROWDS CHEER FOR RED NUMBERS EARLY FROM TIGER WOODS AND JORDAN SPIETH, TIGER DELIVERS AT THE 3RD…**

BRODIE SMITH NAT: "Slide right, slide right, walk it in, oh walk it in like you knew it all the way…"

**MUCH TO THE DELIGHT OF ONE FAN IN PARTICULAR, FRISBEE TRICK SHOT ARTIST BRODIE SMITH.**

BRODIE SMITH SOT: "Growing up I used to come out to this tournament all the time and now I'm like right in the action watching Tiger and Jordan, it's unreal."

BRODIE SMITH NAT: "Back to back…yes!"

BRODIE SMITH SOT: “Any change I get to come out and watch golf, I'm in, especially with Tiger in the hunt and being able to share that with all my followers has been a great experience.”

**WITH BRODIE AND THE THRONGS WATCHING, TIGER ADDS ANOTHER CIRLE AT THE 5TH.**

TIGER ANNC: "Make it three in a row…"

TIGER SOT: “I felt good, and it's just a matter of seeing a couple go in, and all of a sudden the lid pops off."

**BUT WHILE TIGER SEES RESULTS WITH THE PUTTER, SPIETH IS STAGNANT ON THE FRONT.**

ANNC: "Jordan getting a little bit lost here in the wake of what is Tiger's powerboat ride through the front nine…"

**AND AS WEBB SIMPSON TEES OFF, HE KNOWS WHAT THE ROARS IN FRONT OF HIM MEAN.**

SIMPSON SOT: “It was difficult. It was harder than I thought there's so much noise in front of us with Tiger, and you wonder what everybody is doing.”

**THOUGH HE DOES NOT FALTER, STEADILY RACKING UP PARS, FORCING OTHERS TO COME TO HIM.**

ANNC: "These guys trying to put some pressure on Simpson…"

**JASON DAY TAKES ONLY 11 PUTTS ON HIS FRONT 9, INCLUDING A HOLE-OUT EAGLE AT THE 9TH.**

ANNC DAY: "This could go it does!"

**JOINING DAY IN PURSUIT IS ANOTHER JASON…**

ANNC: "Wow, so the quiet one, moving up the leaderboard."

**5 BIRDIES ON HIS FRONT 9 AND DUFNER JOINS A GROUP INCLUDING JIMMY WALKER AND XANDER SCHAUFFELE MOVING INTO DOUBLE DIGITS, TRYING TO NARROW THE GAP.**

ANNC: "Simpson still in very, very good position."

**YET HE CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN HIS LEAD. DESPITE ONLY HITTING 3 GREENS ON THE FRONT, HE GETS UP AND DOWN 5 TIMES, AND ADDS A BIRDIE…**

ANNC: "There you go! Throw in a birdie at 7."

**TO TURN IN EVEN, STILL HOLDING A 5 SHOT LEAD, FACING A FINAL SPRINT TO THE FINISH ON THE BACK.**

SIMPSON SOT: “I kept reminding myself today that the only thing that matters is my next shot. It's easy to do on Thursday. It's a lot harder to do today.” [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjamesm%5CDocuments%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM#StoryIndex)

**Sunday Mid Round Leaderboard**

**AS THE CAULDRON OF SUNDAY PRESSURE HEATS UP, SIMPSON’S LEAD HAS SHRUNK SLIGHTLY, AND THOSE EARLY IN THEIR BACK 9 LIKE TIGER WOODS AND JASON DAY WILL TRY TO ENGINEER A FINAL CHARGE REMINISCENT OF RICKIE FOWLER’S 5-UNDER CLOSING 4 HOLES IN 2015.** [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjamesm%5CDocuments%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM#StoryIndex)

**Barber Chair Feature**

**THERE IS ONE AREA IN THE CLUBHOUSE AT TPC SAWGRASS ONLY A FEW MAY ENTER.**

**ONLY BY CONQUERING THE BEST FIELD IN GOLF CAN ONE GAIN A SPOT IN THE CHAMPIONS LOCKER ROOM.**

**AND STANDING SENTINEL OUTSIDE THOSE DOORS IS A SOLITARY CHAIR…WITH A HISTORY DATING BACK TO GOLF'S EARLY DAYS IN JACKSONVILLE, AND A FORTUITOUS TRIP FOR A HAIR CUT.**

MAHLA SOT: “I found myself barbering full time and Tony Lema came into my barber shop one day and we're chatting. He said, you know, it would really be great if there was a barber available at the club so. For the next, I don't know, eight, nine years, I just ended up at the tournament that week.”

**BEGINNING AT THE GREATER JACKSONVILLE OPEN AND CARRYING OVER INTO THE PLAYERS' FIRST YEARS ON THE FIRST COAST, SCORES OF PLAYERS SAT IN PAUL MAHLA'S CHAIR.**

MAHLA SOT: “A lot of them, they didn't get regular haircuts from regular barbers. So it was like, you never knew what you were gonna find But. Over the years, it was amazing, in the space of just a week, how well we got to know each other.”

**THAT BOND CREATED OVER A TRIMMING OF THE HAIR CREATED INDELIBLE MEMORIES.**

MAHLA SOT: “Once I got to know Mr. Palmer, he would travel with Rolling Rock beer and so, the following year when he came down he brought me two cans of Rolling Rock beer, he said I brought you something from home. And I had another situation that at the curb with Jack my family, from Monday on had been saying we meet Jack Nicklaus. So I approached him and said Jack I hope you'll forgive us but my family has been dying to meet you. And he just dropped what he was doing and said well let's go. Then he walked out there and he shook hands with all of them and spoke with them those were good memories for sure.”

**AS THE NAMES GATHER AROUND THE CHAIR, MEMORIALIZING CHAMPIONS PAST, MAHLA MARVELS AT WHAT HAS DEVELOPED FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS.**

MAHLA SOT: “I guess a lot of people, as you age, things just move in time frames. And I can just remember those weeks really, really well, especially coming from the GJO to the progression that it went through. And my goodness. Nobody ever, ever imagined that it would ever turn into the players. But it has.” [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5C%5CUsers%5C%5Cjamesm%5C%5CDocuments%5C%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22StoryIndex)

**Sunday Part 2**

**ONLY 9 HOLES REMAIN BEFORE ANOTHER NAME IS ADDED OUTSIDE THE CHAMPION'S LOCKER ROOM, AND WEBB SIMPSON OPENS THE DOOR SLIGHTLY AT THE 10TH.**

ANNC: "It looks like the lead will be 4."

**THAT SHRINKING LEAD COMES OVER A CHARGING TIGER AHEAD OF HIM.**

ANNC: "Another birdie, Tiger Woods to 14-under par."

TIGER SOT: “I hit it so good. It was nice. I had control of it from tee to green; I made some putts; I felt good on basically every facet of the game.”

**4 BACK WITH 6 TO PLAY, TIGER IS PRIMED TO APPLY THE PRESSURE…**

ANNC: "A costly bogey for Tiger."

**BUT ANOTHER BOGEY AT 14 STALLS HIS MOMENTUM, AND AT THE 17TH TEE…**

ANNC: "Oh thats not even close."

**A DOUBLE BRINGS HIS HOPES OF VICTORY TO AN END, BUT HE WALKS AWAY CONFIDENT ABOUT THE FUTURE.**

TIGER SOT: “Now I feel like I've got my playing feels and I'm playing tournament golf and I've got it -- I'm not that far off from winning golf tournaments.”

**TIGER ISN'T THE ONLY ONE UNABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CLOSING HOLES…DUSTIN JOHNSON'S 3 BIRDIES OFFSET BY A DOUBLE AND BOGEY, WHILE JASON DAY IS UNABLE TO PUT ANY RED NUMBERS ON THE BOARD AFTER HIS TORRID START.**

DAY SOT: “I gave myself opportunities coming into the greens, just didn't take them and that's a little disappointing because you get it to 16-under par, I think at one point he was at 18, that's still close enough for him to start thinking about things and unfortunately it just didn't happen on the back side.”

**MEANWHILE, WEBB SIMPSON BOUNCES BACK AT THE 11TH, AND HIS CONTINUED EXCELLENCE FINDING THE FAIRWAY SOLIDIFIES HIS POSITION DOWN THE STRETCH.**

SIMPSON SOT: “I felt really good about our plan on 12, 13, 14, and I kind of managed in that middle part of the round in a way that I was just playing smart.”

**AS THE 45TH PLAYERS WINDS DOWN, THE LAST EFFORTS TO CATCH SIMPSON COME FROM A TRIO OF TOUR WINNERS.**

ANNC: "Great week for Jimmy!"

**JIMMY WALKER AND JASON DUFNER BOTH CLOSE THEIR WEEKS IN THE 60'S, AND POST THEIR BEST FINISHES AT THE PLAYERS, ALONGSIDE FIRST TIMER XANDER SCHAUFFELE.**

ANNC: "How impressive has he been this week in his first PLAYERS Championship?"

**HE BIRDIES THE LAST AND TIES FOR SECOND, AGAIN SHOWING THE SKILL THAT WON HIM ROOKIE OF THE YEAR IN THE 2016-17 SEASON.**

SCHAUFFELE SOT: “I played really well and Webb clearly deserves to be the champ. So he's just played incredible golf and hats off to him.”

**WHILE SCHAUFFELE FINISHES THE LAST, SIMPSON EYES A BIRDIE ON 16…**

ANNC: "Webb Simpson back to 20 under."

**AND THE REALITY OF BECOMING THE 45TH PLAYERS CHAMPION BEGINS TO SET IN.**

SIMPSON SOT "Once I got to 17 and the ball was on the green, internally I was celebrating."

**WITH A PAR AT 17, SIMPSON HEADS TO THE LAST, 6 SHOTS CLEAR OF THE FIELD. AND THOUGH PETE DYE'S TREACHEROUS DESIGN CLAIMS ANOTHER VICTIM AT THE 18TH…**

ANNC: "On the edge. Hang in there. How about that shot out of nowhere?”

**THE COMPLETE MASTERY OF HIS GAME SIMPSON HAS SHOWN ALL WEEK ALLOWS HIM TO WALK TO THE GREEN FREELY.**

ANNC: "Webb Simpson can add the title PLAYERS Champion to the resume…"

WEBB SOT "I feel like it's my first win…I definitely could not have done this without the team that I've put in place…just really thankful that everybody stayed with me and stayed positive throughout." [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5C%5CUsers%5C%5Cjamesm%5C%5CDocuments%5C%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22StoryIndex)

**Final Leaderboard**

**WEBB SIMPSON’S 4 SHOT VICTORY IS THE 2ND TIME IN THE LAST 3 YEARS THE MARGIN HAS BEEN THAT LARGE. WHILE NONE ULTIMATELY COULD OVERCOME HIM, ALL BUT JASON DAY ON THE FIRST PAGE OF THE LEADERBOARD RECORDED THEIR BEST FINISH AT THE PLAYERS.** [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjamesm%5CDocuments%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM#StoryIndex)

**Simpson After the Win**

NATS: “Congratulations. Thanks buddy. Thank you.”

**IN WHAT HAS BECOME A PLAYERS TRADITION, WEBB SIMPSON FOLLOWS THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAST CHAMPIONS TO CLAIM THE CRYSTAL.**

MONAHAN: "To our new champion Webb Simpson you beat the deepest field in golf, on golf's greatest stadium, and you did so in decisive fashion and we're proud to call you a PLAYERS Champion."

ANNC: “The 2017 champ hands off to the 2018 champion, Webb Simpson!”

**AFTER RAISING HIS PRIZE, THE CELEBRATION CONTINUES…**

NAT: "Sorry, I should have aimed!"

NAT: "Thank you."

**AS HE IS ENSHRINED IN THE CHAMPIONS LOCKER ROOM.**

NAT: “Wow really cool. You’re paired up nicely with Lee Trevino. Man this is awesome. I’m glad I never knew it was here, it's a great surprise.”

NAT “This Is signed by every champion and there's only one of them pick your spot I'm going right next to Tiger.”

**AND THEN SPENDS TIME WITH THE PLAYERS' PROUD PARTNERS.**

NAT "What's it like to get a standing ovation as THE PLAYERS Champion? It's pretty sweet."

NAT: "Here's a toast to the champion, 2018 PLAYERS Championship, we're very proud of you Webb, congratulations! Happy mothers day. Thank you.”

**AS THE NIGHT DRAWS TO A CLOSE, GOLF CHANNEL AWAITS…**

NAT: “This is a cool set”

NAT: "Webb congratulations, thanks for coming up. Congratulations Webb.”

SIMPSON SOT: “This is a victory I want to share with my family my wife my kids the whole team.”

**AS WELL AS THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE PLAYERS…**

NAT: \*volunteers cheering\*

NAT: “You make what we do Monday through Sunday a possibility and I share this with you guys, so thank you.”

**WRAPPING UP A JOYOUS NIGHT FOR THE SIMPSONS.**

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**Rollout**

ANNC: "This has been one of those special weeks, its all come together."

**A PRIMARY GOAL OF THE PLAYERS IS TO IDENTIFY THE BEST AGAINST THE BEST.**

ANNC: “That is incredible!"

**THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THE 45TH EDITION, THE TOUR'S TOP PLAYERS LOOKED UP TO ONE MAN.**

ROSE SOT: “The most entertaining golf in our group was watching Webb score."

**WHO TIED RECORDS…**

ANNC: "63 from Webb Simpson!"

**SET HIMSELF APART…**

ANNC: "Showing no signs of slowing down."

**AND SHOWED SUPREME FORTITUDE DOWN THE STRETCH TO CAPTURE THE PLAYERS TITLE.**

SIMPSON SOT: “I want to get back to kind of that top level caliber that I played at for a few years, to beat the best field in golf will give me confidence.” [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5C%5CUsers%5C%5Cjamesm%5C%5CDocuments%5C%5Cx2018%20THE%20PLAYERS%20Official%20Film.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22StoryIndex)