2009 PLAYERS 1st timer Press Conference – Moderator: “Alright we’ll go ahead and get started. We’ll like to welcome Rory McIlroy to the interview room here at THE PLAYERS Championship.”

2010 Rory McIlroy: “It’s a golf tournament I grew up watching on TV, and it’s a great place, and you’ve seen a lot, a lot of great stories here over the years. I mean hopefully I can be part of one of those…”

2012 Rory presser: 01:08:09:15 00:00:43:11McIlroy,Rory... It's a different type of golf course. It’s a big advantage if you're playing from the fairway, especially with the small greens.

01:03:32:23 00:00:26:11 2013 McIlroy,Rory ..You gotta think your way around here. It's very strategic. You know hopefully I can see the weekend here for the first time.”

02:58:50:10 00:01:30:15 2015 McIlroy,Rory…I feel like each and every year I come here I learn to play the golf course a little bit better.

02:50:27:20 00:01:43:13 2016 McIlroy,Rory…. I feel like over the past few years here, I've started to embrace this tournament and embrace the golf course more than anything else.

01:38:28:04 00:01:50:28 2018: McIlroy,Rory… “This is a tournament that I sort of struggled starting off with the first couple years I played. Feel like I’ve played a little bit better here as I’ve went along.”

Animation: “EVOLUTION OF A CHAMPION

2019 RORY MCILROY: “It's the strongest field of the year, and one of the toughest closing stretches. So you know you've had to, you know play great golf but also handle your emotions, and handle everything else that that course throws at you.”

ANNC: Rory McIlroy is a PLAYERS Champion!

**WHEN PETE DYE FIRST DREAMED OF HIS MASTERPIECE, THE FAMED STADIUM COURSE AT TPC SAWGRASS.**

**HE NEVER ENVISIONED WINNING ON IT WAS GOING TO BE EASY.**

**Dye, SOT: “It’ll be playable for all players. It has some individualistic characteristics I think that you’ll find a little bit different from a lot of conventional golf courses.”**

**JUST ASK RORY MCILROY.**

**\*\*\*rory’s 1st time at the 17th hole\*\* And Rory McIlroy and his first voyage on the 17th and he’ll play this hole a few times in his career. That’s a bad way to be initiated here.”**

RORY MCILROY: My history with TPC Sawgrass and THE PLAYERS Championship has been a little rocky. But it's always been a tournament that I've wanted to win.

**ROCKY TO SAY THE LEAST. 3-TOP 10’S TO GO ALONG WITH 4 MISSED CUTS IN 9 STARTS AT THE EVENT HEADING INTO 2019.**

**AND AS HE MADE THE TURN ON SUNDAY – MCILROY WAS 4 UNDER ON THE WEEK ON THE OPENING NINE – WHICH COULD’VE BEEN CONSIDERED A WIN ALREADY – AS HIS CAREER SCORE ON THE FRONT SIDE HEADING INTO 2019 WAS 9 OVER PAR – AS OPPOSED TO 37 UNDER THE CLOSING NINE.**

ANNC: He has been just about bulletproof on the back.

**AND HE KEPT HIS IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE ON THE BACK NINE IN TOW – WITH A CLUTCH PUTT TO TIE THE LEAD ON 15…**

ANNC: Tracking toward the cup and it goes in! 15-under!

**…AND A GO-AHEAD BIRDIE ON 16 – WHICH LEFT HIM IN NEED OF TWO CRUCIAL PARS TO CLOSE OUT THE TOURNAMENT – MAKING MCILROY’S FINISH DOWN THE CLOSING STRETCH MORE ABOUT SURVIVAL.**

RORY MCILROY: Kept telling myself two good swings // and this thing’s yours.

ANNC: All week-long Rory’s struggled with his wedges.

RORY MCILROY: At that point, you feel the crowd, you know you hear the crowd noise, you sort of feel the energy. But you're sort of in your own little world and try to hit a solid shot. And, thankfully, that's what I did.

ANNC: “Ok. And it’s safe.”

**WITH THE PRESSURE OF 17 BEHIND HIM – RORY GOT TO EXPERIENCE THE ISLAND GREEN IN A MORE LIGHTHEARTED WAY THIS PAST JANUARY – UNDER THE STADIUM LIGHTS – UNLIKE ANYONE ELSE BEFORE.**

NAT: “Oh! Oh!”

**YET THE SHOT WAS MADE EVEN TOUGHER – CONSIDERING MCILROY’S PERFORMANCE ON THE HOLE LAST YEAR…**

NAT Rory: Oh no \*groans\*!

Carson: That was right on line. Giddy up!

Rory: At least it goes straight.

RORY MCILROY: Obviously to make a three here is awesome, but you’ve got probably the toughest tee shot on the course coming up on 18 so it’s a pretty tough finish to this place.”

ANNC: A par at the most difficult hole of the day will get it done. What is he gonna choose, he’s taking the big stick, I’m not a 100% sure about this club.

RORY MCILROY: My attitude was if I sort of lay up and hit a, you know, hit a five-wood or a two-iron out to the right side, I still have another four or five-iron in. So you’re having to play two difficult shots and, and my thought was if I stand up and hit one difficult shot with the driver, it makes the hole a little easier. So I just wanted to stand up and make one more good swing.

ANNC: That is about as good as you can draw it up. If you can drive it like that you might as well drive it.

RORY MCILROY: It was definitely one of the best swings I've ever made under pressure. And then from there, the rest of the hole is pretty simple.

ANNC: THE PLAYERS has yet another incredible talent win its crown jewel.

**THE PLAYERS WIN WAS HIS 15TH ON THE PGA TOUR…**

**BECOMING THE EVENTS FIRST WINNER FROM NORTHERN IRELAND – AND JOINING JACK NICKLAUS AND TIGER WOODS AS PLAYERS TO WIN 15 TIMES ON THE PGA TOUR AND 4 MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

ANNC: Rory McIlroy is going to enjoy the very top perch.

2:44:38:00 00:00:36:08 Koepka,Brooks…everything Rory's done, it’s been super impressive, his worldwide wins, win total is up there.

02:21:24:12 00:01:00:18 Snedeker,Brandt…You look at Rory, he's been out here for a long time. He’s done it over a full decade, and won big tournaments every year it seems like. Won THE PLAYERS, probably had the most consistent year, top-ten every week.

**THE KID WHO FIRST CAME TO TPC SAWGRASS WITH WIDE EYES AND BUSHY HAIR, WAS BECOMING A LEGEND.**

**WITH MORE EPIC RORY MOMENTS TO COME THROUGHOUT 2019.**

{Canadian open, rory chants, calls}

**INCLUDING A FINAL ROUND 61 TO WIN THE CANADIAN OPEN.**

Annc: Absolutely magnificent! McIlroy!

Amanda Interview: You put your foot down on the pedal on the 1st hole, you never let up. How special was today threatening 59 but still tie your career low round? [Rory chants background]

Rory: Yeah, umm.

Annc: His performance was just that though. It was awesome to watch today.

**THEN CAPPING OFF HIS SPECTACULAR SEASON BY WINNING THE TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP AND HIS SECOND FEDEXCUP TITLE.**

Annc: And Rory McIlroy is a two-time FedExCup Champion.

{jack and rory surprise}

Rory: That’s the trophy-

Jack: That’s THE PLAYERS-

Rory: That’s THE PLAYERS trophy. Yeah.

Jack. Yeah they do this to me all the time. They just bring these things out.

Rory: That’s the Canadian Open trophy.

Jack: Now that’s one I never won.

Rory: And that’s the FedExCup.

Jack: Why are they bringing these things out for?

Rory: I have no idea.

Jack: They got one other one they had that they would bring out for you today. That’s the Nicklaus trophy.

Rory: I’ve already got two of those.

Jack: Well you got three now.

Rory: Really?

Jack: Congratulations!

Rory: I got goosebumps. Thank you!

Jay Monahan: Congratulations for winning the Jack Nicklaus Award 2019 PGA TOUR player of the year!

Rory: Thank you so much! Wow. I got goosebumps. Wow.

**SOMETIMES CHAMPIONS ARE BORN**

**OR IN THE CASE OF RORY MCILROY AND THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP…**

**SOMETIMES THEY EVOLVE.**

RORY MCILROY: I've been going to Sawgrass for like ten years and haven't been able to get the job done. I had some good performances. But to finally conquer that place, you know win on that golf course, it meant a lot to me, for sure… With everything that I have achieved in the game and that I want to achieve in the game I would have been missing something if I wasn't able to call myself a PLAYERS Champion.

Hi I’m Rory McIlroy and I’m your 2019 PLAYERS Champion.