**2022 PGA TOUR – The CUT #45 (HOUSTON OPEN)**

WYNDHAM CLARK FISHING IN COLOARDO

CLARK: This is my happy place. As much as I love golf, that’s work and even when I leave the golf course and go home and I’m not playing a tournament, you’re still thinking about your golf swing, but when I come fish there’s nothing else I think about and it’s literally just me, in the river, thinking about catching a fish and your mind just kind of goes blank.

People just see us inside the ropes and sometimes you can look stoic or reserved. I’m at work, that’s my office. This is definitely my greatest passion outside of golf but yeah, I’m glad people get to see a different side of me.

**WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT…**

CLARK: Hey guys, welcome to Colorado.

This is one of my favorite coffee shops here in Colorado. It’s in Silverthorne which is a mountain town.

Can I get a tall coffee please? And I’ll do the sweet potato burrito.

As you walk outside at the backside of the coffee shop, you’ve got the Blue River. I come out here and you just kind of get in the fishing mindset, sitting by the river, it’s pretty spiritual.

CLARK: Some people know I love to fly fish but it’s definitely my passion. With the sport we play, it’s so mentally taxing it’s really good to have an outlet and fishing for me, it’s one of the very few things I can do where all I’m focused on is what I’m doing at hand. I don’t worry about anything else in life.

I usually can’t sleep the night before fishing. It’s almost like, it’s actually probably worse than a night before a final round of a tournament when you have a chance to win. Fishing, I get excited because it’s… like I know I’m gonna go do what I love. I always wake up it seems about an hour before my alarm clock goes off and usually I leave early because I’m like ahh I’m gonna wait around, I’m going to get up there.

When it comes to fishing you don’t really take out someone you don’t know. It’s kinda more like friends and family and Josh was nice enough to take me out and I’ve known Josh probably 3/4 years. Met him through a mutual buddy, we ended up hitting it off and it was just he and I on the river for like 7 hours and had a great time.

What up, buddy?

Josh is me in fly fishing and I’m Josh in golf.

HENSLEY: I know other athletes and famous people and you know, he’s just super humble and kind of grass roots and the fact he likes fishing, and I grew up playing golf as well, it was kind of an instant connection.

It’s got plenty of weight. We should be fine with a 5 weight (yeah) for what we’re doing.

CLARK: Rods are similar to like driver shafts. So you’d think there’s not really a big difference but definitely at levels where you’re pretty good you know a difference of like how it handles, casting, how it’s in the wind, this will be fun to try this out.

HENSLEY: It’s gonna be a good day of weight fishing. Go see if we can go catch a few fish.

CLARK: It’ll be chilly!

You never get sick of this view. Honestly, it’s like Candy Land for me. Just being here, makes me want to get in the water. It’s a great day to fish.

There we go.

HENSLEY: Yeah! Let him do his thing. That’s a brown, dude.

CLARK: Oh it is a brown!

HENSLEY: That’s a nice brown.

CLARK: Yeah!

HENSLEY: Wow. This is a pretty brown.

CLARK: This is awesome, it’s the best. Wooo!

HENSLEY: That was a nice fish.

CLARK: Let’s go!

My high school swing coach, Craig Coy, who lives here in Colorado is a huge fisherman. He’s super obsessed with it and he was the one who kind of got me into it. And then as my mom got sick my freshman year of college, that’s when he was like, “hey this is gonna be your escape, somewhere you can come and kinda be at peace, get away from everything.”

HENSLEY: There ya go, high stick it, and then just slow wrist set.

Yep! Yeah baby.

CLARK: That’s a different type of fish.

HENSLEY: It’s a rainbow.

CLARK: When I’m out here fishing, there’s something spiritual about being in a beautiful place like this, in the water. Sometimes you just stop and you just look around are you’re just like wow I’m so fortunate. Those are the times I think about my mom.

Sometimes you can get into a trance where you’re kind of just reflecting on certain things in life. There’s just so much that comes to fishing more than just catching fish and that’s what I love so much about it.

On the golf course I can be my own worst enemy and can get pretty heated at times but away from the golf course I’m not like that at all. I’m very happy go lucky, super easy going, and I don’t normally get impatient or show frustration. It’s almost like I’m two different people I’d love to kind of mesh what I am off the golf course, on the golf course. I think I would have more success on the golf course.

BUMP

HAUGSRUD (In Norwegian): He has to choose a club now. What do you think, Henrik?

BJØRNSTAD (In Norwegian): I’m not sure. I’m hoping for the putter, but will he choose it?

HOVLAND: They’re pretty known to be pretty passionate back home when they’re commentating.

HAUGSRUD (In Norwegian): Yes! It’s the putter!

BJØRNSTAD (In Norwegian): The putter.

BARNES: I'm a little honestly, but when it comes to my my kids, I get a lot more relaxed and easygoing.

Awe, is that awesome? Knucks.

NATS: Smiles for snacks.

VIKTOR HOVLAND – NORWEGIAN ANNOUNCERS

ANNC (In Norwegian): Yes! He makes it again! Out boy! Look how ice cold he is!!

HAUGSRUD (In Norwegian): We have a king in Norway, but we now also have a king in Mayakoba. And of course we also have a huge crush on Viktor, Henrik.

BJØRNSTAD (In Norwegian): Absolutely, and we have follow Viktor Hovland while preparing in Mexico.

HOVLAND: Two guys commentating from Norway and it’s Per Haugsrud and Henrik Bjørnstad. Henrik was the first Norwegian player to play fulltime on the PGA TOUR. It’s cool that he’s now commentating.

HAUGSRUD (In Norwegian): Viktor here, with his favorite club in his hands. The driver. The best club, for our best boy. But he has to peg the ball with shaky hands, that’s no walk in the park.

BJØRNSTAD (In Norwegian): Absolutely not! This is crucial, and we’ll get an indication of how his nerves are ahead of the tournament. Can he get it to lie still?

HAUGSRUD (In Norwegian): … In one go. Will it lie still? YES! It’s still!

BJØRNSTAD (In Norwegian): Lovely!

HAUGSRUD (In Norwegian): No reason to shake your head for that, Viktor.

HOVLAND: They’re pretty known to be pretty passionate back home when they’re commentating.

HAUGSRUD (In Norwegian): He has to choose a club now. What do you think, Henrik?

BJØRNSTAD (In Norwegian): I’m not sure. I’m hoping for the putter, but will he choose it?

HAUGSRUD (In Norwegian): Yes! It’s the putter!

BJØRNSTAD (In Norwegian): The putter.

HAUGSRUD (In Norwegian): It’s so lovely and smooth that putter stoke of his.

What’s this? Is it a video duel, Henrik?

BJØRNSTAD (In Norwegian): Yup. I think they’re comparing Tiger and Viktor’s swing technique. Who’ll take it?

HAUGSRUD (In Norwegian): Who will it be?! Yes! He takes that one as well! He’s even crushing Tiger, now!

BJØRNSTAD (In Norwegian): He’s the best in the world!

HAUGSRUD (In Norwegian): Our boy!

BJØRNSTAD (In Norwegian): Our guy!

HAUGSRUD (In Norwegian): We don’t have many steep hills here in Cancun, but this is almost a ski slope that needs climbing. Up the hill, and Viktor does it! Without getting hit by lactic acid!

BJØRNSTAD (In Norwegian): Lovely!

HAUGSRUD (In Norwegian): It’s nice and warm here in Mexico. That’s a great club transfer, but now he needs to get the glove off, which could prove difficult with arm and sweaty hands.

BJØRNSTAD (In Norwegian): One finger off. Two fingers off. Three fingers off! FIVE FINGERS OFF!

BOTH: Yes!

HAUGSRUD (In Norwegian): He manages that as well! He can do anything! And the smile is there, as always!

BJØRNSTAD (In Norwegian): Our guy!

HAUGSRUD (In Norwegian): So lovely to see! He really enjoys it here in Mexico. He’s hit a good put up here, and is concentrating on the final yard.

BOTH: Wow! Did you see that?!

BJØRNSTAD (In Norwegian): Putting on a show here, Viktor!

HAUGSRUD (In Norwegian): But it’s not the show that pays the bills. He needs to putt the ball. It’s in!

BJØRNSTAD (In Norwegian): He’s confident now!

HAUGSRUD (In Norwegian): Now he’s where he should be!

HOVLAND: Maybe not so unbiased, but yeah I think they do a pretty good job!

RUSSELL HENLEY WINS MAYAKOBA

ANNC: The man of the moment is this guy, Russell Henley. His last win was 5 years ago in Houston.

HENLEY: You always have doubts, am I going to win again. I've had a lot of tournaments where I haven't gotten it done, so this one's really special.

ANNC: In dominating fashion, Russell Henley picks up his 4th career win on the PGA TOUR. What a performance!

HENLEY: It means a lot, I hope Robert and Ruth and Jan are watching, and I hope my dad’s watching too.  Man, it’s tough not to get emotional, I’m excited.

It's just so hard to win out here, everybody is so good and it's so competitive. It's so much fun to put yourself and kind of see what you're made of, see what your game's made of and see if the hard work you've put in has paid off and that's kind of why we play.

ANNC: He’s had some really strong years, had some really consistent years.

**HENLEY’S FIVE SEASONS AFTER HIS PREVIOUS WIN INCLUDED 17 TOP-10 FINISHES, AND HE HELD THE 54-HOLE LEAD FIVE TIMES, FINALLY CONVERTING IN MEXICO.**

HENLEY: Walking up 18 I kind of felt like I wanted to cry a little bit. // just so much happiness looking back at the times where I kind of choked. It was just a lot of emotion thinking about how those moments have kind of -- I'm still here, I'm still fighting and I just can't believe that I got it done.

ANNC: He’s been in the top 6 strokes gained approach the last 3 seasons, you couple that with the way he has driven the ball this week, he really has allowed that iron play to shine.

HENLEY: I'm not really sure what the future holds. I feel like I have some great golf ahead of me, but I'm just going to try to keep doing what I'm doing and take care of my body and, Lord willing, I can just keep playing some good golf.

FEDEXCUP STANDINGS

**HENLEY’S WIN IN MEXICO MOVES THE VETERAN UP 149 SPOTS IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS AND INSIDE THE TOP 10 FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2013.**

COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10

**AND IN THE COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10, SEAMUS POWER’S T3 AT MAYAKOBA MOVES THE IRISHMAN FROM 5TH TO THE TOP SPOT.**

SAVING SHOTS

**THE CUT PRESENTS… SAVING SHOTS.**

ANNC: Did he? How many hole outs have we seen today. We have seen a number.

ANNC: There’s a Texas Longhorn Beau Hossler… oh yeah! Oh Beau! On cue! Great shot!

ANNC: Russell Henley still has that 6-shot lead. The ball’s sitting up a little pitch that will come back down the hill. So definitely a good line. Great touch. So well done. No stress!

ON THE RANGE WITH HARRY HALL

FULTON: Out here on the driving range with the man here in Las Vegas, that's Mr. Harry Hall. How you doing, man?

HALL: Good. Thank you.

ANNC: The unmistakable Harry Hall with that cap. Love this man’s style. Can move it a long way.

FULTON: You've come from England over to UNLV, how was your game changed from Europe to the United States?

HALL: You know, I grew up on a course that was five and a half 1000 yards long and every par 4 was 300 yards but you didn't really want to hit a driver because there was a lot of trouble around the green so I just spent all my life growing up chippin’ and puttin’ and it wasn't until I came to UNLV that I kind of had to learn how to to hit it far and really be a ball striker.

FULTON: Like the ball was up there right in the States? Was it was it guys were hitting more up in the air versus maybe down?

HALL: I think speed is a natural increment to you know, having a higher ball flight, you know, the more speed the higher the spin rates.

When I finished UNLV I was swinging at about one 112 and so I put on seven mile an hour probably just by getting a bit stronger, and learning a little bit and playing the golf courses. But it wasn't until I turned pro and in February 2020, during COVID, I went from 112 to swinging 125.

FULTON: Wow, that's a big jump.

HALL: Yeah, big jump.

FULTON: Let’s see one, here.

HALL: This would be about 118, stop driver, (ok) little draw.

FULTON: What’d that launch at, you think? 13?

HALL: That was 13.

FULTON: 22 spin, somewhere in there?

HALL: Probably 24 (that land yet?) The more spin for me the straighter I normally hit it.

FULTON: So you've got two drivers in the bag this week?

HALL: Yeah, one this is to draw it and then a few tee shots on four and 16.

FULTON: So you’ll fade that?

HALL: I’ll fade this one.

FULTON: Let’s hit one of those.

HALL: It’s got a little less loft, but it's the same length. Same shaft same swing rate.

FULTON: Interesting, so that was a big high draw now let's hit a little drip fade.

And that one’s peeling off to the right.

As you look back, what’d you learn from the first weeks out here on the PGA TOUR?

HALL: You know, having the baselines within your long game, knowing what you do well, and if I can hit some more fairways and greens, then, you know, my short game just through where I grew up and how good it is. I know that I can compete and win.

FULTON: Well this is a good place to get it started, right? A place you know well back home here in Las Vegas and I have no doubt you're gonna have a great rookie season on the PGA TOUR. Thank you, Harry Hall. Appreciate it.

MEET THE ROOKIE: ERIK BARNES

BARNES: I would say that my golf game is kind of all designed around ball striking. I've always been a pretty good ball striker, and that's kind of something that I can feel like I can usually take week in, week out that I don't have to worry about too much. When the short game and the putter get rolling, I feel like I can get myself in a good spot come Saturday and Sunday.

I'm a little high strung, honestly, but like I love being around my wife and my kids. I mean, I get so much joy out of watching my kids compete in athletics or going to school or whatever it is.

There you go! Yeah, get all that dirt off of him. Oh, he likes it!

When it comes to my my kids, I get a lot more relaxed and easygoing.

Up close and personal there, buddy! Here, you want me to raise you up so you can reach this one? Yeah! There we go, oh look at that tongue.

Awe, is that awesome?

Knucks

NATS: Smiles for snacks.

ANNC: This proud husband and father racked up 6 top 10 finishes this season, Erik Barnes!

They follow in the footsteps of so many incredible legends and stars in the game that got their start right here on the Korn Ferry Tour.

BARNES: You think it's going to happen, but until it actually happens, you always wonder if it's going to happen. It's one of those things for me, no matter if I play the PGA TOUR for one year or 10, 15, 20 years, I'll always be able to say I played the PGA TOUR and no one can ever take that from me. To prove to myself that I can do it and I can play on the PGA TOUR is just that inner goal that I've always had my entire life. And it's something I get to live.

**AND BARNES WILL CONTINUE HIS JOURNEY THIS WEEK IN HOUSTON, THE SITE OF HIS FIRST TOUR START IN 2020, WHERE HE’LL LOOK TO IMPROVE ON HIS PREVIOUS T-38 FINISH.**

BARNES: The thing I can't wait to do the most is to compete against the best players in the world and see how my game stacks up. Obviously, there are so many more perks and benefits and the money's better and it's a bigger stage and all that, but for me, being able to see how my game stacks up with the best players in the world is by far the most important thing to me.

BIRDIES FORE LOVE

ANNC: The sensational play of Sam Ryder and he’s going to pay if off here with a little birdie putt. That’s big for him.

RYDER: Even though I'm on the road playing a little bit, I'm not reinventing the wheel.

ANNC: Oh yeah, he’s playing with a lot of confidence he’s keeping that momentum going here.

**SAM RYDER’S 25 BIRDIES OR BETTER AT THE WORLD WIDE TECHNOLOGY CHAMPIONSHIP AT MAYAKOBA, WERE THE MOST FOR THE WEEK, SECURING HIM 50-THOUSAND DOLLARS TO A CHARITY OF HIS CHOICE THROUGH THE BIRDIES FORE LOVE COMPETITION.**

RYDER: I'm able to kind of just manage my time well and be a little bit more efficient. So, it's encouraged me to play a little bit more and it's obviously great to get off to a good start in the fall.

ANNC: Oh no that is perfect. What a shot from Sam Ryder!

**WITH TWO EVENTS REMAINING IN THE FALL, PGA TOUR ROOKIE TAYLOR MONTGOMERY HOLDS THE TOP SPOT IN THE OVERALL BIRDIES FORE LOVE STANDINGS.**

FAVORITES & SLEEPERS

I’m Kristen Rodgers from betPARX here with quick preview of the Cadence Bank Houston Open at Memorial Park Golf Course.

The PGA TOUR is headed to the Lone Star state this week and Texas native Scottie Scheffler will be leading the way as Scheffler has another chance to take back the number one spot in the world from Rory McIlroy with a win. Scottie finished tied for 3rd last week at Mayakoba but closed Sunday with a 62 after switching back to his old putter. If you want to follow the hot hand, or the hot putter this week, Scottie is definitely your pick.

But, I also like Hideki Matsuyama. He finished runner up here a few years back and then there is Russell Henley. He’s coming off a big win at Mayakoba, he won here back in 2017, and I expect him as a top 10 lock again this year.

TOUR PLAYLIST

**FRESH OFF ITS WORLD SERIES TITLE, HOUSTON WILL CROWN ANOTHER CHAMPION… THE 75TH IN TOURNAMENT HISTORY, AS ACTION FROM HOUSTON TEES OFF THURSDAY.**

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER AT 2021 HOUSTON OPEN

ANNC: What a run for Scottie Scheffler. This is an unbelievably quick ascent.

**IN A MATTER OF 56 DAYS LAST SEASON, SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER WENT FROM ZERO WINS ON TOUR, TO A FOUR TIME CHAMPION … AND JUST THREE MONTHS PRIOR TO HIS WIN IN THE DESERT, THE SECOND RUNNER-UP FINISH OF HIS CAREER BECAME A LAUNCHING PAD.**

ANNC: Legends of the game honed their skills here and captured titles.

ANNC: It’s only a matter of time before he gets that first win out here. Oh yeah. He is legit.

ANNC: 62 sets the standard! What a round of golf. Great bounce back after a poor round one.

SCHEFFLER: I think anger can go a few ways on the golf course. You can use it and get even more frustrated and more pissed off and you start thinking negatively. I used that anger today as a positive.

ANNC: Back to back! Scottie Scheffler now only a shot back of the lead. Isn’t momentum a great thing in sports? Things are starting to heat up here // in Houston.

ANNC: It is Championship Sunday. The man who took his second 54-hole lead in his PGA TOUR career is looking for his first ever victory on the PGA TOUR.

ANNC: Well this is aggressive, Scottie Scheffler with a driver. Tell you what. That is a heck of a tee shot right there. Two feet of curve and it carried 301. You never know, I mean that’s the kind of shot that could possibly be holed.

ANNC: Just didn’t quite have it at 100% today. His 67th start, still early on his career, but we all know his potential.

SCHEFFLER: I haven't really felt like I've had too many close calls. I haven't had many 54 hole leads. The only tournament I felt like I 100% should've won was Houston. I felt like if I just kept playing solid golf, I would've won that tournament. But outside of that, I don't think I've put myself in position enough. And so, for me, I'm trying to stay more focused on Thursday through Saturday.

ANNC: Maybe one more right here … Ted Scott and Scottie Scheffler figured it out! // Scottie Scheffler is a TOUR winner for the first time.

SCHEFFLER: You come out here to play and compete, and winning is a lot more fun than finishing second. Having a couple of those close calls is definitely frustrating. It doesn't take me very long to kind of get over things, though. I kind of live week to week. Those things are frustrating and they motivate you a little bit, but overall I just like competing and like to try to come out here and win. So for me, that's motivation enough.