**23CUTWF SHOW INTERNATIONAL SCRIPT**

COLD OPEN – MEXICO OPEN

ANNC: Here on the pacific coast of Mexico, the best time of the year to come is right now.

Perfect weather, like Groundhog Day… you wake up, 80 degrees, sunny skies, little bit of wind.

Vidanta Vallarta, the longest par 71 on TOUR this season. It’s a tournament that dates back to the 1940s, but it’s just the second year the Mexico Open at Vidanta is an official PGA TOUR event.

Bienvenidos a Mexico Open at Vidanta.

THE CUT TITLES

**WELCOME TO PGA TOUR, THE CUT.**

FIRST TEE MÉXICO CLINIC

ORTIZ: It's always great to give back to the community and to the little kids. They're the future of our country and of our sport.

VAZQUEZ: Just being with the kids and seeing how happy they are and how committed they are to golf and they want to learn. I just feel great to be able to help them with whatever I can.

In Mexico before the First Tee, if you were not a member in a club or something, you couldn’t play golf and now with the First Tee, there's a lot of kids have the opportunity to play golf.

ORTIZ: Making it accessible for all type of community, for all type of people and communities, it's incredible, no? Because I think that this sport is, has a lot to share and a lot to teach and I think Mexico can use that a lot.

SALINA: First Tee is very important for us. As we can see here, you know, these kids growing up to be a good presence out there. This is this is the whole point of it. It's really good that they know how to play but that's not the objective. The objective is always to form good people and that they have a good moral compass out there.

VAZQUEZ: How to overcome adversity and just not give up and keep believing in yourself. I think that's the most valuable thing I can give to other people.

ORTIZ: Sometimes it's a little underestimated what these little things can do for a kid and you know, it can be sometimes like a moment when their life change, and it's a moment where they pick up the club or, you know, start doing something because they find an inspiration in something or they hear something that trigger them to, start chasing their dreams. So, hopefully it was one of those for one of these kids and, hopefully we'll see them here in the future.

SOMBRERO CHIPPING CHALLENGE

PRODUCER: We weren’t rolling yet.

SCHWAB: You weren't rolling?

FINAU: Which way? It doesn’t matter?

PRODUCER: It doesn’t matter.

BHATIA: Yeah, that's impossible.

MALNATI: Pedro y Jose. Jose?

[In Spanish]

*Oh no! How do you say close?*

PRODUCER: *Cerca de*

[In Spanish]

MALNATI: *Close to perfect, but no! One more? No. No. No.*

TONY FINAU WINS THE MEXICO OPEN AT VIDANTA

ANNC: You think back to last year, Finau finishing in a tie for second and now you fast forward, this will be his fourth win since last year’s Mexico Open. So that event really served as a springboard for both Finau & Jon Rahm.

FINAU: No matter how many shots you're ahead, you're just so focused on getting in the clubhouse to win the golf tournament.

ANNC: Tony’s whole family waiting for him at the 18th green. They’ve been here all week.

FINAU: When I hit that third shot on 18, I was like all right, I don't think I can screw this up now.

ANNC: Tony outlasts number one and it’s a Finau family fiesta in Mexico! Career win number six on the PGA TOUR!

FINAU: I played great golf all week. Every day I was striking the golf ball really nicely, and the biggest thing is I was able to convert the birdie putts that I really needed to and also some of the par saves that were momentum swingers for me. I knew today was going to be a tall task going against Rahmbo and with the form that he's in, I was really put to the test and came out on top, which feels great.

ANNC: Cool moment right there. Yeah, that’s really neat right there. Two good friends, that’s what it’s all about.

FINAU: This tournament propelled me I think into the season that I had last year. To get this win was huge and hopefully propels me to do more great things as the season unfolds.

FEDEXCUP STANDINGS

**AFTER JUST A WEEK OUTSIDE THE TOP 10 OF THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS, THE WIN IN MEXICO PUSHED TONY FINAU BACK INSIDE, WHERE HE HAS BEEN A STALWART THIS SEASON.**

COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10  
  
**IN THE COMCAST BUISNESS TOUR TOP 10, JON RAHM ADDED 300 POINTS WITH HIS RUNNER-UP FINISH IN MEXICO, PADDING HIS COMMANDING LEAD.**

COMING UP

[In Spanish]

ECHAVARRIA: *I think my dreams changed when I saw Camilo win and make that final putt at BMW. Something grew within me in my heat and my mind that I wanted to be that person. I wanted to be like Camilo Villegas. I wanted to win on the PGA TOUR.*

NICO ECHAVARRIA JOURNEY

ECHAVARRIA: Golf for me is just a way of seeing life. On the golf course you can have very bad days just as in life, but it can also be some of the best days of your life where everything, every putt’s going in. You could focus on the positives, focus on there’s always a next day, just as in life and you can get everything out of one day, one lesson, one thing that could make you a better golfer, a better person.

My happiest memory isa tournament with my mom. We were teamed up. I was very little, and she didn’t play much golf and she doesn’t anymore. I don’t think we won the tournament; we finished second or third and I probably won the smallest trophy ever made but that is a trophy that’s still at home and it’s got be one of my favorites.

ANNC: The wait is over for Camilo Villegas! Home country of Columbia will be celebrating this one.

[In Spanish]  
ECHAVARRIA: *I think my dreams changed when I saw Camilo win and make that final putt at BMW. Something grew within me in my heat and my mind that I wanted to be that person. I wanted to be like Camilo Villegas. I wanted to win on the PGA TOUR.*

ANNC: The dream now a reality! Echavarria a winner on the PGA TOUR! The 3rd Colombian to win on the PGA TOUR.

ECHAVARRIA: It was surreal. It was a dream come true. Getting it done and seeing him on 18, it was just a dream come true. It was incredible to have him there. He’s been a true example not only as a golfer but as a person. He’s been through very, very tough times in his family and he’s a role model in handling life and tough situations and in good situations. So I admire him.

*[In Spanish]*

*I hope that kids can feel what I felt when I saw Camilo win, when they saw me win in Puerto Rico. That they can keep on dreaming, dreaming big and no one can take their dreams away.*

NICO ECHAVARRIA TRAINING

[In Spanish]

ECHAVARRIA: *Right now, we’re trying to warm up and prep the body so it’s ready for the exercises that we want to do today. So here, really, I’m not trying to like… bulk up or get bigger. I’m just trying to get stronger, which will also help me prevent injuries.*

BENNETT: So my main thing, anything his swing coach is trying to accomplish in his swing, we’re just trying to make sure his body can do it on a consistent basis in here. We’re always trying to work on his lower body specifically his glutes. He’s very quad dominant, especially when he first came to see me, so we’re trying to get a little more balance from the lower body. And then just overall strength and conditioning as well.

The season’s long and these guys practice, you know, 6-7 hours a day hitting one way, so in the gym we want to make sure we’re doing as much as we can to actually like balance their body back out as best we can just to keep them healthy over the course of a long season.

ECHAVARRIA: Only because we’re righties and we’re going one way, you still have to do the exercise with the left because if you’re off balance you’re never going to be able to finish a swing like Rory.

[In Spanish]

*You know, as golfers we use our rotation a lot. So we’re trying to improve the range of motion between the hips and the back. That way the spine can rotate better when I’m doing my swing.*

So it’s clearly been almost a miracle I would say, that I finally learned that the golf swing had to be related with the training and the physical part.

BENNETT: Everything’s gotten a lot stronger, and he moves a lot better. Everything’s a little more balanced.

That’s all I’ve got.

ECHAVARRIA: Perfect!  
  
BENNETT: Good work.

SCRAMBLING LEADERS

**THE CUT PRESENTS… SCRAMBLING LEADERS.**

**AFTER THE PAST MONTH, THESE ARE THE PLAYERS CURRENTLY AT THE TOP OF THE TOUR IN SCRAMBLING PERCENTAGE.**

ANNC: This guy right here leads the TOUR right now in scrambling. Seventy-one percent of the time he gets up and down. He’s got the sixty-two degree wedge that he has just fallen in love with and you can see why.

Jason Day in the bunker here, uphill the entire way. Oh man, did that have great sound or what? That is the thump you are looking for if you are playing a bunker shot.

This is Spaun and his birdie bid at his final hole. Using a little wedge and he’s going to get it up and down there.

COREY CONNERS FEATURES

**A MONTH AGO, COREY CONNERS CAPTURED HIS SECOND PGA TOUR VICTORY AT THE SITE OF HIS FIRST IN 2019.**

ANNC: Four-year wait is over for Corey Conners. And now it’s not just his wife, there’s a whole other perspective for Corey Conners to soak in.

**COREY’S WORK LIFE PERSPECTIVE HASN’T CHANGED OVER THE YEARS THOUGH.  FOR THE 31-YEAR-OLD, IT’S A MARATHON, NOT A SPRINT.**

CONNERS: I've always been kind of slow and steady just, you know, making baby steps trying to refine each part of the game slowly not making any drastic changes. And it certainly seemed to work for me getting a little bit better each year and getting to the TOUR Championship the last few years and climbing up in the world rankings. I feel like my game is in a place now where everything's really strong and just gotta go out there and have belief and play to win really, yeah, it's a fun time.

ANNC: Corey Conners, good tee shot there. Corey is the man squarely in the 30th slot.

CONNERS: I'd say there's definitely an added comfort level. You know, I’m comfortable and being out here after being on TOUR for a number of years, comfortable in different situations. As far as my golf game, I've always been a really good ball striker. I feel like I've kept that a strength, maybe added a little bit of distance off the tee. Again, sort of slowly through the years.

I feel like I've always had really nice tempo and rhythm with my swing and don't waver from that too much and that good tempo and rhythm allows me to hit it solid every time and hit it solid every time you got a pretty good idea where it's gonna go.

ANNC: Corey Connors… another player known for how well he hits the ball. That’s a dart right there. Woo!

CONNERS: I feel fortunate to have that as a strength. It’s definitely important part of the game. You know where the ball is going that seems a little easier sometimes.

**A STRENGTH CONNORS HOPES TO USE TO HIS ADVANTAGE THIS WEEK ON THE NARROW FAIRWAYS AT QUAIL HOLLOW.**

CONNERS: It's honestly one of my favorite golf courses we play on TOUR. Just love the shapes of the holes. It's in perfect condition every year. Saying that, I haven't necessarily performed my best but it's definitely a place I love going to and looking to having a good week this year and now that Wells Fargo Championship is a designated event, I'm really excited to go back there. I had a lot of fun there at The Presidents Cup and I just think it's a great test of golf and you have to do everything really, really well there to be successful.

All the top players are going to be there. So, it's the peak of competition, and it'll take some really good golf to be in contention but yeah, look forward to that week and playing on such a sweet venue.

TOUR PLAYLIST

**CONNORS WILL ATTEMPT TO BUILD OFF HIS T21 AT LAST YEAR’S WELLS FARGO CHAMPIONSHIP AS THE TOURNAMENT RETURNS TO QUAIL HOLLOW AND TEES OFF THURSDAY.**

MAX HOMA’S 2019 WELLS FARGO WIN & SUCCESS

ANNC: Two years ago, his game was in such a sad state that he made two cuts in seventeen tournaments, but he’s come back, lived by the mantra and the saying that winners never quit, and quitters never win.

One more time, yes indeed. How fantastic.

HOMA: You picture it a lot, you dream of it, and then you get in the moment and I guess my whole world's a little bit different now.

GREINER: Everybody that's won this golf tournament is a really good player. They've gone on to have great careers. Feels like when we land here, we feel comfortable.

HOMA: It's a big golf course, it suits my game a lot. You've got to drive the ball well and hit your mid irons well. Sometimes you go to cities you love, and you just feel better, and it might bring some of the better golf out of you.

ANNC: He will join Rory McIlroy as the only player to win the Wells Fargo Championship at least twice.

A champion on the rise, Max Homa.

HOMA: For the last three years now kind of finding my stride. Career's kind of settling down and I'm settling into myself as a golfer.

ANNC: It is Max Homa who defends and wins the opener of the PGA TOUR season here in Napa.

Max Homa, another win on California soil

He’s such a well-rounded player now. His ball striking has gotten better and better.

MORIKAWA: His golf speaks wonders. I mean, he's a six-time PGA TOUR winner.

SPIETH: He doesn't really have a weakness. You want to swing it like him. You want to putt it like him.

DAHMEN: He works hard, and he puts a lot of time and a lot of effort and people don't realize how bad he wants to be number one.

GREINER: When I started back with him in 2019, I'm like Max, you are one of the best iron players I've ever seen and I think finally now he knows it, he feels it, and you can see in the way he plays golf nowadays.

HOMA: Anytime I felt self-doubt I could at least go back to knowing that I’ve won on the PGA TOUR at a very esteemed tournament and that has always been something I’ve been very, very proud of. True confidence isn't fleeting, it just stays.

TOURNAMENT INSIGHTS

**TOURNAMENT INSIGHTS FOR THE WELLS FARGO CHAMPIONSHIP.**

**THE WELLS FARGO CHAMPIONSHIP RETURNS TO QUAIL HOLLOW AFTER BEING AWAY FOR A YEAR FROM NORTH CAROLINA TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE 2022 PRESIDENT’S CUP, … AND WHILE MAX HOMA IS THE DEFENDING CHAMPION, RORY MCILLROY WAS THE LAST TO WIN ON TOUR IN THE TAR HEEL STATE.**

ANNC: The roars have returned in golf. And I think that means Rory’s back.

MCILROY: This place has been good to me. Ever since I first set eyes on this golf course, I loved it from the first time I played it and that love has sorta been reciprocated back. This is the first time I’ve won an event for the third time, so that’s pretty cool.

**AFTER SHIFTING COURSE LAYOUT FOR THE PRESIDENT’S CUP LAST SEASON, THE FAMED GREEN MILE RETURNS TO ITS USUAL HOME OF 16, 17, & 18, A DAUNTING STRETCH OF LONG HOLES THAT CAN MAKE OR BREAK A PLAYER’S ROUND.**

DAY: Once you get yourself in the middle of the fairway there, you're really just trying to go par, par, par down 16, 17, 18. 17 is a very difficult par 3, but 18, a lot of people want to bail out to the right. The trees are very low, and coming out of the rough or the pine straw, it's very difficult to get any sort of curve or shape to it and you can make a big number. It's just coming here and knowing what you need to do, especially over the Green Mile.

**MULTIPLE TIME WINNERS RORY MCILROY AND MAX HOMA WILL BE AMONG AN ALL-STAR FIELD AS THE TOUR TEES OFF FOR THE 7TH ELEVATED TOURNAMENT OF THE SEASON.**

FEDEXCUP FAVORITES

**HERE’S A LOOK AT THE FAVORITES IN THE SEASON-LONG RACE FOR THE FEDEX CUP.**

**JON RAHM MAINTAINS HIS SPOT AT THE TOP OF THE POINTS LIST AND LOOKS TO CONTINUE HIS DOMINANCE IN SEARCH OF HIS FIFTH WIN THIS SEASON.**

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

**WITH TWO WINS AND SIX TOP TENS, MAX HOMA SITS IN THIRD AND HOPES TO CARRY HIS MOMENTUM ALL THE WAY TO EAST LAKE AT THE END OF THE SEASON.**

ANNC: Maybe the hottest man on the golf course, Max Homa. Look how straight he hits his irons. That tempo and rhythm seemingly never changes. He’s Crenshaw smooth.

**ATTEMPTING TO RECLAIM THE FEDEX CUP TITLE, PATRICK CANTLAY HAS EARNED FIVE TOP FIVE FINISHES THIS SEASON.**

ANNC: Now, let’s see what Cantlay can do. You couldn’t draw it up much better than that.

**RAHM, HOMA, AND CANTLAY ARE AMONG A CROWD OF FAVORITES FOR THE THIS YEAR’S FEDEXCUP.**

PGA TOUR AMERICAS ANNOUNCEMENT

**ON APRIL 25TH, THE PGA TOUR ANNOUNCED THAT PGA TOUR LATINOAMÉRICA AND PGA TOUR CANADA WILL MERGE INTO A SINGULAR TOUR TO FORM PGA TOUR AMERICAS, BEGINNING PLAY IN FEBRUARY 2024.**

BALDWIN: The opportunity not only to provide the best kind of access for our players, but also delivering a tour that is elevated and showcasing the absolute best of the best both in North and South America. It was the right time for us to really move forward and meet the needs of our fans, our players, and, of course, our sponsors.

At the conclusion of our 16-tournament season, we’ll have one cumulative points list, and those top ten players will receive fully exempt status on the Korn Ferry Tour. We will also be offering conditional status. So, for the top two finishers of our Latin American swing will have two exempt cards for our top three finishers in our North American swing we’ll provide three conditional cards as well.

HIGGS: I couldn't endorse it enough. You learn how to be a professional, you learn how to travel, how to spend your Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday preparing for Thursday through Sunday. I think I think it's a great thing that they are combined. It's the best way to prepare yourself for what's to come at this level. And it's, you know, the best way to prepare yourself for just professional golf as a whole, especially at the highest level.