ANNC: Sandy is a great world-wide champion, to have him as the Tournament Players Champion is indeed an honor.

TIM BARTER: It was a huge win. The first 13 additions of THE PLAYERS had all been won by Americans, and they finished 2nd, so international players had not really threatened.

NICK DOUGHERTY: Once we saw one of ours get across the line, the others start to think we can beat.

HENNI KOYACK: That really opened up the floodgates.

ANNC: And that is going to…are you kidding me…put it away!

LEE WESTWOOD: Just recently a lot of different nationalities have won it.

WAYNE RILEY: We've had Adam Scott.

ANNC: Adam Scott survives!

WAYNE RILEY: Sergio…

ANNC: The long wait is over!

WAYNE RILEY: Stenson…

ANNC: The first Swede…K.J. Choi is a Players Champion.

HENRIK STENSON: Rory's won it, we got Kaymer as well.

ANNC: Did he, did he, he did!

HENRIK STENSON: But, no English yet.

MATT WALLACE: Umm … what can I say??

**SO IT BEGS THE QUESTION – WITH THE RICH HISTORY – AND PROMISE – OF ENGLISHMEN ON THE PGA TOUR…WHO’S FIRST??**

LEE WESTWOOD: It's coveted for everybody, everybody knows THE PLAYERS is a massive tournament.

IAN POULTER: It's the buzz you get around the course. It's a tough test of golf. I love the test. I love what it means.

JUSTIN ROSE: Being the flagship event of the PGA TOUR, THE PLAYERS Championship’s a coveted tournament 100%.

**FOR CLARITY…THE ENGLISH APPLAUDED A WIN FOR THE ISLAND OF IRELAND IN 2019.**

ANNC: Rory McIlroy is a PLAYERS Champion.

**AND WHILE LYLE’S WIN 35 YEARS AGO WAS A TRIUMPH FOR SCOTLAND…**

NICK DOUGHERTY: We haven't seen any other players from Britain win since Sandy Lyle.

MATT FITZPATRICK: Probably is a little bit of a surprise because we produced some very good players.

**PERHAPS IT’S BECAUSE THE OVERALL SUCCESS OF ENGLISHMEN – 10 MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIPS, 40 PGA TOUR VICTORIES…NOT TO MENTION A FEDEXCUP, AND COUNTLESS WINS ACROSS THE GLOBE…**

**IS WHY THE SHOCK FACTOR THAT THEY HAVEN’T BEEN THE ONES TO FOLLOW SUIT…IS SO HIGH.**

TIM BARTER: It's difficult to pinpoint why that might be, we've had half a dozen runner up spots. It just happens that the English players have not done so. So far…

HENNI KOYACK: It's more of when, not if, and just a matter of time.

JUSTIN ROSE: But, there's no reason why not…

**WELL – MAYBE NOT…**

**CONSIDER THIS…IN THE FIRST 26 YEARS OF THE PLAYERS – THE AVERAGE OF ENGLISHMEN TEEING IT UP PER EVENT…IS LESS THAN TWO.**

JUSTIN ROSE: Back in the day, 20, 30 years ago, there were much more of a limited amount of players that could win The Players Championship.

MATT WALLACE: Nick Faldo would have had a chance

ANNC: Pressure putt right there. Gets him within one shot for the time being.

MATT WALLACE: All of our hopes lied with him and he didn’t get across the line.

JUSTIN ROSE: For quite a period of time, there might have been relying upon two or three of us in the top 50, so the numbers weren't stacking up in our favor. They're beginning to stack up a bit more in our favor.

JUSTIN ROSE: English golf is strong at the moment just in terms of numbers and depth, I think that there might be six or seven guys in the Top 50 in the world.

HENNI KOYACK: The tournament has just grown so much in stature over the course of the last 20 years. And that's obviously attracted the best players in the world.

**PROOF SHOWN IN THE LAST 17 PLAYINGS – AS THERE’S AN AVERAGE OF SEVEN PER EVENT IN THAT SPAN.**

NICK DOUGHERTY: We’re seeing a lot more success and a lot more top 10s from the British players in general.

TIM BARTER: And we've had a lot of great English players over the last 20 years, they really have been world class.

**AND THAT’S ONLY HEIGHTENED BY THE RESULTS – ESPECIALLY WITH THREE IN THE TOP 10 IN 2021.**

NICK DOUGHERTY: For a nation, it inspires.

HENNI KOYACK: We’ve had so many players come close.

ANNC: Matthew Fitzpatrick finds the bottom.

MATT FITZPATRICK: Eddie had a good finish in 2019.

HENNI KOYACK: Tommy Fleetwood.

ANNC: Tommy Fleetwood – just showing off now.

JUSTIN ROSE: You had Lee Westwood through the years.

ANNC: And made it! What a putt!

JUSTIN ROSE: T4 has been my highest result to date.

ANNC: 5-under par for the U.S. Open Champ.

JUSTIN ROSE: Luke Donald was world number one, he’s had looks at it. Ian Poulter has done very, very well there.

ANNC: Oh ho, Wow! What a shot! I did not see that one! What a shot by Poulter!

HENNI KOYACK: A lot of English players have come really close over the years, but the Stadium Course held off so far…

**FINE POINT…PROVING THE VOLATILITY OF THE STADIUM COURSE.**

LEE WESTWOOD: There’s no reason why the golf course shouldn't suit Englishmen, it's a golf course that really doesn't favor anybody. I'm not a massive hitter anymore and I finished second. Justin Thomas beat me, he's what you would say is a long hitter.

IAN POULTER: I've had a mixed bag. I've had two second place finishes, I've missed cuts. I've kind of had some mediocre weeks there.

WEBB SIMPSON: You would have thought one of these great players of the last 20 years would have won but, Phil has one win there and Tiger has two. In all their years, you would have thought they would have won it more, I think it just shows it's such a hard golf course to win on.

NICK DOUGHERTY: THE PLAYERS in particular, if you give yourself a chance, inevitably you're going to get across the line.

**ENGLAND COLLECTIVELY HAS 23 TOP 10’S IN THE EVENT – SECOND ON THE LIST OF ANY COUNTRY OUTSIDE THE U.S. TO ONLY AUSTRALIA.**

JUSTIN ROSE: I've seen some of their icons win that tournament. Greg Norman, Adam Scott, Steve Elkington. Maybe we need an Englishman to get that vibe going amongst the rest of us.

**AND THE ENGLISH STALWARTS – TO THOSE WAITING IN THE FOLD – COULD HELP CHANGE THE TIDE AT ANY GIVEN TIME.**

WAYNE RILEY: English golf is so very strong right now. Coming out of terminal five at Heathrow is a conveyor belt of players.

ANNC: What a putt, Aaron Rai, the English Professional golfer.

MATT WALLACE: It’s just an anomaly and hopefully one of us can get across the line.

TIM BARTER: My man would be Matthew Fitzpatrick. He's got a really sound game.

MATT FITZPATRICK: It's about time an Englishman did win so I may as well do it next year. It would mean a hell of a lot, really would.

HENNI KOYACK: Ian Poulter or Tommy Fleetwood, but I'm gonna pick Tommy Fleetwood just because of his stellar iron player and past results there.

NICK DOUGHERTY: He certainly has the heart, he has the head.

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: You can name the events that are the big ones in world golf, THE PLAYERS is right up there. And to be the first Englishman would be amazing.

WAYNE RILEY: Lee Westwood goes about it very much like Tommy Fleetwood. Tyrrell stands to mind.

JUSTIN ROSE: I myself…With the next generation coming through now there's gonna be more and more opportunities for the English guys to get it done there.

HENRIK STENSON: There’s always gonna be some English players up there. Sooner or later it will happen.

NICK DOUGHERTY: Once at the gates open, they'll come flooding on through. Whoever that person is will certainly pave the way for future generations. So it will be pivotal for our nation.