**2022 PGA TOUR – THE CUT #46 (RSM CLASSIC)**

**COLD OPEN**

DAVIS THOMPSON NATS: Reading putts for me is really all about experience that's something that as a rookie on the PGA TOUR, I'm playing against guys who've played these courses before, so I'm trying to gain an advantage on those guys somehow, some way.

DAVIS THOMPSON NATS: Visually when I step up to a putt, I kind of already know like where I'm going to line the ball up.

DAVIS THOMPSON NATS: Right now I'm telling myself, okay, this putt’s ten feet, it's a touch downhill and it's breaking left. And then once I tell myself kind of that like math problem of, you know, what the putt’s going to do, I'm stepping into it and then the counting starts when I'm over the ball …

DAVIS THOMPSON NATS: The line and speed is really something I've already predetermined and once I get over the ball, I've just found it more efficient for me to think about my counting. I've kind of trained myself to do that through a metronome.

DAVIS THOMPSON NATS: So it's ready. One look at the hole two back of the ball. Three is my back stroke and four is when I make impact with the golf ball.

DAVIS THOMPSON NATS: One, two, three, four.

**THE CUT TITLES**

**WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT**

**DAVIS THOMPSON FEATURE**

TODD THOMPSON NATS: Ball position? Keeping it the same?

DAVIS THOMPSON NATS: Yeah, it's maybe just ahead of center towards my left toe.

TODD THOMPSON NATS: That was good.

DAVIS THOMPSON NATS: Still been doing that counting thing Eric taught me.

TODD THOMPSON NATS: Right. Pendulum.

DAVIS THOMPSON NATS: Yeah.

ANNC: 23 year old, went to Georgia first year on the PGA TOUR, had a win on the Korn Ferry Tour last year, the Rex Hospital Open, 2-time first team All-American, and a member, Kurt, of that Walker Cup Team back in 2021, Very solid player. Yeah, he did it all as an amateur and we are going to see if it translates to the PGA TOUR because here he is.

TODD THOMPSON SOT: I've always kind of tried to teach him if you're comfortable where you're going. And I know he works hard and tries hard. He's going to have success.

DAVIS THOMPSON SOT: My dad's been awesome and, you know, biggest lesson he's probably taught me is try to be excellent everything you do because if you don't, the things you won't really put your effort in, it'll kind of leak into the areas that you care about.

TODD THOMPSON SOT: Once he got into golf, it was I know his mom would always say, hey, take him to the golf course, you know, get him out there. And I said he'll go out there when he wants to go out there because I wanted him to love the game and grow up and grow up loving it so that he would want to go out there.

ANNC: Boy, that’s been the story of the front 9 for Davis. Just cannot get anything to drop.

DAVIS THOMPSON SOT: This year I was kind of in a bad place, mentally, putting and just missed the cut in Nashville on the Korn Ferry Tour

TODD THOMPSON SOT: He's not one for change, which is, I think, good in this sport because you see a lot of guys changing all the time and tinkering all the time with different equipment, all that kind of stuff.

DAVIS THOMPSON SOT: I figured, if I could watch a video of Jordan Spieth making a lot of putts and seeing that confidence or just pick up something with his set up or like the length of his back stroke or whatever it may be then I figured it was beneficial.  And sometimes you just have to have the courage to make to make a change. I juststarted messing around with left hand low. I figured, you know, sometimes you got to make a change when things aren't working and worked really hard on it.

DAVIS THOMPSON SOT: And I found it just more like stress free of starting it online.

ANNC: Davis Thompson for birdie from just in back of the hole.

DAVIS THOMPSON SOT: Figured I might as well try it just to change it up and then played decent in Knoxville the week after. Didn't do much, had a week off, came home, really worked hard at it, and then went up to Chicago, finished fifth, and then in Raleigh I had a win.

DAVIS THOMPSON SOT: I am speechless. I don't know what to say. I've worked so hard and it feels good to get it done. Last week I came up short and I battled some adversity on the back nine made two bogeys but finished strong and uh man this feels great.

SPENCER RALSTON SOT: He had some emotion, but you don't see it come out all the time. And to see it come out like that, it was kind of a whoa, I came out.

DAVIS THOMPSON SOT: So we were kind of just off and running after that. And I haven't obviously haven't switched since then.

DAVIS THOMPSON SOT: Now I'm a rookie on the PGA TOUR and I'm just trying to make the most of it.

DAVIS THOMPSON SOT: Hopefully, it wouold do something like that. This is my buddy Spencer Ralston, roommate at Georgia, now a roommate down here in Saint Simons Island.

DAVIS THOMPSON SOT: I love watching basketball growing up and you know, I just was fortunate enough to play throughout high school and we won our state championship my junior year in high school, and that was just a really cool moment to share with those guys and have that memory forever.

DAVIS THOMPSON SOT: We push each other to get better at golf.

NAT: Always something on the line.

SPENCER RALSTON SOT: We were probably 12 or 13 years old playing the Southeastern Junior Golf tour that his dad started back in the day and as we got older, we started playing a little more together and both ended up going to the University of Georgia.

NAT: I will never hear the end of it if I lose this game.

DAVIS THOMPSON SOT: He's more of an extrovert. I'm more of an introvert, so it kind of works out nice.

NAT: Bank.

DAVIS THOMPSON SOT: You kinow, we're very competitive and want to beat each other at the same time. We want each other to succeed.

NAT: Nope, P. P. Alright, P.

SPENCER RALSTON SOT: I think just both of our drive to // make it to the PGA TOUR // it’s been really cool to kind of see Davis do that in the last year.

DAVIS THOMPSON SOT: In golf you're not making putts. You can get frustrated and impatient and same with basketball. You know, in basketball, if you miss a shot, you can make a great play on defense and kind of turn it into offense. But with golf, you just have to be patient.

NAT: Do or die. Nope. That was a good game. I’m rusty.

TODD THOMPSON SOT: He's a man of few words and that kind of gets, you know, ragged on about that. But when he put something in his hand, whether it's a driver, an iron, putter, and I see a smirk, it's locked in.

DAVIS THOMPSON SOT: I get it from my dad. He's, he's very even keel guy and I just try to try to stay as levelheaded as possible.

DAVIS THOMPSON SOT: I feel like I'm playing with house money, to be honest. I mean, I'm a rookie, feel like I don't really have anything to lose and I just want to keep putting myself in those positions to succeed.

**VELOCITY GLOBAL PGA TOUR U RANKINGS**

**THOMPSON GRADUATED THROUGH PGA TOUR UNIVERSITY IN 2021, WHILE THE CURRENT VELOCITY GLOBAL RANKINGS ARE LED BY LUDVIG ABERG.**

**BUMP**

DAVIS THOMPSON SOT: Yeah. So big thing that Eric and I have worked on over the years is managing my take away and making sure my the clubhead is just outside of my hands on the take away, which really allows me to just make a full turn on the back swing and really just attacking on the way through.

SOT FUJIKAWA SOT: Pickleball was something that I obviously didn’t plan on doing, I just picked it up. I picked up pickleball probably March of last year which is 2021 and I just immediately just got addicted to the game.

NATS FUJIKAWA: Nice.

**SEGMENT 2**

**HOUSTON WINNER**

FINAU SOT: When I tee’d off this morning, you know, I felt a little off honestly, you know, it's not easy sleeping on the lead and I just I didn't know if I had it in me, but you just take it a shot at a time.

ANNC: For the third time in his last seven PGA Tour starts, Tony Finau is a winner, the fifth in his career.

FINAU SOT: This is my ninth season now actually have that real excitement to compete. You know, I felt that over the last couple of weeks, and I feel like I live a very blessed life.

FINAU SOT: You know, I approached this week kind of with that mindset and things just went my way and it was a week to remember.

ANNC: As he’s been doing all week, bombed the tee shot out there.

FINAU SOT: Probably the best driving week I've had in my career, at least that's how it felt. It's a lethal combo when I feel like this is the best putting week I've had as well. You combine those two and you know, you can get a kind of a run away win like I had. So, it's very encouraging for me // as I move forward throughout the season.

FINAU SOT: I feel like I've been a very solid player for a long time but it's exciting for me that I'm getting better. I think I don't go too far away from the DNA of my game and how I see the game and I think I’m baring the fruits of how I see the game now.

**FEDEXCUP STANDINGS**

**FINAU’S FIFTH TITLE TIES HIM WITH RORY MCILROY FOR 7TH IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS. BOTH PLAYERS WON THEIR ONLY EVENT SO FAR THIS SEASON.**

**KYLE WESTMORELAND FEATURE**

WESTMORELAND NATS: In Houston, you can aim at skyscrapers. That's what we're gonna to do.

WESTMORELAND SOT: It's an incredible opportunity. You know, I've wanted to play here since I can remember. Growing up, we play a ton of junior golf events at Memorial Park, and it looks different than it used to about 20 years ago but it's an awesome place and just a dream come true.

WESTMORELAND NATS: When it comes to sports, I don't I'm not sure there's a town that's more into their sports and from football to baseball to golf. Houston's great. It’s hot in the summer, cold in the winter. It gets windy, so golf's not easy here and there's a lot of opportunity to play and compete at the highest level and make you better.

WESTMORELAND NATS: Front Middle, middle back here and back, right.

WESTMORELAND NATS: My grandpa kind of introduced me to it. A little town I grew up in, we had a golf course that was very cheap to play, two bucks and that was all you could play and my mom would drop me off and just let me stay there all day in the summertime instead of getting a babysitter so I like that. And it worked out better for her, too so. It's kind of the cheapest form of babysitting which probably not the most common story of how you get into golf.

WESTMORELAND NATS: Most of my golf memories are all Houston from when I was younger, so it's awesome. I got to represent South Texas a couple of times in the you know, in PGA, like the PGA sections, the north plays the south and we dominated the north back then and it was like Jordan Spieth, Scottie Scheffler and Zalatoris were all on that North team so hold that against them.

WESTMORELAND SOT: Being in the Air Force was quite a joy for me. I'm so thankful to have been able to go to the academy and serve for five years on active duty. The people that I met and the perspective I gained from, you know, traveling a little bit across the world, working with some of the best people you'll ever meet, is an awesome opportunity and that perspective, I think, is what I try to bring to the golf course.

WESTMORELAND SOT: I'm glad to be the first Air Force Academy graduate out here, but I hope I'm not the last. So hopefully, you know, we can inspire some people to continue playing golf even through their service time, get a little bit better, start putting on those Air Force and Army and Navy putting greens and try to get better and make it out here.

WESTMORELAND SOT: It's a huge check point in the game of golf, to be able to get to the PGA Tour by getting to the PGA Tour isn’t our end goal. We're here to do some damage and we're here to really you know, test our mettle against the best in the game and try to get better. So, while getting here is a great thing, we have, you know, a lot of aspirations, a lot of goals yet that yet still to accomplish.

WESTMORELAND NATS: Gustavo, what do you think we did today?

GUSTAVO NATS: You hit a lot of balls. That's for sure.

WESTMORELAND NATS: We hit a lot of balls today.

WESTMORELAND SOT: It's been an awesome experience to be able to be out here. You know, this is golf's greatest platform, golf's best competition. So, I’m just thankful to be here and trying to win.

**RSM BIRDIES FORE LOVE FEATURE**

ANNC BIRDIE 8 SUNDAY: What a putt there by Finau // knocks down another one!

ANNC BIRDIE 9 SUNDAY: Wow! Auto pilot. // Gosh the way he’s rolled the ball this week sure is impressive.

**WITH 22 BIRDIES OR BETTER AT THE CADENCE BANK HOUSTON OPEN, BIRDIES FORE LOVE AWARDED TONY FINAU $50,000 TO THE CHARITY OF HIS CHOICE.**

FINAU SOT: It feels unbelievable. // $50,000 to my charity of my choice, which will be my Tony Finau Foundation is going to be amazing // It’s a youth foundation for underprivileged families and kids and we’re actually going to break ground on a learning center soon, so this $50,000 will go straight to that.

**PATRICK RODGERS HOLDS THE LEAD IN THE BIRDIES FORE LOVE OVERALL STANDINGS WITH 116 BIRDIES OR BETTER.**

**SEGMENT 3**

**TADD FUJIKAWA PICKLEBALL FEATURE**

NAT POP: Here ya go, ready! Good, good. Yeah, set your feet there. And I want you to reset.

SOT FUJIKAWA: I love teaching, the social aspect and getting to meet people and help people get better, it’s been very rewarding.

NAT POP: If you take too many steps back by the time you know it you’re going to be back here.

NAT POP: There you go! So good! There! That’s it.

SOT FUJIKAWA: I’ve played professional golf for 15 years pretty much full time and having that little bit of break and off time away from it has been very nice for sure.

ANNC 2007 SONY OPEN: I’ll be surprised if he misses it. \**tadd makes putt* //Woah Tadd Fujikawa! // Tadd Fujikawa will be playing on the weekend. // he is young enough to be the son of many of the PGA TOUR players in this field and he’ll be taking them on this weekend.

SOT FUJIKAWA: So after qualifying for the U.S. Open // being the youngest there and then making the cut and being the youngest in 15 years, obviously I had a lot of media attention, and I was getting into a lot of tournaments. // I would say probably 18, 19 that’s where things changed a little bit for me.

SOT FUJIKAWA: Around 2012, 2013, I kind of started struggling with my mental health, my sexual identity, that sort of thing and it was tough because I didn’t have anyone I could open up to.

SOT FUJIKAWA: My golf game was sort of, kind of struggling. It was on the rocks a little bit and I wasn’t playing that great. So I felt like a lot of the things that I lived for, which was golf at that point, just sort of went away. And without having that thing that I lived for, it was just tough. // Like what do I do now, right? Because I can’t play golf.

SOT FUJIKAWA: Pickleball was something that I obviously didn’t plan on doing, I just picked it up. I picked up pickleball probably March of last year which is 2021 and I just immediately just got addicted to the game.

SOT FUJIKAWA: I played Q School at the end of last year // [01:28:11] I missed getting to second stage by I think a shot and a week later my boss texted me and said, hey we are going to be opening up these pickleball courts next month and we’re looking for a pro.

NATS FUJIKAWA: So good. There! That’s it. That’s it!

NATS WOMAN: That feels good.

SOT FUJIKAWA: I taught a little bit of golf so the teaching aspect of it transferred over.

NAT FUJIKAWA: Yeah! I like it.

SOT FUJIKAWA: The game of pickleball has grown so much just because it’s so social. You know you can come out here with your friends, with your family // people of different levels // and have fun together // you know there’s not a lot of sports that you can do that. Take people of different levels, different ages, and different skills and play together and still enjoy it.

NATS FUJIKAWA: Oh! Light me up.

FUJIKAWA SOT: The thing I like about here is, coming from Hawaii, going so many miles away from home but still feeling like I’m in a community where everyone knows each other. // I enjoy the pier, I enjoy being around here at the village and being able to be on the water and hear the water crashing on the rocks.

FUJIKAWA SOT: When I started teaching pickleball I had no idea what my future was going to be like. I’m just taking it day by day and trying to enjoy life. // And it’s been great being a part of Sea Island as well. Being here and feeling like I am a part of a family, it’s been nice.

**SERVPRO FEATURE**

**THE CUT PRESENTS – SAVING SHOTS**

ANNC THEEGALA 9: Sahith Theegala round of the day going // this his last hole. Sure!

ANNC SCHEFFLER 18: That’s Scottie Scheffler, getting comfortable in that bunker. // How bout you close out your tournament in style.

ANNC PUTNAM 12: How about Andrew Putnam from the right rough at 12? Oh! Bounce it in!

**SEGMENT 4**

**BET PARX FEATURE**

I'M KRISTEN ROGERS FROM BETPARX HERE WITH A QUICK PREVIEW OF THE RSM CLASSIC AT SEA ISLAND AS THE PGA TOUR HEADS TO SAINT SIMONS ISLAND, GEORGIA. BETPARX IS PROUD TO BE AN OFFICIAL BETTING OPERATOR OF THE PGA TOUR.

IT'S THE LAST OFFICIAL TOUR STOP UNTIL JANUARY, BUT TONY FINAU MAY NOT HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEN FOR ANOTHER WIN. FINAU CRUISED AT THE HOUSTON OPEN LAST WEEK AND IS THE BETTING FAVORITE THIS WEEK AT SEA ISLAND, ESPECIALLY AS THIS COURSE SETS UP PERFECTLY FOR A BIG HITTER LIKE HIM.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MORE OF AN OUTSIDE PICK, I REALLY LIKE SAHITH THEEGALA FOR A TOP TEN LOCK. IT'S A MATTER OF WHEN HE'LL WIN, NOT IF AND SEA ISLAND IS PRIMED FOR FIRST TIME WINNERS. MAYBE THE BEST BET TO MAKE THIS WEEK THOUGH, THAT THE RSM CLASSIC WILL GO TO A PLAYOFF.

IN FACT, FOUR OF THE LAST SIX EDITIONS HAVE ENDED IN A PLAYOFF.

**COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10**

**SEAMUS POWER LEADS THE COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10, AS THE FALL SEASON WRAPS UP AT THE RSM CLASSIC.**

**ON THE RANGE WITH DAVIS THOMPSON**

TRAVIS FULTON: Here with Davis Thompson getting ready for another start here PGA Tour T9 at the Fortinet just a few weeks ago. We already got this rookie season figured out.

DAVIS THOMPSON: Not yet. Just trying to play my game and learn these golf courses so I can compete against these guys. But yeah, it was a great start to the year.

TRAVIS FULTON: I want to talk about your transition from University of Georgia and then turning pro Korn Ferry toward now here on the PGA Tour. What have you learned about yourself through this journey and turning pro?

DAVIS THOMPSON: Obviously a huge difference between college golf and professional golf. I've learned that you can't get so emotional about every tournament because you're going to do the same thing the next week.

TRAVIS FULTON: Let's get into this game here a little bit. Your swing. I love your swing. You work with your coach is?

DAVIS THOMPSON: Eric Eshelman Yeah.

TRAVIS FULTON: Yeah. And you were talking about // the path how the club kind of maybe gets a little in behind you and then how that can kind of affect your impact dynamic.

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah. So big thing that Eric and I have worked on over the years is managing my take away and making sure my the clubhead is just outside of my hands on the take away, which really allows me to just make a full turn on the back swing and really just attacking on the way through. If I get too far inside, then I kind of get stuck underneath and that that kind of leads to a hip slide. And then ball's starting out to the right, as opposed to starting either down the line or just left, what I'll do is I'll hit it right there and get into my practice swing and then I'm into my pre-shot routine. Got it. Seeing the target, making sure my alignment is good.

TRAVIS FULTON: That's only going to be like a one yard draw. Yeah. Is that typically what you see?

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah. So I usually typically with my irons, I try to be pretty neutral, you know, something that Eric and I have worked on over the years is working the ball both ways.

TRAVIS FULTON: Did you do that in college? Working in college, when did that start?

DAVIS THOMPSON: You know I really didn’t. You know, after the Walker Cup in 2021. I played in a bunch of wind and really firm and fast greens. I kind of realized that I needed more tools in the bag to be successful out here. So we've really worked on this, something that we've worked on for probably since I turned pro last year.

TRAVIS FULTON: Now we got to go to this driver, okay? Because look on the Korn Ferry tour, if you're hitting it 322 and you're hitting close to 65% of your fairways, I'm going to go ahead // say that was probably either one or two in total driving, if you put the two together.

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah // it was a great year driving the golf ball and it's really helped me play more offense as opposed to defense.

TRAVIS FUTON: Let's see the driver here, everything the same. Same feels, everything?

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah, same feels. I guess with the driver, I'm kind of feeling more at or at setup kind of more towards my back foot as opposed to my irons where I'm very neutral. So make sure we get the ball up in the air.

TRAVIS FULTON: Yeah. Wow. I don't care what tour you're playing on the Korn Ferry tour. If it's the PGA TOUR, that will get it done. That's impressive. Thank you I appreciate it. Congratulations on PGA TOUR rookie this year.

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah. Thank you.

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