**2020 PGA TOUR – The CUT #27 (Rocket Mortgage)**

**Cold Open**

BUBBA SOT: It’s a big deal to come back up here and always be part of the Travelers event.

CHEZ SOT: Its kind of the first week back to normalcy I guess for us a bit

REED SOT: Just get back in the flow of hitting golf shots under the gun with different flags and things like that.

BUBBA SOT: No matter what your skill set is, this golf course doesn’t limit itself to one winner.

RAHM SOT: We won’t have the fans which is what makes the tournament even more special, but the essence of the golf course and Travelers is there.

**The CUT Titles**

**WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT**

**Bunker Down Setup**

ANNC: From TPC River Highlands The Travelers Championship!

**HEADING NORTH FROM THE CAROLINA COAST TO CROMWELL, CONNECTICUT, THE TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP IS THE FIRST TOURNAMENT SINCE THE PGA TOUR RETURNED FROM BREAK THAT HASN’T CHANGED ITS DATE.**

ORTIZ SOT: He can go on this side because I don’t want to be the shortest. (laughs) Here?

**FOLLOW ALONG AS THE CUT PROVIDES A UNIQUE LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES AS PLAYERS CONTINUE TO NAVIGATE THE NEW REALITY IN GOLF. THIS IS BUNKER DOWN.**

**Niemann, Ortiz, Munoz Bunker Down**

NIEMANN SOT: “Is that yours? The drone? Can you put it there and try to hit it?”

NIEMANN SOT: “That’s fine. How good is it to be back eh?”

NIEMANN SOT: “When they say that we were gonna have a break I was like we’re gonna have some vacations and then after two weeks I wanna go back to work.”

NIEMANN SOT: “Beauty”

MUNOZ SOT: “Without playing golf I don’t feel energetic or anxious like the blood rush.”

ORTIZ SOT: “Definitely fun just getting out again and competing.”

**JOAQUIN NEIMANN, SEBASTION MUNOZ, AND CARLOS ORTIZ HAVENT MISSED A BEAT WHEN IT COMES TO FRIENDLY COMRADERIE**

NIEMANN NAT: “I miss taking their money on Tuesdays. You? *No Comment*.”

**ONE WAY TO SETTLE A RIVALRY LAST WEEK WAS AT THE CLOSEST TO THE PIN CONTEST FOR CHARITY ON THE 15TH-AND-A-HALF HOLE**

NIEMANN NAT: “How far? *85.5.”*

MUNOZ NAT: “I’m gonna do it. *He’s confident. He says the last 3 times he’s been hitting the green.”*

MUNOZ SOT: “It’s a fun shot. I think I hit it onto the umbrella 4 out of 4 times.”

NIEMANN NAT: “*You better finish strong because you’re already donating quite a bit of money to us right now.* I’ve got to make some birdies.”

MUNOZ SOT: “It’s great you know just having friends out here just hanging, not feeling like you’re working just having fun makes it a lot easier being on the PGA TOUR.”

**Marc Leishman & Family**

**2012 TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP WINNER MARC LEISHMAN WAS BACK IN CONNECTICUT LAST WEEK HOPING TO REPEAT HIS PAST SUCCESS… THIS TIME WITHOUT THE COMPANY OF HIS WIFE AUDRY AND THEIR 3 KIDS AS THEY CHEERED FROM HOME IN VIRGINIA BEACH.**

LEISHMANS SOT: “You want to have a race? Ready, set, go! Go…”

LEISHMAN SOT: “There’s definitely nothing more important than family and being close to your family//without family I wouldn’t be the person I am today for sure.”

**THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, THE LEISHMAN’S HAVE INVITED US INTO THEIR LIVES AS THEIR FAMILY HAS GROWN. ALWAYS ON DISPLAY IS THE LOVE THEY SHOW HARVEY, OLLIE AND EVA AS WELL AS THE FUN THEY ALL HAVE WHILE TRAVELING TOGETHER ON THE PGA TOUR.**

LEISHMAN SOT: “Is he heavy? No, lucky you’re tough, aye.”

LEISHMAN SOT: “No matter what sort of day you have on the golf course//I get home and I'm still Dad//You walk in the door and everything from on the golf course is gone//I'm really enjoying being a dad.

**WHEN THE SEASON WAS SUSPENDED DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN MARCH, MARC TOOK FULL ADVANTAGE OF EXTENDED TIME AT HOME WITH THE FAMILY, EVEN OFFERING A CHIPPING LESSON WITH HIS OLDEST SON.**

LEISHMAN SOT: “Hey guys, I’m here with Harvey today and we’re going to work on ball position…”

**WHILE FAMILY WILL ALWAYS COME FIRST FOR MARC, HE ALSO TAKES PRIDE IN HAVING ARGUABLY THE BEST YARD ON TOUR, WHICH HE DEBUTED TO THE WORLD ONE YEAR AGO…**

LEISHMAN SOT: *“*We're spoiled on the PGA TOUR//we're always playing on perfect grass//I try and get my lawn to be like that…”

LEISHMAN SOT: I'll just do it for myself and the kids. My boys love playing golf now as well so they can come out here and chip and putt//it's more for us//hopefully I stay healthy enough to do it for a long time.”

**Bump**

**STILL AHEAD ON THE CUT…**

ANNC: “settle down, it’s in!!! My goodness! Straight out a record and onto the tour and you do that!”

**MATTHEW WOLFF LOOKS BACK AT HIS FIRST YEAR ON THE PGA TOUR**

Wolff SOT: As long as you have the game and work hard and believe in yourself, I think that's all you need.”

**AND LATER, GET TO KNOW ANOTHER UP AND COMER ON THE SCENE:**

Theegala SOT: I grew up with my parents from an Indian background and they were great they just told me I have to enjoy everything that I do. So on and off the course I just try and have as much fun as possible.

**SERVPRO**

**THE PGA TOUR PRESENTS SAVING SHOTS.**

**AT THE 2020 TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP, THERE WERE MANY IMPRESSIVE BUNKER SAVING BIRDIES.**

**In the second round, Phil Mickelson holed out from the BUNKER AT THE par-3 5tH.**

*ANNC: “Yeah that’s what Phil is famous for.”*

**KEVIN STREELMAN, WHO FINISHED SECOND, HAD NOT ONE, BUT TWO SAND SAVES IN ROUND THREE ON THE 15TH AND 18TH PAR-4s.**

*ANNC: “Wasn’t that a great up-and-down from that bunker short right?”*

**IN THE FINAL ROUND, RORY MCILROY HAD A BUNKER HOLE-OUT TO SAVE BIRDIE ON THE PAR-3 16TH HOLE.**

*ANNC: “Oh yeah! Just threw it right in like it was nothing.”*

**Bunker Down Player Action**

**CHILE’S JOAQUÍN NIEMANN MADE IT TO THE WEEKEND AT TPC RIVER HIGHLANDS, THANKS TO THREE, CONSECUTIVE ROUNDS IN THE 60S.**

ANNC: Young Joaquin Niemann bringing some good form here to Cromwell, Connecticut.

**BUT WITH A FINAL-ROUND 75, HIS FIRST OVER PAR ROUND SINCE SUNDAY AT THE CHARLES SCHWAB CHALLENGE, HE FINISHED IN 63RD.**

**Travelers Winner Recap**

**WHILE NIEMANN’S SUNDAY SHOWING FELL FLAT, A FAMILIAR FACE BEGAN HIS CHASE FOR THE TROPHY.**

*ANNC: Starting to find that good form again. 61 yesterday, his lowest round ever on the PGA TOUR. What a putt… Yessir*

**STARTING JUST TWO OFF THE PACE, DUSTIN JOHNSON NETTED FOUR BIRDIES ON THE FRONT SIDE TO OVERTAKE BRENDAN TODD ATOP THE LEADERBOARD.**

*ANNC: If I can hole that, I can hole anything!*

**AFTER HIS 5TH BIRDIE OF THE DAY ON 10…HE APPEARED TO BE ON CRUISE CONTROL.**

DJ SOT: I felt good. I had the confidence. I was ready to finish out the golf tournament, and then obviously they blow the horn.

**AFTER THE HOUR WEATHER DELAY, JOHNSON TOOK THE TEE AT THE PAR 3 16TH.**

DJ SOT: Definitely knew I had a two-shot lead standing on 16 tee.

*ANNC: He has chosen a 7-iron which tells me it’s going to be some kind of shaped shot, this is a lot.*

DJ SOT: Supposed to hit that ball right in the middle of the green and have a 30-footer…

*ANNC: Finds the bottom of the bunker… Wow!*

DJ SOT: but got a little greedy and tried to squeeze it over there to the flag and didn't hit a great shot.

**THE BOGEY NARROWED HIS LEAD TO ONE…**

**BUT HE REBOUNDED WITH TWO CLUTCH PARS…TO FINISH WITH A FINAL-ROUND 63.**

*ANNC: We have a champion, Dustin Johnson, he’s fun to watch!*

**THE VICTORY WAS THE 21ST OF HIS CAREER. HE BECOMES THE 4TH PLAYER TO REACH 13 CONSECUTIVE SEASONS WITH A WIN...TRAILING ONLY ARNOLD PALMER, JACK NICKLAUS, AND TIGER WOODS IN THAT CATEGORY.**

DJ SOT: Anytime you're mentioned with those guys you've got to feel good about that because they're the best that's ever played this game. 13 years straight on the TOUR is a pretty big accomplishment.

**FedExCup Standings**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON’S WIN MOVED UP HIM 81 SPOTS IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS TO 22ND. THE NAMES INSIDE THE TOP 10 REMAINED THE SAME THIS WEEK WITH LANTO GRIFFIN AND SEBASTIAN MUNOZ SWAPPING SPOTS ON THE 9TH AND 10TH POSSITIONS.**

**Wyndham Rewards Top 10**

**MEANWHILE, WEBB SIMPSON REMAINS ATOP THE WYNDHAM REWARDS TOP-10 FOR THE 2ND WEEK IN A ROW DESPITE NOT PLAYING IN THE TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP.**

**Myrbetriq**

**PATTON KIZZIRE’S NEAR ACE ON THE PAR-3 16TH HOLE AT THE 2020 TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP LED HIM TO A ­­T6 FINISH AND IS THIS WEEK'S PGA TOUR MUST SEE MOMENT.**

ANNC: Just a good strong looking player. Oh he’s knocked it right up next to the hole! Wow!

**THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN KIZZIRE’S THIRD CAREER ACE. HE FINISHED FIFTEEN UNDER AND MOVED UP ONE SPOT IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS.**

**Matthew Wolff**

**IN 2019, TPC RIVER HIGHLANDS SET THE STAGE FOR A FEARLESS FIREPOWER TO SWING ONTO THE SCENE.**

ANNC: “Matthew Wolff, there’s the swing!”

**STANDING OVER THE FIRST TEE OF THE 2019 TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP, MATTHEW WOLFF OFFICIALLY STARTED HIS PROFESSIONAL CAREER. OFFERING A GLIMPSE OF WHAT WAS SOON TO COME.**

ANNC: “Just a terrific...well...sensational amateur career. / He has all it takes to be a star our here if he performs.”

WOLFF SOT : it has been pretty crazy, obviously coming from college to the PGA Tour is a pretty big jump. And I knew I was ready, but it was still a dream come true coming here, and I had to soak it all in.

**TWO WEEKS LATER IN HIS 3RD START ON TOUR,**

ANNC: “settle down, it’s in!!! My goodness! Straight out a record and onto the tour and you do that!”

**HE BROUGHT HOME THE FIRST EVER 3M OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP IN WALK-OFF FASHION ON THE 18TH**

ANNC: “Eagles the last to win your very first professional event.”

WOLFF SOT: “its a dream playing out here and i am just fortunate to do what i love. Having success out here gave me confidence and the ability to know that I can play out here. // But to actually get it done is something else, it's definitely gonna be a good jump-start to my career.”

**WITH HIS FIRST PROFESSIONAL VICTORY UNDER HIS BELT AT ONLY 20 YEARS OLD, WOLFF IS THE YOUNGEST US PGA TOUR WINNER SINCE 2013 —**

ANNC: “ // helped the cowboys win that NCAA as a freshman back in 2018 and winning the individual championship as a sophomore.

**HE JOINED ESTEEMED COMPANY TIGER WOODS AND BEN CRENSHAW AS THE ONLY PLAYERS IN HISTORY TO WIN THE NCAA COLLEGE GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP AND A PGA TOUR TITLE IN THE SAME YEAR.**

WOLFF SOT: “As long as you have the game and work hard and believe in yourself, I think that's all you need.”

**HIS FAST-TRACKED SUCCESS AND SWAGGER HASN’T GONE UNNOTICED BY FELLOW TOUR PROS.**

NA SOT : “obviously he's a heck of a player. And he's gonna be a fun guy to watch and he's gonna draw a lot of crowds, I like it.”

HOVLAND SOT: “That's certainly a very unique way of how he hits the ball. There's certainly some piece of talent going on there.”

**ON THE COURSE, FANS LOVE TO FOLLOW THE FLEDGLING STAR, REFFERING TO THEMSELVES AS NONE OTHER THAN THE WOLFF PACK...**

WOLFF SOT: “There was a pretty big following of me coming out of college and seeing what I could do. But I mean the Wolff pack is, they've kinda come out in full force in the first four events that I've played. But all the howls are coming around the course, and you can kinda hear it. And I think the Wolff Pack name didn't start until I turned pro. it's still awesome playing in front of all these people, and I love having supportive fans that believe in me. And I hope that the Wolff Pack just keeps on growing and growing.”

**AND IF THE PAST YEAR HAS ANYTHING TO SHOW, WOLFF IS MORE THAN READY FOR HIS CLOSE UP...**

WOLFF NAT: “Just a hair uphill and then will work its way down should be pretty quick!”

WOLFF SOT: “ I like having that pressure of having to play well, and being able to step up to the bigger stage, that's something that I've always loved, just handling that pressure. And being able to prove people wrong, and give people what they wanna see, I guess. it's just fun being out there with all these guys and doing what I love to do.”

**PGA TOUR Superstore**

WITT “With golf in full swing, we’re here at the PGA TOUR Superstore with Randy Peitsch who’s going to tell us about the latest equipment from TaylorMade.”

PEITSCH “I'm really excited to talk about this, Abby. And thanks for coming in. This is the new Sim driver from TaylorMade, and you've seen this out on tour a lot. And Sim stands for shape in motion, and that promotes better aerodynamics, better clubhead speed as you're coming down and hitting the ball. It also has injected twist face. So, twist face is a TaylorMade specific technology where you're hitting it off the toe or off the heel, it actually straightens the ball out. And the best part about all of this is we can personalize this for your swing Abby.”

WITT “And when it comes to the irons, we’ve got the new speed bridge technology.”

PEITSCH “Yes, so the speed bridge actually connects the bottom of the club sole of the club to the top of the club so instead of the energy going out the sides of the club, when the ball is hit, it transfers it back onto the club face promoting better ball speed and forgiveness.”

WITT “Who are some of the TaylorMade players who will be teeing it up with the new gear?”

PEITSCH “TaylorMade has so many great players on tour, Dustin Johnson, Jon Rahm, and Rory McIlroy just to name a few. If it’s good enough for those guys, it’s gotta be good enough for you and I right?”

**Changing the Course Promo**

**AHEAD OF THIS WEEK’S ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC, BUBBA WATSON AND HAROLD VARNER THE THIRD WILL TEAM UP AGAINST JASON DAY AND WESLEY BRYAN IN A NINE-HOLE EXHIBITION AT DETROIT GOLF CLUB TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE CHANGING THE COURSE INITIATIVE. THE SHOWDOWN WILL AIR ON GOLFTV POWERED BY PGA TOUR ON WEDNESDAY.**

**Rickie Fowler – Back on the Tee**

A Trudel: Hi, I’m Anthony. Last year I had my wish fulfilled to meet Rickie Fowler at the Rocket Mortgage Classic.

D Trudel: Dear Rickie. I know you probably get letters all the time from fans. I am writing this for my son Anthony Trudel. His wish is to meet you. On Thursday March 30th, 2017, our lives changed forever. Anthony was 13 at the time. I brought him to the emergency room for a really bad headache and he was diagnosed with a 9 centimeter by 11 centimeter brain tumor. He was an avid golfer. The only question he kept asking his doctors was when he could play golf again. He has been through so much this past year, I want to give him joy. Anthony watches every tournament that you are in. He calls me to pick him up early from school on Thursdays and Fridays so he can watch you play. I oblige because he is my world. Anything he wants, I want to give to him. That is why meeting you is so important.

Fowler: Anthony. Why don’t you come out here and maybe hit some with us.

A Trudel: Get down.

Fowler: I’ll take this one back. We’ve actually got a set of clubs for you over here. These irons go really far. They are fun to hit.

A Trudel: I’m excited to announce. Back on the tee.

Fowler: You’ll probably hit those about a club further on the irons… oh yeah. Welcome to the golf world.

A Trudel: Thank you. One day I hope I can be out here. Maybe. I’ll try to.

Fowler: A little bit of work… if not you can play golf the rest of your life. We’ll get you out there shooting 65s. I told you bring me some good luck Friday and we’ll be good.

A Trudel: From Murrieta, California, Rickie Fowler.

D. Trudel: Anthony is my world. My everything. It is hard as a mother not being able to help a child when they are sick. I would love to be able to make his dreams come true. That dream is to meet you.

Fowler: You want to hit a couple more?

**Rocket Mortgage Preview**

**GOLF’S RETURN MOTORS INTO DETROIT THIS WEEK FOR THE ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC. IT’S THE SECOND YEAR FOR THE EVENT AT DETROIT GOLF CLUB, WHERE LAST ALTERNATE NATE LASHLEY AUTHORED AN UNEXPECTED AND EMOTIONAL VICTORY IN 2019.**

LASHLEY: “Just really emotional right now. Just really thankful I got into the golf tournament really. Winning on the PGA TOUR has always been a dream and getting that done today is a great accomplishment and I’m just really happy.”

**EXPECT LOW SCORES AT THE ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC.**

**ONLY SEVEN COURSES ON TOUR PLAYED EASIER LAST SEASON THAN DETROIT GOLF CLUB, AND WINNER NATE LASHLEY’S 25 UNDER PAR WINNING SCORE WAS THE SECOND LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY ON TOUR.**

**THE ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC WILL MARK 7 WEEKS REMAINING TO QUALIFY FOR THE FEDEXCUP PLAYOFFS, AND PLAYERS ACCUSTOMED TO RESIDENCE NEAR THE TOP OF THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS LIKE JASON DAY, BUBBA WATSON AND RICKIE FOWLER WILL BE LOOKING TO JUMP START THEIR CAMPAIGNS IN THE MOTOR CITY, WHILE TONY FINAU WILL MAKE HIS ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC DEBUT THIS WEEK… AS WILL THE NEW LOOK BRYSON DECHAMBEAU, WHO’S RETURN TO GOLF HAS FEATURED TOP TEN FINISHES IN THE LAST THREE EVENTS, AND A STREAK OF SIX CONSECUTIVE TOP TENS DATING BACK TO THE GENESIS INVITATIONAL IN FEBRUARY.**

**PGA Vignette**

Gates: “This is hole number 14 here on our north course it will play just under 550 yards par 5. Certainly, a hole that players can get a red number, longer hitters can get on in two, and try to pick up a stroke on the field trying to make eagle.

There are some challenges on the right side of the fairway, there’s a bunker near the landing zone, you find that bunker you’re not going to be able to go for the green in two. We do have a penalty area short of the green. Anyone that goes left here can certainly work the ball down the right side it’s a pretty straight arrow.

…a great pin placement in the back left of the green, up on a shelf /// It's a challenge because you have to bounce the ball up there. It's probably a three, four-foot rise to the top of that hill in the back of the green.”

**TOUR Playlist**

**MANY PLAYERS WILL BE TACKLING DETROIT GOLF CLUB AND THE ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC FOR THE FIRST TIME INCLUDING ROOKIE SAHITH THEEGALA. PGA TOUR LIVE WILL HAVE COVERAGE ALL WEEK LONG.**

**SAHITH THEEGALA**

**SAHITH THEEGALA ALREADY MADE A MARK IN THE COLLEGIATE GOLF CIRCUIT WHEN HE WON BOTH THE HASKINS AWARD AND THE BEN HOGAN AWARD… AND NOW, AT JUST 22-YEARS-OLD, HE MADE HIS FIRST PGA TOUR START AS A PROFESSIONAL AT THE TRAVELER’S CHAMPIONSHIP.**

THEEGALA: I think I’m a very feel- oriented player. I haven’t really been the biggest mechanics guy. Even my swing coaches back home will say the same thing. I just love to visualize my shots around the course, and I like to work it both ways.

I grew up with my parents from an Indian background and they were great they just told me I have to enjoy everything that I do. So on and off the course I just try and have as much fun as possible.

Obviously, went through the college ranks. //Playing with guys like Collin and Matt throughout college too, they made the leap look so easy. I know it's not that easy for everyone but top guys in college can definitely play well and compete with the top guys on tour. Seeing that and then having the experience of going through competing against these top guys in college, it's just these guys are so consistent out there that's the main difference. Then mentally, they're a little bit, or a lot bit stronger. I think it's just a combination of that.

My game is trending in the right way so I know I can compete for sure.

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