**24CUTSTJD INTERNATIONAL MASTER SCRIPT**

**Cold Open**

ANNC: Matsuyama, five feet, nine inches away. And Hideki Matsuyama, he's got his first playoff win, it came with all sorts of drama.

SEAN MARTIN: For Hideki, when he looks back at this one, he's going to wonder what went wrong in the middle of the back nine, but then what went right on those last two holes. A blown 5 shot lead potentially, but you can't ask for a better finish.

**The CUT titles**

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

**Week/Playoff Setup**

NATS: Let's talk FedEx St. Jude Championship, first event of the FedExCup Playoffs.

CELIA PALERMO: Some of y'all may remember what The CUT team did back at THE PLAYERS Championship, telling the story of the tournament through the eyes of our team and through the broadcast team. And so we're going to do that again this year for the playoffs, so Sean, Cameron and myself, we're getting the gang back together, and then Sean's going to kick things off for us early week and hold down the fort until we get into town.

SEAN MARTIN: Thursday at the FedEx St. Jude Championship, first round of the FedExCup Playoffs. The big stories this week, the top 50 is really important. There are 70 guys here, the top 70 in the FedExCup Standings, which means 20 guys, their season is going to end this week. You've got some big names on the outside looking in. Viktor Hovland, your defending FedExCup champion right now not slated for a spot even in the BMW Championship. Jordan Spieth is outside the top 50, Justin Rose as well. And so you have the bubble watch of course like you do every week in the FedExCup Playoffs, and then the big story is Scottie and Xander, the two players that have had the best seasons on the PGA TOUR. I think that dynamic between those two is really going to be the story for the rest of the playoffs.

SEAN MARTIN: Scottie Scheffler, he's been the best player all year, 6 wins, the gold medal, but now it's about can you continue to play well at the right time. It's a moment he's been preparing for his whole life, he's been doing this his whole life, to get ready for these moments.

**Scottie Scheffler feature**

SCOTT SCHEFFLER: Right there, that's where you started. That's where Scottie learned to play the game of golf. I love that hat, I think we still have that.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Him and my mom went and got these photos yesterday so I haven't really seen any of these yet. We were looking for baby pictures of me to try to figure out who our son looked like.

SCOTT SCHEFFLER: There you are.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: This is the whole crew. Molly newborn, Sarah, me and Callie.

SCOTT SCHEFFLER: Scottie was always...

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I think I was a strange kid.

SCOTT SCHEFFLER: No he wasn't. Scottie was very sports-oriented. It didn't matter...there's a basketball, there's a lacrosse stick. Baseball was a big part of his life, he played football.

SCOTT SCHEFFLER: Look at you. You could throw a football.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: These are the golf shoes that I have.

SCOTT SCHEFFLER: Yes, yeah these are the U.S. kids ones, you got that after you won your qualifier because all the other kids had them, and you said, 'Dad, you think I could get golf shoes?' I said sure why not?

SCOTT SCHEFFLER: And this was Tiger at the U.S. Open who you ran away from. You got inside the ropes and he came at you and you ran under the ropes, because you were afraid. And now you know Tiger.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: This was like my first real set of golf clubs. These are real Cleveland heads that are adult sized but they shaved weight out of the back so that it would match up with the shaft.

SCOTT SCHEFFLER: Scottie with his hat. You were the boy with the yellow hat. You didn't have a very good caddie in those days Scottie. You know who he was?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Who?

SCOTT SCHEFFLER: Me.

SCOTT SCHEFFLER: For him to achieve his goals, he's always wanted to be a PGA TOUR player. He said that, I think I asked him when he was like 19, well what are you gonna do when you graduate from college? He says, Dad I'm going to play on the PGA TOUR. And I said wow those guys are really good, and I said you are too. He says but I am, I'm going to finish college, play on the PGA TOUR. So I think we've done ok. I think we've done ok for average parents. Scottie's a pretty average kid I would say. Extraordinary talents.

**Thursday/Friday action**

NATS: From Dallas, Texas. Please welcome Olympic gold medalist, Scotty Scheffler.

NATS: Open champion, Xander Schauffele.

SEAN MARTIN: All right, we're underway. 12-round sprint to the finish. Memphis in August is always hot, but this is especially brutal. I'm already sweating.

SEAN MARTIN: We've seen three birdies in the two holes they've played. Scottie birdied one. Xander birdies one and two. I think I've had enough of this heat. I'm going back in the AC to catch up on the rest of the scores. I'll catch them on their back nine.

CAMERON MORFIT: We're here with the marquee group of the day for sure, Schauffele and Scheffler.

SEAN MARTIN: I'm excited to see how they finish off this round.

CAMERON MORFIT: Three feet four inches.

SEAN MARTIN: But it looks like it's a tap-in now whereas a few months ago, it was cause for maybe a little consternation.

CAMERON MORFIT: Scottie, how would you characterize that round today?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: We both got off to a good start today. I felt like I got a little cold there on the the back nine, but overall, I think, solid start to the week.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: How do you feel about your playing partner?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: No comment.

CAMERON MORFIT: It looks like you're going to be spending a lot of time with Scottie the next three weeks.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: He's becoming a good friend just being out here and competing against him. But, we're here to try and win, and if someone's in the way, you've got to step over them.

**Group arrival to course**

SEAN MARTIN: Celia, welcome to Memphis. You see anything back in JAX that made you eager to get back to Memphis?

CELIA PALERMO: I mean, I do love seeing Denny McCarthy at the top of a leader board. It feels like we have been waiting for the right time for him to break through.

SEAN MARTIN: He has a tied lead with Hideki, who of course is dealing with a new caddie this week after his previous caddie, or his usual caddie, couldn't make it to Memphis. So definitely a lot going on and of course Scottie Scheffler is always lurking. I am very intrigued by Nick Dunlap. The U.S. Amateur is the week so really Nick could be defedning his U.S. Amateur title this week, but instead he is at this tournament with two PGA TOUR wins already. This obviously, would be the biggest win of his early career and more importantly keep his FedEx Cup hopes alive.

CAMERON MORTIF: We saw some real big names struggle yesterday, Rory McIlroy couldn't get it in play off the tee. Jordan Spieth couldn't get it in play off the tee, shot a 75.

CELIA PALERMO: Max Homa.

CAMERON MORTIF: Oh my God. 78 yesterday.

CELIA PALERMO: I know. Gosh, after the T3 at The Masters, I thought we were in for something special but he's really struggled off the tee this season and he's into BMW next week but of course has his eyes on East Lake.

**Max Homa feature**

MAX HOMA: This season just feels like it's going to be a testament to my mind. I really feel like my attitude's been great while I've been inside the ropes. I might look back on this as the year I learned the power of the mind.

**VO: THIS IS MAX HOMA'S JOURNEY TO THE PLAYOFFS.**

MAX HOMA: My game hasn't been very good this year. Off the tee's been killing me.

ANNC: Lost this one right immediately. Just looks really stuck on that swing. Yet another miss on that right hand side for Max Homa.

ANNC: He has been off with his game this season.

MAX HOMA: If I can somehow figure that part out, the rest of it feels good. My irons have been good this season.

ANNC: Max is dialed in, going to be a factor this week.

MAX HOMA: My wedges have still been good, my short game's been the best it's been.

ANNC: He did exactly what he wanted to do, which is get it up to the front section of the green here. Just pitch it straight on to the green, filter it down to the pin. And in the hole.

MAX HOMA: My putting has gotten a lot better. So my brain has been in a really good spot all year despite a lot of frustration.

ANNC: I think he now realizes that he has the goods. That belief, maybe I've got to figure out I'm good enough now.

MAX HOMA: I keep waiting for a little bit of a breakthrough. It's kind of just getting over one little hump I feel like, and it might open some things up. But I've been really proud of the way I've been scoring, and I feel like I've been making the most of a lot of my days.

ANNC: Oh that's beautiful, that should make for a pretty easy birdie. He's getting better and better all the time, no question about it. He just has such a good, consistent game.

MAX HOMA: If I added it up, sum of all parts is not bad. We're playing the elevated events, it's tough to feel like you're going to contend and win.

ANNC: 143, Homa. Oh yeah, there you go, thats how you take advantage of this hole. You hit a quality tee shot, really create a nice angle up that left side, and then you deliver a beautiful second shot there like Homa.

MAX HOMA: I feel like getting past that lull and understanding you're closer than you think. When the game does click, I'll be ready to do something very cool.

**Saturday action**

CELIA PALERMO: The challenges continue for Max Homa. He currently owns last place by five shots but he's safely inside the number for the BMW Championship, so no worries there. But he is putting all of the pressure on his performance in Denver if he wants to find himself in East Lake at the TOUR Championship. We are just going to have to see what happens. But for now, we're going to head back to the leaders.

CAMERON MORFIT: Boy, that is some cool, calm and collected golf right there. Dunlap is the only guy in this group who doesn't have a gold medal but he's young, so give him time! He might get one eventually.

NICK DUNLAP: I'm kind of just trying to do my own thing, I think we've got a game plan and we are just going to go out and try to execute that and get it in the hole as least amount of shots as possible. Hopefully it's enough.

SEAN MARTIN: Viktor is here. Definitely one of the more compelling bubble story lines at this point in the day. Defending FEDEX Cup Champion knows he has to have a good tournament to move onto next week which is a great story. It really proves what the FEDEX Cup is all about. You got to play well, you got to play all season and then really play well at the right time to keep moving.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I put myself in nice positions off the tee and hit a lot of greens, gave myself a lot of looks. I would have liked to have put the ball a little bit closer, but it was very solid from start to finish.

CAMERON MORFIT: Scheffler is just two back. He hasn't really done anything too notable over the first couple of days but has hung around, hung around, hung around. And that is going to be Scottie Scheffler's second bogey of this tournament. Comes on one of the easiest holes on the course.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Going into tomorrow, I'll do what I can to put some pressure on Hideki but if he goes out tomorrow and shoots another five, six under, he's going to be a pretty tough guy to catch but not totally out of reach.

CAMERON MORFIT: Kind of left that one out to the right. That's the safe play when you've got a giant lead. You're not going to do anything too crazy.

CELIA PALERMO: Not trying to play hero.

CAMERON MORFIT: He could be going to Denver with a lot of momentum. He would go right to third in the FEDEX Cup Standings. Hideki could really thicken the plot here.

CELIA PALERMO: All right, well Hideki has a shot lead going into Sunday. Cameron, what is your lead on PGATOUR.com?

CAMERON MORFIT: Yeah, I'm writing about how Hideki is really a problem for these guys when he's healthy and at his best, he's very hard to beat. And I think he's also a little bit underrated. Nine PGA TOUR victories, I think he's going to get his tenth on Sunday.

CELIA PALERMO: Nick Dunlap came into the week 67 in the FEDEX Cup, projected twelfth now.

SEAN MARTIN: Yeah, that's the beauty of these weeks, right? Hideki might run away this thing but there's still a lot to play for, for Nick Dunlap and Viktor Hovland.

**Rejoin**

No VO

**Smylie BTS**

CELIA PALERMO: We are rolling up to the TV compound now. We're going to check in with Smylie Kaufman as he gets geared up for the day. He is going to be walking with some marquee groups out there today.

CELIA PALERMO: How we feeling?

SMYLIE KAUFMAN: Ready to rock and roll. Today I'm walking with Tom Kim to follow his top 50 storyline, and then go watch Scottie and Viktor Hovland.

CELIA PALERMO: And if you're Scottie, well back of the leader, but you're still Scottie Scheffler, how do you attack today?

SMYLIE KAUFMAN: He's been pretty good about going out on Sundays when he's behind and go out and shoot 5 or 6 under on the front. Maybe just put a little pressure on Hideki because it's not easy playing with a big lead.

CELIA PALERMO: Viktor Hovland's playing like he has something on the line.

SMYLIE KAUFMAN: Viktor Hovland has a lot to play for today. A really bad day could cost him a chance at being at the BMW Championship, so big day for him. But he can also make a statement that he's back today as well, so that's a pretty fun storyline to follow.

**Sunday action**

CELIA PALERMO: After making a couple early birdies on his front nine, Viktor Hovland picks up another on the twelfth, he's pretty much locked up his spot in Denver by now and looking better and better for a spot in Atlanta as well. It can be the difference between one shot of being in or being out.

CELIA PALERMO: Drops in, what a putt!

SEAN MARTIN: Fist pump from the caddie!

CELIA PALERMO: See that reaction from Reed, wow!

TOM ALTER: Eric Cole started the week at 54, by the time he got to the 18th tee today, he played so well, he moved all the way up to 39. He hits it in the water, does a great job of scrambling to make a bogey, but he dropped to 49. And he's going to have wait and see what happens.

ERIC COLE: It's going to be kind of fun to sit back in the AC and watch them come down the final stretch.

TOM ALTER: Par would have definitely secured a spot and I think the same thing for Cam Davis.

CAM DAVIS: I had a feeling that if I parred the last, I would have been fine, so yeah.

SEAN MARTIN: What's going through your mind right now?

CAM DAVIS: Just not happy with the last hole.

TOM ALTER: He started the week 44, but he was 48th on the 18th tee and made double bogey and he dropped down to 51 on the outside.

SEAN MARTIN: It's going to be a crazy day.

TOM ALTER: And there's still a lot of volatility and there's still a couple of guys behind just one or two shots that they can improve and they will jump ahead but there are also a couple of guys that are inside that could fall out.

TOM KIM: I told myself before the day, that if I didn't play well, I really felt like I was going to finish 51. I hit two bad shots and that really just cost be everything. Two five irons, that's it.

CAMERON MORFIT: We just saw Tom Kim, who was looking vey good, as he stood on the 16th tee to make it to the BMW and then he finished 6, 6, 6, how does that change things?

TOM ALTER: To be honest, if he finished just bogey, bogey, bogey, he probably would have been safe. But that was a disaster finish for him. So he's 51 right now.

CAMERON MORFIT: The crazy Tom Kim 6,6,6 finish here in Memphis, just meant that Cam Davis may get back in. He's projected to get to 50th so we're seeing an absolutely bananas bubble watch so far.

**Servpro - Rapid Recovery**

**VO: THE CUT PRESENTS RAPID RECOVERY.**

**VO: LAST YEAR'S FEDEX ST. JUDE CHAMPIONSHIP WINNER LUCAS GLOVER HELD A BACK NINE LEAD, BUT RAN INTO TROUBLE ON THE 13TH HOLE.**

NATS: Oh it didn't hook.

ANNC: Started way out to the right. Way right, trying to play the hook. Where does it finish? It's well short. He's led for so long, trouble here at 13.

NATS: I don't know how I can hit it. I can't get to the bottom of the...

ANNC: This is what you have, and you have to get your head straight right now. Needs it to settle. Just.

ANNC: Can he do it again? Can that new putter create some more magic? He's done it. Talk about clutch. Seven of seven scrambling today. Incredible, and that's not his game.

**Leaders on back nine**

ANNC: Ladies and gentlemen, stay tuned. This is getting really interesting. How important is this bogey putt. And just like that Hideki Matsuyama will not lead the FedEx St. Jude Championship. Four-over the last four holes.

SEAN MARTIN: Hideki three putted for double.

CELIA PALERMO: Hovland just made birdie on 15 and 16. He's on 17 right now.

SEAN MARTIN: Let's go over to like 17 green 18 tee. Wow, this has gotten wild.

CELIA PALERMO: Let's go. We've got a tournament.

CELIA PALERMO: Xander makes par on 18. Victor makes bogey on 17. And then Hideki missed his birdie attempt on 16. So we've got three guys at 15.

SEAN MARTIN: Hideki just made his birdie on 17.

CELIA PALERMO: Oh, wow. Okay.

SEAN MARTIN: Things are out of control. So, now he has to make this just to get into a playoff.

CELIA PALERMO Yeah Hideki did make birdie. Here we go.

SEAN MARTIN: I mean things are changing so rapidly. Viktor missed it, didn't give it enough speed. Broke towards the water. All right. I mean, it's not over, though.

CELIA PALERMO: It's not over. This is a challenging finishing hole.

SEAN MARTIN: 17 is meant to be part of a tough pair of finishing holes but instead Hideki rolls in a 30-footer. Now it's a question of if he can make par on 18. And if he does, he is a winner for the second time this season.

SEAN MARTIN: The amount of swings in just a couple minutes is pretty insane.

CELIA PALERMO: Second shot on the way here.

SEAN MARTIN: Oh this looks good.

CELIA PALERMO: This looks really good, really good. My, what a shot! Oh wow, that's inside 15 feet?

SEAN MARTIN: That's 10 at the most.

SEAN MARTIN: There we go.

CELIA PALERMO: There's your champion. Hideki Matsuyama wins.

SEAN MARTIN: That one for Hideki, when he looks back at this one is going to wonder what went wrong in the middle of the back nine. But what went right on those last two holes? A disaster it was looking like, a blown five shot lead, potentially, but you can't ask for a better finish.

CELIA PALERMO: Yeah. Made birdies when he needed to finish this one out. Wow. Bronze medal to winning the first event of the FedexCup playoffs. This is some stretch for Hideki.

**FEC Standings**

**VO: HIDEKI MATSUYAMA'S TITLE AT THE FEDEX ST. JUDE CHAMPIONSHIP VAULTS HIM TO 3RD IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS, AS THE TOP 50 HEAD OUT WEST FOR THE BMW CHAMPIONSHIP.**

**Week wrap, lookahead**

CELIA PALERMO: Well guys this is fitting, Hideki right behind us.

SEAN MARTIN: He looms large at TPC Southwind.

CELIA PALERMO: And it's another crazy finish at this event.

SEAN MARTIN: It's becoming an annual thing, and it was. Hideki loses it on some of the easier holes on the back nine, and then recovers by birdieing two of the hardest holes on the golf course. A wild finish, a surprise to everyone, Hideki included.

CELIA PALERMO: And Cam, you had your eyes on next week and guys trying to play their way in.

CAMERON MORFIT: I did. A lot of triumph and a lot of heartache because we all know what that top 50 means.

CELIA PALERMO: Well we're excited to see all those guys in Denver, we're headed there, we'll see you in Atlanta.

SEAN MARTIN: I'm out, I will see you later.

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