**24CUTMEX INTERNATIONAL MASTER SCRIPT**

**Cold Open**

ANNC: Welcome to the Mexico Open at Vidanta.

GRILLO: I always say that I like coming back to Mexico. People are super, super nice. They make you feel at home. There's no reason why not to always come back here.

FINAU: It's awesome, we love this place. The people, the food. Vidanta is a pretty magical spot.

ANNC: Vidanta Vallarta, the longest par 71 on TOUR this season. It's a tournament that dates back to the 1940s.

PEREDA: Coming back to the Mexico Open as a PGA TOUR member means a lot to me so it is very exciting to be back in Puerto Vallarta and Vidanta and definitely in front of the home crowd.

**The CUT Titles**

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

**Tony Finau Feature**

ANNC: Tony outlasts number one and it's a Finau family fiesta in Mexico.

FINAU: I think every win is special in its own way.

ANNC: Here they come to help celebrate career win number six on the PGA TOUR.

FINAU: Vidanta's turned into my family's favorite spot. So, that's turned into a special one. Any time I have my wife and my kids there to greet me on the 18th green, I think is just the greatest thing for me ever. They were there and that's always going to be a special one because, my kids are young, they're there to experience that with me and it's to kind of turn into our family's favorite spot.

ANNC: For Tony Finau to step up and get this win here, this is going to be huge for him.

FINAU: Early in my career I was always I was so focused on winning and I think winning is always the result you want every time you play, but I seem to be making more daily goals than anything else these days.

ANNC: Around 30 feet gives it a pretty good wrap and oh yes! Why not?

FINAU: I'm a lot more free over the putter than I've ever been, which is nice. I've made a lot of big putts to win golf tournaments and be in contention.

Over the last couple of years, I basically told myself, why don't we stick to one putting style, ride it out for a season and see how it goes and that seems to have helped a lot simplify my putting. You keep grinding that out, you'll learn more and not searching as much.

ANNC: The next question for Tony Finau is, when is he going to win a major?

FINAU: I think I'm still trying to find the formula. The good thing is for me is I'm going to have many opportunities ahead of me to contend and to win major championships. You truly have to gear up for how you're feeling and how the week goes and that it is just a bigger week than any other week.

As I've aged, it seems like I'm just trying to push myself every day to be a little bit better and keep growing and learning. I think that focus has helped me achieve the goals of winning.

**Mexico Open Winner**

ANNC: Now the stage is reserved for Jake Knapp. And it is indeed Knapp Time in Mexico.

KNAPP: It's hilarious to think two years ago I was working security at a bar, and it was a much different scenario in my life. I'm very appreciative of being out here, being able to play golf professionally and just this entire atmosphere. It's what I practice and work for every single day.

ANNC: The best part of his game fell apart in this final round, and what had been really the most difficult part for him he shined today. This afternoon, up and downs, chip shots, putts.

KNAPP: We knew that maybe if the ball-striking was off, our short game's going to have to be a little bit more dialed in. So I feel like a lot of those chips coming down the stretch, I think all those played a big role.

ANNC: We talked about changing your trajectory, you are in all the remaining signature events, THE PLAYERS, The Masters, the PGA Championship.

KNAPP: Everybody wants to win out here. There's a lot of guys who have played out here for a long time who have never won. It's just one of those things where now all of a sudden there's a lot of doors open.

**VO: WITH HIS FIRST PGA TOUR VICTORY, JAKE KNAPP VAULTS UP TO EIGHTH IN THE COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10.**

ANNC: This is going to be a really popular man on the PGA TOUR, this win for Jake Knapp. And I think he's going to feel better about himself that he won without his best stuff. He had to dig deep, and he did it.

KNAPP: I'll never forget this. I mean, for the rest of my life this will be my first win on the PGA TOUR. Whether it's my first win and only one that I ever have or it's the first of many, this will always be one that I remember.

**FEC Standings**

**VO: KNAPP'S TITLE AT THE MEXICO OPEN AT VIDANTA ALSO MOVES HIM INTO THE TOP 10 OF THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS, AS THE PGA TOUR HEADS EAST FOR THE FLORIDA SWING.**

**Bump**

STRAKA: We've always kind of had a bond out here with a bunch of guys, you know playing practice rounds together, eating together, going to dinner together. And then the house thing made it a little more official I guess, because we just started staying together week in, week out.

KIRK: It's kind of cool because we could play this for 20 bucks a game if we wanted to, but there's no need to, because it's truly the pride of winning or the pain of losing is plenty enough.

NATS: No! Baited him into it. What was that?!

**The CUT Rejoin**

No VO

**Raul Pareda Feature**

PEREDA: Someone told me that I was a late bloomer. In one way it's a compliment. It shows you the resilience, that hard work because many other people would have quit after a couple of years of not seeing any results.

PEREDA: When things really sting and they tell you you're not going to do it, it really makes you want to do more. But I think I do it for myself.

ANNC Look at this kid! This is his first PGA TOUR event.

ANNC: How about it? Hit it! are you kidding me? Pereda!

ANNC: There you go, he's headed to the PGA TOUR.

PEREDA: I always have this as a hobby. I won some national junior events and some regional junior events in Mexico. When I when I was 17, I won the professional event as an amateur. That's when I told my mom I want to turn professional.

NATS: So, this one right here, I was Athlete of the Year in 2018 for University.

PEREDA: Not until my senior year of college, that's when I played my very best, that's when I really thought I was going to do good in professional golf. I played my first professional event on the Mexican professional tour. I finished 11th and then just in my second start, I won. That greedy and arrogant thought of like, this is going to be so easy. I'm going to be on the tour in a blink of an eye. I thought it was going to be so good and it was just going to be a straight line to success.

PEREDA: I went to PGA Tour LatinoAmerica Q School, I got my card. I played four events, and I missed four cuts.

NATS: I think I really need to make a cut to get into the reshuffle and play the next events, but I'll do my best and we'll see.

PEREDA: I went back to school in Q School in Argentina. I finished birdie, birdie, birdie on the last three holes to get full first half. After that I think I gained the confidence to know that the game was there, it was just the discipline about sticking to it.

PEREDA: My psychologist told me once, I promise you, just be patient when you get there, you're going to do it so good. So just be calm, keep getting ready, and when your opportunity comes, you will grab the bull by the horns and sure I did.

ANNC: Another chip in! He might need to start missing greens! He is pumped up, he knows what that means, into 4th position.

PEREDA: It was just a big sigh when you were able to just finally just breathe after four long rounds. It's emotional because you representing an entire country in the biggest stage of golf. For me to just get there, have one chance on the PGA Tour, how would you feel when you're the only player of one entire country achieving a dream?

ANNC: A great week, PGA TOUR cards stamped with their names on them.

NATS: We're heading out to Palencia, going to try to catch up with Jeff. It'll be good to spend some time on the range with him, talking, trying to share how the past couple weeks have been.

KLAUK: I met him, and I knew he was such a great guy, a first-class individual. We just connected then and then I'll be darned, he started coming out here and practicing out here at Palencia. I feel like I've tried to take him under my wing and give him the knowledge that I had through the years.

NATS: Nothing's better than helping this guy, spending time with him.

KLAUK: My epilepsy started in 2006. I had my first seizure, then we got those under control, and then I was able to graduate to the PGA Tour in 2008 through the Korn Ferry Tour and then had a great rookie year.

ANNC: From St. Augustine, Florida, please welcome Jeff Klauk.

KLAUK: I had developed another type of seizure, a complex partial seizure, after my rookie year. I wasn't able to get them under control.

NATS: Bueno shot.

PEREDA: Jeff knows what it takes. He's been there and he was doing so good. He was just forced to quit, and as much as he wants to get back he can't. It's hard to describe those things because you can tell he's living his dream back through me. He just got a, he's got a big heart for the game.

KLAUK: Being around those guys and watching him play, it keeps me like feeling like I'm visualizing myself out there playing in a way.

PEREDA: And I'm not doing this for him. I'm doing it for myself. But I'm just so glad that someone in my inner circle of people, is appreciating and following what I'm doing more than anybody else.

KLAUK: I'm so proud of him. Being such a great kid, great guy, and it's just awesome.

PEREDA: He's just a great human being and he's just showed me that everything can be taken away from you in a blink of an eye.

**Servpro - Rapid Recovery**

**VO: THE CUT PRESENTS, RAPID RECOVERY.**

**VO: AT THE 2023 MEXICO OPEN AT VIDANTA, TONY FINAU ENTERED THE FINAL ROUND WITH A TWO-SHOT LEAD BUT FOUND TROUBLE ON THE EIGHTH HOLE.**

ANNC: Ugh, that wasn't good. A bad mistake sort of compounded. A poor iron shot, poor bunker shot.

FINAU: Hit it in the left bunker, and I just chunked the bunker shot. It barely got out, and I had about 20, 22 feet for par off the fringe, and it was just huge for my momentum at the time.

ANNC: What a save for Finau at the 8th! He remains 22-under. To keep the momentum going that was huge.

FINAU: 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 was really put to the test and came out on top, which feels great.

**Cognizant Classic Teaser**

ANNC: Now Tiger...

ANNC: Not gaining anything by going at that green.

ANNC: And it didn't even come close. That terrible sound.

ANNC: Now it is right at it.

ANNC: Here is McIlroy at his second. That far for eagle to post 10 under.

ANNC: McIlroy is set up for an eagle.

ANNC: Intestinal fortitude to finish it off.

ANNC: First time in almost eight years, is a winner again.

ANNC: Fowler closes the deal.

ANNC: 12 for Adam Scott.

ANNC: Yes! Keith Mitchell has done it!

ANNC: With Corey Pavin. You're kidding me!

NATS: That was good huh?

ANNC: Holy mackerel.

ANNC: Five consecutive birdies.

ANNC: It is never really safe until you get through that treacherous spot.

**TV Times**

**VO: THE COGNIZANT CLASSIC IN THE PALM BEACHES BEGINS ON THURSDAY, WITH CHRIS KIRK LOOKING TO DEFEND HIS FIRST TITLE AFTER TEMPORARILY WALKING AWAY FROM THE GAME IN 2019.**

**Chris Kirk Feature**

ANNC: Chris Kirk, he had a dark spot in his life where he battled alcoholism and depression. Now he wants to be known as the guy that can win again.

ANNC: For the first time in almost eight years, he is a winner again on the PGA TOUR.

KIRK: It didn't really feel like I was going to play golf again, much less to have won again on the TOUR. To a lot of my peers and my close friends back there, I appreciate the camaraderie and the friendship that I've had on and off the golf course with you guys. A lot of these guys, I'm the house dad that rents a four or five bedroom house every week, and those guys stay with me, and we hang around and play yahtzee and play cards. That was definitely something that I made a point to do when I decided to come back and play, purely because I had all those bad memories of sitting by myself in a hotel room. I just said I'm not willing to do that anymore.

STRAKA: Who's in charge of the dishes?

KIRK: The housekeepers when we leave. Yeah the sink always ends up pretty full by the end of the week.

KIRK: Just kind of realized how much more fun, how much better our quality of life was, staying in these houses versus staying in a hotel. Sepp has definitely been my most frequent roommate I would say. Got Harman this week, but B-Todd stays with us a lot, J.T. Poston, Patton Kizzire, Greyson Sigg, Denny McCarthy, Harris English will jump in there for sure.

STRAKA: We've always kind of had a bond out here with a bunch of guys, you know playing practice rounds together, eating together, going to dinner together. And then the house thing made it a little more official I guess, because we just started staying together week in, week out. It's just a better way to spend time off the golf course.

KIRK: Yeah it just went from us all texting each other saying where are we meeting for dinner, to sitting on the couch and looking over and saying where are we going for dinner.

NATS: That is such a dagger. You can't even get excited.

TODD: I'm highly competitive, and I would say they would all say I'm one of the most competitive. We're battling at whatever it is, whether it's ping pong, whether there's a little putting green in the backyard, or we're doing something in the backyard, we're throwing baseballs, who can throw it the hardest. I mean, it's yahtzee, gin all those things. I mean we love to go back and compete.

KIRK: It's kind of cool because we could play this for 20 bucks a game if we wanted to, but there's no need to, because it's truly the pride of winning or the pain of losing is plenty enough.

NATS: No! Baited him into it. What was that?!

STRAKA: If you're just going out here by yourself, you go back to the hotel by yourself, that could wear on you, and I've been very fortunate since I've gotten out here, a lot of friends that I've had over the years that we hang out together, play practice rounds together and make it fun, make it to where you really want to get on the road and go play tournaments.

TODD: When we've stayed together, when we've rented houses, guys seem to play great. We had a year at the Sony Open a couple years ago where Chris Kirk finished second, locked back up his TOUR card, and the house was 50 or 60 under par. All six guys finished in the top 30 or something, it was just an incredible week for everybody.

STRAKA: It's nice to kind of go back and have a couple of your best friends there to just spend time with because it does get a little lonely on the road, and that's been a lot of fun.

KIRK: The tradition is if somebody wins that week, they pay for the entire house, and we've had, gosh probably six of those or something like that in the last few years.

KIRK: It's been a huge, huge change as far as quality of life on the road. It's a really great environment I feel like that we've created.

**Eric Cole Feature**

COLE: We're down here in Jupiter at Abacoa Golf Club and today is the first round of the minor league TOUR Championship.

NATS: Good to see ya dude, how are you?

NATS: Congrats man, happy for ya. Good playing.

NATS: Good to see ya, thanks.

COLE: Played of a bunch of events over the last, I don't know, maybe 12 years.

NATS: What's going on, brother. Good to see you, man.

COLE: It's been a place where I've kind of worked on my game and, you know, tried to keep my career going.

COLE: It's a tournament I've played for a long time. I don't know when the last time I missed TOUR Championship on this tour was. And it's always at this course at Abaco. So I try not to miss it.

COLE: I went to Q School the first time in probably 2009. I think I missed that first stage, and that was kind of a common theme for the next like maybe four or five years. It was a struggle for me. 2017 was my first year Korn Ferry. Played eight events and then came home, got an MRI and CT scan and had a stress fracture in my back. So that was a little bit of a blow for sure to finally get through and then have to deal with that.

COLE: There is a very fine line and, you know, golf can beat you up pretty bad. And you start to think, you know, what am I doing wrong? Should I be doing this? The self-doubt is there. You know, I worked so hard to get there and then got hurt and it seemed very far away. Getting to the PGA TOUR did. One thing that both my parents said, because they know professional golf so well, is sometimes it feels like you're really far from where you want to be.

NATS: Keep going, keep going.

COLE: So they were both very positive.

BAUGH: He's got the traits that help someone persevere. Because so many people work so hard and Eric has just stayed the course. When you have a lot of people telling you that you are good enough and that you can do it, it kind of just helps take away a little bit of that self-doubt.

NATS: Gentlemen, now our next group in the 2023 Minor League Golf TOUR Championship from Orlando, Florida, Eric Cole.

COLE: This is the tournament I've always played. I like to play tournaments. I like to compete. It's almost like part of my DNA. I just like it.

COLE: It also will probably show how good a lot of these guys out here are that people haven't heard of before. If they end up beating me or whatever it is. You know, maybe they realize how close they are to having success.

GOLDENBERG: I think him playing is great this week because as a competitor, like, I want to be in the field and compete against the best guys and to see someone who's obviously like been on this TOUR for a while, but then over the last few years really just skyrocketed. I think it invigorates a lot of players, like in my position where I'm trying to get to that level.

ANNC: Second place finish that has vaulted him up there into the top in the minds of the golf world. He's got two second place finishes this year. Three top sixes, six top 15.

ANNC: He's in all the signature events. Three top four finishes this fall just keeps adding to that great resume. It's been a career defining year for Eric Cole.

TURNER: He wants to just win everything, whether here or on in the Masters in five months. He wants to win and he's going to try his darndest to win.

PRODUCER: What are you most proud of about your journey?

COLE: Perseverance probably. Would have been, I'd say, easier to not try and come back like I did. I'm proud of that, but I'm thankful for all the people that have helped me to get to this point too.

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