**PGA TOUR – The CUT #3 (The American Express)**

**COLD OPEN:**

PRESTON SUMMERHAYS NATS - “Golf is family, I’ve been able to be with my dad because of it. Our families have always been at the course.”

BOYD SUMMERHAYS NATS - “I hit that good.”

FINAU NATS - “nice strike.”

PRESTON SOT - “I remember meeting Tony I think I was around 10 years old. Ever since that day, he’s been a great role model to me and a great mentor.”

FINAU NATS - “ok man put the pressure on me.”

BOYD SOT: “he’s been on tour the last four years, when Tony was in the top 20 in the world, we’re talking hundreds of times to where he could feel and see what it was going to take to be a top ten player in the world and eventually the best player in the world. It’s been a huge blessing and an advantage for him for sure.”

FINAU NATS - “you shot it already? 175?

FINAU SOT - “Summerhays family is such a prestigious golf name in Utah.”

BOYD NATS - “beauty there.”

FINAU SOT - “The expertise and knowledge that I have in this game, I’ll try to pass it down to the next generation, and for me that’s been a lot on Preston.”

**THE CUT TITLES**

**WELCOME TO PGA TOUR – THE CUT**

**WHAT TO KNOW**

**THE TOUR BEGINS ONE OF ITS LONGEST RUNNING STRETCHES THIS WEEK IN PALM SPRINGS.**

**THE WEST COAST SWING FEATURES A FIVE WEEK RUN THROUGH CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA, WITH SCENIC COURSES SPREAD THROUGHOUT.**

**THE AMERICAN EXPRESS KICKS THINGS OFF, AS 12 PAST CHAMPIONS RETURN TO THE COACHELLA VALLEY, LED BY 2020 WINNER ANDREW LANDRY.**

ANNC – “When its your week it’s your week.”

**LANDRY PUT TOGETHER A DOMINANT PERFORMANCE FROM TEE TO GREEN LAST YEAR.  LATER, A DIVE INTO THE DATA OF HIS SECOND WIN.**

**MAKING HIS 4TH START AT PGA WEST AFTER A TOP-15 FINISH LAST YEAR IS TONY FINAU.**

FINAU SOT - the Bob Hope Classic back in the day which is now the American Express Championship had a rep on tour of being one of the coolest events. They had a great turnout last year. I think each year it's just going to get better and better.

**SEEKING HIS SECOND TITLE IN HIS 7TH YEAR ON TOUR, HIS CAREER ON THE COURSE HAS GROWN AS HE’S BUILT UP A YOUNG PLAYER OFF THE COURSE THAT’S PART OF HIS UNIQUE “FAMILY.”**

**TONY FINAU SUMMERHAYS:**

TONY: “Family is everything for us. In the Polynesian culture, everybody’s looked at as aunt and uncle.

BOYD: “I remember we would go to tournaments and he’d say hey Boyd will you leave some tickets for uncle so and so and I’m thinking, Tony you have so many aunts and uncles. Then one day his little daughter NiNi comes up and says, “Uncle Boyd” and I’m like, I get it.”

BOYD NATS:“Alright Nini, what do you think about the 9? You like that? Just say yeah I like that.”

TONY “I have a lot of aunts and uncles whether they’re related or not and I think they kinda felt that when I started hanging around them, Boyd and his family and his kids pretty much right away started calling Uncle Tony.”

PRESTON: He’s my uncle. He’s my role model, he’s my mentor. He’s such a good guy. He always wants what’s best for me. He’s always trying to help me, he’s always encouraging me He’s my uncle.’

FINAU NATS: “Swing through, the game feels good?” “Yea”

TONY: “Preston was nine when I first met him / we started playing golf together probably when he was about 11, so I’ve known him for a long time.”

BOYD: “He plays with Tony and he sees what he’s good at, and it motivates him to keep on getting better and better.”

TONY NATS: “Alright man, put the pressure on me.”

PRESTON: “Okay.”

TONY: “10 push ups, closest to the pin.” Aww the kid just stripes it.

TONY: “It’s extremely competitive whenever Preston and I get together and play. We’re playing a game right out of the gate off the first tee.”

PRESTON NATS: “That was a tough one to beat.”

PRESTON: “Playing with Tony has been so good for me because he’s so much better than me. I mean, he’s a top tour pro so it’s like I always have something to chase.”

BOYD NATS: “This is legendary – you wanted to beat him so bad, is the adrenaline still going?” PRESTON: “Yeah.” BOYD: “That’s awesome. You won the US Am, Utah State Championship…” PRESTON: “Never been more nervous.” BOYD: “Ah, that’s awesome.” / TONY: “8 years, 7 years in the making.”

BOYD: “There aren’t many weeks that go by and for sure any many month where I haven’t told Tony I appreciate everything he’s ever done for Preston, Grace, or Cam. It’s not like he’s just letting them play with him, he genuinely wants them there.”

TONY NATS: Ahh it’s got to break!

TONY: “I’ve known about the Summerhays family since I started playing golf at 8 years old, just a household name in Utah. I was looking for a coach and for some reason I was inspired to reach out to Boyd Summerhays.”

BOYD: “When he got his Korn Ferry card, I just texted him and said, hey, we’re proud of you congrats and then six months went by and he reached out and said hey I’d like to meet up.”

TONY: “The first question I asked is, are you done playing full-time and are you only coaching now? And he said yes and I kinda took that as hey, there’s my answer he’s gonna be my guy.”

Great shot, I can’t ever get an upper hand on him. I hit my best shot and he just upstages me again.

BOYD: “Going into teaching wasn’t something I thought I would do. And my friend just said hey, let the disappointment of your playing career just pass for a few weeks or a month. But trust me, stay in the game. This is your family. This is what you’ve done.”

TONY: “He’s been a huge help not only in my golf game but just in my life in general. He’s been really like an older brother to me We have I feel like a special relationship and one that I definitely cherish.”

TONY NATS: “You shoulda went joined Jraice and Jordan, they’re hitting drives for everyone.” PRESTON: “You want to me to take you over there?” CAM: “Sure” TONY: “You want to come with us?” PRESTON: “Cam go with T”

TONY: “It’s come full circle, no question about it. I’ve tried to assist with and just support Preston and Grace and Cam and / they do the same thing with my son, they take him under their wing and they go play golf and different things.”

PRESTON: Tony’s obviously helped me a lot on my game and then I’ve kind of helped my little brother who’s around Jraice’s age and now I’m able to go practice with Jraice and Cameron / it feels like I’m able to kind of help Jraice / when I was his age and Tony was helping me.”

TONY: “I don’t like the praise that comes with being his uncle because I didn’t do it for that. I just enjoy watching him grow and I feel like I, if I had any help now that’s great, but for him to give back now to my son I think is a special thing.”

BOYD:“We’re gonna do everything we can to support Jraice and if Nini and Tony and Sage they get interested, we’ll be right there too, returning the favor.”

BOYD NATS: “When we get back to Phoenix, you come out with me and Grace. We’ll get you playin’ golf. Oh yea here we go.

**WHILE THIS EXTENDED ‘OHANA’ TAKES IN EVERY MOMENT TOGETHER – SHORTLY PRESTON WILL VENTURE OUT ON HIS OWN TO ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY, BUT MUCH LIKE THEIR INITIAL JOURNEY OF COMING TOGETHER – THEY HOPE ONE DAY PRESTON AND TONY WILL REUNITE ON A DIFFERENT STAGE.**

BOYD: “Preston’s had big goals and dreams for himself for a long time and Tony’s believed in Preston for a long time. And I think it’s cool that two years ago when Tony made the Ryder Cup he started talking with Preston about the possibility that someday they could be Ryder Cup or President’s Cup partners.”

PRESTON: “Long term, I wanna play on The PGA TOUR. I wanna play, I wanna be a TOUR pro and I wanna win tournaments.”

BOYD: “As a dad that we have the relationship to where we’ve been able to be on the same journey together and be in those moments and to be there at the US Jr when he won and be there for his first major championship / it was hard to choke back the tears for sure.”

TONY: “Sky’s the limit. Truly is for someone like Preston. / What’s gonna separate Preston from the rest is just his work ethic and how much he loves the game / He’s got a great support group around him, myself included and he works extremely hard to get better at what he does.”

**BUMP 1**

**COMING UP ON THE CUT…**

**HOW THE ELS FAMILY CONTINUES TOUCHING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH AUTISM.**

ELS SOT: “It’s a place where people can feel safe, where parents can feel their kids are taken care of.”

**AND LATER…**

MITCHELL NATS: “For those who think golf is hard, this golf might be harder.”

**KEITH MITCHELL AND WILL GORDON SHOW OFF THEIR VIRTUAL GOLF SKILLS ON THE NEW PLAYSTATION 5.**

**HTA FEATURE:**

Finau: My wife is from the North Shore on Oahu, here in Hawaii, and my mother is from the same place,to be here and experience what the culture is all about and what it's like, I think it's pretty awesome.

Nat: Man if I din’t play golf I think I’d be a chef I’d love to be a chef.

Finau: I had a great time cooking with chef Chris. Poke is one of my favorite dishes of all time.

Ahh it’s the best one.

JACK STONE SOT: Aluau in Hawaii is always known to be a ohana gathering. It's a gathering of ohana in spirit of love and respect.The Hawaiians believe that ohana is the center part of the island, the center of the ohana or family. And so when family get together it's a real treat.

TONY SOT …The spirit of Aloha seems like it's always here, the people have that way about them. So I really enjoy having that Aloha spirit while I'm here.To be able to experience that, and have my kids experience that, to me, that's what Hawaii's all about.

**SEGMENT 2**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY JACK**

**WITH 73 PGA TOUR TITLES OVER 3 DECADES, JACK NICKLAUS IS A LIVING LEGEND OF THE GAME, AND THIS WEEK, HE TURNS 81.  HE’S WORN MANY HATS BEYOND PLAYER, AS DESIGNER, PHILANTHROPIST, AND DAD.  AND THROUGH ALL THE YEARS, HIS SIGNATURE SWING HAS STAYED “GOLDEN.”**

**PGA TOUR CHAMPIIONS RETURN**

LANGER SOT: “The PGA Tour Champions is a fantastic place to hang out with some of the legends of the game and just to be in great company.”

**THE 40 EVENT “SUPER SEASON” KICKS OFF 2021 WITH THE MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CHAMPIONSHIP AT HUALALAI…IN AN EFFORT TO UPHOLD THE INTEGRITY OF THE CHARLES SCHWAB CUP, PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS COMBINED THE 2020-21 SEASON AFTER 14 EVENTS WERE CANCELED DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

CALCAVECCHIA SOT: Miller Brady, and his entire staff all did a fantast job, keeping us safe, and playing as much as we can play. To play the times we did, the guys are very thankful.

**WITH THE NEW YEAR ALSO COMES A NEW ROOKIE CLASS…**

**AMONG THOSE PLAYERS TURNING 50 THIS YEAR ARE MULTIPLE TOUR WINNERS PADRAIG HARRINGTON, STUART APPLEBY AND ROBERT ALLENBY.**

**THEY’LL HAVE A TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW COMING AFTER A 2020 ROOKIE CLASS THAT RACKED UP 8 COMBINED VICTORIES.**

Annc Mickelson: Phil Mickelson is undefeated on the PGA TOUR Champions, two starts two wins.

Annc Furyk: Jim Fuyrk is a champion at Pebble Beach// he’s won his first two starts that’s incredible stuff

Annc: Ernine Els is the champion at the SAS Championship

**ERNIE ELS AUTISM CENTER**

**ERNIE ELS KICKED OFF HIS FIRST PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS SEASON SUCCESSFULLY, TALLYING 10 TOP-10 FINISHES WITH 2 WINS TO END 2020 2ND IN THE CHARLES SCHWAB CUP STANDINGS.**

ERNIE BITE : I gotta be very satisfied with the way things have gone . Second on the Charles Schwab Cup standings behind Bernhard. Playing new golf courses, getting to know how to play them again, it's been a big learning curve for me. So it's been a good year.

**AND ELS’ SUCCESS ON THE COURSE IS MATCHED BY HIS CHARITABLE WORK OUTSIDE THE ROPES… IN 2015 HE AND WIFE LIEZL ESTABLISHED THE ELS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE, A FACILITY DEDICATED TO ENRICHING THE LIVES OF STUDENTS AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER.**

ERNIE BITE :  It’s just a special place. We wanted to build something that was really authentic, really what a kid with autism needs.

LIEZL BITE:  We’re on a 26 acre facility It's a place where people can feel safe where parents can feel their kids are well taken care of and are getting the best opportunities for them to become the best version of themselves whatever that is.

ERNIE BITE: We started we wanted to have a lower and upper school. We wanted to have kids from all ages to be able to attend. The scale of it is Leizals idea.

LIEZL BITE: And it just slowly grows now our next one is the adult services building and then a medical building. So that really when you drive through the gates a parent you can find all your service under one roof.

**THE ELS’ FOCUS ON AUTISM WAS INSPIRED BY THE NEEDS OF THEIR OWN SON BEN, WHO RECENTLY TURNED 18.**

Ernie Bite: As Ben’s evolving, we keep going. We want to have the best for our kid obviously and as we are doing this we are doing this for many other families and a lot of other kids.

Lizel bite:  Autism picked us. Ben was given to as a gift to really open our eyes to the little things in life and start appreciating everything again. And for us to realize that you were put on this earth to make a difference in other people’s lives we live a very privileged life/ and this is a way for us to be able to give back.

Ernie Bite: It’s really gone above and beyond what I ever imagined to be honest.

**SEGMENT 3**

**MITCHELL/ GORDON PS5 feat:**

Mitchell: Oh no! Oh no,

Gordon: From the 8th floor of the Kahala right there.

Mitchell: Is that in bounce? I mean… wow. I’ll probably hit there in real life too so that’s fine.

**PRIOR TO THE SONY OPEN IN HAWAII, KEITH MITCHELL AND WILL GORDON COMBINED GAMING AND GOLF FOR A 2-HOLE COMPETITION.**

Mitchell: That looks just like you on the course.

Gordon: One hand finish

Mitchell: One hand finish.

Gordon: The patrons on 18 are in trouble.

Mitchell: Can we get a “fore” please?

Mitchell: Ok here we go, let’s see if I can do it better. There we go!

Gordon; 102% power do you have that shot in the bag on the course. The 102%

Mitchell: Yup all I am is 102%, come on be good be good be good. Left, left. Sit ok.

Gordon: That’s pretty good right there.

Gordon: I’m hitting 5 you’re hitting 4. I’ve got an 8 iron.

Mitchell: For those who think golf is hard, this golf might be harder.

Gordon: This is a Keith Mitchell masterclass.

Mitchell: 16;29;40 Not bad but what’s that for 10? And you have bogey, I’m gonna make bogey here.

Mitchell: I really hope I can beat this in real life or we are going to have some bigger issues// There we go! Thank you thank you thank you.

Gordon:Alright, The guy gave the hat… yall are sinked up

Mitchell:He knows what’s up

Gordon: 7, +3 for me.

Mitchell: Alright let’s go!

Gordon We headed to the tee right now?

Mitchell: Headed to the tee!

Mitchell: It’s in play

Gordon: Oh just like the video game. I don’t know which one was worse that one or the video game come on Will, come on baby.

Gordon: My attitudes a lot better out here

Mitchell: Very true

Gordon: MY player gave up on me

Mitchell I will give you the mental edge out here. You didn’t drop your club you didn’t slam anything

Gordon My guy on the PS5 just gave up on me.

Mitchell: He did and he chunked a few in the trees.

Mitchell: Woah woah sit,

Gordon: Little bit of contact on the green, instead of hitting the palm and hitting the too.

 Mitchell Wow, I’m thinking about giving it to you!

Mitchell: Ooo I like to two. Conceided!

Congratulations

Thank you first victory of the week and it’s only Tuesday. You can count that!

**WHILE MITCHELL TRANSLATED THAT EARLY WEEK FUN TO A TIE FOR 14TH, KEVIN NA STOOD ABOVE EVERYONE ON SUNDAY.**

**HAWAII RECAP:**

ANNC: In his 14th attempt, Kevin Na is the winner of the Sony Open in Hawaii

**THE CLOSING BIRDIE CAPPED OFF NA’S 5TH CAREER TITLE, AND 4TH IN HIS LAST 55 STARTS.**

NA SOT: It’s a great feeling. Nice to get it done early. But I'd like to win another one before the season's over. I used to be a really consistent player, a lot of top 10s, a lot of made cuts.

**HE’S NOW THE 5TH PLAYER TO HAVE WON IN EACH OF THE LAST FOUR SEASONS, JOINING DUSTIN JOHNSON, JON RAHM, JUSTIN THOMAS AND BRYSON DECHAMBEAU.**

NA SOT: I think experience is the reason why I've been winning. Experience and confidence. When you do it again, it seems like the next one comes easier. All this time waiting is paying off right now.

**FEDEXCUP STANDINGS**

**WITH THE VICTORY, NA MOVED TO 10TH IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS, MARKING HIS 49TH WEEK RANKED INSIDE THE TOP 10.**

**SERVPRO FEATURE**

**THE CUT PRESENTS, SAVING SHOTS**

**STROKES WERE SAVED ALL OVER WAIALAE COUNTRY CLUB AT THE SONY OPEN IN HAWAII…**

**ALONG WITH A TOP-10 FINISH, BILLY HORSCHEL LED THE FIELD IN SCRAMBLING, CONVERTING JUST OVER 93-PERCENT OF THE TIME… AND JOAQUIN NIEMANN’S STELLAR PLAY LED HIM TO AN AVERAGE OF NEARLY 86-PERCENT.**

ANNC: “Just a great up and down.”

**EVENTUAL CHAMPION KEVIN NA HAD SOME IMPRESSIVE SAVES OF HIS OWN, FINISHING 6TH IN SCRAMBLING PERCENTAGE ON HIS WAY TO EARNING HIS 5th PGA TOUR WIN.**

ANNC: “What a weekend for Kevin.”

**SEGMENT 4**

**AMEX LANDRY BREAKDOWN**

LANDRY SOT – Driving the golf ball would be one of my biggest strengths. We know where all my good numbers are. We know where I drive it well. So we just try to optimize.

**ANDREW LANDRY PERFORMED AT AN OPTIMAL LEVEL OFF THE TEE AT THE 2020 AMERICAN EXPRESS.  FOR HIM, THAT TRANSLATED TO SOMETHING OTHER THAN DISTANCE.**

LANDRY SOT –Some people like to hit it a long way and some people are like myself, just like to be super accurate. And that's what makes the game so beautiful.”

**LANDRY’S ACCURACY APPROACH YIELDED FRUIT IN THE DESERT, WHERE HE FINISHED TOP-10 IN FAIRWAYS HIT, AS WELL AS GREENS IN REGULATION AT A VENUE WHERE HE THRIVES.**

LANDRY SOT –I've had success there in 2018. I lost in the playoff against Rahm and I love that place. I've always loved it. I used to go out there in my off seasons and do some work, and it's just like playing golf in a dome.

**TWO YEARS AFTER THAT PLAYOFF LOSS, HE WOULD FACE A CRITICAL MOMENT TIED FOR THE LEAD AT THE 71ST HOLE, AND HIS FOCUS ON ACCURACY WOULD PAY OFF.**

ANNC - There you go… probably one of the best shots he’s hit in his life.

**HIS SHOT TO JUST UNDER 7 FEET WAS MORE THAN 14 FEET CLOSER THAN THE AVERAGE SHOT INTO 17 IN THAT FINAL ROUND, AND SET HIM UP TO CLOSE OUT ON 18.**

LANDRY SOT – it's what we dream of as kids. You get in that moment and it's, there's nothing, there's not a better feeling in the world.

ANNC – For the second time in his career, Andrew Landry is a winner on the PGA Tour

LANDRY SOT – It was different. It was really sweet to do it there just because of the playoff loss that one particular year. It was more of like that I got it, I got that win, so it didn't slip away from me this time.

**CHARITY MATCH**

**BEFORE THE FIRST TEE ON THURSDAY IN PALM SPRINGS – THE PGA TOUR WILL HAVE SOME FUN IN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SUN AT THE AMERICAN EXPRESS CHARITY CHALLENGE.**

**FORMER PROFESSIONAL SOCCER PLAY LANDON DONOVAN AND COUNTRY MUSIC STAR JAKE OWEN WILL TEAM UP WITH TONY FINAU AND PAUL CASEY IN A 9-HOLE SKINS MATCH.**

**WITH 6-HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ON THE LINE THROUGH THE SKINS MATCH - PHIL MICKELSON WILL MAKE A SPECIAL GUEST APPERANCE TO RAISE THE STAKES, IMPLIMENTING A CHALLENGE OF HIS OWN WORTH 4-HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.**

**THE MATCH WILL AIR WENDESDAY JANUARY 20TH ON PGA TOUR LIVE BEGINNING AT 2PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME.**

**TOUR PLAYLIST**

**PGA TOUR LIVE ALSO RETURNS THIS WEEK WITH FEATURED GROUP COVERAGE THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, AS PLAYERS TRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A RECENT SCORING TREND IN THE DESERT.**

**AMEX LOOKAHEAD:**

ANNC: Now Landry’s 3rd here at par 5 11th that’s another great shot.

**SEVEN OF THE LAST NINE WINNERS AT THE AMERICAN EXPRESS HAVE RANKED INSIDE THE TOP-10 IN PAR 5 PERFORMANCE WITH 8 OF THOSE PLAYERS CARDING 10 UNDER OR BETTER FOR THE WEEK.**

ANNC: To make it another bulldog winning on the PGA TOUR, Hudson breaks through!

**JON RAHM IS THE ONLY PLAYER FROM THE PAST 9 CHAMPIONS TO RANK FIRST IN PAR 5 PERFORMANCE FOR THE WEEK.**

ANNC: And it’s over Jon Rahm is now a 2x winner on the PGA TOUR.

**AS PLAYERS TAKE ON THE NICKLAUS AND STADIUM COURSES AT PGA WEST THIS WEEK, THE 8 PAR-5’S WILL BE CRITICAL IN WHO WILL HOIST THE TROPHY IN THE END.**