Joaquin Niemann: My normal nickname is Joaco, because it's the shortest way to say Joaquin here in Chile…there is another one that is Furby Boy. That's the funny one…they start calling me Furby because I was too small and I like talk a lot. And say like I need food, give me need food and those things that the Furby do. Like, they say feed me, feed me. [LAUGH]

ANIMATION “Joaquin Niemann, About a Boy”

**SOMEWHERE DOWN THERE, IN THE VALLEY, BENEATH THE SMOG AND AMIDST THE TRAFFIC IS A BOY.**

**THE ONLY BOY.**

**A 20-YEAR-OLD PHENOM THAT SOMEHOW FOUND HIS WAY OUT… WITH A PUTTER IN HAND AND BRACES ON HIS TEETH.**

**THE ONLY BOY.**

**THE BOY’S STORY STARTS HERE, A HEMISPHERE AWAY FROM THE SPARKLING FAIRWAYS AND GREENS OF THE PGA TOUR.**

**IN A COUNTRY THAT HUGS THE LOWER WEST COAST OF SOUTH AMERICA AND WHERE GOLF IS JUST AS YOUNG AS HE IS.**

Pauline Cantor/ Minister of Sports: “golf has been growing a lot in Chile. It’s been a sport usually related to the elite of Chile; But I think with the figure of Joaquin we’ve been experimenting a big change in golf.

**ONE YEAR, THE BOY RECEIVED A PRESENT THAT WOULD CHANGE THE COURSE OF HIS LIFE AND PERHAPS OF HIS COUNTRY FOREVER.**

JORGE NIEMANN Joaco was two years old, he was starting to walk and for Christmas we gave him a set of plastic clubs that we bought in the supermarket. He took them and started immediately to swing. He barely knew how to walk but he knew how to hit the ball with his plastic clubs.

Pamela Zenteno Pascual: And then Joaquín grabbed a hold of them and never let them go. He was almost walking by that time and used to break everything around the house with those clubs, flower vases, house decorations, everything.

Joaquin Niemann: This is where it all started, with plastic clubs…I have no idea how old I was there but, was pretty young.

01:03:03:03 00:00:40:23 :Niemann, Joaquin: It wasn’t like now here you’ve got clubs now try and swing it…it was just like a normal toy that it was there and I started by myself swinging the ball. My dad was like, he can swing.

**WITH PLASTIC IN HIS HANDS AND STEEL IN HIS BELLY, A GOLFER WAS BORN.**

**IN AN UNNATURAL GAME, THE BOY WAS A NATURAL.**

JORGE NIEMANN …He already knew how to hit it and had a perfect swing, nobody taught him how. He practiced in our backyard, hitting 40, 50-yard shots. Then he started to hit it a little bit farther from our backyard, so that’s when he started to go to the club every weekend with me.

LUIS CARRETERO Everybody would finish playing the tournament and he would go back to the practice range, to the putting green and continue to practice and practice until he would achieve that perfect shot that everybody always hopes to achieve in golf.

Joaquin Niemann: I always loved doing sports and golf was like the one that got me because it was really tough. It was one of those sports that I just never stopped doing and I always tried to get better every time.

FELIPE BERTIN … He was a 7-year-old boy, who was practicing his putting with his teacher, and he caught my attention. I asked, "Who is that boy?" And they told me "It's Joaquin Niemann, the number one ranked kid in Chile." I told my friends, he’s going to be number one in the world one day if he continues practicing like this.

JORGE NIEMANN: He used to say, “I will be number one in the world, I’m going to play on the PGA TOUR.” Since he was 10 years old, he was super focused that he was going to be a PGA TOUR player.

Joaquin Niemann: This was the tractor that we used to pick up the balls. We put the ball picker right behind with this…and just drive through and pick up the balls and this is a different way like we do in the States…

Joaquin Niemann; I used to hit it with my buddies over this roof…the last time I was here was probably like 4 years ago and it was not this way. I remember it was beautiful and there was a lot of people and now you can see its not in good shape…made me dream of if I win any tournament or got a really successful career, try to help a little bit to this place where I start playing and made me make it to the PGA TOU, so I will be happy to do it.

**AS THE BOY BEGAN TO GROW INTO A MAN, SO TOO DID HIS GAME. WINS AND ACCOLADES PILED HIGH ENOUGH TO FILL THE VALLEY FROM WHERE HE CAME.**

**THE NUMBER-ONE AMATEUR IN THE WORLD FOR ALMOST A YEAR, WINNING 25-TIMES BEFORE DECIDING TO TURN PRO AT ONLY 19.**

**AND IN JUST 8-WEEKS, EARNING ENOUGH FEDEXCUP POINTS TO SECURE HIS PGA TOUR CARD FOR THE 2018-19 SEASON. JOINING JORDAN SPIETH AND JON RAHM AS THE ONLY OTHER PLAYERS TO BYPASS THE WEB.COM (KORN-FERRY) TOUR FINALS AND EARN THEIR CARD AFTER STARTING THE SEASON WITH NO STATUS.**

1:11:10:28 00:01:46:15 Niemann, Joaquin…, it was way quicker than I expected… My goal that year was to make enough points to make it to the web finals… and to finally made it to the PGA Tour was like, I couldn't realize what I have done… it was one of my best moments of my life.

JORGE NIEMANN To see Joaquín who was only 19 years old being in the mix with all the top players. I have pictures of the leaderboard where Joaquín was above and Tiger Woods was way below, and we would think: “How could this be? This is a dream.”

**AND NOW THE BOY COMES HOME… IN THE MIDST OF HIS FIRST FULL PGA TOUR SEASON. A PERFECT REMEDY FOR THE REALITY OF LIFE PLAYING AGAINST THE BEST PLAYERS IN THE WORLD.**

**HIS FRIENDS AND FAMILY CLOSE, HIS BEDROOM UNTOUCHED.**

**THE BOY A BOY AGAIN.** (dribbling soccer ball)

Joaquin Niemann: Yeah, I’m going to break something, so I better stop doing this…”

Pamela Zenteno Pascual : Truthfully, it’s very emotional, it’s huge, it’s wonderful as a mother to have him back after all that screen time and after all his success. To see him reach his goals and live his dream, the one dream that he’s had since he was a kid… Having him home is always good. He needs to nourish himself from his home now that he’s living a life so different from what he was used to.

Joaquin Niemann: “The name of the tournament is Chanchito Invitational…you know what means Chanchito? It is the pork barbeque sandwiches that they have in the Masters…It was my idea having a putting green in my house. It’s good so I can practice and have fun with my friends and family…try to get better.

01:15:33:05 00:01:18:27Niemann,Joaquin…I miss a lot being back here in Chile with my friends from this country, my family, my girlfriend…now I'm gonna be here. I'm gonna be with everyone. And I feel that I'm gonna feel better for myself. So, if I feel better, I think I'm gonna play better...

**TO THOSE HE LEFT, HE IS A BEACON…BRIGHT ENOUGH TO LIGHT UP AN ENTIRE NATION.**

**THE BOY IS THEIR ETERNAL HOPES…THEIR DREAMS REALIZED.**

Pauline Cantor/ Minister of Sports: I think it’s a before and an afterwards. When you have players from your country, in this case Joaquín, playing on the big tours, in the big leagues, of makes children start dreaming and they say “Well, this is possible.”

LUIS CARRETE: To all of us, and especially to the younger players, he’s a star who’s starting to shine in the world. It helps all of us golfers of this country to touch the sky.

JORGE NIEMANN Joaco has a tremendous responsibility to all the children and the generations that come. Today Joaco represents the dreams of many children who want to be successful in this tremendous sport. That is the great responsibility Joaquin has.

1:00:00:01 00:01:22:15 Niemann, Joaquin, … a lot of people come to me and say, I had never played golf in my life, and now because of you I'm just playing every day like crazy. that is one of my goals, try to grow out the game in Chile, my biggest dream in my life.

**AND FOR THE BOY HIMSELF, HIS DREAMS ARE JUST BEGINNING. HIS QUEST, JUST GETTING STARTED.**

**ALL WHILE KNOWING THAT THE WEIGHT OF HIS COUNTRY IS FIRMLY UPON HIS SHOULDERS.** {flag shots}

**AND THAT THEY ARE NOW STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY IT ALL.**

01:02:11:1300:00:34:28 Niemann, Joaquin…I don't put pressure about that. I just like to play. obviously you play good, good things are gonna happen so I just not worry about that and just focus on my game. Try to practice as much as I can. Try to get better and. If I do well, everything's gonna be all right.

Pamela Zenteno Pascual: It isn’t strange that it happened like this. It was something expected. But the emotion, the emotion is always huge. It’s like: “Wow, that’s my son, he came from in here.” It’s wonderful, it’s a gift from above. I always tell Joaquín: “You’ve received a gift from above, and you are lucky enough to be able to enjoy it.”

01:13:45:00 00:01:15:06 Niemann,Joaquin:..this is like a new era, I just need to earn my card every year and just try to don't think about that. Just try, go out there, like I did last year.

01:18:51:22 00:01:19:02 Niemann, Joaquin: “This is like a new era…Now being the only Chilean person being on the PGA Tour is a little bit crazy… the game is growing a lot here so I think in a couple more years we are gonna have probably a few more here on the PGA Tour. I hope so.