**2019 Inside the PGA TOUR #43 (MAYA)**

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**Open Early round Highlights of McIlroy HSBC**

ANNC: “He’s a birdie machine.”

ANNC: “He’s just making it look so easy.”

ANNC: “It’s not a fair fight if you’re gonna drive the ball like that. It really isn’t.”

ANNC: “Drawing right at the flag.”

ANNC: “And he just tied the lead.”

ANNC: “Absolutely stunning for Rory McIlroy.”

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**Inside Titles**

**THIS IS INSIDE THE PGA TOUR.**

**PRESENTED BY SERVPRO.**

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**HSBC Winner**

MCILROY SOT: "Why do I win more than most? Um …"

**RORY MCILROY'S SECOND START THIS SEASON RESULTED IN HIS THIRD WORLD GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY AND HIS FIRST WIN IN CHINA.**

ANNC: "Rory McIlroy is a WGC-HSBC Champion.”

**HOLDING NOTHING BACK ON THE FIRST PLAYOFF HOLE, MCILROY PUT THE PRESSURE ON XANDER SCHAUFFELE RIGHT AWAY.**

ANNC: "Awesome."

**AFTER A TIE FOR THIRD AT ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP AND HIS WIN IN CHINA, MCILROY'S EARLY SEASON SUCCESS IS SIMILAR TO 2012 – HIS WINNINGEST SEASON ON TOUR. WITH A FOURTH WIN IN HIS LAST 15 PGA TOUR STARTS, HE DOESN'T INTEND TO SLOW DOWN ANY TIME SOON.**

MCILROY SOT: "The four wins this year have been wonderful … But more than that, I think it is the consistency that I'm bringing week-in, week-out."

**WITH CONTINUED SUCCESS, MCILROY COULD BECOME THE FIRST PLAYER TO WIN BACK-TO-BACK FEDEXCUP TROPHIES …**

MCILROY SOT: "I guess, Tiger, the race is on to see who can get to three first."

**AND THE FIRST THREE-TIME FEDEXCUP CHAMPION.**

MCILROY SOT: “I'm excited for the future. I feel like this year compares to 2014, 2015, but I don't see any reason why I can't go ahead and have an even better year next year.”

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**FedExCup Standings**

**WITH HIS 18TH PGA TOUR WIN WHILE COMPETING IN JUST 2 EVENTS SO FAR THIS SEASON, RORY MCILROY MOVES INTO SECOND PLACE ON THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS.**

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**Wyndam Rewards Top 10**

**AND FOR THE 5TH CONSECUTIVE WEEK LANTO GRIFFIN HOLDS THE TOP SPOT ON THE WYNDHAM REWARDS TOP 10. FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW, THE ASIAN SWING OFFERED A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES BEYOND THE TOURNAMENTS.**

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**Asian Swing Off Course Wrap**

**KICKING OFF THE THREE EVENTS, ON JEJU ISLAND KOREA FOR THE CJ CUP AT NINE BRIDGES, KJ CHOI INDULGED IN SOME LOCAL CUISINE AND EXPLORED THE ISLAND ON HORSEBACK**

CHOI SOT: “Wow, beautiful. Jeju full of wonders.”

**MEANWHILE, KOREA'S OWN BYEONG-HUN AN TOOK ON HIS OLYMPIC MEDALIST FATHER IN A GAME OF TABLE TENNIS.**

AN SOT: “I play with my dad a lot every year, if I score one point, that is huge and never score more than 2 points against him.”

**CLAIMING VICTORY FOR THE SECOND TIME IN KOREA WAS JUSTIN THOMAS,**

**AND THE TOUR HEADED TO CHIBA JAPAN, FOR THE ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP.**

**TONY FINAU MET HIS MATCH WITH SUMO WRESTLER, KONISHIKI YASOKICHI.**

YASOKICHI SOT: “You gotta go through me to get to the golf course brother.”

FINAU SOT: “Hell no.”

YASOKICHI SOT: “You can't get through me brother.

FINAU SOT: “Alright, show me how to sumo.”

YASOKICHI SOT: “Get down. Use your hands. Use your hands. Use your hands.

FINAU SOT: “Oh no.”

YASOKICHI SOT: “Push, push, push.”

YASOKICHI SOT: “You should probably stick to golfing.”

FINAU SOT: “I think I’ll stick to golfing.”

**RETURNING TO JAPAN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER 10 YEARS, TIGER WOODS WAS WELCOMED BY HUNDREDS OF FANS AND HE PLAYED A FUN GAME AGAINST SOME OF JAPAN'S NEXT GENERATION.**

WOODS SOT: “Let’s hit one hard and high.”

WOODS SOT: “Send it.”

**AFTER TIGER WON HIS RECORD-TYING 82ND TOURNAMENT AT THE ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP,**

**THE TOUR TRAVELED TO SHANGHAI, CHINA FOR THE WORLD GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS – HSBC CHAMPIONS.**

**WHERE MANY PGA TOUR PROS SURPRISED SOME OF CHINA'S BEST UP-AND-COMING JUNIOR GOLFERS.**

MCILROY SOT: “They were hitting a few balls and we were trying to give them a few pointers - they were very good players, great swings, and have a really good future in the game.”

**ROUNDING OUT THE THREE CHAMPIONS IN ASIA, RORY MCILROY BEAT THE BEST AT SHESHAN INTERNATIONAL GOLF CLUB.**

**AND AFTER NEARLY A MONTH OF TAKING IN THE EXCITEMENT AND UNIQUE CULTURES, THE TOUR SAYS FAREWELL TO ASIA UNTIL 2020.**

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**Bump #1 (PCUP Picks)**

**UP NEXT …**

TIGER WOODS SOT: "My first pick will be …"

**THE PRESIDENTS CUP CAPTAINS ANNOUNCED THEIR PICKS AND SOLIDIFIED THE INTERNATIONAL AND U.S. TEAMS.**

TIGER WOODS SOT: "Going against Ernie and his team is no easy task …" [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cbrentm%5COneDrive%20-%20PGA%20TOUR%20INC%5CDesktop%5Cx2019%20Inside%20the%20PGA%20TOUR%2043%20%28MAYA%29.HTM#StoryIndex)

**Bouncing Back Vignette**

**INSIDE PRESENTS BOUNCING BACK…**

**RORY MCILROY STRUGGLED ON THE PAR-4 16TH HOLE IN THE SECOND ROUND OF THE WGC-HSBC CHAMPIONS.**

ANNC: "Goodness. That was a double cross. Playing for the cut and where is that?"

**MCLIROY TOOK A ONE-SHOT PENALTY RESULTING IN A BOGEY, BUT HE WOULD BOUNCE BACK WITH AN IMPRESSIVE SECOND SHOT ON THE PAR 5 18TH, RESULTING IN AN EAGLE.**

ANNC: "Absolutely stunning for Rory McIlroy."

**MCILROY WENT ON TO SHOOT THE NEXT 36 HOLES BOGEY FREE, PUTTING HIM ON TOP OF THE LEADERBOARD IN SHANGHAI.**

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**President's Cup US and Intl picks**

**WITH PRESIDENTS CUP JUST AROUND THE CORNER, CAPTAINS ERNIE ELS AND TIGER WOODS SELECTED THEIR CAPTAIN'S PICKS. AS INTERNATIONAL TEAM CAPTAIN, ELS CHOSE SUNGJAE IM, JOAQUIN NIEMANN, ADAM HADWIN AND A HOMETOWN HERO.**

ELS SOT: "This is gonna be shocking news … Jason Day."

**ELS WILL LEAD THE YOUNGEST AND MOST DIVERSE INTERNATIONAL TEAM IN PRESIDENTS CUP HISTORY.**

NIEMANN SOT: "It's very, very big for my country. I’m the first Chilean to play the Presidents Cup."

**U.S. TEAM CAPTAIN TIGER WOODS SELECTED TONY FINAU, PATRICK REED, GARY WOODLAND, AND FOR HIS FOURTH PICK …**

WOODS SOT: "As captain, I'm going to choose Tiger Woods."

**WOODS WILL BE THE SECOND-EVER PLAYING CAPTAIN, LEADING A U.S. TEAM THAT HAS 21 PREVIOUS PRESIDENTS CUP APPEARANCES, WITH FIVE PLAYERS MAKING THEIR DEBUT.**

WOODLAND SOT: “You’re representing your country and you're playing for Tiger Woods, that's pretty special."

**WITH ALL PLAYERS LOCKED IN, THE INTERNATIONAL TEAM SEEKS TO DEFEAT A U.S. TEAM THAT HASN'T LOST SINCE 1998.**

WOODS SOT: "It's an away game for us. It's a home game for them."

ELS SOT: "It's going to be one hell of a Cup … and we'll be ready to go."

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**Schwab Cup Winner**

**AND FOR THE PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS, IT ALL CAME DOWN TO THE CHARLES SCHWAB CUP CHAMPIONSHIP IN PHOENIX ARIZONA.**

**AS THE FINAL ROUND EXTENDED INTO A SUDDEN-DEATH PLAYOFF, JEFF MAGGERT AND RETIEF GOOSEN COMPETED THROUGH THREE HOLES BEFORE MAGGERT TOOK HIS SECOND SHOT FROM THE FAIRWAY.**

ANNC: “You got to be kidding me. Unbelievable. Jeff Maggert.”

**MAGGART'S ASTOUNDING EAGLE PREVENTED GOOSEN FROM WINNING THE SCHWAB CUP AND HANDED THE CHAMPIONSHIP TO SCOTT MCCARRON AS HE WATCHED.**

MCCARRON SOT: “He made it!” [Return to index of stories...](file:///C%3A%5C%5CUsers%5C%5Cbrentm%5C%5COneDrive%20-%20PGA%20TOUR%20INC%5C%5CDesktop%5C%5Cx2019%20Inside%20the%20PGA%20TOUR%2043%20%28MAYA%29.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22StoryIndex)

**Bermuda Championship Winner**

**ENTERING 2019, BRENDON TODD HAD MADE JUST SIX OF 47 CUTS.**

TODD SOT: "I've been through lots of ups and downs and this is definitely a huge highlight in my career for me right now."

**AFTER NOT WINNING FOR FIVE YEARS, HE WON THE INAUGURAL BERMUDA CHAMPIONSHIP.**

TODD SOT: “A year ago I was talking to my manager about potentially opening up another business….”

**ALTHOUGH HE ENTERED THE FINAL ROUND WITH A TWO-SHOT DEFICIT, HE RALLIED TO A 9-UNDER 62 AND A FOUR-STROKE VICTORY.**

ANNC: “I don’t know if anybody could’ve dreamt a start quite this spectacular by Brendan Todd.”

**WITH THIS WIN, TODD IS EXEMPT THROUGH THE 2021-22 SEASON AND ROSE TO 17TH IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS.**

TODD SOT: "Don't ever give up … Keep pursuing your dreams because anything is possible."

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**Bump #2 (Chris Kirk)**

**COMING UP.**

KIRK SOT: “I definitely have an addictive personality and I have that obsessive nature.”

**A LOOK AT THE STRUGGLES CHIS KIRK HAS WORKED TO OVERCOME.**

KIRK SOT: “The pressure of playing golf and the obsessive nature in that aspect probably just built on what my tendencies were anyways.”

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**Birdies Fore Love Vignette**

**THROUGH THE FALL TOURNAMENTS, THE BIRDIES FORE LOVE CHARITY COMPETITION DONATES FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS EACH WEEK ON BEHALF OF THE PLAYER WITH THE MOST BIRDIES OR BETTER TO A CHARITY OF THEIR CHOICE.**

**THE MOST RECENT WINNERS INCLUDE XANDER SCHAFFELE FROM THE WGC-HSBC CHAMPIONS …**

ANNC: "What a putt. No one is putting better than Schauffele."

**AND WITH 10 BIRDIES IN ROUND 4, BERMUDA CHAMPIONSHIP WINNER BRENDON TODD.**

ANNC: "For Brendan Todd, long time in the making."

TODD SOT: "RSM has been a really special sponsor for the PGA TOUR and for the state of Georgia and we thank them a lot and I'm really excited for this $50,000 to donate. "

**AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE RSM CLASSIC, THREE OVERALL WINNERS WILL BE CHOSEN, WITH FIRST PLACE RECEIVING THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND, SECOND PLACE ONE-HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND AND THIRD PLACE FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO BE DONATED TO A CHARITY IN THEIR NAME**.

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**Inside Rejoin**

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**Chris Kirk Feature**

KIRK SOT: "Y'all ready to hit some?"

KIDS SOT: "Yeah! Can I bat first?"

KIRK SOT: "Sure you can bat first. Foster, you be the catcher, OK?"

KIRK SOT: "I'm coaching both their teams. I'm the head coach for Sawyer's team and assistant for Foster's team. I've had so much fun with it."

TAHNEE SOT: "He is an unbelievable dad. The boys absolutely adore him. I mean, they would be completely fine if I wasn’t around, I think."

KIRK SOT: "Ooo, there ya go."

**IT'S BECOME A FAMILIAR SIGHT FOR 4-TIME PGA TOUR CHAMPION CHRIS KIRK… ENDLESS FAMILY TIME ON THEIR OWN PIECE OF PARADISE OUTSIDE OF ATHENS, GEORGIA.**

KIRK SOT: "It's been an awesome place to come home to when I've been on the road and for the last four or five months, it's been a great place for me just to relax."

TAHNEE SOT: "They have not had this much constant time with their dad ever … Just seeing them together, it's amazing."

KIRK SOT: "Making, amazed, hugging… good job!"

KIDS SOT: "Yay!"

**WITH A GROWING FAMILY AND A BLOSSOMING CAREER … HIGHLIGHTED BY A CRUCIAL POINT-CLINCHING PUTT FOR THE AMERICANS ON SUNDAY OF THE 2015 PRESIDENTS CUP…**

ANNC: “Kirk is up to the challenge in the moment.”

**CHRIS KIRK SEEMED TO HAVE IT ALL. BUT BENEATH THE SURFACE, HE BATTLED DEMONS THAT FORCED HIM TO TEMPORARILY STEP AWAY FROM THE GAME IN APRIL.**

KIRK SOT: "In your golf game, your perfectionism drives you to go for perfection and that nothing is ever good enough … I definitely have an addictive personality and I have that obsessive nature … Golf just kind of became a lot for me I guess. I just wanted to be able to sit down and stare at the wall and not think about anything to be honest with you, ya know, and I found my way to do that."

KIRK SOT: "My drinking had just sort of slowly progressed to a point where it was an issue.”

KIRK SOT: "I didn't want to stop … In April, that was when I finally was just, okay, I can't do this anymore."

TAHNEE SOT: "I think I noticed it before then. But it was easy for me to just block it out or make excuses for it and pretend like it wasn't as bad as it was."

KIRK SOT: "If you're an alcoholic and you stop drinking, everything gets worse and that was definitely the case for me. When I stopped, my anxiety went to an all-time high … really just not doing well at all mentally."

KIRK SOT: "It took me getting to the point where I was just like okay, I don't care if I get to go back to The PGA TOUR or not … My life and my family are more important than this. And for me to find a real solution to this, I can't keep traveling, I can't keep playing. I can’t keep doing this. I just have to stop."

TAHNEE SOT: "I completely stood beside him. I don't think that any other option would have worked for him."

KIRK SOT: "I was able to get plugged in a lot better with my support group here and really get some better interaction with people that have had similar experiences to me and just learn a lot more about myself."

KIRK SOT: "A lot of people end up really needing a lose your house, get divorce, go bankrupt type of rock bottom to come out of it. You know, I thank God every day that I didn't have to quite go that far."

KIRK SOT: “Everyone has been so supportive and so gracious with their time and the messages that I’ve gotten from family, from friends, from people in the golf world.”

**NOW IN A HEALTHY MINDSET AND RE-ESTABLISHING HIS LOVE FOR THE GAME, CHRIS KIRK WILL MAKE HIS RETURN TO THE PGA TOUR AT THE MAYAKOBA GOLF CLASSIC.**

KIRK SOT: "I feel like I'm sort of almost starting over a little bit and I'm playing for the pure enjoyment of playing golf. Sobriety has certainly made it a lot easier for me to be motivated."

TAHNEE SOT: "I'm so proud of him. He's been through so much. He's fought so hard, he's worked so hard. But it's a battle and I'm here with him to fight with him."

KIRK SOT: "I'm looking forward to being back but mostly thankful that I've done this. This is something that I'm gonna look back on years down the road and see that this has saved my life."

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**Must See Moments Vignette**

**INSIDE PRESENTS, MUST SEE MOMENTS…**

**THE OPENING ROUND OF THE 2019 WGC-HSBC CHAMPIONS SAW A MOMENT OF MAGIC**

ANNC: "Lands softly and just runs like a putt.”

**LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN SUNK A 200 YARD HOLE-IN-ONE IN SHANGHAI.**

ANNC: "That was just a great golf shot."

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**Backspin Intro**

**IT’S BEEN A DECADE OF CHANGE ON THE PGA TOUR. FOR TEN YEARS, DEFINING MOMENTS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE HALLS OF GOLF’S HISTORY.**

ANNC: “We thought we’d never see it.”

**THIS IS THE BACKSPIN.**

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**Backspin: The Evolution of the Athlete**

ANNC "This guy's aggressive, he's fit, he's a strong athlete…"

NOBILO SOT: "The last decade has really seen the ushering of the athlete. And I know people will think that is almost a shot at previous generations…it isn't."

**THOSE PREVIOUS GENERATIONS INCLUDED ICONS SUCH AS GARY PLAYER, VIJAY SINGH AND OF COURSE TIGER WOODS… WHO TOGETHER HAVE BEEN A MONUMENTAL INFLUENCE ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE GOLFER AS AN ATHLETE.**

ANNC: "Tiger Woods very much in control of every aspect of his game…"

KOEPKA SOT: "Anybody in my generation, you saw what Tiger did, how he was able to put fitness into his routine and become one of the better athletes in the world. Tiger led by example and the rest of us are just following."

**AT 29 YEARS OLD, BROOKS KOEPKA IS THE EPITOME OF THE MODERN ATHLETE ON THE PGA TOUR.**

KOEPKA SOT: "I spend more time taking care of my body, working out, making sure, you know, you're eating right, stuff like that."

**THAT MINDSET HAS SERVED KOEPKA WELL WINNING SIX TIMES SINCE 2017…BUT ANOTHER LAYER OF HIS ATHLETIC APPROACH IS A FOCUS ON WHAT FUELS HIS BODY TO ENSURE MAXIMUM OUTPUT INSIDE THE ROPES.**

KOEPKA SOT: "On the road I've got a chef that works for me. I think eat good, feel good, play good. It all kind of relates."

CHEF SOT: "Fold it in…"

KOEPKA SOT: "You know you're eating right; you're eating healthy, you're eating good calories. It helps you in the gym too."

CHEF SOT: "And they're ready to eat right now…"

NOBILO SOT: "Koepka in a weird way is a little old school, a touch of Vijay Singh and Tiger Woods. They worked so hard physically and that's the look that Brooks Koepka has now. He looks at any other player that stands on that first tee, like I can lift more than you, I can hit it further than you, I'll outlast you…but that trend, that slow climb up, that just got better every year in Koepka, that does not look or feel like he's gonna go away."

**AN OBVIOUS PRODUCT OF THE TIGER EFFECT, A LOT OF KOEPKA'S CURRENT DRIVE COMES FROM FRIEND AND FELLOW PGA TOUR ATHLETE DUSTIN JOHNSON.**

KOEPKA SOT: "We've been pretty close and I've kind of talked to him about working out a little bit more and starting to work with his trainer, Joey D. Joey gets up every morning and starts pushing you. Getting ready to go to the gym, you get fired up to go with him. But then the other thing with Dustin is, it's always a competition in everything we've done, it's pretty cool."

JOHNSON SOT: "Me and Brooks, we've become really good friends. We live, you know, in the same area. We train a lot together, so, you know, we can push each other in the gym a lot. It's cool to have somebody to push you, to wanna be better and to become better."

**JOHNSON HAS WON 18 TIMES THIS DECADE, TIED FOR THE MOST WITH RORY MCILROY, AND HAS 88 TOP 10S…NUMBERS THAT AREN'T POSSIBLE WITHOUT A STRONG, ATHLETIC APPROACH TO THE GAME AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO USE HIS ATHLETICISM TO HIS ADVANTAGE, SOMETHING HE FIGURED OUT AT AN EARLY AGE.**

JOHNSON SOT: "I think it helps with development of your body, with everything. Your hand-eye coordination, having different talents helps, especially when you choose to go into one sport. If you look at the golfer today … a lot more athletic guys playing golf. They're taller, they're stronger, they hit it further. It's just how the sport is developed. And I think when you're growing up playing all the different sports this will definitely help you to be more successful in your sport."

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**Art Card (Ventura)-gfx**

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**Kristoffer Ventura**

VENTURA SOT: "If you had have told me that I was gonna be on the PGA TOUR, I would've said you're crazy."

VENTURA SOT: "It's something that I've dreamed of since I was little."

**24-YEAR-OLD KRISTOFFER VENTURA IS EMBRACING LIFE ON THE PGA TOUR AFTER FIGHTING A TOUGH BATTLE ON AND OFF THE COURSE…**

VENTURA SOT: "I was a good college player. I went to the Challenge TOUR, went to Q school, got through all the stages and then the week before the final stage, I had to have surgery."

ANNC: "He was cruising through Q School then had emergency appendectomy prior to finals and got a sponsors invite into BMW, finished third and basically within the span of 8 weeks, got his PGA TOUR card."

**FOLLOWING HIS TIE FOR THIRD FINISH VENTURA WENT ON TO WIN TWICE, SECURING HIS STATUS ON THE PGA TOUR.**

VENTURA SOT: "Developing your game and learning how to win or how to get in contention and just keep your job for the next year. It's really important.”

VENTURA SOT: "When I got up and I saw all the guys in the top-25, that kind of hit me. I was like whoa, this is something pretty special."

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**Mayakoba Preview**

ANNC: "You don't find this landscape at many golf tournaments."

ANNC: "You got a little bit of everything right here."

**VENTURA AND THE PGA TOUR SWINGS SOUTH TO THE STUNNING CARIBBEAN COASTLINE OF MEXICO FOR THE 13TH PLAYING OF THE MAYAKOBA GOLF CLASSIC…**

ANNC: "Some big names here, great field."

**70 PGA TOUR WINNERS COMBINING FOR 195 WINS WILL TEE IT UP WITH SIGHTS SET ON CLAIMING THE 10TH TROPHY OF THE SEASON…**

**HIGHLIGHTED BY TWO OF THE NEWEST PRESIDENTS CUP TEAM ADDITIONS: TONY FINAU ...**

FINAU SOT: "I've done a lot of great work and there's a lot of work to be done ahead … I'm always trying to get better."

**AND JASON DAY.**

DAY SOT: "If You want to be a good player or a dominant player, you have to win more out here."

**THE FIELD DEEPENS AS 17 OF THE TOP-30 IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS PUSH TO ADD EVEN MORE VALUABLE FEDEXCUP POINTS TO THEIR SEASON'S TOTAL.**

NIEMANN SOT: "This is like a new era, I just need to play my best, enjoy every moment. Everything good is gonna happen after that."

**WITH ONLY TWO EVENTS IN 2019 REMAINING, JOAQUINN NIEMANN IS ONE OF FIVE WINNERS THIS SEASON TAKING ON THE IMMACULATE GREG NORMAN DESIGNED EL CAMALEON GOLF CLUB LOOKING TO POSITION THEMSELVES FOR SUCCESS IN THE NEW YEAR.**

**AND WITH A SEASON ALREADY SHOWING THRILLING MOMENTS- COUPLED WITH A STRONG FIELD ALONG THE TROPICAL PARADISE OF MEXICO'S RIVIERA MAYA… EXPECT A FIESTA AT THE MAYAKOBA GOLF CLASSIC.**

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**This week on TOUR-gfx**

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