**THE CUT – EPISODE 12**

**LEAD PRODUCER: ERIN HORAN**

**3/20/23**

**COLD OPEN:**

ANNC CALL: "IT'S THE 22ND VALSPAR CHAMPIONSHIP . A MAINSTAY ON THE PGA TOUR"

SAM BURNS SOT: "THREE, TWO, ONE..."

NATS: CHEERS

AKSHAY SOT: "BEING TWENTY YEARS OLD IT'S TOUGH TO RENT CARS THESE DAYS. TRUNK SPACE IS GOOD SO THAT'S NICE"

ROGER SALI: GOLF IS A VERY GOOD GAME. IT HAS CHANGED MY LIFE AND I BELIEVE IT CAN CHANGE MANY PEOPLE'S LIVES"

**THE CUT TITLES:**

VO: WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT.

**VALSPAR TOURNAMENT ACTION RECAP:**

ANNC CALL: FINAL ROUND SUNDAY AT THE VALSPAR CHAMPIONSHIP.

VO: THE TOUR'S TOP PLAYERS BATTLED IT OUT THIS WEEKEND AT THE FINAL TOURNAMENT IN THE FLORIDA SWING...

VO: KNOWN AS THE MOST COLORFUL EVENT IN GOLF...

VO... AND FOR THE INFAMOUS SNAKE PIT, A THREE HOLE STRETCH ON THE BACK NINE...ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT TO WRANGLE...

VO: BUT NOT FOR THE LIKES OF RYAN BREHM....

ANNC CALL: "It's Perfect!"

VO: WHO KICKED OFF THE OPENING ROUND ON THURSDAY WITH AN ACE ON 17...PUTTING HIM ON THE TOP OF THE LEADERBOARD WITH STEPHEN JAEGER AND ADAM SCHENK...

(REAX AND CHEERS)

VO: SCHENK, JORDAN SPIETH... AND TOMMY FLEETWOOD... ALL MADE IT TO THE TOP OF THE LEADERBOARD THIS WEEKEND.

ANNC CALL: "WHAT A SHOT FLEETWOOD 3-4 ½ FEET TO GET TO 7 UNDER PAR"

FILE: FLEETWOOD ANNC CALL (FRIDAY)

**WINNER FEATURE**

VO: BUT IT WAS TAYLOR MOORE WHO CLINCHED HIS FIRST CAREER WIN AND PGA TOUR TITLE IN A SURPRISE ENDING ON SUNDAY.

SOT: POST ROUND INTERVIEW: "It hasn't really hit me yet. I was just in compete mode and then watching the guys finish...It's so cool, it's what I work for.//"

**VO: MOORE HAD BACK-TO-BACK BIRDIES ON 15 AND 16... WHICH GAVE HIM THE EDGE TO WIN.**

**VO: BORN IN TEXAS..HE PLAYED FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AND TURNED PRO IN 2016**

**VO... NOW HE HAS EVEN MORE TO LOOK FORWARD TO AS A NEW CHAMPION...**

**AKSHAY BHATIA FEATURE:**

**VO: TAYLOR MOORE MIGHT BE THE WINNER THIS WEEK, BUT FOR AKSHAY BHATIA, JUST HAVING THE CHANCE TO PLAY ON TOUR IS A VICTORY.**

AKSHAY BHATIA: Since I was a little kid, I've wanted to be on the PGA TOUR and dreamed about being the best player in the world, and now I have the opportunity to do it.

AKSHAY BHATIA: I had no idea what adversity meant back in 2019....

AKSHAY BHATIA: Can you explain adversity to me?

AKSHAY BHATIA: and I fully understand it now.

AKSHAY BHATIA: I've really learned that that word because I've had to deal with so much adversity. The first year I turned pro is one of the worst years I've had playing golf. I struggled mentally, I'd missed every cut.

ANNC: It's been a learning process for Akshay. He's kind of learning on the job.

AKSHAY BHATIA: I've dealt with so many ups and downs as a professional, not being able to rent rental cars, not being able to check into hotels.

NAT AKSHAY BHATIA: Being 20 years old, its hard to rent cars nowadays so we got this beauty, this nice UHaul, trunk space is good. I never thought I would rent a car like this.

AKSHAY BHATIA: When I turned pro I had a lot of learning to do playing different golf courses and very hard setups was very hard to adjust to. Then I won my first mini-tour event, which is a very small step, but a big step for me being 18 at the time. And then top-10ing at the Fortinet Championship

ANNC: Now, Akshay Bhatia. That gets him into the top 10.

AKSHAY BHATIA: Last season having three, three or four starts guaranteed. I mean, that's a challenge right away. Winning the event, having full status, being number one of the points list after a couple of events and then getting injured and then trying to battle my way back to get my card.

ANNC: And Bhatia It's been a slow decline for him. It's very tough to start the year with a win and then stay in that 25, but a very good week here.

AKSHAY BHATIA: I easily could have gone gone down on myself and very upset that I didn't get my card but I knew I belonged. I've always believed it. Three months into my season this year, I was really set on playing the Korn Ferry tour and trying to grind it out.

AKSHAY BHATIA: Going into Puerto Rico, it was a really good opportunity for me to make it to the Valspar Championship via top 10. I have a pretty good record on the islands, Bermuda, Bahamas, now Puerto Rico. I really enjoy the challenge of high winds. Being creative and working balls with the wind, against the wind, hitting 5-iron from 170 versus a stock one is 205.

AKSHAY BHATIA: I really embraced it that final round because I knew it was going to play pretty hard.

ANNC: Putting back into the wind uphill similar to the putt he holed on the last. He's been aggressive all day. He's played his game. Bhatia to tie the low round of the day. A 65 on Sunday. Welcome to the PGA TOUR, Akshay Bhatia.

AKSHAY BHATIA: I made the putt on 18, walked to my caddie, and he's like, Do you realize what just happened? And I said, No. He's like, You got your card.

AKSHAY BHATIA: The timeline was about right and I think my 17 year old self would have been really impressed with everything I've had to deal with to get to this point.

AKSHAY BHATIA: This is my 23rd PGA TOUR event and I'm saying that at 21 years old.

AKSHAY BHATIA: I didn't know how this was going to happen, I didn't know when it was going to happen but I knew it was going to happen for it to come full circle back to the Valspar Championship is, I mean it's a story you can't write...

**VO: NOW WE TURN TO THE COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10, WITH JON RAHM AT THE TOP OF THE LIST, THANKS TO A RECORD-SETTING EARLY SEASON PACE.**

ANNC: "It's all about Jon Rahm right now in the game of golf."

**VO: RAHM EARNED 2,000 FEDEXCUP POINTS IN HIS FIRST 6 STARTS THIS SEASON, THE MOST OF ANY PLAYER SINCE 2009.**

**VO: MAKING UP GROUND IS WORLD NUMBER ONE SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER, WHO MOVED TO THIRD AFTER HIS WIN AT THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP.**

ANNC: "And the Scheffler victory train just keeps on rolling, and back on top of the world."

**VO: SCHEFFLER HAS RANKED INSIDE THE TOP 3 FOR 30 WEEKS SINCE THE START OF LAST SEASON, THE SECOND MOST OF ANY PLAYER ON TOUR.**

**VO: WITH 20 WEEKS LEFT IN THE REGULAR SEASON, RAHM HOLDS A SLIGHT LEAD OVER MAX HOMA AND SCHEFFLER, WITH FEDEXCUP POINTS UP FOR GRABS THIS WEEK IN AUSTIN.**

**BUMP:**

**ROGER SALI SOT:**

**"This is the first time all of them to see a golf club....// I think they're happy"**

**ROGER SALI SCRIPT**

ROGER SALI: I want you to remember that golf is going to give you very many opportunities in life.

Nats: Hello

ROGER SALI: It will teach you manners. Like how to behave in community and society. And it also humbles you down because it's not an easy game.

Nats: ping

ROGER SALI: They're going to get bottle tops to use them like tees. You don't need much. You can be creative and you can play from anywhere.

Nats: Nice! Good. Good. Good. Good.

ROGER SALI: I'm ready to start up something that they can play forever and ever.

Nats

ROGER SALI: When I got to see a golf course, I didn't know much what it means. You see clubs, you don't know what they mean, what they do. But through practice and watching many videos on YouTube, I was able to get used to it.

ROGER SALI: Go like this to the top of the backswing then hit. Bend your knees. Leave him he is only a beginner. It's cool because he was swinging like this all over his body and you just need to make it simple.

PETER: Recently, when I came here, I met these guys, they were playing here. I somehow got that interest back. I was like 'let me try these things'. Since I stay with these guys, and every morning they practice, the way he swings the balls, even if you're in bed, you're like let me come out and see.

Nats: How was that?

ROGER SALI: This is my neighborhood. There's a shortcut there I use to go to Serena. Serena is somewhere around there. That's where I work from. Just about 10 minutes.

Nats

Theo Van Rooyen: Hi everyone. Are you good? I want to start with consistency. Every guest who travels here is our ambassador. And their first point of contact is you. The area that we always get comments on is the caddies, and the maintenance, and the friendliness of the staff. So even as you're looking at me now, I need a smile guys. Please don't be so serious. Remember the golfer that's coming behind you. That's why you guys are playing golf, is to put yourself in that same position, that same spot, that you can give them the best advice. Roger here is a great example of that. What he does in his personal life reflects what he does in his workplace.

Nats: clapping

Theo Van Rooyen: Let's give him a great round of applause. Tell us a little bit more about your background and your journey up to now.

ROGER SALI: I became a caddie master, Mr. Theo gave me the opportunity. Then I became a starter. That's how I am right now. The rest is my personal life, golf, things like that.

Theo Van Rooyen: Naturally, he comes through quietly.

Nats: Oh, Roger wants to join us.

Theo Van Rooyen: But the moment you see him interact with other caddies, then you can see it coming out.

Nats: Coach Roger. Laughs.

Theo Van Rooyen: He was always somebody that they would listen to and follow his lead.

Nats: Another hole, we'll pick another hole.

Nats: chip and cheers

KENNETH: Roger is a nice guy. Self taught. Self motivated. And he's inspired most of us here. Most caddies here now have started to play golf.

Nats: This one, swing fast man

Nats: Shamy, come over here.

Theo Van Rooyen: He's definitely got a bunch of guys that feeds off his energy. The way that they interact actually every single day, they're like a bunch of brothers.

ROGER SALI: You see, he has a very big smile, I told you.

ROGER SALI: I give caddies tips, I like caddies to play golf. I like very many people to play golf. I think I just like to teach.

ROGER SALI: That's basically my dream. To be a teaching pro. Then I can be able to share tips and keep introducing golf to many people. Golf is a very good game. It has changed my life a lot and I believe it can change many people's lives.

**SAM BURNS FEATURE:**

ANNC: Sam Burns back to back winner on the Copperhead Course here.

**VO: SAM BURNS EXPERIENCED TRUE JOY AT THE VALSPAR CHAMPIONSHIP THE PAST TWO YEARS AND WANTED TO SHARE IT WITH A SMALL TOWN IN HIS HOME STATE OF LOUISIANA.**

Ronde Barber: Sam is our two time defending champion at the Valspar Championship, (applause). So as champion in 2022, our title sponsor, Valspar Paints, gifted him the ability to paint a mural in any US city of his choosing as part of their Be Bright initiative. Now, I think it took Sam all of 2 seconds to say Ruston, Louisiana.

SAM BURNS: Ruston is our home and we're very fortunate that we can do this in our community.

CAROLINE BURNS: The people here were just so kind and so welcoming and we quickly made friends and we love it. It's so nice to come home to especially with all the travel. We feel like we're rooted here.

SAM BURNS: You know just trying to be a light in our community and you know give back in a small way.

SARAH HACKNEY: I really just want to thank everybody here for taking the time out of their day to come and celebrate this, our fourth Valspar Be Bright mural. At Valspar, we have products that perform at their best to showcase our end users tenacious spirit, their creativity and really with what we wanted to do with these Be Bright murals is take that beyond the homes and into the communities that we serve.

SAM BURNS: All right. Five, four, three, two, one. Wow, there it is. This is great.

KADAVIAN BAYLOR: The mural encompasses so many details that connect to the city of Ruston. The Dixie Center of the Arts is the hub and the heartbeat of the arts in downtown Ruston. Its different facets of the arts and the citizens are at the bottom of the mural, looking up at the arts with the color of the arts reflecting in their shades.

RONNY WALKER: I have to admit, I've been by here every day to see what it looks like. I saw the progression of it. It's unbelievable. It's incredibly special.

JUDY COPELAND: The Dixie Board of directors, the staff, and its members are forever grateful, Sam, for you choosing Ruston and the Dixie because it is phenomenal and what a great gift you have given us.

RONDE BARBER: On behalf of us and the Valspar championship, we want to present you with a check for the Dixie Center of the Arts for $20,000.

CAROLINE BURNS: We're so fortunate. We've been given a lot and it's really cool to see how he's handled it, how we've been able to work through it together and do things like this is just really, really humbling and special.

SAM BURNS: The last couple of years for me on the golf course have been really good years and it's cool to have this kind of opportunity to be able to give back to our community in a small way, but hopefully it'll have a big impact.

**SERVPRO SPONSORED FEATURE:**

**VO: THE CUT PRESENTS RAPID RECOVERY**

**VO: TOMMY FLEETWOOD IN ROUND 2 AT THE VALSPAR CHAMPIONSHIP**

**BEN GRIFFIN FEATURE:**

ANNC: We got this great view for Ben Griffin out of the bunker cam. Little awkward lie Look how high his right foot is there, ball's above his feet. Good to just get it on the green, better to get it in the hole! What a week for Griffin.

**VO: Ben Griffin left the game of golf two years ago for an office job, but he returned to professional golf, earned his tour card last year and has impressed in his rookie season.**

SOT GRIFFIN: We're here at the Snake Pit at Innisbrook Resort for the Valspar Championship. Last three holes 16 through 18 Let's go see how I do.

**VO: THE SNAKE PIT IS ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT FINISHES ON TOUR.**

SOT GRIFFIN: Obviously this is a pretty well-known stretch of holes in golf here at Innisbrook. And so, demanding tee shot on 16, gotta make sure you find the fairway, it's probably going to be a three wood.

NATS: And you guys got a two on camera. Oh, just missed it.

SOT GRIFFIN: Good look for birdie. It's one of the holes this week that if I can have four chances from inside 20 feet I'll be very happy.

NATS: Broke a little left unfortunately. Just a par.

SOT GRIFFIN: It's an easy game guys. I'll take that all week for sure.

SOT GRIFFIN: All right, final leg of this well, it's a snake they don't have legs. Final hole the snake bit, final skin, we'll go with that.

SOT GRIFFIN: In the fairway, I mean a driver today, it could be less you know the fairway is actually wider the shorter you hit it, but then it leaves you a longer iron in.

SOT GRIFFIN: I'm playing with a lot of confidence. You know, I haven't necessarily, I was in the mix a little bit at THE PLAYERS. But you know, go back to Bay Hill I've just been pretty steady, even Honda 21st place finish. I mean, I've had a lot of top 25's this year and I need to start breaking through to where I'm kind of close to those final groups on Sunday to where I have a chance, and once I get it done, I feel like it's going to kind of come in bunches where I'll hopefully get a few more.

SOT GRIFFIN: 1-under on the Snake Pit. We'll take that all week long.

**PACIFIC LIFE PREVIEW**

**VO: "The CUT presents: Tournament Insights for the WGC-Dell Technologies Match”**

SOT HORSCHEL: "Match play such a beautiful game, beautiful way to play the game of golf in a different way."

SOT BRADLEY: "I think in match play you have to be pedal down the whole time, you have to try to birdie every hole...especially on that course..."

ANNC COURSE: "It is set along Lake Austin with some fun holes that can produce some dramatic shifts in momentum."

SOT BRADLEY CONT: "...There's a lot of risk reward. // [01:05:59] It's a crazy course to play but it's perfect for match play."

**VO: THE 2023 WGC-DELL TECHNOLOGIES MATCH PLAY IS THE SEVENTH AND FINAL EDITION PLAYED AT AUSTIN COUNTRY CLUB, BUT IT'S GOING OUT WITH A BANG. AS A DESIGNATED EVENT, THE 64-MAN FIELD WILL NEED TO PREPARE FOR THE PRESSURE OF MATCHING UP HEAD TO HEAD AGAINST THE WORLDS BEST.**

SOT KISNER: [01:43:56] "When we start a regular tournament we have to beat 155 guys. In a match play environment, I only have to beat one that day. // [01:45:45] So if I can put the pressure on someone else quickly and early, then that means they're going to have all the feelings that most people struggle with."

ANNC PSYCHOLOGY: [15:08:57] "Nothing keeps you in the moment like match play. It's sports psychology 101 isn't it?"

**VO: THE COMPETITION FORMAT IS 16 GROUPS OF FOUR PLAYERS. THREE DAYS OF ROUND-ROBIN MATCH PLAY AND SINGLE ELIMINATION TO DETERMINE THE WINNER.**

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FULL SCREEN GRAPHIC:

TOURNAMENT INSIGHTS

WORLD GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS-DELL TECHNOLOGIES MATCH PLAY

16 GROUPS OF 4 PLAYERS

3 DAYS ROUND-ROBIN MATCH-PLAY

WINNER ADVANCES TO ROUND OF 16

SINGLE-ELIMINATION TO WINNER

**FEDEX CUP STANDINGS FEATURE:**

**VO: AFTER THE VALSPAR CHAMPIONSHIP, THESE ARE THE CURRENT FED EX CUP STANDINGS, WITH JON RAHM AT THE TOP OF THE LIST AND TAYLOR MOORE MOVING INTO 9TH PLACE AS THE TOUR HEADS TO TEXAS.**

**WGC DELL ROLLOUT PREVIEW SCRIPT**

ANNC: Welcome to the Lone star state // the World Golf Championships Dell Technologies Match Play

**VO: THE PGA TOUR'S TOP PLAYERS HEAD TO AUSTIN THIS WEEK....**

ANNC: "It's party time!

**VO: WHERE SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER WILL DEFEND HIS TITLE...**

ANNC: "And that's a winner"

ANNC: "What a run for Scottie Scheffler"

**VO: AGAINST STRONG CONTENDERS LIKE RORY MCILROY**

ANNC CALL: "Look out for McIlroy"

**VO: MAX HOMA....**

ANN: "Nicely judged there by Max Homa"

**AND PATRICK CANTLAY**

NATS: CHEERS

ANNC: "It's as good as it gets"

**VO: THE TOURNAMENT KICKS OFF MARCH 22ND THROUGH THE 26TH.**

ANNC: "Wow how good is that!"