**2024 ROAD TO THE PRESIDENTS CUP**

**EPISODE 2**

***A1 – COLD OPEN***

**TIME IS WINDING DOWN – AS THE PRESIDENTS CUP IS IN SIGHT...**

CAM DAVIS: It would mean the world to be a part of the Presidents Cup again.

**AND CAPTAIN’S PICKS ARE ON THE LINE...**

COREY CONNERS: It would be a great honor and privilege to be on that team in Canada.

AKSHAY BHATIA: Playing for your country is really special.

**FOR A PUNCHED TICKET TO MONTREAL.**

MAX HOMA: I would consider it a failure if I don't make the President's Cup team.

**THIS IS ROAD TO THE PRESIDENTS CUP… PRESENTED BY GLOBAL PARTNERS… ROLEX… 1 PASSWORD… AND COGNIZANT**

***A2 – OPENING STAND UP***

HELLO EVERYONE, I'M PAIGE MACKENZIE – AND WELCOME TO EPISODE TWO OF ROAD TO THE PRESIDENTS CUP – WHERE WE WILL TAKE A DIVE INTO THE AUTOMATIC QUALIFERS AND POTENTIAL CAPTAIN’S PICKS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL & U.S. TEAMS.

FOLLOWING A PROMISING PERFORMANCE BY THE INTERNATIONAL TEAM IN 2022, NEW CAPTAIN MIKE WEIR IS AIMING TO BUILD ON THAT MOMENTUM AND CRAFT A TEAM LOOKING TO END A 26-YEAR WINLESS DROUGHT, HERE ON INTERNATIONAL SOIL AT THE ROYAL MONTREAL GOLF CLUB.

FOR U.S. CAPTAIN JIM FURYK, HE HAS THE TALL TASK OF FILLING OUT THE AMERICAN TEAM FROM A TALENTED POOL OF PRESIDENTS CUP VETERANS SITTING OUTSIDE THE AUTOMATIC TOP SIX AND NEW FACES EAGER TO CARRY ON THE WINNING TRADITION.

***A3 – U.S. TEAM DYNAMIC***

JIM FURYK: I want 12 guys that really, really enjoy being the away team and being on the road and we'll take pride in that and come in here and play hard. I don't need to go in the team room and explain how important the event is. They want to play for their country and on a team. Each and every team is different. To get a boost and a burst of energy out of a young player can lead to a lot of good things. We have to go out there with the mentality that we're not being chased. We have to have a chip on our shoulder and we have to be the one chasing. We have to get after them and go out there and play.

***A4 – U.S. AUTOMATIC QUALIFIERS***

**THE U.S. TEAM’S AUTOMATIC QUALIFIERS ARE LED BY WORLD NUMBER 1 SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER, LOCKING IN HIS SECOND PRESIDENTS CUP APPEARANCE, AND XANDER SCHAUFFELE, WHO IS BACK FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE TIME. AMONG THE SIX PLAYERS ARE A PAIR PRESIDENTS CUP ROOKIES IN WYNDHAM CLARK AND SAHITH THEEGALA.**

***A5 – U.S. CAPTAIN’S PICKS POTENTIALS***

**CAPTAIN FURYK WILL COMPLETE HIS TEAM WITH SIX CAPTAINS PICKS ONE OF WHICH COULD BE VETERAN TONY FINAU WHO HAS EARNED 4-AND-A-HALF POINTS IN TWO PRESIDENTS CUP APPEARANCES.**

**ALSO MISSING OUT ON AN AUTOMATIC SELECTION IS A STANDOUT FROM THE 20-22 PRESIDENTS CUP TEAM, MAX HOMA…**

ANNC: Boy he’s hit some big shots these last couple days.

**ADDING INTRIGUE TO THE DECISIONS IS A PLAYER HAVING THE BEST SEASON OF HIS YOUNG CAREER, AKSHAY BHATIA.**

ANNC: The dream continues for Bhatia who becomes just the 10th player in the last 50 years to win more than one PGA TOUR title before turning 23 years old.

***A6 – BRADLEY & THOMAS DYNAMIC***

**AND AS BHATIA SEEKS HIS FIRST PRESIDENTS CUP APPEARANCE...**

**JUSTIN THOMAS AND KEEGAN BRADLEY SIT SQUARELY ON THE CAPTAIN’S PICK BUBBLE ONCE AGAIN AFTER AN ANXIOUS LEAD UP TO LAST YEAR’S RYDER CUP TEAM SELECTION.**

JUSTIN THOMAS: Any team event I always want to make it on points. I don't want to have to rely on a captain's pick. I had to do that once, and it's not fun. It's very stressful.

KEEGAN BRADLEY: Not making the Ryder Cup last year was a huge bummer. It was a tough time for us, you know, shortly after you got to put that away, and it’s… what's great about golf is you have the opportunity every week to do it yourself. When you miss out on a team like that, you can use it as motivation to keep going.

**BRADLEY’S RESPONSE WAS ANOTHER STRONG SEASON WITH TWO RUNNER-UP FINISHES – AND CLUTCH PLAY WITH HIS SEASON, AND PRESIDENTS CUP CHANCES, ON THE LINE IN THE PLAYOFFS.**

ANNC: The Last man in a Castle Pines, headed to East Lake as a winner.

**WHILE JUSTIN THOMAS REBOUNDED FROM A DOWN YEAR IN 20-23 TO POST FIVE TOP-10 FINISHES THIS SEASON ON THE PGA TOUR.**

ANNC: Beautiful putt for Justin Thomas.

JUSTIN THOMAS: I’ve put in the time and effort and continued to work at it to try to just get better and better and better and in the long run, although the bad times are pretty low and they're not fun, they can end up getting you to even higher peaks.

**THOMAS HAS BEEN FEATURED IN EVERY U.S. TEAM SINCE 2017, BUT IT’S BEEN A DECADE-LONG DROUGHT FOR BRADLEY. WHILE THEIR RESUMES MAY DIFFER, EACH SHARE THE SAME PASSION FOR REPRESENTING THE FLAG.**

ANNC: He’s just got a gift and a flair for the moment.

JUSTIN THOMAS: Being able to put on the red, white and blue in general is a special thing, but doing it and getting to do what I love in terms of play golf, it doesn't get any better.

ANNC: Keegan Bradley with as much intensity as you will see from anyone.

**BUT BRADLEY WILL BE IN MONTREAL EVEN IF HE ISN’T PICKED TO COMPETE – AFTER CAPTAIN FUYRK NAMED HIM A CAPTAIN’S ASSISTANT TO HIM PREPARE FOR HIS RYDER CUP CAPTAINCY IN 20-25**

JIM FURYK: I want symmetry for the next year. I've learned from a lot of captains along the way and hopefully I can help some captains in the future as well.

KEEGAN BRADLEY: It's not something I ever thought I'd get the opportunity to do but it means a lot that my peers think that of me to be in that role. Because when I played on these teams, the vice captains were all my heroes.

KEEGAN BRADLEY: At the start of the year, that was the goal and I'm sitting here as a vice captain and it's still a goal of mine. You got to go out there and really prove that you're worthy enough to be on the team. It’s a different generation of players that’s out here now. I’d really enjoy to be in that team room to see how they operate and be out on the course and win some points for the team.

***B1 – INTERNATIONAL TEAM BONDING & DYNAMIC***

MIKE WEIR: I know a lot of the veteran guys that likely will be on our team, but some of the new guys that possibly will be on our team, get them educated on what our team's all about, what we're looking for, and what we expect for that week.

We're trying to find that edge to not just be competitive, but to win. We're not a disjointed group of guys from all over the world. We're coming together as a as a unit and one team. And, you know, we're going to be tough.

In the past teams you could always count on, the top five or six guys you already had a good idea of who was going to be there. Right now, we don't know. That's how the game of golf is now. It's so deep and so diverse and guys can get on runs.

***B2 – INTERNATIONAL AUTOMATIC QUALIFIERS***

**THE INTERNATIONAL TEAM’S AUTOMATIC QUALIFIERS IS HEADED BY OLYMPIC BRONZE MEDALIST, HIDEKI MATSUYAMA MAKING HIS SIXTH APPEARANCE …**

**AND UNLIKE THE AMERICANS, ALL OF THE INTERNATIONAL’S TOP SIX HAVE PRESIDENTS CUP EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING ADAM SCOTT WHO IS BACK FOR AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM RECORD 11TH TIME.**

***B3 – INTERNATIONAL CAPTAIN’S PICK CANADIAN POTENTIALS***

**WITH SIX SPOTS SECURED, CAPTAIN WEIR WILL COMPLETE HIS TEAM WITH SIX CAPTAIN’S PICKS – A FEW OF WHICH HAVE POTENTIAL TO HAIL FROM THE HOST COUNTRY…**

MIKE WEIR: I've always felt we've had a lot of talent in this country. We have potential to be two, three, four players on the team and if that happens up here, that would be incredible.

**CURRENTLY 7TH IN THE STANDINGS IS COREY CONNERS, WHO MADE HIS PRESIDENTS CUP DEBUT IN 20-22 …**

**THE CANADIAN HAS FINISHED IN THE TOP 25 IN MORE THAN HALF OF HIS STARTS IN 20-24 … AND RANKS FOURTH IN STROKES GAINED: APPROACH THE GREEN, THIS SEASON …**

ANNC: Oh! Hello. Almost back-to-back eagles there. Oh man!

**CONNERS’ 20-22 TEAMMATE, TAYLOR PENDRITH, IS RANKED 12TH ON TOUR IN DRIVING DISTANCE AND 10TH IN STROKES GAINED: PUTTING THIS SEASON, CULMINATING IN A BALANCED ARSENAL WHICH HELPED HIM BREAK THROUGH IN 20-24 …**

ANNC: Taylor Pendrith is a PGA TOUR winner for the first time!

**THE 2023 RBC CANADIAN OPEN CHAMPION NICK TAYLOR IS SEEKING HIS FIRST PRESIDENTS CUP APPEARANCE RIDING TWO VICTORIES AND TWO RUNNER-UP FINISHES IN THE PAST TWO YEARS – INCLUDING A WIN SIX MONTHS AGO …**

ANNC: Absolute unreal stuff in the desert for Nick Taylor!

**A TWO-TIME MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL TEAM, ADAM HADWIN IS HOPING FOR A RETURN APPEARANCE AFTER MISSING 20-22, MAKING HIS CASE ON THE COURSE THIS YEAR WITH FIVE TOP-10 FINISHES.**

***B4 – ADAM HADWIN***

ADAM HADWIN: I bring experience. I bring doing anything for the team. Playing any role that they need me to play. I do think I match up very well for a lot of different styles of golf. I think consistency. I think you know what you're going to get.

ANNC: Oh! He just flipped the script.

**HADWIN’S PRESIDENTS CUP PERFORMANCE IN 20-19 COULD LEND TO FURTHER CONSIDERATION, AS HE EARNED A POINT AND A HALF IN THE INTERNATIONAL TEAM’S NARROW DEFEAT.**

ANNC: He’s the most confident player that the international team has on the greens.

ADAM HADWIN: Presidents Cup is one of the can't miss events that we have an opportunity to play in and so with it being in Canada, having Mike as captain, there's just a little extra special meaning to it, to be a part of it, to be up there, it’s one of the biggest goals over the last couple of years, is to make sure you're on that team.

**HADWIN ALSO BRINGS STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH HIS FELLOW COUNTRYMEN**

**...ESPECIALLY NICK TAYLOR.**

NICK TAYLOR: We've known each other for 20 plus years, we've lived together, we've traveled together. I think there's a comfort level there that it is so high. We have good feelings when we tee up together and we play well. We played together at Zurich and we had great success.

ANNC: How about that shot from Adam Hadwin. Got Team Canada with Nick Taylor. Potential Presidents Cup pairing.

**TAYLOR AND HADWIN RECORDED TOP 10 FINISHES EACH OF THE LAST TWO YEARS AT THE ZURICH CLASSIC OF NEW ORLEANS,**

**GIVING CAPTAIN MIKE WEIR A PREVIEW OF A POTENTIAL PAIRING IN MONTREAL.**

ADAM HADWIN: I hope he's watching. I hope he takes notice. We've put together a pretty good little team here.

NICK TAYLOR: He texted us good job and my first response was, 'hey, it would be a good team' and he agreed.

***B5 – CANADIAN FAN HYPE***

**REGARDLESS OF HOW MANY CANADIANS ULTIMATELY MAKE THE TEAM, THE HOME FANS WILL BE OUT IN FULL FORCE …**

MIKE WEIR: Canadians, we’re known as a hockey country, but we love our golf up here and I think they're really going to show why.

JIM FURYK: They’re going to be boisterous, they're going to be loud, and we're very well aware that we're the away team.

MIKE WEIR: The fans here in Montreal or in Canada in general are really going to get behind our guys, but it's certainly going to help if we have some Canadians on the team.

***C1 - REJOIN***

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***C2 – GEORGIA BULLDOG PLAYER POTENTIAL***

ANNC: Big opportunity for Kevin Kisner… got it! Kisner levels the match.

**2-TIME U.S. TEAM MEMBER KEVIN KISNER WILL MAKE HIS DEBUT AS A CAPTAIN’S ASSISTANT, BRINGING HIS BULLDOG MENTALITY TO THE ROLE…**

KEVIN KISNER: I love match play. I love the chemistry of trying to play against one person instead of 155 others.

**…AND KIZ WILL FEEL RIGHT AT HOME AMONG OTHER FELLOW BULLDOGS AS THE U.S. TEAM COULD HAVE UP TO 3 UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA GRADUATES REPRESENTING THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE.**

**RUSSELL HENLEY HAS A CHANCE TO MAKE HIS U.S. TEAM DEBUT WITH A CAPTAIN’S PICK AFTER A 2024 TOUR SEASON THAT INCLUDED SIX TOP 10 FINISHES, TWO OF WHICH CAME AT THE U.S. OPEN AND THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP.**

**AND BRIAN HARMAN COULD BECOME A PRESIDENTS CUP ROOKIE AS WELL, WITH A NOD FROM CAPTAIN FURYK.**

**HARMAN EARNED 2 POINTS FOR THE U.S. LAST YEAR IN HIS FIRST RYDER CUP APPEARANCE.**

**AND 39-YEAR-OLD CHRIS KIRK COULD ROUND OUT THE BULLDOG PRESENCE AS HE SEEKS HIS SECOND U.S. PRESIDENTS CUP TEAM APPEARANCE AND FIRST SINCE 2015…**

ANNC: Oh it’s enough and Kirk is up to the challenge in the moment.

**…WHERE HE SECURED A PIVOTAL SINGLES POINT DOWN THE STRETCH.**

***C3 – SAM BURNS FEATURE***

**ONE OF GEORGIA’S SEC RIVALS FROM LSU HAS BEEN ON THE OUSTSIDE LOOKING IN MOST OF THE SEASON – BUT HOPES TO IMPROVE ON HIS U-S TEAM DEBUT IN 20-22...**

ANNC: Sam Burns from 80 feet. Looks pretty good, looks real good. Really good!

SAM BURNS: It was an extremely fun week. I played some really nice golf. My record didn't really reflect how I played that week. That's kind of the nature of match play. Sometimes you can play really well and lose, and sometimes you can play pretty bad and win.

ANNC: For birdie to win the hole. He has a knack for making these long ones, he has this week. You can add another one to Burns’ list!

**THE LOUISIANA NATIVE EARNED A POINT FOR THE U.S. ON THE WAY TO A VICTORY ON HOME SOIL… BUT AFTER BEING AN AUTOMATIC QUALIFIER TWO YEARS AGO, BURNS ENDURED AN UP AND DOWN 2024.**

SAM BURNS: Got a little caught up in some kind of technicalities of the golf swing and kind of lost my way a little bit. So, trying to get back out here and just go play golf.

**ONE THING IN BURNS’ FAVOR IS HIS QUALITY WITH THE FLATSTICK, BUT AFTER THREE-STRAIGHT SEASONS IN THE TOP 10 IN STOKES GAINED: PUTTING, HE DROPPED AS LOW AS 64TH... THOUGH HE’S MADE STEADY GAINS SINCE JUNE.**

SAM BURNS: I've kind of stuck with the same thing I've done the last few years in my putting. Been hitting a lot of good putts, just haven't really kind of seen them gone in as much this year but I'm hopeful that the tide will turn.

ANNC: Walk it in, Sam Burns. Confident man with that putter.

**AND FURTHERED HIS CASE FOR A POTENTIAL PICK - WITH 2 STRAIGHT TOP 5’S IN THE PLAYOFFS.**

SOT BURNS: One of my biggest goals every year to be on one of those teams. It's a great honor to play for your country, to play for your teammates, and it's one of my favorite events every year.

***C4 – KOREAN PROMINANCE & SI WOO KIM***

**BURNS’ 2022 PRESIDENTS CUP PERFORMANCE WITH THE PUTTER WAS MATCHED ON THE INTERNATIONAL SIDE...**

**...BY FELLOW ROOKIE, TOM KIM …**

TOM KIM: The Presidents Cup was the most nerve-wracking experience I've had on the golf course because it's a team environment, you're not just playing for yourself.

ANNC: Got it!

TOM KIM: It was a tremendous, tremendous experience.

MIKE WEIR: Tom brings so much energy to our team. He's a big part of this team and can spur on some of the other Korean guys.

**KIM WILL BE JOINED BY FELLOW KOREANS SUNGJAE IM – THE INTERNATIONAL’S TOP POINT SCORER IN 2019...**

**AND BEN AN, IM’S TEAMMATE FROM 2019, RETURNING TO THE BLACK & GOLD FOR A SECOND TIME …**

ANNC: Big Putt! Captain Els liked that one!

BEN AN: This year has been very consistent for me. Try to work a little bit harder, try to take care of myself a little bit better. And everything's been paying off.

**HOPING TO MAKE IT FOUR KOREANS ON THE TEAM IS THE INTERNATIONAL’S TOP POINT SCORER FROM 2022... SI WOO KIM**

ANNC: To take a 1-up lead over Justin Thomas, ohh! You ever seen Si Woo Kim close to that kind of intensity? So stoic.

SI WOO KIM: When I was younger, always watching Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup; looks fun to me. I want to be like compete with the best golfers in the world.

ANNC: Yeah! What a putt!... That is all heart, all guts.

**KIM SECURED THREE POINTS IN FOUR MATCHES IN 20-22 AS HE EMERGED FROM HIS STANDARD STOIC PERSONALITY INTO A LIGHTNING ROD OF ENERGY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TEAM.**

SI WOO KIM: Most important thing to like get passion. So, I want to give my energy all the team players.

ANNC: How about that touch?... It’s great to see the emotion come pouring out from a guy like Si Woo Kim.

SI WOO KIM: Really enjoy the last two Presidents Cup. Hopefully I can get in the team again and I can help the team and hopefully we can win this year.

***D1 – SHOW 3 PROMO***

**JOIN US ON NBC FOR EPISODE THREE OF ROAD TO THE PRESIDENTS CUP ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER EIGHTH AT THREE P-M EASTERN WHERE WE WILL TAKE AN IN DEPTH LOOK AT THE INTERNATIONAL TEAM AND PROFILE THE PLAYERS EMBRACING THE SHIELD TO CHASE THE CUP IN CANADA.**

***D2 – AUSSIE PRESENCE***

ANNC: Cam Davis has arrived at the Presidents Cup.

**SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE PRESIDENTS CUP IN 1994, AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN HEAVILY INCLUDED ON THE INTERNATIONAL TEAM.**

ANNC: Representing the International team Adam Scott and Cam Davis.

**AND THIS YEAR COULD SEE THE MOST AUSTRALIANS ON THE TEAM SINCE 20-15, WITH 4 IN THE MIX.**

CAM DAVIS: It would mean the world to be a part of the Presidents Cup team again. That was probably the coolest week of my life. That's the most pressure I feel like I've felt for a week. Every single shot. The most eyes on you, the most buzz in the crowd.

**MIN WOO LEE HAS POSITIONED HIMSELF TO MAKE THE TEAM WITH A PAIR OF RUNNER-UP FINISHES AT THE COGNIZANT CLASSIC & ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC.**

MIN WOO LEE: It would mean everything. Now that I got to a stage where I could make the team, it's pretty special and I would love to represent Australia and I love the team format.

**AFTER MISSING THE LAST TWO PRESIDENTS CUPS, 4-TIME INTERNATIONAL TEAM MEMBER JASON DAY’S RECENT RETURN TO FORM HAS HIM BACK ON THE TEAM.**

ANNC: Oh what a shot. Oh my gosh. Jason Day, showing off some short game.

JASON DAY: I want it just as much as the Americans want it. Being able to come in with that 100% aggressiveness is key for us to go forth and win this.

**ROUNDING OUT THE AVAILABLE AUSSIES IS 10-TIME INTERNATIONAL TEAM MEMBER ADAM SCOTT - WHO HAS BEEN ON EVERY TEAM SINCE 2003.**

ADAM SCOTT: I still feel pretty young and certainly hanging around this team, I have to feel young and that's a really good thing. I think the TOUR keeps you young in mind. It's a nice achievement, but I'd like to win one.

***D3 – RYAN FOX FEATURE***

**WHILE THE INTERNATIONAL TEAM WILL HAVE A HEAVY AUSSIE FLAIR...**

**ONE PLAYER FROM ITS NEIGHBORING COUNTRY OF NEW ZEALAND IS LOOKING TO CATCH CAPTAIN WEIR’S ATTENTION.**

RYAN FOX: I remember going to watch the Presidents Cup at Royal Melbourne. It's always been really high up my list to be a part of that team and you know, I've been on the outside looking in a couple of times, so hopefully, you know, this is my year.

**RYAN FOX PUT TOGETHER A STRONG CASE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TEAM IN 20-22 WITH A WIN ON THE DP WORLD TOUR …**

ANNC: Fox has gone wire to wire in Ras Al Khaimah.

**… AND SEVEN TOP-20 FINISHES, BUT WAS ULTIMATELY NOT SELECTED BY THEN CAPTAIN, TREVOR IMMELMAN.**

RYAN FOX: I was disappointed to not be there a couple of years ago. I played really well, especially early in the year. I think I was just outside one of the automatic spots. It certainly gave a bit of motivation for me to get in this year.

**FOX EARNED A PGA TOUR CARD THANKS TO HIS PLAY IN EUROPE LAST SEASON, AND WHILE HIS RANK IN THE STANDINGS HAS DROPPED SINCE REACHING AS HIGH AS 4TH IN JANUARY - A TRIO OF TOP-10'S SINCE MAY HAVE KEPT HIM AMONG THE CONTENDERS FOR A CAPTAIN’S PICK.**

RYAN FOX: I get along with everyone really well. I'm very competitive. I'd like to beat the Americans. I think the International team’s looking like, you know, we're going to have a pretty strong team this year and if I'm on it, that would be great, if not, I’d certainly be cheering for them and hopefully they can get the job done this year.

***D4 – CLOSING STANDUP***

WITH THE AUTOMATIC QUALIFIERS LOCKED IN FOR THE U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL TEAMS, CAPTAIN JIM FURYK AND CAPITAN MIKE WIER NOW HAVE THEIR MOST DIFFICULT TASK AHEAD, SORTING THROUGH THE WEALTH OF TALENT TO MAKE THEIR FINAL PICKS AHEAD OF THIS YEAR’S PRESIDENTS CUP.

I’M PAIGE MACKENZIE, WE’LL SEE YOU NEXT TIME.

***D5 – ROLLOUT***

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