**PGA TOUR – “THE CUT”**

**EPISODE 21 MASTER SCRIPT**

**COLD OPEN:**

J.J. KILLEEN: Nats: "And I hit someone in the gallery with that one."

SAM STEVENS SOT: I want to play the TOUR. I want to I want to be playing against the best players in the world. It's really cool that I've kind of verbalized that and then to have achieved it.

ANNIKA SOT: I can't believe it's been 20 years.

ANNIKA SOT: looking back at this, I'm sure there's some people will say, you know, what was the purpose, but I think in the big picture, it really was good for women's sport and, and for young girls to be able to share that story to many young girls. And it's not so much about, you get to play with a man, it's more about having a dream and, and wanting to push yourself.

**THE CUT TITLES**

**INTL VO: WELCOME TO PGA TOUR’S THE CUT**

**VIKTOR HOVLAND FEATURE**

ANNC: "Viktor Hovland breaks through on the PGA TOUR"

**VO: THE 25-YEAR-OLD HAS SKYROCKETED TO THE TOP OF THE LEADERBOARD THIS SEASON... FINISHING SIX TIMES IN THE TOP TEN.**

**VO: ...HIS DETERMINATION TO WIN HIS \*FIRST\* MAJOR WAS ON FULL DISPLAY THIS WEEKEND AT THE PGA CHAMPIONSHIP...WHERE HE TIED FOR SECOND PLACE.**

HOVLAND SOT: "When I'm standing over the ball, the only thing I'm thinking about is just speed....

(ANNC CALL: "Beautiful speed")

HOVLAND SOT: "I'm not worried about the stroke or the read I've already given just going back to those principles."

HOVLAND: "I'd say my ball striking is usually my strength. I've really made some good gains and in my putting and that's been really consistent if you don't have a bad ball strike or if you don't have a good ball striking day, you can build your out sometimes with a good putter. So that's been that's been nice this year."

HOVLAND: It's amazing how this game can be so easy one day and then the next day it can be really difficult. And I think that's what gets us to come back, is that it's not easy. And if it was easy, I don't think a lot of us would want to keep doing it. So just trying to get that consistency level a little higher. You want to just play our best every single day you're out there.

**FEDEX CUP STANDINGS:**

**VO: VIKTOR HOVLAND MOVED UP 16 SPOTS IN THE FEDEX CUP STANDINGS AFTER THE PGA CHAMPIONSHIP. JON RAHM IS AT THE TOP OF THE LIST AS THE TOUR HEADS TO TEXAS.**

**COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10:**

**VO: NOW TO THE COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10...**

**JON RAHM REMAINS FIRST THANKS TO HIS RECORD SETTING SEASON...**

**VO: THE MASTERS WINNER HAS HELD THE TOP SPOT FOR 13 EVENTS.**

**JASON DAY FEATURE:**

ANNC: Could be a very special day for Jason Day. Playing on Mother's Day. Lost his mom just over a year ago.

DAY: To think about what my mom went through from 2017 on to her passing last year, it was very emotional.

**VO: IT'S BEEN A LONG JOURNEY BACK FOR THE FORMER WORLD NUMBER ONE.**

**VO: JASON DAY HAS STRUGGLED WITH INJURY, VERTIGO AND LOSS, AND CONSIDERED HANGING UP THE CLUBS FOR GOOD.**

JASON DAY: [crying] my mom's been here for a while, and she has lung cancer. At the start of year, she was diagnosed with 12 months to live. It's so hard. It's really hard to even comprehend being on a golf course right now because of what she had gone through.

ON CAMERA SOT: Ah, man. When I first found out, my sister told me and I mean, like cried. I think reality kind of hit me and I was sitting there thinking like, this is only time that I've got to spend with her.

Everything I had to do I owe to her.

That's one person that sort of always believed in me, she's just so strict. My work ethic is from her, especially in regards to winning tournaments and stuff. She has been the most hard on me.

ON CAMERA: When my dad passed away. She sacrificed everything to send me away to boarding school.

She took a second mortgage on the house to be able to send me to college when I mean, my sisters couldn't go to college because of it.

ANNC: Just a key figure in his life. And this was just posted on Jason's Instagram. His mother Dening day passing away last night after a five-year battle with cancer. She lived with Jason Day and his family in Columbus the last two years.

ANNC: He has been through so much since his last win in 2018. Health issues, losing his mom, reworking his swing.

DAY: To be honest, I was very close to calling it quits. I never told my wife that, but I was okay with it, just because it was a very stressful part of my life. Me trying to get back to the winner's circle again, she just always was pushing me to try and get better.

ANNC: Might go in... It Does! There you go.

I lost, you know, my mum last year and this was first one without her so, you know, to have her on my caddie bib. Her name on my caddie bed was special, because they asked at the start of the week if you if you wanted to put down a certain name and my mum's name was it and that's when it kind of hit me was on the first green today.

DAY: For some reason, I just thought that I was going to win the tournament. I just had this sort of calmness.

ANNC: What a shot for Jason Day! His family loves it.

ANNC: Jason Day for the first time in 5 years is a winner on the PGA TOUR! There's no doubt that on this Mother's Day his mom, Dening, is watching down proudly.

DAY: It feels strange to be sitting here. I know that there's been very hard work behind the scenes that a lot of people haven't seen. It's nice to get my 13th win.

**BUMP:**

STEVENS SOT: As I started playing better and better at the end of my notes, I started, you know, putting that I want to play the TOUR. I want to I want to be playing against the best players in the world. It's really cool that I've kind of verbalized that and then to have achieved it, it's been great.

STEVENS SOT: This is a really cool place to be and it's a really cool thing that I've been able to play well so far this year. I really try not to take that for granted.

**SAM STEVENS:**

ANNC FAMILY: Sam Stevens. Rookie on the PGA TOUR, just 26 years old // Comes from a long line of golfers from the state of Kansas.

SAM STEVENS SOT: I played the mini tours for a couple of years, played in Latin America, and played the Korn Ferry tour. And it's always been my goal to be here and to play the TOUR and to try and be the best player in the world.

STEVENS SOT: I was playing pretty well kind of around the time that COVID hit and I just wanted to kind of put down, you know, in my notes, on my phone, just what I was thinking and how I was feeling about my game I wanted to make sure that I was kind of capturing everything that I was doing at that time.

STEVENS SOT: It's easy in this game to get kind of complacent and think, Oh, I'm playing well now, I'm gonna keep playing well. But I think that kind of putting that down on paper that I want to be the best in the world, I want to play the TOUR was something that really helped me just kind of refocus.

STEVENS SOT: Now that I'm here I write down at the end of every note that I want to be the best player in the world, and maybe that's overambitious, but at least it's something to work towards

STEVENS SOT: My most favorite journal entry is from before the Final Round, at Victoria national last year where I got my card, and it wasn't really so much about golf. I was just really emotional.

STEVENS SOT: It's just titled, Pre Final Round Victoria National. Should be a fun day out there. I honestly do think I'm going to win. I was maybe in fourth place or something like that. I said, I need to stay off the leaderboards and stay off the other guys in your group, like not worry so much about it. Go out there and play the game. I put, golly, I'm getting emotional. I said, What an awesome opportunity God has given me today. I pray I can glorify Him with my actions and my play. I hope that I can be thinking about Kelsey and the boys a lot as well as my soul and where I will be when this life comes to an end. To be a blissful warrior is my goal. Let's get it. I want to play the TOUR. I want to be the best in the world.

ANNC KFT CHAMP: He's made it! Sam Stevens you're heading to the PGA TOUR, mate.

STEVENS SOT: This note was for the Valero this year I finished second and we drove home 9 hours that night. We got home at like four in the morning maybe, but everyone was asleep except for me. So I just started talking into my phone.

STEVENS SOT: Sunday, I was in fourth to start and I was even through seven holes, had hit some good shots, but the start wasn't great. Starting on eight, I hit a lot of great drives and made a couple of nice putts. Had a chance on 18 to tie the lead. I was pretty nervous and hit a pretty average putt. It could have gone in, but it just died off at the hole.

STEVENS SOT: 72 holes is a long time. Let it happen and be patient. It's the best way to give yourself a chance to win. I'm going to get into some awesome events coming up and I want to take advantage of those. I plan on taking advantage and glorifying God in my play. Never forget that you play for something bigger than yourself.

STEVENS SOT: As I started playing better and better at the end of my notes, I started, you know, putting that I want to play the TOUR. I want to I want to be playing against the best players in the world. It's really cool that I've kind of verbalized that and then to have achieved it, it's been great.

STEVENS SOT: This is a really cool place to be and it's a really cool thing that I've been able to play well so far this year. I really try not to take that for granted.

**JJ KILLEEN FEATURE**

NATS:"And I hit someone in the gallery with that one."

J.J. Killeen: "The most important thing really is to stick with a routine.

Every shot obviously matters no matter when you're playing. It's easy to rush or maybe take an extra practice swing and play longer for some guys when they're nervous so the timing and things like that is very important especially during the big weeks to keep very very consistent so I want to do the same exact things to prepare for any other event."

Killeen: "So one of my favorite putting drills to do before every round really is I like to hit some putts left handed, right handed, with two hands, just short ones around the hole, make a fist behind my back and I'll start with my right hand, same deal except lefty. Lefty you want to really work with your backhand and firm and then I'll go both hands here. I like to do this before I warm up and then I'll hit some longer putts. I'm more focused on speed here other than trying to make these...just trying to feel the way the hands work with a few strokes... you really have to concentrate on it. When I put two hands on I'm feeling the same sensation that I did with both right there. It's a good way for amateurs to practice. You don't even have to hit to a cup. The edge of the green is always a good speed.

Killeen SOT:I always kinda had a good short game and now I'm a better ball striker now that I don't play golf hardly as much anymore. Some a little bit of distance which is nice but being tournament sharp is way different no matter how much you practice at home by yourself or whatever. Being in tournaments is totally different."

Killeen SOT: "I'm fired up to play in a few tournaments a year if I'm lucky enough to get in // 1:27 minutes in: So I get my juices flowing a few weeks a year but other than that running the ops and being at home with my kids who are 12 and 8 sounds pretty good also."

**SERVPRO FEATURE:**

SOT: Oh boy, fore!

GFX: The Great Escape

SOT: This is going to be tricky. This is between the trees. Not a great tee shot, we have a tee shot here with a tree a foot from our ball and 150 yards to the hole over water. It's raining. I could punch out but I'd be hitting backwards. I think I'm going to go for it. I'm going to shorten my follow-through. Hope I don't break my hand or my club on this tree but we're trying to make some birdies so we're going for this. Go go! I didn't break the wrist or the club. We're going to putt for birdie. Let's go. I'll take that. With a three iron. We have a birdie chance here. This will be a great way to end the round. Wow what a birdie. Didn't break my wrist but broke par. What a recovery shot.

**AUSTIN ECKROAT FEATURE:**

ANNC BYRON ROOKIE: Austin Eckroat, a PGA TOUR rookie is flying up the leaderboard, six under thru his first 13 holes today!

ECKROAT: The opportunity I have now I didn't really think it was possible. Growing up, you know, you want to play professional golf and you think your game's good enough. But I think I've proven // that I am good enough to compete out here.

ANNC BYRON FINISH: A career best week for the 24 year old from Oklahoma. Just his 31st career start on the PGA TOUR and he finishes in a share of second. Some good confidence building material.

ECKROAT: When I came out and birdied the first hole, it really settled the nerves a little bit. Everything was solid, and I really felt like I played well enough to win. A lot of positives to build off of. It was a successful week for sure. Hopefully next time I get it done.

**VO: ECKROAT TOOK HOME THE NATIONAL TITLE ON HIS COLLEGE GOLF TEAM AND PLAYED ON THE KORN FERRY TOUR.**

ECKROAT: The 2018 National Championship will always be a huge highlight of my golf career. That was a lot of fun, especially as a freshman coming in and getting that national championship in front of our home crowd. There's a lot of personal growth at Oklahoma State that's something that shows consistent good golf and I'm pretty proud of that.

ECKROAT: Once you kind of figure it out, just all you have to do is play your normal game and you're fine. So I think that was a huge confidence boost going into professional golf, just knowing that all you got to do is be yourself.

ECKROAT: Having a place to play is huge. And especially, having such a great route to get to the PGA Tour as quick as you can. Not many guys are lucky enough to say that they've had an easy route to the PGA Tour. Not an easy route, but an easier route.

**SENTRY FEATURE:**

**VO: WHILE ECKROAT IS STILL WORKING TOWARDS THAT BREAKTHROUGH VICTORY...EIGHT FIRST TIMERS HAVE ALREADY QUALIFIED FOR THE SENTRY TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS....**

**VO: WHILE OTHER PLAYERS ARE MAKING A RETURN THEIR TRIP TO KAPALUA...**

**AFTER STEPPING INTO THE WINNER'S CIRCLE.**

BERMUDA WINNING ANNC: Irish eyes are smiling...Power holds on to win the Bermuda Championship by one, his second on the PGA TOUR.

POWER SOT: ...one of my favorite memories in golf was in Maui last year...it's just fantastic.

PEBBLE ANNC: Justin Rose back in the winner's circle.

ROSE SOT: Time flies by, doesn't it? It's amazing how long it's been.

PEBBLE ANNC 2: Justin Rose has been to the summit of his sport and back.

ZOZO ANNC: And the drought for Keegan Bradley wins in Japan.

BRADLEY SOT: I really put a lot of work in this off season. This is what I want to do. I want to I want to win tournaments. I want to be in the conversation. And this is a good start.

ZOZO ANNC 2: You can see the emotion there for Keegan, this Means a lot to him.

**(VO2) FOUR CHAMPIONS HEADED BACK TO MAUI HAVE NETTED MULTIPLE TITLES THUS FAR....**

FARMERS ANNC: Max Homa, another win on California soil.

MEXICO ANNC: Tony outlasts number one. And it's a final family fiesta in Mexico. Career win number six on the PGA Tour

PLAYERS ANNC: Scottie Scheffler is about to join that rarefied air of major champion and PLAYERS Champion and the Scheffler victory train just keeps on rolling!

**VO: JON RAHM LEADING THE WAY WITH FOUR...**

SENTRY ANNC:. Jon Rahm officially has won this 2023 Sentry Tournament of Champions in one of the most unlikely scenarios we have seen in recent PGA Tour history.

AMEX ANNC: Jon Rahm wins again. He's making it a habit.

GENESIS ANNC: It's all about Jon Rahm right now in the game of golf five wins in his last nine.

RAHM SOT (at end of stringout 2)(I think he has to be off camera because of the hat sponsorship but I'm not sure!) It's always great to be here at Sentry Tournament of Champions. It means you've done a good job, then you've had a great year. The season is very long and I feel like Maui really embraces that mindset of you're here in the islands, enjoy it. Right?

**ANNIKA FEATURE:**

**VO: THIS WEEK MARKS THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HISTORIC MOMENT ANNIKA SORENSTAM TEED IT UP ON THE PGA TOUR AT COLONIAL COUNTRY CLUB.**

ANNIKA SOT: "Raising the bar was always a goal of mine. And, you know, showing the hard work will pay off and being disciplined and being focused and reaching your goals. Those are all things that I talk about today with young girls.

ANNIKA (10th tee Thursday) ANNOUNCE "Please welcome...Annika Sorenstam."

**VO: RECENTLY, ANNIKA MET UP WITH HER PLAYING PARTNER FROM 2003, DEAN WILSON, AND RECOUNTED THEIR SHARED EXPERIENCE.**

ANNIKA SOT: 00:00:48 I can't believe it's 20 years. I remember, we're standing on the tee there, not really knowing what was gonna happen and all the people that were there, I think it changed both our careers in different ways, and just kind of perspective of things and the things we appreciate the most in golf and friendship and so forth.

DEAN WILSON SOT: I was just a rookie in 2003 02:02:15 I felt like Annika, and I were just kind of in this thing together, in a bubble together, And I'm reminded of being paired with her all the time, even today. It's an awesome memory for me to have and being part of what I call a history of golf.

ANNIKA SOT: It was so new to both of us. It was scary. how are we going to do this? What was it? What's going to happen? And I really felt like the bond was a lot more than just okay players. Dean and Aaron, they were super, super supportive to be able to walk the fairways with these guys being like, I mean, if I made a good putt, or if I made birdie was like, come on, you know, we were cheering because we all want it to do well. And I, I think it's really important.

NATS: "Annika, Annika!"

ANNIKA SOT: Looking back at this, I'm sure there's some people will say, you know, what was the purpose, but I think in the big picture, it really was good for women's sport and, and for young girls to be able to share that story to many young girls. And it's not so much about, you get to play with a man, it's more about having a dream and, and wanting to push yourself and, you know, put yourself in a, you know, in an uncomfortable situation, because you have some goals you want to achieve. And I think we should encourage anybody who wants to get better what they do. And that's really how I thought about it. And that's how I felt that they were helping me to make this a successful thing for golf.

DEAN SOT It wasn't just that week, and it wasn't just those couple of rounds it really meant a lot to other people other than just us inside the ropes. And it was it was awesome. That was my favorite memory and that really hit my heart and how athletes and superstars like Annika can touch people's lives and change them for the good because she made the decision to come and join the PGA TOUR and play our event so it's really really awesome. Got my got my go Annika pin. I always get asked about it. really cool so I love I love being a part of the history and everything so it's awesome.

ANNIKA SOT: If you kind of go back in time, I was probably one of those girls, right? A little shy at the time, but still having big dreams and and to be able to help somebody live their dream is is pretty cool.

**CHARLES SCHWAB CHALLENGE LOOKAHEAD**

ANNC CALL: "We’re here at Hogans House, historic Colonial Country Club, for the Charles Schwab Challenge”

**VO: THE PGA TOUR HEADS FROM NEW YORK BACK TO THE LONE STAR STATE THIS WEEK …**

**VO: WHERE THE LEGENDARY BEN HOGAN DOMINATED THE COURSE FOR DECADES.**

**VO: AND THE LUCKY WINNER GETS THE KEYS TO A CLASSIC CAR...**

**VO: LIKE LAST YEAR'S CHAMPION SAM BURNS...WHO HAD A SEVEN STROKE COMEBACK AND BEAT SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER IN A PLAY-OFF.**

**NATS CHEERS**

ANNC call: "Sam Burns! Matches the biggest comeback in history at Colonial"

**VO: HE'LL DEFEND HIS TITLE AGAINST OTHER TOP PGA TOUR PLAYERS LIKE**

**LIKE MAX HOMA, VICTOR HOVLAND, TONY FINAU.**

**VO: EVENT COVERAGE BEGINS THIS THURSDAY.**