**PGA TOUR: THE CUT #5**

COLD OPEN

HIGGS: Then from out of nowhere a huge tidal wave lifted, tossed me like a cork right on top of him and I found myself face to face with the blowhole. I could barely see from all the waves crashing down upon me. But I knew something was there I reached down, and I pulled out the obstruction.

GRIFFIN: That a Titleist? Hole in one.

**WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT**

WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK

**IT’S WASTE MANAGEMENT PHOENIX OPEN TIME ON THE PGA TOUR AS PLAYERS HEAD TO ARIZONA FOR AN EVENT WITH A PARTY ATMOSPHERE THAT WILL HAVE A DIFFERENT FEEL THIS SEASON. HERE’S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE WEEK AHEAD.**

**LAST SEASON SAW THE RESURGENCE OF WEBB SIMPSON HIGHLIGHTED EARLY ON BY A WIN AT TPC SCOTTSDALE…**

ANNC: Webb Simpson takes the title at the Waste Management Phoenix Open

**20 YEARS AGO, A HISTORIC MOMENT OCCURED IN THE DESERT AS ANDREW MCGEE CARDED THE PGA TOUR’S FIRST AND ONLY PAR-4 HOLE-IN-ONE.**

**LATER A LOOK BACK AT THAT MOMENT THROUGH THE EYES OF THE PLAYERS WHO WITNESSED IT.**

**AS A ROOKIE, HARRY HIGGS HAD 7 TOP-25S. THIS SEASON HE’S CHALLENGING FOR MORE...**

ANNC: And that’s a great way to finish... the big fella!

**AND AS HIS GOLF GAME DOES THE TALKING ON THE COURSE, HIS PERSONALITY IS HELPING TO MAKE HIM A FAN FAVORITE…**

HARRY HIGGS

HIGGS: If I were to say show me a 30 second video that describes Harry, I would just show you that one right that’s just me to a T.

Certainly never would have thought I’d done a video millions of people had viewed very favorably. It was really pretty cool. I had a lot of fun with it and I joke with some of the guys that are giving me a bit of grief for doing it. Like I am the only one people would laugh at doing this right.

ANNC: Go ahead and unbutton that last button big man. That was solid.

ANNC: He is going to have a cult following before long.

HIGGS: Maybe we’ve got them fooled like I am serious about being good at golf, but I just happen to do it with a smile and sometimes I do ridiculous things and make fun of myself.

ANNC: In the hole for an Albatross. What a loveable guy. He looks kind of like an albatross out there. He’s got his wings spread out.

ANNC: Exudes happiness out on the golf course. A lot of the guys out here treat it like a job, he is having a good time.

**AND AT HIS FIRST WASTE MANAGEMENT PHOENIX OPEN, HARRY HIGGS THE ENTERTAINER, EMBRACED THE CROWD.**

HIGGS: 16 at Scottsdale, your legs are shaking and all you are thinking is please hit the green please hit the green please hit the green.

ANNC: It’s not bad but it’s certainly not going to make this crowd happy.

HIGGS: It’s madness. I did not think I would have as much fun with it as I did.

ANNC: There ya go.

HIGGS: The good result that I had helped. It’s just insane, it’s so much fun.

ANNC: Harry Higgs quite the entertainer.

HIGGS: It is pretty cool to just kinda be there from where I’ve started, what I’ve gone through and you know, that’s kinda an eye opening thing like ok I’m here, this is the PGA TOUR. This is somewhere I have always wanted to be and this is it this, like this the experience one of the greatest experiences you can have as a PGA TOUR player.

HIGGS: My goal now is just gonna be to birdie that hole every time I play it just because of the fun that comes with it. So hopefully I birdie it more times than I maybe bogey it.

ANNC: What a character… Harry Higgs yet to win on the PGA Tour.

HIGGS: Definitely would like to say that I'm a PGA Tour winner. I feel like that's just kind of a natural next step. I was a little irritated that I had won in Latin America. I had won on the Korn Ferry Tour and then I did not win last year.

ANNC: A fine rookie season for Harry. A fun character he has a real zest for life.

HIGGS: That was a big goal of mine to continue to win every year, every season that you're playing. Just the thought of beating everyone is what we all love. That's why we're playing, that's why we practice so hard. And it is, I think it would be just that simple.

WEBB SIMPSON

SIMPSON: Just really asked the question, why…working on my mind trying to be better mentally…getting stronger…noticed those gains off the tee…been playing with confidence…I was getting frustrated having not won…

ANNC: A super Sunday for Webb Simpson!

SIMPSON: Winning you know in a playoff against Tony Finau at the Waste Management Phoenix Open was the momentum that I needed to keep going.

**WEBB SIMPSON’S SCOTTSDALE SUCCESS LAST SEASON WAS THE CULMINATION OF HARD FUNDAMENTAL WORK AND INTROSPECTION AFTER NEARLY 2 YEARS OF FRUSTATION ON TOUR FOLLOWING HIS VICTORY AT THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP IN 2018.**

SIMPSON: There was a few boxes that were unchecked in my total golf game.

TESORI: The only part of his game was putting that was missing during the stretch.

SIMPSON: I realized, there's a couple mechanical issues that I needed to work on to get better for me to putt consistently throughout 72 holes. And I did that, it took some help from a lot of people. But I finally got to the point where I believe I'm a great putter. And that took time, but it certainly shows up in your scores when you putt well consistently.

**WITH BIRDIES ON HIS FINAL 2 HOLES ON SUNDAY IN THE DESERT, SIMPSON’S IMPROVED PUTTING WAS ON FULL DISPLAY AS HE FINISHED THE WEEK TIED FOR 2ND IN TOTAL BIRDIES AND BIRDIE AVERAGE.**

ANNC: What a putt…beautiful…dead center!

SIMPSON: Getting the job done there kind of let me exhale a little bit and really continue to do what had gotten me there.

**OTHER POSITIVES FROM THAT WEEK WERE HIS PLAY FROM THE FAIRWAY, WHICH SAW SIMPSON GAIN AN AVERAGE OF NEARLY 2 STROKES PER ROUND ON APPROACH SHOTS…AND AN ACE ON THE PAR-3 12TH DURING THE THIRD ROUND CERTAINLY CONTRIBUTED IN A BIG WAY.**

ANNC: His first ace on TOUR of his career!

SIMPSON: Anytime you get off to a good start in the FedExCup season, chances are you're gonna have a pretty good year

TESORI: So, to see a guy like Webb who he plays the game old school, he manipulates the ball a lot, he hooks it, he cuts it, he hits it low, hits it high. I really still think his best golf is coming up. He's stronger physically than he's ever been, he's stronger mentally than he's ever been…he's fully ready to go and fully ready to win.

**MUCH LIKE LAST SEASON, THE SECOND OF HIS CAREER WITH MULTIPLE VICTORIES, WEBB HEADS TO TPC SCOTTSDALE INSIDE THE TOP 30 OF THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS WITH 3 TOP 10S IN 7 STARTS THIS SEASON, 22 OF 28 ROUNDS UNDER PAR AND ZERO MISSED CUTS AND HE’S QUICK TO AKNOWLEDGE HE DIDN’T GET THERE ALONE.**

SIMPSON: I'm Webb Simpson, I hit the shots, yes, but I'm able to hit those shots because of the team around me and the role they play. Whether it's my caddy, my wife, my trainer…We're all working together for one purpose and that's for me, to get as good as I can be at this game.

TOM BRADY & GOLF

**IF WEBB SIMPSON CAN DEFEND IN PHOENIX, HE’LL PICK UP HIS 8TH CAREER VICTORY ON THE SAME DAY THAT TOM BRADY SEEKS HIS 7TH SUPER BOWL TITLE. OFF THE FOOTBALL FIELD, BRADY IS NO STRANGER TO THE LINKS.**

ANNC: Well, how about this shot? Wow! What an effort!

ANNC: How appropriate he’s on the 12th hole, that’s his number, 12… and the hole obliges.

ANNC: OH GO IN! OH MY GOODNESS!

MICKLESON: You made it!

ANNC: This is it right here, this is at one. Brady to McDonough. Going long off the first and he caught it! Wide open.

BRADY: There’s maybe some similarities. I think the mental toughness part of the game. Learning to put some things behind you and keep moving on, but golfers don’t get hit [laughs].

ANNC: He’s up there for 2… and converts it for an eagle 3!

WOODS: Oh it went left!

MICKLESON: Did you see that?

BRADY: I sucked in hard. Did you feel when I sucked the energy toward me Tiger?

ANNC: Tom Brady showing he’s got skills beyond the football field. Well, I don’t know if he’d sorta claim this one. Long sweeping par five, dog leg to the left. He gets a big assist there.

BRADY: So, I can’t play golf and I’m not a camera man. Thank god I can play a little bit of football though.

MARC LEISHMAN AT TORREY PINES

LEISHMAN: Good day. It's Marc Leishman here. I'm here with Torrey Pines, Superintendent Rich McIntosh today. We're going to ask him a few questions about one of my favorite subjects, which is grass. First off, how far out in advance do you start preparations for a tournament like the Farmers Insurance Open?

MCINTOSH: Mid to end of October when we overseed the golf courses is really when things kind of start going towards the Farmers Insurance Open.

LEISHMAN: So you overseed the entire golf course, I always noticed that the rough was very thick around here, I thought you might have just overseeded that. So that's the entire golf course. What is final preparation required like week or two coming into a tournament does that change much?

MCINTOSH: We kind of baby it all the way up. We're very fortunate with the century club that, you know, we close down the week before and we need every bit of that week of no play to kind of let the grass take a breath of fresh air and kind of bounce back from all that traffic that we've seen. Depending on our speeds and texture of our greens, this was kind of when we put the pedal down and try and work as much as possible to get get the greens and surfaces to where we need them.

LEISHMAN: Is there any issues with the salt air or spray from the ocean or anything like that?

MCINTOSH: We're fortunate that we set pretty high up, but you know salts always an issue on the coast. We, we flush greens pretty regularly in the summer, the more water we put down and we don't get any rain in the summer here. So you know but the rains in the winter tend to help flush and salts. When we're watering a lot in the summer. We got to watch our inputs with fertilizers so that we don't overdo it. We're gonna get a little bit of growth from the water that we put down and Kikuyu is finicky. I mean it's there's a very fine line between not having enough fertilizer or having way too much so.

LEISHMAN: I grew up on Kikuyu you're also on if you leave it a little long, it gets very thatch and that doesn't happen out here. So, credit to you. Thanks for spending some time with us I know it’s a really busy week for you and your whole crew. We appreciate it. It’s been some great insight and hope you have a great week and thanks for being with us.

FARMERS PRO-AM SURPRISE

**ON WEDNESDAY MORNING AT THE FARMERS INSURANCE OPEN, SADE JACKSON, A PRO KIDS - FIRST TEE, SAN DIEGO MEMBER,**

FOWLER: Got her.

**GOT THE SURPRISE OF A LIFETIME.**

FOWLER: We have a 9:50 tee time and we’re playing together…so we’ll get the nerves out of the way, we’ll just go have some fun today, go play some golf…

JACKSON: Rickie has always been up there. He’s always been in my top 5, but he might even be top 3, top 2…he’s one of my favorites.

FOWLER NAT: Really good there…*Thank you*

FOWLER: She hit a lot of good shots, she has a lot of speed, got some raw talent.

FOWLER NAT: Pretty straight and then in. Nice, good putt*…thank you*…nice deuce.

JACKSON: I was the only one who putted for us and I made the putt, so I got the birdie for the team and it was good, it was good.

FOWLER: Nailed it.

**THEIR TIME TOGETHER ON THE SOUTH COURSE ALSO ALLOWED FOWLER AN INSIGHT INTO SADE’S INTRODUCTION TO GOLF AND HER JOURNEY SINCE.**

FOWLER: Sade, when did you start playing?

JACKSON: I started playing when I was 4, 4 and a half. My dad got me into it,

JACKSON: We talked about a lot, I got to know him a lot better. What he’s up to lately, so it was really good.

FOWLER: You grew up in Mexico?

JACKSON: Yes, I grew up in TJ…and would come back and forth? Yes, I went to middle school, I went all thru school up thru 8th grade in TJ and I would cross every weekend to come play golf.

FOWLER: This was great to be able to go out with Shade, to kinda come in and surprise her. It’s an honor to be in a position where kids look up to me, so I’m glad we were able to do that.

JACKSON: Being able to play with Rickie Fowler for the first time at Torrey Pines South was just like something very big that will stay with me forever.

FOWLER NAT: Good putt…*thank you.*

WILLIE MACK AT FARMERS

**AFTER KAMIAU JOHNSON’S WITHDRAW FROM THE FARMERS INSURANCE OPEN DUE TO A POSITIVE COVID RESULT, FELLOW APGA PLAYER AND FRIEND WILLIE MACK III WAS GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT TO TEE IT UP AT TORREY PINES.**

ANNC: His first ever PGA TOUR start. Tremendous.

**A MULTIPLE WINNER ON THE APGA TOUR, MACK PLAYED THE SOUTH COURSE ON THURSDAY AND POSTED A 2 OVER 74.**

MACK: I was a little nervous. It was a good start to my PGA TOUR debut and off to the races.

**ON FRIDAY, HE MOVED OVER TO THE NORTH COURSE LOOKING TO MAKE THE CUT, BUT** **DESPITE HIS BEST EFFORTS, MACK WAS UNABLE TO RIGHT THE SHIP AND FINISHED HIS WEEK AT 5 OVER PAR.**

**THE BETHUNE COOKMAN PRODUCT WILL MAKE HIS SECOND CAREER PGA TOUR START AT THE GENESIS OPEN WHERE HE WAS AWARDED THE CHARLIE SIFFORD EXEMPTION.**

**HIS COUNTERPART, JOHNSON, WILL GET A CHANCE TO PLAY ON THE PGA TOUR, ACCEPTING SPONSOR INVITATIONS TO THE AT&T PEBBLE BEACH PRO-AM AND THE HONDA CLASSIC.**

REED WINS FARMERS

**WHILE WILLIE MACK MADE THE MOST OF HIS TIME AT TORREY PINES, IT WAS PATRICK REED WHO EMBRACED THE PRESSURE AT THE FARMERS INSURANCE OPEN.**

ANNC: Winner by 5, by far his largest margin of victory.

REED: I think the biggest thing is you have to have resilience especially out here. You know cause golf is hard as it it is then you come to a place like this where it is so demanding.

ANNC: He drains a long one for eagle.

**REED’S SHORT GAME PROVED VITAL TO HIS DOMINANT WIN, AS HE LED THE FIELD IN PUTTS PER ROUND AVERAGE. TIED FOR BEST BY A WINNER SINCE 1983.**

REED: This one was pretty special. It meant a lot it meant I’m on the right path swings going in the direction we are wanting it to go and it couldn’t have been better to go ahead and win the golf tournament but to win it by a large margin as well as going out and shooting 60’s on Sunday.

FEDEXCUP STANDINGS

**WITH THE VICTORY, REED MOVED UP TO 10TH IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS, MARKING HIS 125TH WEEK INSIDE THE TOP 10 IN HIS CAREER… 3RD MOST OF ANY PLAYER SINCE 2013.**

SAVING SHOTS

**THE CUT PRESENTS, SAVING SHOTS**

**STROKES WERE SAVED ALL OVER TORREY PINES AT THE FARMERS INSURANCE OPEN…**

**FINISHING TIED FOR SECOND PLACE, RYAN PALMER LED THE FIELD IN SCRAMBLING, CONVERTING JUST OVER 80-PERCENT OF THE TIME.**

ANNC: And he did well.

**JOINING PALMER IN SECOND, XANDER SCHAUFFELE’S CONSISTENT PLAY LED HIM TO A SCRAMBLING PERTAGE OF 79.**

ANNC: That’s gonna be a great shot right there, its gonna be right behind the hole.

**AND RICKIE FOWLER IMPRESSED ON 14 WITH A 35 FOOT SHOT FROM THE ROUGH FOR BIRDIE.**

ANNC: A little pop a little run a little break now, yes very nice indeed.

WASTE MANAGEMENT PHOENIX OPEN PREVIEW

ANNC: TPC Scottsdale. The weather is just absolutely beautiful.

**THE WEST COAST SWING CONTINUES THIS WEEK IN ARIZONA AT THE WASTE MANAGEMENT PHOENIX OPEN. THE TOURNAMENT MARKS THE 2ND U.S. PGA TOUR EVENT TO WELCOME BACK A LIMITED NUMBER OF FANS.**

ANNC: Simpson who was in a playoff here 3 years ago might be in a playoff here again.

**4 OF THE LAST 5 LAST WINNERS HAVE BEEN DECIDED BY PLAYOFF WITH HIDEKI MATSUYAMA CLAIMING A PAIR OF VICTORIES IN THAT STRETCH.**

ANNC: And Hideki Matsuyama goes back-to-back in Phoenix.

**JON RAHM SEEKS HIS FIRST VICTORY AT TPC SCOTTSDALE, COMING INTO 2021 WITH 5 CONSECTUIVE TOP-20 FINISHES AT THE TOURNAMENT.**

ANNC: How about this par? Are you kidding me Jon Rahm?

**AND A VICTORY IN THE DESERT WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS THE SEASON LONG RACE FOR THE FEDEXCUP. THE WINNER HAS QUALIFIED FOR THE TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP IN 11 OF THE 14 SEASONS.**

ANNC: And Rickie Fowler is finally a winner here in the desert.

TOUR PLAYLIST

**9 FORMER WASTE MANAGEMENT PHONEIX OPEN WINNERS TEE OFF IN ARIZONA ON THURSDAY, LOOKING TO HOST THE TROPHY ONCE AGAIN. WHILE RORY MCILROY MAKES HIS TOURNAMENT DEBUT**

ANDREW MAGEE SETUP

**FOR THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PGA TOUR’S ONLY PAR 4 HOLE IN ONE, THE CUT QUIZZED PLAYERS ON THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE FEAT.**

SCOTT: On the PGA TOUR?

HOMA: I’m gonna say 2?

HVIII: Uhhh, zero.

PEREZ: I’m gonna say 3.

SCOTT: 12

HOMA: 12? My god, that would be pretty good.

DUFNER: I think just one. I think it was Andrew Magee.

PEREZ: I was gonna say one but it was too obvious.

HVIII: Hold on, where? I have no clue

SCOTT: Is it the one at Phoenix?

PEREZ: I was there! Andrew Magee.

WOODLAND: Phoenix Open bounced off someone’s foot or putter, right?

CHAMP:If that ain’t some luck I don’t know what is.

ANDREW MAGEE PAR 4 ACE ANIMATION

MAGEE: My hometown golf course, TPC Scottsdale. I’m standing there with my playing partner 332 yards away on the 17th tee.

SMITH: And we’re just sitting there waiting for that group to finish ahead of us.

PATE: The hole was playing short. I think the only reason Andrew hit is because he made a double a couple holes before it and he’s just not very patient.

SMITH: My recollection we could tell the guys were almost done. Steve Pate had just gotten his ball out of the hole and he was gonna get out of the way. Tom Byrum still had a short putt to finish.

MAGEE: I’m like you know I don’t really hit it up on that green. I play here a lot. I maybe drive it up to the front. I was still mad about the 15th hole. I could have been 4 under. I could have been 5 under. I’m just gonna go ahead and hit it.

SMITH: Carrying that bunker was the big issue you know. If we can carry that bunker, we can probably run it up there.

MAGEE: And a little puff of wind came up as I took it back and I just killed this driver. I just killed it. It flew the middle bunker. It ricocheted really hard off that back of that bunker and it bounced up on the green.

SMITH: We see this thing bounce off something, and then it disappears.

PATE: I was walking across the front of the green reading my putt and the ball came ripping by me.

SMITH: Did that do what we think it did? I mean I you know I think it went in the hole.

PATE: The moment it went past me, it hit Tom Byrum’s putter. He was kneeling down reading a putt. The putter head was resting on the ground and it deflected off of that and it went in.

MAGEE: Yeah, I couldn’t really see what was going on. It was a pretty nice size gallery including my father up on the green.

SMITH: People figured it out and people were standing up and cheering.

MAGEE: A TOUR official drives down the middle of the fairway. Well, I thought maybe I got a penalty stroke, and he raises two arms up like, like touchdown in football and said “it’s a one! It counts as a hole-in-one!” and then I got 100 yards from the green and the crowd is still cheering and clapping, and my dad is raising his arms. The TOUR official is driving cart kinda alongside with me and they left the ball in the hole for me to pick it out to raise it to the crowd, my dad cheering, just going crazy as it counts for a one. Later to learn in the clubhouse after I finished my round, it’s the only par 4 in the history of the PGA TOUR and it stands today.

PATE: Tom Byrum who had not had a stellar day putting up to that point, deadpanned that that’s the first putt he had made all day.