2024 PGA TOUR: The CUT #11

International Script

COLD OPEN

ANNC: You come back to Bay Hill and everything seems right in the golfing world. Arnold Palmer’s Bay Hill Club and Lodge has stood for so much for so long. For the man first and foremost, for the course, tough, demanding but fair, and this week, the best field they’ve ever seen here.

SLADE: When you think about golf, it's impossible not to conjure images of the game’s historical figures and modern-day luminaries who chart their own path… but the game wouldn’t be the same without one name, that’s Arnold Palmer he was a style god to the people, he was a player’s player. His indomitable spirit welcomed countless enthusiasts into the game… that’s why it only makes sense that the King’s event is a Signature Event. Marking it’s spot as a pivotal stop on the PGA TOUR.

ANNC: To have your name linked to his means you’re forever in his circle of champions. Always welcomed inside his kingdom. A victory here represents all that’s right with the game. Because it stands for the man who made Bay Hill his home and made it feel like ours too.

**WELCOME TO A SPECIAL EDITION OF PGA TOUR THE CUT**

JACQUES SLADE EXPLORES API

SLADE: As a first timer to Bay Hill it was necessary that I got the full AP experience hence the alpaca that you see draped across these shoulders, you gotta blot that, and Arnie, well he packed a lot of life into his career as well from his first PGA TOUR win, to his love of Aviation, to his charity work, to the drink that caries his namesake. Bay Hill is as much a golf course as it is a dedication to the red sweater legend.

I'm here with Jason from the Arnold and Winnie Palmer Foundation and he's gonna give us a tour around and break down what we see here. So let's start with the big question, what is Arnie's Army?

PEEVY: Well, Arnie's army started at Augusta National when the military folks stationed in in Augusta would come out to work the golf tournament and they got behind him and of course, he won four Green Jackets, and they would follow along behind them and the huge galleries that were there really are the basis of Arnie's Army. Now the army is mustering again to continue the philanthropic efforts of the Palmer family, and to keep that legacy of giving back alive and well.

SLADE: Now you brought some of his equipment with you and I know we have some putting holes over here. Can you talk about what we brought and if we can test those over there?

PEEVY: Yeah, you may want to get a closer look at this. This is one of the putters from the 1960s. We actually brought this down from his workshop in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Mr. Palmer was known as a tinkerer. He always was working on his golf clubs and as you can see, on the back of this, there's some lead tape that he was waiting this particular putter down with.

PEEVY: You can actually use a couple of golf balls from the collection.

SLADE: Oh my goodness.    
   
PEEVY: So we'll let you use these.

SLADE: That’s amazing.   
   
PEEVY: They're a little discolored from their age, but they are, they are authentic.

SLADE: As long as they roll. I guess that's what matters, right?

PEEVY: So this putt on 18 at Bay Hill breaks pretty hard to the right. Oh, that looks good.

SLADE: Got to give it a little more… a little more sauce.

PEEVY: That was a pretty good line. Good putt.

SLADE: Needs a little more sauce. If you guys come to API, make sure you check out the Arnie’s Army Experience.

SAMI VALIMAKI INTERVIEW

SLADE: Well, this is my first time at Bay Hill, but I'm not alone. Sami Valimaki, this is his first time here as well. So we're gonna watch him chip. And I'll probably learn some things while he's chipping. And then also talk about Arnold Palmer. Let's, show me some things, show me some things.

VALIMAKI: Alright, let’s go.

NATS: Little chunky. That’s the one, that’s the one, oh!

SLADE: This is your first time here at the Arnold Palmer Invitational. What did it mean to you to be able to play here?

VALIMAKI: I mean of course it's an honor to play these kinds of tournaments. They have long, long time, long period when they play all these events, and right for me to get it over here in signature events, play best players in the world, it's awesome.

ANNC: Another guy who earned a spot on the PGA TOUR via the DP World Tour top 10 available players. Sami Valimaki, throwing it in the back of the hole.

SLADE: You finished second at Vidanta, that was your highest finish so far on the PGA TOUR. You're really one tournament away from winning, being like the best Finnish player to finish on the PGA TOUR. What would that mean to you?

VALIMAKI: It's a big thing for our country. And I want to be the role model for the younger players, and they can rely on same things. Okay, Sami can do it, I can do that as well.

ANNC: With an opportunity to get his 2nd DP World Tour win. And Valimaki reigns in the desert.

SLADE: When you get to those high-pressure situations, for instance at Vidanta, is there something like you tell yourself to calm yourself down?

VALIMAKI: Normally, when I'm in those positions, I feel like it's pretty easy for me, just to get in the flow. But like first three holes in Vidanta, I was like, uhh something's a little off. But then I feel like okay, if I can just make a good birdie. And then it started going my way.

ANNC: That thing is pounded, it looked perfect the entire way. Could go in. Valimaki that close from an eagle.

SLADE: Do you enjoy the pressure of being on TOUR? Or is it does it tense you up a little bit, or how do you feel?

VALIMAKI: I mean of course it tenses you sometimes, but I really like it. And I think most players do as well because that's what we wanted. It's almost nice to show a little bit more emotions, even in a good and bad way.

ANNC: Oh! What a time to drain from 30 feet.

SLADE: What's the big goal for this week? Besides winning? What's the what's the big goal for this week? Just winning?

VALIMAKI: Yeah, I kind of wanted to say that. It will be life changing if I can win this week. And then I really need to be on my game plan and try to do the best. So I think those two will be my keys to survive this week.

KEEGAN BRADLEY PRACTICE DAY

BRADLEY: I'm PGA TOUR pro Keegan Bradley. Come with me for a practice day before the Arnold Palmer Invitational. I showed up to the golf course ready to put in a day's work of preparation. The most important part of the day is registration, making sure they know I'm here and ready to compete.

From here I head to the putting green meet with my caddie Scottie and my coaching team to start putting in the work. I start by working on my putting. I spent about an hour here working with my putting coach to hone in my aim point, checking the accuracy of the break using a level, making sure I'm dialed in for different breaks.

Once I'm done there I head to the driving range to work through the bag. I want to make sure I'm focused so I put in my JLab Epic Lab Edition buds. I work through the bag getting a feel for each club, testing distances, and getting comfortable with the clubs since I just had them regripped.

In the afternoon, I head out on the course to practice on the front nine. This is my first opportunity to get a feel for the conditions of the course and really see how to best play the course this week.

I prepare for different lies, different pin locations, talk with my caddie to discuss the best strategy. Oh look, almost an ace. Finish the nine, sign some autographs for fans, head back to practice some chip shots and then call it a day.

ARNOLD PLAMER’S SIGNATURE

NAT: The movie star.

THOMAS: When I first met him at the Palmer Cup, he taught all of us, if you’re going to sign your name it needs to be legible, and my autograph has been legible ever since then.

MORIKAWA:His history and everything about what he did, but also his signature. It’s hard to keep up, I don't know how he did it for so long.

THOMAS: I learned it from Mr. Palmer and I don’t plan on, you know, doing anything differently and if you're signing your name, people should read it.

KITAYAMA: That’s pretty important because anyone can kind of scribble something and to be able to sign your name and know who it is, that’s pretty big.

KIM: Playing Bay Hill where you can see it everywhere. I love to play here and I love to see his signature.

SCOTT: I was so lucky to meet and play with Arnold Palmer. In a way, very removed, but was a great role model to me as a young professional and then to realize he had that effect on so many of my peers as well.

MORIKAWA: He was loved by everyone and I always look up to that. If I could be a fraction of what he did and what he represents even to this day, it’d be an honor.

SCOTT: We all kind of hold Arnold close to our hearts when it comes to the way we want to carry ourselves as professional golfers.

STANDUP

SLADE: As the fourth signature event of 2024 tees up, storylines abound, Austin Eckroat enters Bay Hill with a little more riz after winning his first PGA TOUR event down in Palm Beach Gardens. We have four former winners including defending champion Kurt Kitayama and we can’t forget about world number one Scottie Scheffler. He’s finished no lower than 15th in his three starts here. We have 44 of the top 50 players vying to etch their name next to the King’s. We’re ready… get set… let’s go!

OPENING ROUNDS

ANNC: 81 degrees. Fair skies on this Thursday and for the 46th time this beauty, Bay Hill welcomes the best in the game to Arnie’s place.

Putting down the hill and that one drops for JT!

THOMAS: Played pretty solid. Just stayed very patient and just kind of plotted my way around. If I, you know, missed the fairway or got out of position, I feel like I just tried to put myself in the best spot to make par. It was a very, low stress 3-under.

ANNC: It’s great to see this guy back in the game. He’s feeling pretty good right now.

ZALATORIS: Hit a perfect putt from about, you know, 16, 17 feet. Everything feels really good, just got to keep doing what we're doing. It's good to get a sub 70 score here at any time.

ANNC: He’s feeling it! Keep the momentum going.

Shane Lowry’s just kind of cruising along here in the latter stages of the first round!

LOWRY: I’ve played here six times. I missed the cut five times. I’m going out there with like very low expectations today, but you know what, I knew I was playing well. Golf's a funny game. I just had it under control today.

ANNC: We welcome you on this steamy spring Friday. Feels like spring at least here in Orlando.

Here’s Scheffler’s third. I’d take a chance at this one scaring the hole. Oh wow! There’s a little pitch mark on his ball. I didn’t know it was that easy. So that’s why he pitched it.

SCHEFFLER: I did a good job of staying patient. I was even for the round going into 12 and 5-under my last seven. There's a lot of names up at the top of the leaderboard right now. Proud of how I finished today to kind of give myself a good chance.

ANNC: Wyndham Clark for birdie. A little across the green here. He’s known for making some long putts. This one’s just over 32 feet! Oh drips it over the front edge. Count em’ up, eight birdies on the day!

CLARK: There’s hardly any grass on the greens right now. They’re so fast. Honestly, for me, making the cut and to be where I'm at is a win on a course that maybe traditionally hasn't been my favorite.

ANNC: It is a good one chalk full of some of the top names on the PGA TOUR. So fun weekend in store at Bay Hill.

RAPID RECOVERY

**THE CUT PRESENTS… RAPID RECOVERY.**

ANNC: That’s not what Mackenzie wants. That’s what you all love to see when you’re playing Quail? No not this. Look at that. Ooo that is ugly right there but sits down low and wow.

Ball below your feet. It’s going to come out faster, lower, just like that. I liked his action there but would love the face a little bit more open.

ANNC: Let’s see if he can make some magic here. You have to put so much pace on such a short shot. Ok, that’s a three all the way! That a boy, Mack!

THIRD ROUND

ANNC: If you like to watch the biggest names at a tough golf course, settle in, we’ve got a good day for you here at Bay Hill Club and Lodge.

Will Zalatoris who attended Wake Forest on an Arnold Palmer golf scholarship is on a roll.

Be interesting to see how the long putter works for him, particularly in this wind that we have here. It looks really good now! 5 birdies on the day for Zalatoris.

ZALATORIS: I played really good. I mean you play 42 holes of bogey-free golf and you take it. Obviously, the finish wasn't what I wanted. I'm still in the ballgame, as frustrating as it is to finish up that way.

ANNC (12.3): Wyndham Clark has this for eagle. Maybe he can kind of heat it up here again!

CLARK: Confidence is really good. I've always been a good green reader, I just haven't been starting it on line the last year or two. Now, I'm starting to consistently start it on line and making putts, so it's been fun.

ANNC: Shane Lowry, one of the guys who the 7-under par lead after 36 holes. For his par, trying to get out of here stay at 8-under. That’s how quick that was. A bogey for Lowry.

LOWRY: I didn't feel that comfortable with it all day. It's hard out there. I always say, when you play in windy conditions, the hardest part of it is putting. Certainly was today.

ANNC: Birdie Attempt here from Lowry to join the lead!

LOWRY: It was just great to hole that one on 17. I was pretty happy with that. All-in-all I'm very happy with my day's work.

ANNC: Scottie Scheffler trying to build some momentum on the way in. Like he did yesterday. Birdie at twelve… birdie at thirteen!

SCHEFFLER: Going into the back nine, I just did my best to try to commit to hitting good putts. It's going to take another really good round. The golf course is extremely challenging and yeah, I got to stay patient and grind out a lot of pars.

ANNC: Major champions abound near the top of the board. Scheffler and Lowry. Wyndham Clark just a shot back.

STANDUP

SLADE: With a limited field here in Orlando battling for the title at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, the rest of the PGA TOUR’s stars gathered about 12-hundred miles southeast of here at the Puerto Rico Open. Since 2008 some big names have captured their first win at that event. Tony Finau in 2016 and Viktor Hovland in 2020, and now the winner sets themselves up nicely for an appearance at the rest of the signature events this season.

PUERTO RICO OPEN

ANNC: Brice Garnett took a long look at the leaderboard here. He knows exactly what he needs right now. He needs to make this to have any chance of playing his way into a playoff. Clutch! Bogey free 69 for Garnett.

We got two names remaining. Erik Barnes, looking for his first win on the PGA TOUR. The 36-year-old squaring off against 40-year-old Brice Garnett, trying to win for the second time.

Drips it in for birdie! In a marathon playoff, Brice Garnett, your winner at the Puerto Rico Open!

GARNETT: I'm not a spring chicken anymore. So, it's been very challenging because the game is changing so fast but I guess there's still a little bit of room for a 40-year-old out here.

I was excited to be here, I was thankful to be here. I wasn't sure when my next PGA TOUR start was going to come. I was kind of gearing up for this one, I think I told you earlier in the week, this is my Augusta. It is a wonderful week for me that opens all kinds of new doors for a 40-year-old TOUR vet.

FINAL ROUND

ANNC: It has been 51 weeks since number one in the world Scottie Scheffler has won a PGA TOUR event. He could be on his way to doing that today! It’s the best Sunday board we’ve seen on TOUR this year.

Shane Lowry with this par attempt. Not the start he wanted obviously. Back-to-back bogies.

LOWRY: I was a little bit shaken after those early bogeys, but another top 5, some much needed FedExCup points, and you know, on to Sawgrass next week.

ANNC: Wyndham Clark with a good look at birdie at the sixth. Oh right away, oh, maybe! Are you kidding?

CLARK: I said to myself this week, even coming into the weekend, even in a good spot, a top 5 or top 10 here would just be a huge for me and so I think it's just a testament to where my game's at and how much I've grown.

ANNC: Scheffler just been terrific all day. Another biride putt… good line, good speed, good putt! This is going to be 41% of his career starts in the top 10. Jack Nicklaus 50%, Tiger Woods, 53%.

This guy keeps rolling along with a measure of consistency that is mind boggling, and Scottie Scheffler is the King of Bay Hill again! With one of the great performances we’ve seen here

SCHEFFLER: It had been awhile since I won so it was nice to kind of come in here with a good mental attitude and to perform well under pressure.

**SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER’S VICTORY IN ORLANDO RETURNS HIM TO FIRST IN THE COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10 FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE END OF THE 2021-2022 SEASON.**

SCHEFFLER: Mr. Palmer meant a lot to me, meant a lot to us as professional golfers and the game of golf, and so it's very, it’s very special to be able to sit here and you know, wear his read sweater again and, yeah, I'm very proud to be the champion of his tournament.

FEDEXCUP STANDINGS

**AND THERE’S SHAKE-UP AT THE TOP OF THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS WITH SCHEFFLER AND WYNDHAM CLARK OVERTAKING MATTHIEU PAVON THANKS TO THEIR 1-2 FINISH AT BAY HILL.**

CLOSING STANDUP

And that’s a wrap from Bay Hill. We knew it was going to be exciting at the king’s castle but we didn’t know it was going to go down like that. The Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard was the 4th signature event of the year which means there’s more golf to play and a lot more at stake this season. I’ll see you guys at the next signature event out at RBC Heritage in Hilton Head but next week, it’s really going down. It’s the 50th anniversary of THE PLAYERS Championship where the strongest field in golf meets the purest test. If I were you, I’d cc every golf fan that you see around town and let them know, they don’t want to miss it. We’ll see you there.

THE PLAYERS TEASE

SCOTT: Coming to Sawgrass is always a good feeling for me. It has been for nearly 20 years since winning here.

ANNC: Yeah, and Scott survives!

TIRICO: This place rises to the level of the competition and brings out the best in the best names in the sport.

ANNC: He's remarkable. Tournament Players champion.

SCHAUFFELE: It’s just the best field in golf, period.

HOVLAND: My favorite course architect is Pete Dye and I think he designed an absolute gem.

PATE: Pete dye will go for a swim today.

SPIETH: Every time I come back, I'm like “wow, such a beautiful piece of land.”

MCILROY: The history of this event and what it means to PGA TOUR players. It is our championship and it really feels special.

ANNC: Rory McIlroy is a PLAYER’s Champion!

HICKS: There are very few events in sports that you know when you go into it, you're guaranteed drama.

NAT: Be the right club today. Yes!

HICKS: There’s no other place like it.

ANNC: The cheers reverberate throughout TPC at Sawgrass.

That is better than most… better than most!

FOWLER: This is our championship. It doesn't favor anyone. That's why you have a great list of champions.

ANNC: Rickie Fowler owns the island green!

FOWLER: Just honored to be a part of it.

FINAU: It’s a golf tournament that if you win, your legacy is sealed. You'll be known as one of the best that's played in your era.

ANNC: Wire the wire champion, Jason Day.

SPIETH: The names on the trophy are some of the best to ever play the game.

KIM: It's always been a dream of mine to hold that trophy at the end of the week.

SCHEFFLER: Walk up 18 in the celebration immediately after was something I’ll remember for a long time.

ANNC: When the heat was on, it was Scheffler who handled it the best.

SCHEFFLER: I can't say how thankful I am to be THE PLAYERS Champion!