**2024 PGA TOUR: THE CUT – WYNDHAM CHAMPIONSHIP**

EPISODE #33 – 08/12/2024

**A1 – COLD OPEN + TITLES**

BLAND COOPER: Once we start playing golf at 9:50 this morning, other than the golf course being wet, I don’t think anyone’s going to know the damage that we had. Five inches of rain, washed out an entire round of golf, was delayed beginning the first round on Friday, But as we stand here, we have a really good opportunity of finishing 72 holes.

ANNC: Right on the brink of heading on to the playoffs. So many storylines to set to monitor as we try to establish the 70 player field for next week in Memphis.

**WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT**

**A2 – BUBBLE BOYS**

**THE WYNDHAM CHAMPIONSHIP IS FULL OF IMPLICATIONS AND PACKED WITH PRESSURE**

ANNC: This is not to make the playoffs, but to make the cut for Rose

**WHILE SOME PLAYERS HOPE FOR A CHANCE TO KEEP THEIR SEASON ALIVE, OTHERS NEED TO MAKE THE CUT TO IMPROVE THEIR PLAYOFF POSITIONING.**

ANNC: it’s got to go in, got to go in...you got to be kidding me.

JUSTIN ROSE NATS: The ball goes in without that flag, oh that’s crazy.

ANNC: Keith Mitchell, he’s right outside the cut number of the top 70, playing well this week.

KEITH MITCHELL: It's all or nothing really

ANNC: The good news is he’s going to make the cut so he’ll have a shot at it in rounds three and four

KEITH MITCHELL: I made the Playoffs every year I've been on Tour. This will be the first time if I don't make it, so just kind of figured I'd just go all out.

ANNC: You’ve got Kitayama to make the cut...to keep his playoff hopes alive...has to make it, has to make it.

KURT KITAYAMA: I knew where I was and where I needed to be. That was the number one thing this week, try and make the playoffs and first thing I had to do was make the cut here

ANNC: Hoey’s played great golf last five events, three top tens

RICO HOEY: I'm in a position where it's like you've got to go win and hopefully get into next week.

ANNC: could this be a special week for Hoey?

RICO HOEY: If not, I'm sitting on my couch watching these guys. So it feels so good to make that putt.

**A3 – WINNER RECAP**

**IT WAS AARON RAI’S IMPROVED PUTTING AND SHORT GAME FINALLY PAID OFF**

ANNC: This would be some story for Aaron Rai. He’s been tracking in this direction for the last couple months

ANNC: 4th at the Genesis Scottish Open, 7th at the John Deere Classic, this would be the third time in the last two months where he’s had a really good chance to win, and he’s just one back.

AARON RAI: Since the end of April, it's been a really good stretch of golf. Very proud and happy with the consistency more than anything else.

ANNC: Comfortable read up the hill...comfortable putt!

AARON RAI: I was playing well and I knew that if I finished off well, then you never know what can happen.

ANNC: Rai rolls it in! Bogey free final round of 64 for Aaron Rai

AARON RAI It feels amazing, it truly is a dream come true. So many people have played a huge role in me being at this point

ANNC: Aaron Rai is your champion at the Wyndham Championship. 3 wins on the challenge tour, 2 wins on the Dp world tour, and now this

AARON RAI: it's amazing to be here and to win this week, but I'm almost just as proud of how consistent the last couple of months have been.

**A4 – FEC STANDINGS**

**RAI MOVES FROM 53RD TO 25TH IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS – NOW EYEING A TRIP TO EAST LAKE, WHILE SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER HEADS INTO THE PLAYOFFS MAINTAINING HIS NUMBER ONE SPOT.**

**A5 – BUMP**

VIKTOR HOVLAND: It’s not that I’m seeking perfection, it’s like I know what I’m capable of and I want to push the boundaries of, okay, I know I can do that so I expect to do that. I wouldn’t say I’m unreasonable in like trying to be perfect because this game isn’t perfect.

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**B1 – THE TURN CUTDOWN PART 1**

TODD LEWIS: You’re in an interesting position heading into this championship, given where you are in the FedEx Cup Standings. Is that something that is motivating you this week or is that something you’re trying not to think about?

VICTOR PEREZ: I’ve got a lot of confidence which is going to be key on quite a tricky course. Everyone has something to play for, in my case in 71st, if I was in 51st somebody would tell me ‘oh would it be nice to get some extra points to get inside top 50 and whoever is in 31st would be saying the same that there’s so much to gain being in the top 30 in the FedExCup

**B2 – VICTOR PEREZ BREAKOUT**

ANNC : Big year for Victor with Paris hosting the Olympics, he could represent his home country. That would be an amazing summer for Victor Perez.

NATS: Alright we’d like to welcome Victor Perez into the interview room // Victor I know last week was a big week finishing 4th at the Olympic.

VICTOR PEREZ: Obviously had a really good week, just one shy of kind of like what we came for. The positivity that you can get from a 63 on the final day at Golf National on a course that I've played since 12 years old it was definitely nice to see the development 20 years later to see that, oh, I can actually do this.

NATS: How’s the jet lag? Are you okay?

VICTOR PEREZ: Yeah, I’m fine. I’m used to it with the traveling back and forth.

VICTOR PEREZ: Getting the global education, whether it's on the golf course and your social life, in the classroom, you know, there's a lot of things to take away from that.

ANNC: The Frenchman Victor Perez! Who now lives in the Bahamas at the Albany club after he got his TOUR card through the DP World TOUR top-10 last season.

VICTOR PEREZ: I take a little bit of everything from each place that I've been to. It's interesting how your perspective changes as you develop.

VICTOR PEREZ: Going to America at 19, there's new things to take that I didn't experience growing up in France. /Work attitude, competitive nature that's really highlighted in America.

VICTOR PEREZ: Five years of college then came back, moved to the UK at 24 which was probably where I needed to be at that time. Then move back, overseas. And now living in the Bahamas has been nice.

VICTOR PEREZ: Obviously the proximity to the US and // avoiding those big trips has been key to this year.

VICTOR PEREZ: Having been in the U.S. basically the whole year I think has made a big difference. You kind of get in the habit rather than coming for three weeks, flying back for three weeks, coming back for two weeks.

ANNC: Yes! Continues his good play. He got in this week he was top-5 in the Aon swing 5.

VICTOR PEREZ: Getting into 2 signature events has really put me in a place where I'm competitive for the playoffs, where if I hadn't gone into Memorial and had a good week, then I would probably be further down and wouldn't be playing for the same things.

ANNC: He jumped 54 spots with that 3rd place finish in Canada.

VICTOR PEREZ: Drawing back on experiences in Europe, my first year I was like 16 going into the final and obviously top-15 would get their cards. I remember just absolutely crumbling the last week and not getting my card, finishing 18.

VICTOR PEREZ: Looking at this week with like a little bit less pressure than I would have if I was 22 years old where you feel like every week is like a do or die.

VICTOR PEREZ: The perspective is important and I think I'm lucky that it's happened to me in the past and that I can look back and not look at this week with the first seven-footer on 3 or something and then you miss and you think, oh, no, everything's falling apart. If it goes well, great, and if it doesn't, then I'll probably learn something from it and something good will come later on.

**B3 – THE TURN CUTDOWN PART 2**

JAMES ERKENBECK: I think we’re just sending driver and you cover the bunker, let’s do our thing

NATS: First on the tee, from France, Victor Perez

JAMES ERKENBECK: There we go, out of the gates, I think it’s just left of center. It should break right of center and then hold its line. Nice putt, that was a hard one.

JAMES ERKENBECK: It’s going to be off the right and down. Nice. Nice. Well done. that was one of the things, play 10-14 even par so we’re good to go.

JAMES ERKENBECK: I think there’s the most break. Nice putt. Rolled almost over both marks.

JAMES ERKENBECK: You’re seeing it, roll it in, this is a perfect putt. You could just tell you were going to make that one. Just commit to the shot you’re playing, it’s going to land the way you want it to. Your process and routine, everything is money right now.

NATS: Welcome to the final round of the 2024 Wyndham Championship

JAMES ERKENBECK: Nice shot, very good. Yeah I like that. Just barely outside the hole

**AFTER CARDING A 69 IN THE THIRD ROUND, VICTOR PEREZ SHOOTS A 68 IN THE FINAL ROUND, ENOUGH TO NARROWLY SECURE HIS SPOT IN MEMPHIS**

**B4 – COMCAST FINAL STANDINGS**

**MEANWHILE, SUNGJAE IM AND SHANE LOWRY LOCK UP THEIR POSITIONS IN THE FINAL COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP TEN STANDINGS – WHICH REWARDS PLAYERS FOR THEIR STRONG PLAY.**

**B5 – GREENSBORO SIX MURAL UNVEILING**

WILL LOWERY: This is the unveil of the mural of the Greensboro Six.

SOT WILL LOWERY: You kind of see the timeline of golf. You know, you see the future, you see the present, and you see the past.

**IN THE 1950S – SIX BLACK MEN PLAYED A ROUND AT GILLESPIE GOLF COURSE. THEY WERE CONVICTED OF TRESSPASSING, WHICH EVENTURALLY LED TO THE COURSE DESEGREGATING**

**CHRIS SIMKINS: It really depicts the Greensboro Six as they came to play golf on this course. And it also depicts Charlie Sifford who was the first African American on the PGA TOUR.**

VINCENT BALLENTINE: It’s interesting to just kind of see it. And be able to touch the same ground that they walked on and see the same trees that they saw, when this place wasn’t accessible for everyone.

**CHRIS SIMKINS: I never knew the story of the Greensboro Six. Never learned about the story of the Greensboro Six in school because it was not in history books. So this mural is great because it sheds light on a story that really a lot of people don’t know about.**

VINCENT BALLENTINE: It’s really cool that we got to see the fruits of our labor this time and get to see the reaction from people. How people respond to our work in real time.

VINCENT BALLENTINE: For the people to see this live and direct I think also makes a difference. You know most people are seeing their murals this big one their cellphones but once you stand in front of it, it becomes more.

VINCENT BALLENTINE: They were a part of history starting in 1955 but there was history before them. And now I’m part of the 2024 creation of history.

CHRIS SIMKINS: Hopefully it will inspire younger generations to not only learn about the story but learn to play golf and learn to love the sport.

**B6 – SERVPRO**

**THE CUT PRESENTS – RAPID RECOVERY**

ANNC: Back at the second and Lucas Glover’s got a tough up and down here, and an awkward stance too. No doubt, he’s going to have to grip well down because this ball is buried in this long bermuda grass. He has switched clubs a number of times trying to figure out what shot’s going to get him out of there. You have to be very aggressive just to get it out. Are you kidding me? Is that any good? That is fantastic. What I liked about it is he didn’t stand over it and start thinking about it, he reacted to it, committed, and that’s the key to that shot right there.

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**C1 – REJOIN**

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**C2 – FEC AMBITIONS**

ANNC: We have year two of the revamped FedExCup Playoffs coming up. It’s just the Top 70 who make it to the post-season.

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Once you kind of hit the PLAYERS in March it feels like everything is just a sprint.

ANNC: At the start of the year, as a player, one of your goals first and foremost is to make sure you get into the FedExCup playoffs.

BILLY HORSCHEL: It’s tougher. Obviously going from 125 to 70 guys to make the playoffs and then you’re taking about 25% of the season out. So January to August is so crucial now to play well. I believe it’s pushing every player to be a better player.

COLLIN MORIKAWA: With the signature events it’s tough but you play well, you’re going to earn yourself a sport whether it’s in the playoffs or higher up.

ANNC: The numbers to keep in mind looking forward to the playoffs, Top 70, Top 50, Top 30. Top 70 gets you in the playoffs, Top 50 you can play your way into the BMW Championship, the second leg and that gets you in all of the signature events the next year. Top 30 you’ve advanced to the TOUR Championship.

BILLY HORSCHEL: For me to be able to get into the top 30 would be an unbelievable goal. That’s my goal, top 30, get back to TOUR Championship, have a chance to win the FedExCup again.

SAM BURNS: Every year I’m just trying to make it to East Lake.

SAM BURNS: Any time of year is a great time to play well but especially kind of the later half.

ANNC: A lot of players chasing different things. Sam Burns, trying to chase that form that he’s had for so long and being one of the top players.

SAM BURNS: At this point in the year everybody is trying to gobble up as many points as they can.

LUDVIG ABERG: Being good over a longer period of time is what defines you I think. Playing in the playoffs is Gunna be really cool and something I’m really looking forward to.

**C3 – NOTABLES ON THE BUBBLE**

**WHILE COLLIN MORIKAWA, BILLY HORSCHEL, SAM BURNS AND LUDVIG ABERG ARE ALL CURRENTLY WITHIN THE TOP 30 IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS, SEVERAL PLAYERS HAVE WORK TO DO IN MEMPHIS TO MOVE ON TO THE BMW CHAMPIONSHIP AND THE TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP — THAT INCLUDES VIKTOR HOVLAND WHO IS TRENDING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION**

**C4 – VIKTOR HOVLAND FEATURE**

ANNC: Viktor Hovland, what a year. Won Jack’s tournament, won the BMW Championship as part of the FedExCup Playoffs and then coasted into the TOUR Championship where he put that away for the FedExCup title.

**THIS IS VIKTOR HOVLAND’S JOURNEY TO THE PLAYOFFS**

VIKTOR HOVLAND: It’s been a really, really good year, but now this is a new year and we're still trying to improve.

ANNC: It’s been a bit of a struggle for Hovland with the striking.

ANNC: To wrap up at the 18th for par, just not the week for Viktor Hovland.

HOVLAND: It's more like a slower process right now. I feel like I've gotten a little bit off track and I just need to start working in the right way again. I think things are going to fall into place a little bit more. I wish it was as simple as just kind of an overnight, one feel and then we're back on it. This is kind of a little bit of a project, but gives me something to work on and I believe that when this starts to get easier and easier to do, it's going to be right back to where we were.

ANNC: Just barely got it out that time. You don’t see Viktor Hovland upset like that often.

HOVLAND: It's not that I'm seeking perfection. It's like I know what I'm capable of and I want to push the boundaries of like, “Okay, I know I can do that. So I expect to do that.” I wouldn't say I'm unreasonable in like trying to be perfect because this game isn't perfect it's going to make you look stupid. But if I can control the things that I can control, like if I'm standing over the ball and I want the ball to start left and cut and the ball doesn't do that, well, we got to figure something out.

ANNC: Ball in the air. Hovland is keeping this one left of the flagstick. That hits on the front. That’s a good shot underneath the hole, hit beneath the hole. Hovland’s going to have a chance for birdie to get to -4.

HOVLAND: I mean, you can hit good shots and end up in some bad spots, and you can hit bad shots that end up in some decent spots. So during three, four rounds of golf, that's not a big enough sample size to really show that, “Okay, yeah, you're playing great.” For me personally, if I can start the ball left and it cuts and I can hit it as hard as I want and not worry about the ball going left, that to me in itself, that means that I'm playing some good golf.

ANNC: Carrying some of that momentum from his best result of the season a couple weeks ago at the PGA Championship, and we’re into the final third. It’s go time. Until that third place at the PGA Championship, Viktor Hovland was not in the top 70 where you have to be whether or not you won the FedExCup title or not, you got to play your way in this year. And now, Hovland in a position to maybe finish strong and do exactly what he did a season ago.

HOVLAND: Yeah, I was super proud about that week. After not playing very good golf the first few months of the year, it was nice to turn something around and I was up in contention. So, that was really cool to see that it wasn't going to be a project that was going to take two, three months. It was a nice little feel that got me to hit the ball better immediately.

ANNC: Well, he says he’s feeling it, and we’re seeing it. I think we can make it official, Viktor Hovland is back. In a big way. Yes, sir.

HOVLAND: I would say because I came off playing really nicely at the PGA last year and I was doing a lot of really good things, I was probably here and then after the FedExCup, it was here. Now I'm at least getting closer to where I was at this tournament last year. So not quite there yet, I feel like, but can't argue against results. I'm playing some nice golf, so just got to keep it going.

PRODUCER: Knowing where you are in the season. You're outside the top 30, but you made a heck of a jump at the PGA. What's your strategy for that late season push?

HOVLAND: Just play good golf. Usually takes care of it.

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**D1 – BILLY HORSCHEL FEATURE**

BILLY HORSCHEL: The game is like life. It's up and down. When the goods good, it never feels like it's going to, not be good. And when it's bad, it never seems like it's going to get back to being good.

ANNC: Check in on the defending champion, who's had a miserable day. Billy Horschel now 11 over par.

BILLY HORSCHEL: It was a very low point, confidence wise, on the golf course and that 84 was just sort of like I say, the icing on the cake.

REPORTER: From the jump, it didn't look like it was there. From here, where do you go, Billy?

BILLY HORSCHEL: I've had plenty of these days, this year. Not this bad, but, just a day here and, where we'll get by it.

BILLY HORSCHEL: I look at it as a bright side too, because by sharing that openly, which was sort of impromptu really lifted a lot of weight off my shoulders. I felt better, felt better about myself, I felt better about my game.

ANNC: It's just about building blocks. That's hitting fairways, hitting some greens and give myself as many opportunities as possible.

BILLY HORSCHEL: We realized that technically there was nothing wrong with anything in the swing. It really came down to equipment and my lie angles had just gotten off and they've gotten 2 to 3 degrees too upright, which was causing me not to hit the cut the way like.

BILLY HORSCHEL: It really was more mental up until I would say the Players Championship this year. Missed the cut at The Players. And it was unfortunate because I felt like the game was in a really good spot. I had really good prep that week, and then I got in the tournament. It wasn't like anything technical. It was just me still holding on to the rope too tight still worrying about hitting really bad golf shots.

BILLY HORSCHEL: I was going to write fearless on my, you know, wrist to play down in Tampa to remind myself, hey, let's play fearless.

BILLY HORSCHEL: I went down to Corrales for one reason, one reason only to win. I felt really good with my game. I felt like a win was coming.

ANNC: A 63 ties the course record at the Corrales Punta Cana Championship, and a new tournament scoring record at 23 under par.

BILLY HORSCHEL: Mentally, I'm in a really good spot. The games been a really good spot all year. We've worked really hard since last year to sort of climb back up that mountain. I'm enjoying the climb a lot more than I did last year.

ANNC: Nice to see him having what is sort of a re-breakout year as such.

**D2 – TV TIMES**

**THE TOP 70 PLAYERS ARE WALKING IN MEMPHIS THIS WEEK – WITH SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER, XANDER SCHAUFFELE, AND RORY MCILROY HEADLINING THE FEDEX ST. JUDE CHAMPIONSHIP**

**D3 – ROLLOUT**

ANNC: Welcome to Memphis everyone and the opening round of the playoffs. The best in the game on the PGA TOUR playing here.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: You’ve got to hit it really good out here, and when you’re in position you can score, but the second you hit the ball offline you’re going to be penalized pretty severely for those mistakes.

ANNC: We gear up for playoff time. Just the top 70 tee it up at the FedEx St. Jude Championship with dreams of earning their way to a TOUR Championship trying to win golf’s biggest prize, the FedExCup.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: There’s a lot of factors physically, mentally you got to deal with just trying to win the FedExCup playoffs

RORY MCILROY: I’d like to think I’ve played good enough golf over the years to give myself a chance a bunch of times.

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