TEASE:

**Today, on this new episode of Esto Es PGA TOUR Lationamérica…**

**We travel to Ecuador and Colombia for two well-known events with new names…**

**The KIA Open and the Colombia Classic presented by Rocha Brothers**

Nicolás Gross Bite: De sus palabras saco yo que esta es la semana preferida de los jugadores del PGA TOUR Latinoamérica, así que el trabajo que hemos hecho durante nueve años con este torneo ha sido tan importante.

His words have been that this is the favorite week of for PGA TOUR Latinoamérica players,

so the work we have done for nine years with this tournament has been so important.

**On our way to the end of the 2022-23 season…**

**Who will enter the final stretch of our calendar as the Totalplay Cup leader?
Competition is fierce, the season is coming to a close and players are running out of time to climb up the standings.**

TITLE:
**Esto es PGA TOUR Latinoamérica!**

KIA Open:

**The eighth event of the 2022-23 PGA TOUR Latinoamérica season brought players once again to the iconic city of Quito.**

Conner Godsey Bite: It's great to be back in Quito. Got some great memories here. Love the golf course. People are great. Anywhere that you've had success is as good.

**The ninth edition of the KIA Open was unique not only for the local hospitality but also because of the elevation players yearly have to compete.**

Sandy Scott bite: It's a really cool experience. We don't get to do this a whole lot. Um, it adds another element of fun for us because it makes golf that little bit different. This is definitely the highest altitude I've played. It's definitely noticeable in the ball play. Like the ball stays in there forever.

**Quito, Ecuador, also known as La Mitad del Mundo (Half of the World) sits at 9,350 feet above sea level and definitely forces veterans and rookies alike to reevaluate the clubs they hit and how they play the course.**

**But it can be an especially difficult adjustment for those in the city for the first time.**

Conner Godsey bite: You've got to be smart with it. You've got to kind of think your way around this place and it makes it a little bit more tough not knowing exactly how far the balls going sometimes.

**Not only does the thin air make breathing difficult but players had to go to their special Ecuador yardage books more than usual. Most players admit because of the altitude of Quito Tennis and Golf Club, there is often a two-club adjustment with their long shots. Their yardage books—and caddies—become more valuable than normal.**

**One-hundred-forty-four players from 19 countries returned to the par-71, 7,412-yard course to see how they would fare in what is one of the most unique venues on Tour.**

KIA Open Round 1:

**The first round was marked with plenty of low rounds and good shots. With a total of 26 players scoring between 64 and 69, it appeared it would be a week with plenty of competition. Finland’s Toni Hakula, the owner of the 64, was the leader after 18 holes.**

**Tied for second was Jaime Lopez Rivarola, just one shot behind Hakula.**

Toni Hakula Bite: Kept the ball in play, kept in front of me, hit it really good from the tee, whith my iron's, putted well, that's kind of what it took, so I played very well today.

**Gustavo Silva had the shot of the day. He made a hole-in-one to cap his bogey-free day when his 8-iron from 164 yards, his ball taking a quick bounce and going in the hole—Silva and his playing partners unaware he had made an ace until they noticed the reaction of the players in the group playing a hole ahead.**

Gustavo Silva Bite: Vi que habia salido en linea a la bandera, me agacho a recoger el tee, hacerlo hacia un lado, para que jugaran mis compañeros y en el momento que me agacho, mis compañeros los veo levantando los brazos, miro después hacia la bandera, el grupo de atras también estaba celebrando y la verdad, no me había dado cuenta. Creo que fue uno de los mejores swings que hecho este último tiempo y por suerte terminó adentro.

I saw that it went online towards the flag, I crouched down to pick up the tee and moved aside so that my teammates could play. At that moment, I saw my teammates raising their arms. Then, I looked towards the flag and noticed that the group behind us was also celebrating. Honestly, I hadn't realized it. I think it was one of the best swings I've made recently, and luckily, it ended up inside.

KIA Open Round 2:

**Round two was also full of great shots and low rounds, but those atop the leaderboard changed.
A hole out for eagle on hole seventeen followed by a twenty-foot putt for birdie helped Mexico’s Armando Favela to a 9-under 65.**

Armando Favela Bite: Llevo pegándole dos días espectacular la verdad, llevo solo dos fairways fallados, de 28. Ayer fallé tres greenes, hoy fallé dos, muchas oportunidades de birdie y pude aprovechar los que me di hoy y el hole out el 17 de 96 yardas para cerrar y luego birdie al 18, pues... Voy a cenar bastante rico hoy.

I've been hitting the ball pretty good for the last two days, to be honest. I've only missed two fairways of 28. Yesterday, I missed three greens, and today I missed two. There were plenty of birdie opportunities, and I was able to take advantage of the ones I had today, including a hole-out on 17th from 96 yards to finish, and then a birdie on 18th. Well... Tonight I'm going to have a really nice dinner.

**Even with Favela was Argentina’s Franco Romero, who followed his opening 68 with a one-stroke-better 67 to match Favela through 36 holes—the two providing the number to beat heading into the weekend.**

**A quartet of players, France’s Jeremy Gandon, Argentina’s Matias Simaski and U.S. players Garett Reband and Dalan Refioglu (ref-EE-og-lou) only two shots behind.**

**A total of 60 players made the cut, leaving them to battle for the eighth title of the 2022-23 PGA TOUR Lationoamérica season.**

KIA Open Round 3:

**Players found clouds greeting them Saturday, with a few drops of rain falling in the middle of the day to make things even more interesting. The change in weather certainly didn’t slow the players’ momentum or their ability to go low. Once again, the leaderboard looked a bit different, with a few different names appearing in contention.**

Garett Reband bite: It was moving day. I knew I needed to make something happen to put myself out there in the position to win tomorrow. Happy with how I played, hit the ball really well. I didn't really make any mistakes. I felt really good.

**Chief among those was Reband, shooting a low-of-the-week-tying 64, making eight birdies on his bogey-free round. He called his round “boring,” and while it may have felt that way to the former University of Oklahoma standout, it looked anything but that as he put himself in position as the man to beat Sunday.**

Garett Reband bite: Played four events so far. I missed every cut, last week I could see it was starting to move in the right direction, even though I didn't play that well. And then this week I felt comfortable since I stepped on the course on Monday.

**U.S. player Beau Breault (BREE-alt) looked like he might be on his way to the top of the leaderboard once the day concluded, as he made eight birdies on his first 14 holes, getting him to 14-under for the tournament. He faltered a bit coming in, making a couple of bogeys down the stretch, dropping him into second place, three shots behind Reband.**

**Favela, the 36-hole leader, began the day ahead by one shot, but after carding a round of 70, he dropped into a tie for third, alongside Mexico’s Alvaro Ortiz and first-round leader Toni Hakula.**

BUMP #1:

**Stay tuned because after the break…**

**We find out who took home the title from the “Middle of the World.”**

Garett Reband bite: You can make a lot of birdies out here if you're hitting it well, which is going to be the game plan for tomorrow, is gonna be to make many birdies as I can.

**And then we travel to Colombia for the first of two consecutive tournaments in The Gateway to South America.**

**NEXT, ON ESTO ES PGA TOUR LATINOAMÉRICA.**

BLOCK 2:

Title:

**Esto es PGA TOUR Latinoamérica!**

KIA Open Round 4:

**Staying patient and persevering is something Finland’s Tony Hakula knows something about, and that is exactly what he did to raise the second trophy of his professional career five years after his first.**

Locutor bite: Y ahora sí es momento de presentarles al campeón del Kia Open 2023 de Finlandia con un score de 272 golpes y 16 bajo el par Toni Hakula.

And now, it's time to introduce the 2023 Kia Open winner, from Finland, finishing with a score of 272 strokes and 16-under par, Toni Hakula.

Toni Hakula Bite: It feels awesome. It's been a little while, five years since my last and only one so far. It's a pretty big relief. But to finally finishing that last hole and realizing that I won it felt great.

**After that winning drought following his title at the 2018 Bupa Match Play outside Cancun, Mexico, Hakula’s long-awaited second career victory finally arrived.**

**He certainly didn’t forget the feeling, something he was happy to experience once again.**

**Trailing by four shots when the final round began, Hakula knew he had work to do—especially since his second-round, 4-over 76 forced him to play catchup on the weekend after taking the opening-round lead.**

**Hakula knows better than anybody that golf is full of ups and downs, and that 76 certainly left him down in emotion and on the scoreboard. However, his 7-under 65 put him back in the mix, trailing Reband by four shots.**

Toni Hakula Bite: Yeah, without a little blender there on 17, kind of picked the wrong club. But other than that, it was a really good day.

**As might be expected, though, it was not an easy road to victory for Hakula, as he made a bogey on his second hole to knocked him even farther back. Still, he got the job done.
With the bogey behind him, Hakula made one eagle and five birdies and enjoyed a relatively smooth round that led him to the victory, finishing at 16 under par and one stroke ahead of Argentina’s Julian Etulain (et-TOO-lane). Etulain three-putted for a par on hole 17 and then parred the final hole when he needed a birdie to force a playoff. Etulain came up a stroke short.**

Toni Hakula Bite: So I'm excited to get a couple of weeks off and then go to Colombia, Mexico and hopefully keep it rolling and then really chase that top five, and if not the top spot at the point. So.

Visit Argentina

Locutor Bite: ¿Cuál es tu comida favorita Argentina?

 What is your favorite Argentinan food?

Matias Dominguez Bite: ¿Comida favorita? son por lejos las molleja a la parrilla con limón.

Favorite food? By far, grilled sweetbreads with lemon.

Joaquín Lolas Bite: Tiene que ser el asado en casa de un amigo, incluyendo entrañas y matambre 100%

It has to be the barbecue at a friend's place, including outside skirt and matambre.

Gabriel Cadena bite: El vacio a la parrilla y en especial si te lo comes en un bodegón en Buenos Aires. Creo que no hay nada más rico que eso.

Grilled flank steak, especially when enjoyed at a traditional bodegón in Buenos Aires, is incredibly delicious. I believe there's nothing better than that.

Alvaro Ortiz Bite: Los panqueques de dulce de leche son increíbles después de comer, después de una rondita, caen perfecto.

Sweet dulce de leche pancakes are incredible after a meal, especially after a golf round. They are the perfect treat to enjoy.

Locutor Bite: ¿Cuál es tu campo de golf favorito de la Argentina?

What is your favorite golf course in Argentina?

Matias Dominguez Bite: ¿Mi campo favorito? Llao Llao en Bariloche por las vistas que tiene.

My favorite golf course? Llao Llao in Bariloche because of the breathtaking views it offers.

Joaquín Lolas Bite: Tuve el placer de jugar en el Jockey Club hace poquito en Buenos Aires. La verdad es que tener un campo de Alister McKenzie impresionante. Me encantó.

I had the pleasure of playing at Jockey Club recently in Buenos Aires. The truth is, having a course designed by Alister McKenzie is amazing. I loved it.

Gabriel Cadena bite: Mi campo favorito es Las Praderas de Luján, porque ahí obtuve mi carnet de PGA TOUR Latinoamérica y uno de mis grandes amigos es Augusto Núñez, que juega en el PGA Tour y salió de ahí

My favorite golf course is Las Praderas de Luján because that's where I earned my PGA TOUR Latinoamérica card, and one of my great friends, Augusto Núñez, who plays on the PGA TOUR, came from there.

Alvaro Ortiz Bite: Chapelco porque me encanta el lugar en donde está, me enamoré de San Martín de los Andes cuando fuimos y creo que es mi lugar favorito de Argentina.

Chapelco because I love the location where it's situated. I fell in love with San Martín de los Andes when we visited, and I believe it's my favorite place in Argentina.

Locutor Bite: ¿Cuál es tu lugar favorito en Argentina?

What is your favorite place in Argentina?

Matias Dominguez Bite: Villa La Angostura también un lugar increíble para hacer de todo

Villa La Angostura. An incredible place to do a lot of things.

Joaquín Lolas Bite: Chapelco, De lo que he conocido, Chapelco con las vistas impresionantes.

Chapelco, from where I been, has stunning views.

Gabriel Cadena bite: Tuve la fortuna de vivir un tiempo allá de niño. Me encanta el sector del Obelisco, Puerto Madero, hacia Palermo y Alto Palermo, los restaurantes, los bares, los boliches. Creo que en realidad en Buenos Aires todo es espectacular.

I was fortunate to live there as a child. I love the area around the Obelisco, Puerto Madero, Palermo and Alto Palermo, the restaurants, the bars, the disco clubs. I believe that in Buenos Aires, everything is truly spectacular.

Alvaro Ortiz Bite: Neuquén Me encantó la ruta de los Siete Lagos, la manejada de San Martín a Bariloche. Es algo espectacular y creo que es de mis lugares favoritos en el mundo y espero volver para conocer más de la Patagonia.

I was fortunate to live there as a child. I love the area around the Obelisco, Puerto Madero, Palermo and Alto Palermo, the restaurants, the bars, the disco clubs. I believe that in Buenos Aires, everything is truly spectacular.

Colombia Classic presented by Rocha Brothers Ronda 1:

**From Quito, Ecuador, to Bucaramanga, Colombia, where the elevation is also in play, not that much different, PGA TOUR Lationamérica players landed on a mountain plateau, the location of Palonegro International Airport, not far from Ruitoque Golf and Country Club.**

**The Colombia Classic presented by Rocha Brothers was the season’s ninth event as the race heated up for the 2022-23 Totalplay Cup at one of the shortest courses of the season, Ruitoque measuring in at only 6,592 yards, is the kind of course where players know they have to go low—and not just for one day—if they want a chance to win.**

Leandro Marelli Bite: Al ser una cancha que no es muy larga y los par 5 todos son con hierro los segundos tiros, se hace un poco más accesible, pero bueno, hay que pasar el corte primero, que son bajos y después obviamente tratar de apuntar para arriba.

Since it's not a very long course and all par-5s require iron shots for the second shots, it becomes a bit more accessible. However, well, the first goal is to make the cut, which is low, and then obviously try to climb on the leaderboard.

**Unique among the Colombian contingent was Mariajo Uribe (YOU-ree-bay), an LPGA player and the face of women’s golf in Colombia.**

María José Uribe bite: Estoy en mi club, en mi casa. Era difícil decir que no, iba a estar acá entonces es una forma de practicar y de coger buenas sensaciones para lo que se viene.

I'm at my club, at my home. It was hard to say no, I was going to be here, so it's a way to practice and get good feelings for what's to come.

**The native of Bucaramanga became the third female to play in an official tournament, and we quickly figured out who the local fans were rooting for.**

María José Uribe bite: No se cuantas mujeres habrán pasado el corte en un torneo de hombres, yo sé que Michelle estuvo cerca, pero tampoco hay muchas que juegan entonces. Sí. Digamos que es una primera oportunidad y yo creo que única., no sé si se vuelva a ser Ruitoque y así que tenía que tomarla y vamos a ver qué pasa.

I'm not sure how many women have made the cut in a men's tournament. I know Michelle came close, but there aren't many women who play in these events. So, let's say it's a first and possibly unique opportunity. I don't know if Ruitoque will be the venue again, so I had to take it, and we'll see what happens.

**Playing on top of a mountain certainly has its perks, but the weather doesn’t cooperate, it creates a whole different set of problems. Unfortunately, Thursday was one of those days.**

**Foggy conditions prevailed during most of the morning, and tournament officials had to suspend play twice for a total of three hours and fifteen minutes of delays, forcing all the 72 players that were in the afternoon grouping of tee times to come back Friday morning to finish their rounds.**

Matt Ryan Bite: I got off to a good start. I birdied the 10th hole, which was my first, bogey number 12 with a wedge, and I've been having problems with that. It's probably in my head a bit and I just I walked off the green and I said, You know, we're not going to do this again, we've worked hard and just kind of I was nice to myself. And a couple of holes later, two birdies in a row and just steady all day. I mean, I had a lot of fairways. I was only in the rough twice, and it was it was nice. Made a lot of putts too.

**With an impressive birdie-eagle-birdie-birdie finish, for a round of 61, 9-under par, U.S. player Matt Ryan slept as the leader in the clubhouse after 18 holes, three shots better than his countrymen Brent Ito, Chris Nido, and Austin Hitt, as well as Mexico’s Diego Cordova.**

Colombia Classic presented by Rocha Brothers Ronda 2:

**Friday was a busy one, that had players playing as much as 27 holes in order to finish both their first and second rounds.**

**And not even a stomachache prevented Juan Pablo Luna from turning in a virtuoso performance, playing on a course he knows well going all the way back to his junior golf years.**

Juan Pablo Luna Bite: A veces pasa que cuando uno está un poco enfermo, no fuorza tanto las cosas y terminan saliendo mejor. Hice todo prácticamente bien, sobre todo el putt. Es un campo que yo conozco mucho de juvenil, practiqué mucho con mi couch y Pedro Russi aquí, entonces me siento muy cómodo en la cancha y pude hacer todo bien y salieron las cosas.

Sometimes, when one is feeling a bit under the weather, they don't force things as much, and they end up performing better. I did almost everything right, especially with my putt. It's a course that I know well from my junior days, where I practiced a lot with my coach Pedro Russi. So, I feel very comfortable on the course, and I was able to execute everything well, and things turned out positively.

**The Colombian, along with Kentucky’s Brandon Doyle, fired identical rounds of 63 and 65 to head into the weekend as the clubhouse leaders, at 12 under par.**

Brendon Doyle bite: I played really solid all day, been hitting the ball really good the last two days. So I made a couple bogeys, a couple of dumb-bogeys and just kind of lost focus. But it was it was a grind. 27 was a lot today, so I was happy to finish well.

**However, just like in round one, the sun set before 43 players were able to complete their 36 holes, forcing them to come back Saturday morning and try their best to not only make the cut but put themselves in position to contend.**

BUMP #2:

**STAY TUNED, BECAUSE AFTER THE BREAK…**

**The final rounds in Bucaramanga…**

**And the updated standings of our Totalplay Cup after nine events.**

Juan Pablo Luna Bite: Uno nunca sabe cuánto score va a hacer. Lo único que se puede controlar es la estrategia, la actitud. Así que esa es la meta mía todos los días que juego y esa va a ser la misma meta el fin de semana.

You never know what score you're going to shoot. The only things you can control are your strategy and attitude. So, that's my goal every time I play, and it will be the same goal for the weekend.

 **In a couple minutes.**

**BLOCK 3:**

Title:

**ESTO ES PGA TOUR LATINOAMERICA!**

Colombia Classic presented by Rocha Brothers Ronda 3:

**Moving day started around 9 a.m., local time. After players, who still had some holes to complete from their second rounds, had 36 holes in the books, tournament officials made the cut and regrouped players and sent them out for round three.**

**Playing in the last group, Doyle carded a 4 under par 66—one bogey and five birdies, including the one on his last hole almost in the dark—to remain in the first spot at the top of the leaderboard heading into Sunday.**

Brendon Doyle bite: It really wasn't hard to see until my second shot, drive was fine, but yeah, it got dark quick because it was just kind of cloudy, happen usely here but... yeah, I was happy to make birdie on the last hole, I'm happy to be in the final group tomorrow, it'll be fun.

**In solo second was Canada’s Stuart Macdonald, who also birdied the last hole playing alongside Doyle.**

Brendon Doyle bite: Yeah, Stuart is awesome, he’s a good dude, played really well today, too. Yeah, it was a lot of fun, so I look forward for tomorrow.

**After his third-round 66, Macdonald was at 15-under par, trailing Doyle by one but two shots ahead of the next-closest trailing players. They were Davis Shore, with one of the lowest rounds of the day, a 63, and Walker Lee and Andrés Gallegos, all tied for third. The three players reached 13-under, with Shore joining the final group.**

**Playing on a golf course that presents so many birdie opportunities, the players knew competition would be fierce Sunday.**

Social Minute:

**It's time to review the best of our players through social media.**

**Let's start with the Dev Series activity. A new stop of the Mexican Professional Tour took place in Morelia, and one of the favorites emerged victorious. José de Jesús Rodríguez once again showcased his experience and lifted a new trophy on home soil. Congratulations, Camarón.**

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CsfCZnfgkhH/>

**Here at Esto es PGA TOUR Latinoamérica, we celebrate the successes of all Latinos around the world. Seven years after his first and only victory, Emiliano Grillo returned to the winner's circle on the PGA TOUR. The Charles Schwab Challenge witnessed the Argentine lifting the champion's trophy. Muchachos… (like the song from Argentina Scoccer World Cup)**

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Cszn3tmNczd/>

**The presence of María José Uribe in the Colombia Classic presented by Rocha Brothers created some memorable moments. The Colombian player enjoyed a week in Ruitoque, her home, surrounded by great friends.**

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Csv8-DSgUwr/>

Colombia Classic presented by Rocha Brothers Ronda 4:

**The final round started with Walker Lee on fire. Trailing by three shots at the beginning of the day and playing one group in front of them, the Texas native made three birdies on his first three holes to set the pace for the day that eventually led to his come-from-behind victory.**

Locutor bite: Así es momento de presentarles al campeón del Colombia Classic presentado por Rocha Bothers, con ustedes Walker Lee.

Hace entrega del cheque como ganador del torneo los hermanos Rocha por favor.

And now, it's time to introduce the champion of the Colombia Classic presented by Rocha Brothers, ladies and gentlemen, Walker Lee. The Rocha Brothers will now present him with the winner's paycheck.

Walker Lee bite: It's awesome, I'm happy. First time in Colombia, I love it, I love the course, I love the atmosphere, all the fans are great.

**After making the turn to the back nine and birdieing hole 11, Lee hit his tee shot out of bounds on the par 4 12th but was able to manage the mis-hit and emerge with minimal damage, simply a bogey. And he immediately responded with another birdie on 13, getting that stroke right back.**

**Despite three bogeys in his final round, his nine birdies more than offset his miscues, including a 15-foot birdie putt he rolled in on the 72nd hole, helped him card a 64 and reach 19 under par for the win, beating Austin Hitt by a shot, whose identical 64 left him a shot shy.**

Walker Lee bite: Played relatively solid all year. I scrambled well in Peru and finished top ten and then I actually played pretty well in Quito and finished like 29, so I knew my game was close, and to see it finally pay off is is fulfilling.

**Alone in third place was Stuart Macdonald. He had a brief sense of what victory might taste like when he took the lead late, hitting 19-under after the 13th hole. Macdonald let the win slip from his hands when he made three consecutive bogeys, starting on number 14. He did finish with a birdie on the last to finish two strokes behind Lee and alone in third.**

Walker Lee Bite: Ready for Bogotá and ready for Mexico, getting closer and closer to home.

Standings TotalPlay Cup:

**With only three full-field events left to play before the season ending Bupa Tour Championship, the finish line is getting closer and each player understands every point counts.**

**Starting the week ranked 16th in the Totalplay Cup standings, the victory moved Walker Lee on top of the chart.**

**Lee moved seven points in front of Connor Godsey, with Charlie Hillier 42 points behind. Chandler Blanchet, in fourth place, mean that only 65 points separated Lee from Blanchet.**

**The 60th spot on the race for the Totalplay Cup is also up for grabs, a certain segment of the population focusing on that number at this stage of the season. The Top-60 after 11 tournaments will secure their playing cards for the Latin American swing of the recently announced PGA TOUR Americas, in 2024.**

**Alex Scott, in 60th place, was only 0.15 points in front of Matías Simaski. A mere 16 points separated the No. 69, Rodrigo Lee, so there is still much to play for for players who likely don’t have a chance at winning the Totalplay Cup. Every player knows it’s always good to have a guaranteed place to play.**

**Anything can happen in the last three events of the 2022-23 season of the Totalplay Cup, and we’ll be here to document all of it.**

**NEXT SHOW TEASE

On the next episode of Esto És PGA TOUR Latinoamérica…**

**Players spend another week in Colombia, for the Inter Rapidísimo Golf Championship presented by Volvo**

**And then players travel to Mexico for the final full-field tournament of the year.**

Todd Rinehart bite: We're excited to once again return to Guadalajara in Atlas Country Club, for the Jalisco Open GDL.

**All this and much more, on the next episode of Esto Es PGA TOUR Latinoamérica.**

**See you then!**