2024 PGA TOUR: The CUT #17

International Script

COLD OPEN

SLADE: New York is the birthplace of two of my favorite things, golf and hip-hop. Well, technically not golf. I know a lot of people think the sport was imported at a golf club outside of Yonkers back in 1886, but the historians they might have got that one wrong.

The story in golf in US, started here in the South Carolina Lowcountry.

**THE FOUNDER OF SEA PINES, CHARLES FRASER, UNCOVERED A SHIP’S MANIFEST FROM 1786 WHICH NOTED “GOLF STICKS” AND BALLS HAD BEEN SHIPPED TO RESIDENTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND GEORGIA, SIGNALING THAT GOLF MAY HAVE ARRIVED IN THE AREA 100 YEARS BEFORE IT WAS PLAYED IN YONKERS.**

**TO HONOR THE SCOTTISH ROOTS OF THE GAME, FASER THE PGA TOUR EVENT THE HERITAGE CLASSIC AND THE SCOTTISH FLAVOR IS STILL ON FULL DISPLAY 55 YEARS LATER.**

Bang, bang! Now that’s how you start a tournament.

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

BIG MOMENTS ON HARBOUR TOWN 18

**SINCE 1969, HARBOUR TOWN GOLF LINKS HERE AT SEA PINES RESORT HAS PLAYED HOST TO THE RBC HERITAGE.**

SLADE: Consistently a favorite on TOUR among players, Harbour Town was designed by Pete Dye with help from Jack Nicklaus. They put a premium on things like imagination, finesse, and shot shaping, less on brut force. Think more Randy Orton, less John Cena. More Steph Curry, less Charles Barkley, and really no hole personifies that more than the 472-yard par 4, 18th.

**WHERE PLAYERS AIM TO SHAPE THEIR APPROACH SHOTS INTO A SMALL GREEN.**

ANNC: Very high and just left of it. Oh not much! There’s that bounce forward. It’s right at it! Keep going! What a golf shot!

**THERE HAVE BEEN 16 PLAYOFFS SINCE ARNOLD PALMER WON THE INAUGURAL RBC HERITAGE 55 YEARS AGO.**

ANNC: A victory at Hilton Head.

ANNC: All the way. All the way, dead center. A Perfect putt. Now Snedeker must match it. On they go! Both make birdie!

SLADE: With its wide landing area jutting out into the Calibogue Sound, and the Harbour Town lighthouse standing watch over the green, 18 is one of Pete Dye’s masterpieces and it’s the stage for some of the PGA TOUR ‘s most exciting finishes.

ANNC: Oh my goodness! Matt Kuchar!

Look out, it’s tracking! Unbelievable.

Got to keep moving. What a putt! Oh and Day from the back of the green!

This is for the championship. And he did it!

One of the great shots of the 55-year history of this tournament!

STAN SMITH INTERVIEW

SLADE: We're here with the legendary Stan Smith. So you're known for a lot of things tennis, golf here RBC, but you're also known for a sneaker, talk to us a little bit about the legendary status that you have as a namesake for a sneaker?

SMITH: Well, you know, Adidas created the first leather tennis shoe and that was in 1965. And I actually started wearing the shoe a little bit in the early 70s, but then in 72, they're looking for a great looking guy to put a photograph on the tongue, and I couldn't find one. So they got I got me. So I got on the tongue and since then they created all sorts of different colors, all sorts of different designs of the same profile. It's comfortable. It's pretty simple.

SLADE: Yeah it’s a classic show and they make a golf version of the show now.

SMITH: They do. Yeah. Yeah, we've had a couple of different golf versions out there that are that are that are very comfortable actually to play golfin.

SLADE: What's the difference between the RBC Heritage tournament? What makes this different from every other tournament on TOUR?

SMITH: Well, I think it's one of the only tournaments that’s been held in the same place now for over 54 years. But you look at all these other tournaments around the world really the vary the venues for the tournament, so you don't get quite the same legacy or heritage of the tournament itself. The players love this tournament. The course is actually relatively short for the pro golfers of today but it's still very challenging.

SLADE: And of course, the champion gets one of these beautiful jackets. Is there a way I can get it?

SMITH: Yeah, there is a way.

SLADE: Yeah, I don't have to win?

SMITH: You have to win.

SLADE: Oh, haha.

SMITH: We do have a couple men that have played the pro-am for over 40 years. They've got these jackets and the mayor of Bluffton and the mayor of Hilton Head have a jacket.

SLADE: So either have to be mayor, play in the pro-am for 40 years or win the tournament.

SMITH: It's an easy task.

SLADE: Easy tasks. Light work, light work.

SMITH: Work on your game.

SLADE: Yeah, yeah.

STEPHAN JAEGER PRACTICE ROUND

ANNC: 135 starts later and Steven Jeager has broken through. A winner on the PGA TOUR!

JAEGER: Winning on the best tour in the world, you think you've got to be absolutely perfect all week and can't make mistakes and all that kind of stuff. So to be able to realize hey, you actually can hit some bad shots and still be able to win on Sundays is a huge kind of eye opener for me for sure.

I try to play nine holes each day, get some work in on the range, hit some balls. Try to see the golf course, see how it plays. I've been to pretty much all of these golf courses now.

I use my JLAB headphones, kind of block out the noise outside and make sure your, your head's in the right place and focus on the things you want to do. Kind of my quiet place on the range sometimes when it gets busy. Anything from Kygo radio to country to, it just depends on my mood. If I workout I like to do a little bit more upbeat. If I'm just kind of, you know, taking a walk or, you know, playing a couple holes, it's country. It really just depends on my mood.

The number one thing you got to figure out, first couple of days, is the speed of the greens. They change every week, so these are obviously Bermuda. I play on Bermuda at home all the time, so I don't really have to get used to that very much. The speed of the greens, kind of how much they break and stuff on the golf course is a big one for sure.

Go, go a little!

I played in South Carolina a bunch even on the smaller tours. Golf courses are just good here. You know they just do a good job with it. This is one of the better ones for sure.

I kind of take this week as any other week of trying to do my best and prepare my best and have a chance on Sunday.

CHANDLER PHILLIPS INTERVIEW

SLADE: We've made it over to the short game area, and we're with RBC first timer, Chandler Phillips. So talk to me about Signature Events, AON 5, Valspar…

PHILLIPS: Yeah, had a good week, over in Florida, in Tampa and that was pretty much the tournament that got me in the Swing 5 and, now I'm here.

SLADE: Now make it to a Signature Event obviously a big deal. What would it mean to do well or even win the Signature Event?

PHILLIPS: Yeah, I mean, that's what I'm here to do, is play as good as I can and if I end up coming out on top, hey, it was my week. If not, you know, hopefully I could play well enough in this event and then to the next few to, you know, get into the next one and just keep going from there. I may wake up Monday morning, may have just won the first signature event I've ever played in or I may have gotten 40th, but either way, it's not going to change who I am or anything like that and I'm just going to have a good time.

SLADE: This being your rookie year, do you feel like there's any added pressure to perform or are you just like, I'm just going to do the best I can?

PHILLIPS: No, no. My thing is, once I start putting pressure on myself, it goes downhill instead of where I want to go uphill. The thing is for me, if I play like that and I play solid, I'm going to post a good number. I feel confident in myself with that but once I start kind of forcing things and which forcing comes from me putting pressure on myself, it goes south and I don’t like doing that.

SLADE: Well, good luck this week. I wish you the best man. Good luck.

PHILLIPS: I appreciate it.

FIRST ROUND RECAP

ANNC: Welcome to one of golf’s greatest exhale weeks. After the intensity of the Masters, Hilton Head Island is a much-needed mellow setting.

Morikawa for birdie. Boy, putting aggressively, that ball flew in the hole!

MORIKAWA: For the most part it's just continuation and just trust of what I've been working on kind of over this past week and a half. It's a nice little groove to be in, and hopefully we can keep this going throughout the rest of this week.

ANNC: Ludvig Åberg, going to move to his left if anything. Oh how about it, yes sir!

ÅBERG: I think the more time you spend on a golf course, the easier it gets. You get more comfortable with lines and such. So, hopefully I'll keep learning tomorrow and still play good golf.

ANNC: J.T. Poston at the 4th. Ohhh! And in! Plenty of ways to make a birdie! That’s always got to be a good feeling!

POSTON: I've had some good weeks here in the past. When I saw that it was elevated, it's definitely one of the ones that I had circled on my schedule for the year. It's one of my favorite events. Just excited to be here.

ANNC: Brian Harman with a birdie putt at the ninth. 20 years ago this week, Brian Harman made his PGA TOUR debut right here at Harbour Town Golf Links.

BRIAN HARMAN MINI – 2004 RBC HERITAGE

PRODUCER: This Brian Harman… seventeen years old.

HARMAN: So, I’m 37 so that’ll be more than half my life I’ve spent you know, playing on TOUR so that’s pretty cool.

I was only 17. I was so excited to get that chance. Gosh I was so disappointed; I cracked my driver like the week before and I drove it horrible that week. So, I ended up finishing last or next to last or something. I didn’t beat many people, but it was a great experience. It just solidified that is what I wanted to do.

I always enjoy going back. It’s a great course. You know you get Augusta which is this big, long and it’s very difficult and then you go to the complete opposite with Harbour Town. Shot shaping, you know, limited off the tee. I think it’s very important that we don’t lose that side of the game.

SECOND ROUND RECAP

ANNC: It’s another beautiful spring day. Low 80s, sunshine, very little wind.

Tom Hoge a TCU Horned Frog. Oh well done! Yes sir, great start!

HOGE: Nice to make a nice putt right off the bat right there on one. Kind of got things going. I felt like I putted really well today was kind of the key. Still feel like there's still a little bit of work left to do ball striking wise where I really feel comfortable but I feel great around the greens, so hopefully I keep going.

ANNC: Sepp looking to tie the lead here. Back down the hill. Fall to his left as it loses speed. Hello! Put another one at 11 under par!

STRAKA: The putter was hot last few days. Which I haven’t had the last couple months. So it was nice to roll in a few birdie putts. You always want to be in one of those last groups on the weekend. A lot more spectators out there, and should be a fun weekend.

RAPID RECOVERY

**THE CUT PRESENTS… RAPID RECOVERY.**

ANNC: Just been an uncharacteristic Sungjae Im like day. Normally he’s laser straight. That is going to miss the fairway. Trying to get back closer to it. How about that?

Oh boy this has come out super low.

Well, that’s where he’s trying to put it and he’s put it about four rows in and that works out just about perfect.

Well, pinpoint precision here for Sungjae is needed. He hit the shells, he hit the trees, he hit the grandstands, why not have a collision with the flag!

STANDUP

SLADE: Every PGA TOUR event provides an opportunity for the tournaments and the TOUR to make a difference in the community by giving back. Since 1993, the Heritage Classic Foundation has distributed over 5 million dollars’ worth of scholarships to almost 400 students. This year another 11 high school seniors were selected to receive the Heritage Scholarship.

HERITAGE SCHOLAR

SLADE: Luckily, we were able to grab Susanna, who is one of the scholars for this year.

MOGIL: Receiving this scholarship is a really big honor because it is a reflection of everything that I have been a part of in the Hilton Head Island community.

SLADE: Mentioning being that you're active in the community, what are some of the things that you've been doing outside of school?

MOGIL: I am hugely involved with the NJRTCO program at my high school and I am the operations officer there. I volunteer at the neighborhood outreach center. I do tutoring for the Kindergartners there in Spanish, and then I also am an assistant teacher at the Congregation Beth Yom Religious School.

SLADE: Moving on to college any idea, where are you going to end up going?

MOGIL: My top choice school, the University of Washington, has accepted me into the honors program there.

SLADE: Love that. That sounds like a great school and the honors program. That's amazing.

MOGIL: I was very excited when I found out

SLADE: I would have not made it into the honors. If there was anything you wanted to say to the RBC Heritage Foundation, what would it be?

MOGIL: Being able to meet all of the people in the foundation and connect even further with some of the leaders of our community has given me so much confidence. I walk around very proud that I'm a Heritage Scholar.

SLADE: Well, congratulations on the on the scholarship. I'm very, very proud of you. And a little bit jealous, if maybe.

MOGIL: Thank you!

SAHITH THEEGALA MINI GOLF

THEEGALA: This is scary. I feel like I'm gonna miss everything.

Hey guys Sahith Teegala here. RBC has invited a bunch of local kids out here to Pirate’s Island Adventure Golf. Should be a really fun day.

KID: Can you be my caddie?

THEEGALA: Yeah, I'll be your caddie. I’ll line all you guys up. Let's go!

SLADE: Sahith the caddie.

THEEGALA: Oh! That was close.

It was awesome to, you know, just spend some time outside on a beautiful day and have fun and kind of share a little bit of community.

This could be really good.

SLADE: Oh, that could be good.

What does it mean for you to be with someone like RBC that follows that same, like, moral code and helping out the community?

THEEGALA: For sure. I think, I’m just, I was just really lucky to be in the position that I am. I feel like I have the opportunity to just kinda grow the game a little bit and RBC’s done such a good job of helping out the communities. It’s been really cool to partner with a company that has the same values as me.

Thanks, guys. Thanks for letting me join. That was fun. Yeah, of course. I'll see you guys at the tournament.

ALL: Thank you, RBC!

THIRD ROUND RECAP

ANNC: A warm and sunny day for third round action with some of the biggest names in contention.

ANNC: Theegala for birdie.

THEEGALA: You have a bunch of 10 to 25 footers for birdie all day, so you just gotta stay patient.

ANNC: Sahith. He’s three back.

RODGERS: The greens were firmer and faster so I was happy that I hung in there and put a decent round together.

ANNC: Round of 68 for Patrick. Three behind, still looking for that first win.

RODGERS: For me to have a chance tomorrow, I'm gonna have to play 18 great holes.

ANNC: This guy takes dead aim from 316 yards. Look at the height and the speed on that.

ÅBERG:  We did a great job of just trying to stay patient, try to stay disciplined.

ANNC: It's Åberg, good shot. Yeah, really good.

ÅBERG: We just try to keep doing what we're what we've been doing.

MORIKAWA: This is how I feel like I used to play

ANNC: He’s just gotten around the golf course without spending a whole lot of that extra energy.

MORIKAWA: Two back right now. The past two weeks I've given myself chances. It's time to close one out.

ANNC: That’s a great birdie for Straka.

STRAKA: Just hung in there, grinded it out and really start hitting the ball nicely on the back nine.

ANNC: Fifteen feet away. This for a round of 67. It’s turning. In the final pairing tomorrow!

STRAKA: Any time you can bank a birdie, going into the final round, it's nice. I look forward to battling it out.

ANNC: World number one. Five under through his first nine.

SCHEFFLER: My ball striking was really good today. I hit a lot of greens. I played the par fives well.

ANNC: He's first in par five scoring, first in par four scoring. He’s on fire.

SCHEFFLER: Tomorrow’s gonna be challenging. We’ll have to do our best to stay patient and try and execute.

ANNC: A 63. Alone at the top.

STANDUP

SLADE: As a limited field battles it out here on Hilton Head Island, another island welcomed the rest of the PGA TOUR’s stars. The Dominican Republic showed up and showed out at the Corales Puntacana Championship. In its 7th year as a PGA TOUR event the tournament provides players with an opportunity to stack some FedExCup points and to vie for one of the coveted spot at the next signature event at Quail Hollow.

BILLY HORSCHEL WINS CORALES PUNTACANA CHAMPIONSHIP

ANNC: Billy Horschel rewriting the record books in the Dominican Republic. 63 for Horschel. Ties the course record at the Corales Puntacana Championship and a new tournament scoring record at 23-under par.

HORSCHEL: Thinking back to where I was almost a year ago and to where I am now, I've seen the signs. I've finally gotten some results over the past month.

One of the reasons I came down here was because I didn't want another week off. Unfortunately, I missed cut at Valero, which didn't allow me to earn my way into RBC. I felt like a win was coming and I didn't want to sit at home and watch someone else possibly win a tournament that I could have been at and done something about.

ANNC: From off the green for Eagle. Horschel cans it!

HORSCHEL: I was happy that I came down here, I played really well and I came out with a victory and it's been a great week.

ANNC: What a special moment to share with your family now. His eighth career victory on the PGA TOUR.

HORSCHEL: The kids and the wife were unbelievable. I knew they were watching on TV, they're over the moon and excited for me.

ANNC: After having his kind of crisis of confidence last summer at the Memorial, and now enjoying the highs in the winner's circle.

HORSCHEL: If a win didn't happen today, was that going to be the end of the world? No, everything's moving in the right direction and a win doesn't mean I’m back to where I want to be in this game of golf, but once again, it's moving in the right direction.

FINAL ROUND RECAP

ANNC: Look who is the headliner again in golf, Scottie Scheffler. Three wins in his last four starts. Back again in a final pairing on a Sunday and in pursuit of his 10th career win.

And the rain is really coming down now guys. Hurricane Scottie has arrived. It’s wiping out everything in its path.

SCHEFFLER: It was a pretty smooth week there for a while. You know we had the weather yesterday which was a bit challenging,

ANNC: We know this, they’ll have to come out tomorrow morning with 3 holes to play. Into the night, with an amazing par! Wow!

SCHEFFLER: And then the conditions changed pretty drastically this morning, but it was nice to get out there and make a couple pars and finish off the tournament the right way.

ANNC: You just thinking, how on Earth people are going to find a way to beat Scottie. You know, you look at stats this week, first off the tee, first in approach, first in scrambling, he’s got the best mental game, it’s pure to watch.

SCHEFFLER: It was part of our plan this week to come here and play and I didn't really put much thought into it. It was just I had committed to playing the tournament but that's really all it was.

I didn't show up here just to have some sort of ceremony and have everybody tell me congratulations. I came here with a purpose.

ANNC: It’s over. Pure domination! The run continues!

SCHEFFLER: I do have fairly high expectations for myself, and you know, when I show up at tournaments, I try to do my best and I've talked a lot about what it takes for me to show up on a first tee ready to go, and I feel like I've been putting in the work and been playing some good golf, and it's definitely nice to be seeing some results for that with wins.

**FOR THE SIXTH STRAIGHT WEEK, SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER REMAINS IN CONTROL OF THE TOP SPOT IN THE COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10.**

SCHEFFLER: I love this game. I love going out and practicing by myself. The game of golf has been a huge part of my life now for a long time, and Lord-willing it'll be part of my life for a long time going forward, as well.

FEDEXCUP STANDINGS

**SCHEFFLER’S LEAD IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS CONTINUES TO GROW, MARKING THE MOST SIGNIFICANT GAP OVER SECOND PLACE WITH 16 WEEKS REMAINING UNTIL THE PLAYOFFS, ALL-TIME**

CLOSING STANDUP

SLADE: Another great week on tour and another champion crowned here in the Palmetto State. We have three signature events left this season with the Wells Fargo happening in May and I’ll see you there… but next week the TOUR’s going to changes gears a little bit as players pair up for a team showdown at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans. Did anyone else just get a hankering for some jambalaya? I know i did. I’ll see you there.