**PGA TOUR – THE CUT #46**

COLD OPEN

ANNC: How about it? Tiger Woods!

SCHAUFFELE: People joke about how Tiger moves the needle. He is the needle.

ANNC: Unbelievable! What did I tell ya? Unbelievable.

RAHM: As a golfer, for us, to have Tiger Woods win the tournament is huge. Nobody gets more attention in the world of golf than Tiger does.

ANNC: Here comes Tiger Woods!

**WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT**

2019 MASTERS – TOUR PLAYERS

RAHM SOT: It just felt like it was destiny for him to win one more, and of course it happened the way it happened.

HOWELL III SOT: A bit of a fairy tale, I think, really.

SCOTT SOT: He keeps doing things that people don't think anyone can do and he does it.

**ON SUNDAY OF THE 2019 MASTERS TOURNAMENT, EYES WERE GLUED TO TELEVISION SETS AROUND THE WORLD. FANS SAT ON THE EDGE OF THEIR SEATS AS THEY WITNESSED THE SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE MAGIC OF TIGER WOODS.**

FINAU: The atmosphere was electric, I was right there to witness greatness and witness history, and really cool to be a part of that, to be the first ones to embrace Tiger after such a historic run.

WOLFF: Last year, I was on my couch in college, watching him ... just kind of dominate. He won on my birthday. Arguably one of the greatest comebacks in sports history and I was just happy to be able to watch it.

WOODLAND: I pushed my flight back to watch it. I mean, I had finished before him, was supposed to fly out, and I pushed it back, I wanted to see that. I don't think I've ever rooted for another golfer as hard as I rooted for him.

HIGGS: I had a brief thought about ... wow, that's awesome, I need to start playing some good golf. Because if Tiger is gonna be winning Masters and majors and competing for those, it's gonna be really nice to be out on the PGA TOUR.

CASEY: I'm a player but I'm very much a fan as well. What Tiger has done all through his career, continues to do now, and to get that magic number, yeah you got to watch it.

**BUT HISTORY WAS NOT ON HIS SIDE. IN ALL OF TIGER WOODS’ PREVIOUS MAJOR VICTORIES, HE WAS EITHER TIED OR IN THE LEAD AFTER 54 HOLES. HEADING INTO THE FINAL ROUND, WOODS TRAILED FRANCESCO MOLINARI BY TWO. UNTIL IT ALL CHANGED ON HOLE 12.**

WOODS: It started with walking down 11th. I had to play my shot out of the trees.

NICKLAUS: It looked as though Brooks or Molinari might win the golf tournament.

WOODS: I had my putt down the hill but looking over there, you see Poults and Brooksie taking drops.

NICKLAUS: And then when the guys started filling up Rae's Creek on the 12th hole

WOODS: But when we got to the tee after two-putting 11 getting to the tee and seeing Francesco hit a shot.

NICKLAUS: How many times have you seen the tournament lost because they hit it right of the bunker.

WOODS: Seeing Fran shot. I know he didn't quite hit it but you can see it stall.

NICKLAUS: Tiger hit the ball, and of course he had a little cut shot over the left side of the bunker into the middle of the green. The tournament is over.

**APRIL 14th, 2019 IS A DAY MANY WILL NEVER FORGET. NOT JUST BECAUSE TIGER WOODS ACHIEVED WHAT MANY CONSIDER TO BE THE GREATEST COMEBACK IN SPORTS HISTORY, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THE HEARTWARMING CELEBRATION WITH HIS FAMILY.**

LEISHMAN: That was a pretty cool moment with him and his kids, off the 18th green there.

RAHM: He's just more than what we see as a player. He's also a human being, he's a father, a son, it's important to remember that. And it's great for him to have that moment as a family.

REED: It was unbelievable to be able to put the jacket on Tiger. I mean it's a moment I will never forget and I'm pretty sure he won’t ever forget.

2019 MASTERS – SPORTS FIGURES

**TIGER’S STORYBOOK WIN EXTENDED FAR BEYOND THE GOLF WORLD. ATHLETES ACROSS ALL SPORTS WILL REMEMBER THE MONUMENTAL VICTORY FOREVER.**

MARCUS ALLEN: I was watching on television, like millions of Americans.

RAY ALLEN: I was home on my couch. I just got in from, I was out in Asia. As tired as I was, I stayed up and I watched the whole round in its entirety, so it was a joy to watch.

MARCUS ALLEN: The last time I played with him I told him, and when things were going well that everybody's selling your stock right now, and I'm buying because I knew, I knew he was gonna win. So, it almost brought me to tears to see how everything transpired.

HAWK: My kids don't care a whole lot about golf, but they knew who Tiger Woods is. So when he got excited and won. My kids were pumped, they were jumping up and down and cheering for golf, they've never done that for sure.

ROLLINS: Unfortunately, I just got on an airplane. I was in Los Angeles and I'm hanging out as long as I can. I get to hole 15. But fortunately, there was a guy on the airplane, he had his DirecTV, so I didn't get to see it live but I knew about it.

FISHER: I was trying to keep up with it while on the flight. Of course the TV set up on the flight was having technical difficulties. So I was trying to find all kind of ways to check scores and check with family members, etc., to try to keep up.

SPIRANIC: “I was in Myrtle Beach cuz I was about to play Monday after the Masters. So we were watching it on TV. It was so exciting and everyone was just so pumped up about it.

SHEFFIELD: Actually, I was in Augusta, we had just played Sage Valley, and we'd talked about going over there. We was like we're gonna wait til he's on the leaderboard, then we'll go in, and then follow him. But then all of a sudden, he got up there. And we said we don't wanna jinx him, let's just stay where we at.

SPIRANIC: The Master's win was the greatest comeback in all of sports, not just golf.

ROSS: And the reaction, I mean there's nothing better than that reaction he gave. It was fun to watch.

MARCUS ALLEN: It couldn't be a better script that was written which is was just perfect.

BUMP

**COMING UP LATER ON THE CUT…**

RAHM: The most important club in a major tournament…

MCILROY: What’s the most important club to use in a Major?

FOWLER: I would lean more towards Driver.

FINAU: Putting I think is the biggest key to winning golf tournaments.

**THE DEBATE OVER THE MOST CRUCIAL CLUB HEATS UP.**

**BUT FIRST… BROOKS KOEPKA SEEKS TO ADD TO HIS MAJORS TOTAL WITH A MASTERS TITLE**

KOEPKA: I'm thinking about Augusta already. Everything right now is a tune up for Augusta.

BIRDIES FORE LOVE

**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.**

ANNC: Should be pretty routine down the hill … oh! Matsuyama holing out for the birdie at 5!

ANNC: This is one of those that you could almost chip it in. He chipped in once already today …. that’s two!

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA TOOK THE BIRDIES FOR LOVE PRIZE LAST WEEK, CARDING 21 BIRDIES OR BETTER AT THE VIVINT HOUSTON OPEN.**

MATSUYAMA: [*First of all, frankly I’m happy that I was able to make many birdies at this golf course. I want to make sure I could make the charitable contribution to somewhere good.]*

**THE WEEK PRIOR, BERMUDA CHAMPIONSHIP WINNER BRIAN GAY PICKED UP THE BIRDIES FORE LOVE TITLE.**

ANNC: What a putt! Been a machine. It’s Brian Gay, it’s been a while but he’s back in the winner’s circle on the PGA TOUR.

**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.**

AUGUSTA IN THE FALL

SCHAUFFELE: When you say fall, you definitely don’t think of the Masters. So, this will be a weird one for everyone.

ROSE: I think there are going to be a lot of unknowns playing Augusta in November. One it’s going to feel different; it’s going to look different. Because it’s not going to be as colorful and it’s going to be quieter, it’s definitely going to feel more subdued.

MCILROY: It’ll be strange not just the fact that it’s in November, which is very different than what it’s like in April, but no one there, no fans, no Augusta roars as you know, we’re used to.

WOODLAND: The excitement will be down a little bit, or the energy, but it’s still the Masters.

HORSCHEL: A lot of shots we usually pick out a person in the crowd to maybe aim at and finish at so now you’re not going to have that.

CASEY: I know we’ll look back in 10, 20, 50 years’ time and go do you remember that strange time when there were no fans? It will be kinda cool to be part of that, but only for one year, I hope.

SCHAUFFELE: A few native people to Georgia have said it’s kinda hit or miss with the weather. Hopefully it’s nice, but if not we’ll handle the storm together, but for the most part, I’m looking forward to the opportunity.

HORSCHEL: For some of these people who haven’t played Augusta, it’s going to be their first time, I think it’s going to be somewhat strange for them.

CHAMP: I think it’s a little disappointment just as my first one not having fans and not embrace everything guys feel when they walk around Augusta. I’m still super excited about playing in The Masters.

WOLFF: It’s going to be my first time ever at Augusta and even though it’s going to be in November and it’s going to be a little different, I know that everyone at Augusta National is going to make it at pure as possible.

MCILROY: Augusta will be different but at least it’s being played which is huge.

BROOKS KOEPKA PREPS FOR THE MASTERS

**AND AS THE FALL COLORS PAINT THE AUGUSTA NATIONAL LANDSCAPE, BROOKS KOEPKA TURNS HIS FOCUS TO WINNING ANOTHER MAJOR.**

KOEPKA: I'm thinking about Augusta already. Everything right now is a tune up for Augusta.

There’s not a blade of grass that's out of place. Everything's perfect, it's a fun place you dream of playing when you're a little kid and to be able to go there and actually play the event is quite cool.

**IN HIS 25 MAJORS, KOEPKA HAS LOGGED 10 TOP TENS, INCLUDING 4 WINS.**

KOEPKA: I actually think I've under achieved.  I feel like very easily it could have been six majors and there's a lot of second places in there. So, you can only imagine.

ANNC: He is incredible in the big events. I am envious of his nerve strength.

ELS: It's amazing. You go from generation to generation, and you get a pocket of players that are really good in majors, and Brooks Koepka is the leading player of that category. It's a mindset.

**WITH 4 APPEARANCES AT THE MASTERS, KOEPKA IS TRENDING TOWARDS A WIN, AFTER FINISHING 2ND TO TIGER WOODS IN 2019. BUT FOR THE 30-YEAR-OLD, THE SEARCH FOR HIS FIRST MASTERS WIN WILL HAVE A NEW FEEL.**

KOEPKA: It'll be interesting with no fans, I don't know how the golf course is gonna play, a lot depends on the weather, it's gonna be a little bit colder. It could be warm still there. So, I don't think any of us really know what's gonna happen.”

**WITH ALL THE VARIABLES AT THE MASTERS THIS YEAR, KOEPKA FOCUSES ON WHAT HE CAN CONTROL.**

KOEPKA: Keep it below the hole. Just finding where the different pin locations are and strategy. 13 comes to mind if you do get in trouble off the tee where to lay it up. That's one of the fun holes, where if you can go for it, it's all strategy and how you lay it up.

Once you see it and get out there and get a feel for the golf course then you kinda start making your plans and figure out what's the best way to go from there.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

**WHILE KOEPKA LOOKS TO CLAIM HIS FIRST GREEN JACKET, FELLOW 2019 MASTERS RUNNER-UPS XANDER SCHAUFFELE AND DUSTIN JOHNSON ARE LOOKING FOR THEIR FIRST AS WELL.**

ANNC:  That’s how you do it.

**FOR SCHAUFFELE, HIS 2ND TRIP TO AUGUSTA LAST YEAR SAW HIM TRIM 20 STROKES OFF HIS SCORE FROM 2018… AND HE HAS TOP 10 FINISHES IN 3 OF HIS 5 MAJOR APPEARANCES SINCE THE 2019 MASTERS.**

**WHILE JOHNSON’S RUNNER UP FINISH LAST YEAR WAS HIS 5TH TOP 15 FINISH AT THE TOURNAMENT, AND A WIN THIS YEAR WOULD SECURE HIS SECOND CAREER MAJOR TITLE**

ANNC: Boom! Dustin did it!

TOUR PLAYLIST

**ALL TEN PLAYERS IN THE WORLD GOLF RANKING TOP TEN WILL BE IN AUGUSTA THIS WEEK FOR THE FIRST EVER NOVEMBER MASTERS.**

SAVING SHOTS

**THE CUT PRESENTS… SAVING SHOTS**

**THE REDESIGN OF MEMORIAL PARK SAW A DRASTIC REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF BUNKERS, BUT AT THE VIVINT HOUSTON OPEN, TOUR PLAYERS STILL SPENT SOME TIME IN THE SAND.**

**SCOTT BROWN WAS A PERFECT 4 FOR 4 IN SAND SAVE OPPORTUNTIES**

ANNC: Tell you what. That’s pretty good. // That’s a good shot.

**WHILE ADAM SCOTT HAD A PAIR OF STAND SAVES INCLUDING THIS IN THE OPENING ROUND**

ANNC: Beautiful touch, Adam Scott!

**AND VICTOR HOVLAND HAD THE BUNKER SHOT OF THE TOURNAMENT ON THE PAR 4 12TH**

ANNC: Look at Victor, knock that one in!

LANTO GRIFFIN / TRAVIS ARNOLD

**CANCER SURVIVOR TRAVIS ARNOLD WAS SURPRISED AT THE TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP BY FELLOW CANCER SURVIVOR MARK ROLFING WITH A VIRTUAL MEET AND GREET OF PLAYERS, INCLUDING 2019 VIVINT HOUSTON OPEN CHAMPION LANTO GRIFFIN.**

GRIFFIN: Congrats on being cancer free. It’s an amazing story. You got cancer around eleven years old right?

ARNOLD: Yep.

GRIFFIN: I was eleven years old when my dad passed away from cancer so, it’s tough. I’m glad you’re doing well. I’m so glad that the cancer treatments have gotten better over the years and seeing kids your age get it is heart breaking so.

ARNOLD: So throughout that whole treatment I think I’ve been able to look at life in sort of a bigger picture way.

GRIFFIN: Yeah, you appreciate the little moments don’t you. That’s awesome man.

**GRIFFIN AND ARNOLD’S INITIAL MEETING SPARKED AN IMMEDIATE FRIENDSHIP BUT DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS WERE UNABLE TO MEET UNTIL THIS WEEK, WHEN GRIFFIN SURPRISED THE YOUNG TEXAN…**

ARNOLD: It’s something that really helped me…

NATS: Who have we got here?

GRIFFIN: I got lost, what’s up?! Travis what’s happening, buddy?

ARNOLD: Not much, that’s awesome.

GRIFFIN: There’s some gifts for you man.

ARNOLD: Oh, my!

GRIFFIN: Just got in town and figured I’d swing by and see you before the crazy week starts up. I might stay here this week actually…

ARNOLD: Yep, that’s awesome. Is that you on there?

GRIFFIN: I guess that is me.

**WITH NUMEROUS SAFETY MEASURES IN PLACE AND WITH THE HELP OF MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER, THE TWO WERE ABLE TO MEET FACE TO FACE FOR THE FIRST TIME.**

ARNOLD: I got it. (You got it?) Yeah it looks good.

HOUSTON WINNER/MUST SEE MOMENT

ANNC: He is a winner for the very first time!

**ON SUNDAY, CARLOS ORTIZ BECAME THE THIRD MEXICAN TO WIN A PGA TOUR EVENT AND HIS PUTT ON 18 IS THIS WEEK'S PGA TOUR MUST SEE MOMENT.**

ANNC: Oh! Carlos Ortiz closes it out in style!

ORTIZ: Damn it feels good. I’m really happy it happened here in Houston. I’ve always said Texas is my second home state. It was awesome doing it in front of them and I’m thankful to all of them.

**FENDING OFF DUSTIN JOHNSON AND HIDEKI MATSUYAMA, ORTIZ CARDED A BOGEY-FREE FINAL ROUND OF 65.**

ANNC: Carlos choosing the putter and he chose wisely.

ORTIZ: Honestly, this is a very hard golf course, I was just trying to stay patient. I made some huge putts on the front nine from off the green. That kick started my round.

ANNC: He can call himself a victor on the world’s grandest stage.

**ORTIZ’S MAIDEN VICTORY CAME IN HIS 118TH START AND WAS HIS FIRST PROFESSIONAL WIN IN SIX YEARS**

ORTIZ: That was amazing. Me and my caddie have been working really hard to stay patient and having a good attitude, stay positive. We did great this week and it paid off, I’m just really happy the way I played.

FEDEXCUP STANDINGS

**THE TOP 6 PLAYERS IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS REMAIN UNCHANGED THIS WEEK, BUT ORTIZ’S WIN BUMPS HIM UP 139 SPOTS TO 7TH.**

ZACH JOHNSON VICTORY BRIEF

**THE THRILL OF WINNING ON THE PGA TOUR IS UNRIVALED AND THE MOMENT LIVES ON IN PLAYER’S MEMORIES FOREVER. WE ASKED MULTIPLE TIME WINNERS TO DESCRIBE EACH WIN ON TOUR IN 5 WORDS OR LESS. THIS WEEK WE FEATURE 12-TIME TOUR WINNER, ZACH JOHNSON… THIS IS THE VICTORY BRIEF.**

JOHNSON: Redemption

ANNC: Zach Johnson’s got it. His first PGA Tour victory

JOHNSON: Surreal

ANNC: For the 2nd time… He wins at TPC Sugarloaf.

JOHNSON: Validation

JOHNSON: Perseverance

ANNC: Couldn’t happen to a nicer guy

JOHNSON: Aloha

JOHNSON: Double Your Pleasure

ANNC: He’s Got it! Zach Johnson

JOHNSON: Really, really low… Really low

JOHNSON: A higher power… and a brain fart. Can I say that? ‘Cuz I forgot to move my mark back… but I still won!

JOHNSON: Friends, Family, John Deere, Backyard

JOHNSON: The ultimate driving machine

ANNC: And a 7 under round of 66 for Zach Johnson

JOHNSON: A family affair

JOHNSON: Shock, Awe, Humility, Gratefulness… The Claret Jug

MOST IMPORTANT CLUB IN A MAJOR

RAHM: The most important club in a major tournament?

MCILROY: What's the most important club to use in a major?

JOHNSON: The most important club to use in a major and at any golf tournament is your putter.”

SCHAUFFELE: The most important club to use in a major // probably be the driver // [03:00:35] Being in position off the tee is always key. // If you're in the fairway, you can actually put yourself in position to make a good score, birdie nonetheless.

RAHM: It's gotta be the putter. // I mean putting wins tournaments. // Yeah, you can drive it well, you can hit good irons, you can hit good chip shots but if you don't make the putts all of that is it's just not going to do anything.

FOWLER: I would lean more towards driver, that's usually the club you're hitting the most off the tee that week. And I feel like that sets up everything for success. // if you don't drive it well, you don't really have the opportunity to be putting for the right score.”

THOMAS: “The most important club to use in a major to me is a putter // You really have to grind out a lot of pars, // make those birdie putts. It's kind of those 8 to 12 footers that you seem to have a lot of. That seems to kind of be the great equalizer in the majors.

[SPIETH: “I think most everybody would say the putter but if you’re driving it right down the fairways in the majors, that's a bigger advantage.”

MCILROY: I'm gonna completely contradict myself here and say putter. // you have a lot of putts for par from like six feet. // If you miss one of those, you can lose momentum very quickly. But if you hold a couple of those, you can gain momentum and go from there.

ROSE: In a major championship, most other parts of your game get stressed out. So you might miss more greens than usual, so you're gonna be chipping a little bit more than usual, you're gonna have to make some clutch par putts. So, for me, the putter is where it's at.

FINAU: Putting is, I think the biggest key to winning golf tournaments. You have to make the big putts down the stretch and that seems to be the neutralizer with guys that hit it further than you are straighter than you.

JOHNSON: If you look at the statistics, pretty much through every golf tournament, a guy that's putting well is usually at the top of the leader board.