**2021 PGA TOUR – The CUT #11 (THE PLAYERS Doc)**

Cold Open

SCOTT SOT - everyone who plays here and everyone who's on the PGA Tour feel a sense of pride coming here because it is our championship.

DJ SOT - it's important to all of us players and that's why we come here and play

THOMAS SOT - it's architecturally one of the best courses I've played. It requires so many shots.

WESTWOOD SOT - You have the chance for success and disaster on nearly every hole out there

MORIKAWA SOT - it causes so much drama so much stress for certain guys coming down the stretch on a sunday.

RAHM SOT - Every tournament has a long list of great champions, but very few like this one

MCILROY SOT - Tiger, Jack, Scott, Garcia, Mickelson, to put myself amongst them is a pretty big honor.

SIMPSON SOT - seeing my name in a split second youre surprised like oh its my name but im honored to be on this trophy.

GARCIA SOT - to be able to perform as well. As I have performed at this golf course in this championship for so many years. It's something that I'm very, very proud of

MCILROY SOT - The Players Championship is our tournament

SCOTT SOT - the toughest field in golf.

FINAU SOT - the hardest golf tournament to win in the world.

THOMAS SOT - Historic.

FOWLER SOT - iconic.

SIMPSON SOT - A gift.

WESTWOOD SOT - a tradition.

GARCIA SOT - the best championship we have.

The CUT Titles

**WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT**

PLAYERS Early Week Setup

ANNC - "The unmistakable Stadium players course at TPC Sawgrass//the views around here are iconic, dramatic, dangerous, you know trouble lurks around so many turns."

Course Setup

COX: The conditions this year are as good as I've ever seen them, they are fantastic. Every playing area it's just perfect. Our intention is to set it up firm but fair. We're going to provide some exciting hole locations and the rest is really up to the players to do their thing.

ANNC: The par 4 12th, 341 yards using the back tee here. That's a hole you can lose sleep over now.

COX: We wanted to create a little bit more volatility in the scoring. It is going to be a totally different golf hole. It allows us to use slightly different hole locations for when we play it long. We felt that this was a good year to trial and showcase the versatility of that golf hole. So, I think the players are going to see it played both long and short, which should be good fun.

Bryson and Sungjae

BRYSON TEE NATS – "On the tee, from Clovis, California, 8-time PGA TOUR winner, Bryson DeChambeau."

STORYTELLING GFX: COMING IN OFF HIS WIN AT BAY HILL, BRYSON DECHAMBEAU CONTINUES TO FIND SUCCESS, RELYING ON HIS IRON GAME AND PUTTER OVER THE DRIVER ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY.

BRYSON SOT - I'm happy with the fact that I've still been able to keep myself in it and score well.// I've got to make sure that my game is good off the tee, and I don't have to rely on luck for the most part.

STORYTELLING GFX: MAKING HIS SECOND START AT THE PLAYERS AFTER MISSING THE CUT IN 2019, SUNGJAE IM RATTLES OFF 6 STRAIGHT BIRDIES IN THE SECOND ROUND.

Sungjae Im Feature

SUNGJAE IM: If I win this competition, it will give me pride. It is not easy to be able to win every tournament. However, I'd love to be in contention for the big tournament once and hold the trophy.

**SUNGJAE IM IS KNOWN FOR HOW OFTEN HE PLAYS ON THE PGA TOUR – BUT THE "ROAD WARRIOR" HAS RECENTLY BEEN TAMED...**

**THANKS TO PURCHASING A HOME IN DULUTH, GEORGIA LATE IN 20-20.**

SUNGJAE IM: I think it was just the right timing for me to have a home here.

JI TAEK IM: As Sungjae did not want to miss any events, he kept playing every week. That's part of the reason why we postponed purchasing a house here in the U.S. As we saw Sungjae play steadily on the TOUR, we decided to get a house.

SUNGJAE IM: When I was on the Korn Ferry Tour 3 years ago, I practiced at TPC Sugarloaf a lot. At that time, I could see some houses around the course, and the course atmosphere. I thought this would be the right place to settle down when I play on the PGA TOUR. That's how I ended up settling down here, and I really like it.

JI TAEK IM: While we were staying and practicing here, I thought, 'This is the place.' The weather was similar to Korea. and It has easy access to travel for tournaments.

**WHILE IM HAS FINALLY SETTLED DOWN IN THE U-S – THERE'S ALSO A PIECE OF HIS HOME COUNTRY HE KEEPS CLOSE...**

NAT: Hey Coach.>>Hi Sungjae >>How are you?

**AS HE STILL WORKS WITH HIS COACH IN KOREA.**

SUNGJAE IM: I met my coach, Hyun Choi in 2015. And learned from him since. We just have a great relationship with each other.

NAT: I think you're using your lower body too quickly.>>You think so?

SUNGJAE SOT: At night, when it's morning or afternoon in Korea, I send my swing video to the coach and ask for help. He checks that, and gives me feedback. Then, I practice accordingly.That's how we make things work.

NAT: Step on the wedge with your right heel.

SUNGJAE SOT: According to my coach, my right foot comes up too quickly. So I'm more focused on that, trying to fix it.

NAT: How did that feel? Oh, this one went straight.

SUNGJAE SOT: It's a drill I'm trying for the first time.When things are not working, I tend to move my lower body a lot. That causes me to lose balance. So this drill helps me with that. I feel like I got more balance. I think it will get better with more practice.

**BEING THE GRINDER HE IS – SUNGJAE CAN NOW TAKE THOSE LESSONS RIGHT OUT TO THE COURSE – LITERALLY IN HIS NEW BACK YARD.**

SUNGJAE SOT: TPC Sugarloaf, I like the training environment here. and I feel very comfortable when I come to practice here. Whenever I come to this course, I feel great, and it's fun to practice here.

SUNGJAE IM: I'm just so grateful that I can play on the PGA TOUR now.and that motivates me to work harder every day. As I continue to play on the PGA TOUR, I'm going to stay here for a while.

JT and Sergio

STORYTELLING GFX: IM'S 6-UNDER TOTAL AFTER FRIDAY PUTS HIM WITHIN 3 SHOTS OF THE LEAD IN A TIE FOR 5TH.

ANNC – "This is a man that's so talented, and he's gonna figure it out."

ANNC – "Been searching, maybe he finds something this week."

STORYTELLING GFX: JUSTIN THOMAS' 2-UNDER TOTAL THROUGH TWO ROUNDS LEAVES HIM 7 SHOTS BACK OF THE LEADER. // MEANWHILE, 2008 PLAYERS CHAMPION SERGIO GARCIA LEADS THE FIELD APPROACHING THE GREEN AND PUTTING IN ROUND ONE.

ANNC SERGIO – "He could become the 7th man to win THE PLAYERS Championship multiple times."

STORYTELLING GFX: HE FOLLOWS AN OPENING 65 WITH 72 TO TIE FOR 3RD, AS A LIMITED NUMBER OF FANS GET THE CHANCE TO SEE THEIR FAVORITE PLAYERS ONCE AGAIN. ONE OF THOSE TAKING IN THE ARTISTRY OF THE PROS IS AN ARTIST HIMSELF.

Kygo at THE PLAYERS

WITT: Oh what a shot.

WITT: How's your first experience at THE PLAYERS Championship been?

KYGO: I love it. I'm just so impressed. I just started playing golf last summer and I just like now realized you know how hard it is. Just seeing them hit those drives it's crazy. It looks so easy when they do it, but yeah, it's just insanely hard.

WITT: Who are some of the guys that you've been following today?

KYGO: I saw Rickie tee off and followed for 3 or 4 holes. I saw Hovland and Justin Thomas.

WITT: Rickie, you guys have become pretty close friends, right?

KYGO: Yeah he's been to a couple of my shows. This is the first time I'm watching him play. So it's pretty cool. We met in Ibiza for the first time and then I played his golf tournament last year in Phoenix and he was up on stage and we were DJing a little bit together.

WITT: If you had to compare golf to DJing shows, which one do you think is more pressure?

KYGO: Definitely golf. I don't know, it's tough to compare but obviously there's pressure if I'm DJing in front of 20 thousand people. To me if you gave me a golf club right now I would be so nervous. It's my first golf tournament ever and I'm definitely planning on coming back.

Westwood, PLAYERS Early Wrap

STORYTELLING GFX: AS KYGO LEAVES THE COURSE FRIDAY, SO TOO DO A NUMBER OF NOTABLES MISSING THE CUT. AMONG THOSE ARE PAST CHAMPIONS RORY MCILROY, WEBB SIMPSON, AND RICKIE FOWLER.

WESTWOOD SOT - I'm playing well at the moment, kind in a little bit of form into the tournament.//. And, I played well here in the past.

ANNC WESTWOOD – "That's two fabulous rounds of golf for the 47-year old, in contention again."

STORYTELLING GFX – WESTWOOD'S IMPRESSIVE PUTTING GIVES HIM THE 36-HOLE LEAD AT 9-UNDER. IT'S THE 3RD TIME HE'S LED AT THE PLAYERS THROUGH 2 ROUNDS.

WESTWOOD SOT - there's not a shot out there I'm afraid of, I'm rolling the ball well on the greens. I'm comfortable out there with everything.

Saturday Better Than Most Hole Cutting

Woods: It's hard to believe it's been 20 years, Strange scenarios can play out and that putt at 17 was definitely one of those strange scenarios.

Woods: I knew that putt was going to start breaking to the right more so it was going to be a little quicker than what I was feeling and what I was seeing.”

Annc: That's better than most.

Woods: And I kicked it left pretty hard.

Annc: How about in.

Woods: And I started common break, break break. Eventually it started to snap.

Annc: That is better than most.

Woods: And that's when it went in.

Annc: Better than most!

Woods: When you have a shot that's that long, it's kind of a crescendo effect. It starts getting louder and louder and then all of a sudden just a huge explosion happens.

PLAYERS Saturday Setup

ANNC: Another beautiful day here in northeast Florida, 3rd round of THE PLAYERS

GFX: STARTING ROUND 3 IN STRIKING DISTANCE, SERGIO GARCIA AND SUNGJAE IM STRUGGLE TO MOVE UP THE BOARD.

ANNC: That's kind of a sloppy bogey from there, would have expected him to make a par.

GFX: WHILE GARCIA AND IM FALL OFF THE PACE, ONE PLAYER TAKES ADVANTAGE OF MOVING DAY.

ANNC:Justin Thomas,/ birdies 1,2,3,4 dropped a shot but get's it right back with a birdie at 7, JT is on a roll with lots of golf left to play.

GFX: THOMAS' CHARGE COMES ONLY A FEW DAYS REMOVED FROM A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE WITH A FELLOW ALABAMA ALUM EARLIER IN THE WEEK.

JT and Bender

JT: Bender

Bender: What's up JT

JT: What's up dude. What's up. Justin. Nice to meet you.

Bender: Nice to meet you too.

JT: How ya feelin?

Bender: Good. Just started my third round of chemo. Feeling good.

JT: Good man, that's awesome.

JT: Alright. Gonna go see if I can hit this fairway real quick

Bender: Do it JT

JT: You coming down, you walking down this hole with us?

Bender: Sure

Bender: So yeah. I year ago today I was diagnosed with a brain tumor.

JT: That’s unbelievable, what do you think was the biggest thing for you, the most important think for you mentally

Bender: You know, I have strong faith and that's what I relied on and think that God has a plan

JT: That’s awesome, you already are, but you're gonna be a lot better, bigger, stronger man because of this. But it's pretty impressive, man, it’s really impressive, It's a lot cooler and better than anything I've ever done on a golf course, I can tell you that.

Bender: So awesome. Oh my gosh. Whoo. My heart is beating so fast. To him call me by name and like "You're Bender, right?" Unbelievable.

Bender: Alright. JT.

Bender: Oh baby that looks good, oh my gosh, oh!

Justin: Bender, here you go man.

Bender: You the man

Justin: Dude, keep fighting hard, dude. You're, seriously, you're an inspiration. I'm glad to see you doing well and hope all the treatments keep going well and hope to see you out here this week. Roll tide.

Bender: Roll tide baby! Bender, you're an inspiration. Keep fighting. Roll Tide. Justin Thomas. Put it in my back pocket... Tears of joy

PLAYERS Saturday Wrap

ANNC: That is the best round of the championship turned in by Justin Thomas on this Saturday.

GFX: THOMAS HAD THE LOWEST ROUND OF THE DAY CLOSING OUT WITH A 64.

THOMAS SOT: Hopefully these guys will stay withing striking distance and won't go too crazy in that back nine. But we'll be ready just have to go out and execute tomorrow.

ANNC: Golf's man of the moment in contention again. Bryson DeChambeau is in position for back to back wins.

ANNC: And the last revolution, and the man is pumped up!

GFX: DECHAMBEAU FINISHED THE DAY 11-UNDER AND TWO BACK OF THE LEADER, ENSURING HIS PLACE IN THE FINAL GROUP ON SUNDAY.

ANNC - Westwood at age 47 he starts the weekend atop the leaderboard

ANNC: Just got it going, and made it! What a putt!

GFX: WESTWOOD CONTINUES FINDING SUCCESS, CARDING ANOTHER BOGEY FREE ROUND, WITH FOUR BIRDIES ON THE BACK TO TAKE A 2 SHOT LEAD.

ServPro Feature

**THE CUT PRESENTS, SAVING SHOTS**

**RYAN PALMER LED THE FIELD AT THE PLAYRES IN SCRAMBLING, CONVERTING MORE THAN 76-PERCENT OF THE TIME...**

ANNC:This the eagle putt to squeeze in on the left edge//

**AND WITH A RUNNER UP FINISH LEE WESTWOOD HAD SOME IMPRESSIVE UP AND DOWNS OF HIS OWN, FINISHING 2ND IN SCRAMBLING.**

ANNC Westwood for birdie, great start

The CUT Rejoin

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Honda Lookahead

ANNC: This place is renowned for the Bear Trap, and that begins of course at the par 3 15th where a giant bear greets the golfers.”

**THE 3-HOLE STRETCH FROM 15 TO 17 AT THE HONDA CLASSIC WILL CHALLENGE PLAYERS, WITH AN INTIMIDATING TRIFECTA TEST NAMED FOR ITS ARCHITECT.**

Kevin Streelman: Honda scares most players on the PGA Tour than not. You look at the bear trap coming in, those final few holes. We get a 20 mile an hour wind off your left. It's, I mean, you got to hit some big boy golf shots there.

**PLAYING AS THE FOURTH TOUGHEST THREE HOLE STRETCH ON TOUR SINCE 2007, "THE BEAR TRAP" ACCOUNTS FOR 36-PERCENT OF THE BALLS IN THE WATER AT PGA NATIONAL.**

TOUR Playlist

**THE CHALLENGE EXTENDS THROUGHOUT THE COURSE AT PGA NATIONAL, AS ONLY 2 WINNERS THE LAST DECADE FINISHED DOUBLE DIGITS UNDER PAR.**

TruGreen Feature

**A SALUTE TO THE AGRONOMY TEAM OF PGA NATIONAL**

FLYNN SOT: Here at PGA NATIONAL we like to keep the greens play ready. my assistant and I will sit down for a few minutes, then follow the guys around to make sure everything is being done according to what we have set forth. We mow the greens first before we do anything else. Then the cup cutter comes and he'll move the pin. /Then we'll roll greens behind the entire deal. Then like today, we'll top dress,/ we drag it in when it's dry

FLYNN SOT - We formulate a fertilizer program based on the time of year // We try to keep it a true green color.

FLYNN SOT: Our main emphasis is the tournament. So we try to backtrack from the tournament and figure out what we want the golf course to look like /and we figure out what it is going to take to get it there.

Sunday Feature

ANNC: Beautiful day, iconic course, and a leaderboard jam packed and one of the game's biggest titles on the line.

STORYTELLING GFX: FOR THE SECOND, CONSECUTIVE CHAMPIONSHIP SUNDAY, LEE WESTWOOD AND BRYSON DECHAMBEAU TEE OFF IN THE FINAL PAIRING.

ANNC: He just continues to elevate his status week to week.

STORYTELLING GFX: BOTH ARE EVEN PAR FOR THE DAY AS THEY TEE OFF ON THE PAR-4 4TH

ANNC: Oh my, oh my!? Just got the top part of the ball!

ANNC: Now, here's Westwood. Well what is that? Well I don't know but that's two wild shots to the right for Westwood.

BRYSON NATS – “Oh my gosh, what is going on”

ANNC: This short little par 4 is creating some problems for the final twosome.

STORYTELLING GFX: WHILE THE LEADERS STRUGGLE ON THE FRONT SIDE, JUSTIN THOMAS CATCHES FIRE AT THE TURN.

ANNC: He's one of these guys that these players fear and man can he send a message right now, and Justin Thomas has it. Eagle at 11 to take the lead at The Players. That is a birdie, birdie, eagle stretch.

BENDER NATS: Oh my god, wow!!

STORYTELLING GFX: ONE OF THOMAS' BIGGEST FANS, BENDER MIDDLEKAUFF, IS WITNESS TO THE AMAZING RUN.

BENDER: Wow that gave me chills. My legs are getting weak, not from the walking because I'm shaking in my boots. The newest PLAYERS Champion, Justin Thomas does have a nice ring to it.

ANNC: Justin Thomas trying to visualize another good one here at the last. Oh boy that got an incredible first bounce! It looks like it's gonna stay dry for the second day in a row!

STORYTELLING GFX: FIGHTING UNTIL THE VERY END, DECHAMBEAU FINISHES IN A TIE FOR 3RD ALONGSIDE BRIAN HARMAN RECORDS HIS BEST CAREER FINISH AT TPC SAWGRASS. WHILE WESTWOOD EARNS SOLO SECOND FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT WEEK.

WESTWOOD SOT: I didn't play my best golf today by any stretch of the imagination, but I battled it out and I was proud of that.

ANNC: He pours it right in to grab solo second. He'll wait another time for that big title that has eluded him.

STORYTELLING GFX: WITH 4 BIRDIES AND AN EAGLE ON HIS CARD, THOMAS CLOSES WITH A FINAL ROUND 68.

ANNC: And that all but assures Justin Thomas of this Championship.

THOMAS SOT : It’s a tournament I’ve wanted to win. Today it was about getting into position and then hang on from there. It's just a great test of golf. That's why it's The Players Championship.

FedExCup Standings

**THOMAS’ 14TH CAREER WIN MOVED HIM TO SECOND IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS, THE 79TH WEEK HE’S RANKED IN THE TOP TWO, THE MOST SINCE THE 2014-15 SEASON.**

Sunday Winner Rollout

ANNC – “Justin Thomas, your 2021 winner of the 47th playing of THE PLAYERS Championship!”

THOMAS SOT: it's right in front of you. There's nothing hidden. There's nothing tricked up about It //You have to come here, assess the golf course, realize what it is, and then go from there.

THOMAS SOT: It's an unbelievable championship with an unbelievable history. That just speaks to the volume of this golf course, and how it plays. It just fits whoever's playing the best that specific week.

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