**PGA TOUR – THE CUT #45**

COLD OPEN

ANNC: “After two months off I think this is a total success for Brooks Koepka.”

KOEPKA SOT: “It's good to be back. I finally feel good. / It's nice to be out playing and back to work again.”

ANNC: “Rehabbing the left knee injury, also a hip issue, he says he feels a million times better.”

KOEPKA SOT: “It could be a hell of a year one of the best years you could ever have if you're one of those players that can get hot. It's exciting to know that if you time it right you're gonna be in good shape.”

**WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT**

MEMORIAL PARK GOLF COURSE RENOVATION

KOEPKA SOT: “It's one thing to be a golfer and just play the golf course, but to actually be on the design process is pretty neat. I think it's something I could maybe do in the future, it's a lot of fun.”

**MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSES DON’T GET MUCH BETTER THAN MEMORIAL PARK IN HOUSTON TEXAS. AND WITH THE HELP OF JIM CRANE AND THE ASTROS GOLF FOUNDATION, THE FUTURE HOME OF THE VIVINT HOUSTON OPEN RECEIVED A TOP OF THE LINE FACELIFT.**

CRANE SOT: With the help of the city, they agreed to let us renovate the course and get it fixed up to where it was PGA standards.”

**THE PROJECT WAS SPEARHEADED BY RENOWNED GOLF ARCHITECT TOM DOAK AND BROOKS KOEPKA, WHO SERVED AS THE PGA TOUR PLAYER CONSULTANT.**

KOEPKA SOT: “I didn't really realize how much work that goes into it. Tom Doak has been incredible. To see his vision for holes and what he's able to create with his mind is something very unique. And to be under his wing for this project is very special.”

**WITH ONLY 20 BUNKERS, DOAK AND KOEPKA WORKED HARD TO FIND A BALANCE IN THE DIFFICULTY AND FORGIVENESS OF THE PUBLIC COURSE.**

KOEPKA SOT: “That’s beenone of the challenges to make it difficult for the pros and enjoyable for the amateurs. The quarries, the little nuances that this place has, you want to keep the core of this golf course pretty much the same and just add a few tweaks here and there. That's been the fun of helping design this golf course.”

**LOCATED DOWNTOWN, MEMORIAL PARK IS ONE OF THE LARGEST URBAN PARKS IN THE UNITED STATES, AND WITH 1500 ACRES OF REAL ESTATE, IT NEARLY DOUBLES THE SIZE OF NEW YORK CITY’S CENTRAL PARK.**

CRANE SOT: It's in the middle of town and it's such a great piece of property.

KOEPKA SOT: “One of the coolest features is the front nine where you're looking out over the sky line of Houston. I think that's pretty cool. To be able to step on the tee and to look out and see the skyline. I don't know many golf courses where you're this close to the city and actually feel a part of the city.”

STROUD SOT: “Being downtown in the hub of Houston just like Central Park in New York, I've been telling everybody it's very similar to that and be able to see some buildings while you play. I think it's going to be a huge step for Houston.”

**ALMOST 60 YEARS SINCE IT HOSTED A PGA TOUR EVENT, MEMORIAL PARK GOLF COURSE JOINS TORREY PINES AS THE SECOND MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE ON THE SCHEDULE.**

CRANE SOT: “It's gonna be a great asset for the city. It's a first-rate golf course, and the facilities are all gonna get improved. And so everyone's gonna enjoy it and more traffic in the park, and it's a beautiful park and everybody's gonna be able to enjoy it more.”

KOEPKA SOT: “The relationship that Jim, the Astros, this golf course has, the tie-in to the city. It's gonna make this event special. I think it's gonna be one of the most popular events on TOUR.”

DUSTIN JOHNSON SUCCESS

**KOEPKA WILL MAKE HIS SECOND START OF THE SEASON THIS WEEK, AS WILL THE NUMBER ONE PLAYER IN THE WORLD...**

ANNC: “Dustin Johnson, is the champion!”

WOODLAND SOT: “He is so good. You take that talent for granted a little bit. What he’s doing pushes all of us.”

ANNC: “Dustin Domination!”

FOWLER SOT: “What he’s been able to do over his career winning every season, that’s an incredible feat on its own.”

KOEPKA SOT: “He cares a lot more than people think. I think the nonchalant attitude that you see on the golf course isn’t exactly what’s going on in his mind.”

ANNC: “And Dustin Johnson has it! He’s got his FedExCup title.”

WOODLAND SOT: “What he did this year in the playoffs was unbelievable and I would defiantly say he’s underappreciated.”

**AS DUSTIN JOHNSON CONTINUES THE DEFENSE OF HIS FEDEXCUP TITLE WITH A SLATE OF FALL TOURNAMENTS, THE 23 TIME CHAMPION’S DEDICATION TO THE GAME HASN’T GONE UNNOTICED.**

KOEPKA SOT: “He’s very particular about how things are. I’ll be honest with you, he changes clubs or drivers or putters more than anybody I’ve ever seen out here. If you played 20 events, he’s probably switching driver and putter almost every week.”

WOODLAND SOT: “He’s underappreciated for a lot of the things he does. I think he is the best driver of a golf ball in the world. I think he is an underrated chipper of the golf ball. He’s an underrated putter. From top to bottom he’s a complete golfer with an unbelievable attitude.”

JOHNSON SOT: “My mentality, something I’ve had to work on over the years. I go out and just try to do me and not worry about what anyone else is doing because I can’t control what they are doing. I can control how I act and what I do. I focus on that and that’s it.”

**AND IT’S HIS DEMEANOR ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ROPES THAT HAS EARNED THE RESPECT OF HIS PEERS.**

RAHM SOT: “He’s a really fun person to be around. Even inside the ropes. Just a really outgoing person. A really cool dude. That’s the one thing I can say. He doesn’t come across that way but he’s a lot more fun than people would think.”

FOWLER SOT: “Everyone sees him inside the ropes and how he is on the golf course. Chill and just goes about his business and plays golf. Super talented, but he has one of the biggest hearts out there. He’s awesome with his boys it’s been fun to watch him transition into that roll as a dad and be a part of his boy’s lives when he can.”

WOODLAND SOT: “He’s one of the nicest guys out here. He’d do anything for ya. It’s motivating to see what he’s doing and I think he’s going to do it for a long long time.”

BUMP

**STILL AHEAD ON THE CUT…**

GRIFFIN SOT: “Every once in a while, I kinda sit there and think back to where I was a year ago or two years ago or even five years ago.”

**LANTO GRIFFIN REFLECTS ON HIS CAREER, JUST OVER A YEAR REMOVED FROM HIS BREAKTHROUGH VICTORY.**

**BUT FIRST…**

LUKE SOT: “Let’s just play closest to the pin for a hundred bucks.”

OLLIE SOT: “Alright. Gotta be on the green.”

**OLLIE AND LUKE SCHNIEDERJANS SHOW OFF SOME BROTHERLY LOVE IN BERMUDA.**

THE FUNKS

**LAST WEEK, FATHER-SON COMPETITORS FRED AND TAYLOR FUNK TEED IT UP BESIDE EACHOTHER IN THE OPENING ROUNDS OF THE BERMUDA CHAMPIONSHIP.**

FRED SOT: “It was beyond fun to play with him. It was something you dream about. I love playing with Taylor I love watching him develop.”

TAYLOR SOT: “I felt comfortable out there it was great and we had a lot of fun together cheering each other on. It looked like he was about to cry making the cut again.”

**FRED FUNK JOINED ELITE COMPANY AS ONE OF 4 PLAYERS OVER THE AGE OF 64 TO MAKE THE CUT IN A PGA TOUR EVENT.**

FRED SOT: “Watson, Nicklaus, and Snead? That’s really good. And then Funk. You throw funk in there and it doesn’t sound right does it?”

TAYLOR SOT: “This guy’s still pretty damn good for an old guy, but it was a great experience. I can learn a lot from these moments.”

FRED SOT: “The bonus was making the cut but the biggest thing was playing with Taylor. It was a great experience. I loved it.”

THE SCHNIEDERJANS

**AND BROTHERS LUKE AND OLLIE SCHNEIDERJANS HAD SOME FAMILY FUN OF THEIR OWN EARLIER IN THE WEEK.**

LUKE SOT: “Absolutely best swing of the day. Oh short. Gosh. Oh that’s going to sting.”

**THE BERMUDA CHAMPIONSHIP IS THE FIRST PGA TOUR EVENT THE SCHNIEDERJANS BROTHERS HAVE PLAY IN TOGETHER, BUT FOR OLLIE AND LUKE, THE PRACTICE ROUND IS LIKE ANY OTHER DAY OUT ON THE LINKS.**

LUKE SOT: “Who is going lower this week. I don’t know ask Ollie.”

OLLIE SOT: “I hope we both go super low. I didn't start playing until I was 12, he made fun of me for picking up golf and he started playing when he was 12. His swing was so good right off the bat, I thought. Mine wasn't off the bat, I had to work at it a little harder, I think.

LUKE SOT: “I remember watching him play high school golf. That's my first memory of watching him play. If he didn’t start playing, I wouldn't have gotten into it because none of my friends played golf.”

OLLIE SOT: “I like how he drives the ball, kind of like the most impressive thing to me about Luke’s game, really long and straight off the tee, which is obviously important.”

OLLIE NAT: “Hit that nice.”

LUKE NAT: “Yeah.”

OLLIE NAT: “Hitting it like barely cutting it off the bunker but there is a lot of wind so… starting it like left edge of it.”

OLLIE SOT: “We got our like big tournament, it’s like biggest tournament of the year for us. It’s called O.L.I every year in December. Ollie Luke Invitational. I'm 4-0 in that.”

LUKE SOT: “Yeah, he’s got my number head to head, I’m looking to change it. Let’s just play closest to the pin for a hundred bucks.”

OLLIE NAT: “Alright. Gotta be on the green.”

LUKE NAT: “Oh, that looks good.”

OLLIE NAT: “Is that perfect?”

LUKE NAT: “That’s gonna be close.”

OLLIE NAT: “That’s gonna be close.”

LUKE NAT: “Yeah you can just Venmo me.”

BERMUDA WINNER

ANNC: “What a putt! What a time! He’s a machine. Get anywhere close to 15 feet it’s going on. Brian Gay he’s back in the Winner’s circle on the PGA Tour!”

**BRIAN GAY CLAIMED HIS FIFTH PGA TOUR VICTORY AT THE BERMUDA CHAMPIONSHIP ON SUNDAY, HIS FIRST WIN SINCE 2013**

GAY SOT: “I love the place, coming last year I finished 3rd so I had good feelings coming in.”

**GAY OVERCAME A 3-STROKE DEFECIT ON THE BACK-9 TO FORCE A SUDDEN-DEATH PLAYOFF, WHERE HE NEEDED JUST ONE EXTRA HOLE TO SECURE THE TITLE**

GAY SOT: “I always know I’ve got the game to compete out here. Certainly it’s easy to doubt yourself, and players are so good and so young.”

**HIS FINAL ROUND 64 CAPPED OFF AN IMPRESSIVE WEEK OF 21 BIRDIES OR BETTER, WITH 9 COMING ON HIS LAST 14 HOLES**

GAY SOT: “This is absolutely insane. I’ve been playing awful since COVID, it’s been a struggle, been trying to work hard and get back.”

FEDEXCUP STANDINGS

**THE WIN MOVED GAY INTO THE TOP-10 ON THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS, AS STEWART CINK NARROWED THE GAP ON THE NUMBER ONE SPOT. WHILE ANOTHER NAME MADE THE MOST OF HIS TIME IN PARADISE.**

WILL ZALATORIS

ANNC: “Will Zalatoris. Big week for him, trying to get special temporary status. Needs 3 FedExCup points to do it.”

**WILL ZALATORIS ENTERED LAST WEEK ON THE VERGE OF EARNING UNLIMITED PGA TOUR SPONSORS EXEMPTIONS FOR THE REMAINER OF THE SEASON.**

ANNC: “These tournament sponsors love having a young talent like Will Zalatoris in their events.”

**AFTER 3 TOP 10S IN JUST 4 STARTS THIS YEAR, A T-16 FINISH AT THE BERMUDA CHAMPIONSHIP HELPED THE 24-YEAR-OLD ACCOMPLISH HIS GOAL.**

ZALATORIS SOT: “Just stick to the process. Day in, day out try to get better every tournament round I play. Just progress, progress. It’s nice to see a two-and-a-half-year process pay off.”

SAVING SHOTS

**THE CUT PRESENTS SAVING SHOTS…**

**THE BERMUDA CHAMPIONSHIP AT PORT ROYAL GOLF COURSE HAD NO SHORTAGE OF OUTSTANDING SHOTS FROM THE TRAP.**

**STEWART CINK LED THE WAY CONVERTING ALL 4 OF HIS SAND SAVE OPPORUNITIES**

ANNC: “Sounded good. That was very well played.”

**WHILE PETER MALNATI SET HIMSELF UP FOR SUCCESS WITH THIS SHOT FROM THE BUNKER.**

ANNC: What a great shot that was. Landed in the perfect spot.”

**AND KEITH MITCHELL CARDED A BIRDIE FROM THE SAND ON FRIDAY.**

ANNC: “Mitchell from the bunker. Look at this. How about that!?”

 LANTO GRIFFIN

GRIFFIN SOT: “Every once in a while, I kinda sit there and think back to where I was a year ago or two years ago or even five years ago and it’s pretty mind – boggling for me.”

ANNC: “He’ll remember this!”

GRIFFIN SOT: “But at the same time, I know I’ve put in hours over the years.”

ANNC: “What a difference a couple of years makes.”

GRIFFIN SOT: “Some people come on the PGA TOUR and they make it right away, some people never make it.”

ANNC: “He turned it around and here he is.”

GRIFFIN SOT: “It took me six or seven, eight years on the lower circuit to get comfortable and find my way.”

ANNC: “If Lanto ever learns how to win, he’s going to keep winning.”

GRIFFIN SOT: “It’s been a crazy ride these last 12 months and something that I always knew I could achieve but I wasn’t sure if I was gonna ever get there just because Father Time was taking its toll on me.”

ANNC: “Lanto Griffin has his first win.”

GRIFFIN SOT: “It’s been a really cool year.”

**WHILE IT’S BEEN A MEMORABLE YEAR FOR LANTO GRIFFIN, HIS JOURNEY HASN’T BEEN EASY. AFTER HIS 2017-18 ROOKIE SEASON… 13 MISSED CUTS LED TO THE LOSS OF HIS PGA TOUR CARD.**

GRIFFIN: “I’ve had so many downs in my career and in life, but you kind of sulk for a couple hours and then you start finding a solution and what do I need to do to get better.”

ANDERSON SOT: “If you cram the night before, you’re gonna be nervous going into the test. But if you’ve prepared the same way and you’ve kinda kept up on things, when you go into the test, you’re prepared and ready to go.”

**UPON REGAINING HIS CARD IN 2019 – GRIFFIN WAS PREPARED TO ACE THE SEASON AHEAD.**

ANDERSON SOT: “We came up with a pretty good plan for him to put into place at the start of the year and we set some goals and he played well first four tournaments, finished in the top-20 and then winning at Houston.”

GRIFFIN SOT: It was kind of a shock to the system, that kind of first time I’d been in a good position on the PGA TOUR.”

**GRIFFIN RACKED UP 4 MORE TOP-20 FINISHES BEFORE THE COVID-19 PANDDEMIC HAULTED HIS MOMENTUM… MISSING 2 STRAIGHT CUTS ONCE GOLF RETURNED.**

GRIFFIN SOT: “If I have a really bad tournament or missed a cut or play terrible, I’m bummed. A couple hours later I sit there and start making a game plan to get better.”

ANDERSON SOT: “A lot of times improvement isn’t a straight line. Sometimes you go up and have to come back and then hopefully the peak gets a little bit higher, which has kinda been the case with Lanto.”

**THE CASE INDEED… AS THE SEASON PROGESSED, HE FOUND HIS FOOTING – GOING ON TO SEE THE TOP-25 FOUR MORE TIMES, SOLIDIFYING HIS SPOT AT THE TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP.**

GRIFFIN SOT: “This is what I’ve dreamed of my whole life. It’s gonna be something I want to remember down the road.”

**NOW 5 STARTS INTO A NEW SEASON – LANTO’S ALREADY SEEN THE TOP-15 TWICE AND THIS WEEK, RETURNS TO THE SITE OF HIS MAIDEN VICTORY.**

ANDERSON SOT: “I just know how much it means to him and I know how much it means to his family and to everybody. He’s a real team player, loyal guy and you just love to see great things happen to people like Lanto.

PGA TOUR VAULT: GRIFFIN

GRIFFIN: PGA TOUR The CUT! Aloha. Woo!

**OVER THE PAST YEAR, LANTO HAS GIVEN THE CUT A GLIMPSE INTO LIFE OFF THE COURSE…**

GRIFFIN NAT: “You know that John Denver song. This is the definition of ‘take me home, country road…”

**FROM CONQUERING FEARS IN HAWAII…**

GRIFFIN SOT: “I’m scared of heights so going ziplining was definitely outside my comfort zone. Woo!”

**TO HELPING HIS BEST FRIEND TIE THE KNOT…**

GRIFFIN SOT: “It’s gonna be a memory we’re gonna be able to look back on and talk about.”

**AND MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE IN HIS HOMETOWN.**

GRIFFIN SOT: “It’s been a dream of mine to buy my mom a car. Mom look. What!?. Look at that! You deserve it. If you can achieve your dreams that’s what really makes you happy inside. I started at the bottom. And now it’s pretty cool to look back and see how far I’ve come.”

MUST SEE MOMENT

**IN THE SECOND ROUND OF THE BERMUDA CHAMPIONSHIP, FRED FUNK CHIPPED IN FOR BIRDIE AT THE PAR-4 9TH HOLE IN THIS WEEK'S PGA TOUR MUST SEE MOMENT.**

ANNC: “Oh yes! How fantastic is that? And that’s his on Taylor coming in and giving him some love.”

**THE CHIP-IN HELPED FUNK BECOME THE 4TH OLDEST PLAYER IN HISTORY TO MAKE THE CUT IN A PGA TOUR EVENT**

FUNK SOT: “It feels good to know that you can do it. Not many guys even have an opportunity to play this late into their career. It means a lot. “

GARY PLAYER BIRTHDAY

**24 TIME PGA TOUR CHAMPION GARY PLAYER CELEBRATED HIS 85th BIRTHDAY ON SUNDAY.**

NICKLAUS NAT: “You are an amazing person Gary Player, your energy your work ethic.”

SMITH NAT: “You have been a legend for a long-time.”

**AND THE GOLF WORLD CAME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE ONE OF THE GAME’S GREATS.**

PLAYER NAT: “Thank you for all the kind words and messages I’ve received this week.”

VIVINT HOUSTON OPEN PREVIEW

**THE VIVINT HOUSTON OPEN RETURNS TO MEMORIAL PARK GOLF COURSE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER 50 YEARS, AND WITH 3 OF THE LAST 6 PLAYINGS OF THE EVENT ENDING IN A PLAYOFF, THE TOURNAMENT HAS HAD A HISTORY OF DRAMATIC FINISHES.**

ANNC: “The secret here is where do you leave the shot … that’s a good one … maybe you leave it in the hole! Maybe you do! Are you kidding me? How about that? Birdies 18 in regulation, then birdies it in a playoff.”

ANNC: “Poulter is a champion! He wins the Houston Open.”

**THIS YEAR, THE FIELD IS PACKED WITH STARS…**I**NCLUDING 5 OF THE TOP-10 IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS.**

ANNC: “What a birdie from Sergio Garcia!”

**THEY'LL ALL LOOK TO JOIN NAMES SUCH AS ARNOLD PALMER, BYRON NELSON, GARY PLAYER AND PAYNE STEWART TO WIN THE HISTORIC EVENT.**

WELCOME BACK FANS

**IT WILL BE THE FIRST STATESIDE PGA TOUR EVENT TO WELCOME BACK A LIMITED NUMBER OF FANS, A SIGHT SORELY MISSED BY THE PLAYERS.**

FOWLER SOT: “I love being able to play in front of fans and try to show off and have fun.

ANNC: “That wakes up Fowler Nation, huh?”

FOWLER SOT: “The fans are the ones that bring the energy. It’s just not the same without that stadium atmosphere.”

POULTER SOT: The adrenaline levels are not there. For me that’s the biggest down about playing without fans.

**WITH SAFETY PROTOCOLS IN PLACE, A SMALL TASTE OF THAT ATMOSPHERE WILL RETURN IN HOUSTON.**

FINAU SOT: “You’re not hearing the crowd after a big putt and I think that plays into a bit of the excitement.”

ANNC: “Hang in there ball. Hang in there.”

FINAU SOT: “I definitely miss having the fans out.”

KOEPKA SOT: “I like the fans. I like when the fans are there. They’re energetic when you make birdie…. they’ll let you hear it when you’d screwed up when you make bogey…. and that’s what’s so enjoyable about having the fans there.”

HATTON SOT: “From point of view, we’re looking forward to welcome fans inside the gates again and create a good buzz for us to play in.”

TOUR PLAYLIST

**THE VIVINT HOUSTON OPEN WILL BE FIT FOR AN AUDIENCE, AS 9 OF THE PAST 11 PLAYINGS OF THE EVENT WERE DECIDED BY JUST 1 STROKE.**

SUPER SEASON

**AND FANS ARE IN FOR A TREAT ALL YEAR WITH A STAR-STUDDED SLATE OF GOLF THAT HAS BEEN DUBBED A ‘SUPER SEASON’.**

ROSE SOT: “Literally every week we play is a massive tournament. There's really no warm-up events. It's basically gonna be big time golf one week after another.”

SCHEFFLER SOT: “It's a mega season. You have certain guys who don't have busy fall schedules playing a lot at a time of year where maybe they wouldn't be playing as much golf.”

ANNC: “A great fun fall in golf.”

HIGGS SOT: “With 50 events some guys will play in the low 30's, maybe even up to 35 events. That's a lot of golf in a year.”

MCILROY SOT: “You feel pressure to play more, because there's so many great events and so many opportunities. But have to take the time to rest at home but then prepare. You can't just go tournament to tournament.”

ANNC: “We are going through a great stretch of golf here.”

FOWLER SOT: “The spacing out of the PLAYERS and the majors and the WGCs. And this year just extends a little longer throwing Masters in November and then a big event kind of every month or so.”

CANTLAY SOT: “That's just the new normal for the game. And I think it's good. I think there's a lot of great tournaments it’s nice to be a part of it. “

HORSCHEL SOT: “The fans of golf are really the winners cuz they get to see so much great golf and see so many great players play.”