**2023 PGA TOUR – The CUT #2 (Sony Open in Hawaii)**

**Cold Open**

ANNC: Welcome back to Paradise and the first PGA TOUR event of 2023

ZALATORIS SOT: This is probably the tournament that I watched the most growing up.

ANNC: The field, is one of the best they've ever had. 17 of the top 20 in the world among the field of 39.

RAHM SOT: It's an all-star field that you could take advantage and start the year on a good note.

CANTLAY SOT: When we grow up, we grow up imagining playing against the best players in the world so that's exciting.

**The CUT Titles**

**WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT**

**Sentry Arrivals/Best playing the best Intro**

ANNC: Well, the Plantation course has delivered again. First of all, unparalleled views and exciting, low scoring, rollercoaster golf, up and down its huge elevation changes.

ADAM SCOTT SOT: The best fields, testing your game against the best players on the PGA TOUR. It's what it's all about.

TOM KIM SOT: I wanna play where all the best players want to be and it's awesome to be here and I can't wait to get this week started.

ANNC: First time here for Tom Kim. Oh wow! Welcome to Maui, Tom Kim! This is the first..

TOM KIM: Did you get that on camera?

THOMAS SOT: We have 17 of the top 20 in the world here. There are not very many tournaments in the last 5 years other than the majors and the PLAYERS that can say that.

ANNC: Jordan Spieth, 3-time major champion, doing Spieth things saving par on Thursday at the 16th.

ZALATORIS SOT: This is the best of the best. It's fun being here, playing against the best competition in the world.

**Will Zalatoris Return Feature**

WILL ZALATORIS: It kind of gives me chills just looking at it because I just remember kind of the, the my heart rate going absolutely crazy in that reaction.

ANNC: Yeah, how about that? That is all heart. He knows what everyone says about the way he putts.

WILL ZALATORIS: What an idiot. I still can't believe I gave that reaction. That was not planned. That was not like me walking into the putt and being like, I'm going to make this sick reaction or whatever it is. I've been that close to that many times and I was starting to get to the point where after the two second places in back to back majors, it was really starting to kind of eat at me a little bit. I get ragged on my putting all the time, I don't really care. But I think at that point it was more of I kind of made it a little more personal than I probably should have but it was just raw emotion.I got asked after it was like, man, why did you not give a reaction when when you made the putt that was even longer in the second playoff? I thought I had to make it just to stay in it.

ANNC: And he's got it. Finally, Zalatoris is a PGA TOUR winner.

WILL ZALATORIS: Love that trophy. Let's get more.

WILL ZALATORIS: It's been an interesting four months, to say the least.

ANNC: Will Zalatoris, at the tee. Just a little bit of a glitch there. Oh, wow. Yeah, definitely feeling it somewhere. His tournament is complete. He is having to withdrawal. He's got to get healthy. He's got to get to work on that back.

WILL ZALATORIS: Not being able to have a club in my hand for a couple months was, I don't think I've done that probably since I was like eight or nine. The first couple of months it was just trying to process the last two years. I mean, going from COVID to now, being a PGA Tour winner, it's it's a lot to process, let alone those two weeks. Going from winning to being out for four months. Yeah, I found the end of Netflix.

WILL ZALATORIS: We spent a lot of time understanding the pressures of my golf swing and understanding how I push off my right side. I do it later than a lot of guys, so what that does for someone with a lot of side bend is that gets my right hip high and on my spine's tilted back, and so as Dr. Rose said, duh, no wonder why you had a back issue. It's a good thing that it was just a motor pattern as opposed to something that was structurally wrong because that's something that you can fix just like that. December 1st, I think, was the first day I was cleared for full activity and really just have been doing as much as I can since then.

WILL ZALATORIS: I want to see how I feel under the gun. I still carry very high expectations for myself each week. But this week there's gonna be a lot of learning no matter how good or how poorly I play.

ANNC: Oh, that's a good swing. He let it rip there. He's not guarding against a bad back and that's kinda what we all wanted to see today.

ANNC: Yeah that should put a smile on a lot of people's faces that Will Zalatoris is back.

ANNC: Hoping for another big year, injury free.

WILL ZALATORIS: I'll take a couple 69s. The easy part is the stuff I need to fix is right in front of me. Yeah I feel great. Playing nice golf, just got to keep doing what I'm doing.

**Sentry Winner Feature**

ANNC: Collin Morikawa entered the day with a six-shot lead, which matched the biggest 54-hole lead in the 25-years the tournament has been played here.

ANNC: Looking for his first win since his Open Championship win a year and a half ago.

ANNC: Number 1 in putting over 10 feet this week. Amazing run on the greens this week for Morikawa.

RAHM SOT: I don't know if I've played with a lead like that on the pga tour. // It's not easy, it's not easy.

ANNC: Now that should be kicking for Rahm to get to 22 under and he probably in his mind hasn't given up yet. This stretch upcoming can give up a ton of birdies.

ANNC: Boy Rahm, putting on a show right now.

RAHM SOT: It wasn't until the second shot on 15 to get myself an eagle chance when I realized, if I make this putt I'm one back.

ANNC: Now that is a beauty. Oh baby what a shot. Almost curled in. Yeah man that really is one heck of a shot. He is on a run now and I guarantee you that Collin Morikawa knows what's happening.

MORIKAWA SOT: Once I made the bogy on 14 and then you're walking up 15 and you realize I'm putting for par to stay tied for the lead, at that point you know, it's a little different feeling than what you had early on.

RAHM SOT: Had the same guy, the same Collin that we had the first 3 days shown up, there's very little we would have been able to do. You need a combination of both, me having a really good day which I did and Collin not having his best.

ANNC: It was such a dominate performance for so long, we didn't see this coming and I don't think he did either.

MORIKAWA SOT: When you're giving bogeys at that time in the tournament, they're costly and I definitely felt the weight of that.

ANNC: And that should put it out of reach and he knows it! John Rahm officially has won this 2023 Sentry of Champions. In one of the most unlikely scenarios we have seen in recent PGA TOUR history.

**FedExCup Standings**

**RAHM’S COMEBACK FROM AS MANY AS NINE STROKES EARNED HIS 8TH TOUR TITLE, MOVING HIM TO 4TH IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS.**

**Comcast Business TOUR Top 10**

**THAT ALSO MOVES HIM INTO THE COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10 FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS SEASON, WITH SEAMUS POWER STILL ON TOP.**

**Bump (Sentry, Aoki)**

POWER SOT: Putter out of the rough could go forward in the stance, open the face, at least strike it up in the air, deal with the slope and hopefully get it to go down a little bit. We'll try.

NATS: It's left! Better strike. Oh okay!

ISAO AOKI: As I made my way up to the green, I was in shock and completely lost of who was talking to who. I remember picking up the ball from the cup in a daze.

**Sentry Inbump**

ANNC: Is there a better place to open up the 2023 calendar year on the PGA TOUR? Welcome back to paradise everybody, otherwise known as the plantation course at Kapalua Resort.

**One Club Challenge**

POWER SOT: Hi, Seamus Power here at the Plantation course at Kapalua on the 18th tee, the iconic finishing hole par 5. And today I'm gonna play it with just a putter and we're gonna see how we do, hopefully we can make a par or maybe even a birdie.

POWER SOT: I don't think it's gonna go left, so I'm gonna aim down the left center a little bit, take my chances. See if I can use the old slope down there. Oh it didn't!

POWER SOT: Putter out of the rough // could go forward in the stance, open the face, at least strike it up in the air, deal with the slope and hopefully get it to go down a little bit. We'll try.

POWER SOT: It's left! Better strike. Oh okay!

POWER SOT: Yeah so like, here at 230, obviously you're not going to risk the carry with a putter, but I think if I can move it 100-120 yards over this way, and then come across the dog leg with the next, would be my best option so we'll try it and hit it over towards the grand stands here, see what we can do.

POWER SOT: Oh that's better. That'll get the hang of it, oh around the corner? Perfect. Little tight draw with the putter.

POWER SOT: I grew up playing a lot of golf that's maybe a little different, we played a lot of links golf, you keep it on the ground, you're using slopes, you're using banks and all that sort of stuff, so this certainly has some of the // stuff we would do growing up, but obviously it depends here on the conditions. It's a fun golf course. You saw even with that putter there I mean it went out here, and turns all the way on the slope.

POWER SOT: Alright we'll see if we can get an up and down for par.

POWER SOT: Here we go. // Sit! Sit. Alright not bad, outside chance for a par.

POWER SOT: One of the keys this week is gunna be, I think is gonna be on the greens you know, as I said the fairways are big and guys are gonna hit a lot of fairways and hit a lot of greens, so it's gonna come down to who can make kinda the most putts.

POWER SOT: Alright, I think this is gonna go a little bit left to right, then back up hill, so maybe a little bit firm, maybe just outside that left edge.

POWER SOT: Oh! Thought I had it.

POWER SOT: 670 yards down the hill with a putter, managed a six, just missed on the high side for my five, but overall I'd probably take it, hopefully it's gonna be the only bogey I make here this week.

**ServPro Feature**

**THE CUT PRESENTS, RAPID RECOVERY**

MAX HOMA: Bogeys here and there are going to happen. But it felt like the first two days I hadn't really made anything.

**AFTER TWO ROUNDS OF 70, MAX HOMA TURNED THINGS AROUND OVER THE WEEKEND AT THE SENTRY TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS.**

MAX HOMA: Once I made it on 13 I realized you know, it could be quite a good day if I just did what I was supposed to do.

ANNC: No problem. Wow.

MAX HOMA: To finally see that go in, oddly enough, like that was a big boost.

ANNC: 10 birdies, not a single bogey on the card. The best round of the Championship turned in by Max Homa.

MAX HOMA: It didn't feel like I played four shots better than my last two days combined. But it was nice to shoot 10-under.

**The CUT Rejoin**

NO VO

**Isao Aoki 40th Anniversary Sony**

ISAO AOKI: Throughout my career, I won a few times in Japan and Europe. But winning the Sony Open was very special to me.

ANNC: Hard pitching wedge, right in line with the flag, oh it's a beauty! I don't believe it!! That's in the hole!! I can't believe it, it's impossible!! What a finish!!

AOKI WATCHING: I'm amazed that I could swing like that 40 years ago! Watching it back, it was definitely my best swing ever.

IASO AOKI: Japanese people have idolized Hawaii as "islands of everlasting summer."  For me to be able to earn a victory there, it was a turning point in my life.

ISAO AOKI: I also think it was a gift from God.

ANNC: Isao Aoki the first Japanese to ever win on the PGA TOUR and one of the most memorable shots in golf's history.

ANNC: There's the man checking his card, affixing his signature, Jack Renner.

JACK RENNER: I've seen this many times before. As you can see, he's coming over the bunker there.

ANNC: And now the big swing from Isao Aoki. Hard pitching wedge...

ISAO AOKI: That was my best swing ever!

ISAO AOKI: Brian was on my bag back then. He said "Isao, it has to be a 9-iron or it will come up short." I said "no" and chose the pitching wedge.

ANNC: Right in line with the flag. Oh and it's a beauty. I don't believe it!! That's in the hole!!

ISAO AOKI : Mmm!!!!

JACK RENNER:

ANNC: I can't believe it...it's impossible!! What a finish!!

AOKI: I knew I needed to land the ball between the edge of the green and the pin if I was going to make birdie. so I told him no, hit the wedge and it went in. The fact that I holed out with that club shows just how much adrenaline was running though me.

ANNC: And Jack Renner didn't turn, he said, "did he make it?" They're just telling Renner now that the shot made it. Isao Aoki has just stolen one from Jack Renner.

JACK RENNER: I couldn't see anything at all. All of a sudden there was kind of like a moment, just a quick breath of silence and then an explosion of just a roar. I just thought it was I thought he hit it close.

ISAO AOKI: I was in shock and had no idea who was talking to me or what they were saying. I just remember picking up the ball from the cup and being in a complete daze.

ISAO AOKI: As I made my way up to the green, I was in shock and completely lost of who was talking to who. I remember picking up the ball from the cup in a daze.

ANNC: Aoki finished at 20 under. Renner in shock and close to tears is at 19 under.

JACK RENNER: I just never had it out of my mind that I was probably going to be in a playoff. Turns out I didn't have to play the playoff, but it wasn't in the way I kind of was hoping for.

ANNC: Boy, they will be dancing in the streets in Tokyo.

JACK RENNER: It's just one of those things, obviously it wasn't meant to be.

JACK RENNER: What had been no relationship, became, as I say, shared experience made us brothers. He had a really good sense of humor. And he was fun to be around.

AOKI: A couple of weeks after the win, I randomly ran into him and when he saw me he joked that he didn't want to see my face! It was that dramatic of a tournament for both of us. It was a historical event in both of our lives that forged a friendship between the two of us.

JACK RENNER: He had a contingent of fans that week and he felt very much at home there. Per capita, I'm not sure there's a better golf country anywhere on earth. He definitely blazed the trail for all the all the good Japanese players that have come.

ISAO AOKI: It was a sensational event, birthing the first Japanese player to win on the PGA TOUR. Furthermore, Hideki Matsuyama won the same event 39 years later.

ISAO AOKI: Humans will continue to evolve, and 5 years, then 10 years from now. It will be a completely different generation of player. And while there are struggles in every period of time I hope everyone finds a way to leave a mark on their own. As a professional golfer, there may be a next generation that is inspired to follow in your footstep. Similar to Hideki reflecting on my victory, I hope that inspiration continues to get passed down from generation to generation.

**Jack Renner Tag**

JACK RENNER: There was no negativity at all When I came back in '84. I was very comfortable there. And I obviously had an affinity for the course. once again, it came down to the last hole.

ANNC: There it is! Jack Renner – a gutsy birdie! And once again, Jack Renner finds himself waiting at 18, having finished a round, only to be challenged.

JACK RENNER: I made my putt 15 or 20 feet. And so he needed his putt to win and he missed it. So now I got my playoff that I was counting on here before and he missed another short putt.

ANNC: This, to win it, and turn the tables on last year...He's got it!

JACK RENNER: I was lucky in '84. I played better in '83 probably. But here again, it's it's depends on what happens around you.

JACK RENNER: There's a whole new – or even two generations of golfers – who may be reminded of that during the tournament week this year with the 40th anniversary. But I think that's like it or not, that's that's what I was remembered most for.

**KFT Return Mini**

ANNC: The Korn Ferry TOUR kicks off their new season in the Caribbean!

SOT BALDWIN SPACES: The transition of the PGA TOUR to a calendar season in 2024 ... has really had us look at kind of our structure and our schedule and it's enabled us to be able to provide a 26 tournament season. One continuous build with four elevated events at the end to ultimately earn those 30 cards.

**AMONGST THE HUNGRY NEW TALENT CHASING 30 PGA TOUR CARDS WILL BE 34-YEAR-OLD WILLIE MACK THE THIRD ... WHO HAS FIVE PGA TOUR STARTS, OVER 70 CAREER WINS ON MINI TOURS AND EARNED HIS KORN FERRY TOUR CARD AT Q-SCHOOL IN NOVEMBER.**

WILLIE MACK SOT: It's special. Knowing that you can play OK and get some starts in the beginning of the year // I'm excited to get out there. I won a lot on the mini tours, but it doesn't really matter until you get to the big stage so just knowing I could do it through those stages, it just means more.

**CHRIS GOTTERUP, WHO NOTCHED A TOP-10 FINISH AT THE 2022 PUERTO RICO OPEN AND A SUCCESSFUL MADE CUT AT THE U.S. OPEN, WILL LOOK TO CAPITALIZE ON HIS DOZEN GUARANTEED STARTS.**

GOTTERUP SOT: You come back a little hungrier and obviously there's a lot at stake, and, I've seen enough of it to wanna get on the big TOUR.

**OTHERS TO KEEP AN EYE ON INCLUDE THE TOP PLAYER FROM PGA TOUR UNIVERSITY IN 2022, PIERCESON COODY, WHO CAPTURED A VICTORY ON THE KORN FERRY TOUR IN JUST HIS THIRD START LAST SEASON.**

COODY SOT: It's all an opportunity to play out here. It's an opportunity to play well and going forward it's an opportunity to get my PGA TOUR card.

**AS WELL AS 20-YEAR-OLD AKSHAY BHATIA, WHO WILL LOOK TO DEFEND HIS TITLE THIS WEEK AS THE SEASON KICKS OFF AT THE BAHAMAS GREAT EXUMA CLASSIC AT SANDALS EMERALD BAY.**

BHATIA SOT: For me to be able to mentally and physically compete and win at one of the highest levels in golf I'll just keep going and try and chase that TOUR card.

**TOUR Playlist**

**ON THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS IN HONOLULU, HIDEKI MATSUYAMA HOPES TO REPEAT HIS EXCITING FINISH FROM LAST YEAR.**

**Sony Hideki win Flashback/Rollout**

ANNC MATSUYAMA: Try to hit that little bit of a cut with this 3-wood that he likes to go to.. Boy this is on a good line, what a shot! Hideki with the shot of the tournament and it comes in the playoff!

ANNC MATSUYAMA: Japan's greatest golfing export getting a win in the 50th state! Hideki Matsuyama is the winner in a playoff at the Sony Open in Hawaii in dramatic fashion.

**MATSUYAMA’S FLAT STICK WAS ON FIRE ALL WEEK, AND HE LED THE FIELD IN STROKES GAINED: PUTTING, POSTING A CAREER BEST.**

ANNC: Hideki just walks it in!

ANNC: A real highlight for him with that putter this week!

**IT MARKED MATSUYAMA'S 8TH CAREER VICTORY AND HIS SECOND LAST SEASON FOLLOWING A WIN IN HIS HOME COUNTRY OF JAPAN.**

SOT MATSUYAMA: To be able to win back-to-back with ZOZO and here with at the Sony, and especially on a course that I haven't really played that well. It's a tough golf course for me. So I'm extra excited, extra happy because of that.

**MATUSYAMA RETURNS TO DEFEND HIS TITLE ALONGSIDE ANOTHER STACKED FIELD ON THE ISLANDS.**

ANNC: A spectacular place for the new year's first full field event.