**2021 PGA TOUR: THE CUT #25 (Travelers)**

COLD OPEN

THE CUT TITLES

**WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT.**

JON RAHM U.S. OPEN

Jon Rahm: It was love at first sight. This coastline, it’s so similar to where I grew up and the look you get looking over the cliffs and the ocean. So I get a great feel to being back home. I grew up in poana grass so it’s just somewhat nostalgic which is why I love it so much.

Rahm: Seems like stars are aligning. Something good is coming up, ha, as if I hadn’t had enough stuff happen

ANNC: It’s gonna be good. How about making it!

ANNC: Oh, there we go. This guy, to me, is relentless.

Rahm: I’m leading the tournament through 36. So yeah, I’m in a good position. I’ve been doing a lot of backdoor top tens and, you know, I’m happy I’m in contention for once.

ANNC: Jon Rahm had to withdraw after being informed that he had tested positive for COVID.

Patrick Cantlay: It’s kinda the worst situation for something like that to happen and he played awesome. It’s unfortunate.

ANNC: Here it comes. Big swing to the right. Here it comes! Got it! Jon Rahm to 5-under par.

ANNC: And Spain has a its first U.S. Open champion. Jon Rahm!

Rahm: San Diego before I met Kelly and it was her favorite city. It’s a special place to us. I never thought it would become, you know, what it has becoming right now.

FEDEXCUP STANDINGS

**RAHM’S FIRST MAJOR TITLE AT TORREY MOVED HIM TO 2ND IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS, HIS SIXTH TIME RANKED THAT HIGH.**

COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10

**MEANWHILE, PATRICK CANTLAY REMAINED ON TOP OF THE COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10, AS THE END OF THE REGULAR SEASON IS FAST APPROACHING.**

BUBBA THE BUSINESSMAN

BUBBA - When I think about Bubba Watson, when I think about my own family, Watson family, the City of Pensacola, Escambia County, Santa Rosa County, that's Milton and Baghdad. They've given me so much, they've helped me so much. It was just a dream, how do you get people down here? It wasn't about money. It was about how do you revitalize the city that has given me so much.

BUBBA – We’re here at Wahoo Stadium. When you get up here to the top, you see the reason why we were voted the best view in baseball. You stare out over the field, you see the bay, you see the ships, you see the boats, you see the beauty of Pensacola

BUBBA - I want to be part of this because of the family atmosphere, I wanted somewhere to come the beauty of this place, the beauty of watching live sports. We have football here, we have peewee football here, we have movie nights, we have concerts, we have a lot of things here, not just a The baseball team, but there's so much community aspect here.

BUBBA - Quint Studer the man, the myth, the Legend who brought the baseball team here 2012. But when did you first start having the vision to bring the Wahoos to Pensacola?

QUINT STUDER - Well, we had the independent team. And that's how I got into it, just by accident. My heart before the brain. That passion of I just love baseball as a melting pot. That that led to let's do something downtown. Then you get, two hits, you get the neighborhood, the melting pot plus you revitalize our entire community

BUBBA - So leaving the stadium, how do you get people downtown? How do you get the revitalization of downtown? One of my dreams is, because I believe I'm a kid, is a candy shop. And so once I was part of the baseball team and that fun aspect, I wanted to be part of something else with downtown. So it's a walking distance from the baseball games. It’s one of those things that I did because I was just passionate for it. And when you think about how do you get people downtown, how do you get people walking? Give them a reason to come downtown. Give them a reason to come and get ice cream. What kid doesn't want to come get ice cream or treats? It's been fun.

BUBBA - This is all new over the last couple of years. If you could see the beautiful street here. They see the change and they wanna be part of that. They wanna be part of a growing community.  And as you'll see in a second, a community that's gonna be thriving needs, a hospital, needs hospital for kids.

BUBBA - Hey guys, we're here now at the Children's Hospital Studer family children's hospital with Will. Will's the one that runs the whole thing. He's the one that we started talking to and having the ideas with how do we partner with Pensacola, How do we help the community to grow in the right direction and here we are.

WILL - Bubba, it's been crazy two years since we moved the kids over to the new hospital. /The facility we're sitting in today, usually, you would find this in an Atlanta, a Birmingham, Alabama, a New Orleans, Louisiana. But because of the dedication of our community and our donors, we have the services and the level of expertise for our children right here in Pensacola, Florida. When Bubba brought Caleb here that morning to show why Angie and Bubba give to the Children's Hospital, I think it speaks to what Bubba and Angie believe in, in raising their children. I know this place is special to you. You were born here, so it was really cool to see Caleb here with you that morning when we moved the kids over to the new hospital

BUBBA – It's family atmosphere, family community,

BUBBA - These are people that have given the junior golf tournaments, given to baseball Sandy Sampson who now have a car dealership with, he has given so much over the years to use sports, helping out.

BUBBA - Everybody just comes together, you got the head of the parts department, and everybody just comes together making sure everybody's doing what they're supposed to be doing cuz you're talking about gosh roughly 60 jobs here. We're trying to make sure that we would keep the jobs going. I drove right past this dealership and it would seem like it was changing names all over the place. So when I had the chance to be part of this team here, it was a no brainer for me because I remember the history of this place.

BUBBA - It's been awesome to be part of the charity dollars, been awesome to be part of the community. From all the people that have helped grow Pensacola, I'm a small piece in that just because they did so much for me, It's been a blast.

BUMP

Bubba: We would hit through bushes, we would put the ball in the worst lies so Tanglewood is what created Bubba golf as we know it now.

CHASE KOEPKA CONVERSATION

ABBY: One common last name that all golf fans have heard is Koepka, and in recent years we've heard more from Chase Koepka. Chase, as you found your footing on tours and now the PGA tour, what are some things you've learned

CHASE KOEPKA: A lot of patience and learn how to be confident with what you're doing. Cuz you're all alone out here and I learned that traveling from Europe, Asia, Africa and back here in the States. Golf is sometimes a lonely game, but you have to be confident in yourself and what you're doing.

ABBY:  what are some aspects of your game that make you a unique golfer?

CHASE KOEPKA:  I really try and work hard and hone my wedge game in to be as good as possible. I've always been very confident in that and I've always relied on that cuz I was never the longest hitter.  I would say the other stat I'm really good is is putting. I mean, I've always been a very confident putter, so many competitions between my dad and my brother and I.

ABBY:  What are some training routines that you have as it relates to your wedge game?

CHASE KOEPKA: When I'm on the range, I like to focus on different flights. So, I'll start off kinda going through like low, medium and high. And then I'll try and pick specific yardages. And not always the same ones to try and mix it in with specially yardages that maybe a little uncomfortable with. And if those yardages I can take from being a weakness into a strength. That's always huge

ABBY:  When you hit you don't look at the ball, do you? You look in front of the ball.

CHASE KOEPKA: So this is a really funny thing that everyone seems to notice when they first see me swing- Or they see a video of me. I do look at the ball at some point, but when I'm swinging, I don't look at the ball. It's one of the things I never really knew I did it, until somebody kinda pointed it out. And I was, man, that actually does kinda look really weird, but luckily my coaches have never really changed it. We all have nuances kinda in our golf swing. And that's just one of them, but mine just kinda looks a little funny. [LAUGH]

ABBY:  You've played a handful of PGA Tour events by now? And you've performedvery well. What are some of the courses that you feel like you've dominated against?

CHASE KOEPKA: It's the courses that are kind of where you get to plot your way around. And I like that. I like thinking out there.  Luckily enough the Honda classic is very much like that

ANNC – Chase is performing very well so far. Gaining a lot of great experience this week.

CHASE KOEPKA:  Course is very hard, very challenging and you can't overpower that golf course you have to pretty much just let that course come to you and just play to certain spots and hit it to the middle of the green a bunch of times and go from there. So I was really happy to kind of, see some success out there at that place.

ABBY: And is it pretty helpful to have a good big brother to look for advice?

CHASE KOEPKA: He's the best to pick his brain, cuz he's totally different from me and we think very differently. So it's very nice to hear from a different perspective, from what he thinks and the cool part about it is on a week like this, where he's not playing, he's watching every single shot that I hit. And I know I'll be hearing about my good shots and I will be hearing about some bad shots that I hit. [LAUGH]

ANNC BROOKS – “They got a really close connection, and it’s always nice to share these experiences with family.”

CHASE KOEPKA: it's not just golf that I learned from him, it's kind of more how to go about being a professional golfer outside of the golf course

ABBY:  Another event that you're looking forward to this year is Travelers, unfortunately, 2020 got cut short for you at Travelers. But are you excited to get back to Cromwell?

CHASE KOEPKA: So excited that I had a lot of emotions going that week. The highs of making it through the Monday qualifier. And getting out on Tuesday, I got to play with my brother and a few other major champions that week as well, and I really love the course. I was in close contact with someone that tested positive, my brother's Caddy Ricky Elliot.  it's been something I've been looking forward to probably since I got the call on Thursday that I was gonna be back in the tournament the following year.

ABBY: And as you look forward to the rest of 2021 and then your career after that, because you're gonna have a long career. What are your expectations for yourself?

CHASE KOEPKA: Just to keep getting better every year. I really feel like I've made the stride to continue to work hard and get better, and it's shown in the few tournaments that I've been able to play in

CHASE KOEPKA: This game isn't easy. You're not really playing the 156 guys that are in the field. it's you versus the course, that's what helped me get better from the start of turning professional till now is realizing that I'm not trying to go beat the other players, I'm trying to beat the course and whatever happens happens.

SKRATCH TRAVELERS FEATURE

Josh Kelley: Have you ever broken a bone or had a serious injury?

Bubba Watson: On purpose? No. Remember, man, I play golf for a living. I walk. Like I won’t do anything that’ll hurt me. Video games games and walking

Josh: This is a straight putt

Bubba: Oh, it’s straight

Josh: Five foot, straight putt

Josh: Have you ever wanted to break a club before?

Keegan Bradley: Yeah. I wanna break clubs all the time.

Josh: Have you ever broken a club in tournament play?

Abraham Ancer: I have, but not out of anger

Josh: Just out of pure excitement?

Ancer: No. I was right next to a tree and had to swing at it

Josh: You ever broken a club?

Maverick McNealy: I love my clubs too much. I’ve thrown balls in the water and stuff like that.

Josh: Do you think you should be able to break one club a round?

Keegan: Yeah, sure. But then you have 13 clubs. You gotta break the right one

Ancer: If it doesn’t look bad and you can just do that and be normal, absolutely.

Josh: Josh walk off the tee box. Just a little (breaking noise)

Ancer: No, it has to be with anger. You to get it out. If it’s just easy like that then I would grab a twig or whatever.

Josh: You ever snapped a club before?

Carlos Ortiz: No, I actually haven’t.

Josh: Would you like to?

Ortiz: I, I’ve been wanting to do it a long time but just haven’t found the right time, you know? It’s coming. I know it’ll happen. Just haven’t found it yet.

Josh: Maybe you can snap your first club at the Travelers Championship

Ortiz: No, no, no

Annc: Good work out there today. That’s his fourth birdie so far

Josh: Have you ever woken up, like all of us who travel too much, and had no idea where you were?

Ancer: Yes. Multiple times

Keegan: Last night I was at dinner and I couldn’t think of where we were.

Maverick: I actually had to look at my phone once to see where I was

Josh: Have you ever hustled someone at golf?

Bubba: Always

Josh: Always

Bubba: I don’t play for more than twenty bucks, so it doesn’t effect anybody. But… yes.

Keegan: I was like ten, um, I used to do it all the time. I would play like a two-dollar and I’d win six dollars and feel like a had a million dollars in my pocket, but I would do it all the time, yeah.

Maverick: I like to stack the odds for the other guy and then try to beat him and add a little insult to injury.

Josh: Alright, so I’m a nine index. How many shots am I getting against you?

Maverick: Stroke play I’ll give you eighteen. One a hole.

Josh: If I ask for twenty are you going to give me twenty?

Maverick: If you’re begging, yeah. I’ll make you beg for twenty.

TRAVELERS BUMP IN

FAVORITES & SLEEPERS

ANNC: TPC River Highlands has played host to the Travelers Championship. always a fun stop on the PGA TOUR.

ANNC: That is a masterful shot!

ANNC: How about Patrick Reed doing his thing.

ANNC: He has been playing great of late, Abe Anncer. / He just keep going to new levels.

ANNC: Cam Smith. His short game is normally elite. Absolutely

ANNC: Brendon Todd. That part of his game never let him down

ANNC. He really does everything well.

TOUR PLAYLIST

**THIS YEAR MARKS THE 70TH PLAYING OF THE TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP, WITH DUSTIN JOHNSON DEFENDING THE VICTORY THAT HELPED CATAPULT HIM TO THE FEDEXCUP TITLE.**

THE GREAT ESCAPE

Josh Kelley: That drive was so far right that it actually went over the water. We got about 160 yards underneath the tree with these branches. The only way to hit this recovery shot is from my knees with the driver. Open the club face up and hopefully get it up there somewhere near the green

Kelley: Oh, it seems to be really good. Be really good. Go in. Go in. Oh! I think that almost went in. Just your standard driver/driver green in regulation

Kelley: Cut. Cut. Oh it could be really good.

Kelley: A little bit further than I thought, but I had to have gone right by the hole there. The driver redeems itself.

BUBBA WATSON WINS

ANNC : Bubba Watson in a playoff your champion here at the Travelers, his first victory on Tour.

Bubba Watson: It’s emotional, my dad taught me everything I know.

ANNC: Oh my goodness!

ANNC: Bubba Takes the title in Hartford again!

Bubba: He took me to the golf course when I was 6 years old,

ANNC: Oh a dive in there!

PRESSER AFTER WIN CLIP 02;43;04 (continued) : he just told me to take this 9 iron and beat it down the fairway and now look at me. After beating a 9 iron down the fairway coming from Bagdad Florida, could’ve never dreamed this.

ANNC: A 3RD time to take the title, it was the site of his 1st ever win and now the site of his 12th

BUBBA PENSACOLA GOLF

BUBBA - Tanglewood’s a special place and a lot of people's hearts a lot of pros have played there over the years. When I think about my youth as a kid, my idols were easy Boo Weekley, and Heath Slocum. And now when you go back and look at Heath Slocum, Boo Weekley and Bubba Watson how we play golf, all three different.  I remember coming out of middle school. I'd get dropped off at the golf course Tanglewood they'd be having high school practice. Jean Howard was the golf coach in high school at the time, so he would take me as a partner, and we would play the other guys. And so it was one of those things where I couldn't draw it up which helped shape me who I am as a golfer, as the player.

BUBBA - When you think about the game of golf in Pensacola, but also Tanglewood. It's a special place to all of our hearts because it's defined who we are golfers but as people as well

BUBBA – We would hit through bushes we'd put the ball in the worst lies, trying to get out of bushes and that's where I learned to use lob wedge everywhere. So, I only use a lob wedge around the green for the most, unless there's a crazy lie. But that's why I learned to to use my lob wedge, shaped shots off the tee always hitting driver because I want to just challenge myself with the driver. So, Tanglewood is what created Bubba golf as we know it now.

BUBBA - This driving range was different for me, I used to come over here and meet Randall over here when he was working here. I never really hit balls over here because I mean my house, Baghdad is roughly we'll say it's a 30 minute drive from here. But I knew of the place. And so again, it just came to head where the owner was ready to get out. We knew the value of this place. We had the vision to start my own junior program or clinics here. Not to take away from any other golf program, but just something that we could do.

BUBBA - So it's been taken a few years, we're starting to fix it up new doors, new windows. We’ve cleaned the range balls if they dump into here We're working on that and working on the garage back there. We're just trying to make it more friendly, more open, more inviting, and as we go forward, obviously, after this pandemic, hopefully people will be able to flow through here.

BUBBA - At some point we put a cover over it so that people can hit underneath under some shade, or have some heaters when it's wintertime. I want the town to have enjoyment, I want the town to feel like they're part of this. That's why I wanted the name Pensacola in there. Pensacola golf center, this has been here longer than me. Doesn't matter, you can hit balls in flip flops if you want to. Whatever you wanna do, just come out here, enjoy the game and see the beautiful game that I'm passionate about. And maybe they'll fall in love with it as well.