**21CUTMSTR PGA TOUR – THE CUT #14**

COLD OPEN

JOHNSON: “I've grown up with the game of golf, so, obviously it’s a huge part of my life. It's what I do for a living but it's also the game that I love to play.”

ANNC: “It’s been DJ at his best.”

ANNC: “Three wins in a row for Dustin Johnson!”

JOHNSON: “For the most part, it's all yourself and you kinda get what you put in.”

ANNC: “He didn’t exactly hold back.” “He’s confident!”

ANNC: “This might be the most complete we’ve ever seen his game.”

JOHNSON: “I think you can equate a lot of things to life but that's definitely goes with life too is the amount of effort you want to put in is kind of you know what comes back out of it.”

ANNC: “Dustin Johnson seems to like the view as the number one player in the world.”

**WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT**

WHAT TO KNOW

THOMAS: “I thought it was a different golf course // and it just was about execution. You had to go about it, I think, differently than you do in April when it gets firm and fast.”

**AFTER ONLY 5 MONTHS, THE PGA TOUR’S BEST RETURN TO AUGUSTA NATIONAL, WHICH WILL PLAY DIFFERENTLY THAN THE TRIP IN NOVEMBER.**

SPIETH: “Your shots in have to be so much more precise and you just can't get away with your misses in the wrong spots like you maybe could on a couple holes.”

JOHNSON: “When we go back in April it will be all over seeded. There won't be any Bermuda grass especially coming out in the winter time. //the course will be in perfect condition like always.”

**DUSTIN JOHNSON WILL GET A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO WIN THE SAME EVENT TWICE IN A SINGLE SEASON.**

DJ MASTERS DEFENSE

JOHNSON: “it's gonna be great going back to Augusta to defend and being the Masters champ.”

JOHNSON: “it's a great feeling and a lot of great memories from that week and played very very solid. All week and is definitely special and something I'll remember forever so it gives me good vibes when I think about it, so I try to think about a lot.”

ANNC: “Probably nothing makes him as proud as putting that green jacket on.”

FINAU: “it's unbelievable what DJ has been able to do, the consistency he's shown, and just the sheer talent, and skill that he has. // he's just one of those, I think rare, special players throughout the history of the game that you always look back on and think of as one of the greats”

ANNC: “DJ’s just done remarkable things throughout his career, consistency, winning every year, 24 wins”

SPIETH: “that's just being incredibly talented but also very, very consistent. For him to do that, that many seasons in a row is insane. And I don't think anyone here would bet that it's stopping anytime soon, either”

ANNC: “Dustin Johnson, he’s fun to watch!”

ANNC: “Dustin Domination! Takes the title at the Northern Trust by 11 shots!”

ANNC: “He’s certainly the best in the world right now.”

JOHNSON: “I'm a lot more comfortable with a four or five shot lead coming down the last hole then one.// if I'm firing on all cylinders, obviously I'm gonna be very tough to beat. And I like that.”

ANNC: “Dustin Johnson has it, he’s got his FedExCup title!”

WOODLAND: “I would definitely say he's underappreciated, he is so good. And I think you take that talent for granted a little bit. But what he's doing pushes all of us. // he's gonna do it for a long, long time”

BUMP

ANNC: “In the state of Texas, Jordan Spieth breaks the winless drought!”

SPIETH: “It's been a road that's had a lot of tough days. // I just feel a lot of gratitude to those who have helped me kind of get back here.”

TYLER STRAFACI: “I don’t know how many grandfather, grandson duos have ever played in the masters, I think it might be the first one to do it.”

MORIKAWA ZURICH FEATURE

MORIKAWA: “I think I do a really good job Monday and Tuesday to really get all the work I need and by Wednesday we’re running on full cylinders ready to play golf.”

MORIKAWA: This might go 200 yards.”

MORIKAWA: “It's all about managing your time. I'm not a person that you're gonna to see sunrise and sunset out here just grinding, grinding, grinding. I want to be efficient with my time.”

JJ: “During the practice rounds it's a little bit of everything, you know? Help them get mentally prepared and physically prepare for the tournament. / Bounce ideas off him up swing and chipping and putting and things like that.”

MORIKAWA: “I know I go like this.”

JJ: “Yeah you release the club open yeah”

MORIKAWA: “Like how do I keep that feeling but not go like hands forward and that way right?”

JJ: “Yeah, that’s why I just want to go take a million balls and let you experiment a little bit because that’s like that’s so much better.”

MORIKAWA: “So, when you're out there playing, whether it's three holes for a day or you go play nine or 18, you really get a sense of how the golf ball can react and how it's gonna to react on the golf course. That's huge for getting ready.”

JJ: “good shot beauty”

MORIKAWA: “It's exciting cuz for me to get to learn a new course / you get to experience so many different grasses.”

MORIKAWA: “That's the biggest thing. / what kind of grass are you gonna to be playing on?”

MORIKAWA: West coast you are not reading any grain out here you can see there is a lot of dark there is light and that is all grain whether it is into you or away form you. / I had to get used to and learn and I’m still learning how to read em and figure them out.

JJ: “I don’t think you guys realize how difficult this putt is / (Putts) Oh you played a beauty look at that speed doesn’t even need to practice”

MORIKAWA: “yeah speed all day”

MORIKAWA: “speed is the biggest thing. Can you get the speed down by Thursday because if you have your speed down you’re gonna be putting pretty well for the rest of the week.”

MORIKAWA: “There's no better practice than actually being on the golf course you're going to play at for four days and. Hitting different shots seeing the slopes, because, putting greens sometimes can be different chipping greens won't have the exact same slope and seeing of what you're actually gonna to see on the golf course.”

JJ: “thats for the next tee down”

MORIKAWA: “haha you gotta learn how to read the yardage books”

JJ: “Its important”

MORIKAWA: “That helps”

MORIKAWA: “You look at your yardage book, figure out where you want to hit your shots where you want to team up and just get comfortable with the course.”

JJ: “full smash 200 ball speed”

MORIKAWA: “oh looks left”

MORIKAWA: “It is pretty much like a blue print. It shows us where all the slopes are, / you can kind of see where there are little arrows going away and that’s the things we are going to notice, we are going to notice where we want to land our ball because that is obviously very important, we are not just focused on the pin we are trying to figure out where we want to place the ball.”

MORIKAWA: “Go. Landed very soft.”

JJ: “Yeah it did.”

MORIKAWA: “A little short.”

MORIKAWA INTERVIEW [02:25:39] “I want to know what I'm doing out here and make it, have a purpose. / I'm gonna come out here obviously trying to win for the week and how do I succeed that way for Monday through Wednesday in the prep. Just being efficient with my time.”

SPIETH WINS VALERO

SPIETH: “You’re going to get criticized, it’s not the critic that matters, it’s the man that’s actually there risking everything that’s going to fail, that’s going to learn and make adjustments.”

ANNC: “Question is Jordan Spieth…is he going to get back? Maybe not close to the magical years, but personally I think he’s just got so much will and stubbornness not to play the kind of golf that he knows he’s capable of.”

SPIETH: “Just going through just a minor slump that is just setup related. I’m just trying to get back…I got a little on top of it and I was kind of hitting the ball into the ground with my hands pretty far forward…”

NAT: “Dang it…”

SPIETH: “Ball striking is all there to win golf tournaments, I believe I have hit a trough and I’m back rising towards the peak when it comes to on the greens. It’s a game you can’t perfect and the majority of us out here are perfectionists and that drives us. I got a little off in setup and alignment with short-game shots and putting and really starting to progress nicely, starting to see my lines better. It’s tough when you swing, and you think you hit a good shot and you look up and your ball could be 15 yards right or 15 yards left and it’s all because of alignment. Finding ways to go back in time almost to where I’m swinging my swing instead of trying to do anything special. You can’t, it’s not that easy, you have to be in place to do so. Things are feeling better than they have in a while, but that’s not to say that everything is back to the best ball striking I’ve ever had. For me, it’s about trusting what I’m working on because I’m starting to really to hit some shots that I haven’t been able to hit in a long time and that’s what builds confidence. You know I love the game; I want to play with freedom, I want to win golf tournaments and I want to get myself back and I’ve put in the hours…”

ANNC: “And it is so good…”

**THE FRUITS OF JORDAN SPIETH’S LABOR WERE ON FULL DISPLAY AS HE RACKED UP 3 TOP-5 FINISHES IN HIS FIRST 7 STARTS OF THE CALENDAR YEAR BEFORE RETURNING TO THE VALERO TEXAS OPEN.**

SPIETH: “I didn't feel any extra nerves that I didn't have a couple months ago or even a few years ago…”

SPIETH: “I've been building that confidence on the performance side over the last couple months under pressure. Today, the putts happened to go in…”

ANNC “Never a doubt”

SPIETH: “I had to kind of learn the patience of a final round…keeping your head down and just understanding if you've got enough, then the bounces are going to go your way if you keep putting yourself in position.”

ANNC “And in the state of Texas, Jordan Spieth breaks the winless drought!”

**THANKS TO 24 BIRDIES ON THE WEEK, SPIETH GAINED NEARLY 13 STROKES ON THE FIELD FROM TEE TO GREEN EN ROUTE TO HIS 12TH VICTORY ON THE PGA TOUR AND FIRST SINCE THE 2017 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP.**

SPIETH: “I feel grateful that I'm back in the winner's circle. It's been a road that's had a lot of tough days. I've had people in my corner that have always believed in me even when I've kind of believed less in myself.”

FEDEXCUP STANDINGS

**SPIETH’S VICTORY MOVED HIM TO 7TH IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS, THE FIRST TIME HE’S BEEN RANKED THAT HIGH SINCE THE END OF 2017.**

COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10 STANDINGS

**BRYSON DECHAMBEAU MAINTAINS HIS SPOT ATOP THE COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10 FOR THE 13TH WEEK THIS SEASON.**

SERVPRO

**THE CUT PRESENTS, SAVING SHOTS**

**THE VALERO TEXAS OPEN WAS HOST TO A NUMBER OF MEMORABLE SHOTS LAST WEEK, INCLUDING MATT WALLACE’S RECOVERY SHOT SUNDAY AT THE FIRST.**

ANNC: “Pretty good. Pretty darn good. He said his bunker play this week has been as good as it’s ever been.”

**EVENTUAL WINNER JORDAN SPIETH RANKED 4TH IN SCRAMBLING AS HE BROKE HIS 3 AND HALF YEAR WIN DROUGHT.**

ANNC: “Spieth from the bunker on six.”

ANNC: “That was not easy. // But he makes those shots look easy.”

LEE ELDER MASTERS

**A FOUR-TIME WINNER ON THE PGA TOUR…**

ANNC” “Yes, in the middle!”

**LEE ELDER WILL RETURN TO AUGUSTA NATIONAL GOLF CLUB TO JOIN JACK NICKLAUS AND GARY PLAYER FOR THE CEREMONIAL FIRST TEE SHOT THURSDAY MORNING AT THE MASTERS.**

PLAYER: “For Lee Elder to stand on that first tee is a wonderful recognition but let me tell you what actually transpired. Jaime Diaz//approached me and said look why don’t you phone Augusta and see if they would consider this//the chairman of Augusta//thought it was a very good idea and I thank//Augusta National for doing the right thing//and I’m so pleased for Lee… Just to be on the first tee and create, create some new history for Augusta…”

NICKLAUS: “Lee who was the first black player to play at Augusta//it was really nice of Augusta to turn around and honor him and be a part of what we are doing.”

CHAMP: “I think it sends a huge message. That times are changing//for//black culture, African Americans, just minorities in general//that was//a huge statement from Augusta…having Lee//with Jack and Gary, who are obviously//the two biggest legends of the game.”

TOUR PLAYLIST

**88 PLAYERS WILL TEE IT UP THURSDAY AT AUGUSTA NATIONAL AS THE SEASON OF CHAMPIONSHIPS REACHES ITS MIDPOINT AFTER CROWNING THREE STAND OUT WINNERS SO FAR.**

SEASON OF CHAMPIONSHIPS MINI

ANNC: “He really found that little bit between his teeth/ he rediscovered Justin Thomas again.”

**PLAYERS CHAMPION JUSTIN THOMAS WILL RETURN TO AUGUSTA LOOKING TO MATCH TIGER WOODS AS THE ONLY PLAYER TO WIN BOTH THE PLAYERS AND THE MASTERS IN THE SAME SEASON…**

THOMAS: “That's my favorite tournament of the year. //I'm gonna go play with the chance to win the Masters.”

ANNC: “Oh my goodness Dechambeau side doors it!”

**ALREADY WITH A MAJOR TITLE AT THE US OPEN, FEDEXCUP LEADER BRYSON DECHAMBEAU IS THE ONLY PLAYER WITH MULTIPLE WINS THIS SEASON.**

ANNC: “Bryson Dechambeau indeed has the kings title at bay hill!”

DECHAMBEAU: “I've always played pretty well off of a few weeks in a row. I'll kind of gain some momentum normally and I hope this is just the start.”

ANNC: “That is incredible// the world’s number 1 putting on a short game display!”

**DEFENDING CHAMPION DUSTIN JOHNSON AIMS TO BECOME THE FIRST BACK-TO-BACK WINNER AT THE MASTERS SINCE TIGER WOODS IN 2001.**

JOHNSON: “I feel like if I'm firing on all cylinders, obviously I'm gonna be very tough to beat.”

TYLER STRAFACI FEATURE

TYLER: “There’s nothing better in golf, winning the masters, // I’m just looking forward to spending a very special week with friends and family.

TYLER: “it’s pretty cool I don’t know how many grandfather, grandson duos have ever played in the masters, I think it might be the first one to do it.

TYLER: “And I know he’s looking down very happy, and proud of his grandson and son // I wouldn’t have done it without him.”

TYLER: “I grew up at La Gorce country club in Miami. // I remember going on the weekends, hitting balls at the back of the range and just that’s how I was introduced to the game.”

FRANK: “Golf has been a part of my life ever since I was born. // Every memory I have of going to tournaments with my dad, to getting interested in the game, and then starting to play, and then starting to play competitively. You know it’s been a huge part of my life.”

FRANK: “I was kind of like the black sheep where I had some talent, but I certainly didn’t work as hard as my dad, and I didn’t work as hard as Tyler. I wouldn’t have been deserving if I had won. But for him and for my father, they laid it on the line.”

TYLER: “I never met him but I feel like I’ve met him. Just all the stories that my father would tell me, my mother would tell me growing up. // My dad has shared some stories about him hopping in the arms of like DiMaggio and Acart and stuff like that when he used to run the celebrity tournament. So kind of you hear that kind of stuff and you’re like wow this guy was a pretty influential person in the game.”

TYLER: “So this is my room in here // Pretty much all this stuff in here has a lot of meaning to me in my life.”

TYLER: “Before this year – it was my coolest year in golf – I got to play in 2 TOUR events – the Valspar and Open and I played the AM at Pebble, which was … oh man that was so cool.”

TYLER: “This is Trent’s office, my brother, and it’s also turned into somewhat of a trophy room for us.”

TYLER: “Future Masters, which was my favorite tournament. I didn’t win it, but I came close.”

TYLER: “Those are the three tournaments I won this summer. The three tournaments that changed my life for sure.”

FRANK: “I’ve got letters // when he would travel to Florida, he would send back letters to his family and in one of the letters, he talks about meeting this young player by the name of Sam Snead and he thought he was gonna be really good someday.

FRANK: “I think my father and Tyler would have had a real deep connection because in a lot of ways they’re very similar. They would’ve related very well.”

FRANK: “Some of his best friends are the locker room attendants, and the employees of a club. That’s just very similar to what my dad was like. He related to people, they relate to him.”

TYLER: “I’m very fortunate to be in a situation where my parents have provided me resources where I can get better. // If they didn’t work hard and give me and my brother these opportunities none of this would’ve happened. // it put a lot into perspective on kind of how I’m going to be a father growing up, a husband, how I’m going to treat my family.”

BERNHARD LANGER AT HOME

LANGER: “welcome, I just want to show you some of my Masters memorabilia and what I've kind of collected over the years.”

LANGER: “I'm one of those players that has actually two different trophies. So if you look at this one, that's the 85 trophy. It's a wooden plaque basically with the club house mounted on top and then I was the first one to win the trophy in 3 that's the way it's ever been since, beautiful piece of real silver.”

LANGER: “Here we got a couple of yardage books. I saved those two since I won in 1985 and 1993. // I put a couple of notes in there you know, whether it's on certain greens, it's better to be left or right or short or long or in the middle // basic simple stuff that helps under pressure”

LANGER: “We all know about the par three contest. This was one of my sons, Jason caddying for me. And Fred Couples handed me my jacket one of the years. Down here you can see jack Nicklaus, I'm asking Jack to give me some autographs. It's about the only time of the year when I ask for autographs.”

LANGER: “we have the invitation from the last year's winner, defending champion in this case Dustin Johnson for the past champions dinner on Tuesday night, which is one of my favorite dinners all year. Just cool to be a part of that. I'm looking forward to it.”

LANGER: “this is my first grandchild Jackson is one year old and as you can tell he's already got the right outfit on is ready for Masters week right? can you say bye bye? wave bye bye? Maybe later.”

MASTERS MEALS

SMITH: “Masters meal”

HIGGS: “We've all been asked this”

CASEY: “I have thought about this.”

PEREZ: “No sides, just chicken tacos and some expensive wine.”

CASEY: “It will have to be traditional British foods. So my favorite kind of English dishes.//I love a roast with Yorkshire puddings.”

CAMERON: “Maybe a big steak or an an aussie pie,// I love meat pie// Probably some fries, maybe, and some vegetables// probably Pavlova”

HORSCHEL: “I would say probably a bone in New York Strip.”

WOODLAND: “I’m a Kansas boy, meat and potatoes, so I'm gonna throw steak and potato out there all day.”

HIGGS: “Kansas City barbecue. And just meats and sauces, and cheese, and burn, and mac and cheese from Kansas City// maybe offer a vegetable or two.”

RORY: “It would have to be dessert.”

VARNER: “white chocolate chip cookies.”

WOLFF: “Bread pudding.”

VARNER: “No chocolate chip cookies.”

RORY: “I actually had a really good piece of carrot cake the other night //That would be a nice way to finish the dinner.”