2022 PGA TOUR – THE CUT #33 (FEDEX ST. JUDE DOC) INTERNATIONAL

**COLD OPEN**

TOP 125 ANNC: Kicking off the playoffs. First of three. The top 125 make it into this field.

TIRICO ANNC: There’s no shortage of stars, no shortage of stories for the PGA TOUR’s season finale.

ANNC: Rory McIlroy wins the FedExCup! And Billy Horschel wins it all.

NANTZ ANNC: The FedEx Cup Playoffs! // And here we are with the world’s best, getting the post season underway.

**THE CUT TITLES**

**WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT.**

**FEDEX ST JUDE INTRO**

ANNC: “TPC Southwind, 65th straight year a PGA TOUR event has been staged here in Memphis. And now this old-school style course gets its playoff spotlight.”

SOT SHANE RYAN: “You come here to Memphis, first time this has been a playoff event, and it’s the first playoff event. And there’s just a ton of buzz around here because this is when the big guys are really fighting for those huge prizes.”

ANNC: “The players point to this at the start of the year, it’s where they want to be. But it is a battle for survival on a very dangerous golf course.”

SOT SCHEFFLER: “Obviously the field is really good, you know all the best players in the world are here. Just trying to come out here and have a good start and put myself in a position to win this tournament.”

SOT RORY: “I think TPC Southwind is a favorite for a lot of guys on TOUR. Rewards good ball-striking, but you have to be accurate.”

SOT SHANE RYAN: “Some venues just kind of deliver the goods dramatically at the end, and this is one of them. And so I think it’s a perfect place to start the playoffs.”

SOT SHANE RYAN: “The stakes I think are a little higher this year. And it’s not just about money, it’s about status you’re going to take forward into next year. These are really, really important moments for these players.”

ANNC: “These guys are ready to go, but there’s an element of tension there as they realize the finality of this week if they play poorly.”

**VO: JUST INSIDE THE TOP 70 ENTERING THE WEEK AT 63RD, ANIRBAN LAHIRI IS ONE OF THE PLAYERS IN NEED OF A SOLID PERFORMANCE TO MOVE ON TO DELAWARE. WHILE HE STRUGGLES ON THE GREEN IN THE OPENING ROUND POSTING A ONE-OVER 71, HE CAN TAKE CONFIDENCE DUE TO HIS FOCUS ON SWING HYGEINE.**

**ANIRBAN LAHIRI FEATURE**

LAHIRI SIT DOWN: Most of us who travel, you know, 20 something, maybe 30 weeks a year // those are the things that get away from us are the fundamentals. We all know how to swing a club. // I look at it as hygiene is the same as, you know, brushing your teeth or, you know, just just having a shower. Just. Just keeping good habits. Right. Hygiene is just good habits.

LAHIRI RANGE: We talked a little bit about block practice and target practice as breaking down into two, you know, different types of sort of practice two different modes, so to speak. // a lot of times you'll hear people are talking about left brain, right brain and block practice and target practice basically are in reference to those two specifics.

LAHIRI RANGE: So what is block practice? Block practice, in essence, would be, you know, what are the things that most of us do? // What are the controls? What are the checks that we put in place? // which would basically // train you to see something or to repeat something over and over.

LAHIRI RANGE: So I have a few different checks that I go through when I get started. // And as basic as it sounds, it normally just starts with my grip. // And what I'll essentially do is I'll just get a really good feel for where I want my grip to be and how my club face feels in my hand // And that's the kind of feedback I'm looking at right now, not specifically on where the ball is going or, you know, what yardage am I hitting it.

LAHIRI RANGE: The second thing that my coach and I try and stay on top of and you'll see this very // often on TOUR is alignment sticks. // So I'll put these two shafts down. // And then I'll step into the box, sort of get my face aligned to the target, put my feet down. // And now when I look at the target, I feel like, yeah, all right, so this is what square feels like. I'm also reminding myself every day that this is what I feel like.

LAHIRI RANGE: Now moving on from block and I'll be going to target // And now we're just going to start getting creative, kind of get that right side of your brain fired off. When you start your target practice, it actually gives you an insight into, you know, how good the connection is between your body and your mind. So right now my brain is saying, okay, this is what a five yard draw should feel like. That one felt something different.

LAHIRI RANGE: What's the gap? Let's bridge the gap. // So I'm going to try and get a little more well sort of dialed in to what I want to do and just feel that shot a little bit more. // I just kind of give in to the feeling. And there's the five yard draw, that felt a lot better in terms of how I wanted to hit it, where it started and moved //so that shot // we're suddenly now moving all our attention from one part of the brain to the other, going from the mechanical to the creative. That's it.

LAHIRI SIT DOWN: I'm not someone who's a big, you know, promoter of swing thoughts. You know, you should just be ideally without thought // just be in a state of intent that you intend to hit in a certain way to a certain point. // And that's how I've always played. And yeah, it definitely has brought some level of consistency.

LAHIRI RANGE: I mean forget me, look at all the shots Tiger's hit, you know, the ridiculous cuts, the ridiculous, you know, swings that he's made and he's pulled it off is because he's probably been the best at being able to // command his body to do, you know, what is required. And in essence, this is just basic level training for that.

**OPENING ROUNDS ACTION**

**VO: LAHIRI’S STRUGGLES CONTINUE ON FRIDAY, MISSING THE CUT AT EVEN PAR THROUGH TWO ROUNDS. JOINING HIM ARE SUPERSTARS RORY MCILROY, SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER AND JORDAN SPIETH, WHO LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN FOR OTHERS TO CLOSE THE GAP.**

ANNC: “Could it be? Oh yes, Sepp Straka. 10-under. It’s playoff time.”

SOT STRAKA: “Hadn’t played great coming into this week, missed a bunch of cuts coming in but, hit a lot of fairways which is the key out here.”

ANNC: “A little pitch here by Theegala. Oh are you kidding me. How good is that! Oh my goodness this guy.”

SOT SAHITH: “I drove it incredible, probably my best driving round of the year. Hopefully just keep my head down and keep driving it like that.”

ANNC: “Spaun just off the green surface at the 8th. That’s pretty good there. Uh, that’s a good fringe game. And Spaun rolls it in for a deuce to retake the lead by himself.”

SOT SPAUN: “ I knew the game was always there, it was just a matter of time of seeing it resurrect.”

ANNC: “J.J. Spaun, 11-under leads the way into the weekend. But there are 26 players within 5 shots of the lead, and anything can happen first leg of the playoffs.”

**THIRD ROUND INBUMP**

SANDS OPEN ANNC: The heat is on in Memphis.

NBC OPEN ANNC: This is going to be a wild ride over the weekend here.

SHANE RYAN SOT: The difficulty in playing this course and the pressure in the way it ramps up // it suits up for a great dramatic finish.

THIRD ROUND ANNC: 31-year-old JJ Spaun in great position to make a gigantic leap // but he’s got company at the top in a hurry.

ZALATORIS BIRDIE 15 ANNC: Look out for Zalatoris the rest of the weekend here in Memphis.

ZALATORIS FLASH SOT: I've just been striking it really well the last two days in particular, which has lead to a lot of birdie looks.

ZALATORIS 18 ANNC: Zalatoris goes low again. 63 yesterday, 65 today.

**ZALATORIS’ THIRD ROUND 65 POSITIONS HIM JUST TWO SHOTS OFF THE LEAD AT THE END OF MOVING DAY.**

ZALATORIS COMFORT SOT: I think it's a comfort level. // I played on the biggest stages in the majors and I felt comfortable in those positions. Obviously I haven't gotten a win out of it yet. Eventually we will and hopefully tomorrow it is.

THEEGALA BIRDIE 3: Sahith Theegala here for birdie. // he’s gotten into the top 30. Of course he’s safe for next week, but then the challenge becomes getting into East Lake.

MURALI SOT: Holding onto his card for the second year, I mean as a rookie, I can’t ask for anything more than that. Everything from there is bonus.

**SAHITH THEEGALA FEATURE**

THEEGALA CAR WASH SOT: Game has been trending in the right direction and feels really good and there's nothing better than playoff sports. So just to be here is a blessing.

THURSDAY 4 TEE ANNC: This guy is loaded with personality, and he has got plenty of game. // He’s a superstar in the making.

MICHAEL BEARD SOT: He had the intangibles, there’s no question. // And he loved playing, and he loved to compete. So you put that together and you think there’s a good chance that he’ll be playing with the best players in the world at some point // he’s done such a great job of putting himself in those positions and capitalizing when he’s there.

THEEGALA CAR WASH SOT: We all say like, oh, I want to win on the PGA TOUR, right? But my main goal is to make the PGA TOUR. // Then kind of when I did that, I was like, all right, I just want to stay out here so I was just really focused.

BIRDIE 18 SANDERSON ANNC: Sharing the lead at 13 under. // the first two days, Sahith Theegala.

THEEGALA CAR WASH SOT: I’ve had a great year. // I've already learned so much. And you know, I'm just trying to keep an open mind // and just kind of keep building on that.

WM 18 PAR ANNC: That’s big, when you’re trying to get your status out here.

FUTURE STAR ANNC: Introduced to another future star this week in Sahith Theegala, who finished in a tie for third, choked up about, just look at that, how much he wanted it. // Brand new in this game and cares that much.

WM FLASH SOT: There are so many different emotions to take in. // The last three holes I got so much support, even 18 cheering my name. // I think I got a lot of what I was working with these last two days.

THEEGALA CAR WASH SOT: The game is going to come and go. I know that's just how golf is. It's the nature of the game. So not too worried on the weekly results as long as I feel like I'm progressing in the right direction, but overall, really, really happy with the year and I think it exceeded any of the expectations I kind of had for myself within.

MURALI THEEGALA: Growing up, a lot people asked me… do you support him? Because he was going to turn pro. Never in my dreams was I thinking about that. He was just enjoying it, I was enjoying the process.

THURSDAY 4 TEE ANNC: This guy is for real. Qualifying for the playoffs in his first season on TOUR, then delivers a beauty there.

THEEGALA CAR WASH SOT: Now that I'm close, // I'm probably one, two solid weeks away from kind of getting in that top 30, but kind of secured that that second playoff event spot, which is huge. And I feel like I'm just kind of on a free roll again. // I'm like, I have nothing to lose. If I play two bad events, so be it, you know? But I have everything to gain.

**THIRD ROUND ACTION**

**AS THEEGALA KEEPS EAST LAKE FIRMLY IN HIS SIGHTS, JJ SPAUN IS JOINED IN THE BATTLE FOR FIRST.**

STRAKA BIRDIE 6 ANNC: Sepp Straka. First man to reach 12 under par.

**THE HONDA CLASSIC CHAMPION’S 68 MOVES HIM JUST ONE SHOT OFF THE LEAD OF JJ SPAUN.**

STRAKA FLASH SOT: You've just got to step up and hit a shot on some of these holes here as well as at the Honda. It's easy to commit to targets because you really don't have much of another option.

SPAUN STRAKA ON 18 ANNC: J.J. Spaun, in search of just his second PGA TOUR win, he’s in at a 2-under-68.

SPAUN POST ROUND SOT: It's not going to be easy tomorrow and I don't think if I play like how I did today, like I don't think that will be enough, so I'm just going to give it all I've got // and we'll see what happens.

CLOSE ANNC: Shaping up for a fantastic Sunday in our first FedExCup Playoff event.

**SERVPRO**

**VO: THE CUT PRESENTS – SAVING SHOTS**

ANNC PUTNAM: Relatively flat. Maybe a little side slope … oh! Bumps it off the coin. That was pretty fancy.

ANNC RAHM: He’s probably gonna land this // towards the up slope to the middle … just like that. It should start turning back to the right, this is a wonderful shot right here from Jon Rahm!

**FINAL ROUND FEATURE**

ANNC INTRO: “It’s the final round of the FedEx St. Jude Championship and the final push to make it to the next stop in the FedExCup Playoffs.”

SHANE RYAN SOT: “This course is cool because you can score on it, I mean these guys are gonna come and there’ll be low scores, but it also punishes you // it kind of makes you think a lot, and when the pressure’s on it gets harder to focus, and we see some crazy things happen.”

ANNC ZALATORIS 2: “Will Zalatoris // who continues to look for his first PGA TOUR victory.  It could come today in a big one, can’t dream of a better start.”

ZALATORIS PRESSER 1: Anytime you put yourself in contention // you're going to learn something about yourself. // the U.S. Open gave me that much more belief that I can win a major, I can win out here.

ANNC ZALATORIS 17: “He’s looking over at Joel Stock, this is Joel Stock’s first tournament on the bag of Will Zalatoris. Zalatoris made a tough move//he decided to change caddies, to go from his good friend Ryan Gobel to Joel Stock.

SHANE RYAN SOT: “From a distance it’s easy to look at it and say well you just have to kind of get along, and then he hands you a club and you go do your thing, but there’s so much more that goes into it, it’s an intimate relationship in a way.  You’re with this person for the most important moments of your professional career.

ZALATORIS NATS: Landing it about 12 on? Just short of that transition. Yeah. Trust your instincts.

ZALATORIS PRESSER 2: We tried to communicate as much as we possibly could Monday through Wednesday to make this adjustment as easy as possible, but you never know what it's going to be like until you're in the heat of the moment.

ANNC ZALATORIS 15: “Got great speed on it!  That any good?  What a save! //That’s what you do in the week’s you win.”

**WHILE ZALATORIS CHARGES UP THE LEADERBOARD LOOKING FOR HIS FIRST WIN, SAHITH THEEGALA BATTLES TO IMPROVE HIS FEDEXCUP POSITION…AND A SUNDAY 69 HELPS HIS CAUSE.**

THEEGALA QQ SOT: I kind of look at it that now that I have the opportunity to do something cool, which is make East Lake. // I don’t see it as extra pressure, just kind of try and embrace the opportunity.”

**WITH THEEGALA INSIDE THE TOP-30, THE TITLE FIGHT COMES INTO CLEARER FOCUS.**

ANNC SPAUN 12: “So it’ll be a double bogey for JJ Spaun.”

ANNC STRAKA 12: “He’s got it!  it is remarkable the way he has turned it around.  I mean this is just unbelievable.”

ANNC ZALATORIS 18 REGULATION PAR PUTT: “This one on the way, and this one is buried!  Is that one gonna be good enough to get Zalatoris a PGA TOUR win?”

ANNC STRAKA ZALATORIS TIED: “Straka and Zalatoris tied at 15-under.”

**AFTER TWO PLAYOFF HOLES AT THE 18TH WHERE ZALATORIS SINKS MUST MAKE PAR PUTTS, THE TWO CONTINUED ON TO THE 11TH HOLE.**

ANNC ZALATORIS TEE SHOT 11: “That is on an aggressive line//and wedges in between the grass and the stone wall!  That’s gonna be a tough one.”

ANNC STRAKA TEE SHOT 11: “That’s also short and into the water! Now what’s gonna happen!”

ZALATORIS PRESSER 3: Considering where Sepp was and he had four feet for 5, there's no reason for me to try that shot // but obviously I had to earn it after what happened.

ANNC WIN: “And he’s got it! Finally! Zalatoris is a PGA TOUR winner!

ZALATORIS PRESSER 4: It's kind of hard to say "about time" when it's your second year on TOUR, but about time. // considering all the close finishes that I've had this year, to finally pull it off, it means a lot.

**SENTRY GFX**

**WILL ZALATORIS BECOMES JUST THE SECOND PLAYER TO WIN HIS FIRST TITLE IN THE FEDEXCUP PLAYOFFS, AND HE QUALIFIES FOR THE 2023 SENTRY TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS.**

**FEDEXCUP STANDINGS**

**ZALATORIS ALSO VAULTS TO NUMBER ONE IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS, KNOCKING SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER FROM THE TOP SPOT FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE MARCH.**

**MICHELOB ULTRA MITO PEREIRAS**

PAQUETTE SOT: Alright I’m gonna take this guy. Cause it looks like it’s got the most paprika on it. Paprika? Paprika? I think I say it wrong every time I say it, switch it up.

PEREIRA SOT: Paprika?

PAQUETTE SOT: Oh I like the way you say it! Paprika!

PAQUETTE SOT: Hey guys! I’m Renee Paquette, here at the FedEx St. Jude Championship in Memphis, Tennessee. Today, I’m gonna be hanging out with Mito Pereira. Let’s step into the 19th hole.

PAQUETTE SOT: How are you feeling so far?

PEREIRA SOT: Yeah, the course is great. I mean, weather is a little bit hot and humid, but course is looking really good. It’s not easy so it’s gonna be a good challenge for me.

PAQUETTE SOT: What here talks to you the most?

PEREIRA SOT: Oh, I mean I will have to do this for sure.

PAQUETTE SOT: The chicken or the ribs?

PEREIRA SOT: The ribs.

PAQUETTE SOT: Alright! Let’s cut into them.

PEREIRA SOT: You want to do it?

PAQUETTE SOT: Why don’t you do it? When you’re just like out, golfing with your buddies and you get off of the course, what’s your go to? What do you like going to first, a drink?

PEREIRA SOT: It depends what day is it.

PAQUETTE SOT: We’ll say not a work day.

PEREIRA SOT: If I’m still playing, I try to go healthy, like I really like avocado, avocados are really big in Chile, so I try to do avocado, or something grilled like chicken or meat. If it’s Sunday after I played, I can do a cheat meal.

PAQUETTE SOT: Okay but when you go home, say you’re like landing in Santiago.

PERIERA SOT: OK.

PAQUETTE SOT: What are you getting then?

PEREIRA SOT: Oh, my Mom always waits for me with some Chilean empanadas, she always has like 15 of those that I can eat.

PAQUETTE SOT: Just go to town.

PAQUETTE SOT: Ultra has been very vocal about athletes enjoying the road to success. Because we all know that it’s only worth it if you enjoy it. Do you take time to really reflect on that?

PEREIRA SOT: I should take more.

PAQUETTE SOT: Yep.

PEREIRA SOT: I think everyone’s gonna say this because you’re just so focused on what you want to go, where you want to go, that sometimes you just … I will need to do a little bit more of that, like when you say OK, three years ago I was over there, right now I’m here, like, just to be grateful.

PAQUETTE SOT: You’ve got a lot going on right now, we’ve gotta keep you laser-focused. Well guys, make sure to pick up your limited edition Michelob Ultra pack today and cheers to good times with Michelob Ultra. Mito, thank you!

PEREIRA SOT: Thank you for everything.

**FAN DUEL FEATURE**

**HERE ARE SOME FAVORITES AND SLEEPERS TO TARGET FOR THE BMW CHAMPIONSHIP AT FANDUEL SPORTSBOOK.**

**BY ALL ACCOUNTS, WILMINGTON COUNTRY CLUB WILL REWARD GOLFERS WHO ARE LONG OFF THE TEE AND HAVE GOOD IRON PLAY, AND THAT’S RORY MCILROY. MCILROY IS SECOND ON TOUR IN DISTANCE AND 14TH IN STROKES GAINED: APPROACH. HE’S ALSO 11TH IN STROKES GAINED: PUTTING. A BOUNCE BACK AFTER LOSING STROKES OFF THE TEE AND MISSING THE CUT LAST WEEK SEEMS LIKELY.**

**GIVEN THAT THIS COURSE SHOULD REWARD BALL-STRIKERS, THAT MEANS JUSTIN THOMAS DESERVES A LOOK. THOMAS ACTUALLY PLAYED HERE IN 2013 DURING THE PALMER CUP, THOUGH IT’S BEEN RECENTLY RE-DESIGNED. THOMAS RANKS 14TH IN DISTANCE AND 5TH IN APPROACH ON TOUR THIS SEASON.  NOBODY HEATS UP THE TEE TO GREEN GAME AS OFTEN AS JT.**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE HAS THREE CAREER WINS IN NO-CUT EVENTS ON TOUR, AND HE HAS THE DISTANCE AND IRONS TO GET A FOURTH THIS WEEK.  XANDER IS A PLUS PUTTER ON BENTGRASS, AS WELL AND HIS COMBINATION OF TEE TO GREEN FLOOR AND CEILING IS REALLY WHAT HELPS HIM IN NO-CUT SITUATIONS.**

**SOME OTHER OPTIONS TO CONSIDER AT LONGER ODDS AND FOR TOP-10 OR TOP-20 FINISHES INCLUDE JOAQUIN NIEMANN, MAX HOMA, AND CAM DAVIS.**

**BEST OF LUCK THIS WEEK FOR THE BMW CHAMPIONSHIP.**

**TOUR PLAYLIST**

**THE PGA TOUR HEADS TO DELAWARE FOR THE FIRST TIME ON THURSDAY, WHERE WILL ZALATORIS TEES OFF AS THE NEW NUMBER ONE IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS.**

**ROLLOUT**

SOT ZALATORIS: “This is why we practice, every week that we're out here there's some story of history. I've wanted to chase history my entire career and obviously that's why I was so vocal about the majors. So obviously it's great to finally get the first one out of the way.”

ANNC: “He’s been on the radar a long time Zing, and you get the feeling Zalatoris gets that first win and watch out.”

ANNC: “I can tell you there’s no amount of guaranteed money that can buy what he’s feeling right now.”

ANNC: “Now goes into the BMW Championship as the #1 man on the FedExCup points list.”

SOT ZALATORIS: “It still hasn’t hit yet. I think I've always had the attitude of the job's not done and as great as it is to pull this off, I still feel like I've got some unfinished business going forward. This is the peak season for us obviously for the PGA Tour players and the grind continues.”

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