**24CUTOPEN INTERNATIONAL MASTER SCRIPT**

**Cold Open**

FAN: Golf in Scotland is different to golf in other parts of the world.

FAN: You have bunkers that deep, that high.

FAN: Everybody loves it. No matter where you go, it's golf, golf, golf. It's just brilliant.

SAM HARROP: I'm Sam Harrop, and I'm a golf fan. I've been known to write songs about golfers all over the world, but I want to find out which nation has the best golf fans. And where better to start than the country it is often said to have the most knowledgeable fans in the game, Scotland.

IONA STEPHEN: There's a different acoustic quality to a clap in Scotland.

MARTIN DEMPSTER: I think some people think that we actually come out the womb on the first tee, but that's not actually the case.

SAM HARROP: I'm hearing the Scottish fans are the best in the game. Do you have any views on that?

FAN: No comment.

SAM HARROP: Welcome to golf country.

**The CUT titles**

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

**Sam Harrop Scotland feature**

SAM HARROP: I was born in Dumfries, so this golf-loving nation has a special place in my heart. I've come to the town of Gullane to start my quest to find the best golf fans. And I'm starting here at The Bonnie Badger.

SAM HARROP: Given the location, you must get golf fans from all over the world.

TOM KITCHIN: Yeah of course. We're right in the heart of Scottish golf. You know, the golf course they call it. People want to come to Scotland to experience these incredible golf courses. My job is the hospitality, and yeah I mean certainly the Americans and the Europeans, they're kind of looking for that Scottish dream, aren't they? That's where we are, we're kind of selling that kind of Scottish dream here. It's in our DNA, everyone watches, plays, all the kids are into golf. It's a huge, huge part of what we do here in Scotland.

SAM HARROP: Historically, golf's beginnings originated in Scotland in the 15th century. But what makes a true Scottish golf fan?

SAM HARROP: Very cool place you've got here. A lot of history, a lot of cool artifacts of golf. Can you tell me a bit about how long you've been here and how it started?

BORIS LIETZOW: I've been here for seven years. I've been an enthusiast for longer, playing golf for 40 years or more. I decided to move to Scotland and bring my collection with me and open the shop.

SAM HARROP: Talking about Scottish fans, there's this old adage that I'm sure you've heard: that they're the most knowledgeable in the game. Where do you think that comes from, and is it true?

BORIS LIETZOW: We're in the cradle of golf, and it's part of an upbringing. Golf is a natural thing, and I would say for that reason, as soon as they can swing a club they will have an opinion on golf.

SAM HARROP: What qualities would you say makes Scottish fans unique?

BORIS LIETZOW: Well, as they're brought up with golf, I think you might've recognized Scottish people are extremely polite, and I think the etiquette of the game is something that shapes their character. You always have very fair Scottish fans, you have very knowledgeable Scottish fans.

SAM HARROP: Are Scottish fans the best in the game?

BORIS LIETZOW: 100%, 100%.

SAM HARROP: The Genesis Scottish Open saw six of the world's top 10 descend on the Renaissance Club. I wanted to speak to some of the best in the world to find out what they think about Scottish fans.

BYEONG HUN AN: They know golf right? They're really friendly. It's more like a festive atmosphere in the States I feel like, but over here it feels like hit the green, they kind of appreciate it, they clap, they clap for every putt here and there. They love golf. I love playing in front of the Scottish crowds.

ROBERT MACINTYRE: There's a lot of golfers in Scotland. I just think it's more, people are going to the golf for to watch the golf and not to have the party and whatnot. It's just a different atmosphere.

SAM HARROP: Xander, hi. Can you talk about what makes playing in front of European fans special compared to American fans?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Just a deeper appreciation. There's a lot of golf that's being watched very closely. It feels like, you know, in the U.S., a few times we get a lot of rain and wind, the course is pretty empty. So it could be blowing 25 and ripping rain here and people will be right by your side in shorts and t-shirt and loving every second of it; maybe a bucket hat that's waterproof. That's that sort of appreciation they have for golf, and it's awesome to have fans wear the weather with you.

SAM HARROP: Martin Dempster is a journalist who's been covering golf for over 30 years, so who better to give me the lowdown on what makes Scottish golf fans unique?

MARTIN DEMPSTER: Well the game was born here, so we've got a little bit sort of history there when you look at it that way. But yeah, a lot of Scottish people, it's engrained in them, it's in the family. And some people actually think that we come out the womb under the first tee but that's not actually the case. But yeah, we're all introduced to golf at an early age, and people are very knowledgeable about the game.

FAN: It's amazing to see the golfers. I mean, to see Rory McIlroy and Bob MacIntyre.

FAN: You know, got to see a lot of players up close, look at their swings.

FAN: To see how far they hit the ball, how they control the ball, how they play the game, just so different from anyone else.

FAN: Yes, it's just amazing how good they hit it and how far they hit it.

SAM HARROP: Do you thin there's truth in the old adage that Scottish fans are the most knowledgeable in the game?

SEAN ZAK: Yeah, I think there's a lot of truth to that. Here in Gullane, there's all kinds of golf courses that are literally stops on a train line. It kind of makes everyone in the community involved in the golf course in some way. Like, it's such a community-oriented sport when you come to this side of the world. And yeah, I feel like Scotland, it's just in their blood.

SAM HARROP: Now what I'm hearing is that the Scottish fans are the best in the game. Is this true?

FAN: We'll find out. No, they're good. Respectful. No doubt shouts.

SAM HARROP: Ok, respectful. Where do you think that comes from?

FAN: I don't know, I think they just appreciate the golf. You've obviously got your respect if you grew up with the game, so I think so.

SAM HARROP: I'm hearing the Scottish fans are the best in the game. Do you have any views on that?

FAN: No comment.

SAM HARROP: What can you tell me about Scottish fans?

PAUL BUSH OBE: Well we're very lucky in that we're known as the home of golf around the world, so that's one of the most unique things originally. But we have some very knowledgeable people here, just short of 600 golf courses. Most families have someone who plays golf week in week out, and we're incredibly blessed that we have some of the greatest tournaments in the world like the Genesis Scottish Open, The Open on a regular basis. And because of that, they're very passionate, very knowledgeable, and I think they interact with the players really well.

SAM HARROP: I'm here on a mission to find out who are the best fans in the game. What would you say?

FAN: The Scots fans I guess.

SAM HARROP: And why do you think that is?

FAN: I guess we're so respectful, and so knowledgeable.

SAM HARROP: Respectful and knowledgeable, ok.

SAM HARROP: What makes Scottish fans unique?

FAN: Gosh, that's a really good question. I think they're passionate, really passionate, and they turn out to support everybody.

SAM HARROP: I know obviously you travel all over the world covering golf. What's it like being back here?

IONA STEPHEN: Oh it's absolutely amazing. It's always good to come home, there's no better feeling in the world. You know, we call Scotland the home of golf, and of course it's my home personally, but I think all golf fans around the world feel like this is their home in part as well because it's the home of golf for everybody.

SAM HARROP: What can you tell me about Scottish fans?

IONA STEPHEN: Is there anyone that rivals Scottish fans? I think probably not. We are obviously very enthusiastic about the game of golf. We are born with a golf club in our hand more or less.

SAM HARROP: What do you think makes Scottish fans unique though?

IONA STEPHEN: There's a different sort of acoustic quality to a clap in Scotland. If you listen carefully this week to the claps, and it might be the salt in the air, and we very often come to links parts of the world where maybe the salt interacts with the clap and you get this very unique sound, so there's that. And I think we have a deep respect for the game of golf, and that comes out in the way that we support the players and act as fans I suppose.

SAM HARROP: Are Scottish fans the best in the game?

IONA STEPHEN: I think, Sam, it's a resounding yes.

SAM HARROP: So what have I learned from my visit? Scottish fans are passionate, they're immersed in the game from a young age, and they're going to line the fairways come rain or shine, and they truly know what makes a great golf shot. Maybe the Scottish diet has got something to do with it, or maybe the salt in the air. But are they the best fans in the game? They got to be up there. But my quest needs to continue.

**The Open winner**

**VO: XANDER SCHAUFFELE ENTERED 2024 WITHOUT A MAJOR TITLE, BUT AFTER WINNING THE PGA CHAMPIONSHIP, HE LOOKED TO ADD ANOTHER AT ROYAL TROON.**

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: If you look at the greats that have played this game and walked the earth and played golf and made what golf is today, you want to win those events more than more than most.

**VO: AMONG A CROWDED LEADERBOARD HEADING INTO SUNDAY, SCHAUFFELE SHOT A BOGEY-FREE 65 TO PULL AWAY FROM THE PACK.**

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I just kept telling myself just stay in my lane. I was really it was unfolding in front of my eyes. So I just was rinse and repeat and that in my head, like, just stay in your lane.

ANNC: Just about as stress-free a championship major Sunday that you will ever see. Xander Schauffele, 65. His second major championship.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: It's a dream come true. It really is. It's something I've wanted since I was a little kid. You need a lot of things to go your way, and you need to beat a lot of really good players.

**VO: SCHAUFFELE REMAINS AT SECOND IN THE COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10 AFTER HIS SECOND MAJOR WIN OF THE YEAR AT THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP.**

**FedExCup Standings**

**VO: SCHAUFFELE ALSO SITS AT SECOND IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS AFTER THE WIN IN SCOTLAND. IN THE STATES, ANOTHER GROUP OF PLAYERS BATTLED FOR A PGA TOUR TITLE IN CALIFORNIA.**

**Patrick Rodgers Walk-and-talk**

NATS: I've got to fire my tee shot over the trophy here? Ok. I think it should be pretty good. It's not on the green, but a good little chipping angle.

PATRICK RODGERS: I think it's going to be an exciting finish. Stableford is a unique format on the TOUR, and a lot can happen. Over the years here, there's been a lot of volatility on the back nine, but I think this is set up for even more.

PATRICK RODGERS: Even without Stableford format, I'm a pretty aggressive driver off the tee, so if there's usually any opportunity to go fro something I usually do. I really trust my driver, especially here in this format. I may not be going exactly at the flag, but I'm trying to give myself the best chance to chip something in or putt something in for a two. So obviously try to give myself a chance for an easy birdie. But yeah, the way the eagles are rewarded, you really have to be aggressive.

PATRICK RODGERS: I learn a lot from playing Stableford that I feel like I can take for the rest of the year and especially into the end of the season here towards the playoffs. It's interesting, when I'm here at this event, trying to make more birdies, trying to make some eagles, playing aggressively, I find myself actually making less mistakes. I feel like my focal point is on the shots that I want to hit, as opposed to the shots that I'm trying to avoid. And that mindset really helps me carry through some pretty good golf.

PATRICK RODGERS: I feel like I always try to carry this mindset forward into the rest of the season and it usually serves me well.

NATS: There we go. Points on the board. Try to make four more of those this week.

**Barracuda winner**

ANNC: Dunlap for eagle. Oh my! Way downtown! Dunlap the five-pointer for eagle, he has the lead at 47! He’s got the hot round going. 17 points through 15 holes, low round of anyone.

NICK DUNLAP: Obviously with the Stableford, it's nice, you never really feel like you're out of it. You know, you make an eagle or two and you're right there. I hadn't made an eagle yet this week, so that was kind of the goal and just play aggressive, not reckless.

ANNC: Dunlap to birdie. This will give him a five-point lead. Add two more.

NICK DUNLAP: It's the greatest feeling in the world. For me, that's what I live for, that's what I practice for.

ANNC: Nick Dunlap, the 20-year-old, rewriting the PGA TOUR record books in winning the Barracuda Championship, becomes the first-ever player to win as both an amateur and a pro in the same season on TOUR.

NICK DUNLAP: I never thought that I would have my name next to that, but it's definitely an honor. It's been a little tough after AmEx. You know, you kind of lose a little bit of confidence and wonder if you can do it again.

NICK DUNLAP: I told myself after AmEx I wanted to enjoy the moment a little bit more. I feel like going through it, kind of my mind was spinning, my world was spinning a little bit, and everything went extremely quick. So I promised myself if it did happen or when it happened again that I would try to enjoy it a lot more, so, yeah, I'm going to look at it all night.

**Rejoin**

No VO

**Lee Hodges feature**

ANNC: Hodges putting the peddle on the gas early in this final round!

ANNC: Lee Hodges is in cruise control right now. A seven shot advantage looking for his first career PGA TOUR win.

LEE HODGES: I don't know if I saw seven shots. I don't know if anybody ever sees that other than maybe Tiger Woods. I just knew that what I was doing was right and I didn't, you know, lose faith in what I was doing. I just kept doing it.

ANNC: Lee Hodges has never been in a position like this, with a lead like this.

ANNC: What a time to make it. That is a statement by Lee Hodges.

ANNC: To be a leader for the first time, to try and win for the first time, it is so challenging to try and stay in the moment.

LEE HODGES: I really just think I learned that like I can play with the best players in the world.

ANNC: Big putt for Hodges!

ANNC: That one went in with some authority.

LEE HODGES: I had, like, literally four inches for par, and it was the longest four inch putt I've ever had in my life. I mean, I lined it up, cause I was shaking so bad. But I got it in the hole and that's all that matters at the end of the day.

ANNC: Lee Hodges wins for the first time on the PGA TOUR! The first wire to wire winner, in 3M Open history.

LEE HODGES: I think it's a little validation that what I've been doing and all the hard work and the team that I've put together that we're all doing the right things. And that we're just doing the things that it takes to win and be at the highest level. And I think that's where we deserve to be and where we want to be.

LEE HODGES: It's a privilege honestly just to be able to play with the best players in the world. That's what you want, that's what you dream of ever since you were a kid is just playing against the best.

ANNC: Second season, get a win under your belt this soon absolutely changes how you set your schedule and everything that comes with that.

LEE HODGES: You see it every week. Somebody's life is going to change. Unbelievable things happen every week out here.

**TV Times**

**VO: LEE HODGES RETURNS TO DEFEND HIS TITLE AT THE 3M OPEN THIS WEEK IN MINNESOTA, WHERE LAST YEAR NICK HARDY PULLED OFF ONE OF THE SHOTS OF THE YEAR.**

**Servpro - Skratch**

JOSH KELLEY: I'm about to hit one of the most dangerous recovery shots ever hit on the PGA TOUR.

JOSH KELLEY: This shot was hit in 2023 by Nick Hardy. He had 176 yards to the hole, but he had a tree a foot and a half in front of him. So he took a 9 iron, hit the tree, but hit it to 11 feet and made the birdie. That was absolutely crazy. There's a lot of things that make this shot difficult, but one of the hardest things about hitting this shot is committing to the shot. Ok, so you have to take a full swing at this golf ball, but you know right after you hit it that your club is going to slam into this tree. If disaster strikes, I have four mulligans to try to pull this off. Alright, let's see if I can do it.

JOSH KELLEY: Never been more nervous about hitting a shot in my life. Anyone see where it went? Look at my club. Not a club repair guy, but we're going to have to act as one today. Let's give this another try here. That one was terrible.

JOSH KELLEY: Oh it's left. That's about pin high though. I'd be happy with that in tournament play, but we gotta get one better than that.

JOSH KELLEY: Oh right at it. Be the right club, sit. Oh it went long!

JOSH KELLEY: Alright we're down to our last shot. We moved down to the 9 iron, it's all or nothing. Oh my goodness, it is right at it. Please be right. Oh-ho-ho we did it. This is not exactly where Nick Hardy hit his, I may be a little bit further away than he was, and the fact that he made birdie was insane, so that was a lot of fun. That was a lot of fun, the wrists are ok, so we're good to go.

**AWS Dahmen feature**

JOEL DAHMEN: Wear a bucket hat to keep the sun off me. We're out in the sun a lot, and sunscreen can only do so much for you. So I started wearing the bucket hat.

JOEL DAHMEN: I hit a hybrid out of the bunker on the 18th hole on PGA TOUR Canada in 2014 to set up a birdie opportunity and win the golf tournament.

JOEL DAHMEN: I would say my two-foot putt to win in the Dominican Republic. That two-footer seemed very long at the time.

JOEL DAHMEN: I use a lot of golf data, but mostly how far the ball's going. That helps my caddie and I dial in our numbers when we are out there.

JOEL DAHMEN: Twitter, which I'm a little embarrassed by, but probably Twitter.

JOEL DAHMEN: Ken Griffey Jr. That's my baseball idol growing up.

JOEL DAHMEN: If I wasn't playing golf, I'd like to be a...host a radio show on sports in Seattle. I think just spitballing for a couple of hours about all things Seattle sports would be really fun.

JOEL DAHMEN: I think that they maybe portrayed me as not caring as much as I actually do, maybe a little aloof at times. But I do care. I try hard and I want to win.

**Ben An feature**

ANNC: Now Ben An or Byeong-hun An, as they say in South Korea. He's been playing really good golf.

BEN AN: What gives me the edge is it's my talent because when I was young, I was never the hardest working golfer.

ANNC: He's extremely long talking about long hitters. These long hitters, they can send those long irons so high up there in the sky and land it softly.

BEN AN: There's so many guys who worked harder than me. But I think I have that talent. I won the U.S. Amateur in 2009, but I was never the best amateur player back then.

ANNC: Ben An, history making performance at the U.S. Amateur at Southern Hills becoming the youngest ever winner at age 17.

BEN AN: Being the youngest winner in the U.S. Amateur, I definitely had talent that some people didn't have. I went to college for a year and I was never the best college player. And then I went to Challenge Tour for three years. You know, I grinded my way, got my card on the European Tour. I was able to keep my card for the first 4 or 5 years.

ANNC: Ben An won that BMW Championship over on the DP World Tour and you thought wow off and running. This guy is going to be a world beater and golf has a funny way sometimes of bringing people down. And he had to spend the year on the Korn Ferry Tour.

BEN AN: Everything was going kind of smoothly until I lost my card. I tried to change a few things in my golf swing. Of course, the technique got better because I worked pretty hard on it.

BEN AN: Definitely the technical but also the mental side of it. And try to work a little bit harder. Try to take care of myself a little bit better. It's just the way you think, the way you play golf, the way you practice. More mature, I guess.

ANNC: The now 32-year-old Ben An. He's been out here a long, long time on the PGA TOUR.

BEN AN: I do work a little harder now as I get older, it's a little harder to keep the talent up.

ANNC: Ben An, just off the green trying to get this up and in for birdie, or one better. Curt where were you, eagle for An.

BEN AN: Everything's been paying off. Just working hard. And then the potential I have. Last year I played some decent golf, and I've been playing good golf this year.

ANNC: Still winless, putting himself in position with yet another 64.

BEN AN: There's a fine line between expecting something to happen or your goals. Of course, everybody gets disappointed and hit a bad shot, but it's all because of expectation.

BEN AN: It doesn't owe me anything. It doesn't have to show me any, any scoring. So I just get out there and try to play good golf. If I do, then that's my golf, and if I don't then this my golf as well you know. So I don't really expect anything.

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