**SEGMENT 1**

NATS: Risky business haha

JIM NANTZ SOT: These are our stars in the making. The confidence is rising, and I'm excited watching it.

ANNC: PGA TOUR cards on the line dreams are on the line for so many of these players.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER SOT: It's kind of The Proving Grounds. You need to have avenues for players to come up and get access to the PGA TOUR and the Korn Ferry tour is the best place for that to happen.

KEVIN PRISE SOT: It's make or break one shot away from changing your life. For professional golfers Korn Ferry Tour, it's the gateway to your dream.

JIM NANTZ SOT: Korn Ferry Tour, it’s never been more important than it is right now.

EMILIA MIGLIACCIO SOT: midway into the season, it's crucial that these players are playing their best golf but if you haven't played well early in the season, you're putting pressure on yourself.

JAMES NITTIES SOT: If they're not comfortable by now, they're going to start getting lapped on the points list. You can easily find yourself looking in from the outside. These players are starting to think of the finals keeping their card next year and some of the guys are starting to think about going to the PGA Tour.

EMILIA MIGLIACCIO SOT: There's urgency to start out hot, there’s really this interesting balance of allowing your game to shine and wanting it too much.

JAMES NITTIES SOT: Sam's a good hearted, positive guy, he knows in the back of his mind that he's a great player. He won in PGA Tour Canada last year, got his Korn Ferry tour card through the points list and now he's finding himself with adversity and he's not used to.

SAM CHOI SOT: I was kind of lonely with no schedule but then getting to BMW I was pretty pumped. I was super excited. I feel like my game was up there to compete.

EMILIA MIGLIACCIO SOT: There's so many tough aspects of being in that spot where you don't have full status. You might be getting into events, you might not.

SAM CHOI SOT: I'm always that bubble guy so having a good week that is going to help me pretty big time.

EMILIA MIGLIACCIO SOT: he's one swing away from just finding that form and going on a run and we've seen it with so many of these players. It takes one good week to get on a momentum.

SAM CHOI SOT: one shot at a time. my dad on the bag, you know we're going to have a lot of fun.

ANNC: Sam Choi here on the eighth for a birdie

SAM CHOI SOT: it was pretty good the first nine holes and then I missed some putts coming in, but I'll take my one under today.

EMILIA MIGLIACCIO SOT: there's that pressure you need to come out firing being so close to playing well, but you're missing cuts you're not getting the opportunity to try and prove yourself.

SAM CHOI SOT: I started really bad. I was four over through six holes but then I made three birdies coming in and showed some confidence going to future tournaments.

JAMES NITTIES SOT: I wouldn't say his game is struggling. It's just the way he's thinking about being positive and the confidence he has with competing right now at one of the highest levels.

EMILIA MIGLIACCIO SOT: You just need everything working at the right time and maybe a couple of bounces going your way there's so much you can control in golf, but there's so much that is just completely out of your control.

JAMES NITTIES SOT: with the amount of missed cuts he's had, he's going to have to start thinking about I possibly won't get any more starts. he's battling with these decisions on whether to play back on a PGA Tour of Americas or doing Monday qualifiers. he's in a different mindset where not even eight months ago he feels like he's one of the best golfers in his class to now being like, well, am I good enough?

SAM CHOI SOT: I'm probably on the line. So just wait and play some good golf that's what it is. if I get into the PGA Tour America up in Canada for sure I’ll play in it.

JAMES NITTIES SOT: He has a great attitude in life. He has a great attitude on the golf course, he'll bounce back.

NATS: Good shot. Nice dude, I smashed it. Who is Kevin Roy?

KEVIN ROY SOT: Kevin Roy is just this young man from upstate New York that you know has a dream to play on the PGA Tour and stay out there.

ANNC: Kevin Roy trying to scrap and fight

KEVIN ROY SORT: I turned pro at the end of 2012. I didn't get any kind of status on a PGA sanctioned tour until 2016. Had an absolutely awful year down in Latin America.

ANNC: see if he can make this for par, oh my goodness

KEVIN ROY SOT: I lost a bunch of confidence. I was very lonely being in these foreign countries. It was tough playing terrible and not being able to shoot home after a missed cut, it crushed me mentally.

KEVIN ROY SOT: I actually ended up giving up golf an entire year, helped my brother a little bit in medical sales. I gotta go make some money you know, 24 at the time. I kind of felt like a loser, to be honest with you. At first it felt great seeing some consistent money coming in but I played a couple of rounds with friends and family towards the end of that year, It kind of gave me that fire to pursue this dream again and went into Q school and ended up getting some Korn Ferry status.

ANNC: It looked like he wasn’t going to get his PGA Tour card, but he is now tour bound

NATS: let’s go

KEVIN ROY SOT: it was a dream come true. The waiting game was very tough, my stomach was a pretzel. it was just waterworks, I mean tears started flowing out of everyone.

ANNIE SABO SOT: It's been very tough Kevin's considered other jobs. We both wanted to quit, but I just really felt like he would regret it when we're 70 years old. I'm just so proud of him.

ANNC: Kevin Roy has got to start making birdies

JAMES NITTIES SOT: Rookie on the PGA Tour last year wasn't the season he wanted. I think losing his PGA tour card has helped him play his best golf of his career , it's a negative that's been turned into a positive. I think he's got that chip on his shoulder.

KEVIN ROY SOT: I think I proved to myself that I can compete out there. I missed seven or eight cuts by one. So, it wasn't like I was playing terrible golf, just needed to kind of clean up some things but the motivation, it's never been higher.

EMILIA MIGLIACCIO SOT: It really does show his resiliency because he continues to believe, I can do this, and I will make it out here, I will make a career out of it.

KEVIN ROY SOT: I'm a far different player, to be honest with you. Brian Kane mental coach opened up my mind to a lot of different things, put not good golf into perspective a little bit more. I think having my daughter really helped with that as well. This is Mia. Mia Roy. She’s almost ten months old. As you can tell, she's, very happy right now. Her first interview. Yeah. her first TV debut. If I have a bad round of golf, I'll facetime her and she's smiling saying Dada this and that she doesn't care if I shoot 76 or 66 right now so it's the best thing that's ever happened to me and my wife and it's just it just makes life away from the golf course so much more fun.

**SEGMENT 2**

JAMES NITTIES SOT: Tim Widing the aggressive Swede.

EMILIA MIGLIACCIO SOT: If you win it jumps you up so significantly. It's incredible what he's done.

NATS: your 2024 LECOM SUNCOAST Classic Champion. We have our first back-to-back Champion since 2021. Our champion of the Veritex Bank Championship for 2024 is Tim Widing.

TIM WIDING SOT: There’s so many aspects of the game. It's very hard to just have everything click at the same time, but when it does, it's the best game in the world. there's always something you can get better at and there's always that grind. And that makes it a little more motivating.

NATS: What’s this? Dear Tim, congratulations on securing your PGA TOUR card for the 2025 season. wow congratulations again and look forward to seeing you sincerely Jay Monahan. Pretty cool man. I mean I’ve known I’ve been tour bound for a while now but just to see it and my name there gives me chills right now.

EMILIA MIGLIACCIO SOT: players want their first year on Korn Ferry tour just to kind of run away with it and go up to the PGA Tour. It doesn't always happen, but for Tim, he just really seems to be able to translate his swing from practice to play and play under those pressure situations really well.

TIM WIDING SOT: There's a lot of outside noise. I mean, everyone likes to remind me that I'm only one win away from going straight to the PGA Tour and trying to finish first on a point list but for me, I just try to go out and play golf the way I have been this year.

EMILIA MIGLIACCIO SOT: for a certain personality, if you get a lot of success early on, you can maybe get a little hotheaded and think that oh this is just going right to the PGA TOUR, but Tim is so process oriented. He's so even keel.

JAMES NITTIES SOT: He wants that number one spot, he’s said it. He knows what it comes with. You get a full PGA Tour card, you get to the Players Championship, and you get back to the US Open where he just played and competed through two rounds. He was right there with the leaders.

TIM WIDING SOT: The first major was kind of a learning experience for me but heading into the U.S. Open. I was just trying to play my game and just not worry too much about anything going on the outside. Obviously, all the work I put in over the last few years not just on the golf course, but all the work off the golf course to finally see some good results this year is obviously huge and makes you want to keep fighting even harder. it's been a great year so far.

EMILIA MIGLIACCIO SOT: And while Tim Widing has gotten his Tour card, he’s tourbound. Kevin Roy, 35 trying to get back onto the PGA Tour after a couple of bounce back years.

JAMES NITTIES SOT: I think this is the best his game has been.

ANNC: Kevin Roy is playing some really good golf right now

KEVIN ROY SOT: I've always been a really good ball striker. driver's my favorite club in the bag. I've seen a lot of improvement over the last couple of years of putting and chipping in wedges.

JAMES NITTIES SOT: top to bottom through his bag statistically probably one of the most consistent players on the korn ferry tour. When he has that belief, you'll see him right there in the final group right there on the last day.

KEVIN ROY SOIT: I feel really confident with my game. I put in a lot of hard work. It's nice to see it’s paid off. the consistency, making a lot of cuts and playing well on the weekends is nice too so it's a great start to the season and but we got a long way to go.

EMILIA MIGLIACCIO SOT: For him to be playing so well this season, Max Homa is a great example of his back and forth before he finally broke through on the PGA Tour. Kevin Roy is an awesome story to tell and I'm really excited to see how the rest of his season goes.

KEVIN ROY SOT: the advantage is that I've seen all the golf courses. the disadvantages, these guys they hit it really far and not to say I'm short by any means, but there's a couple of guys out here that absolutely bomb it and it's pretty impressive to see. it's crazy these college kids you know they're going straight to the tour or even out here I mean they're more than ready to play and compete, which is great you know I love it. I love the competition.

**SEGMENT 3**

JAMES NITTIES SOT: He's a quiet, unassuming, almost like a under the radar type of guy but he has that inner confidence. He's battled for the last couple of seasons just to get an opportunity to play on the Korn Ferry tour

JAMES NITTIES SOT: he is now settling into the midseason, the consistent starts and finishes over the last five to six weeks, I think you're going to see him just gradually improve over and over.

COOPER DOSSEY SOT: We've had a lot of fun and the golf just been good. I'm just excited that my golf game is feeling a lot better.

JAMES NITTIES SOT: I think he just needs to trust in his game and believe that, hey, maybe I'm better than half these guys out here because I'm starting to find myself on the leaderboard over and over.

COOPER DOSSEY SOT: Feel great. I hit a lot of really good, committed putts. I was just focused on keeping my head down and making a good stroke and finally got some putts to fall.

ANNC: See if Cooper can roll this in and sneak inside the number

EMILIA MIGLIACCIO SOT: he has the work ethic. He knows what he needs to do in his game. It's just a matter of taking it to the course, applying it under pressure. You build that self-belief and that confidence to be able to continue to do that.

COOPER DOSSEY SOT: I'm in a good place, my game hasn’t been too sharp all year, but I'm staying patient. I've got 13 weeks to do something. I'm just kind of trying to take it day by day. It's super close.

EMILIA MIGLIACCIO SOT: when Cooper is going through ups and downs, he understands that that's just part of the journey because that's life. So that's what gives him that advantage in those low moments. He understands that eventually there will be a light at the end of the tunnel.

COOPER DOSSEY SOT: Golf is super draining, the moment that it becomes my job, it's not as fun. I'm pretty hard on myself, but not letting the doubt creep in. I've done a good job of being okay with being uncomfortable and keep my head down and making a good stroke and being okay with what happens.

JAMES NITTIES SOT: that's how he takes a step to the next level. Just trust that he's good enough, one of the best and not kind of that timorous outlook that he's had, as we probably saw in the start of the season when he was finding his feet.

COOPER DOSSEY SOT: I think it's nice to know that I haven’t had my best stuff this year and I'm still in a good position. I try not to look at points too often but it is nice to know that I'm in a decent spot with bad play. it's just a good reminder that I can do it. I'm capable of doing it even when I don't have my best stuff.

EMILIA MIGLIACCIO SOT: Cooper Dossey has really figured out something in his game. meanwhile, Fred Biondi just hasn't quite found that it hasn't clicked for him yet and as a result he's really struggled in his past few events.

ANNC: Fred Biondi. These players that get their starts, it’s so important to get some type of momentum. Every point, every dollar helps them.

FRED BIONDI SOT: This year, I think it's very important for me for the foundation of my game and my career. I want to get better, I know I can win out here.

JAMES NITTIES SOT: He's played on the biggest stage, made cuts. He won the NCAA individual title last year, got to the Korn Ferry tour, and then slowly kind of got phased out on the points list, kind of got a shock entering professional golf, considering he was one of the best amateurs in the world.

ANNC: Biondi came up came up three shots short in PGA Q school this past fall. Ended up tied for 10th that week.

FRED BIONDI SOT: A lot of ups and downs, a lot of success, but also a lot of failures too. I came out here fresh after the NCAA win and got beaten pretty good by the field.

EMILIA MIGLAACCIO SOT: that can be really challenging when the golf doesn’t work out right away, instead of taking the bad results personally take them as a learning opportunity.

FRED BIONDI SOT: before in college golf it was something nice that I was able to do. I had school, I had my friends. When it’s your job grinding it out every day and just getting really mentally tried too because of the struggles. It carries an extra pressure for sure. But I've enjoyed it. I enjoy every second of it.

NATS: Dude, it doesn’t look too bad. We are crushing it. Alright, looks 1000 times better than yesterday. We’re doing it right today. Yesterday I had rice on the spoon, I turned the spoon upside down and the rice did not move. So looks better. Chef Biondi. A little salt bae.

FRED BIONDI SOT: It's pretty tough like miss a ton of cuts. Haven't had the greatest last couple of events here on the korn ferry tour, it's frustrating. It takes a toll on you, like sitting in the hotel over the weekend, just watching your friends and other players play well on the weekend. You know what you’re capable of how hard I want to be there and how much I'm working for it and not seeing the result sucks. But it's part of it.

JAMES NITTIES SOT: It is easy to get caught up in the whirlwind of talent on the Korn Ferry tour. You're not in college anymore. It’s a lonely place if you’re not playing well.

FRED BIONDI SOT: I think the biggest thing is like understanding myself, what makes me good, sticking to my process, doing the right things all the time. But I think the self-belief is big and I think that's something that I lacked a lot.

JAMES NITTIES SOT [00:20:28] Biondi he's going through a bit of a slump right now. He's going to have to dig himself out of it. I really think he's going to find a way to get back to the winner's circle soon.

JAMES NITTIES SOT: Things are starting to heat up. We're coming off a seven week stretch leading into the memorial health championship. Guys are tired. There's a reshuffle involved.

EMILIA MIGLIACCIO SOT: you can either come back and have a bounce back week or you just keep riding off of good form.

NITTIES SOT: Players are fighting and jostling to get themselves into more events. It's going to be intense

WIDING SOT: To see all the work, you put in finally pay off on the course makes you want to keep going even harder.

STEELMAN SOT: let's just hit it in the hole and as few shots as possible and see where it all shakes out at the end of it.

**SEGMENT 4**

NATS: Hey, guys. Sammy Choi here. Windy day up in Canada. I was up here getting ready for a PGA Tour Americas, and I got the last-minute call to go down to Springfield, Illinois to get ready for Memorial Health Championship. And I'm super excited, and I'm really pumped to go down there. But it's Wednesday afternoon. I got a couple flights to catch. I got a couple hours to drive down to Springfield stay tuned.

NATS: What’s up, guys? I don’t know what happened the last 12 hours, I drove nine hours from Minneapolis to Springfield, Illinois. I’m just glad that I was able to make it here safely and that everything went smooth. I’m excited. Let’s go.

NATS: Hey! Can I check in?

NATS: Alright, thanks Sam. Thank you.

SAM CHOI SOT: I have very minimum expectations, just to have fun and enjoy the moment.

NATS: Welcome to the 2024 Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS. From the Republic of Korea, Sam Choi!

NATS: Good man, you? From Lakewood Ranch, Florida. Kevin Roy.

NATS: Best wedge I’ve hit a month, and it spun back 30 feet.

NATS: Thank you, thanks.

KEVIN ROY SOT: Tough way to finish, but I was proud of the way I fought out there all day, just had a bad swing wrong time on the last hole and it cost me but still got a lot of golf left in the season and it’ll be all right.

SAM CHOI SOT: I did best I can do. Just keep grinding from now on. Lot of Monday Q’s, play some Americas, see where it goes.

ALDRICH POTGIETER SOT: Yesterday played a lot better the back nine, I got a little hot there for a second. So if we can keep that momentum going for the next two days. Anything can happen.

ALDRICH POTGIETER SOT: The front nine got me going we’ve been trying to work on getting a little better start So we can stress a little bit less on the back nine, and we did that. Unfortunately, we made a double on nine, But I still knew there were a lot of birdie opportunities waiting.

Potgieter SOT: I took my time with the putt, tried to read every single foot of it, it was really awesome to see it in, and drop at the last second on the last roll. Really happy right now can’t stop smiling.

JAMES NITTIES SOT: It's crunch time when it comes to this part of the season. everyone's so bunched that if you miss a cut, you drop three to four spots every week on the points list.

ROSS STEELMAN SOT: There's still so much time and there's so many opportunities and there's so much fluctuation that's going to happen.

JAMES NITTIES SOT: You want to get into that top 100 number that gets you conditional status, you want to make the finals and you want to keep your card for next year.