

2021 PGA TOUR: THE CUT #28 (Open Championship)

COLD OPEN

POULTER: Good boy.

WITT: We didn't know Ian Poulter had a soft side.

POULTER: Listen, I'm a, I'm a big softie when it comes to dogs and family pets.

POULTER: This guy is Ryder. The kids named him. In lockdown it was, pretty boring, so Katie and the kids decided what dog addition they'd like to add to Bentley and Enzo.

You can give him a piece. Close your hand, let him sniff it then pull back.

WITT: Good boy.

POULTER: Well done!

You can pick this one up.

WITT: Like a baby? Oh my gosh...

POULTER: You're a bit more like, Dad don't pick me up Dad, I'm getting too old for this.

Good boy.

WITT: Maybe he'll bring some good luck for the next Ryder Cup.

WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT.

IAN POULTER – BAD LIES

POULTER: The game of golf offers up, loads of different scenarios when we play. You've all been in this situation before. Here is a great one here – in a divot in the fairway. Challenging, yes. Frustrating, yes. But there's a certain way you can play this shot to make it a little easier. So we have to hit this ball pretty steep into the back of the ball with that ball position being moved back, so therefore what I'm trying to do from that position is that ball position slid back, we're actually going to take quite a steep angle of attack keeping some weight on this lead leg. Hopefully you've still got your intended distance towards the flag.

You know, it felt great. I've actually hit ball first. The ball was actually kind of resting in this position. You could see that I struck it right where the ball was lying. Yes, you end up gouging

and taking a much bigger divot but that's also fine as long as you hit that ball first, you're going to find yourself in a position where you're gonna get closer to the pin with these types of lies.

Okay boys and girls, you've all been in this position before. You're in the trees, you're on pine straw, or you're on bare ground. You're off the fairway, you now need to put yourself in a position to try and work a way to get you through the trees to get this ball doing what you want it to do.

We've got to hit this ball low enough where it doesn't rise and clip these branches – because you're going to be in all sorts of a mess. Low enough, with enough cut to get the intended distance as well. So, 190 yards-ish, so we're going to hit 4-iron. Trying to get a base so I can actually not slip on those leaves. I'm going to open the clubface out, which is going to help impart the left to right cut spin on the ball that I actually need. And my ball position has gone back in my stance.

That ball's chased up right on the front of the green and you've executed a nice recovery shot to hopefully put yourself in position to up and down, to make par, get on the front of the green. Get out of there without making a big number. So, club selection, visualize the shot you're going to play, workout what you need to do with the setup to create that ball flight, so you don't hit those trees.

As you can see, we're in the bunker. But this isn't any normal bunker shot. This is the dreaded plug lie. How do you get this out, where you can try and save par? I'm going to show you. Basically, what you can try and do is the velocity and the speed of the clubface that enters the sand is literally going to be the one thing that pops this ball up. So, we're not going to try to hit it on the up to get the ball out because you're literally just going to hit the middle of the ball. So, you actually want to use the leading edge of the club to dig into the sand and you want that club to feel like it just goes down into the actual sand itself. The force that you use to hit that sand is the actual thing that's going to get this ball to lift up out of the bunker. But I want a steep angle of attack, and quite a bit of speed to pop that ball out.

So, as you can see, it's an explosion into the sand. The ball's come out very much online because you're using a very square clubface but the speed that I've entered the sand has helped take that ball out of the trap and a high possibility of you converting that and taking a beer off your friend.

BUMP

POULTER: British people watching Spider-Man be like...

CASEY: That's actually quite good.

POULTER: Peter Parker.

FLEETWOOD: How are they? Peter Parker, I would always say Peter Parker. What would you say?

POULTER: It's Parker.

FITZPATRICK: That's how you say his name. How do you say otherwise?

POULTER: It's Parker!

CASEY: Peter Parker.

POULTER: PARK-ER!

ANIRBAN LAHIRI FIGHTS COVID-19

LAHIRI: We drive up to Hilton Head for the RBC Heritage. Start getting a little body ache, Friday night, I have fever, Saturday morning, I test positive.

By the time I got to the ER, the medication I took, started working, fever started coming down. And then three or four days later, is when I started feeling human again, barely.

At the same time, we had the second wave of COVID going on in India. And, I was just laying in that bed thinking, I have access to this medicine, what about the guys are going through this have no access, it can be desperate. And that's what was going on back home.

I'm happy to say is improving, but at that time, or about a month ago it was quite dire. India's just one of those countries, where you don't have the medical, infrastructure and ecosystem to deal with the severity and number of cases.

As of 40 days ago, officially, there were more than 10,000 COVID orphans in our country. My wife and I have been trying to do some active research to find out specifically, what are the organizations that are doing work on the grassroot level.

One of the organizations that, you know, I'm encouraging people to support is Akshay Patra. They're taking care of the labor force, or the workforce. So, just to even get through this phase before something long term can be found solution wise, is a struggle. So, organizations that are filling in that gap, when there's so many different things to deal with.

Here I am having gone through all of this, I'm back on my feet. A part of what we do as golfers and something that repeats cyclically is starting again. Even if you win a tournament on a Sunday, you have to start again, the next Monday. So, to me, this was just another way of looking at that cycle where I have to start again, I have to build my strength back up and my game back up. That's something that we all enjoy doing, even though we might not admit it. So I'm enjoying that.

ULTRA MOMENTS

ANNC: The signature hole, the 16th. Mav McNealy taking dead aim.

ANNC: And as if that wasn't enough, David Hearn at the 3rd. Keep an eye on it, it is now gone.

ANNC: Look at this shot by Kevin Na. Are you kidding me? You've got to have the creativity, he's got all the imagination, the skill. He has been on fire.

LUCAS GLOVER WINS JOHN DEERE CLASSIC

GLOVER: I felt some good golf coming. I didn't know how good. I've been playing well and had some good rounds and had some good finishes of late and proved myself right on that, I guess.

ANNC: Lucas Glover wins for the first time in 10 years.

ANNC: Glover is now the 7th win by a player over 40 on TOUR this season.

GLOVER: Those guys, Brian and Stewart and Phil are all friends, and it was great to see them win when a lot of people had counted them out.

ANNC: What an exquisite round of golf for Stewart Cink.

ANNC: Brian Gay, is back in the winner's circle on the PGA TOUR!

GLOVER: It was inspiring because like maybe it's not too out of the realm of possibility.

ANNC: Oh my what a shot! Glover dialed in!

GLOVER: After 14 I knew it was getting crunch time. I wanted to keep pushing. Too many great players behind me. I think that kept me from getting complacent.

ANNC: What a round of golf he's playing. An exclamation point there.

GLOVER: I've always been a big believer in there's nothing guaranteed in this game. It can be easy one day and be really, really, really hard the next.

ANNC: He's now won in the 2000s, the 2010s, and the 2020s.

GLOVER: It's been a difficult 10 years, but I never lost my faith, never lost my drive, never lost the self-belief. So, it's a great feeling.

FEDEXCUP STANDINGS

LUCAS GLOVER'S WIN MOVES HIM UP 50 SPOTS IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS WHERE HIS BEST FINISH CAME IN 2009 WHEN HE ENDED THE SEASON IN 17TH.

COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10

CRUNCH TIME TO GET INTO COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10 IS ON WITH ONLY 4 WEEKS REMAINING TO GRAB A SPOT WHERE PATRICK CANTLAY REMAINS NUMBER ONE.

SAVING SHOTS

THE CUT PRESENTS... SAVING SHOTS.

ANNC: Russell Henley now 77 yards. That one was perfectly played. Easy birdie there for Henley.

ANNC: That sounded nice, because it was nice. How about that?!

ANNC: Just has to splash it out and roll it right to the hole. That was aggressive. Glover Drains it.

BARBASOL CHAMPIONSHIP LOOK BACK

ANNC: Big big week for a lot of players as they leave in better shape than they were when they came to the Barbasol Championship.

HERMAN: My future on Tour was not looking too bright...

MERRIT: You always ask yourself, is this the time to move on?

ANNC: Welcome back to the winner's circle Scott Piercy.

BADDELEY: The confidence was way down. I was thinking about what else I could do besides golf...

ANNC: You can see how much this means to Aaron Baddeley."

BADDELEY: The last win being in 2011. Had some real struggles. This was one of my goals to get back in the winner's circle..."

BADDELEY: Man, this is crazy. It's been a long five years. You can tell by my reaction.

MERRIT: It's just so hard to win on the PGA TOUR. After my win at Quicken Loans in '15, I really didn't play overly well.

MERRIT: When you don't see it for long periods of time an you're always trying to find it, and guys are just getting better, better, and better, you know doubts will kind of creep in there.

ANNC: Troy Merrit, 2nd career PGA TOUR win.

ANNC: You go through the ebbs and flows of professional golf, ups and downs. All that hard work has finally paid off.

HERMAN: When you're in your 40s and the game's not always there. Sometimes you think, well, I've got two kids and a wife at home and maybe it's going to be my time to be done.

ANNC: All it takes is one good week.

TOUR PLAYLIST

THE FIRST PLAYING OF THE BARBASOL CHAMPIONSHIP IN 2 YEARS GETS UNDER WAY ON THURSDAY WHERE 3 OF THE FORMER CHAMPIONS WILL BE IN THE FIELD SEEKING ANOTHER TITLE.

DYLAN FRITTELLI WORKOUT

FRITTELLI: Think she's gonna be a bit of a hot one today. That's fine, it's been a while since I've had a good sweat, at least in the gym. You've been taking it easy on me.

BRIGHT FUTURE, A SPOTLIGHT ON DYLAN FRITTELLI.

FRITTELLI: The importance for me about strength training is simply just getting stronger, gaining more power, and doing something to increase my performance on the golf course.

CANTRELL: Feeling strong today? (Yeah.)

FRITTELLI: If you get stronger you're less susceptible to breaking down and getting hurt, so for me it directly correlates to my output on the golf course and how well I play.

CANTRELL: Alright, nice big jumps. Good, control. Explode. Good, big slams, just remember to come through a little bit more at the end. (Ok.)

FRITTELLI: It's something that I enjoy doing, it clears my head, gets me relaxed, it's great for your health as well

CANTRELL: Good big slams. Just remember to come through a little more at the end.

FRITTELLI: Overall I think it's a great thing to do as a professional golfer or just any old person really.

CANTRELL: Good.

FRITTELLI: Oi! I normally do 1, 2, hoo breath, 1, 2, breath.

CANTRELL: Technically you should be breathing the whole time.

FRITTELLI: Yeah I know.

CANTRELL: Power clean's like a gold standard movement for a lot of sports. For an athletic sport like golf, we need to be able to be as athletic as possible, so we want the exercises that are gonna get us bang for buck.

We're gonna do a couple more sets just progressing up in weight.

It's a good activator on the body."

FRITTELLI: I enjoy it, it's a fun exercise, it's nice to push myself and try some other things outside of just hitting balls and practicing.

CANTRELL: Big pulls. Good. Move those feet. Good. Lovely.

FRITTELLI: That's easy.

CANTRELL: You've got some speed this morning.

FRITTELLI: Haven't done some in a while, that was easy.

CANTRELLI: We're not trying to go heavy, because as soon as it gets really heavy, bar starts to move really slow, not what we want, so we're trying to impart a lot of a speed on the bar.

FRITTELLI: Or else I end up getting slower, driver speed comes down, I feel slow and I can't hit it as far so there's a give and take between whatever phase you're in whether it's strength or power.

CANTRELL: So we've got a dumbbell so it's a jerk, and then we've got med ball throw off the ground, and then we're done.

FRITTELLI: I'm pushing the strength gains as much as I can, lifting lower body, upper body, whatever I can do to become a generally strong athlete.

Yeah it feels like nothing after those power cleans.

CANTRELL: Be careful, nice and strong at the top. Big pulls. Good. Nice job sticking it at the end.

FRITTELLI: Most people worry about golf specific exercises, but at the end of the day, guys have been doing this for a hundred years, Olympic athletes have been lifting, using a bar, using a kettle bell, and for me that's the best way to gain speed on the driver and I'm definitely chasing that.

CANTRELL: Good job. (*Time for a nap?*)

FRITTELLI: Shower. Shower and a little golf.

FAVORITES & SLEEPERS

ANNC: Xander Schauffele seemingly always inside the top-5 on the leaderboard.

ANNC: Morikawa, the best iron player on TOUR.

ANNC: Boy Cantlay's really covered some of these flagsticks today.

ANNC: Pretty darn good. He's the birdie leader now with two.

ANNC: Beautifully played. A-plus. Master class.

ANNC: Just a steady, top-10 finisher.

TOUR PLAYLIST

ROYAL ST. GEORGE'S HOSTS THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2011 AND 14TH TIME IN THE CLUB'S HISTORY AS THE FINAL MAJOR OF THE SUPER SEASON STARTS THURSDAY.

BRITISH PEOPLE BE LIKE

POULTER: I thought we speak English.

PRODUCER: You do, but your accent.

POULTER: No, no, you changed it.

CASEY: No, I've not heard of that one. That worries me slightly.

POULTER: British people watching Spider-Man be like...

CASEY: That's actually quite good.

POULTER: Peter Parker.

FLEETWOOD: How are they? Peter Parker, I would always say Peter Parker. What would you say?

WESTWOOD: Peter Parker. Parker.

CASEY: Peter Parker, but it's spelled like Peta Paka.

POULTER: It's Parker. We don't say Parker.

FITZPATRICK: That's how you say his name. How do you say otherwise?

POULTER: It's Parker!

CASEY: Peter Parker.

POULTER: PARK-ER!

CASEY: British people be like, I need to organize my shedgle.

POULTER: Schedule.

FITZPATRICK: Oh, schedule.

CASEY: Wow, that's really schedule.

ROSE: See this is why I get so confused. I don't know whether it's shedgle or schedule. To this day, I change it up all the time. I'm like, if I just say 50/50 I can only be wrong half the time. So shedgle, schedule.

WESTWOOD: British people be like, it's Tuesday, isn't it?

FITZPATRICK: It's Tuesday isn't it? Yeah, we do say that.

WESTWOOD: It's like a London kinda twang to it.

FITZPATRICK: Everyone in the world seems to think that everyone from England is from London.

FLEETWOOD: Tuesday? Like u-e? I think you should dictionary that, like on Google and see how they say it.

WESTWOOD: British people be like, wah uh boh uhl. Uhl?

FITZPATRICK: Oh, water bottle. Ha ha ha.

ROSE: Wah uh boh uhl? I guess that's what that is.

FLEETWOOD: Yeah, I've been misinterpreted sometimes by saying wat... well, water is pretty much I would have my T in there. I'd say Water, water? Water.

ROSE: Apparently there's some Ts in there though. Water bottle. You guys tend to put a D in.

FLEETWOOD: I'm not having this account. I want to meet whoever does this because some of these are inaccurate.

CASEY: British people be like, "ah yes, perfectly cooked bacon."

HATTON: Pretty fair. That is one of the best things and I definitely miss it. Being out here in the States it's not the same.

POULTER: Seriously, that's not bacon, is it?

FITZPATRICK: No, no, we don't look like that.

CASEY: Do we? Apparently, we undercook our bacon according to this.

ROSE: I don't know if I like to look at our bacon but I do prefer our bacon for sure.

WESTWOOD: A little bit better done than that, but not like this crispy, thin stuff that you are over here. That breaks up that when you stick a fork in it.

FLEETWOOD: I actually love American bacon, but there is like British purists that will not have it.

CASEY: I don't I'm not good on cuts of meat.

ROSE: British people will see an unjust action occur and be like, "fair enough."

FITZPATRICK: That is very valid. I do that all the time. Eh, fair enough. Yeah. I use that a lot.

FLEETWOOD: I say that so many times. I say that like 100 times a day. Fair enough.

POULTER: You guys probably say whatever. Fair enough.

ROSE: Old British people be like, “oh I can’t hear ya love. Got and fetch me my crumpet.”

FITZPATRICK: That's absolutely made up. That, no one has ever said that.

FLEETWOOD: There's a lot of ‘ois’ going on here. I don't know. I hate the word oi, so I'm not going to follow this.

POULTER: It’s got like a little honeycomb holes in the top of it. You toast it, put butter on it. Some people put Marmite on it. Which is amazing.

FITZPATRICK: I mean, honestly, are these all Americans doing that? Haha

FLEETWOOD: Again, like he’s butchering our language when we have it right.

POULTER: Y'all changed it. We didn't change anything.