*COLD OPEN*

KAMAIU SOT: "I grew up in a small town called Madison, Florida and blacks weren't even allowed on the golf course until 2005. So, I never thought about playing golf. You know, even if like we mentioned golf and my great grandmother's house growing up, well, you can't go out there. You're not allowed out there.

When I first started playing this tour five years ago, I had no funds I had nothing. I wouldn't be sitting here today if it wasn't for the APGA TOUR in golf.

All we ask for is opportunities. I mean, to be able to play for $50,000 to be able to have the purse that we have just life changing money."

**WELCOME TO RELENTLESS PURSUIT.**

*APGA TC SET UP*

**KAMAIU PRONOUNCED KA-MY-AH**

03:14 KAMAIU SOT: I know this is my way to success, and I'll do anything to get to success.

**THE MASTERCARD APGA TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP… SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS. ANOTHER STOP ALONG THE JOURNEY FOR 29-YEAR-OLD KAMAIU JOHNSON AND 44 OTHERS; ALL CHASING DOWN A DREAM.**

01:38 KENYATTA RAMSEY There are a lot of things that go into being a professional golfer, but it really does come down to the money and being able to concentrate on your craft and being the best player that you can. That is the goal is just to allow these guys the opportunity to just be professional golfers.

**ESTABLISHED IN 2010, THE APGA TOUR IS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION WITH THE MISSION TO PREPARE AFRICAN AMERICANS AND OTHER MINORITY GOLFERS TO COMPETE AND WIN, BOTH ON TOUR AND IN THE GOLF INDUSTRY.**

02:44 RAMSEY SOT: So, it comes down to this, number one player will have the opportunity to play on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica in 2023 really has been a season long competition.

*KAMAIU BACKGROUND*

**REACHING THE SEASON FINALE IN HIS 3RD FULL SEASON ON THE APGA TOUR IS A FAR CRY FROM WHERE KAMAIU JOHNSON BEGAN HIS GOLF CAREER.**
KAMAIU SOT: Golf is very important to me golf saved my life my way wouldn't be sitting here today if it wasn't for the game of golf.

**KAMAIU FOUND THE GAME AFTER DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL AT THE AGE OF 13.**

KAMAIU SOT: I was an eighth grade dropout, dealing with a lot of childhood stuff. And my dad wasn't in my life. You know, my mom's working three jobs. And my grandmother moved on to a municipal golf course from Tallahassee.

*JAN AUGER MINI*

KAMAIU SOT: Right here G305 on the third floor here is where my grandma moved. Everything happens for a reason…I was swinging a stick outside my apartment complex. And a lady Jan Auger came over to me.

JAN AUGER: I said, 'hey do you want to go to the range and hit some real balls?' And he's like 'yeah' and his face just lit up.

KAMAIU SOT: She could have said, Hey, you shouldn't be out here. You're trespassing or whatever. But no, she, she gave me a nine iron and a bucket of balls.

JAN AUGER: The arrangement was if. He kind of would help out he could play for a dollar he could walk and get free range balls."

KAMAIU SUB ADD: She didn't tell anyone she was charging a dollar a day and she put her job at risk."

JAN AUGER: He started with nothing and for what he's done with the resources he's had / he’s done a lot of this himself and I think a lot of people would have given up.

KAMAIU SOT: I went back to school, got my high school diploma and just met so many great mentors on the golf course that changed my life.

JAN AUGER: He just, from being where he was and doing and fighting the way he's fought. he understands it takes a village

KAMAIU SOT: I’m a good testament to what can happen when a lot of love comes together.

JAN AUGER: He gives people outside of golf hope. Someone looks at his story and thinks wow look what he did. It's not accepting the situation you're in as a failure situation.

KAMAIU SOT: Wake up with a chance and a choice every day. No matter where you come from, no matter what, you know what you're doing in life, you can always turn it around.

*BUMP*

**COMING UP… KAMAIU PLAYS FOR MORE THAN HIS BIGGEST PAYCHECK AND GUARANTEED STARTS.**

KAMAIU SOT: She told me when she got off the phone with me, she said just play for me.

**AND LATER… KAMAIU MEETS 2022 PGA TOUR ROOKIE OF THE YEAR, CAMERON YOUNG.**

NATS: How are you? Hi, Cameron. Nice to meet you. Yeah, you, too.

**SEGMENT TWO**

*INTRO TO THE FIELD*

**IT’S THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME FOR ONE APGA TOUR PLAYER.**

KAMAIU SOT: 06:13 I mean, I owe this game everything just opportunities that I've had in this game and just can't wait to see what the future holds."

**A TALENTED FIELD JOINS KAMAIU JOHNSON AT THE MASTERCARD APGA TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF 50 THOUSAND DOLLARS AND STATUS ON PGA TOUR LATINOAMERICA.**

**ONE OF THOSE TALENTS IS MICHAEL HERRERA. BEFORE DEVOTING HIS CAREER TO GOLF, THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLAYED HOOPS FOR RIVERSIDE CITY COLLEGE. HE NOW BRINGS THAT HARDCOURT COMPETITIVENESS TO THE GOLF COURSE.**
HERRERA 03:57 There's no fear on the golf course. All these guys coming up. You know you have to go low you have to play precisely. You know there's nothing given to you on this tour.

**IN HIS SECOND SEASON ON THE APGA TOUR, MICHAEL HAS EIGHT TOP TENS LEADING UP TO THE MASTERCARD APGA TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP.**

HERRERA Like I said once you get between those lines, that's a game on

**ALSO IN THE HUNT IS 2021 APGA TOUR PLAYER OF THE YEAR, WILLIE MACK THE THIRD, WINNER OF TWO APGA TOUR EVENTS LEADING INTO THE SEASON FINALE.**

WILLIE MACK III 04:26 I've been playing professional golf for 10 years now and I think I played on this tour, nine.
MACK III 04:37 Since since that first year the the courses and the competition has definitely gotten better.

**WHILE EVERY COMPETITOR’S BACKGROUND HAS ULTIMATELY LED THEM TO THIS STAGE, KAMAIU IS PLAYING FOR MORE THAN HIMSELF.**

KAMAIU SOT: 05:12 I had to deal with some things and my childhood, you know, I have a nine-month-old daughter and I love her to death. And I didn't grew up with a father. So I've always played with a chip on my shoulder because it's always been bigger than me.

*ROUND ONE*

ANNC: Good morning, ladies, and gentlemen. And welcome to the first round of the MasterCard, APGA TOUR Championship. And last to play in this group. Kamaiu Johnson.

KAMAIU SOT: We were out there for almost six hours, so I mean, it's hard not to think about the outcome this week. I mean had a rough start had double bogey earlier in the round but I'm in such a good headspace to myself I had a lot of golf to play and finish well

HERRERA SOT: Just that front side I was in a couple bad spots well chipping wise there's no simple chips I left myself out there so battling all day and I'm just happy to come over to over right now. This golf course was pretty tough on that front side and final round you never know what could happen so we just got to take one shot at a time and I don't mind chasing from the back.

WILLIE MACK III SOT: I knew I just need to get back to even par and and try to do some after that and at least I put myself up there in the position to do that and I gotta go out there tomorrow and play well and kind of like Tiger on the last day. No bogeys is a good round.

KAMAIU SOT: I shot two under. Today um, two back the tournament leaders. Yeah, I had a double bogey the last, so I have five birdies. So, it's a good day in time you have five birdies had a couple mistakes I need to clean up. He had a great bunker shot but because of the greens are just a little punch this week. So, they got kind of stuck in one of those indentions on the way down the hill and just got stuck on the slope and it was it was kind of kind of made me mad if you couldn't tell I think you'd be tail. But you know, on to tomorrow that's over and just looking ahead to tomorrow first tee shot. You know, good golf is right in front of me. I just got to go get it.

KAMAIU SOT: I got a call this morning from Jan Auger’s brother and found out she has Guillain-Barré Syndrome, which doesn't allow her to walk anymore. She had a big part in saving my life. Yeah, I owe her everything. She told me when she got to follow me today. She said just play for me.

*ROUND TWO*

ANNC: Good Morning Ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the final day of the MasterCard a PGA TOUR Championship.

**THE FINAL ROUND. AND FOR MICHAEL, WILLIE AND KAMAIU, HOW THEY FINISH WILL DETERMINE WHO EARNS TOURNAMENT EXEMPTIONS ON PGA TOUR LATINOAMERICA.**

ANNC: First to play Michael Herrera.

**STARTING SIX SHOTS BACK, MICHAEL STRUGGLES TO MAKE GROUND EARLY AND GET INTO CONTENTION. HOWEVER, WITH THREE STRAIGHT BIRDIES ON THE BACK, HE CLIMBS INSIDE THE TOP 20.

WILLIE MACK III ALSO STRUGGLES TO KEEP UP WITH THE LEADERS CARDING ONE OVER ON THE FRONT NINE. BUT A STRONG FINISH MOVES HIM INTO FOURTH PLACE FOR THE TOURNAMENT.**

 **STARTING TWO SHOTS BACK, KUMAIU COMES OUT HOT AND SHOOTS FOUR UNDER ON THE FRONT NINE AND TIES THE LEAD WITH MARCUS BYRD IN DANIEL AUGUSTUS.**

JOHNSON SOT: I didn't even think about the outcome today. I didn't think about like where I was in the round people were asking me do I want to know what the guys are behind me? I was like, I don't care. I know I need to make birdies.

**MAKING A CLUTCH BIRDIE PUTT ON 18… KUMAIU HAS THE CLUBHOUSE LEAD AT SEVEN UNDER.**

**KAMAIU NOW HAS TO WAIT AND SEE HOW THE FINAL GROUP FINISHES UP.**

**SEGMENT THREE**

*KAMAIU WINS*

**NEEDING BIRDIES ON THE FINAL HOLE TO FORCE A PLAYOFF, MARCUS BYRD AND DANIEL AUGUSTUS ARE UNABLE TO CONVERT, GIVING KAMAIU JOHNSON THE ONE-STROKE VICTORY.**

KENYATTA I'm extremely excited to award the first-place prize for the MasterCard a PGA championship to my Johnson 50,000 $50,000 first place prize for that.

JOHNSON Over and over my head today it was just play for me. And I always think that it's bigger than me. So, I play for her today I have something bigger than me to play for. And so I just went out there and got it done.

Congratulations Thank you, man. Appreciate it, man. Thank you. Always all you doing bro. Appreciate it. Love it.

JOHNSON: I was actually get ready to go to DEP and Korn Ferry tour but I'm about to call my agent up right now and tell him we don't have to do that anymore week. So I'm looking very forward to just you know, stand up on Latinoamerica tour and plan six times and and trying to reach into the PGA TOUR.

**DESPITE FALLING SHY OF THE SEASON-LONG PRIZE, WILLIE MACK III AND MICHAEL HERRERA ALSO MADE STEPS TOWARD THAT SAME GOAL.**

**IN NOVEMBER, WILLIE EARNED HIS KORN FERRY TOUR CARD FOR THE 2023 SEASON AND MICHAEL EARNED A SPONSOR EXEMPTION TO MAKE HIS FIRST PGA TOUR START AT TORREY PINES IN JANUARY.**

*KAMAIU MEETS CAMERON*

**FRESH OFF HIS VICTORY, KAMAIU MET UP WITH PGA TOUR PROFESSIONAL AND MASTERCARD AMBASSADOR CAMERON YOUNG**.

KAMIAU SOT It's always good when you can pick a PGA TOUR player’s brain and ask him some ~~you know~~ important questions, so it's good to finally meet him.

CAMERON YOUNG NATS: What's going on? How are you? Hi, Cameron. Nice to meet you. Yeah, you, too. Congrats on everything. Thank you. I appreciate that. Thank you.

**KAMAIU AND CAMERON DISCUSS THEIR PURSUIT OF SUCCESS** **IN THIS UNIQUE ONE ON ONE PRACTICE SESSION.**

CAMERON YOUNG: Tell me a little bit about your season this year. Yeah. Where you were playing and how it went.

KAMAIU JOHNSON: Yeah, so APGA TOUR, it's providing opportunity for us that we, you know, never would have gotten. So, the cool thing about winning the MasterCard APGA TOUR Championship this year is the biggest purse in APGA TOUR history, gaining status on PGA TOUR Latino America. And knowing what it's going to come with a win was a huge.

CAMERON YOUNG Tell me what it means to you.

KAMAIU It's it's it's a huge blessing to be able to say, Hey, I'm playing. I got six events over here. Yeah, when I play here, I’m taking advantage of that opportunity. And whatever happens after that happens, and just to have moments like that is, you know, very, very priceless. And just like I said, I'm just happy to be a part of it.

CAMERON Yeah. You're going down to play a couple of Latin America? Yeah. Where's the first one?

KAMAIU The first one's in Argentina.

CAMERON YOUNG I went down there. I think those are my first, my first PGA TOUR sanction starts I got into all three Argentina events.

KAMIAU So, what advice would you have for you know, American kid who doesn't know much Spanish and in foreign countries very well.

CAMERON Well, I wouldn't count on your Spanish. Yeah, I think it's even more difficult to have zero. Yeah, I had what I thought was a little bit and it was completely useless. Yeah. second, the travel is definitely tricky. You kind of just have to be okay with whatever happens, right? There's times if you gotta like find a way to call a taxi. There's times you got to walk somewhere. It just, it is what it is. The beef is very good. The Beef? okay. Yes. Okay, perfect. Some nice steaks are nice and cheap. We were ordering room service. And we had like, two steak dinners and like a salad and something else and an appetizer, it was like $22 That's perfect. Amazing.

CAMERON I'm not very far removed from it. And I remember just like thinking every day like what, you know, what missing a putt on 18 meant or what hook in one of the water on 14. Right. And it's such a hard hurdle to get over. Yep. The first time. I remember in Columbus; I think I made I finished second on the Korn Ferry tour. And that was the first time that I didn't panic quite as much about renting a car the next day.

KAMAIU Every little help you can get it helps and goes a long way. So, a company like MasterCard, coming along and helping me with my travel and making things easier for me, I'm just blessed to be a part of it and to represent a company and have the financial backing over in Latino America.

.Like I said, it said we haven't always got the opportunities to, to make just make life changing money. I have daughter now and you know, just bought a house and, being able to do that for my family and provide by playing what I love to do. I wouldn't be able to do that without MasterCard.

CAMERON 04:36

You know, they’re providing huge amount of opportunity. Right? Providing for a family is a huge part of it for a lot of us, right. I've got a nine-month-old son and yep. You know, I think we all grew up playing golf, right because we love it. Because it's something I want to be good at. Yeah. But at some point, that kind of can combine with providing for your family and it becomes a whole different animal.

*TARGET PRACTICE*

KAMAIU Alright, Cam, let's do a little target practice. 104 yards and let’s do a little closest to the pin action. There you go. All right. Go go!

CAMERON Hello. Little wind in there gotcha. I think I left that short, too. Oh, okay. All right. Good shot, coming back.

The 110 shots. Super comfortable. We got a little hurt. That's closest so far, I think right there.

KAMAIU AND CAMERON Absolutely. Come on. Go man. Yeah, man, I really enjoyed. Thanks for being here. And good luck for the rest of the season. Look forward to following you. Thank you. Yeah, absolutely. Enjoyed it.

**SEGMENT FOUR**

*KAMAIU AT HOME*

KAMAIU: I needed somewhere that I can have a golf course in like a house.

KAMAIU: I knew the head pro at Champions Gate. it just all came together.

**THANKS TO THE SUPPORT SURROUNDING THE MOVEMENT TOWARD MORE INCLUSIVENESS IN THE GAME, KAMAIU JOHNSON HAS RESOURCES TO CONTINUE HIS RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE.**

KAMAIU Seeing my daughter run around the house and being in a safe neighborhood I didn't grow up in a safe neighborhood, // I was talking to Willie Mack about this the other day we just talked on the range of about like how now we have the resources with the help of companies like Mastercard, getting behind the movement for inclusiveness in this game, we have the resources, now we have a way to get better.

and moving to this neighborhood just allowed me to really put my all in I can just jump on to the course whenever I want. So, I'm just having an opportunity like that is huge.

And what pushes me is guys like Marcus Berg and Willie Mac and those guys playing well, and, and those guys pushed me, you know, to just be better. That's why I want to play well on PGA TOUR Latino America to create something that has never been created by the APGA TOUR.

The excitement is to be able to have a place to play, knowing where you're going to play week in and week out. That's excitement, getting in contention, dreaming about getting the contents to get there, you know, playing well and that's excitement.

**KNOWING WHERE HE WILL TEE IT UP IS A WEIGHT OFF HIS SHOULDERS,**

**BUT THERE’S A LOT OF WORK TO BE DONE AND IT ISN’T A ONE-MAN SHOW.**

KAMAIU: I think having a team that has your best interest is important. And working towards being great // when you're traveling week in and week out//and you have a team around you that's in your ear about the right things to do //and just continue to try to peak// to build and build and get ready for Latino America.

**WITH A GREAT SUPPORT SYSTEM BY HIS SIDE, KAMAIU HAS TIME TO FOCUS ON HIS GAME.**

KAMAIU: What I'm working on right now is is I wanted to improve on my ball striking // and that's kind of just staying down through the ball. I don't spend too much time on the range, I really like playing golf. I like to hit shots. I think the range doesn't really teach me much or I learned all my things on the golf course

We’re here at Champions Gate National, number one, bit breezy into, fun hole. Yeah, let’s see what we can do here.

I like just being out on the course // when I was growing up, it was therapy for me.

I got 136 yards, a little in off the right, I think. I've been working on chip shot. So, I'm going to try to chip a little nine iron out here. Marcus always told me to stop swinging my low iron so hard. So just trying to learn some chippies. So, we'll see how much I've been practicing.

So that was pretty good. You know, I was trying to get better in this game. So just constantly working on things right now is the time to kind of work on my weaknesses and that's kind of rotation through the ball. And so that's kind of what I'm working on right now. It's feeling fine, trending in the right direction for sure.

Putt for a birdie going one under for the day in front of the cameras.

My goal when I come out here and play nine holes is to make four birdies. I try to go bogey free.

Five years ago, I wasn't even, thinking that I’d ever get to see these opportunities. I always believed, but until that happened until APGA TOUR happened until I started getting help with, traveling expenses and becoming an ambassador having an opportunity to play on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica and create a schedule and just build and create goals and just tackle those goals and just, you know, just continue to grow as a golfer, it's step by step and that's kind of how my golf career has been just step by step, just happy to be here, happy to be you know, in front of cameras and, and to somewhat document it. First person to be able to do that on APGA TOUR. It's just, you know, setting an example of what can be done.

**KAMAIU CARRIED THAT BADGE OF HONOR WITH HIM TO ARGENTINA.**

**IN HIS FIRST OF SIX STARTS ON PGA TOUR LATINOAMERICA, KAMAIU SECURED A T-26 FINISH, AND HE’S ONLY GETTING STARTED.**

KAMAIU JOHNSON: I've recently changed my mind set about just everything that I do, it’s to win, and to be the best player. And it's very important for me to do this right; for other kids in my community and black and brown kids that have the same opportunity that I have, to show kids that this could be you or I'm no different from you, we came from the same community, you can do it.