**24CUTHOU INTERNATIONAL MASTER SCRIPT**

**Cold Open**

ANNC: Houston is the most populous city in the Lonestar State, and this event dates all the way back to the mid 40s, when Byron Nelson beat Ben Hogan, and Sam Snead. Memorial Park, known as one of the most popular municipal tracks in the United States has been a mainstay in Houston's landscape since it opened in 1924.

SCHEFFLER: It's nice coming to a place that anybody can come play, and especially for those the locals that live here, I think it's a pretty fair price as well.

THEEGALA: I think there's a few on the rota now that are public golf courses, and especially this one being as affordable as it is and being so close to the center of Houston. It's awesome.

SCHEFFLER: I'm amazed at how good a shape it's in really, for a golf course that's being run by the city and municipal golf course. We're excited to play excited to be back here in Houston and excited for the week.

FINAU: I love that we're playing on a public golf course. I think it's quite special that we're playing here this week.

ANNC: Tony Finau is a winner. What a performance Trevor. Dominant performance for Finau this week in Houston.

FINAU: Nice to be back at a place that you won, especially a golf course where I really performed well all week. Hopefully this golf tournament's hosted here for many years to come.

**The CUT Titles**

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

**Chandler Phillips Feature**

ANNC: Chandler Phillips, 27-year-old who played his college golf at Texas A&M, born and raised in Huntsville, has finally found himself a home here on the PGA TOUR in his first year.

CHANDLER: I grew up about an hour north of here, in a small town. My childhood was awesome. Played golf, went hunting, went fishing. That's about it. Pretty much been living the dream ever since I came out.

KEITH: From the time he put his hands on the golf club when he was little, it looked right. You know, and when he swinged, it looked right.

CHANDLER: My dad just started taking me out to a nine-hole course, so we would just wrap around it all day. So it's kind of hard not to fall in love with it, because everybody's out there having a good time and just getting away.

KEITH: He is who he is. There's no, there's no fluff. Yeah, you get what you get with Chandler. It's just his personality.

CHANDLER: I'm just a small-town country dude, don't take everything too serious.

CHANDLER: I'm playing good. But I ain't gonna lie, I'd rather be there duck hunting.

CHANDLER: All that says about me is I'm inconsistent as hell.

ANNC: Chandler Phillips on the tee of the par 5 14th. Oh, yes, that is ideal.

ANNC: What a start for Chandler Phillips and look out for the youngster.

CHANDLER: Last week was the first time I ever had an opportunity to win a PGA TOUR event. Now that it's over, I've gained a lot of confidence. I didn't get too nervous. I think I handled myself pretty well. And hopefully I can get myself in that position again.

KRIS: We have been told by lots of people that they're coming to watch.

CHANDLER: I like playing in front of my family and friends. I've had a solid year so far before last week, and then now putting that on top of it, I feel really good coming into this week here in Houston.

CHANDLER: I got a brother. D. His name's Dawson but everybody calls him D. But yeah, I'll tell you he's...Sorry. He's autistic, but he's the, man he's the happiest man in the world. Like he lives his life every day, doesn't have a worry in the world. He's awesome. He's been a big impact on me.

KRIS: Chandler and Dawson's relationship is very loving.

KEITH: You can really tell that Dawson, when Chandler comes back in town, he's got a different glow about him. He's ready to see him, he's missed him. And same way with Chandler you know, it goes both ways. Chandler loves him.

KRIS: And Chandler is very protective over him.

CHANDLER: He'll never be able to like live by himself. At some point, I'm gonna have to, you know, quit golf, and then have to take care of him. But I mean, which I've faced that fact like there's nothing wrong with that with me. I'm never gonna have somebody take care of him. That's my brother.

KRIS: To know that Chandler is committed to doing that, like he's a package deal. Dawson will always come with him. It's reassuring for us that Dawson is going to be taken care of by someone that that loves him.

CHANDLER: When you start thinking about it, it's just, that's why I'm such laid back, go with the flow. I mean, he's, yeah, D. He's my best friend.

**Bump**

CLARK: Nice, Cici, really good.

CLARK: That's why it's the greatest game ever played. They're able to play it even being somewhat injured or having medical issues.

BLAKE: Golfing is like a safe space. It's one of the only sports I can play right now.

CLARK: Perfect

ANNA: To play on the same course and kind of just even be in the same space is amazing, let alone to play nine holes with him.

**Wyndham Clark Mic'd Up**

ANNA: Hi Wyndham, Anna King, so nice to meet you.

CLARK: Yeah, Wyndham, nice to meet you.

ANNA: Today is going to be something that I always look back on as one of the greatest moments of my life.

CLARK: I knew I was playing with kids today that were battling with heart transplants and cancer. So I wanted to make sure I could be here for that.

ANNA: Texas Children's invited me, I actually had a heart transplant there 10 years ago.

ANNA: When I was 12 years old, I actually found golf because I was diagnosed with heart disease. It is so good to see so many other Texas Children's patients out here that are thriving that are living their life.

NATS: I got the first on the tee for the amateur team CiCi Trevino.

CLARK: Nice CiCi, really good.

CLARK: That's why it's the greatest game ever played. They're able to play it even being somewhat injured or having medical issues.

BLAKE: Eight months ago, I had open heart surgery, and I had a vat put in, basically pumps the left side of my heart. Golfing is like a safe space. It's one of the only sports I can play right now.

CLARK: Good swing at it, just a little left. You'll find it. Good swing.

CLARK: How long you've been playing?

BLAKE: Umm, about two years.

CLARK: Well, for two years, you have quite the swing. Very impressive.

BLAKE: Thank you.

CLARK: The great thing about golf is you get to walk 18 holes with someone, get to know them.

CLARK: So you had a heart transplant?

JHETT: Oh yeah, I had two.

CLARK: Really? When was this?

JHETT: When I was when I was 10 months old and when I was 10.

CLARK: And now you're good, you don't have to worry about it, It feels good? That's amazing.

CLARK: You could barely even tell that Jhett had gone through so much with that. It's amazing how much fight and how much determination that kid has.

CLARK: Yeah, there you go. He's a pro. Nice shot.

JHETT: Thank you.

JHETT: He was just really you know positive towards us.

CLARK: Mine broke pretty good Jhett, so maybe like two or three inches on the right side. Oh, all right, we got a par.

ANNA: Wyndham was giving us pointers.

CLARK: Gonna be kind of fast and breaks to the left. Four or five feet out on the right side.

Oh, perfect. Sit, sit, sit, sit, sit, sit. Yeah, really good shot.

ANNA: To play on the same course and kind of just even be in the same space is amazing, let alone to play nine holes with them.

JHETT: It says a lot about Wyndham and his character, and I just hope to be like him.

CLARK: To see them out there having fun and enjoying the game of golf that I love so much, and having a smile on their face was a treat for me and put a lot of things in perspective.

**Texas Children's Houston Open Winner**

ANNC: Now Jaeger, has it become his tournament to win right here.

ANNC: A prolific winner on the Korn Ferry, still looking for that first PGA TOUR win in 134 starts.

JAEGER: I looked at the leaderboard on 18 and figured, hey, I make this, it's game over. Hit a great putt, just kind of left it a little right.

ANNC: About as close as you can come to not going in, and just leaves the door open for Scheffler to try to force a playoff. And Stephan Jaeger has broken through, a winner on the PGA TOUR. A similar scene to what we saw with the Malnati's last week, the emotion that comes out.

JAEGER: I couldn't have dreamed up a better week to do it. Obviously playing Scottie the last couple days, he's been on a tear, so to kind of slay the dragon a little bit this week was amazing.

ANNC: Boy, Jaeger stared number one down coming down the stretch and won it by one.

**VO: WITH HIS FIRST PGA TOUR VICTORY, STEPHAN JAEGER MOVES INTO THE COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10 FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS CAREER.**

JAEGER: I always say winning golf tournaments is not going to make us happy, but it sure as hell feels really good. To be able to share that with the most important people in your world is amazing.

**FEC Standings**

**VO: JAEGER'S TITLE IN HOUSTON ALSO VAULTS HIM INTO THE TOP 10 OF THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS, WHILE SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER'S LEAD AT THE TOP GROWS LARGER.**

**Servpro - Scrambling Leaders**

**VO: THE CUT PRESENTS SCRAMBLING LEADERS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH.**

ANNC: Just kind of get it out on the green. Yep, should be good. Wow. That's a heck of a shot.

ANNC: Baddeley now, wonderful short game player.

ANNC: Baddeley's third. Just pitching it on and in.

ANNC: Putting it here back up the slope. It's got to slow down. Oh come on! You can't make it up, man! That was going way by.

ANNC: Wow, that was a spectacular golf shot. Yeah his playing partners will give him a little thumbs up there as he walks up to that ball.

**The CUT Rejoin**

**Lanto Griffin Ice Bath**

GRIFFIN: I started doing ice baths mainly for inflammation and lactic acid. You just kind of feel like your legs are dead, they're sore, that achy feeling where it's kind of hard to sleep. So, after doing one, I felt like I slept way better. And then I woke up the next morning and just felt fresher. I've been doing ice baths since about 2013, 2014. It was first stage of Q-School, and I had a long week before, and my legs were beat. So, I did an ice bath the night before, I played a really good first round. And of course, as an athlete, you're superstitious, so I had to do him before, the night before every round going forward.

ANNC: There it is, Lanto Griffin has his first win.

GRIFFIN: Anytime you're not in pain, you tend to play better. When you come out in the morning, you wake up and you feel sluggish, or you feel tight, anytime you can reduce that and sleep better, I've definitely noticed an improvement in the game.

GRIFFIN: The first minute's the worst, you gotta get through the first minute. Once you get acclimated to it, then it's good but you start shaking in the beginning. Your body goes into shock and it tries to heat up. So you actually burn probably 300-400 calories in 10 minutes. And then, so once you get out of it, the ice bath, your body's burning calories trying to warm itself back up. So that's where a big advantage of being freezing is.

GRIFFIN: It's always good to have music on. I'm big into Old Dominion, so I usually have One Man Band on. That's kind of been my go-to song.

GRIFFIN: Probably Macklemore, talked to him earlier today. He's down in the Bahamas doing a show and needed help with the golf.

GRIFFIN: Sugar, especially late at night. Reese's cups especially.

GRIFFIN: Probably walk fast. I'm one of the fastest walkers, so they always feel like they need to catch up with me. So, once they get to know me they know they can hang back.

GRIFFIN: Getting comfortable and knowing that your game is not, not as far away from the stars that you grew up idolizing.

GRIFFIN: I'm actually feel pretty numb, and I can talk relatively normal. So yeah, I feel good.

GRIFFIN: Dumb and Dumber. Stepbrothers. Old dumb comedies.

GRIFFIN: I've always wanted to play an instrument, whether guitar, piano, I wouldn't mind learning how to sing, which is hilarious because I'm a horrible singer.

GRIFFIN: I've been a Niners fan since I was three years old. Joe Montana, Jerry Rice, Ricky Waters. Those were the days.

NATS: What's your favorite thing about ice baths?

GRIFFIN: Getting out.

GRIFFIN: Anytime something makes you feel better, you kind of immediately get addicted to it and you want to keep doing it. It's almost like after I get out of the ice bath, you kind of have a rush of adrenaline, and you just feel better overall.

**Peter Malnati Feature**

ANNC: So Malnati, on the precipice of winning again. For the first time since the 2015 Sanderson Farms Championship. And there's the other side of PGA TOUR life.

MALNATI: It's impossible at the end of a bad round of golf for it to linger when you get to go home and see the two boys. My ultimate dream is I want that feeling of holing out on the 72nd hole to win a golf tournament and having my boys run out on the green, like I really want that.

MALNATI: Looks like they're hitting Hatcher. Can you hold this for me?

MALNATI: I want them to know that I really genuinely enjoy what I do. Like I want them to see me have fun.

HATCHER: Can you hold this? I'm going to have a race.

ALICIA: Oh my goodness.

MALNATI: And I want them to know that their Daddy's trying his hardest. And he's giving this all he has. And I want them to see me be great, but I want them to know that I'm content with just being my best. I love them just as much whether we miss a cut, go home on Friday, or whether they run out on the green on 18, and I want them to see me give the same effort either way and enjoy the game, enjoy what I get to do and be appreciative for what I get to do the same either way.

ANNC: He said I caught a flyer and then hits a flag and goes in.

ANNC: Just a moment ago Billy. Flag is just over that bunker. And Malnati's calling for it and gets it.

MALNATI: if you're going about things the right way, and you're doing everything that you can, you can have something disappointing happen and still be content, and that's really I think what we're striving for, and so that's what I want. I want my boys to see me live in such a way that you know, I'm content with what I'm doing and that they can be, you know when they're old enough to get it they can be proud of me and they can look at Daddy and say you know he did things right, he did it the right way. And I really hope they get to run out on the green and give me that hug for winning a tournament too.

ANNC: And an unpredictable PGA TOUR season, Peter Malnati enjoys his day back in the winner's circle.

MALNATI: Life is hard, like it's obviously glamorous at times like this. But life is really, really hard too when you're trying to figure out how to live this lifestyle and have two kids and my wife has been an absolute rock through all of it. Two little boys. It's just, it feels so good.

ANNC: Won such a long time ago. Did not have that family he has now so a lot to appreciate for 36 year old Peter Malnati.

**Valero Texas Open Lookahead**

ANNC: There you go, Justin Leonard.

ANNC: Zach Johnson.

ANNC: Wowee.

ANNC: Yes! Finally.

ANNC: He earned it.

ANNC: And in the state of Texas, Jordan Spieth.

**TV Times**

**VO: A STRONG FIELD HEADS TO SAN ANTONIO THIS WEEK FOR THE VALERO TEXAS OPEN, INCLUDING RICKIE FOWLER WHO IS LOOKING FOR HIS FIRST WIN OF 2024.**

**Rickie Fowler Swing Theory**

FOWLER: Sometimes I need to exaggerate one feel over the other. Right now get the club to where it's not laid off at the top. From there, swing and let it go, but sometimes the feel to get there, there could be a few that helped me to that position.

HOVLAND: Keep it very simple.

SPIETH: Very connected and around me.

HOMA: When I get quick a lot of things go wrong.

FOWLER: Swing and let it go.

IMMELMAN: Rickie Fowler, one of the most popular golfers in the game. A little while back, Rickie tightened up his bootstraps, put in the time and the effort and under the watchful eye of swing whisperer, Butch Harmon, he turned the tide and elevated himself back into the spotlight on the PGA TOUR.

IMMELMAN: Rickie's win at the Rocket Mortgage Classic, put an exclamation point on the hard work he put in to get his idiosyncratic swing back in tip top shape.

IMMELMAN: Slightly built, but sneaky long, Rickie's golf swing is in tremendous working order right now. He's done a whole lot of work to get the swing back online, and the focus has been the start and the top of the swing to get him in a place to deliver that club more consistently through the ball.

ANNC: Rickie has been doing some great work with Butch Harmon, getting his hands a little higher at the top.

ANNC: He's had some really tough times those last couple of years, it's been well documented and special to see him back.

ANNC: Incredible comeback from Rickie, he's put a ton of work in, it's good stuff, it's great for the game.

IMMELMAN: At address, again, at five foot nine, not that tall, so you won't see much flexion in the knees. But common of all golfers, you'll always see some bending from the hips. He allows the arms to hang down naturally beneath the shoulders, and that sets up a channel where he can move their hands back. Rickie Fowler old style used to move out to the right a whole lot more. But now he keeps the hands in, and the club face out. And that helps him line up his backswing. So, as he starts, you'll see the club head hover. First few feet of the swing, hands work in, club face stays out, right over the top of the hands right there. That's so much better. And right here with the left arm parallel with the ground, and as much as what his hands are a little deep, he's got the shaft plane in a way better spot than what he used to. From there the backswing is set up, he continues to rotate the arm swing up some more, and right over there is probably the best I've ever seen Rickie be. Left arm across the chest, club face matching. You said the club way laid off the arms were way lower and way deeper. And right now, with that extra elevation, I feel like he can get the club back down in front of him so much easier. But now here's where the magic happens. Watch the torque. Low body unwinds, chest follows now watch this picture right there. Hands are in front of the body. The shaft is not so laid off. It's more in front of him. And that allows him now just turn and burn. Eyes behind the ball, body opening up. Now watch the situation right there is extending the arms, hasn't given up the wrist alignments just yet. But the key here with that clubface low and inside the ball, it facilitates a swing going in that direction. And if you want to draw it, watch this. The club head now slings through the golf ball along the line of the arrow, extends out and up and over the shoulder. Inside-Out draw if you want to do it copy this. Rickie Fowler is your man.

ANNC: Gosh, that swing looks so much better now, that lead arm much more upright.

ANNC: It's a pretty thing isn't it? Last year he was ranked 164th in the world, now up to 35.

ANNC: He's automatic with that club right now isn't he?

ANNC: Couldn't have walked it out there any better.

ANNC: Beautiful shot there from Rick, he knows what he needs to do here.

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