**PGA TOUR – THE CUT #42**

COLD OPEN

ANNC: New season, same story. He is the man to beat. Justin Thomas has won the inaugural CJ Cup at Nine Bridges.

ANNC: The CJ Cup at Nine Bridges is twice as nice for Justin Thomas! He is a winner for the second time in three years here.

ANNC: The next 10 years obviously look extremely rosy for the two-time champion.

**WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT**

JUSTIN THOMAS DEFENDS

**DEFENDING CHAMPION JUSTIN THOMAS HAS TWO WINS AT THE CJ CUP IN THE THREE YEARS THE TOURNAMENT HAS BEEN CONTESTED.**

THOMAS: There's a lot of times when I'm coming down the stretch in tournaments, I'm able to look back on these events knowing that I've done well. It's a very special place. I've always enjoyed coming here. Everybody treats me and everybody else so well.

**IN 2017, THOMAS DEFEATED MARC LEISHMAN AFTER TWO PLAYOFF HOLES, BEARING THE STRONG JEJU WINDS, FINISHING WITH A VICTORY AT 9-UNDER.**

ANNC: Using the slope to his advantage, what a beautiful shot by Justin Thomas.

THOMAS: When I first won here my fan base and my following was very small. So to be able to have that exposure outside of the U.S. and just kind of those certain golf fans was huge. Asia definitely got the start of my career going and I have a lot of great memories.

**TWO YEARS LATER, THOMAS CLAIMED THE CJ CUP TITLE YET AGAIN WITH A 5-UNDER 67 FINAL ROUND.**

ANNC: Justin Thomas. Just too tough for the entire field.

THOMAS: I love Asia, Asia's been very good to me. I have a lot of great vibes over there, I love the people there. The golf course is obviously great. It's kind of a good little break and it's fun because it's such a long travel, us guys just get to hang out. It feels like a college golf kinda thing We're able to just kinda chill out, relax, just have fun. It just has a different vibe.

**WHILE THIS YEAR THE COURSE MAY BE DIFFERENT, THOMAS HOPES TO FIND THAT SAME SUCCESS AND COMFORT AT SHADOW CREEK.**

THOMAS: I'm excited to see that the event is obviously still going on at a really, really cool golf course in Shadow Creek and hopefully we'll be able to bring those vibes I have at Nine Bridges to Vegas.

CJ CUP @ SHADOW CREEK PREVIEW

**THIS WEEK, THE PGA TOUR WILL CONTINUE ITS LAS VEGAS RESIDENCY FOR THE CJ CUP AT SHADOW CREEK.**

**THE CJ CUP WILL HOST A FIELD OF 78.**

**MAKING HIS FIRST APPEARANCE SINCE THE WYNDHAM CHAMPIONSHIP IN AUGUST, BROOKS KOEPKA IS LOOKING TO KICK OFF HIS SEASON THE SAME WAY HE DID TWO YEARS AGO**

ANNC: Brooks Koepka, THE Winner of the CJ Cup at Nine Bridges

KOEPKA: Winning last year and getting the world number one, it’s always been special place for me. You’ve got to get off to a good start and to get off to a good start here is big! You look at the FedEx, none of that happens without a win here.

**AND THOUGH THE TOURNAMENT WON’T BE PLAYED IN JEJU ISLAND THIS YEAR… THERE WILL STILL BE A STRONG SOUTH KOREAN SHOWING… HEADLINED BY 2020 HONDA CLASSIC WINNER SUNGJAE IM**

ANNC – The road warrior of the PGA TOUR. Sungjae Im has broken through.

TOUR PLAYLIST

**THE CHARITY CHALLENGE PRESENTED BY MGM RESORTS KICKS OFF THE WEEK ON WEDNESDAY WITH LIVE COVERAGE ON GOLFTV POWERED BY PGA TOUR**

BUMP

**STILL AHEAD ON THE CUT… HAROLD VARNER THE THIRD BONDS WITH A SHRINERS HOSPITALS PATIENT AMBASSADOR OVER MUSIC.**

MIA: Right now, I’d probably say my favorite song is Glitter by Tyler the Creator.

VARNER: Oh, now you’re talking my language!

SAVING SHOTS

**THE CUT PRESENTS… SAVING SHOTS**

**TIED FOR FIRST IN SAND SAVES AT THE SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN OPEN, EMILIANO GRILLO NEARLY HOLED OUT DURING THE FINAL ROUND**

ANNC: Oh! Hitting the flag stick is a good way to do it. Pretty shot! Always good when they clip the flagstick.

**AND HIDEKI MATSUYAMA WENT A PERFECT 2 FOR 2 DURING THE WEEK**

ANNC: Wasn’t that fancy? Yeah it was! That was confident.

**CONVERTING 3 OF 4 SAND SAVES ON THURSDAY, WEBB SIMPSON CONTINUED HIS STRONG BUNKER PLAY IN THE 2020-21 SEASON**

ANNC: Pretty shot! Certainly one of the better bunker players.

KEVIN NA & ALEC

**LAST YEAR AT THE SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN OPEN, SPOKESPATIENT ALEC CABACUNGAN (CABA-COON-GAN) GOT TO SPEND THE DAY WITH TWO TIME CHAMPION, KEVIN NA.**

CABACUNGAN: To take the lead. From long range. Haha. There it goes.

NA: Fist bump!

CABACUNGAN: Hey, what’s up man?

NA: How are you?

CABACUNGAN: Good to see you.

NA: Good to meet you. Did you like that putt?

CABACUNGAN: Yeah, nice shot.

NA: That was nice. You know that was the start of, change my career. My first win right there.

CABACUNGAN: Awesome!

NA: You see that emotion?

CABACUNGAN: Yeah, it was nice!

NA: So I chose to give my charitable donation for Birdies Fore Love to Shriners Hospital for Children. It made sense because when I won the Shriners Open and I got to meet a couple of the guys like Alec, you know, he’s a great spokesperson for Shriners Hospital for Children and I thought it made sense.

CABACUNGAN: I need some pictures for the Gram.

CABACUNGAN: Hey everybody, I’m Alec and I’m here with Kevin Na. We’re here at the Shriners Hospital for Children Open and Kevin is actually very familiar with this tournament because he won this tournament in 2011. Talk about your decision to play here in Las Vegas during this weekend.

NA: Well I love this place. I’ve won here back in 2011. It’s my hometown and I have to support the local event.

CABACUNGAN: Thank you so much Kevin.

NA: Thanks for having me.

CABACUNGAN: Yeah thank you so much. Thank you and good luck this week.

NA: Thank you.

HAROLD VARNER III & MIA

**AND WHILE IN-PERSON INTERACTIONS WERE DIFFICULT THIS YEAR, HAROLD VARNER THE THIRD STILL GOT TO SPEND TIME WITH A SHRINERS AMBASSADOR.**

MIA: Hi how are you?

VARNER: I’m well. How are you going today? You look cold. (I’m good) Why don’t you tell me a little about yourself.

MIA: I have scoliosis. I was diagnosed when I was a few months old and I was brought to Shriners when I was 2. I’ve had 17 surgeries since I’ve gotten here. I started when I was 4 years old. I finished when I was 12 or 13.

VARNER: So how do you feel?

MIA: I feel pretty good. You know, cold days there is back pain but it’s become my normal, so it’s not where I’m like “oh my god I’m in pain every day.”

VARNER: It’s your normal but you’re very strong. If the rest of the world had your attitude we’d be in a better place. I’m super thankful to be in your presence and we’re going to sing that song, but what’s your favorite song?

MIA: Right now, I’d probably say my favorite song is Glitter by Tyler the Creator.

VARNER: Oh! Now you’re talking my language. We can’t sing that kinda stuff in here though, so… You don’t know how nervous I am. I get nervous playing golf, but I’m way more nervous right now. So if I’m just nodding my head, keep singing alright?

MIA: Ok, got it.

VARNER: I don’t got it, but I’ve got you so we’re good. So just be you. You’re unbelievable talented. Just shine. Ready to do this?

MIA: Yeah!

VARNER: Let’s go. Alright.

BOTH: Now this mountain I must climb, feels like the world upon my shoulders. Through the clouds I see love shine, it keeps me warm as life grows colder. In my life there's been heartache and pain. I don't know if I can face it again. Can't stop now, I've traveled so far to change this lonely life. I wanna know what love is, I want you to show me. I wanna feel what love is, I know you can show me.

MIA: That’s the whole chorus.

VARNER: You did an unbelievable job.

MIA: Thank you.

VARNER: And I’m going to get off of here, because everyone’s looking at me and I want to cry because that was awesome. You’re super courageous and I would love to meet you one day. I don’t know how the circumstances are going to be, but I would love to figure that out. I love being around strong people. Strong minded people that see things through and you’re doing that. You’re giving me a lot of goosebumps. And I thank you and I can’t wait to meet you.

MIA: Have a good one.

VARNER: I will. You too.

SHRINERS WINNER & MUST SEE MOMENT

**AT THE SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN OPEN, MARTIN LAIRD RODE A WAVE OF MOMENTUM AFTER A CLUTCH EAGLE ON THE NINTH HOLE IN THIS WEEK'S PGA TOUR MUST SEE MOMENT.**

ANNC: What a shot. Made it! Oh he made it! Yes, he sure did. My goodness, that is incredible! That’s 3 eagles in a row on the 9th hole for Laird.

LAIRD: I was pretty hopeful of getting that maybe inside 10 feet. I enjoyed being down in the level of the bunker and watching that one go in. I’m not gonna lie.

**AFTER A TWO-HOLE PLAYOFF, LAIRD SEALED THE DEAL WITH A BIRDIE TO WIN OVER AUSTIN COOK AND MATTHEW WOLFF EARNING HIS FIRST WIN IN SEVEN YEARS.**

ANNC: Oh it hung up, it stayed up! How about that?! Martin Laird is your winner in spectacular fashion at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

**LAIRD'S NOW A TWO TIME CHAMPION AT TPC SUMMERLIN, HIS FIRST COMING IN 2009.**

**THE SCOTSMAN MADE THE ABSOLUTE MOST OF HIS SPONSORS EXEMPTION THIS WEEK, FIRING FOUR-STRAIGHT ROUNDS IN THE 60S.**

LAIRD: When I sit back and think about it, this one might go right to the top just because it's been a while. I had a bunch of life changes since my last win. Now I've got a couple kids who kept asking me when I was going to win the trophy. They would see the ones that I previously won and they weren't born when I won them. It's going to be nice to take a trophy home for them this time.

FEDEXCUP STANDINGS

**WITH THE VICTORY IN LAS VEGAS, MARTIN LAIRD JUMPS UP 94 SPOTS TO 4TH, WHILE RUNNER UP MATTHEW WOLFF MOVES UP FROM 6TH TO 2ND.**

PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS 2020 UPDATE

ANNC: And win number 41 for Bernhard Langer.

**AFTER AN EXCITING START TO THE PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS SEASON, THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC FORCED THE CANCELATION OF 8 STRAIGHT TOURNAMENTS BEFORE PLAY RESUMED AT THE END OF JULY.**

**SINCE THEN, 6 TOURNAMENTS HAVE BEEN CONTESTED…**

ANNC: Perfect finish Miguel Angel Jimenez your 2020 Sanford international champion.

**WITH 4 REMAINING IN 2020 AS PART OF THE ANNOUNCED 2020-21 COMBINED SEASON.**

**THIS YEAR, FIVE GOLFERS HAVE PICKED UP THEIR FIRST WIN ON THE PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS, INCLUDING JIM FURYK AND PHIL MICKELSON WHO EACH FOUND THE WINNERS CIRCLE IN THEIR FIRST CAREER STARTS.**

ANNC: Phil Mickelson becomes the 20th debut winner in the history of the PGA TOUR Champions.

MICKELSON: I really enjoyed playing here. I enjoyed seeing all the guys again. The competition here is really strong and it was fun for me to get off to a good start, play well. I really had a great time.

**MICKELSON MAKES HIS SECOND START ON THE TOUR THIS WEEK AT THE DOMINION ENERGY CHARITY CLASSIC… MEANWHILE, MR. 58, JIM FURYK, NOTCHED VICTORIES IN HIS FIRST TWO CAREER STARTS**

ANNC: Jim Furyk is a champion at Pebble Beach. He has won his first 2 starts on this tour. That’s incredible stuff

FURYK (18:16:05): It means a lot. That’s why we play the game. It’s why you work so hard, to have this feeling. I look at a lot of the hard work I put in through our delay, our break. I wasn’t really seeing a lot of results on the PGA TOUR, but just kinda kept plugging away and kept working hard and now I’ve seen some results out here. Honored to get two w’s.

**WITH THE WIN IN CALIFORNIA, FURYK JOINED ARNOLD PALMER AND BRUCE FLEISHER AS THE ONLY GOLFERS TO WIN THEIR FIRST TWO STARTS ON PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS.**

**AND HIS CHASE FOR THE CHARLES SCHWAB CUP IS OFF TO A GOOD START AS THE PAIR OF WINS PLACES HIM INSIDE THE TOP 10 WHERE EVERYONE IS NOW CHASING ERNIE ELS WHO PICKED UP HIS SECOND WIN THIS PAST WEEKEND.**

**WITH 2020 COMBINING WITH THE 2021 SEASON… A SEASON LONG CHAMPION WILL BE CROWNED IN NOVEMBER OF NEXT YEAR.**

BIRDIES FORE LOVE

**THROUGH THE FALL TOURNAMENTS, 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.**

ANNC: Good putt. Terrific round of golf.

**MATTHEW NESMITH CAPTURED THE BIRDIES FOR LOVE PRIZE LAST WEEK, CARDING 26 BIRDIES OR BETTER AT THE SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN OPEN.**

NESMITH: That’s one of the best things about being on the PGA TOUR, you give back to local communities and things you have close ties with around your community even.

**IN ADDITION TO THE WEEKLY PAYOUTS, THREE OVERALL WINNERS WILL BE CHOSEN AFTER THE RSM CLASSIC AND WILL RECEIVE MONEY TO BE DONATED TO A CHARITY IN THEIR NAME, WITH CLOSE TO ONE MILLION DOLLARS BEING DONATED TO CHARITY OVER THE COURSE OF THE PROGRAM.**

NESMITH: We have a couple charities close to our heart, one, Curing Kids Cancer, my wife does PR for them. Winning $50,000 to go to them would be amazing, I know they work hard for it and I know they deserve it.

DREAMS CHALLENGE

**THE DREAMS CHALLENGE INVADED THE GOLF WORLD LAST WEEK**

**HARRY HIGGS KICKED IT OFF BY CRUISING AROUND TPC SUMMERLIN AND ENJOYING HIS TIME IN LAS VEGAS… WHILE ON THE KORN FERRY TOUR, STEPHAN JAEGER WAS JOINED BY A SPECIAL GUEST… AND ON PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS, COLLIN MONTGOMERIE AND BILLY ANDRADE WERE BOTH STILL LIVING THE DREAM.**

JAMES NICHOLAS & CHARLIE MCAVOY

**AT THE KORN FERRY TOUR’S FINAL EVENT OF 2020, ROOKIE JAMES NICHOLAS HAD A SPECIAL GUEST AS HIS CADDIE… CHILDHOOD FRIEND, AND CURRENT MEMBER OF THE BOSTON BRUINS, CHARLIE MCAVOY.**

MCAVOY: So if it’s wet like this, do you want me to hit it with a dry towel? Just kinda get all the stuff off it? Or you don’t like when I touch it?

NICHOLAS: Oh yeah, definitely use the dry side.

NICHOLAS: Which one we thinking?

MCAVOY: I love these dude when you post these.

NICHOLAS: Which one we going with today?

MCAVOY: I think this one is so cool.

NICHOLAS: Alright, let’s do it!

MCAVOY: Let’s do it. Let’s go baby. Let’s have some fun.

NICHOLAS: Let’s get after it dude.

NICHOLAS SOT: At first it was a joke and then I was like dude, let’s go. I get my boys out here to caddie. I don’t have a fulltime guy. All these guys out here caddie for me, it’s just be awesome to share this experience with other people. This is a little different when you’ve got the cameras out because Charlie’s big time, but he’s still a little guy to me.

NAT: Nice Ball

MCAVOY: Yeah baby!

MCAVOY: Nice Shot

NICHOLAS: Alright. Let’s focus in. Let’s lock in.

NICHOLAS: Thanks. Thank you

MCAVOY: Nice shot

NICHOLAS: Is this what you expected out here?

MCAVOY: Yeah It’s sick dude.

MCAVOY: If I don’t hit the fairway, I legit can’t get out.

NICHOLAS: Why is that?

MCAVOY: I’ll just chunk everything in the rough.

NICHOLAS: Oh really? You just have to tackle it differently? We’ll get you sorted.

NICHOLAS: Oooh, that’s a spider. Jez. Dude I hate spiders!

MCAVOY: What me to take a swing at it?

NICHOLAS: That thing is massive. Give me a tee, I got it

NICHOLAS: Alright…. Thanks.

MCAVOY: Great Putt Baby. Hell of a roll. Nice Job.

NICHOLAS: No one likes easy pars anyway.

MCAVOY: Grind it out par, I like that. Builds character.

NICHOLAS: Builds character. Let’s go.

MCAVOY SOT: 03:04:00: Today was just awesome being able to go out there, and all 3 guys in our group played great. Just cheering him on and trying to support him when I can.

NICHOLAS SOT: Charlie’s been there. He’s been really positive. Positive energy, and that’s what I need out there as a caddie. So he’s done a great job.

MCAVOY: The sky’s the limit and he’s on his way. I’m happy to be a part of this week and I know he’s going to do amazing things.

RYAN PALMER

PALMER: I've just put in the time and effort to stay healthy and it's starting to show. I feel like I'm getting younger and younger each year.  I've got my swing down and the confidence mentally that I can play the game still hit the shots when needed. I love the game, I love to go practice, I love to put the grind in.

**44-YEAR OLD RYAN PALMER IS IN HIS 18TH SEASON ON THE PGA TOUR, BUT IS FAR FROM FEELING HIS CAREER IS WINDING DOWN.  COMING OFF A TRIP TO THE TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP LAST SEASON FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2014, HIS RESULTS BACK UP THAT VIEW.**

PALMER: I don't treat it as a job and that's been a lot of it. If I don't want to play golf, I don't play, if I don't want to practice, I don't practice. So I know when I'm going to practice I'm into it 100% mentally. I put a lot more hours in these past five or six years in the gym. The way that I swing the golf club, has allowed me to keep my body intact.

A lot of great folks around me. First the support at home to allow me to keep playing this much golf. If it wasn't for Jennifer to accept the fact of being home a lot by herself with the kids. Without her support and dedication for me playing well, that's been a huge help.

When I drive through the gate I just kind of take deep breaths. The fact that I've been able to provide this for Jen and the kids, it's hard to put into words.

JENNIFER PALMER: It's a great morning view to wake up to. Always get to see the sunrise and actually sometime hear a little bit of fog and then we have the Longhorns.

PALMER: This is what I enjoy at home the most.

And that's, that.

JENNIFER PALMER: We really enjoy spending time outdoors and just being able to you know, relax out here.

**THE BOND WITH HIS FAMILY AND SUPPORT AT HOME WAS CRITICAL DURING THE HIATUS EARLIER THIS YEAR DUE TO THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC.**

PALMER: It was kind of a bummer when it stopped because I was playing well, I had some great events in the fall and then it was just leading into a good season. When golf was going to start again. I was excited because I kind of had a jump start on the season.

**AFTER KICKING OFF THE RETURN TO GOLF AT HIS HOME COURSE IN DALLAS, HE NOTCHED A TOP-10 FINISH IN HILTON HEAD.  THEN FOLLOWING A MISSED CUT IN THE FIRST WEEK AT MUIRFIELD VILLAGE, HE SOUGHT ADVICE BEFORE THE MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT PRESENTED BY NATIONWIDE.**

PALMER: That was the week I called Steve Stricker and said, hey, I love to play nine holes and pick your brain a little bit.

STRICKER: Ryan was needing some help with his short game, and I’ve played a lot with him over the years and he’s a friend of mine and I’m more than happy to help.

PALMER: De's the guy you want to watch when you're struggling and he gave me a few tips and //. It is like after that in my short game, it's done a 180 and it's the best I've ever been.

**AFTER THE ADVICE, HE FINISHED THE WEEK SECOND IN SCRAMBLING, AND BATTLED JON RAHM SUNDAY FOR THE TITLE, EVENTUALLY FINISHING SECOND.**

PALMER: Those are the guys you wanna compete against. You wanna play with the best when you're playing well, and I was there in the moment and had a chance

STRICKER: That’s kind of what is out about our game, we’re all in this together, and no one’s afraid to help out another guy or ask for help from another guy. I’m glad it helped him and glad he played well that week.”

PALMER: I love to compete, I love the challenge. I love to play the game of golf. I've been part of two different eras of golf, the Tiger Woods era, which was so much fun to be a part of now. The young guy here I guess, you call it and you know, the fact that I played in both of them, it's gonna be fun.

I guess you could say, I found a fountain of youth. I keep telling people I'm like a fine wine sitting in the fridge it's still aging and maturing. I'll have moments throughout the season that I'll have a chance to win and that's all I can ask for.