***A1 – TEASE***

SAHITH THEEGALA: There's a special aura around the tournament and around the golf course and it's our championship.

**LOCATED IN THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF FLORIDA, LIES A CENTRAL HUB – AND GROUNDS FOR THE WORLD’S BEST.**

DEANE BEMAN: The concept behind the first TPC was that we've built a great golf course and it's proven to be a very competitive and spectacular finish.

ANNC: And Scott survives!

**AND IN A PROPER HOME – THERE’S A WELCOMING WARMTH…**

RYAN PALMER: It's Sawgrass. It's home of the PGA TOUR. It's THE PLAYERS.

**INFUSED WITH THE FEELINGS OF COMFORT AND FAMILIARITY…**

KEEGAN BRADLEY: It's just a tournament that I look forward to every year – everybody does. You know the holes and I think that makes it special for the players.

**FOUNDATIONS BUILT ON RICH TRADITIONS – AS ITS HEIRLOOMS ON DISPLAY SHINE A PROUD LIGHT ON THE PAST.**

NATS: Pete Dye will go for a swim today.

**IT’S HISTORY WELL DOCUMENTED – ENSHRINED FOR THE AGES.**

NATS: Be the right club today…yes!

ADAM SVENSSON: The history of that event is pretty cool, the winners there…

ANNC: Fred Couples…eagle! What a time to hole a putt!

ANNC: Johnny that’s…better than most – how ‘bout in – that is better than most…better than most!

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: It's our biggest event and now it's a dream come true just to be in that field and I hopefully have a chance to win this year.

BILLY HORSCHEL: If you're able to get a win it gives you confidence that your game can compete with the best in the world. It's something that I check off my calendar that I want to win every year.

HARRIS ENGLISH: It's one championship that everybody is vying to win.

HARRIS ENGLISH: TPC Sawgrass.

ADAM SVENSSON: TPC Sawgrass.

SAHITH THEEGALA: Our home.

BILLY HORSCHEL: The home of THE PLAYERS Championship.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: The home of THE PLAYERS Championship.

KEEGAN BRADLEY: Our home.

ADAM SVENSSON: Our home.

BILLY HORSCHEL: Our home.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Our home.

***A2 – THE BACK RANGE***

**TUCKED BETWEEN THE 4TH AND 9TH HOLES, ADJACENT TO THE 5TH FAIRWAY, IS A COZY SPOT AT TPC SAWGRASS THAT PROVIDES A FEELING OF INTIMACY…ONE YOU CAN ONLY FIND AT HOME…**

DEANE BEMAN: I've never seen a practice facility any better than the one that we have here. The back practice facility provided an opportunity for TOUR players to have some privacy with a practice and have a place of their own.

BILLY HORSCHEL: It’s very peaceful…you feel like you can get a lot of quality work back in there. And I'm fortunate to have a facility like that to practice out of. It's not uncommon that certain times of year there's 20 guys back there practicing and it sort of motivates you to continue to work hard.

KEEGAN BRADLEY: The back range is nice because you kind of escape from the tournament and everyone's a little bit more relaxed. They're hanging out and, you know, it's almost like you're seeing your buddies at your club.

HARRIS ENGLISH: It's just an unbelievable practice facility and something that we all look forward to. It feels like home to us.

DEANE BEMAN: More players choose either the back to the front based on wind condition. You don't want to practice downwind and you usually don't want to practice with a left to right wind. And if you’re ever going to play here at Sawgrass and the stadium golf course, you better get ready for the wind.

***A3 – 2022 WINDY SATURDAY***

**BUT AFTER A RAINY FIRST TWO DAYS IN 2022, NOTHING COULD PREPARE THE PLAYERS FOR WHAT WAS TO COME ON SATURDAY…**

ANNC: The challenge at the famed island green 17th will be extraordinary!

KEEGAN BRADLEY: It was it was brutal.

BILLY HORSCHEL: It's probably the toughest I've ever played that hole in a tournament or even in a regular round the golf.

ANNC: First four players to play 17 put it in the water.

ANNC: It’s a guessing game.

ANNC: That is just sheer confusion.

KEEGAN BRADLEY: 17 is stressful regardless of the weather. When it's blowing 30 and it's playing tough and you're hitting seven iron in there, that makes it a lot harder.

**OF THE 82 TIMES THE PAR 3 WAS PLAYED ON SATURDAY, THE ICONIC 17TH HOLE AT TPC SAWGRASS CLAIMED 17 BOGEYS, 13 DOUBLES, FOUR TRIPLES AND THREE QUADS…**

ANNC: Flew the green by 20 yards.

ANNC: The numbers just keep adding up.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: First swing of the day and I hit as good of a shot as I could…

ANNC: He was trying to keep it low enough so the chalets on the left didn’t block out the wind…

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: All of a sudden it gets up to right to the top and it's like hitting a ping pong ball. It was crazy.

ANNC: Too much with that seven iron…in the water.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I was like, well, it's going to be a fun day (laughter).

**SCHEFFLER ACCOUNTED FOR TWO OF THE 29 TOTAL BALLS HIT IN THE WATER – THE FOURTH MOST IN A SINGLE DAY ON 17 SINCE 2003…**

ANNC: 25 yards short! That wind is crankin’ and they can’t feel it on the tee!

ANNC: Oh look out – look out! Not. Even. Close.

KEEGAN BRADLEY: Those were some of the toughest rounds I've ever had to play, especially on a course like that.

***A4 – RED HOT RAHM***

**JON RAHM AVOIDED THE CARNAGE ON 17, MAKING FOUR PARS IN 2022 – A FEAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO REPLICATE ON HIS QUEST TO WIN THE PGA TOUR’S FLAGSHIP EVENT…**

JON RAHM: THE PLAYERS Championship is a tournament unlike any other. It's at the caliber of a major championship.

**THE SPANIARD CAN ATTEST – AS THE 2021 U.S. OPEN CHAMPION – AND A 10 TIME PGA TOUR WINNER…**

ANNC: How ‘bout makin’ it? Yes! Incredible!

**RAHM NEARLY ADDED A PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP TO HIS RESUME IN 2019, WHEN HE STOOD ATOP THE 54-HOLE LEADERBOARD, AND HELD A SHARE OF THE LEAD MAKING THE TURN, BEFORE MAKING A COSTLY MISTAKE ON THE PAR 5, 11TH HOLE…**

ANNC: Curious shot by Rahm. Wind was blowing so hard, there’s no way he could turn that ball back?

**HE ULTIMATELY FINISHED IN A TIE FOR 12TH.**

**TWO YEARS LATER, RAHM RECORDED HIS BEST RESULT AT TPC SAWGRASS, FINISHING IN A TIE FOR NINTH…**

JON RAHM: It's such a difficult tournament to win. The golf course is such a good design – nobody has ever dominated. The best player truly usually wins it, right? It’s the guy who's playing the best in all aspects of the game.

**AT THE MOMENT, IT’S HARD TO DENY THAT SAID PLAYER IS JON RAHM…**

ANNC: Taking care of business here in the first event of 2023!

ANNC: Jon Rahm wins again! He’s making it a habit!

ANNC: It’s all about Jon Rahm right now in the game of golf!

**WITH THREE VICTORIES IN HIS FIRST FIVE STARTS IN 2023 – WHICH ALREADY MARKS THE MOST HE’S HAD IN ONE SEASON…**

RYAN PALMER: He's playing unbelievable golf. If you're close to him on the leaderboard, you're playing well and have a chance to win.

KEEGAN BRADLEY: Hits the ball great, drives it well, chips and putts it very well; doesn't seem to have any weakness in his game.

JON RAHM: Body's been feeling great. My swing's been feeling really, really good. I'm shooting 64s because everything is just firing when it needs to.

ANNC: This is getting ridiculous now!

**COMBINING HIS STRONG PLAY AT TPC SAWGRASS – AND HIS CURRENT FORM AT THE PEAK OF ITS POWERS, RAHM IS PRIMED TO ADD THE PRESTIGIOUS TITLE TO HIS RESUME.**

JON RAHM: To be able to consider yourself PLAYERS Champion, it's something unique. I think it could very much round up and complete somebody's career.

***B1 – SHANE LOWRY: HOLE-IN-ONE***

ANNC: Alright, Shane Lowry on the tee.

SHANE LOWRY: One of the highlights of my year last year. 17 is a hole you’re trying to hit a good shot on. It’s a good birdie chance if you hit a good shot.

ANNC: Lines good…oh, it’s coming back…oh, here we go!

SHANE LOWRY: I lost it there, yeah, it was cool.

ANNC: Well that’s one of the best reactions you’re ever gonna get! That is tremendous. This guy knows how to celebrate!

SHANE LOWRY: It was like my third round, and it got me like right into the tournament then as well.

FAN: We came all the way from Ireland to see Shane Lowry make a hole-in-one. It was so wonderful!

SHANE LOWRY: I actually don’t keep stuff like that, so I remember they came to me on the 18th tee and I signed it for them as well, so that was cool.

SHANE LOWRY: THE PLAYERS Championship is our biggest event on the PGA TOUR and to do something there is pretty special.

***B2 – INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS***

ANNC: Oh that’s beautiful. And that is gonna put it away! Are you kidding me!

**LOWRY LOOKS TO CAPITALIZE ON THAT MOMENTUM AND ADD TO THE TWO DECADE TREND OF INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS.**

ANNC: It couldn’t have been much better for Stephen Ames!

ANNC: Tim Clark, the wait is over – THE PLAYERS Champion in 2010.

**12 PLAYERS – REPRESENTING 9 FLAGS – HAVE TAKEN HOME 12 OF THE LAST 20 PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIPS…**

ADAM SCOTT: To be a PLAYERS Champion means you've beaten, one of the best fields in golf and test your nerve over the final three holes, which is some of the most demanding and testing in all of championship golf.

ANNC: And Scott survives! The youngest champion in the history of THE PLAYERS Championship.

ADAM SCOTT: It was a big win early in my career and no doubt propelled me on to further success and certainly in the United States.

JASON DAY: Being announced as a PLAYERS Champion is always special. I know that my name is down in history now.

ANNC: Wire-to-wire champion, Jason Day!

JASON DAY: I grew up on Bermuda grass, playing those firm, hard conditions, so I got used to that.

**WHETHER IT’S THE TYPE OF TURF, THE CONDITIONS OF THE WEATHER OR SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY, THERE ARE A MULTITUDE OF REASONS WHY INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS HAVE BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL AT TPC SAWGRASS…**

SHANE LOWRY: TPC Sawgrass is not your typical stand up and hit driver on every hole. You need to move your ball and it can get windy. So it's a tricky golf course. Maybe it's a little bit different to the style of golf that American golfers are used to.

***B3 – SI WOO KIM’S SUCCESS***

**IN THE MIDST OF THIS INTERNATIONAL RUN, K.J. CHOI BROKE THROUGH FOR SOUTH KOREA…**

ANNC: K.J. Choi is a PLAYERS Champion! The first Asian to win the crown jewel of the PGA TOUR.

**PAVING THE PATH FOR HIS FELLOW COUNTRYMAN TO MAKE HISTORY OF HIS OWN SIX YEARS LATER…**

ANNC: Si Woo Kim from South Korea – he is the youngest PLAYERS Champion ever!

SI WOO KIM: THE PLAYERS Championship is biggest tournament ever, so, happy to win here.

**AND IN THE SECOND TOURNAMENT OF 2023, SI WOO KIM FOLLOWED IN CHOI’S FOOTSTEPS ONCE AGAIN – WINNING THE SAME TOURNAMENT THAT CHOI WON 15 YEARS PRIOR…**

ANNC: That’s the way to do it right there! How ‘bout a birdie!

ANNC: Si Woo Kim is your champion!

**AND IN HIS FOUR CAREER PGA TOUR VICTORIES, NOT MANY MOMENTS STAND OUT AS MUCH THE SIGNATURE SHOT THAT LED TO HIS DEFINING VICTORY AT THE PLAYERS.**

***B4 – SI WOO KIM: DRIVER OFF THE DECK INSTRUCTIONAL***

ANNC: You’ve got Si Woo Kim at 14 right of the path. It appears he’s got that driver out. He’s got 268 so maybe he’s going to keep it with him.

TODD ANDERSON: First of all, you have to have a good lie. He was in the rough, but the ball was sitting up a little bit. If there was a lot of rough behind this ball, it wouldn't work. But because it's kind of trampled down a little bit. I have a nice clean path to the ball.

ANNC: The good news, it’s a great angle but its blind and it’s a long way.

TODD ANDERSON: The second thing was the shot called for a low shot. He was into the wind, and he had a lot of room in front of the green. And number three, this is a shot that he was comfortable with. It's a shot that he he'd played in practice, probably even in competition.

TODD ANDERSON: The key to hitting this shot is getting to a nice, balanced setup. And then when you deliver the club, have a nice level angle of attack, a lot of players will try to chop down on the ball too much. That doesn't work. Other players will try to lift the ball up in the air, that doesn’t work. You really need to try to come in nice and shallow and you need to chase the club through the ball with your right shoulder. That keeps the club low through impact, gives you a little longer flat spot, which allows you to have a little room for error to help get the ball up in the air. So, it's a difficult shot. You need to practice it and it needs to be played in the right situation.

ANNC: Really nice tempo and he likes it. You don’t chase after it unless it’s good. Right in that left edge and up and onto the green!

TODD ANDERSON: It was one of those iconic shots that helped him go on to win the championship.

***C1 – TITLE REJOIN***

*(NO SCRIPT)*

***C2 – TIGER WOODS: 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY***

ANNC: First on the tee, winner of the 2001 PLAYERS Championship…Tiger Woods!

**PLAYING IN THE PENULTIMATE GROUP, TIGER WOODS ENTERED THE FINAL ROUND OF THE 2013 PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP TIED FOR THE LEAD – IN SEARCH OF HIS SECOND PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE – BUT FACED THE DAUNTING CHALLENGE OF TPC SAWGRASS.**

TIGER WOODS: I've had some mixed emotions about that golf course. Either I play really well or I play really bad. And I haven't had the type of consistent success that I've had with other venues.

ANNC: By far this is the best position he has been in – first time he’s even had the share of the lead after any round of THE PLAYERS.

**WOODS SEIZED MOMENTUM AND THE SOLO LEAD WITH THREE BIRDIES ON THE FRONT NINE…RIDING AN ATMOSPHERE ONLY TIGER CAN GENERATE.**

RYAN PALMER: There was an aura about the whole week, the people talking. You could hear the chatter. I mean, you just knew Tiger Woods was playing that week.

DAVID LINGMERTH: Tiger made a putt for birdie. I think he made a little fist pump.

ANNC: There it is, Tiger Woods to 13-under par, one-shot lead.

DAVID LINGMERTH: I just remember the roar and the crowds going absolutely nuts and I'm like, okay, this is what we're going to be up against today.

KEVIN STREELMAN: I had a great weekend – I think I went maybe 67, 68 on the weekend – and Tiger man…Tiger was Tiger.

ANNC: He’s been hitting great putts all week. And he’s feeling it no question about it.

**WOODS CARRIED A TWO-SHOT LEAD INTO THE BACK NINE, BUT A DOUBLE BOGEY ON 14 BROUGHT THE FIELD BACK INTO PLAY.**

KEVIN STREELMAN: I just got done when he hit in the water, so I was like, this could get interesting here, but obviously Tiger did what he does.

**JUST TWO HOLES LATER, TIGER REGAINED CONTROL…**

ANNC: Beautifully played. Typical Tiger Woods recovery.

ANNC: To take the outright lead. So Tiger to 13 under.

**PARS ON 17 AND 18 SENT TIGER TO THE CLUBHOUSE WITH ONLY ONE PLAYER LEFT IN STRIKING DISTANCE…**

ANNC: Lingmerth does have a birdie attempt to try and tie Tiger…

DAVID LINGMERTH: I was a little aggressive with that putt. I think I hit a pretty good one; it was just a little firm. I'm still proud of the way I handled that situation and it's just tough beating Tiger.

ANNC: And Tiger Woods is a PLAYERS Champion again.

NATS: Mission accomplished. I told you. I told you. How about that huh?

TIGER WOODS: Joey was harping on me for about a year, just harping on me about I can win THE PLAYERS Championship. I just didn't quite always have my game, but Joey chirping in my ear and…we finally got one together.

***C3 – FIRST TIME PLAYERS WINNERS***

**SINCE WOODS CLAIMED HIS SECOND TITLE AT TPC SAWGRASS, THE EIGHT WINNERS THAT FOLLOWED HAVE ALL BEEN FIRST TIME PLAYERS CHAMPIONS.**

ANNC: Rickie Fowler owns the island green!

ANNC: The latest PLAYERS Champion from down under!

ANNC: Rory McIlroy is a PLAYERS Champion!

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: It's not really bombers paradise it doesn't really favor shorter hitters and that's why I don't think you see a ton of repeat winners there because it doesn't suit one style play. You just have to play great golf.

JON RAHM: It’s such a difficult tournament to win. No matter how hard, far, straight or crooked you hit it, you had different winners.

ANNC: Si Woo Kim is your 2017 PLAYERS Champion!

ANNC: Justin Thomas puts it away!

JUSTIN THOMAS: There are a lot of reasons that go into why it’s tough to defend. Number one being it’s just really hard to win a golf tournament and two, it’s obviously hard to win back-to-back on a place like this.

ADAM SCOTT: I didn’t realize how difficult it is to win around that golf course or win again, and I’ve been trying a long time.

JUSTIN THOMAS: I just truly think that this golf course brings out every aspect of your game in order to come out on top at the end of the week.

***D1 – STANDOUT STATS***

**AS GOLF IS A GAME OF INCHES, PLAYERS ARE CONSTANTLY CALCULATING THE NUMBERS…WHICH TELL THE STORY OF SUCCESS AT TPC SAWGRASS…**

**AT 46 UNDER, ADAM SCOTT HAS THE BEST CUMULATIVE SCORE TO PAR OVER THE LAST 10 PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIPS…**

ANNC: Touch of class from the 2004 PLAYERS Champion.

**WHICH IS FIVE SHOTS BETTER THAN JUSTIN THOMAS, WHO RANKS THIRD…**

**AND SINCE 2019, THE 2021 CHAMPION HAS DOMINATED THE PAR 5s, PLAYING THEM 25 UNDER PAR…**

ANNC: Justin Thomas has it – eagle at 11!

**THOMAS ALSO POSSESSES THE BEST SCORING AVERAGE SINCE 2012, JUST AHEAD OF TIGER WOODS.**

JUSTIN THOMAS: Sawgrass to me is truly the best designed golf courses I've ever played. The par fives are great in terms of the risk reward. You can make four just as easily as you can make six on any one of them.

**JUST THREE STROKES SHY OF THOMAS’ PAR 5 PACE, IS JON RAHM AT 22 UNDER…**

ANNC: Rahm bangs one in for birdie!

**AND THE SPANIARD IS THIRD BEST IN STROKES GAINED: BALL STRIKING SINCE 2017…TRAILING CANADA’S COREY CONNERS…**

**WHO ALSO RANKS FIFTH IN STROKES GAINED: TEE-TO-GREEN PER ROUND SINCE 2013…A CATEGORY LED BY 2019 CHAMPION RORY McILROY…**

RORY McILROY: This is definitely a golf course where can't overpower it. Going back to March, with it being overseeded, being a little softer, you actually could hit more drivers, so I felt like that was what played into my hands a little bit more.

**IN 2022, NORWAY’S VIKTOR HOVLAND LED THE FIELD IN BALL STRIKING, GAINING THREE-AND-A-HALF STROKES PER ROUND…**

ANNC: Viktor Hovland – how ‘bout that!

**AND WHEN IT COMES TO APPROACHING THE GREEN, THERE ARE FEW BETTER THAN HIDEKI MATSUYAMA, WHO RANKS FOURTH BEST ON TOUR SINCE 2014…**

ANNC: Oh, Hideki!

**FROM PAST CHAMPIONS TO TOP CONTENDERS, THE PLAYERS WHO SEPARATE THEMSELVES STATISTICALLY WILL PUT THEMSELVES IN THE MIX TO TAKE HOME THE PGA TOUR’S MOST COVETED TITLE.**

***D2 – FIRST TIMERS***

**AMONGST THE TOP PERFORMERS LOOKING TO STANDOUT IN THE 2023 PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP WILL BE A STRONG CONTINGENT OF FIRST TIMERS…**

ANNC: Two wins in his last four PGA TOUR starts. He has taken the world by storm.

TOM KIM: It was a dream come true. It doesn't get tougher than winning on the PGA TOUR. And I felt like it just kind of made a statement.

CALLUM TARREN: THE PLAYERS is one of the biggest events in golf and I’m just excited to get there and soak the atmosphere in. I’ve got a bunch of family and friends coming so should be a great week.

MATTHIAS SCHWAB: It's obviously been one of my goals in my career or growing up as a junior. Even in Austria we watched the PLAYERS. I’m out there quite a bit actually because I moved there recently.

ADAM SVENSSON: I'm excited. It's Florida golf. I usually play good in Florida. Just the history of that event is pretty cool, the winners there and also excited to get to play there.

***D3 – ADAM SVENSSON: FIRST TIMER***

**POWERED BY A HOT FLAT STICK, ADAM SVENSSON PUNCHED HIS TICKET TO THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP WITH A BREAKTHROUGH THIS FALL.**

ANNC: What a roll that was.

ANNC: The Canadian takes the lead all to himself.

ANNC: In his 70th career start, Adam Svensson is now a PGA TOUR winner for the very first time.

ADAM SVENSSON: It was almost a relief – just grinding and doing all that stuff and to win and then, you know, you're like, wow, I won.

**IN HIS NINE-YEAR CAREER BOUNCING BETWEEN THE TOUR’S PATHWAY CIRCUITS, SVENSSON HAS SEEN BOTH SIDES OF THE SPORT. AFTER EARNING HIS PGA TOUR CARD FOR THE 2018-19 SEASON, SVENSSON MISSED 14 CUTS IN 25 EVENTS, LOST HIS CARD AND RETURNED TO THE KORN FERRY TOUR.**

ADAM SVENSSON: Sometimes when you're in the gutter, you’re wanting to quit. You're like, can I do this?

**WITH TWO KORN FERRY TOUR VICTORIES IN 2021, SVENSSON RECLAIMED HIS PGA TOUR CARD THANKS TO A RECOMMITTED FOCUS...**

ADAM SVENSSON: I discipline myself more and I just had a fear of failing and I've already failed so, I didn't even want to feel that again.

**HIS PATH HAS LED HIM TO THIS YEAR’S PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP – THE BIGGEST EVENT OF HIS CAREER TO DATE – WITH THE HOPES OF ADDING ANOTHER PIECE OF HISTORY TO A GOLF-CRAZED COUNTRY.**

ADAM SVENSSON: THE PLAYERS, any big, big event, I think Canadians are waiting for that. They want to see another superstar coming out of Canada.

***D4 – ROLLOUT***

**WHETHER IT’S YOUR FIRST TIME…**

**OR YOUR 21ST…**

**THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP IS THE GOLD STANDARD.**

**IT’S *THEIR* CHAMPIONSHIP…**

**AND WHOEVER PREVAILS OVER GOLF’S STRONGEST FIELD…**

**WILL BE ENSHRINED FOREVER…**

**AT THE PLACE THE PLAYERS CALL HOME.**