

2021 THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP OFFICIAL FILM

TEASE & TITLES

SCOTT SOT - everyone who plays here and everyone who's on the PGA Tour feel a sense of pride coming here because it is our championship.

DJ SOT - it's important to all of us players and that's why we come here and play

THOMAS SOT - it's architecturally one of the best courses I've played. It requires so many shots.

WESTWOOD SOT - You have the chance for success and disaster on nearly every hole out there

MORIKAWA SOT - it causes so much drama so much stress for certain guys coming down the stretch on a sunday.

RAHM SOT - Every tournament has a long list of great champions, but very few like this one

MCILROY SOT - Tiger, Jack, Scott, Garcia, Mickelson, to put myself amongst them is a pretty big honor.

SIMPSON SOT - seeing my name in a split second youre surprised like oh its my name but im honored to be on this trophy.

GARCIA SOT - to be able to perform as well. As I have performed at this golf course in this championship for so many years. It's something that I'm very, very proud of

MCILROY SOT - The Players Championship is our tournament

SCOTT SOT - the toughest field in golf.

FINAU SOT - the hardest golf tournament to win in the world.

THOMAS SOT - Historic.

FOWLER SOT - iconic.

SIMPSON SOT - A gift.

WESTWOOD SOT - a tradition.

GARCIA SOT - the best championship we have.

SETUP TOURNEY

AFTER A YEAR OF ANTICIPATION –THE PGA TOUR’S GOLD STANDARD IS BACK HOME – AND TPC SAWGRASS IS PRIMED FOR ITS EPIC RETURN TO THE FOREFRONT.

MCILROY SOT: “It's nice to be back. It's been a year since the world changed

RAHM SOT: “This is one of the biggest events of the year. Played good two years ago, played really good last year that first round, so hopefully I can keep that good play going.”

AND AS THE PLAYERS RETURN TO THEIR CHAMPIONSHIP, SO TOO DID THE FANS. WITH A LIMIT OF TEN THOUSAND SPECTATORS PER DAY FOR SAFETY PRECAUTIONS, THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP HOLDS THE LARGEST FAN PRESENCE SINCE THE PANDEMIC

THOMAS SOT: “I'm so excited to be playing in front of a good amount of fans again and get some juices flowing and hopefully produce some good golf.”

THOMAS SOT: “Having fans and having the energy is something that I've missed so much.”

THURSDAY START

ANNC: “A perfect surround for golf’s first mega event of 2021. Round one of THE PLAYERS is underway.”

GOLF’S PUREST TEST WELCOMES THE CHALLENGE OF THE GAMES BEST – AS FAMILIAR FACES MAKE THEIR MARK EARLY.

FROM PROVEN CHAMPIONS AS A WHOLE...

TO WINNERS FROM THE YOUNG SEASON...

AS WELL AS PAST CHAMPIONS OF THE EVENT – AND THOSE HUNGRY TO RAISE ITS TROPHY FOR A FIRST TIME.

ANNC: “A round of 71 for Justin ... that’ll be a welcome score for him.”

ALL SHOOTING UNDER PAR THROUGH CONDITIONS THAT PROMISE TO BE A DAUNTING TEST FOR THE REST OF THE FIELD.

ANNC: “DeChambeau obviously coming off a big week last week.”

FRESH OFF OF A WIN AT THE ARNOLD PALMER INVITATIONAL – BRYSON DECHAMBEAU OPENS STRONG.

ANNC: “That one drips in for his second birdie of the round.”

AND WHILE COSTLY BOGEY’S – INCLUDING ONE AS HE MAKES THE TURN – HINDER WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN A TRULY SPECIAL ROUND...

ANNC: “He couldn’t have been trying to fly it over that lake, could he?”

HE CLOSES OUT WITH FOUR BIRDIES ON THE BACK NINE.

ANNC: “Birdie at 16, birdie at 17, now 3 under par.”

FOUR DAYS EARLIER, LEE WESTWOOD WAS IN THE FINAL PAIRING ALONGSIDE DECHAMBEAU EN ROUTE TO SOLO SECOND.

WESTWOOD: “I built a lot of confidence last week and this is somewhere I’ve played a lot and played well before. The key for me really coming here is getting fresh again.

HE STARTS HIS OPENING CAMPAIGN WELL – MATCHING DECHAMBEAU WITH AN OPENING ROUND OF 69.

ANNC: “Continuing his strong play.”

WITH 11 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN THE PLAYERS RICH LINEAGE OF WINNERS – ENGLAND HAS YET TO ENTER ITS CIRCLE OF CHAMPIONS. AND ON THE HEELS OF THREE STRAIGHT TOP-11 FINISHES – FELLOW ENGLISHMAN MATT FITZPATRICK JOINS WESTWOOD IN TRYING TO CHANGE THAT.

ANNC: “Holes it from off the green!”

AS THE ENGLISHMAN CONTINUES HIS HOT HAND WITH A FOUR UNDER, 68 IN HIS OPENING ROUND...

TEE ANNC: “The 2019 PLAYERS championship winner, Rory McIlroy!”

THE STILL REIGNING CHAMPION HAS BEEN WAITING TWO YEARS TO OFFICIALLY TO DEFEND HIS TITLE – AND THE ULSTERMAN REFLECTS ON WHEN GOLF – AND THE REST OF THE SPORTS WORLD – ULTIMATELY STOPPED.

YEAR THROUGH RORY’S EYES

MEDIA SOT: “Ladies and gentlemen, it’s my pleasure to welcome defending PLAYERS Champion Rory McIlroy back to the interview room here at TPC Sawgrass”

MCILROY SOT: “Going into the Players Championship last year, defending champion. Feeling pretty good about my game, feeling optimistic...”

MCILROY SOT: “it’s nice to be back and obviously it would be wonderful to replicate what happened last year”

MCILROY SOT: “In golfing terms, I was feeling good about everything, going back to a place where I’ve had some success, good memories...”

ANNC: “...and Rory McIlroy is a PLAYERS Champion”

MCILROY SOT: “News about the pandemic or covid was sort of ramping up a little bit... people started to become a little more aware and a little more conscious of what that might mean... I still thought were going to have a tournament, I’ve got a chance to defend a really big title. I guess at that point it was just business as usual.”

MCILROY SOT: “Welcome to the PLAYERS Championship...done, perfecto {claps}”

(ART CARD #1): IN THE FIRST ROUND, MCILROY BIRDIED HIS FINAL THREE HOLES TO SHOOT AN EVEN PAR 72, 9-SHOTS BEHIND LEADER HIDEKI MATSUYAMA.

(ART CARD #2): BUT AS RORY PLAYED, THE PGA TOUR ANNOUNCED THAT FANS WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED ON THE GROUNDS FOR THE REST OF THE WEEK, DUE TO COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS.

MCILROY SOT: “I don’t think I had much of a thought about it until the Tour announced on Thursday that there would be no fans on Friday.”

MCILROY SOT: “It will be a little strange to play here over the next few days with no fans, but that’s what we have to do to try and do our bit to try and stop the spread...someone said to me yesterday, today’s overreaction could look like tomorrow’s underreaction so we just got to take it day by day and see where this thing goes.”

MONAHAN SOT: “Good morning everyone. We are obviously very disappointed to suspend the PGA TOUR season...I wanted to fight for our players and our fans and for this tour, to show how golf can unify and inspire... Our goal now is to focus on a plan for the near and long term and maintain the strength we have built through our organization over the past 51 years...and I’m confident we will do exactly that.”

MCILROY SOT: “I stood up there yesterday after playing and was like look...doing what they did was a step in the right direction, but they were saying they were going to take it hour by hour and seeing how it would all play out and look here we are.”

MCILROY SOT: “at that point as well, we knew nothing about covid. So I think at that point there was a lot of fear...”

{ART CARD #3}: AS COVID-19 CONTINUED TO SPREAD IN THE U.S., THE PGA TOUR CANCELLED OR RESCHEDULED ALL TOURNAMENTS ON ALL TOURS FOR AN UNPRECEDENTED 13-WEEK STRETCH.

{ART CARD #5}: WITH ALL MAJOR SPORTS LEAGUES SHUTTERED DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE PANDEMIC, GOLF BEGAN THE SLOW, MEASURED PROCESS OF TRYING TO COME BACK.

MCILROY SOT: “It was just nice to be a part of something where people didn’t know the score. I didn’t know what was going to happen at the end... we raised a lot of money for covid relief as well, at a time when people really needed it. It was still pretty early on...”

ANNC: “Over 5 and a half million dollars raised today. Unbelievable.”

MCILROY SOT: “Golf was basically the first live sport back and to be part of that was also pretty special and it gave people a bit of an escape from what had been going on.”

MCILROY SOT: “a lot of players on tour were just grateful that they could play because there were so many people who couldn’t get back to work so I think just guys on tour being so grateful to be able to go out there play golf and do what they do for a living. “

MCILROY SOT: “to finish the FedExCup season and to crown a champion and to put all those resources to making sure the tournament site was safe and we all got tested and made sure we did everything the right way... I think everyone involved should be proud for what they’ve been able to do.”

MCILROY SOT: “It is going to be the one-year mark at The Players, if there is going to be a theme for the tournament it should just be how grateful that the players are that we get to play in The Players Championship again. And how grateful we are for everyone involved in helping us get back to this point... “

MORE THURSDAY

MCILROY’S POSITIVE VIBES ARE TESTED EARLY – AFTER HIS OPENING TEE SHOT IN THE TREES LED TO A DOUBLE BOGEY...

FIGHTING THROUGH SWING CHANGES, MCILROY STRUGGLES TO FIND HIS RHYTHM THROUGHOUT THE DAY...

BUT RETURNS TO THE 18TH TEE – THE SAME SPOT WHERE HE SEALED HIS VICTORY TWO YEARS AGO – WITH A CHANCE TO TURN THINGS AROUND.

ANNC: “A wild miss with McIlroy ... it is escalating quite quickly right now.”

WITH A QUADRUPLE BOGEY ON THE 18TH HOLE, MCILROY POSTED A SEVEN OVER, 79 AND SQUANDERS HIS CHANCE AT GOING BACK-TO-BACK.

OF THE COUNTLESS PARTS OF THE GLOBE TEEING IT UP AT THE PLAYERS THIS YEAR – NONE MAY BE AS MOTIVATED AS THE PLAYERS FROM LATIN AMERICA – AS THE 6 IN THE FIELD THIS WEEK – FROM 5 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES – ARE THE MOST IN PLAYERS HISTORY.

ANNC: “What a birdie right there for Emiliano.”

THREE SHOOT PAR OR BETTER IN ROUND 1... WITH ONE OF THE CROP STILL IN SEARCH OF A BREAKOUT PERFORMANCE ON THE BIGGEST STAGE.

ANCER ANNC: “Just a player that really ... burst on the scene even though he’s still searching for that first PGA TOUR victory.”

ANNC: “Sebastian Munoz puts one on the board for the Players Championship rookies! ... perfecto, vamos.”

MUNOZ AND NIEMANN ARE OF THE 31 PLAYERS ARE MAKING THEIR FIRST OFFICIAL START IN THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP - 14 OF THEM BEING INTERNATIONAL.

NORWAY’S VIKTOR HOVLAND IS ONE OF THEM – BUT TWO DOUBLE BOGEYS IN HIS OPENING SIX HOLES PUTS HIM BEHIND THE EIGHT BALL.

ANNC: “Hard to wipe that smile off of Viktor’s face but he is grinding right now.”

YET THE 2-TIME PGA TOUR WINNER HANGS TOUGH – AND FIGHTS BACK WITH THREE BIRDIES THE REST OF THE DAY, CARDING AN EVEN PAR, 72.

HOVLAND SOT ON FIGHTING BACK: “I managed to tell myself that I have been playing very good and see the shots that I want to see and managed to reset pretty quickly.”

ALSO MAKING HIS PLAYERS DEBUT, XINJUN ZHANG CARDS AN EARLY BIRDIE ON HIS SECOND HOLE AND TAKES PRIDE AS MAINLAND CHINA’S SOLE PLAYER IN THE FIELD.

ZHANG CONTENT

Xinjun Translation: Just wrapped up at Pebble Beach. Now I am on my way to LA. I usually just rush from tournament to tournament. Halfway I stop for gas, grab a burger then continue my drive.

Xinjun Translation: I prefer driving to flying if the trip is less than 10 hours. I enjoy driving. Especially in the US because the views along the way are beautiful

Xinjun Translation: In the past year I basically travelled alone. The language barrier is difficult but it helps me be independent.

Xinjun Translation: Honestly, it's a stressful lifestyle even though it looks fancy from the outside. The PGA TOUR is an extremely competitive tour. Everybody is a top golfer. If you don't bring your best game, you just come here, play for two days and go home.

Xinjun Translation: This will be my first time playing at THE PLAYERS. TPC Sawgrass was where I practiced when I lived in Jacksonville, so I am familiar with the course. I am very excited about THE PLAYERS. It's like playing a major. TPC Sawgrass is also one of my favorite courses. Lots of challenging holes here require you to think strategically.

Xinjun Translation: My biggest wish in 2021 is that the pandemic can be over soon and everyone's life goes back to normal. I also want to see my son and parents soon. Last but not least, I want to play better and hopefully I can continue my journey on the PGA TOUR for as long as possible.

THURSDAY WRAP

THE GOOD VIBES WHICH LED TO A GOOD START THRU FIVE HOLES HAULTED – AFTER GOLF'S PUREST TEST BITES BACK WITH 5 BOGEYS OVER HIS NEXT SEVEN ... RESULTING IN A 76, LEAVING HIM ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN.

BUT THE DIFFICULTIES AROUND TPC SAWGRASS WEREN'T CONTAINED TO JUST ONE PLAYER – AS THE PUNISHING ISLAND GREEN, 17TH HOLE LIVES UP TO ITS REPUTATION IN ROUND ONE.

ANNC: "The star of the show as usual is 17."

WOODLAND SOT: "That green is definitely firmer than the rest of them."

ANNC: "He actually hit four in the penalty area"

THOMAS SOT: "You can land it pin high and one hop in the water."

ANNC: "At least half the shots that went in the water were from shots where the players were licking their chops when it was in the air."

FITZPATRICK SOT: "It was a strange one."

ANNC: “The brain: done, scrambled, done.”

TAYLOR SOT: “That's not a fun hole today.”

35 SHOTS FOUND THE WATER AT 17... THE SECOND HIGHEST TOTAL IN THE PAST 18 YEARS

YET 2019 CHAMPION GOLFER OF THE YEAR SHANE LOWRY IS ONE OF FEW TO FIND LAND... AND HE MAKES THE MOST OF IT.

ANNC: “Very nice there for Shane.”

LOWRY: “today’s only one day. I’ll not get ahead of myself. I kind of have to relax and put today behind me and keep going tomorrow.”

THE IRISHMAN CARDS SIX BIRDIES AND POSTS 68...

WHILE CANADA’S COREY CONNERS MATCHES LOWRY AFTER 18 HOLES... THANKS TO AN EAGLE AT NUMBER 14...

CONNERS: “I had a really good number for a 9 iron ... Just right at it the whole way – hit it really solid, I knew it was going to be pretty good – always a bonus to see it go in.”

BUT THE PACE IS SET BY SERGIO GARCIA ... THE 2008 CHAMPION IS NO STRANGER TO PETE DYE’S TOUGH TEST.

ANNC: “Off to a fantastic start in this event.”

HE PLAYS HIS FINAL THREE HOLES IN 4 UNDER PAR, INCLUDING ONE OF TWO EAGLES ON THE DAY ... A FIRST FOR HIM IN 77 CAREERS ROUNDS IN THE PLAYERS

ANNC: “3-2-3, wow.”

GARCIA: “Today I was able to draw the ball nicely, hit some good iron shots and give myself a lot of those 12-20 footers for eagles and birdies and I was able to roll 3 or 4 of them and that obviously helps.”

41 PLAYERS END ROUND ONE IN RED FIGURES ... THE FEWEST SINCE 2008 ... WHEN THE LEADER AFTER 18 HOLES WAS ... SERGIO GARCIA

ANNC: “In the Top 10 – eclectic mix of countries and of players.”

BUT THOSE LUCKY ENOUGH TO FIND RED NUMBERS IN ROUND ONE SHOULD BE WARY OF WHAT LIES AHEAD – AS SERGIO GARCIA CAN ATTEST TO GIVEN HIS PAST HISTORY.

SERGIO PLAYERS HISTORY MINI

ANNC: Another big final round Sunday for the Spaniard, Sergio Garcia

GARCIA SOT: I think there's two or three key moments throughout that last round...// I think I made a really nice putt on five

ANNC: “I tell you what, this guy’s putting has just awakened on this final round of The PLAYERS Championship.”

GARCIA SOT: And then I made a big putt on 14 for birdie.

ANNC: Hard enough? That’s a field goal!

GARCIA SOT: I obviously remember that one and the celebration.

GARCIA SOT: And then the par putt on 18 to get into a playoff great up and down there. So that gave me the possibility of winning in a playoff

ANNC: “this would be the biggest championship for the one-time prodigy...”

ANNC ‘The long wait is over for Sergio Garcia’s big win, he is the PLAYERS Champion in 2008”

WHILE THE SPANIARD’S WIN AT THE PLAYERS WAS A DEFINING ONE – HIS OVERALL RESUME CAN ALSO BE CONSIDERED ONE BIG ROLLER COASTER...

AS EVIDENCE BY GOING FACE-TO-FACE WITH TIGER IN 2013...

ANNC: “Ohhhh. Unbelievable.”

ANNC: “That hole has been good to me... Today it wasn’t...That’s the kind of hole it is.”

THOUGH THE ISLAND GREEN WOULD CONTINUE TO BE GRACIOUS TO GARCIA...

ANNC: “oh man!...take that 17!”

...ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION.

SPANISH ANNC:

ONE WIN.

2-RUNNER-UPS.

ANNC: Garcia right there again

7 TOP-10'S.

OVER TWO DECADES WORTH OF MEMORIES, SERGIO GARCIA CONTINUES TO SHOW THAT HE HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO COMPETE AT TPC SAWGRASS.

GARCIA SOT: I'm very proud to call myself a player's champion. And to be able to do it and to be able to perform as well as I have performed at this golf course in this championship for so many years. It's something that I'm very, very proud of and it's something that I hope to keep going as much as possible.

SEGMENT 2

COURSE SETUP

AS THE SUN RISES OVER DAY TWO AT THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP, THE PGA TOUR RULES AND COMPETITIONS TEAM GOES TEE TO GREEN THROUGH 18 HOLES TO SET UP ANOTHER DAY OF THRILLING COMPETITION.

21PLAYERS_COURSE_SETUP_V2 SQ (00:00:05): This morning, I'm basically setting up for round two. So I'm gonna set the tee markers, check the hole locations for round two

21PLAYERS_COURSE_SETUP_V2 SQ (00:00:50): Ok, Eric. Good to go here at number 10

21PLAYERS_COURSE_SETUP_V2 SQ (00:02:07): I don't like the players to come and play the same yardage hole each day. That's not very exciting. That doesn't necessarily bring in the features of the hole.

ROBBY WARE SOT: (01:30:00)We're here at number 12. This year is going to be the first year we've been able to play the back tee.// (01:30:47)I'm going to play back here the first two days and then I will move up forward over the weekend // (01:31:02)that will hopefully produce some eagles and excitement.

21PLAYERS_COURSE_SETUP_V2 SQ (00:06:12): We're having a great week so far. The weather's been cooperating, the golf course is in great condition, so we're looking forward to a really exciting weekend

FRIDAY START

ANNC: “A serene setting in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida just before the dawn of a new day ... Will the field fight back today or will THE PLAYERS Stadium Course continue to dish out more punishment?”

FIRST ROUND LEADER SERGIO GARCIA STRUGGLES TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING ON DAY TWO – WITH THREE BOGEYS IN HIS FIRST 10 HOLES ...

BUT THE WORLD-RENOWNED IRON PLAYER STRIKES BACK ON THE 11TH HOLE...

ANNC: “Sergio Garcia, tracking! ... yeah that’s getting your mojo back!”

HE CLOSES WITH TWO BIRDIES ON HIS FINAL THREE HOLES TO SHOOT EVEN PAR 72..

GARCIA SOT: “It was a beautiful rollercoaster ... there were a lot of good things, unfortunately a lot of bad things, but more than anything there was a lot of fighting.”

FELLOW SPANIARD JON RAHM MAKES FIVE BIRDIES AS HE CLIMBS THE LEADERBOARD...

ANNC: “Round of 68 for Rahm ... he is right in it.”

HE LEADS A PACK OF THOSE HOLDING STEADY TO KEEP THEMSELVES IN CONTENTION AS THE TEST OF A DIFFICULT WEEKEND LOOMS...

ANNC: “Been searching. Maybe he finds something this week.”

DAY SOT: “I think the course will play a lot more difficult over the next two days, because I think their greens will start to firm out a little bit more, and we're going to have a little bit more wind, too.”

MAKING HIS SECOND START AT THE PLAYERS, SUNGJAE IM RATTLES OFF SIX-CONSECUTIVE BIRDIES, PUTTING HIMSELF CLOSER TO ACHIEVING HIS GOALS.

IM SOT: “If I win this competition, it will give me pride. It’s not easy to be able to win every tournament. However, I’d love to be in contention for the big tournament once and hold the trophy.”

SUNGJAE IM FEATURE

SUNGJAE IM IS KNOWN FOR HOW OFTEN HE PLAYS ON THE PGA TOUR – BUT THE "ROAD WARRIOR" HAS RECENTLY BEEN TAMED... THANKS TO PURCHASING A HOME IN DULUTH, GEORGIA LATE IN 20-20.

SUNGJAE IM: I think it was just the right timing for me to have a home here.

JI TAEK IM: As Sungjae did not want to miss any events, he kept playing every week. That's part of the reason why we postponed purchasing a house here in the U.S. As we saw Sungjae play steadily on the TOUR, we decided to get a house.

SUNGJAE IM: When I was on the Korn Ferry Tour 3 years ago, I practiced at TPC Sugarloaf a lot. At that time, I could see some houses around the course, and the course atmosphere. I thought this would be the right place to settle down when I play on the PGA TOUR. That's how I ended up settling down here, and I really like it.

WHILE IM HAS FINALLY SETTLED DOWN IN THE U-S – THERE'S ALSO A PIECE OF HIS HOME COUNTRY HE KEEPS CLOSE...

NAT: Hey Coach.>>Hi Sungjae >>How are you?

AS HE STILL WORKS WITH HIS COACH IN KOREA.

SUNGJAE IM: I met my coach, Hyun Choi in 2015. And learned from him since. We just have a great relationship with each other.

NAT: I think you're using your lower body too quickly.>>You think so?

SUNGJAE SOT: At night, when it's morning or afternoon in Korea, I send my swing video to the coach and ask for help. He checks that, and gives me feedback. Then, I practice accordingly. That's how we make things work.

NAT: Step on the wedge with your right heel.

SUNGJAE SOT: According to my coach, my right foot comes up too quickly. So I'm more focused on that, trying to fix it.

NAT: How did that feel? Oh, this one went straight.

BEING THE GRINDER HE IS – SUNGJAE CAN NOW TAKE THOSE LESSONS RIGHT OUT TO THE COURSE – LITERALLY IN HIS NEW BACK YARD.

SUNGJAE SOT: TPC Sugarloaf, I like the training environment here. and I feel very comfortable when I come to practice here. Whenever I come to this course, I feel great, and it's fun to practice here.

SUNGJAE IM: I'm just so grateful that I can play on the PGA TOUR now. and that motivates me to work harder every day. As I continue to play on the PGA TOUR, I'm going to stay here for a while.

FRIDAY PART 2

IM'S IMPRESSIVE BIRDIE STREAK TIES THE TOURNAMENT RECORD AND WITH EIGHT TOTAL ON THE DAY, HE SHOOTS 66 AND SITS IN THE TOP FIVE ENTERING THE WEEKEND.

BUT IT ISN'T AS EASY FOR OTHERS IN THE FIELD, WHO LEAVE TPC SAWGRASS AFTER TWO DAYS OF PLAY...

FROM PAST CHAMPIONS...

ANNC: "Another big name's gonna fall short of the weekend."

TO TOP-RANKED PLAYERS WHO CAN'T OVERCOME THURSDAY'S TOUGH START...

ANNC: "It's an empty feeling missing the cut."

INCLUDING XANDER SCHAUFFELE, WHO'S TOUR-BEST STREAK OF 23-CONSECUTIVE CUTS MADE COMES TO AN END...

AS DOES VIKTOR HOVLAND'S MARK OF 22 IN-A-ROW...

ANNC: "These guy are competitors and they don't like to take weekends off."

THE NORWEGIAN'S SLOW START IN ROUND ONE – COMPOUNDED BY TWO DOUBLE BOGEYS IN HIS FIRST SIX HOLES – PROVES TOO STEEP A HILL TO CLIMB.

HOVLAND SOT: "I'm just more disappointed that I wasn't able to play better because I had a good start today and if I would've kept going in that direction I could've been five under par -going into the weekend with a chance to win the golf tournament."

BIG NUMBERS KEPT HOVLAND FROM SPARKING HIS FIRESTONE, ULTIMATELY MAKING HIM UNABLE TO STEAL THE SHOW...

BUT NOT BEFORE IMPRESSING HIS FELLOW COUNTRYMAN...

KYGO AT PLAYERS

KYGO SOT: It's my first golf tournament ever. I'm getting the full experience today and I'm very happy

KYGO SOT: I just started playing golf last summer and I just like now realized you know how hard it is. Just seeing them hit those drives it's crazy. It looks so easy when they do it, but yeah, it's just insanely hard.

KYGO SOT: I saw Hovland and Justin Thomas. I saw Rickie tee off and followed for 3 or 4 holes.

KYGO SOT: I'm just very impressed and it's so cool to see him play

KYGO SOT : I just don't understand how they handle the pressure. I realize how bad I am when I see these guys play. I'm like wow, these guys are actually on another level

KYGO SOT: To me if you gave me a golf club right now I would be so nervous.

KYGO SOT: It's been great. I'm enjoying it and I'm definitely planning on coming back

FRIDAY WRAP

WHILE AN ARTIST OBSERVES THE ACTION, A SCIENTIST CALCULATES HIS WAY FROM TEE-TO-GREEN...

Tee Ann: "8-time PGA TOUR winner, Bryson DeChambeau!"

DESPITE A DOUBLE BOGEY ON HIS OPENING HOLE, DECHAMBEAU KEEPS IT CLEAN THE REST OF THE WAY...

THANKS TO FIVE BIRDIES, HE'S TIED FOR FIFTH HALFWAY THRU THE TOURNAMENT.

ANNC: "It's gonna be back-to-back rounds of 69."

DECHAMBEAU SOT: "I've been pretty lucky, for the most part. I don't think that'll happen this weekend. I've got to make sure that my game is good off the tee..."

MATT FITZPATRICK MAKES SIX BIRDIES EN ROUTE TO A SECOND ROUND, 68

ANNC: "This guy's just been a machine this week ... maybe a big breakout week

ENTERING THE WEEK 16TH IN THE OFFICIAL WORLD GOLF RANKING, HE IS THE HIGHEST-RANKED PLAYER WITHOUT A WIN ON THE PGA TOUR, BUT SITS SOLO 2ND ENTERING THE WEEKEND.

FITZPATRICK SOT: “It's one of my things this year that I've wanted to do is be in these positions more often. I've got to give myself chances and the experiences to hopefully knock one off.”

FELLOW ENGLISHMAN LEE WESTWOOD CARDS HIS 6TH-CAREER BOGEY-FREE ROUND AT TPC SAWGRASS – THE MOST OF ANY PLAYER SINCE 2005...

ANNC: “A confident Lee Westwood – whoa – watch out for him.”

WESTWOOD LEADS THE STRONG FIELD AT 9 UNDER...

WESTWOOD SOT: “To compete in any of these tournaments against the best players in the world, you can't have any weaknesses in your game ... there's not a shot out there I'm afraid of.”

IT'S HIS THIRD 36-HOLE LEAD IN THE EVENT, BUT WINNING HIS FIRST PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP WILL BE A TOUGH TEST WITH OTHER PURSUERS LOOKING TO CAPITALIZE ON MOVING DAY.

SEGMENT 3

SATURDAY SCENE SET AND BETTER THAN MOST TRIBUTE FLAG

ANNC “Another beautiful day here in northeast Florida, 3rd round of THE PLAYERS...”

AS SATURDAY GETS UNDER WAY AT TPC SAWGRASS, A WHO'S WHO OF THE GAME'S ELITE ARE PRIMED AND READY TO MAKE MOVES UP THE LEADERBOARD, INCLUDING PAST CHAMPION SERGIO GARCIA AND BRYSON DECHAMBEAU, WHOSE 2ND ROUND 69 POSITIONED HIM JUST 3 STROKES BEHIND LEADER LEE WESTWOOD.

ANNC “So many possibilities...Lee Westwood trying to become the second oldest PLAYERS champion in history...”

BUT BEFORE WESTWOOD, OR ANYONE ELSE FOR THAT MATTER, CAN CALL THEMSELVES A PLAYERS CHAMPION ON SUNDAY, THEY MUST SURVIVE A FAMILIAR HOLE LOCATION CUT INTO THE PAR-3 17TH, AND HOPE THEY ARE BETTER THAN MOST, JUST AS TIGER WOODS WAS 20 YEARS AGO.

THOUGH WOODS ISN'T PLAYING THIS WEEK, HIS PRESENCE IS FELT THANKS IN PART TO AN ENBROIDERED TRIBUTE ON THE HOLE WHERE HE ROCKED THE GOLF WORLD IN 2001.

TIGER 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

ANNC: “What a scene it is, galleries surrounding ... this is a crescendo when Tiger Woods shows up.”

IN 2001, TIGER WOODS WAS IN SEARCH OF HIS FIRST PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP. HE ENTERED THE THIRD ROUND 6-SHOTS BACK OF JERRY KELLY.

ADAM SCOTT SOT: “It was right in the middle of Tiger Mania in the early 2000s. And it was just another fairy tale of his at the time.”

HIS TEE SHOT ON NUMBER 17 BARELY STAYED DRY, AND A FORGETTABLE FINISH TO HIS DAY SEEMED IN STORE.

BROOKS KOEPKA SOT: “You’d take good odds on that. You’d be safe if you put it not to go in.”

RICKIE FOWLER SOT: “Adding it being a double breaker, and then the amount of break, percentages kind of keep going down and down.”

PATRICK CANTLAY SOT: “Maybe a 1 in 100 putt. Especially in that moment.”

MAX HOMA SOT: “It’s Tiger, he’s gonna make that putt. When nobody expects him to, that means everyone should expect him to.”

JUSTIN ROSE SOT: “The thing about that putt is the way he reads greens.”

ANNC: “That’s...better than most...”

JUSTIN ROSE SOT: “He would have known where he had to get the ball to then feed it down to the hole and then gravity takes over.”

ANNC: “How about in? That is Better than Most....Better than Most!!”

ANNC: “We’ll go back to 14...”

ANNC: “I presume Jerry Kelly heard a roar there we did hear a roar out there, but I’m sure he has no idea what it meant.”

JERRY KELLY SOT: “I was watching it happen. I’m like, look he’s on the back of the green maybe he’ll three-putt then the roar just watch his whole reaction.”

ADAM SCOTT SOT: “I was up in the Sky Sports booth. I wasn’t in the tournament, but I got invited up to do some guest commentary we were just standing outside the booth watching and it was insane. I was a complete fan at that point. Complete fan.”

JASON DAY SOT: “Coming up out of Australia. I do remember when I first saw that. Everything he did just was so good and I wanted to play more golf because of that.”

TIGER CLOSED THE GAP TO 2 SHOTS BY THE END OF ROUND 3 AND CARRIED THE MOMENTUM INTO SUNDAY, FIRING A 67 TO WIN THE CHAMPIONSHIP.

ADAM SCOTT SOT: “Those moments, they can inspire. After being at the Sawgrass that weekend, I really wanted to make sure I was in the field from then on.”

ANNC: “Adam Scott survives!”

ADAM SCOTT SOT: “So those little things can really be motivational.”

JASON DAY SOT: “That just goes to show how much of an impact he had. Especially my generation growing up.”

BROOKS KOEPKA SOT: “That pretty much sums him up. Making a putt when you need to or almost doing the impossible, that's Tiger-esque.”

MORE SATURDAY

TPC SAWGRASS DEMANDED A PLAYER'S A-GAME THEN AND NOTHING HAS CHANGED 20 YEARS LATER.

ANNC “So much at stake for so many players...”

ANNC “Two quick birdies for DeChambeau, he's within 1 at 8 under Par...those guys on the top can't afford to stumble.”

BRYSON QQ SOT “That's what you need to do to win golf tournaments. Putting has always been pretty good and my driving was a little bit better today, I hope I can keep moving forward with that and working on it in the right way and giving myself a better feel for tomorrow.”

WHILE DECHAMBEAU MOVES UP THE LEADERBOARD WITH TWO BIRDIES ON HIS OPENING NINE; FITZPATRICK AND WESTWOOD ARE UNABLE TO SEPARATE THEMSELVES EARLY.

ANNC “So out in 36, all pars so far. Westwood just a shot back

WESTWOOD PRESSER SOT “Missed a few around the front nine for different reasons, kind of misread a couple of putts, hit some good putts that didn't go in...”

ANNC “The 2008 champion who began the day just a couple back has brought it back with 4 birdies since those 2 early bogies...”

SERGIO GARCIA CONTINUES HIS STEADY PLAY FROM FRIDAY TO FINISH IN A TIE FOR 8TH AT 8 UNDER WHILE HIS FELLOW COUNTRYMAN JON RAHM MAKES A SPLASH OF HIS OWN FINISHING SATURDAY WITH A 67 ADVANCING HIM INTO A TIE FOR 5TH.

RAHM QQ SOT “Felt a lot more in command of my game and my swing today. Hopefully tomorrow I'll have a chance.”

SUNGJAE IM, HOWEVER, FAILS TO KEEP UP HIS STELLAR PLAY FROM THE SECOND ROUND AND FALLS INTO A TIE FOR 48TH AFTER A DISSAPOINTING 77.

IN SHARP CONTRAST, 2017 CHAMPION SI WOO KIM, ABRAHAM ANCER AND DOUG GHIM ALL POST ROUNDS IN THE 60'S LEADING TO SOLID UPWARD MOVEMENT ON THE LEADERBOARD.

ALSO MAKING A SATURDAY CHARGE IS JUSTIN THOMAS.

ANNC “Birdies 1,2,3,4 dropped a shot but gets it right back with a birdie at 7, JT is on a roll with a lot of golf ahead of him.”

THOMAS' EXPERT PLAY CONTINUES WITH THREE MORE BIRDIES BEFORE HIS SECOND SHOT AT THE PAR 5, 16TH RESULTS IN AN EAGLE THREE.

ANNC “Oh what a wonderful shot...stone, motherless dead and Justin Thomas regains that momentum.”

ANNC “That is the best round of the championship turned in by Justin Thomas on this Saturday.”

THOMAS SOT: I wish all rounds were that easy. I hit the ball beautifully, I drove it well, I just know that I have to stay patient out here because you can make a lot of birdies...”

AFTER MAKING THE CUT ON THE NUMBER, CAM SMITH TOO IS OFF TO THE RACES EARLY WITH FOUR BIRDIES IN HIS FIRST SEVEN HOLES.

SMITH SOT: “I had a good practice session after yesterday's round. I felt really comfortable around the greens and putting all week and then today I think I just hit the ball a little bit better.”

SMITH'S SOLID START TO THE WEEKEND IS A SIGN THAT HE HASN'T LOST ANY MOMENTUM FROM HIS CAREER-BEST SEASON IN 2020.

CAM SMITH WINS GREG NORMAN MEDAL

ANNC: It is a crazy finish, with Cameron Smith taking his second PGA TOUR title.

WITH ONE WIN AND 8 TOP 25s, 2020 WAS A YEAR TO REMEMBER FOR CAMERON SMITH.

AS A RESULT, SMITH WAS SURPRISED WITH THE GREG NORMAN MEDAL, AWARDED ANNUALLY TO AUSTRALIA'S TOP-PERFORMING PLAYER.

NORMAN NAT: Hello mate.

SMITH NAT: Hey mate, how are ya?

NORMAN NAT:-There is a reason why I'm on this phone, and that is basically to present to you the Greg Normal medal.

SMITH NAT: Oh that's awesome. That's unreal. I was wondering where she went this morning.

NORMAN NAT: It wasn't too hard a decision for me to give the nod to you and I'm just proud of it for you and I hope you're just as proud how I feel for you.

NORMAN NAT: Kudos to you on that one bud. Proud of you to be the Greg Normal medal winner for this 2020 season and I hope you repeat in 2021.

WITH ONE AWARD IN HAND, SMITH IS HOPING TO USE THAT AS MOTIVATION TO WIN THE PLAYERS.

SATURDAY WRAP

ANNC "A two at the short par 4...reason to smile and feel good..."

WITH BIRDIES AT 12 AND ANOTHER AT 17 WORTHY OF TIGER'S APPROVAL...

ANNC "He likes it, he should like it...oh wow...what a putt from Cam Smith..."

... CAM SMITH CARDS AN IMPRESSIVE 65 TO GET ONE STEP CLOSER TO BECOMING A PLAYERS CHAMPION AT A COURSE HE FEELS RIGHT AT HOME ON.

SMITH SOT I just love this place. I live locally. I'm out here all the time. I mean, the fans are great here//it's like a second home for me, but I love it personally.

ALSO PUTTING HIMSELF IN CONTENTION IS PAUL CASEY AFTER HIS 2ND 67 IN AS MANY ROUNDS; ADDING HIMSELF TO THE ENGLISH CONTINGENT AT THE

TOP ALONGSIDE MATTHEW FITZPATRICK WHO ENDS THE DAY TIED FOR 8TH AND LEE WESTWOOD WHO IS ON CRUISE CONTROL.

ANNC “And made it, what a putt!”

HIS 4TH BIRDIE ON THE SIDE, WESTWOOD TURNS IN A 68, LOCKING UP A SPOT IN THE FINAL GROUP ON SUNDAY FOR THE SECOND WEEK IN A ROW.

WESTWOOD SOT “Really looking forward to it. I'm going to really enjoy tomorrow. I enjoyed last Sunday, and I'm going to enjoy this Sunday.”

JOINING WESTWOOD IN A SUNDAY FINAL PAIRING IS BRYSON DECHAMBEAU AGAIN – AS HE RALLIES ON THE FINAL 3 HOLES TO POST A 67.

ANNC “That from 14 feet, another clutch putt...from DeChambeau...”

DECHAMBEAU SOT Yeah, definitely a lot of positivity coming out of that. You feel pretty good the way I finished. Gutting it out, grinding it out and giving myself a great chance for tomorrow.

SEGMENT 4

SUNDAY SCENE SET

ANNC: “Beautiful day. An iconic course. A leaderboard jampacked and one of the game’s biggest titles on the line.”

ANNC: “For the second straight Sunday, after rave reviews from act one, it’s Lee and Bryson, part two.”

BRYSON SOT: “Mr. Consistency. His driving is impeccable, his iron play is impeccable and he makes putts when he needs to.”

WESTWOOD SOT: “I enjoy playing with him. I enjoy his company and his caddie's company, and it's like round 2, the rematch. I enjoyed last Sunday, and I'm going to enjoy this Sunday.”

ANNC: “Lee Westwood is on the verge of a crowning achievement in his standout career. He begins with the lead ... he’s 18 holes from what would be the biggest win of his life.”

ENGLISHMEN AT PLAYERS

WESTWOOD SOT 1: I believe I've played some of my best golf over sort of the last year and a half and I've had some good results against quality fields

ANNC WESTWOOD SUCCESS – “Westwood’s been on a heck of a run./he’s been able to sustain a long career.

FINISHING AT TPC SAWGRASS HAS BEEN CHALLENGING FOR ENGLISH PLAYERS.

ANNC WESTWOOD TOUGH – “It’s a tough tournament to finish on.”

WHILE 3 ENTERED SUNDAY IN THE TOP-10, THEY’RE ALL TRYING TO BE THE FIRST OF THEIR COUNTRYMAN TO CAPTURE THE TITLE.

CASEY SOT: Pete Dye, probably my favorite modern architect by a long way, as well. He can be incredibly infuriating with his designs

FITZPATRICK SOT: it's just a demanding golf course. In particular visually off the tee. I think some of the fairways are actually wider than they look once you get -- yeah, wider than they look from off the tee

CASEY SOT: I find it beautiful, great architecture, but yeah, I've had a pained relationship with it at times.

FLEETWOOD SOT: “You can name the events that are the big ones In world golf, The Players is right up there. And to be the first Englishman will be like a massive added bonus.”

FLEETWOOD HAD HIS OWN CLOSE CALL, FINISHING TIED FOR 5TH IN 2019, CONTINUING A OF ENGLISHMEN WHO HAVE BEEN CLOSE OVER THE YEARS.

ROSE SOT: “back in the day, 20, 30 years ago, there were much more a limited amount of players that could win The Players Championship.

ROSE SOT: You had Nick Faldo, he's had a bunch of tries and chances.”

ANNC – “He just hasn’t hit the kind of shots you would expect of Nick Faldo.”

ROSE SOT: “Luke Donald has had his world number one. he's had looks at it.”

ANNC – “Good stroke from Luke Donald!”

ROSE SOT: In recent years Ian Poulter has finished second.

ANNC – “What a shot by Poulter! Battling to the very end”

ROSE SOT: “You had Lee Westwood through the years.”

ANNC– “Westwood hoping he’d be in a lot different situation on the 72nd hole. That quest will continue

WESTWOOD SOT: I don't like to compare the Lee Westwood of 10 years ago or 20 years ago to the Lee Westwood of today. I'm certainly having as much fun on the golf course as I've ever had, and that probably is helping me play some great golf.

WESTWOOD SOT: there's not a shot out there I'm afraid of. I'm comfortable out there with everything.

START SUNDAY

ANNC: “On the tee, from England. A two-time PGA TOUR winner. Lee Westwood!”

ENTERING THE DAY WITH A TWO-SHOT LEAD, LEE WESTWOOD KEEPS HIS FOOT ON THE GAS, STARTING HIS ROUND WITH A BIRDIE.

ANNC: “So important to be ready on that first hole on Sunday. What a start!”

FELLOW ENGLISHMEN MATT FITZPATRICK AND PAUL CASEY STRUGGLE TO MAKE A MOVE, WITH NEITHER ABLE TO PLAY THE FIRST NINE HOLES UNDER PAR.

THE FINAL PAIRING CAN RELATE, WITH BOTH WESTWOOD AND DECHAMBEAU ARRIVING AT THE FOURTH HOLE EVEN PAR FOR THE ROUND.

ANNC: “Oh my. Oh my!” ... “He’s got the top part of the ball.”

BRYSON SOT: “I had one bad swing out there today and it was the horrific shot on four. It was one of things I just got on top of it, tried to pinch – cut one out there – and thinned it a little bit.”

ANNC: “Now here’s Westwood. Well what is that? I don’t know but that’s two wild shots to the right for Westwood.”

BRYSON NAT: “Oh my gosh! What is going on?!”

ANNC: “This short little Par 4 causing some problems for this final twosome.”

WITH DECHAMBEAU MAKING DOUBLE BOGEY – AND A BOGEY FOR WESTWOOD, THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP IS ANYONE’S FOR THE TAKING.

SEGMENT 5

SUNDAY CONTINUED

ANNC: “The finish line is so hard to reach.”

AS THE GAP BETWEEN WESTWOOD AND THE FIELD CLOSES, THE DOOR OPENS FOR ANYONE WHO CAN STAY OUT OF TROUBLE.

ANNC: “Justin Thomas is the only player who really has not made a bad mistake thus far. His steadiness –all pars to this point – has him two behind the lead.”

SHANE LOWRY MAKES HIS MOVE UP THE LEADERBOARD AFTER A BOGEY-FREE, FRONT-NINE 33.

COREY CONNERS IS TRYING TO BECOME CANADA’S SECOND PLAYERS CHAMPION ... HE’S FIVE UNDER THRU 13 HOLES, HILIGHTED BY AN EAGLE ON NUMBER 11...

ANNC: “Corey Connors ... trying to be another part of a Sunday conversation.”

BUT OTHERS FAIL TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY... SI WOO KIM CAN’T AVOID BOGEYS AND JON RAHM CAN’T MAKE ENOUGH BIRDIES...

ANNC: “Been that kind of day for Rahm.”

ROUND ONE LEADER SERGIO GARCIA MAKES THREE BOGEYS OR WORSE IN A FIVE-HOLE STRETCH WHICH STALLS HIS ATTEMPT AT CLAIMING THIS TITLE FOR A SECOND TIME...

ANNC: “This will not be the last time that Garcia will be a factor at Sawgrass.”

AS DOES ABRAHAM ANCER, WHO MAKES BOGEYS THROUGH THE TURN.

BUT OPPORTUNITY AWAITS THOSE WHO CAN LIMIT MISTAKES...

AFTER A BOGEY ON NUMBER 8, JUSTIN THOMAS BOUNCES BACK WITH A BIRDIE ON NUMBER 9 AND GAINS MOMENTUM AS HE MAKES THE TURN...

ANNC: “One of those players who can light it up on this inward half.”

BEHIND JT, LEE WESTWOOD BIRDIES THE 9TH HOLE, KEEPING ONE HAND ON THE TROPHY...

ANNC: “Lee Westwood leads by two.”

BUT THOMAS CONTINUES TO PRESS WITH ANOTHER BIRDIE ON NUMBER 10...

ANNC: "Justin Thomas with back to back birdies!...That was a big one there."

JUSTIN LICKS HIS CHOPS WALKING TO THE 11TH TEE AS HE HAS FEASTED ON THE PAR FIVE'S THIS WEEK...

JUSTIN THOMAS PAR 5 STRATEGY

ANNC: To the 11th. And Justin Thomas now trying to pull off the biggest 36-hole comeback to tie Tim Clarke in history.

ENTERING THE PAR-5 TRAILING BY ONE STROKE, JUSTIN PUT HIS ACCURACY ON DISPLAY BY PUTTING HIS EARLY WEEK PREPERATION INTO PRACTICE.

Justin NAT: Being the par-5 that this hole is, the most important thing is being committed and picking a shot that you want to hit. You can teach yourself to hit it low, you can teach yourself to take spin off of it. But to be able to launch it really high when you want it to is a lot harder in my opinion

ANNC: Yeah, that's beautiful tee shot. He'll be in go mode from there.

JUSTIN NAT: Normally, this is a 4-iron. I usually hit it high 220s to 230s. I can get it to 235 in the air if I need to.

ANNC: 232 going with 4-iron

JUSTIN NAT: And I'm just going to try to flight this thing down and try to keep it decently low and land it somewhere in the front of the green and hopefully it'll run there back towards the hole.

Justin NAT: There we go. Just like that

JUSTIN NAT: Every shot is so different in terms of distance, how firm the greens are, how soft the greens are, the wind direction, the pin location, the lie that you have. It's the hardest sport, it seems like, in the world. It doesn't happen very often where everything's clicking. When it is, it's a great feeling. You just step up there and the ball does what you want.

ANNC: Boy, it looks like a pretty nice line from here. He's looking at it like he likes it and drops it in there softly and Justin Thomas will have an eagle putt from there. That's exactly as you draw it up.

SUNDAY CONCLUSION

ANNC: "He's one of these guys that these players fear ... and man can he send a message right now."

AS CHAMPIONS DO, JUSTIN THOMAS SIEZES THE MOMENT...

ANNC: "Justin Thomas has it! Eagle at 11 to take the lead at The PLAYERS!"

MESSAGE DELIVERED ... JT KEEPS THE TRAIN ROLLING, NOW 13 UNDER ON THE PAR 5s THIS WEEK.

BUT LEE WESTWOOD IS NOT READY TO HAND OVER THE TROPHY JUST YET ON 14...

ANNC: "Thomas has company at the top."

THE OTHER PURSERS RE-EMERGE, MAKING IT NO EASY TASK FOR THE EVENTUAL CHAMPION...

REFUSING TO GIVE UP, BRYSON DECHAMBEAU MAKES HIS MOVE, GETTING WITHIN TWO OF THE LEAD WITH TWO HOLES TO PLAY...

ANNC: "DeChambeau with a chance still!"

MAKING IT CRUCIAL FOR JUSTIN THOMAS TO SAVE PAR ON THE FAMOUS ISLAND GREEN...

ANNC: "He knew how important that was"

ANNC: "This has got everything you could possibly ask for."

NOW TRAILING BY ONE, WESTWOOD ALSO NEEDS TO GRIND OUT A PAR ON 17 TO KEEP HIS HOPES OF WINNING ALIVE...

ANNC: "Costly, costly three putt. And that firmly puts Justin Thomas on the cusp of this title."

WESTWOOD SOT: "It is a tough place to front run. It's an even harder place to front run if you haven't got your best game, which I didn't have today."

WITH THE CHAMPIONSHIP WITHIN REACH, THOMAS FACES ONE FINAL TEST ON THE 18TH TEE...

ANNC: "First things first, get it in the fairway."

UNDER THE PINNACLE OF PRESSURE, WHILE NEGOTIATING WITH NERVES ON THE TEE, HE EXHIBITS HIS FEARLESSNESS WHEN IT MATTERS MOST...

ANNC: “That got an incredible first bounce! ... That’s the longest 5-wood on record”

THOMAS SOT: “I thought it was very 50/50 or if it was going to be dry or in the water. But I mean, that's the kind of stuff that happens when you win tournaments. You get lucky breaks like that. Yeah, it was too close for comfort, to say the least.”

WITH A PAR ON THE 72ND HOLE, JUSTIN THOMAS PULLS OFF THE IMPROBABLE COMEBACK...

ANNC: “It matches the lowest closing 36-hole total in PLAYERS Championship history ... 12 under, 132.”

AND JUSTIN THOMAS IS THE 2021 PLAYERS CHAMPION!

HE JOINS JOHNNY MILLER, JACK NICKLAUS AND TIGER WOODS AS THE ONLY PLAYERS TO WIN 14 TIMES ON THE PGA TOUR BEFORE THE AGE OF 28.

THOMAS TROPHY CEREMONY

THOMAS SOT: I was in a great frame of mind and focus all day

THOMAS SOT: I fought so hard today. I really stayed patient. Probably one of the best rounds of my life.

THOMAS SOT: It’s just crazy. Everything we’ve been through since THE PLAYERS last year. And to do it in front of fans was incredible. And I’m so happy they’re back and I’m so happy to be a PLAYERS champion.

THOMAS SOT: This is something and a day that I’ll never forget.

ROLLOUT

WEREN’T YOU A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES?

AS THE WORLD IS STILL THE MIDST OF ONE IT’S MOST TRYING TIMES, THE GAME CALLED ON YOU AND THE NATURAL BEAUTY YOU PROVIDE...

FOR A CONTINUED RESPITE FROM THE HARDSHIPS.

AND TO THE FANS WHO HELPED CAUSE RUMBLES IN YOUR FOUNDATION, THOUGH LIMITED IN CAPACITY SERVED AS A FULL-CIRCLE REMINDER OF WHERE THE WORLD WAS – TO HOW FAR ITS COME.

THE GAME CONTINUES ON....

AFTER WELCOMING A NEW CHAMPION – BACK HOME.