

2021 PGA TOUR: THE CUT #37

COLD OPEN

WU: It's really great to be back here at Stanford. Have a lot of great memories of the campus here. The nice sunshine, the great California weather. Seeing all these buildings and even today definitely a little shiver, I haven't been back in a couple years. It's crazy to think my 4 years at Stanford went by so fast and I'm just visiting as an alumni instead of a student going to class. Definitely excited to be back here.

WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT

BRANDON WU

WU: Hi I am Brandon Wu and I am a 2021-2022 PGA TOUR rookie.

My parents first came to the U.S. in '96 from China. I was born in '97 right here in the Bay area. We lived in a town called Danville in the east bay for maybe the first 7, 8 years of my life. Um and then yeah, we packed it up and we moved to Beijing. My parents wanted me and my brothers to experience China and the culture they grew up. It was definitely a big move going from you know, a pretty relaxed town in suburban California to pretty much the busiest city in the world.

When we were living in Danville we lived right next to a golf course. I actually don't know the back story of why my dad was interested in golf but for some reason he was really into it and he was starting to learn kinda the same time I was, so easy way for him to just bring me out to the course and we both be learning how to play golf together.

Once you get to high school, suddenly there's a chance to go to a college you've always wanted to through golf. I think that's a pretty enticing opportunity and play at a D1 college like Stanford and have a chance to play for national championships, you think, maybe give it a go.

I've always wanted to come back to the west coast after moving away when I was 8. I love the environment out here, I love the weather. When Stanford came up it just made a lot of sense and just blessed to have gotten the opportunity to come out here for school.

We're here in the engineering quad now. This is my favorite place on campus. It was beautiful biking through here, long boarding through here. Getting to class every day and if I ever needed a place to work outside or do some homework or just hang out, I would definitely come here and just enjoy the scenic views.

This our locker room. It was a great spot to hangout as a team. You know we'd come here together after classes, get together before practice. A lot of memories.

The beauty of playing in college is the team aspect I think. I mean it's so much fun, being with your friends all day, every day. Being out here today, definitely brings back those good memories.

I knew that I was gonna get my card maybe halfway through this year but it doesn't really hit you until they hand it to you. Once you're in that moment and everyone's congratulating you and step back you're like wow, like, I really did it. I really made it to the PGA TOUR. I think it's everyone's goal especially when they turn pro. It's like, I wanna play on the PGA TOUR. I wanna compete against the best and I'm just looking forward to everything this year.

Planning on playing as many PGA TOUR events as I can this fall. Just get the experience of playing, as well as score a lot of FedExCup points just to get the season going.

JOSEPH BRAMLETT ON THE RANGE

ANNC: There's your champion! Joseph Bramlett, a 4 shot victory. The man who gets the job done, is number one on that points list.

BRAMLETT: I can't wait. I've had a taste the last couple years and to have it again is really, really gratifying. My game's in the best shape it's ever been. Things are really, really trending the right way.

My dad got really into the game right before I was born, and so, I was around the game my whole life growing up. My dad's version of babysitting when I was a little kid, was just a dump me in the grass while he worked on his short game and I developed a love for it just kinda watching him and being around it.

I was born at Stanford hospital, grew up down the street. Used to watch Tiger play there when he was in school. It was kind of a no brainer for me to be honest. Dream school for me. Wish they'd let me go back.

Right out of college I got my PGA TOUR card so that was a pretty big moment for me, because it kind of got me over that mini tour hurdle and then came out here in 2011 and kind of got my butt kicked all year and learned a lot. I mean, from a results perspective, it wasn't very good but it definitely shaped me and created me.

Since then I think the next biggest hurdle was in 2018 when I got over my back injury. That was a very tough trying time obviously having what you love taken away from you, so yeah, it was very, very difficult getting through it. Eventually breaking through is just that much more gratifying and satisfying. I mean, this is what I've seen myself as doing since I was in kindergarten. So to finally get back out here and have this opportunity again, it means the world to me and I'm just trying to do everything I can to make the most of it.

PATRICK CANTLAY SAND ART

[Music Only]

PATRICK CANTLAY'S JOURNEY

CANTLAY: Growing up, I felt like I got better and better in golf and life got better and better, and then it got as bad as it could have been. I felt as low as it could have been for a little while.

MULLIGAN: He's worked really hard to get to this spot. People wouldn't say hi to you, they said, when's Patrick gonna play golf again?

CANTLAY: I always had a lot of self-belief in my golfing ability and I feel like that carried me through that time.

ANNC: FedExCup Champion, Patrick Cantlay.

AFTER NAVIGATING A CHALLENGING ROAD OF PERSONAL AND PHYSICAL SETBACKS – PATRICK CANTLAY'S SEASON LONG TITLE UTLIMATELY CULMINATED IN BEING NAMED PGA TOUR PLAYER OF THE YEAR...AN HONOR BESTOWED UPON HIM BY HIS PEERS... AND ONE THAT PERSONIFIES HIS CONTINUING STORY OF PERCEVERENCE.

CANTLAY: You have to somehow take control of what you're gonna do. You have to rise up above whatever difficulties are in your way.

THE GOLF WORLD WAS FIRST INTRUDOCUED TO PATRICK CANTLAY AT AGE 19...

THE UCLA STANDOUT WAS THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE AMATEUR FOR A RECORD 55 WEEKS – OVER THE LIKES OF JORDAN SPIETH, JUSTIN THOMAS AND PATRICK REED – AND QUICKLY PROVED HIS GAME WHEN HE FIRED A 60 AT THE TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP, A TOUR RECORD FOR AN AMATEUR.

C. ROTH: He's like this all the time. The way he's going right now, it's pretty special. Do you realize how big that grin is on your face?? Yeah.

HIS LONG-TIME FRIEND, CHRIS ROTH, WAS ON THE BAG IN HARTFORD, AND FOR MANY OF HIS OTHER BIG MOMENTS ON TOUR.

B. ROTH: That whole run there was crazy. You see sometimes on camera when Pat makes like a crazy putt or something like that, Chris just kind of tosses his head and has that smile and is just like, how the heck did he do that?

CANTLAY: It was very cool to be there and be in the moment with someone that you really enjoy and admire.

B. ROTH: He was so particular in the way he caddied and the way Pat wanted to be caddied that I think it helped Pat in intangible ways.

CANTLAY TURNED PRO LATE IN 20-12 AFTER HIS SOPHOMORE SEASON AND FOUND SUCCESS ON THE KORN FERRY TOUR THE FOLLOWING YEAR, EARNING HIS FIRST PROFESSIONAL WIN IN COLOMBIA.

BUT IN THE MIDST OF THIS TRIUMPH – CANTLAY’S CAREER TOOK AN ADVERSE TURN...STARTING WITH HIS BODY BREAKING DOWN AFTER A SPONSORS INVITE AT COLONIAL LATER THAT YEAR.

CANTLAY: Just warming up on the range, and then one swing felt like someone stuck a knife in my back.

DIAGNOSED WITH A STRESS FRACTURE IN HIS L-5 VERTABRAE, CANTLAY SUFFERED THROUGH 3 YEARS OF CONTINUAL SETBACKS...AND IN JANUARY OF 2016 HE HAD TO SHUT HIS GAME DOWN FOR ANOTHER 10 MONTHS.

CANTLAY: You get your mind frame wrapped around I'm ready to play and realizing you can't play just felt like I kept getting kicked in the teeth over and over again. It's extremely difficult.

WEEKS LATER, CANTLAY AND ROTH WERE OUT LATE ONE EVENING BACK HOME IN NEWPORT BEACH, WHEN THE INNOCENT NIGHT OUT AS FRIENDS – TURNED TRAGIC.

CANTLAY: The night was just winding down and we had to cross the street. Someone going to fast in an area with a bunch of people. And she kinda swerved around a car and Chris was on the other side.

ROTH WAS STRUCK BY A DRUNK DRIVER. IMMEDIATELY CALLING 911, CANTLAY RUSHED OVER TO HIS FRIEND.

CANTLAY: I knew it was bad instantly. And you're just hoping that somehow he would survive. But, there was nothing that I could do, he was pretty much gone right away.

THE ACCIDENT CLAIMED CHRIS ROTH'S LIFE AT THE AGE OF 24.

B. ROTH: I remember waking up to about 20 missed calls and Pat just gave it to me real. He apologized, and I don't know why. It's just the kind of guy that he was.

CANTLAY: Everything you have or you thought you had going for you is just gone.

MULLIGAN: You're not supposed to have your best friend die in your arms, period. And you're not to have somebody that at a point of their life where they're already low have to go through that.

STILL IN THE PROCESS OF PHYSICAL RECOVERY – GOLF, CANTLAY'S SAFE-HAVEN – WASN'T AN OPTION AS HE DWELLED IN HIS THOUGHTS.

CANTLAY: You just feel like nothing matters. Nothing matters nothing can move your meter, positive, or negative. Cuz you're as low as you can go, and nothing's gonna make it better.

MULLIGAN: It was hard to watch him suffer emotionally and know that he was in trouble physically. But we didn't lose any of the faith.

AS HIS REHAB CONTINUED, CANTLAY NOT ONLY LOOKED WITHIN – BUT ALSO, TO THE MEMORIES OF HIS BEST FRIEND.

CANTLAY: He was always certain that I'd figure it out. I got so fed up and so pissed off with feeling bad. I decided I was gonna get healthy no matter what, there's just no other option.

KOZUKI: Overtime we started to see glimmer's of hope, things start to improve, pain start to decrease and we knew we were on to something.

CANTLAY: Yeah, a little farther.

KOZUKI: Just kind of chipping away.

13 MONTHS AFTER SHUTTING HIS GAME DOWN – CANTLAY MADE HIS RETURN ON A MAJOR MEDICAL EXEMPTION – AND IMMEDIATELY SHOWED THE PROMISE HE DISPLAYED AS AN AMATUER...

CEMENTING HIMSELF BACK WITH THE GAME'S ELITE – YEAR AFTER YEAR – WIN AFTER WIN.

FAN NAT: Patty Ice!

ANNC: There is no give up in this guy, and finally a little emotion from Cantlay.

IT CULMINATED WITH THE BIGGEST MOMENT OF HIS CAREER AS HE BECAME A FEDEXCUP CHAMPION – WITH THE MEMORY OF HIS BEST FRIEND STILL WELL AT HEART.

CANTLAY: Coming out on the other side of that, I feel like I am a better person having gone through those dark days. But it gives me great perspective and it makes me very grateful to be in the position I'm in today, because it wasn't always a sure thing.

B. ROTH: This is their dream, this is what the two of them set out to do, it's to win. By Patrick succeeding he's honoring Chris.

CANTLAY: I know that I'll probably go my whole life, and no matter how much time passes, it'll still feel incredibly painful, but if you have a good system and you carry yourself the right way on the way there time will bear out something good.

BIRDIES FORE LOVE RETURNS

ANNC: Beautiful, dead straight, in the heart!

ANNC: What a timely birdie there.

BOSMAN: We were very fortunate, three years ago to launch the on-course version of RSM Birdies Fore Love with the PGA TOUR, where we have players competing throughout the fall season through 10 events to give money back to charity.

ANNC: And it's another one in the hole.

BOSMAN: \$50,000 a week for the players to get the most birdies. They accumulate the birdies throughout the 10 events, and then at the end of the RSM Classic we award \$300,000 for the most birdies, or better, \$150,000 for second, then \$50,000 for third.

The impact is incredible when you look at how many different foundations have been able to be started with the investment funds here. In three years now we've given \$2.5 million. The ability to give back and make such an impact on so many different communities. That concept of stewardship really is a common trait common value between RSM and the PGA TOUR.

NEW SEASON LOOKAHEAD

ANNC: The opening event of the new PGA TOUR season.

RAMEY: It's been a long path here but you know, a hard fought one.

NOVAK: It's my first time having a PGA TOUR card.

SKINNS: If you work extremely hard and you never give up that belief, why not? Why not you?

RAMEY: It's the best players in the world that are out there, and you know, just competing against them and seeing how my game stacks up.

WOLFE: Give it everything you've got, practice as hard as you can.

SMOTHERMAN: My goal is to win out there on the PGA TOUR. Something I've been working towards my entire life.

WU: Really excited to start in Napa.

MONAHAN: We recently announced the 2021-22 PGA TOUR schedule that includes for the first time three co-sanctioned events with our partners at the European Tour. This is just the first step in a strategic alliance that we will continue to build on in the coming years.

WEITZ: An important part of our partnership with the PGA TOUR is the fact that AON Risk Reward Challenge is integrated into every regular season event actually in the broadcast. So the global reason of the TOUR allows us to ensure that we're telling that consistent story to the marketplace around the world which is incredibly important to us as we think about the growth of our firm.

CINK: Golf is a global game and we're seeing that growth in not only the populations around the world, but also, we're seeing players come from other countries continually.

RAJAMANNAR (01:12:50 OR 01:14:29) : We have been partnering with the PGA TOUR for over 25 years and we have been trying to connect people from different ages, cities, countries, and walks of life to this wonderful sport of golf which we are so passionate about. Our hope is that through our global golf activations and our on going partnerships which we truly cherish, we are enabling more people to get involved in this game and to truly experience the power of priceless.

OOSTHUIZEN: The TOUR's doing an unbelievable job with just getting us tournaments, more tournaments to play and more opportunities and you can expect strong fields in all of those new events.

ANCER: Having more players go to Mexico and have two events now in the country's it's really cool, and those events help grow the game a lot, so that's important for us.

BERGER: I think it's great for the game of golf to get the best players in the world into different golf markets and it's great for the players to have the opportunity to get to different cultures in different places and in different golf courses that we don't necessarily see all the time.

ULTRA MOMENTS

ANNC: Harry Higgs, finishing his round. Par 5, 564 yards. Just watch this... In the hole for an albatross! That is a walk off 2!

ANNC: Long birdie putt at 2. Gotta keep the speed up. Get there. Get there. Come on baby! BOOM! Pat Perez!

ANNC: The 17th, short par 4. Oh in the hole for an eagle two. Yeah it's in! Nicely Done.

SAVING SHOTS

THE CUT PRESENTS... SAVING SHOTS

ANNC: He is in some trouble here but I've seen Phil play enough golf to know he can find some sort of hole up amongst those tree tops. Wow, somehow!

ANNC: How about that?! Whoa. Wow! Hello, what a beautiful shot!

ANNC: Stewart Cink. Big shot here. That was well judged.

FAVORITES & SLEEPERS

ANNC: Another beautiful day in a beautiful part of the country. Northern California and Napa Valley Silverado Resort and Spa.

ANNC: Guys when drive the ball like Jon Rahm does, one of the things that makes you the best player in the world is distance control with your wedges.

ANNC: Yes, that's the way to walk it in. That's the famous Na walk in.

ANNC: Tringale, first player to read it absolutely correctly so that's a nice little streak right there.

ANNC: Emiliano Grillo good wedge player, short iron player. Good example of it there.

ANNC: He did it! Gooch! Talor Gooch taking full advantage.

ANNC: Boom! Patton Kizzire. You can always make up for it when you make long birdie putts.

TOUR PLAYLIST

26 ROOKIES ARE SET TO START THEIR PGA TOUR CAREERS AT THE FORTINET (*FORD-A-NET*) CHAMPIONSHIP AS ACTION FROM NAPA, CALIFORNIA GETS UNDERWAY ON THURSDAY.

MEET THE ROOKIES: MAX MCGREEVY

McGREEVY: Very, very determined. I feel like if a challenge is put in front of me, I think I'm gonna figure out a way to obtain it.

ANNC: And he's headed to the PGA TOUR for the very first time. Welcome Max McGreevy.

McGREEVY: So I graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 2017. Played the Canadian Tour, Mackenzie Tour, that summer in 2017. I was able to get my card to move on to the Web.com Tour at the time in 2018. Lost my card in 2018. Made the decision to go over to China, PGA Tour China for 2019. Was able to play well and win the Order of Merit over there to give me full status back on the Korn Ferry Tour. Played well and was able to secure my card.

My dad put a golf club in my hands from an early age, but he's also been basically my main coach my entire life as well. And uh, you know, my mother she's taking me everywhere that I've ever wanted to play golf for any opportunity I've had. This dream is theirs too, so it's definitely been a lot of fun.

He's in a bunker down there. That was way above average there. Well done.

McGREEVY: I'm extremely superstitious. But I don't think I have any superstitions. I mean, my coin always has to be facing the exact same way when I like mark my ball. My buttons have to be certainly buttoned like each time. I wouldn't say there's one thing, it's just I am superstitious to where if one thing works, I continue to do it.

I have the will; I have the game to go out and win. I'm gonna kinda be under the radar from a lot of other guys out there and I just wanna make my name known.

I'm a small-town kid from Oklahoma, and I'm just looking to follow a dream.