**2021 PGA TOUR: The CUT #6 MASTER SCRIPT**

COLD OPEN

MCNEALY: I felt like I could skate before I could walk. In high school I was more coordinated on the ice than I was on dry land. (Just like that) I would play hockey seven months out of the year and then when I came back to Golf, I would be hitting it 10-15 yards further. I think that was part of the reason that I was able to improve so much in college was because of all the hockey I played, and just being an athlete and not specializing too early.

**WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT**

WHAT TO KNOW

**THE PGA TOUR IS GOING BACK TO CALI FOR THE AT&T PEBBLE BEACH**

**PRO-AM – AND HERE’S WHAT TO KNOW FOR THE WEEK AHEAD…**

**THE ANNUAL TRIP TO NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HAS BEEN A STAPLE ON THE CIRCUIT FOR THE PAST 75 YEARS.**

ANNC: What would a golf season be without the annual trip to the Monterey Peninsula?

**PLAYERS WILL SPLIT THEIR ROUNDS BETWEEN TWO COURSES – SPYGLASS HILL GOLF COURSE AND THE ICONIC PEBBLE BEACH GOLF LINKS.**

HIGGS NAT: Do you mind if we play through?

**THE TRIP TO THE CALIFORNIA COAST FOLLOWS A WEEK IN THE ARIZONA DESERT THAT INCLUDED A SURPRISE FOR FAN FAVORITE HARRY HIGGS, AND A CHARITABLE IMPACT APPRECIATED BY THE DEFENDING CHAMPION.**

SIMPSON: They raised over $100,000 for local charities.

**AS THE WEST COAST SWING ROLLS ON, MAVERICK MCNEALY GEARS UP FOR HIS 3RD START AT PEBBLE BEACH, A COURSE HE GREW UP DOWN THE ROAD FROM**.

**BUT GOLF WASN’T HIS ONLY TRUE LOVE AS A YOUNG ATHLETE.**

MAVERICK MCNEALY – HOCKEY

MCNEALY: Nothing better than having a whole sheet of ice to yourself. That’s the best.

WITT: How does it feel to be putting on your hockey skates again the first time in a while?  I know you grew up loving the game.

MCNEALY: I like to skate once a week or once every two weeks when I'm home as much as I can. Haven't much we had a lot of travel and a busy schedule since we started up but I love it. Hockey's kind of the thing that I can just go do and have fun and there's really no pressure and it's a great workout. There's probably some muscles that are gonna need to be woken up today that I haven't used in a little while but either way, it should come back eventually.

WITT: Maverick, how did you first even get into hockey?

MCNEALY - My dad grew up in Michigan, played for his high school hockey team. And he taught us all how to skate. My first set of skates was a set of two blades that I just taped to the bottom of my tennis shoe.

WITT: What are some drills that you used to do when you were playing?

MCNEALY - Lots of stick handling stuff, I think pucks are kind of the best stick handling trainers. So you can just do kinda forward and back through figure eight as quick as you can. You can do a little circles around them. You can do hop it over the puck.

We learned how to skate in power skating, we use our edges, that's what we use to cut and grip the ice, power skating coaches from a very young age just had us doing drills. So we do simple ones like swizzels, which is one leg at a time. Where we’re working on making that cutting sound. They also had us learn how to generate power using our legs and our glutes and do it one legged, inside, outside, inside, outside, like that to generate the power switch feet. So it’s all learning our feet, learning our edges

WITT: I'm definitely no hockey or golf pro. But from watching the motions of each one, there's so much correlation. So how do you still use hockey to train for golf?

MCNEALY: I prefer skating to working out. I never had any back injuries, hip injuries while I was playing hockey and I turned pro and didn't really get to skate much for the first year, year and a half started to have some kind of nagging back injuries and stuff and I just thought, man, what's changed I never used to have this and actually went out and skated here. In the first five minutes of being back on the ice, I felt like my back was opening up and just loosening and, haven't had any issues since. There's a lot of rotational speed and in core, in hockey. That I think it's really good for getting speed on the on the golf course too.

You get a cardio workout in with while I'm having so much fun that I don't even realize that I'm doing that much cardio.

WITT: Yeah, you can see the smile on your face as we're just out here skating.

MCNEALY: It's so fun. I mean, you get to go skating, you could skate twice as fast as you can run and it's just fun to go fast. It's fun to shoot pucks.

In hockey, you have a very unstable base. So if I twist left, my feet go right. If I twist right my feet go left so you have to dig in on the edges and you load in your right leg. The power we get in hockey actually comes from flexing our stick. So we are like shooting kind of at that angle. So we don't pick the puck up, we pressure down into the ice, and that's what gets the kick in the shot. Very similar to golf where it's just rotational this way, you load on your right side and rotate through. So in hockey, it's just a little more exaggerated and a little less precise.

There we go. Just like that.

WITT: All right Maverick, for those of us who've never played hockey before, give us a tutorial. How do you do a shot?

MCNEALY: What you want to do is on all your shots, especially the wrist shot, you want to start with the puck outside of your back foot. So that's way on your forehand. And you want to start with it on the heel of the stick. And so what you need to do is you wanna have about 80% of your weight on your right foot. 20% on your left. And as you go forward, you want the puck to slide to the toe. And then you just follow through to the target.

WITT: Flick your wrist.

MCNEALY: Yeah.

WITT: All right.

MCNEALY: You just wanna shake hands with the target that way. 80, 20, and then go. Okay. Okay. That was good, you just, wanna.

WITT: I feel like you need momentum when are doing this.

MCNEALY - You do.

WITT: Is it a lot easier when you have that.

MCNEALY: It is. But you also wanna cup the stick like this. You wanna close down the face. If it is open like this, it is going to fly off to the right.

WITT: Okay. So that's why it flew off.

MCNEALY: Exactly.

WITT: Because it was open. 80, 20 and. Nailed it. Done. She's out. She's out.

MCNEALY - Perfect!

WITT: As we're out here on the ice kinda reminiscing, what are some of your favorite memories of growing up playing hockey?

MCNEALY: Won a couple state championships and, back playing hockey, all my best friends were on my hockey team. Dad coached me for a couple years, its different being on a team sport, and that's part of the reason why I'm so set on wanting to make the Ryder Cup team and Presidents Cup teams one day. And there's just there's nothing like being on a team and sharing a locker room with those guys, it’s special.

I'm really thankful that my parents got me into two I think the coolest sports out there, golf and hockey. And, I'm really thankful we got to do it my family. Play the same sports with my brothers and they're all really good, I mean, I think they're all arguably as good if not better hockey players than me and we're all pretty solid golfers too. So, it's been competitive and fun, but I love playing both.

BUMP

**STILL AHEAD ON THE CUT…**

SCOTT: Oh, took all the fun out of my putt. Don’t I get a stroke here?

MAVERICK: Whatever you want dad.

**MAVERICK AND HIS DAD HIT THE LINKS AND REMINISCE ABOUT A LIFE IN GOLF.**

FITZGERALD/PHELPS @ WASTE MANAGEMENT PHOENIX OPEN

WALDON: I just threw a pass to Larry Fitzgerald. That was pretty cool. I got to caddie for him last year and made an awesome putt for him so it’s nice to see that he remembers me and is having a good time out here at the Phoenix Open.

PHELPS: Oh my gosh it is amazing. I mean looking back and seeing people behind us watching, asking for autographs asking for photos. I’m just happy to get the invite back every year. I’m excited to kinda see this, and hopefully we hear some roars today.

HARRY HIGGS FAMILY SURPRISE

ANNC: It was Harry who, it’s Harry Higgs.

MIKE HIGGS: Harry never needed to be encouraged to play. He took it upon himself it was natural.

HIGGS: I remember watching my dad who was not good and still isn’t any good at the game, would go out in the yard with us running around and he would hit whiffle golf balls, so that was our introduction to golf. My dad and a friend of his bought us US Kids clubs.

DENISE HIGGS: They were so excited to get those clubs to be able to play finally and play with balls.

HIGGS: Well we still have them, I started at the blue US Kids set, my brother started with the red set.

DENISE HIGGS: I’m so excited. He is going to be shocked and he is going to say “what are you doing here dad?”

MIKE HIGGS: We are looking forward to the surprise.

HIGGS: They are in the basement in Kansas City where we grew up my dad thought maybe we have it… I know it’s you.

MIKE HIGGS: Do you mind if we play through you need your clubs?

HIGGS: This was it and they were joking that at some point they would sell these, these are worth nothing. Maybe I’ll go hit some to see if they work. We’ve come a long way.

HARRY HIGGS INTERVIEW [14:40:03] (harry puts clubs on shoulder and walking with clubs)

I can’t hit this no way. That’s about as good as I got.

Well still cuts we’ve been working on hitting a cut shot and that cut. That’s a good sign.

My only thought was make contact and don’t let the club go flying. The form is out. If the clubs don’t fit form is usually out. Let’s go Al.

That’s pretty good. That’s pretty impressive to hit it that far.

It is cool to see where we started to see where we are now. Certainly with the help of mom and dad that made it a little bit easier this game is not easy, but should make this wild week a little easier to have a little perspective about where we started and where we are now. (Cheers.)

WEBB SIMPSON WITH FAMILY ON 16

**THE DEFENDING CHAMPION WEBB SIMPSON HAD HIS OWN SURPRISE IN STORE FOR HIS FAMILY ON THE ICONIC PAR-3 16TH**

SIMPSON: Facetime unavailable. We’re trying it again.

FAMILY: Hey we can see you!

SIMPSON Hey guys nice background! Are y’all ready? I’m gonna flip it so y’all can see what we’re walking out to. (Wow!) Here we are. Jamesie-boy. A normal year there’s like 20,000 people here maybe more.

So here’s what’s fun. Y’all have to as a family you get to pick a club besides a putter that I’m gonna try to hit on the green.

FAMILY: Before you decide can you just tell me how far it is from the green?

SIMPSON: 167 yards. (Yeah 8-iron.) I love that Jamesie.

FAMILY: James that’s a great choice bub. Thank you.

SIMPSON: I missed the green. Glad I missed it today.

FAMILY: Yeah you got it tomorrow.

SIMPSON: Alright guys, here’s the cool part. I’m gonna show you some faces here. I want you guys to see if you see anybody you know. Who’s that fella up top there? Oh look buddy! James, Eden! There’s Mommy. There’s Mercy. Willow. And Winnie.

FAMILY: What’s really neat about that is that all of the money from the pictures in the stands is it goes to help kids in Phoenix, Arizona.

SIMPSON: They raised over $100,000 for local charities. I know you guys are a couple thousand miles away but it’s fun to see your faces this week and hopefully I can hit some good shots and make some birdies for y’all. (We love you.) Love y’all. (We love you Daddy!) Have a good day. Bye!

SNEDEKER’S SAVES

**THE CUT PRESENTS SNEDEKER’S SAVES**

**NINE-TIME PGA TOUR WINNER BRANDT SNEDEKER HAS A HISTORY OF SUCCESS AT THE AT&T PEBBLE BEACH PRO-AM**

**DURING HIS FIRST WIN AT PEBBLE BEACH, SNEDEKER STARTED THE FINAL ROUND TIED FOR FIRST…**

ANNC: And that will be an excellent chance for an eagle.

**A BOGEY ON 9 NARROWED SNEDEKER’S GRIP ON THE LEAD BEFORE HE RECOVERED WITH 3 BIRDIES ON THE BACK 9 TO CLAIM A 2 STROKE VICTORY.**

**TWO YEARS LATER, VICTORY WAS ONCE AGAIN ON SNEDEKER’S MIND AS HE LED THE FIELD IN SCRAMBLING PERCENTAGE AT NEARLY 92%.**

**HE CARDED ONLY ONE BOGEY ON HIS WAY TO A 3 STROKE VICTORY AND HIS SECOND AT&T PEBBLE BEACH PRO-AM TITLE.**

ANNC: Back in the win column!

WASTE MANAGEMENT QUALIFIER

**THE CHANCE TO PLAY IN A PGA TOUR EVENT BRINGS OUT ALL THE EMOTIONS, AND NEARLY EVERY WEEK, THE OPPORTUNITY IS THERE FOR THOSE THAT CAN SHOOT THE LOWEST IN THE MONDAY QUALIFIER.**

HARDY: 150 guys playing for 3 spots it’s pretty cool.

MACKAY: You’re not going to get anywhere in these things shooting 68-9 typically, you have to come out here and set it on fire. It’s fascinating to come out here and watch these guys do their thing knowing they have to take it incredibly deep to make it to the tournament later in the week.

HARDY: You know it’s just another opportunity, you’ve got to earn them in professional golf you know, and I’m just really excited for just another opportunity.

**OF THE THREE TO EARN A SPOT AT TPC SCOTTSDALE, NICK HARDY MADE THE MOST OF HIS OPPORTUNITY, MAKING THE CUT ON FRIDAY.**

ANNC: Nick Hardy Monday Qualifier what a story right there from earlier in the week.

**THE 25-YEAR-OLD SHOT EVEN PAR ON SATURDAY AND REBOUNDED 1 UNDER ON SUNDAY, TO FINISH IN A TIE FOR 42ND.**

ANNC: Anytime you can get starts on the PGA TOUR for Nick Hardy Just a great experience.

KOEPKA WINS WMPO

**SUNDAY’S FINAL ROUND IN THE DESERT FEATURED A LOADED LEADERBOARD, WITH 2015 CHAMPION BROOKS KOPEKA CREATING SOME BREATHING ROOM DOWN THE STRETCH.**

ANNC: Judged that. Oh! Koepka vaults into the lead.

**THE EAGLE ON 17 WAS PART OF A SIX UNDER SUNDAY FUELING KOEPKA TO BECOME JUST THE 3RD PLAYER SINCE 1988 TO COME FROM FIVE OR MORE SHOTS BACK AND WIN THE WASTE MANAGEMENT PHONEIX OPEN.**

ANNC: Books Koepka wins it, again at TPC Scottsdale!

KOEPKA: I hit a lot of quality golf shots down the stretch. I haven’t been in contention in, god knows how long. To actually hit golf shots like I’m accustomed to seeing, and when the pressure is on, it’s a good feeling.

FEDEXCUP STANDINGS

**KOEPKA’S 8TH CAREER VICTORY MOVED HIM TO 12TH IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS, WHILE A 3RD RUNNER-UP FOR XANDER SCHAUFFELE GAVE HIM THE LEAD FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS SEASON.**

PEBBLE BEACH BEAUTIES & LOOKAHEAD

ANNC: Not many places like it, certainly not in the world of golf.

**AMONG THE PLAYERS TAKING IN THE SCENERY AT PEBBLE BEACH IS KAMAIU JOHNSON, MAKING HIS PGA TOUR DEBUT AFTER A POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST DELAYED HIS FIRST OPPORTUNITY TWO WEEKS AGO.**

JOHNSON: I have that determination of never givng up and just staying in the process. And if I can stay in the moment, don't get ahead of myself, I'll do well. I belong out here.

**WHILE FELLOW APGA CHAMPION KEVIN HALL MAKES HIS FIRST PGA TOUR START SINCE 2017.**

ANNC: He’s an amazing young man, deaf since the age of two.

PEBBLE BEACH CHARITY PROMO

**BUT BEFORE THE PROS TEE IT UP, PEBBLE BEACH WILL HOST THE AT&T EVERY SHOT COUNTS CHARITY CHALLENGE IN AN EFFORT TO RAISE ONE-POINT-SIX MILLION DOLLARS FOR LOCAL CHARITIES.**

**THE 5-HOLE SCRAMBLE WILL FEATURE 3 PAIRS OF CELEBRITIES:**

**KAT NEWTON AND KIRA DIXON… ALFONSO RIBEIRO AND MACKLEMORE… AND LARRY FITZGERALD WITH BILL MURRAY.**

TOUR PLAYLIST

**COVERAGE FROM THE AT&T PEBBLE BEACH PRO-AM STARTS THURSDAY, AND PLAYERS LIKE MAVERICK MCNEALY WILL ATTEMPT TO MAKE MORE MEMORIES AT THE ICONIC COURSE.**

MAVERICK MCNEALY ON COURSE

MAVERICK: Dad would take us out to the driving range and there'd always be one or two of us that didn't really wanna hit balls and he’d say that’s alright you could just sit in the van and hang out and eventually all four of us would be out there having a blast practicing, playing, really taught us how to love the game

SCOTT: I never made them play golf but you know they got really boring sitting in the car.

SCOTT: Perfect, Right down the middle.

We live in the same town now here in Summerlin, he's off building this career and doing this thing and traveling like crazy. So anytime we get to spend Susan and I get to spend time with any of our boys, we cherish it and love it.

MAVERICK: Let's play one from back in here. Lost ball.

SCOTT: All four of my boys beat me at 12 or 13 and they all got a picture of me laying on the green. They're holding the pin with a foot on my chest having beaten me.

MAVERICK: I remember dad was coming off a hockey injury he broke his leg. And that was very opportune time to step on him while he's down.

SCOTT: He didn’t get dinner for a week after beating me.

SCOTT: You gonna three putt from there, man? (No) So I gotta sink it? (Yeah) Had you scared there for a second.

MAVERICK: Dad made the cut playing the AT&T and it was my freshman year, and dad called me and said hey, I need a caddy on Sunday. I'm paired with Phil, do you wanna come caddy? I said, sure

SCOTT: We're sitting on the fifth tee. And I'm talking to Phil and I said, Phil, I texted you. I wanted to be your partner this year. Why did not you respond? He goes, I never got your texts. He said, I changed my phone number. What number do you have? So I pulled up my phone. He goes, that’s my old number. And he says here, here's my new number. And then he gets up to walk away, and Mav looks at me, and he goes dad, you're really cool now.

MAVERICK: You're officially cool now.

SCOTT: Alright, get it close. Oh, took all the fun out of my putt. Don't I get a stroke here?

MAVERICK: Whatever you want Dad.

SCOTT: I'm happy for them and what they've done for golf. I'm proud of them for what they've done in life and how they handle themselves. I'm happy Mav's playing great golf, but I'm also proud of his professionalism and I'm more proud of that than I am his results on the TOUR.

MAVERICK: The best thing my dad has given to us as a family, is how close my brothers and I all are. What mom and dad did to create a really strong family bond, around things like golf and hockey and doing things together as family. I'm starting to realize, is pretty unique and pretty special, and I'm so thankful for that.