A2 WILL LOWERY

Hi, I’m Will Lowery. I’m here at the…

***A3 TITLE***

**THIS IS THE JOHN SHIPPEN…**

***A4 JOHN SHIPPEN EXPLAINED***

**LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF PGA OF AMERICA CLUB PROFESSIONALS, AND ONLY ONE LPGA TOUR AND FOUR PGA TOUR PLAYERS ARE BLACK.**

**THESE NUMBERS DON’T REFLECT A LACK OF TALENTED BLACK GOLFERS**

**BUT RATHER, LIMITED ACCESS AND RESOURCES.**

**THE JOHN SHIPPEN IS A VEHICLE TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES THAT CAN FUNDAMENTALLY INCREASE DIVERSITY IN GOLF ON A NATIONAL SCALE.**

02:17:49 when the Rocket Mortgage Classic came to Detroit, it was important for the Rocket Mortgage Classic and the PGA Tour, knowing they were in the city of Detroit with 85% such a large black population, how can the community be involved with the event?

**NOW IN ITS SECOND YEAR,** **THE JOHN SHIPPEN NATIONAL GOLF INVITATIONAL IS A COMPETITION BETWEEN THE NATION’S TOP AMATUER AND PROFESSIONAL BLACK GOLFERS.**

**THE CHAMPIONS OF TWO WOMEN’S AND ONE MEN’S EVENT RECEIVE EXEMPTIONS INTO LPGA TOURNAMENTS AND THE PGA TOUR’S ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC.**

SOMMER WOODS SOT 2;24;14 ~~the common thread is the game of golf.~~ The common thread is I want to be on the LPGA Tour, I want to be on the PGA Tour.

02:24:22 this event allows that opportunity for them to see each other, to support each other, but to also be able to say, hey, you know what, I could really do this. And a lot of times it's not just the skill set, it's the mental psyche. And everybody who plays golf, understand that's 85, 90% of the game is mental.

02:24:51 This gives ~~an opportunity and~~ just the reaffirmation that we are supposed to be there. There are opportunities in to continue to just give them that extra boost to keep going because they do believe that there's people and entities and organizations that want to see to see them strive as well.

JOHN LANGWELL SOT Its equity in action//between the priority we were placing on diversity, equity, and inclusion and what Rocket Mortgage wanted to accomplish at this event and the community and just the need to diversify this game. That's where the John Shippen idea was born.

***A5 ROUND TABLE WITH WILL***

**WILL**: 01;28;18;19 Right now this is a treat. The fact that I’m sitting here with three brothers, talking about golf. 01;28;32;24 Aaron, I kind a want to start with you. You know give me your background, how you got into the game?

**AARON**: My dad played golf, gave me a plastic set when I was three. Just kind of grew into a love for the game of golf. 01;29;00;19 Played at Sacramento State in college and turned pro in 2018.

**SAMBA:** 01;29;06;12 I’m from Senegal West Africa. Started playing golf out there when I was three years old. 01;30;25;05 Probably have less than 1000 golfers in the whole country. (Will) Wow. (Samba) I went to high school in California, I went back home and turned pro right away.

**WILL:** 01;31;20;06 EJ, talk to me man. Tell me how you got into the game?

**EJ:** 01;31;26;04 Started when I was 13 or 14**.** My best friend got me into the game of golf.

MUSIC CHANGE: UPS AND DOWNS

**WILL;** 01;36;21;18 How have you guys navigated through those certain barriers, you know without having all those resources needed to move forward in this game?

**SAMBA:** 01;38;37;24 I turned pro very early. Um 19, my parents didn’t couldn’t really sponsor me or anything. What I would usually do is work for about six months and then try to go play for 6 months around Africa.

**AARON:** 01;36;56;20 I graduated college, and I moved back home with my parents and the first thing my dad said was now you have to get a job. Well I thought playing professional golf was going to be my job. (ha ha ha)

**WILL** 01;40;23;17 Talk to me about carrying the legacy of the black golfer.

**AARON:** 01;40;29;00 For a kid that gets to see this or can watch it on tv, not only does he see you know multiple black guys playing golf, but he sees multiple black guys playing good golf.

**EJ:** 01;42;12;25: Golf is cool. I think it’s an honor to be out here and have kids look up to us and like us play that part. Just showing them, we can have fun. We can come out here and we can play good golf.

**SAMBA** The mission is to open the door I’d say for African children, we’re in 2022 and we still don’t have one black African on the PGA TOUR. We’ve never had one. So that’s the mission.

**Will** Wow, they can’t be what they don’t see hunh?

**SAMBA** Yeah exactly.

***A6 MEN’S INVITATIONAL ROUND 1 PART 1***

**SATURDAY MORNING… DETROIT GOLF CLUB… ROUND 1…**

**22 PLAYERS ARE VYING FOR ONE EXEMPTION INTO THE PGA TOUR’S ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC.**

**AND THE AIR IS THICK WITH ANTICIPATION.**

Beverly Reaction NATS

“What’s up, dog? Good to see you.

KEVIN HALL TEE ANNC:

“Welcome to the First Round of the John Shippen National Golf Invitational presented by Rocket Mortgage. First to the tee from Cincinnati, Ohio, please welcome Kevin Hall.” (applause)

**4-TIME APGA TOUR CHAMPION, KEVIN HALL, IS COMPETING FOR ANOTHER PGA TOUR START… AS IS SENEGAL’S NO. 1 PROFESSIONAL SAMBA NIANG (N-YOUNG), WHO STRUGGLES TO FIND HIS WAY ON UNFAMILIAR GROUND.**

NIANG BITE 1

“It was a tough start, I would say (um) I wasn’t really very comfortable with everything anything (I mean uh ) club wise, (uh) course wise obviously the first time playing the golf course, (uh) but you know I enjoy it.”

**HOWARD UNIVERSITY STANDOUT, EVERETT WHITEN JUNIOR, FOLLOWS UP AN EARLY BOGEY WITH FOUR BIRDIES ON THE FRONT.**

WHITEN BITE 1

“Just tried to keep pushing. Started with an early bogey and just told myself, ‘Keep going. There’s birdies out here. If I hit the fairways, it’s a pretty straightforward course. Just keep my head down and keep going.”

**PGA TOUR CANADA MEMBER AARON BEVERLY TOO, IS SEARCHING FOR BIRDIES AND IS EVEN AT THE TURN.**

**THE 27-YEAR-OLD GREW UP PERFORMING ON TWO VERY DIFFERENT STAGES.**

**A7 AARON BEVERLY**

SOT BEVERLY: My life stories I don't wanna say drastically different than a lot of people, but it is definitely unique.

NAT: Take one

SOT BEVERLY: The concentration that it takes to be good at ballet, it really translate to every sport and kind of every walk of life. If you can stand on stage and perform in front of 1000s of people then hitting a golf ball in front of Tiger Woods is really no problem.

NAT: First on the tee from Fairfield, California, please welcome Aaron Beverly. (clapping)

SOT BEVERLY: Life’s been like a whirlwind in the best way possible. I got a chance to play the Genesis Invitational and that was a whole event in my life that I'll never be able to forget. So that was awesome. And then qualified for PGA TOUR Canada shortly after that, and been playing other tournaments, APJ events kind of across the country. So it seems like it's been nonstop traveling on the go.

NAT BEVERLY: Just came from Chicago, but then to Arizona. Next I got Kentucky, Detroit. Nothing like coming home be able to be in your own bed, but it beats having to work a nine to five. So I'll take it. First of many opportunities, hopefully to be in this magazine one day be like Homa, and be on the cover. It's a neat time in the game golf just because more kids can grow up and see guys that look like them. And especially with coming up with the Shippen being 20 of us competing, it'd be great.

SOT BEVERLY: It's amazing to have this opportunity to play in this event and to try to push this movement forward. We all add a little bit different swag to the game of golf.

NAT BEVERLY: This is kind of like my baby collection. My favorite. Cochran elevens they just look nice they go with anything some black jeans, hoodie t shirt. One of my favorite pictures of my dad and myself just because we got the same focus on our face and kind of determination kind of embodies everything that he instilled in me.

SOT BEVERLY: So he passed on the 21st night of September, I just finished a golf tournament on the 20th. I ended up driving straight to the hospital right after the tournament and kind of was there for his last moments.

SOT BEVERLY: I wouldn't be playing golf if it wasn't for my dad. Put a plastic club in my hand at like 2 and used to take me the golf course every weekend.

NAT BEVERLY: First came out here when I was probably about four or five years old. My dad and I used to come down here and have putting contests. Forever grateful I had so many hours, moments with him. I wish I had more.

SOT PARENTEAU: I know it was tough for Aaron when his dad passed. They were always together. You wouldn't see one without the other.

NAT BEVERLY: High school, all our matches were here. My dad used to sit with his best friend in the bar. And every time I'd come up on hole 9, he was always sitting right there. So that's pretty cool memory. Rancho slaws is home away from home for me, definitely wouldn't be where I'm at now if it wasn’t for this golf course.

SOT PARENTEAU: His swing from like seven or eight was just really nice. Tempo was good. He had good footwork. He didn't do a lot of the ballerina move, which is where they spin and lose their traction.

SOT BEVERLY: I like to think my golf swing is really pretty and nice to look at. And I like to think that my dancing was the same way. So I definitely took that from ballet and into golf. Those two definitely translate it for me.

NAT BEVERLY: It's been about 13 years since I've been back here.

NAT: Hi! Oh my gosh its been so long. Just a little bit. You were a little, teeny, tiny ten year old. Now I got muscle. Ha ha ha.

SOT BEVERLY: I got started in ballet when I was three. My mom took me to a class.

SOT LAVERNE BEVERLY: I told his dad I said, you know, this kid really loves to dance.

NAT BEVERLY: The athletes I know that have danced. A Herschel Walker, Lynn Swann, Steph Curry's done a little bit. The greatest receiver of all time Jerry Rice.

SOT BEVERLY: Can't do any dance move without you know your core being strong and balanced. It makes golf seem like a piece of cake.

NAT BEVERLY: This is best workout in my life.

SOT BEVERLY: It’s the only reason why I hit the ball far, I like to think so it's good.

SOT BEVERLY: I like to try to move through life with the grace of my mother and then try to be as competitive as my dad was because it was not only my dream, to be a professional golfer was his dream for me as well.

SOT LAVERNE BEVERLY: He's following in his dad's footsteps. I hope he continues on this journey. And whatever he says he's going to do he does it.

SOT BEVERLY: I know where I want to end up on the PGA TOUR and one of the best golfers in the world. At the end of the day, it comes down to being good at the game of golf. So hopefully kids who see us and imagine themselves playing at the highest level. We are at a turning point where think we can have a deep impact in moving the game forward.

**BREAK 1**

**B1 JOHN SHIPPEN FEATURE**

**THIS IS THE STORY OF THE TOURNAMENT NAMESAKE - JOHN SHIPPEN**

RUBY SIMMONS SOT: John Shippen's story is a forgotten story to the world of golf. We talk about Charlie Sifford, Lee Elder and of course Tiger Woods, but no one has ever gone back that far to put him in as part of that history.

THURMAN SIMMONS SOT: Shippen was the Jackie Robinson of golf. He transcended golf in an era where no African Americans were playing golf back. He made history three-folds - first American, first African American and the youngest American to ever play in a US Open. John Shippen was born in Anacostia, Washington DC in 1879. He came to Shinnecock with his father and family to minister the Shinnecock Indians. John was nine years old then, and he and other members of the Shinnecock Indian Nation actually built the golf course by hand.

**AFTER HELPING TO BUILD THE NOW-FAMED COURSE, SHIPPEN TOOK AN INTEREST IN THE SPORT.**

**BY THE AGE OF 16, THE NATURAL TALENT WAS WORKING FULL-TIME AS AN ASSISTANT…**

 **AND IN A FEW SHORT YEARS, BECAME THE FIRST AMERICAN-BORN GOLFING PROFESSIONAL.**

THURMAN SIMMONS SOT: 1896 that was the first official USGA tournament out at Shinnecock and no Americans ever played in a USGA tournament. The Scottish and Irish people were invited over to play and the members of Shinnecock had entered John Shippen Jr. to play in this event.

RUBY SIMMONS SOT: He was ostracized by the players that came from Scotland, calling them the colored boys, that they did not want to play with them.

THURMAN SIMMONS SOT: He was only 16 years old. He finished fifth place and after that he played in five US Opens. But when you look at the history of the game, Shippen should have a place in the annals of golf for what he did.

**SHIPPEN'S GOLFING PURSUITS WERE IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE NORM IN THE EARLY 1900'S, WHEN BLACK GOLFERS WERE LARGELY PROHIBITED FROM PLAYING ALONGSIDE WHITE MEN AND WOMEN.**

RUBY SIMMONS SOT: There was something about him that apparently peaked the interest of those that played the game at that time.

THURMAN SIMMONS SOT: He was always somewhere being snuck on a golf course where he couldn't play, to play the members. He played this whole eastern seaboard from New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Long Island.

**BUT AFTER YEARS OF PLYING HIS TRADE ON THE ROAD, A NEW HOME EMERGED IN 1921.**

THURMAN SIMMONS SOT: Shady Rest is important because it was the first African American Country Club in America. This is where African Americans came to have a good time and feel free and not feel threatened about anything.

RUBY SIMMONS SOT: Duke Ellington, all of the big bands and they were here. Althea Gibson taught tennis, they had a tennis court here. They had the golf course.

THURMAN SIMMONS SOT: John got to become the pro here in the late 20s. And he stayed the head pro here for 25-30 years. He lived right upstairs on the third floor. He just loved playing golf, and he loved teaching golf to the members of the club.

RUBY SIMMONS SOT: John Shippen's story to me is very relevant. With everything that's going on today in our society, I think this is a good time to know about the past.

**B2-5 THE JOHN SHIPPEN SHOOT-OUT**

**ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN MORE THAN A HALF CENTURY SINCE SHIPPEN PASSED AWAY, HIS LEGACY AS A GOLF PIONEER LIVES ON THROUGH A NEW GENERATION…THANKS IN PART TO EVENTS LIKE THE JOHN SHIPPEN WOMEN’S SHOOTOUT PRESENTED BY COGNIZANT AT MOUNTAIN RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB IN WEST CALDWELL, NEW JERSEY.**

TROPHY CEREMONY - SOMMER WOODS SOT: (01:00:00) “We are so excited to have you all here. / (01:01:41) We talk about the history of this game / (01:01:47) John Shippen is not just a part of black history, he is a part of American Golf History and so we wanted to make sure we elevated his name.”

MICAA’ THOMAS SOT (01:49:37) “John Shippen is so important. / (01:50:05) They have just done such an incredible job to keep John Shippen's / historical / events alive. And I love that. / (01:50:32) I'm just so glad they're able to keep it alive for us to carry it on for him.”

**IN ADDITION TO HONORING ITS NAMESAKE’S HISTORY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS, THE SHOOTOUT ALSO HAS A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE FUTURE FOR 1 OF THE 8 WOMEN IN THE FIELD…AS THE WINNER OF THIS 18-HOLE EVENT WILL EARN AN EXEMPTION INTO THE LPGA TOUR’S COGNIZANT FOUNDER’S CUP.**

SADENA PARKS SOT: (01:39:09) // “The John Shippen brings opportunity / because people have paved the way before us. / (01:39:37)  If you win this tournament, you get an exemption to an LPGA event, / you get an opportunity to go out there and win it and kind of change the perspective of how golf is viewed and seen.”

JADE SANDERS SOT: (01:26:16) “/ It’s important because / it shows / women who look like me that…there are opportunities out there for us and / (01:27:13) they can do this too. And they're not alone.”

LAKAREBER ABE SOT: (02:03:16) “/ It gives us an opportunity to compete against the best and to see where we level up. / (02:03:39) It's hard for anyone to get an exemption into an LPGA event. So the idea that we can compete for one is a huge deal in golf. / And I think it's something we're all thankful for.”

**LAKAREBER ABE MAKES THE MOST OF THE OPPORTUNITY EARLY IN HER ROUND, GOING 1-UNDER THROUGH FOUR HOLES…BUT QUICKLY LOSES MOMENTUM, AND CARDS 5 CONSECUTIVE BOGEYS BEFORE MAKING THE TURN.**

**HOWEVER, SHE ISN’T THE ONLY PLAYER STRUGGLING IN THE COLD, WINDY CONDITIONS.**

**THE FRONT NINE YIELDS A MERE 4 BIRDIES TO THE ENTIRE FIELD…AND 3 BELONG TO ABE’S PLAYING PARTNER, BREANNE JONES, WHO SURGES INTO THE LEAD.**

ABE SOT: (02:09:01) “/ I kind of struggled / the first nine. /

ABE SOT: (02:13:28) “/ I made the turn and I was three or four down, and so I was just like, you never know with golf. You just do your best.

ABE SOT: (02:09:17) “// Let's just see how much fun we can have and / that was kind of the goal.”

**ABE BATTLES BACK, WITH 2 BIRDIES AND ONLY 1 BOGEY TO TAKE A 1 SHOT LEAD OVER JONES TO THE 18TH…**

ABE SOT: (02:12:45) “/ It was pretty hard today. / (02:13:07) Going down the stretch, / I could feel it was pretty intense with Breanne and I. But / I guess / that's part of the fun./”

ABE SOT: (02:00:07) “// And then I bogeyed the hole, and I was like, I don't really want to go into a playoff. And, like, it's kind of disappointing, but at the same time, / you practice and you play because you want to be tested.”

**SHE ULTIMATELY PASSES THE TEST, OUTLASTING JONES ON THE FIRST PLAYOFF HOLE TO SECURE HER FIRST CAREER START ON THE LPGA TOUR.**

TROPHY CEREMONY - SHAMEKA YOUNG: (01:06:42) “// Lakareber we're so excited for you to be able to show up this week at the Cognizant Founders Cup.

TROPHY CEREMONY - SHAMEKA YOUNG: (01:06:10) “// It's such an opportunity to bring talent like this so that those little girls know what they can grow up and be.”

ABE SOT: (02:04:30) “/ It makes a huge deal for them that they see black women in spaces that, you know, maybe they wouldn't have seen themselves in 20, 30 years ago. So / (02:04:14) you have to work hard, you have to earn it. But / knowing that you can do it, too, is a big deal. ”

**ABE’S OPPORTUNITY CAME A FEW DAYS LATER AT THE LPGA COGNIZANT FOUNDER’S CUP.**

ABE SOT: (02:02:12) “I think it'll be a great opportunity to just learn about myself and see where my game’s at. And it's always fun when you get to compete with the best in the world at anything, so I'm excited.”

**AN EVEN PAR 72 IN THE OPENING ROUND HAS HER WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE OF MAKING THE CUT.**

[SHGINF\_S001\_S001\_Lakareber Abe Interview.MOV] ABE SOT: (00:51) “It’s been a little bit of a whirlwind. / I had kinda 24 hours to / get my bearings and figure out what was going on but / it was a great opportunity. I mean, I played with 2 great girls, / learned a lot in practice rounds and just how to manage my game and saw a lot out of myself this week.”

**UNFORTUNATELY, A 2ND ROUND 73 LEAVES ABE 2 SHOTS SHY OF MAKING THE WEEKEND. BUT SHE TAKES SOLACE IN HER STRONG SHOWING AND REMAINS COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING HER DREAM.**

[SHGINF\_S001\_S001\_Lakareber Abe Interview.MOV] ABE SOT: (01:11) “/ It’s been / good to kind of measure my game on a course like this and see where I need to improve and see where / I can get better and then see where / I do really well around a course like this. So, all positives for this week, I mean, it would be naive to be negative about it so, / I’m excited just to / work hard and see how things pan out.”

**BREAK 2**

***C1 KEVIN HALL WITH WILL LOWERY***

(09:55:45): (Lowery) Kevin (09:56:56): (Lowery) when you first heard about // what they were doing to increase diversity and provide a platform. What was your thoughts to that?

(09:57:20): (Kevin/Mom) I thought it was a wonderful thing. I’ve been doing this since 2005. The first few years there was not a lot of opportunity for people like me, people of color, black golfers. /// I’m excited for the younger kids, 5-10-15 // years down the road they will have a lot of opportunities. I can’t wait to see how many black golfers that will make it to the highest level because of groups like this is good for the game.

(10:04:12): (Lowery) When we talk about // your career, /// how do you define success?

(10:04:38): (Kevin/Mom) /// I’ve played on the PGA TOUR, Korn Ferry, I’ve won on the APGA. // I spend time with people from all walks of life. If I wake up and say wow, I inspired someone today that’s success. Keep staying out there, doing what I love to do, not giving up that’s success. So that’s how I look at things now at 40. I can’t believe I’m 40 ha ha ha ha.

(10:10:30): (Lowery) What would you tell the young African American golfer who’s at home and he’s trying to maximize the // little amount of resources that he has to get to the next level?

(10:11:41): (Kevin/Mom) /// When you have an opportunity // that comes your way do your best to grab it. If you don’t succeed it’s not the end of the world. Wake up the next day keep trying. I tell people all the time my lows are low and I could have easily given up, but I didn’t. I kept working hard, one day at a time. // You never know what’s around the corner just keep going. Not every day is all good, // but you got to keep going.

(10:12:33): (Lowery) I like that actually, that’s what I need (everyone laughs/handshakes)

***C2 MEN’S ROUND 1 PART 2***

**UNFORTUNATELY, KEVIN HALL’S FIRST ROUND ENDS WITH A 4 OVER 76 BUT HE REMAINS HOPEFUL FOR TOMORROW.**

SOT HALL (04:04:27): My rhythm and tempo was a little bit off today. It all built up from there. Sometimes you just don’t have it. (04:05:07): You’re not going to have good days all the time. I’ll sleep tonight and get up tomorrow and get after it again.

**ON THE OTHER HAND, AARON BEVERLY FINDS SUCCESS DOWN THE STRETCH ADDING 2 CIRCLES TO HIS SCORECARD, HOWEVER 2 SQUARES ERASES ANY POSITIVE MOMENTUM, AND FINISHS AT EVEN PAR…**

SOT BEVERLY (02:57:38): Kind of put myself out of position a couple of times. But (02:57:56): I'm going to treat tomorrow basically like a Monday qualifier that you play so low score and just kind of whatever happens from there happens.

**DESPITE A BOGEY ON 18, EVERETT WHITEN JR SITS TIED ATOP THE LEADERBOARD AND WILL HEAD INTO THE FINAL ROUND AT 4 UNDER PAR…**

SOT WHITEN (02:53:55): Just go out there and try to shoot the best I can and (02:53:38): tomorrow is just different day, so just keep my head down. Don't try and do too much and just stay even keel game.

**EIGHT PLAYERS FINISH IN RED NUMBERS DURING THE FIRST ROUND OF THE JOHN SHIPPEN NATIONAL GOLF INVITATIONAL. SAMBA NIANG HOWEVER, NEVER FINDS HIS RYTHYM.**

***C3 SAMBA AND WILL***

**BEFORE TOURNAMENT PLAY BEGAN, WE CAUGHT UP WITH NIANG AS HE TIRED TO GET ACCLIMATED MORE THAN FOUR THOUSAND MILES AWAY FROM HIS HOME COURSE.**

LOWERY: We’re a little bit away from home right? From what you’re used to right?

NIANG: Yeah, very much away.

LOWERY: What does the John Shippen Invitational mean to you?

NIANG: The best opportunity I’ve gotten to play a PGA TOUR event. I played most of my professional career in Africa, and this is as close as it gets to the goal, you know, which is to be on TOUR.

LOWERY: Talk to me about the courses over there

NIANG: My home course where I practice is nine holes.

LOWERY: It’s not like this at all?

NIANG: No, very far from this. The fairways are basically sand.

LOWERY: Really?

LOWERY: How will this tournament help you prepare for some of the tournaments to come in the future?

NIANG: Playing on a great track like this, it might be my first time playing on a PGA TOUR golf course. But this is as close as it gets to, you know, where we wanna go. So it’s definitely going to be a learning experience.

LOWERY: you have won 23 tournaments in Africa. How do you define success?

NIANG: Success here is what I’ve been looking for, that has been the goal. I’m just trying to adapt to whatever we have here and make sure I do it as well as possible, well enough to be successful here.

LOWERY: Right now you have a good start. It was a pleasure man, thank you so much and good luck this week.

NIANG: Thank you so much and have a good one.

***C4 MEN’S ROUND 2 PART 1***

**AS FINAL ROUND ACTION BEGINS, NIANG’S STRUGGLES CONTINUE. THE SENEGAL NATIVE JUST COULDN’T FIND HIS FOOTING ON AMERCIAN SOIL, POSTING A FINAL ROUND 79. MEANWHILE, AARON BEVERLY IS OFF TO A HOT START, FIRING THREE BIRDIES ON THE FRONT NINE.**

SOT: [15:24:43] “Hit it really well, made a couple putts early. Was able to make the turn at 3-under, wish I would’ve birdied the par 5’s on the front because then it could’ve been really special.”

**BUT JUST AHEAD OF BEVERLY IS ANOTHER PLAYER ON A SUNDAY SURGE: WYATT WORTHINGTON II, WHO BIRDIES HALF OF THE FIRST DOZEN HOLES TO BOUNCE BACK FROM A ROUND OF 1-OVER ON SATURDAY.**

SOT: [0:37] “I went to the range afterwards, after the first round, and // just had to go back to the drawing board, and luckily enough I kind of figured it out. I gave myself way more opportunities than I did yesterday, and I was lucky enough to convert some of those putts.”

**THE FIELD CHASES AMATEUR EVERETT WHITEN JR, WHO HOLDS THE SOLO LEAD AT 6-UNDER AFTER TWO EARLY BIRDIES. BUT A DOUBLE-BOGEY AT THE NINTH DROPS HIM INTO A THREE-WAY TIE HEADING TO THE BACK NINE.**

LEADERBOARD: **WITH THE LEADERS ONLY ONE SHOT AHEAD, THE JOHN SHIPPEN TROPHY AND A SPOT IN THE ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC CAME DOWN TO THE FINAL STRETCH ON SUNDAY**.

***D2-4 WOMEN’S ROUND 1 PART 1***

NATS GENERIC FINAL RD INTRO: Good Morning ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the John Shippen National Golf Invitational, presented by Rocket Mortgage.

ARRIVAL SANDERS TERRY SOT BROLL: It’s pretty historic for them. To have 16 young black professionals like this get together to play this event. Who knows where these ladies will be ten years from now. You know this might be the kickstart for a bunch of them.

ARRIVAL CARR NATS (01:26:50): Have fun and try to stay in the fairway ha ha ha. If I’m in the fairway I’m not in the rough.

ARRIVAL SMITH NATS BROLL (01:25:35): Hey what’s up Smith family? What’s going on how are you doing? Good luck today!

ARRIVAL PARKS NATS (01:24:08) I got the coolest funniest caddy, he’s a member here and we just going to have fun that’s my mindset just keep it easy, take good shots, stay focused.

**THE OPENING ROUND FEATURES 16 WOMEN COMPETING FOR AN EXEMPTION INTO TWO UPCOMING LPGA TOUR EVENTS, THE MEIJER (my-er) LPGA CLASSIC FOR SIMPLY GIVE, AND THE DOW GREAT LAKES BAY INVITATIONAL…**

UWADIA NATS 1ST TEE (02:22:50): Teeing off from Fort Worth Texas, the 2021 John Shippen National Invitational Champion, Anita Uwadia (clapping)

**THE DEFENDING CHAMP CATCHES FIRE EARLY WITH TWO BIRDIES IN HER FIRST 3 HOLES, HOWEVER THE REST OF THE FIELD STRUGGLES OUT OF THE GATES, COMBINING FOR ONLY ONE DURING THAT SAME SPAN…**

SOT ANITA UWADIA (06:43:47): One shot, two shots that's nothing in tournaments like this. It's one of those things you can lose it in one hole. So don't worry about the field just worry about yourself. And if I can play that way, I’ll do pretty good.

**WHILE UWADIA TAKES AN EARLY LEAD, GEORGIA OBOH HEADS IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION AFTER 3 BOGEYS AND A DOUBLE THROUGH FIVE HOLES…**

SOT GEORGIA OBOH (06:16:25): I just tried to stay in the moment. Even though I was 5 over par I kind of like disregarded the score so to speak and I just focused on just hitting fairways, hitting greens and then a few long putts just dropped.

**THREE CONSECUTIVE CIRCLES ON THE SCORECARD MOVES OBOH BACK WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE, MAKING THE TURN AT JUST TWO OVER PAR…**

SOT GEORGIA OBOH (06:17:05): In terms of how well I fought back that's just something I just need to take for every round going forward.

**SADENA PARKS BEGINS HER BACK NINE ONE SHOT OFF THE PACE, AND WITH A BIRDIE AT 10, THE 32-YEAR-OLD TIES UWADIA FOR THE LEAD… HOWEVER, A BOGEY ON THE NEXT HOLE QUICKLY ERASES ANY MOMENTUM…**

SOT SADENA PARKS (07:23:00): Day one for me, I just made sure I stayed under control, made some putts, got some great up and downs. Had some bad holes but didn't let those get to me. Just the simple things in golf that you can take and carry on to the next hole to make sure that you're just staying positive.

**PARKS’ PLAYING PARTNER LAKAREBER ABE, THE 2022 JOHN SHIPPEN SHOOT-OUT CHAMPION, POSTS 5 BIRDIES ON THE DAY… UNFORTUNATLY, ABE FOLLOWS EACH BIRDIE WITH A DISSAPOINTING BOGEY, ENDING THE ROUND AT EVEN PAR…**

SOT LAKAREBER ABE (06:26:35): I played fine today. I'd kind of make a birdie and then I'd make a bogey. kept myself in position. So, that's what you want on the first day is just to have a shot.

***(1ST ROUND LEADERBOARD VO BELOW)***

**WITH THREE BIRDIES IN HER FINAL FOUR HOLES GEORGIA OBOH JOINS ABE IN THE CLUBHOUSE WITH AN OPENING ROUND 72… BOTH SIT ONE SHOT AHEAD OF SEDENA PARKS, WHO ENDS HER DAY AT ONE OVER… EVERYONE WILL BE CHASING ANITA UWADIA, WHO CAPTURED 3 BIRDIES IN HER FINAL SIX HOLES AND WILL SLEEP WITH THE LEAD AT 3 UNDER PAR…**

SOT ANITA UWADIA (06:43:10): Every tournament you wanna win and I'm gonna come out being aggressive, that's just my nature I’m always aggressive on the golf course.

***D5 ROUND 2 BUILD UP***

**ON THURSDAY, ANITA UWADIA BEGINS THE FINAL ROUND OF THE JOHN SHIPPEN INVITATIONAL WITH FOUR PLAYERS CHASING HER WITHIN FOUR STROKES OF THE LEAD, HIGHLIGHTED BY LAKARBER ABE…**

SOT LAKAREBER ABE (06:25:39): 36 holes is a long time, we've played 18 we have 18 more. So, you just never know what can happen. So, just try to play as solid as I can.

**LIKE ABE, GEORGIA OBOH AND SADENA PARKS ALSO CLIMB UP THE LEADER BOARD, BOTH ADDING THEIR FIRST BIRDIE OF THE DAY AT THE 4TH…**

SOT GEORGIA OBOH (06:17:14): If you're swinging the ball well, you can make a lot of birdies, you can still make mistakes, but I think if you make enough birdies, you can let the mistakes happen.

SOT SADENA PARKS (07:22:33): I've been here, I've done this before, playing on Tour. And stress doesn't help you win anything. It just adds more weight on your shoulders. I know that I have full control of me and nothing else.

MUSIC CHANGE:

**BACK-TO-BACK BIRDIES EARNS UWADIA SOME BREATHING ROOM, HOWEVER TWO STRAIGHT FRUSTRATING BOGEYS TO CLOSE OUT HER FRONT NINE, LEAVES THE DOOR OPEN FOR PARKS…**

**WITH CONSECUTIVE BIRDIES AT TEN AND ELEVEN, PLUS YET ANOTHER BOGEY BY UWADIA, PARKS CAPTURES THE OUTRIGHT LEAD FOR THE FIRST TIME ALL TOURNAMENT…**

SOT SADENA PARKS (07:28:13): I knew I was at the top of the leaderboard, but I didn't know where I was. This game humbles me enough to let me know that I'm not gonna win them all. But do I want to? Yes.

(My – Er)

***E3 WOMEN’S INVITATIONAL PARKS WIN***

**WITH ONLY 7 HOLES REMAINING SADENA PARKS HOLDS A ONE-SHOT LEAD OVER FIRST ROUND LEADER ANITA UWADIA AND GEORGIA OBOH...**

**…AND SHE CONTINUES TO HEAT UP DOWN THE STRETCH, CAPTURING HER 4TH BIRDIE OF THE DAY TO FIRE A 3 UNDER 69, OVERCOMING A FOUR SHOT DEFECIT FOR THE VICTORY…**

SOT SADENA PARKS (07:21:02): I'm just excited. And I'm grateful to be part of the John Shippen. I'm grateful to be in the history books of winning the John Shippen.

PARKS WINS POST SIGNS SCORECARD: Alright thank you ladies. Congrats great playing today. Thank you.

PARKS WINS POST CEREMONY SPEECH: This is the first win for me in a really long time. This has been amazing, it's a wonderful opportunity. I've been looking forward to this, this is only the beginning for me. I'm gonna keep winning so y'all gotta get better, y'all gotta get tight cuz I'm gonna keep going boy.

 ***(FINAL RD LEADERBOARD VO BELOW)***

**WITH THE WIN, PARKS HAS BEEN AWARDED A SPONSOR EXEMPTION TO BOTH THE MEIJER (MY-ER) LPGA CLASSIC FOR SIMPLY GIVE, AND THE DOW GREAT LAKES BAY INVITATIONAL… ALTHOUGH SHE STILL NEEDS TO CHOOSE A PARTNER TO COMPETE ALONGSIDE THE TEAM EVENT…**

PARKS WINS POST CEREMONY PICKS UWADIA: I’m just going to say it like it is, I want Anita to play with me that would be lit (clapping)

SOT SADENA PARKS (07:33:19): I picked Anita, we have similar games. We have similar body builds. She's a little bit stronger than me and she pipes a little bit further than me.

PARKS WINS POST CEREMONY PICKS UWADIA: So I think it will be fun to see us like match up and kill it. (Let’s go lets go!) (clapping)

SOT SADENA PARKS (07:31:26): This game you take more Ls than you do Ws, let's just be real. So, a win is a win, this means a lot to me. And I think it's the first of a lot to come. So I'm gonna go out there and do my thing and get more wins.

***E4 AND 5  FEATURES***

**TEAM SADINA AND ANITA TOOK THE SHOW ON THE ROAD TO MICHIGAN AT THE DOW GREAT LAKES BAY INVITATIONAL.**

SOT PARKS: Thank you to Dow for treating us like the queens that we are. Sometimes we don't get that very often we put a lot of work into this game and just to have that recognition, and to have people support us like this is amazing. There needs to be more of us, we bring so much to the game. And it’s nice to see other ethnicities out here. But I've seen a great amount of African Americans out here following us little girls, little boys. It's just giving them a vision of we can do this, we can accomplish certain things.

SOT UWADIA: And then the cliche saying you can't be what you do not see. So I know of the younger generation is seeing people like us being on tour playing at the highest level, it's easy to say, you know, I can do this too. So the more diverse it is, the better for everyone.

SOT PARKS: Anita and I proved it this week that we can play well we can perform at the highest level. And that's really what I'm bringing and all that I want to bring is just being able to be the best example. We finished strong. We birdie the last few holes, we are fighters and grinded all our life. We're fighting for our position, we're fighting for our mark, fight for every putt to the last minute. And that's kind of what we've been taught our whole lives and we're bringing that to the golf course and inside the ropes and showing what we're capable of.

MUSIC CHANGE:

SOT WILL: We're here at the Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational. I'm joined by Sadena and Anita and we're just gonna talk a little bit of golf. Sadena you knew right away who you were gonna pick. (SADENA) Absolutely. (WILL) What made you pick Anita?

SOT PARKS: I know she has a similar game to me like, like she hits the ball super far. I hit the ball super far. Her short games pretty saucy. So is mine she's actually a little bit longer than me.

SOT WILL: Because you're known for being long to a lot of people?

SOT PARKS: She’s longer than me Loki. (Uwadia) Yeah let’s change that narrative. (Parks) I'm admitting it, I'm admitting she is Loki longer than me.

NATS: Check 1,2, 3 checks check boom boom. Is this on?

SOT WILL: If it’s based off chemistry, I think you guys are set to take the whole thing.

SOT PARKS: We’re a vibe we’re a whole vibe, for sure.

SOT WILL: But I kind of want to go back to John Shippen. Right? You know, obviously, the goal is to provide opportunity for men and women and people of color. I want to hear from your perspective. What does John shipping mean to you?

MUSIC CHANGE:

SOT PARKS: I mean, everything. I didn't grow up with opportunities that the John Shippen provides. The girls saw it. Anita saw it when I won I cried. I was crying because I was so happy to see us out there and us fighting for something that's never been done before. You know, playing this game as a female and as an African American female um is ah it's different. It's a struggle.

SOT UWADIA: You grew up where the game is a rich white man sport kind of thing. And you need to have inner peace with yourself and just persevere.

SOT PARKS: Yeah, yeah it's that and really knowing who you are, and where you came from. The John Shippen definitely gave me an opportunity. Me and Anita earned our opportunity out here and we're just out here to represent.

MUSIC CHANGE:

SOT WILL: Sadena you had ebbs and flows in this game. You once had your LPGA Tour card. You've been out of the game for a little bit just now getting back. Why did you take time off?

SOT PARKS: I took time off because there wasn't a balance in my life. And you don't have personal balance. It's hard for you to be the best athlete you can be. Absence is the best teacher. So when I was absent from the game I learned a lot about myself and learned a lot about on the course stuff too.

SOT WILL: Is it safe to say that you're back in love with the game of golf?

SOT PARKS: Oh, I'm more than in love with the game. I think it's this it's it's my significant other for sure. I love being out here. My comeback game has always been strong. I'm gonna tell you. I always fight so it's it's just my comeback year. (Anita) Comeback season.

SOT WILL: You guys made the cut. You guys tell me like the experience from round one to round two?

SOT UWADIA: It was pretty steady. I would say the first round.

SOT PARKS: I think we played free for a couple of days. Yeah, that we played in the fact that we've never played together. It's kind of cool that we're so free and natural because like I said we have similar games.

NAT: Steph Curry shimmy on him. Like she walked that in she walked that in. Let’s go!

SOT PARKS: This week the fact that I came in and made a cut with my sis, means means a little bit more having someone with you. And I just want to just keep the momentum going. Ha ha ha!

***F2 ROUND 2 TJS MEN’S WINNER***

**WITH A CROWDED LEADERBOARD AND HOLES RUNNING OUT, WYATT WORTHINGTON II CHANGES HIS MINDSET.**

SOT: I kind of had a ‘I will not lose’ mentality and luckily enough I kind of found a rhythm and I didn’t want to let go so I just tried to ride it as long as I could.”

**WYATT DRAINS BIRDIES ON 16 AND 17 AND HEADED TO THE CLUBHOUSE WITH A SOLO LEAD AT 6-UNDER. BUT ALL HE COULD DO WAS WATCH AS MICHAEL HERRERA’S PUTTER GETS HOT.**

VO: **BIRDIES ON 14 AND 15 HAS HERRERA SITTING JUST ONE SHOT BEHIND WORTHINGTON II HEADING TO 18.**

**BUT HIS BIRDIE PUTT AT THE LAST DOESN’T FALL, SEALING THE VICTORY FOR WORTHINGTON II.**

SOT: [01:50:59] “I know every day such as African-Americans and as black people // we don’t get opportunities like this everyday. // [01:51:28] I feel as though we could have a lot more of a melting pot that’s on the PGA TOUR.

**BOGEY FREE ROUNDS FROM WILLIE MACK THE THIRD AND DEFENDING CHAMPION TIM O’NEAL VAULTS THEM UP THE FINAL LEADERBOARD. BUT THE LOW ROUND OF THE DAY BELONGS TO WORTHINGTON THE SECOND.**

***F3 313 CELEBRITY CHALLENGE***

**ON TUESDAY AT THE AREA 313 CELEBRITY SCRAMBLE- A FUNDRAISER TO END DETROIT’S DIGITAL DIVIDE, SIX JOHN SHIPPEN PARTICIPANTS RUBBED ELBOWS WITH SUPER STARS.**

WYATT WORTHINGTON II SOT “Star-studded…are you kidding me? Legends of legends, like yo, we had the MVP, the unbelievable Jason Day, Tony Finau. That's very inspirational. That's where I want to be.”

JASON DAY SOT “It’s what you work for. You know what I mean? So, I'm excited for him.”

WORTHINGTON NAT “I got one in there for me, you gotta take care of the rest.”

CALVIN JOHNSON SOT “He has PGA TOUR level shots.”

WYATT WORTHINGTON II SOT “It's a great experience seeing the great fans out here and excited to do what I have to do to get the job done.”

NATS “That stuff is thick.”

NATS “Your time to shine baby.”

NATS “Come on Calvin…let’s go baby, let’s go…”

NATS “My man, you’re welcome.”

**F4 ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC PLAY**

NAT: Next on the tee, from Reynoldsburg, Ohio, Wyatt Worthington

**AS THE FIRST ROUND OF THE ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC TEES OFF, THE CHALLENGES BEGIN EARLY FOR WORTHINGTON II.**

ANNC: Here’s Worthington trying to make two…ohhh just slides by

**FOUR CONSECUTIVE BOGEYS ON THE FRONT NINE AND THREE ON THE BACK ADD UP TO A FIRST ROUND 79**

WORTHINGTON: It’s very easy to beat yourself up…I had a great support system that came out, people were cheering me on, even though, I didn't have my best stuff.

**WORTHINGTON II HAS A BETTER SECOND ROUND, PICKING UP TWO BIRDIES ON HIS WAY TO SHOOTING A 2-OVER-74. HE MISSES THE WEEKEND BUT TAKES HOME PLENTY OF VALUABLE EXPERIENCE.**

WORTHINGTON: it gave me more validation that I can play out here and I know I can do this at a high level.

**WHILE WYATT’S WEEK MAY HAVE ENDED EARLIER THAN HE HAD HOPED, HIS PLACE AS THE CHAMPION OF THE JOHN SHIPPEN IS SECURED.**

**WILL LOWERY CLOSE**