

2021 PGA TOUR: THE CUT #22

COLD OPEN

J. NICKLAUS: Hey guys. (Morning.) How ya doing?

NATS: Welcome. How are you? Good to see you.

J. NICKLAUS: I'm good. As always.

J. NICKLAUS: The first real renovation. We've never done a redo of the property, redo of the golf course.

J. NICKLAUS: You've got nice placement here. Nice here, nice there, nice here and nice here and there. Back. You got the whole thing. That's beautiful. It's good!

J. NICKLAUS: As my mind envisioned it and as I drew it, and as they did it, it's uh, it is what we wanted. I mean here we are May 1st, we're 30 days away from the Memorial Tournament, and this golf course could be played right now. I mean it's pretty good.

WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT...

MUIRFIELD VILLAGE REDESIGN

LAROCCA: Well, it was back to September 29th, 2019, the director golf, the superintendent, they were asked to see Jack on the putting green, and he said, "I want to do this one more time." After they pick me up off the ground, I said, "what!?" He said, "we're gonna do the golf course one more time."

B. NICKLAUS: Well, I think that's been his attitude from day one. It's been tinkered with for what, 40 years, but he just said, you know, he wanted one last kind of really dig at it. And I don't know anybody watching television at the Memorial Tournament last year they showed the sixth green which was already being dug up before the tournament was over.

GRFX: AS THE FINAL PUTT DROPPED AT THE 2020 MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT PRESENTED BY NATIONWIDE AND JON RAHM WAS GIVING TOURNAMENT HOST JACK NICKLAUS KNUCKLES,

RAHM: That's okay, whatever you want!

J. NICKLAUS: Whatever you want, it's your's.

RAHM: Thank you. Appreciate it.

GRFX: THE RE-DESIGN OF MUIRFIELD VILLAGE GOLF CLUB BEGAN IN EARNEST.

J. NICKLAUS: I sort of look at it like I might just have one last bite at the apple. So, I went into Muirfield probably mid-summer two years ago. I started thinking about, how can I get rid of this

blasted Poa Annua? If I'm going to get it out of the greens, then I need to get out of the fairways to track it in. So, we need to redo the fairways. We may as well redo the bunkers. The irrigation system's about due, and he says, "if you have any design changes let's do them at the same time." I said, "okay!"

J. NICKLAUS: What I would think is you'd get basically the same pitch all the way around right? (Yes.) Now that's as far as you'd go to get that right? (Right.)

GRFX: ALL TEES, FAIRWAYS AND GREENS WERE RECONSTRUCTED WITH BENT GRASS, IRRIGATION AND PRECISION AIR SYSTEMS.

GRFX: ALL BUNKERS WERE MODIFIED AND MOST OF THE GREENS RECONTOURED TO ALLOW FOR MORE PIN PLACEMENTS.

GRFX: NEARLY 100 YARDS IN LENGTH WAS ALSO ADDED.

COCHRAN: Typically, you know, Jack will give us a lot more freedom, room to interpret his sketches. Muirfield Village, he was just so definitive with what he wanted to do, his sketches were right on. He explained what he wanted to do, and why he wanted to do it, very, very clearly.

LAROCCA: If you thought that Jack could take his masterpiece, Muirfield Village Golf and make it better, he did.

J. NICKLAUS: So I'll take you right through the golf course. The 1st tee I moved a little bit left to get a little bit better angle. Not much. We moved it 3 or 4 yards. Took all the fairway bunkers, eliminated a couple, put them further down the hole. So you really should play the hole the way it was designed. I never liked the first green. And we had a nice little hill right behind it. Why I didn't put it there to start with, I don't know.

The third hole, the green, I only had pin placements in the front and the back, so what I did was I took the bunker out of the right side of the green. So now the whole green's on water. But I softened the middle of the green. So, I got a front pin position, I got a middle, all the middle and then it floats down into the back.

Now the 5th tee, I actually lowered, and moved it left, got rid of the hump that sort of was ugly back there, took the whole hill on the right side out. Knocked it down so you could see, took the trees out on the right. Took the green, moved it back about 30 yards. I think it'll be a nice hole.

9th hole, I took the back left of the green and eliminated it and lengthened the green on the right side down to the water and cut the back bunker in half. So, I got a little bunker behind the green with the green going down to the water, so I got maybe like three really good pin positions on the water and then maybe one or two in the middle, middle left of the green.

Fourteenth hole I did not change at all. It's one of the great little short holes of the game of golf. It's really fun to play.

Fifteen, we had a little creek bed from around the tees up to the left side, we fill rolled that in and then I took the fairway and dropped it about 18, 20 feet. I put four bunkers on the right to take me, to transition from the right trees down the hill. The green I dropped a little bit, moved a little bit to the right. I put two bunkers on the right. There will still be a lot of eagles but there will be some 6s and 7s.

And then the 18th hole I didn't do anything except you know we only had one pin position in the back left of the green. I softened the right back of the green and lengthened it out with less pitch back a little bit, so that the ball didn't come up and just run back. Outside of that I didn't do anything to the course.

GRFX: IN JUST OVER 10 MONTHS, NICKLAUS AND HIS TEAM RE-DESIGNED ONE OF THE GREATEST GOLF COURSES ON THE PLANET.

COCHRAN: I think we did exactly what Jack wanted, so we'll see after the tournament and the ShotLink data and what the players say. And I'm sure we'll be tinkering with something.

PRODUCER: He says, this is his last bite of the apple, but I don't think you believe that.

COCHRAN: No, no, not at all. He loves it too much. It's his baby.

BUMP

PALMER: This is a unique part of Fort Worth, Texas. The history of Fort Worth, the longhorn running through the town here. You can look up and down these streets and see a lot of history of downtown Fort Worth. Jen and I come down for concerts at Billy Bob's. Done some good country dancing. We enjoy a good two-step every now and then.

WITT: I've never pegged Ryan Palmer as a two-stepper.

THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

PILOT: Have you ever flown in a helicopter before?

KELLY: Nope, this is my first.

RAHM: I've never been to Maui before, I've been to Hawaii before and always wanted to do something like this.

It's pretty cool to get to do something different.

KELLY: This is incredible.

RAHM: Amazing.

To see how you know the type of vegetation, the size of some of the trees, how thick everything is. I mean it was amazing.

PILOT: Welcome to the rain forest.

RAHM: I grew up in the forest in Spain I mean it's all mountains and forest but I mean but it's nothing like that.

That's amazing wow!

KELLY: It smells so good.

RAHM: It's pretty cool because I feel like it's something you only see in movies like in Jurassic Park or any other movie. To be there with Kelly and experience a little of things of the local culture and some of the local flowers and plants, it was pretty special.

RYAN PALMER AT FORT WORTH STOCKYARDS

WITT: Do you know the calls like that, that they're doing?

PALMER: That is huge. Oh my gosh look at that thing.

WITT: Ryan we are in your home state of Texas at the Fort Worth Stock Yards, give me the rundown of what life is like as a Texan.

PALMER: I live like 25 minutes away. Actually, on seven acres where I have four longhorns, two calves, and two horses cause my daughter rides barrels.

WITT: Are the cattle kinda like family pets in a sence?

PALMER: Now they are. Once you name them, you're not eating them.

This is a unique part of Fort Worth, Texas. The history of Fort Worth, the longhorn running through the town here. You can look up and down these streets and see a lot of history of downtown Fort Worth.

WITT: Do you spend time here or have you in the past with your family?

PALMER: Jen and I come down for concerts at Billy Bob's. Done some good country dancing. We enjoy a good two-step every now and then.

WITT: I never pegged Ryan Palmer as a two-stepper!

PALMER: I can get around a dance floor pretty good I think.

WITT: We are here this week for the Charles Schwab Challenge and we are celebrating 75 years, which is crazy to think about. So how proud are you to be a Texan and then have such a historic PGA TOUR event come visit your town?

PALMER: Overly proud. Which is amazing, 75 years I think is the longest running golf tournament on the same golf course on the PGA TOUR at colonial country club. More proud is I am a member at Colonial. Have been for over 10-11 years and you know it's my home. For having that kind of event here and you know my home state, it's special to me. It's the one tournament on my calendar I circle every year. 75 years in awesome.

Let's go maze it out!

WITT: Hey Joel, this is Ryan.

JOEL: Hi Ryan.

PALMER: Ryan... Palmer.

JOEL: Joel.

PALMER: Hey Joel, pleasure.

WITT: We are going to try to figure out this maze you got going on. (Ok, yeah) What's the key to it?

JOEL: People will work together, there'll be teams.

ABBY: We gotta be a team, Ryan.

RYAN: Ok. We're going in the maze. Here we go.

WITT: We found the...

PALMER: You're killing our time.

WITT: Let's go!

I feel like this not actually a shortcut.

PALMER: Let's go this way.

WITT: Where'd you go?

That was so bad.

WITT: So here's the update... (We gave up)... we found the M, we found the E, we didn't find the A or the Z

PALMER: We found the A, we just couldn't get to it.

WITT: We did it, we attempted the maze, we watched the cattle drive, what were your thoughts on the Fort Worth stock exchange?

PALMER": It's great, definitely something kids will enjoy. Always great to give the folks a little taste of what Texas is like here in Fort Worth and now enjoy a great Charles Schwab Challenge.

WITT: Alright, let's go enjoy this challenge.

BRIGHT FUTURES

THE CUT PRESENTS, BRIGHT FUTURES.

RODGERS: We're here soing a photoshoot for Oakley. (I'm just the foreground... you're the star of the show.) It's cool having a few of the Oakley athletes, Dylan and John here all together today.

AUGUSTINE: We're taking a look at some of the new kinda clothing that is going to be coming out. It's really exciting to see the new stuff and get excited about it.

FRITTELLI: It was a cool interactive way of doing it. It's nice to get behind the lens on this side and try to think what are they trying to see?... Are they trying to get a picture of?... I think they got the shot.

MICHAEL VISACKI WALK & TALK

VISACKI: It's unbelievable, no words can say what I'm feeling right now, it's a huge honor.

WITT: Mike, after you Monday qualified for the Valspar Championship the first thing you said was, there were no words to describe what you were feeling what words would you describe how you're feeling teeing it up now in your second PGA TOUR event?

VISACKI: Different emotion now that I know I'm in here. Now I can be a little bit more focused, you know now that I have my feet already in the door.

WITT: What lessons do you take from that from that first experience at the Valspar Championship into today?

VISACKI: Just the way I approach things. I was a little more nervous granted that was my first-

WITT: It's your first event you can be nervous.

VISACKI: But now I'm a little more relaxed, now knowing what it takes and what I have to do.

WITT: You've been a professional for a while now. You've been grinding on mini tours, do you feel like you've worked hard enough now to actually perform and compete on the PGA TOUR?

VISACKI: I've been a professional for now I think this is gonna be my 7th year and I've just been grinding.

WITT: How did you first get into the game of a golf?

VISACKI: So I was a bowler back in my younger days?

WITT: A bowler? You don't hear that very often.

VISACKI: Yea I was probably 6 or 7 I could average about 220. My dad goes up to me and goes why don't you pick up golf. I'm like, "I don't like golf." He goes "ok I'll give you 20 bucks to go play arcade games and then afterwards you got to come and at least hit about 20 golf balls."

WITT: So he bribed you into it.

VISACKI: Yea he bribed me into it a little bit.

WITT: Put me in coach.

VISACKI: Hey, Dad.

FATHER: Hey!

VISACKI: How are you?

FATHER: I'm all right.

VISACKI: I made it!]

FATHER: Oh my god. I'm crying

VISACKI: Thank you.

WITT: After you Monday qualified your parents were the first ones that you called, and you had all of the emotion pour out... were you playing in honor of them?

VISACK: Well I mean, that's probably what the normal person would say but I know they wouldn't want me playing for them. They'd want me playing for myself because they know they've seen all the good and all the bad.

WITT: Alright Mike, thanks for hanging out with us. Keep grinding out there.

VISACKI: Thank you, appreciate it.

WITT: Now look at that camera and say thanks for watching PGA TOUR The CUT.

VISACKI: Thank you for watching the PGA TOUR CUT.

WITT: Try it one more time and say thanks for watching PGA TOUR The CUT.

VISACKI: Thank you for watching PGA TOUR, CUT.

Thank you for watching PGA TOUR The CUT.

CHARLES SCHWAB CHALLENGE WINNER

ANNC: Kokrak at Colonial is the champion, 2021.

KOKRAK: To win here, I've always got good vibes coming here. I'm glad to be sitting here with this jacket on and all that comes with it and to get my name up on that wall.

I take one facet of the game and I try to elevate to the next level. I've been a good long iron player.

ANNC: Leads this week in tee-to-green, perfect distance.

KOKRAK: The putter has been amazing. I owe a lot of that to Bettinardi and D-Rob reading the greens.

ANNC: That's why he's in the top 10 on TOUR for putting.

KOKRAK: It feels really good to solidify that I'm not just a one-time winner on the PGA TOUR. Definitely is nice to get the second win, especially at an historic place like Colonial Country Club.

I'm a big guy, with a big truck with a big jacket, and a big paycheck. So I guess everything's bigger in Texas.

FEDEXCUP STANDINGS

PRIOR TO THIS SEASON, JASON KOKRAK HAD BEEN INSIDE THE FEDEXCUP TOP 10 JUST ONCE IN HIS CAREER... THE WIN IN FORT WORTH MOVES HIM BACK INTO THE TOP 10 FOR THE 10TH WEEK THIS SEASON.

COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10

MEANWHILE IN THE COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10, BRYSON DECHAMBEAU REMAINS ATOP THE LIST FOR THE 30TH WEEK THIS SEASON, WHILE A RUNNER-UP FINISH OVER THE WEEKEND MOVES JORDAN SPIETH INTO 2ND.

THE GREAT ESCAPE

KELLEY: Oh, that's got to go. Go a little. Go! You gotta be kidding.

Alright my first shot came up a little bit short. One of the luckiest breaks I've ever gotten. I don't know how that ball doesn't go in the water.

Let's see if we can hit this shot without putting a scratch on the wedge.

Get Lucky. Get Lucky. Get Lucky. Yes!!

Let's go. Sometimes you get lucky they go in.

Yes! Just as easy as that!

FAVORITES & SLEEPERS

ANNC: Muirfield Village, the course that Jack built. This is the one that the players had circled on their calendar.

A lot of people consider him the best iron player.

He's been a model of consistency.

I like the fact that his pace never changes whatever shot he's hitting.

Hottest man on the golf course.

I would say that's pretty darn nice.

He certainly practices for perfection and precision.

TOUR PLAYLIST

RIDING A WAVE OF 5 TOP-10 FINISHES IN HIS LAST 7 STARTS, JON RAHM BEGINS HIS DEFENSE OF THE MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT PRESENTED BY NATIONWIDE ON THURSDAY.

AMERICAN DUNES

ROONEY: The Folds of Honor Memorial, only way in and out of this property and that this is a heroic round because you're playing for something and someone else.

B. NICKLAUS: They have plaques of the fallen warriors and how it happened and what went on. And they actually have a quote etched into the stone as you go in it's Jack's quote saying, I love the game of golf, but I love my country more.

ROONEY: I was flying from Chicago O'Hare to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the captain announces that we're carrying the remains of Corporal Brock Bucklin who had been killed in Iraq, and that night, I watched the Bucklin family on the darkest night of their lives, and I felt a calling to do something, and that something was a was a golf tournament here at the Grand Haven golf club in July of 2006. I'll tell ya, that day changed me forever. A few months later, my wife and I started Folds of Honor above our garage, in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

J. NICKLAUS: Dan was nervous as can be when he came down. He said I want to talk me into a project.

B. NICKLAUS: I think Dan might have gotten 10 words, no, maybe 20 words out and Jack said, Dan, I'm in, I'm in, I want to do this.

ROONEY: To have your boyhood hero say yes, to a dream that God put on my heart American Dunes and he was like, Dan, I want to build a golf course that's as good, and as reverent as the cause.

J. NICKLAUS: And then we went and saw the property. And of course it was just this narrow golf course with these huge trees all over it and he called it American Dunes, and I said, "Dan, now where are the dunes here?" and he says "they're underneath here" and I said, "let's get rid of those trees, let's take it down, let's put great dunes in there." We put a golf course on sand, use the native sand for the bunkers. It's gonna play a little differently, it's gonna play really fast, but it's gonna really play fun.

ROONEY: We come to golf, to have a good time and people are going to have a great time here. But there aren't many golf courses you play that you're going to shed a tear. And this is a place that is going to tug on your emotional heartstrings.

BUCKLIN: You look out on all these tee boxes, they all have a name and you're playing for someone's name, and what best to do besides honor that name you get to play for? They sacrificed it all just for you so you can never be too thankful.

J. NICKLAUS: This is a tribute to them, an honor to them and a fundraiser to them on a daily basis.

ROONEY: When you get to take care of someone else's family, that's what we do at Folds of Honor. There is there is no greater blessing, and no greater feeling of fulfillment that I've ever experienced in my life. And that's the beauty of what Folds offers everyone who gets involved. To take care of someone else's family, who was given their life and their limb for our freedom.