MACKENZIE HUGHES: I read a book called “Take the Stairs” on being a better version of you. One of the quotes in the book was success is never owned, it is rented, and the rent is due every day. And it just stuck with me…

MACKENZIE HUGHES: Working hard towards your goals and there is basically no shortcut.

NATS: *(range rip)*

MACKENZIE HUGHES: In one second golf can throw you right back on the ground and you better get back up and start working hard.

NATS: *(putting rip)*

MACKENZIE HUGHES: Paying the rent might involve my obligation as a father.

NATS: Daddy! *(play sounds)*

MACKENZIE HUGHES: To live in a way that I feel I'm staying active…

NATS: *(range rip)*

MACKENZIE HUGHES: It's still something I look at and resonate with that's something I always try to live by.

***TITLE CARD – PAY THE RENT***

**QUAIL HOLLOW IS A FAMILIAR PLACE FOR MACKENZIE HUGHES – AS IT’S IN THE BACKYARD OF THE CANADIAN’S ADOPTED HOMETOWN OF CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA.**

**IT’S A SITE HE’D LOVE TO GET EVEN MORE ACQUAINTED WITH CONSIDERING IT WILL HOST THE 20-22 PRESIDENTS CUP – WHERE HUGHES HOPES TO MAKE HIS DEBUT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SQUAD.**

MACKENZIE HUGHES: That's a big goal of mine, and that obviously be a really cool one for me to be at just being that it's down the road 10 minutes. One coming up in ‘24 that's really caught my attention and that's in Canada at Royal Montreal and that would be thrill of a lifetime. That's the progression I'd like to go on is that you start winning a bit more, and then hopefully make yourself a mainstay on those teams.

**IT’S THAT FORESIGHT – AND BELIEF – THAT’S GOT HIM BACK TO PROMINANCE IN THE GAME. WORK ETHIC THAT CAN BE TRACKED BACK FROM HIS CURRENT BACKYARD…**

**…TO HIS ROOTS IN CANADA.**

SANDRA HUGHES: Dundas is a small community in southern Ontario. It is got a cute Main Street with lots of little shops. It is a really hometown community.

KEITH DYNES: You'll run into people you know constantly, Mackenzie's older sister runs the floral shop downtown and her husband runs the butcher shop.

MACKENZIE HUGHES: Dundas has always felt like home right away it always will. So many great memories from being there and Dundas Valley Golf and Country Club was a big part of my childhood.

**HUGHES’ HOME COURSE ENCAPSULATES THE ESSENCE OF DUNDAS *(done-DASS)* – COMPLETE WITH A CURLING CLUB FOR THE WINTER MONTHS.**

JOHN KIRKWOOD: It was the workings man private golf club hard working people coming out enjoying what a wonderful sport golf is.

SANDRA HUGHES: Instead of having a sitter for him we would go golfing and we would bring him and he at the time was probably actually about five. And did not have clubs so he would play with a sawed-off driver and a sawed-off putter.

MACKENZIE HUGHES: I loved it right away and pretty much couldn't get me off the golf course after that. All my summers were just on a golf course. Just loved the challenge that it brought.

SANDRA HUGHES: he played, sun-up to sun-down and he just loved it, and his friends would recognize from the spring to the fall, Mackenzie was not really available.

**THAT IS – NOT AVAILABLE UNLESS IT WAS A CERTAIN “PACK” ON THE COURSE.**

KEITH DYNES: Mack and myself we met playing hockey. And then I was about 11 years old when I joined Dundas Valley Golf Country Club, and he was already here at that point.

JOHN KIRKWOOD: There was five or six of them always had some kind of a game going on.

KEITH DYNES: Your route started in this nine-hole short course. There was no tee times, you just kind of showed up to the first hole and then you just kind of wandered around.

MACKENZIE HUGHES: I could spend all day there and not even think about it. You might spend an hour on one hole with your buddies doing weird chipping contests.

KEITH DYNES: Hitting trick shots or punching from the trees or whatever it would be. And then amongst ourselves, we would play for chicken fingers and fries or a pop in the clubhouse. Before you know it, the streetlights come on and that your parents are going to be waiting to pick you up.

SANDRA HUGHES: He'd come home for dinner and be like, So how many holes did you play, ‘oh we just played nine’, but you were there for nine hours you only played nine holes?

MACKENZIE HUGHES: That's just what I did and 12 hours could go by pretty quickly.

SANDRA HUGHES: If he didn't have a ride to the golf course, he would ride his bike to the back of 15, throw his bike over the fence. And ride his bike across the cart path to get to the first tee.

KEITH DYNES: You would see him on the range by himself all the time. When we got there, he had already put in a couple hours. Or he might have even already played 18 holes. His determination even when we were really young, you could just tell his game face.

MACKENZIE HUGHES: I always felt like I wasn't the most talented person. It wasn't like I just woke up and just said I'm gonna be really a golfer today. I've put in work and I've always, felt good putting in the work.

**THOUGH, HUGHES’ GAME EVENTUALLY DID THE TALKING AS HE MADE HIS WAY THROUGH THE CANADIAN CIRCUITS WITH A DECORATED AMATEUR CAREER.**

KEITH DYNES: He's always had that competitive drive, but he proved himself at every single level. He didn't really skip any steps either. His sheer determination and focus and work-ethic is what got him to where he is.

MACKENZIE HUGHES: Those tours below the PGA TOUR, you earn your stripes out there and you work hard to get to the ultimate goal of PGA TOUR.

NATS: Me and my boy, Corey Conners, repping the Mackenzie Tour.

MACKENZIE HUGHES: You travel with guys from tournament to tournament and there might 2 or 3 to a hotel room, and that was just normal.

NATS: Got some slapshots, got some baseball going on, just hanging out having a good old Canadian time.

MACKENZIE HUGHES: I was able to prove myself at every level I won on the Mackenzie Tour, which gave me the belief that I could win on the Korn Ferry Tour. And then propelled me to the PGA TOUR.

**IN THE GRIND UP THE RANKS – IT WAS ALSO HUGHES’ ROUTINE OFF THE COURSE…**

MACKENZIE HUGHES: You need to be working harder than the guy next to ya…that’s something I’ve always prided myself on.

**WHICH HE AND HIS WIFE, JENNA, WOULD UTILIZE AS A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS…**

NATS: It’s doing good so far. I’m a natural in the kitchen.

MACKENZIE HUGHES: You’re putting in top stuff into your body that is gonna produce the best stuff coming out.

**A REGIMINE WHICH PAID OFF EARLY IN HIS 5TH EVENT HIS ROOKIE SEASON…**

ANNC: Rookie is rock solid.

**WHEN A LITTLE PIECE OF DUNDAS WAS WITH HIM AS WELL.**

SANDRA HUGHES: At RSM, I was there for all four days, and I picked up an acorn every time he got a birdie. Minus 21 was the four-day total…I have 21 acorns that I decided to bring home.

ANNC: One tough customer, Mackenzie Hughes, it’s all over.

MACKENZIE HUGHES: To do it that fast, I was just kind of overcome with emotion didn't really know what to expect going forward, what that would mean for my life and obviously things really changed quickly.

**BUT AS SOON AS HIS PROFESSIONAL “LEASE” WAS EXTENDED – THE RENT – AND PRESSURE TO PAY IT OFF – SEEMED TO RAISE.**

MACKENZIE HUGHES: One day you win a tournament and then the following year you're wondering where that guy was that won that tournament. I went through a couple of years of a sophomore slump. I also was dealing with a really high expectation for myself from within and it made for a tough go mentally.

MACKENZIE HUGHES: There were certainly an adjustment to a new schedule, to a new lifestyle, which was amazing.

NATS: You push this one up (laughs)

**AS HE AND JENNA, STARTED A FAMILY – THE RENT IS STILL DUE – BUT NOW THERE’S JUST A DIFFERENT METHOD OF PAYMENT...**

MACKENZIE HUGHES: Paying the rent has a bit of a different definition. The biggest thing for me being a new father is just time management and I'm just working smarter and trying to be more efficient with my time.

NATS: *(range swings)*

JENNA HUGHES: He is a great father. He is so hands on. From the moment he comes home, he tries to lead by example every day.

NATS: Uh, oh, ohhh.

MACKENZIE HUGHES: That's a lot of playing in the morning ~~with Kenton~~. Kenton's in daycare, few days a week…

NATS: *(gym sounds)*

MACKENZIE HUGHES: If I work out in the morning before his day care I can time out pretty well to get him over to day care.

NAT DAYCARE: By Buddy (blows kiss), have fun!

MACKENZIE HUGHES: And I tried to build my practice around that if I can practice when he's at daycare or even napping.

MACKENZIE HUGHES: I wanna be purposeful about what I'm doing, but the desire is still there to achieve some heights and goals and I've got expectations for myself so it's just a different way of going about it.

NAT: Come on, enter…ehhh!

**THE ADAPTED FRAME OF MIND REFUELED HIS GAME EARLY IN 20-20.**

ANNC: Ohh.

MACKENZIE HUGHES: I missed five cuts in a row, but obviously we've proven that we can do this at a high level, so we're not gonna just drop it, with a little bit of adversity.

ANNC: Yes! All of Canada is on their feet with that one.

**A RUNNER-UP AT THE HONDA CLASSIC GOT HIM BACK INTO GOOD STANDING IN THE FEDEXCUP PLAYOFFS RACE – WHERE HE WOULD ULTIMATELY FIND HIMSELF ON THE BUBBLE FOR HIS FIRST TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP APPEARANCE – AS HE CAME DOWN THE STRETCH AT THE BMW CHAMPIONSHIP.**

MACKENZIE HUGHES: Early in that back nine, I didn't have a lot of wiggle room. And then I bogeyed 17, I'm like, perfect. And then I asked my caddy walking off 17, hey, what do we need here? He says you need par. And I hit the bunker I'm like, my gosh, like now It's gonna be a hard par. And it's going to come down to a five-foot putt to get you to the East Lake.

ANNC: A clutch up and down for Mackenzie Hughes.

MACKENZIE HUGHES: Then when it goes in the hole and the relief and the joy that comes with was pretty special, it's up there with the making the putt to win RSM.

NAT: Good job, guys. Thank you, thanks bud.

MACKENZIE HUGHES: The next thing to do is to get win number two and I've been kinda close there, knocking on the door, and that's my first and foremost concern and then that takes care of a lot of the other goals.

**THE IMPACT OF HIS ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE REACHED EVEN FURTHER THAN THE U.S. – AS HERE IN DUNDAS LIES EVEN MORE RECOGNITION OF ONE OF ITS OWN.**

JOHN KIRKWOOD: They decided to change the name from the short course at Dundas Valley to the Mackenzie Hughes Par 3 Course. We're so proud as really as a country, but also as a small town.

MACKENZIE HUGHES: I know it's just a little 9-hole Par 3 course but it's got sentimental meaning just being that spent a lot of my time there growing up as a kid and now it'll be kind of forever known as my golf course.

**HUGHES WILL NOW LOOK TO MAKE HIS HOMETOWN EVEN MORE PROUD IN HIS ADOPTED ONE – AS HE’S CONSISTENTLY KEPT HIMSELF IN GOOD STANDING FOR A POTENTIAL NOD IN THE PRESIDENTS CUP.**

MACKENZIE HUGHES 01:09:30: / I think I'd bring a lot of grit and determination, I love match play / I'm a big team player as well. I love to get behind my teammates and pump them up. / so be really excited to get here and then try and beat the American team.

SANDRA HUGHES: He’s willing to work so hard and it's not just that the physical game. It's at the mental and the emotional side and he's trying to grow himself to be the player that he wants to continue to be. ~~And all of that is only gonna parlay into his success as a husband and father.~~

JENNA HUGHES: I knew all along he had what it took to get back there, I'm very excited and happy for him and happy for our family.

MACKENZIE HUGHES: A lot has changed, but for the better and ~~I can't think of a more rewarding thing to do than being a parent.~~ It's very true to saying when you go through the tough times, the good times are that much more rewarding.

~~MACKENZIE HUGHES: As my kids grow up, I want them to know that they can really do anything they want I don't think a lot of people saw me on the PGA TOUR, as a young kid, but here we are, year five. And the way you carry yourself, your attitude, just your overall way of being, if they learn those things from me, then I've done all right as a Dad.~~

***FONTS***

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

MACKENZIE HUGHES

MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA

DUNDAS, ONTARIO, CANADA

SANDRA HUGHES / MACKENZIE HUGHES’ MOTHER

KEITH DYNES / MACKENZIE HUGHES’ CHILDHOOD FRIEND

JOHN KIRKWOOD / HEAD GOLF PRO, DUNDAS VALLEY GOLF AND CURLING CLUB

2016

2016 THE RSM CLASSIC

JENNA HUGHES / MACKENZIE HUGHES’ WIFE

2020 THE HONDA CLASSIC

2020 BMW CHAMPIONSHIP