

A1 – TEASE

SAHITH THEEGALA: There's a special aura around the tournament and around the golf course and it's our championship.

AS THE SEASON'S FIRST MONUMENTAL EVENT COMMENCES, THE WORLD'S BEST GOLFERS ARE HEADING *HOME*...

RYAN PALMER: It's Sawgrass. It's home of the PGA TOUR. It's THE PLAYERS.

DEANE BEMAN: The concept behind the first TPC was that we've built a great golf course and it's proven to be a very competitive and spectacular finish.

ANNC: And Scott survives!

AND IN A PROPER HOME – THERE'S A FEELING OF COMFORT AND FAMILIARTY...

KEEGAN BRADLEY: You know the holes and I think that makes it special for the players.

ANNC: One bounce and in! The third ace in four days!

FOUNDATIONS BUILT ON RICH TRADITIONS – AS ITS HEIRLOOMS ON DISPLAY SHINE A PROUD LIGHT ON THE PAST.

NATS: Pete Dye will go for a swim today.

IT'S MOTIVATION FOR TODAY'S ICONS...

JON RAHM: To be able to consider yourself a PLAYERS Champion it's something unique.

ANNC: A lot can happen at this Par 5 down the stretch.

ANNC: Fred Couples...eagle! What a time to hole a putt!

ANNC: Better than most...better than most!

ANNC: Tremendous two at 17!

AND WHOEVER PREVAILS OVER GOLF'S STRONGEST FIELD, WILL JOIN AN ELITE FAMILY TREE OF CHAMPIONS...

COLLIN MORIKAWA: I think it really fits my game, so hopefully we can make some memories there.

ANNC: And instantly will get him right on top of the leaderboard!

BILLY HORSCHER: It's something that I check off my calendar that I want to win every year.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: It's our biggest event and now it's a dream come true just to be in that field and hopefully I have a chance to win this year.

A2 – SEASON SETUP

AS THE STRONGEST FIELD IN GOLF ARRIVES AT TPC SAWGRASS, THEY DO SO ON THE HEELS OF A THRILLING TWO-MONTH STRETCH OF GOLF...

ANNC: Takin' care of business here in the first event of 2023!

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: We've had some really, really great finishes so far this year, having a lot of best players in the world going up against each other. Most of that is thanks to Jon; seems like he's at the top of the leaderboard every single week.

OUT OF 10 EVENTS PLAYED IN 2023, THE STAKES HAVE BEEN ELEVATED IN FOUR...

ANNC: Scottie Scheffler – the champion in Phoenix!

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: As a player you look forward to beating the best players in the world and, so far, we've had a lot of opportunities for that this year.

INCLUDING THREE DESIGNATED EVENTS IN THE FOUR WEEKS LEADING UP TO THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP.

ANNC: Kitayama's in the winner's circle on the PGA TOUR!

BILLY HORSCHER: Guy's game should be really sharp. I think this year is going to be different compared to any other year at THE PLAYERS Championship.

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Everyone who wants to be the best in the world – we're all showing up here this week.

A3 – FIRST ROUND START

ANNC: A lot of excitement in the air. One of the big weeks on golf calendar has arrived. It's day one of 2023 PLAYERS Championship.

COLLIN MORIKAWA, TAKES CHARGE WITH TWO BIRDIES ON HIS OPENING NINE...

COLLIN MORIKAWA: If you're hitting it well off the tee, you're going to give yourself some birdie opportunities.

THE STADIUM COURSE HAS PLENTY OF BIRDIES AVAILABLE ON THURSDAY – PROVEN BY 2016 CHAMPION JASON DAY, WHO MAKES FIVE...

ANNC: This guy will out grind most people all the time. Back-to-back birdies now.

AND NORWAY'S VIKTOR HOVLAND WHO MAKES FOUR IN HIS FINAL FIVE HOLES...

ANNC: That ball is rolling end over end...good read there from Hovland!

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I drove it in the right rough and had a terrible lie, and somehow, I turned that into a birdie, and that kind of gave me some momentum.

HOVLAND TURNS IN A 3-UNDER, 69...

AS DOES JORDAN SPIETH.

ANNC: That's three-in-a-row!

PLAYING ALONGSIDE WITH SPIETH, MAX HOMA MAKES THREE BOGEYS, BUT OFFSETS THEM WITH THREE BIRDIES...

AND 2021 PLAYERS CHAMPION JUSTIN THOMAS STARTS STRONG WITH AN EAGLE ON THE PAR 5, 2ND...

ANNC: Absolutely perfect!

BUT STRUGGLES THE REST OF THE ROUND...

ANNC: Been kind of a tough day for him on a golf course that he clearly loves.

AS DOES 2019 CHAMPION RORY McILROY, WHO STARTS HIS DAY WITH A DOUBLE BOGEY...

ANNC: Missed the green, hit a poor pitch. Very disappointing for McIlroy.

THE "WORLD NUMBER THREE" IS GROUPED WITH THE TWO MEN RANKED AHEAD OF HIM...AND "THE WORLD NUMBER TWO" MAKES NINE PARS TO START...

ANNC: That's a great shot by Scottie Scheffler.

WHILE "WORLD NUMBER ONE", JON RAHM, PACES THE GROUP THROUGH THE FIRST 9 HOLES...

ANNC: Clean card from Rahm today; no bogeys, two birdies.

A4 – "BIG 3" FEATURE

THE TOP THREE IN THE WORLD ARE LOOKING TO CONTINUE THEIR RUN OF DOMINANCE – AGAINST THE STRONGEST FIELD IN GOLF – AS THEY HAVE FOR THE BETTER PART OF 2023.

MAX HOMA: Rory, Jon and Scottie are kind of in a league of their own at times and it's just our job to go catch them.

ANNC: Man, what a run he has been on, the last 16 months!

ANNC: What a great shot from Jon Rahm!

NATS: Rory! Rory! Rory!

RORY McILROY: It's a really cool thing to be ranked No. 1 in whatever you do. It's a bit of a hot potato thing where me, Scottie and Jon pass it around a little bit. It means we're all playing great golf.

McILROY ROARED INTO 2023, CONCURRENTLY HOLDING THE FEDEXCUP, DP WORLD TOUR'S POINTS TITLE, AND THE TOP SPOT IN THE WORLD RANKING.

JON RAHM: When he's firing on all cylinders, it's a thing of beauty. His ball flight off the tee, especially, is quite unique.

SCHEFFLER RECLAIMED THE NUMBER ONE SPOT AFTER SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDING HIS TITLE AT THE WM PHOENIX OPEN...

ANNC: Scottie Scheffler is again on top of the world of golf.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Any time you get some really good competition it's very motivating. You know, I got the win in Phoenix and then Jon went out the next week and beat me by a bunch of shots.

ANNC: Back to number one in the world rankings. Jon Rahm beats them all in a loaded field!

RORY McILROY: He's an amazingly talented golfer. He's so consistent. His top-10 percentage rate is off the charts. He's gonna be one of the best players of his generation.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: It's fun having three guys kind of jostling for the world No. 1. Rory and Jon are both such talented players that any time I can be spoken in the same breath as those guys it's special for me.

A5 – FIRST ROUND MIDDLE

SCHEFFLER PROVES HIS PLACE IN THE CONVERSATION WITH FIVE BIRDIES IN HIS CLOSING NINE HOLES...

ANNC: Good birdie, good finish, great round!

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I did a good job of hitting some good shots on the front nine and I didn't make a ton of putts. And then we made the turn, I started seeing some putts go in and definitely happy with how I finished.

BUT HE'S THE ONLY ONE IN THE GROUP TO FIND SUCCESS ON THE INWARD NINE...

ANNC: And a dropped shot for Rahm.

FOLLOWING JON RAHM'S SETBACK, RORY McILROY ADDS THREE MORE BOGEYS.

ANNC: 4-over, 76 – clearly not the start that he wanted.

WHILE VETERANS TURN IN MIXED RESULTS, THE “GREENER” PLAYERS TAKE ADVANTAGE...

ANNC: The 27-year-old with a pitching wedge...

HAYDEN BUCKLEY: It was like 124, I think, and it's really hard to feel the wind around that stadium...

ANNC: They liked it, he liked it, then they love it!

HAYDEN BUCKLEY: I just thought, if we can hit one pretty straight, hope for it to land somewhere around the hill, and it just looked perfect.

MEANWHILE, AUSTRALIA’S MIN WOO LEE POWERS THROUGH A CRAMPED LEG WITH AN IMPRESSIVE 4-UNDER, 68.

MIN WOO LEE: Solid off the tee and solid approach play, which is a nice recipe. Everything was clicking, especially the putting.

AND CANADIAN ADAM SVENSSON MATCHES WITH FIVE BIRDIES, AND ONE BOGEY, IN HIS DEBUT.

ANNC: Aesthetically he’s perfect, technically it looks fantastic.

ADAM SVENSSON: I'm finally starting to hit the ball better. I've been struggling off-the-tee with my irons. My putting's been great the last couple weeks. So just got to keep it rolling.

COLUMBIA’S NICO ECHAVARRIA, MAKES FIVE BIRDIES AND FOUR BOGEYS TO SHOOT 1-UNDER IN HIS FIRST PLAYERS APPEARANCE...

ANNC: For a round of 71...yes please.

ECHAVARRIA SEIZES THE OPPORTUNITY AT HIS LOCAL EVENT, JUST FOUR DAYS AFTER A BREAKTHROUGH VICTORY IN THE PUERTO RICO OPEN.

A6 – NICO ECHAVARRIA RIDE ALONG

ANNC: The dream, now a reality! Echavarria, a winner on the PGA TOUR!

NICO ECHAVARRIA: We’re heading to Hogwarts. Just kidding, we’re driving to TPC Sawgrass.

NICO ECHAVARRIA: To have become a PGA TOUR champion feels like, to join the elite. I went from a really, really, really bad period where I felt that I was probably going to lose my Korn Ferry Tour card to being on the PGA TOUR. I also moved far away from home. So, I stepped out of my comfort zone and it’s a struggle. I am proud of myself for being able to overcome.

NICO ECHAVARRIA: TPC Sawgrass, during or close to THE PLAYERS week is not fun when you're not playing because it's when the course conditions and the place are at their best, but I can't be a part of it.

NATS: Thank you! Say hi to the camera!

NICO ECHAVARRIA: I want to enjoy this moment. I want to take advantage of the state of my game. When you win on the PGA TOUR, it's because your game is there. Even though I missed four cuts in a row, I've had some good finishes after making cuts. I think I just need to give myself a chance to play the weekend and see what happens when I get to the 18th tee on Sunday.

A7 – FIRST TIMERS

ECHAVARRIA JOINS 31 OTHER PLAYERS MAKING THEIR FIRST START IN THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP...

INCLUDING KURT KITAYAMA, WHO WON ON THE SAME EXACT DAY AS ECHAVARRIA AT THE ARNOLD PALMER INVITATIONAL...

ANNC: Step aside all you superstars – Kitayama is in the winner's circle finally!

KURT KITAYAMA: Just trying to build off last week. It's a pretty tough test. I feel like I'm trying to bring myself down off that high and back to a more levelheaded mentality.

SOUTH KOREAN PHENOM TOM KIM ALSO ARRIVES AT TPC SAWGRASS RIDING A WAVE OF MOMENTUM, SEEKING HIS THIRD WIN IN EIGHT MONTHS.

ANNC: One of the engaging and talented young players on TOUR, Tom Kim.

32 FIRST TIMERS IS THE MOST EVER IN THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP – COMPRISING 22 PERCENT OF THE FIELD...

MIN WOO LEE: It's one of the pinnacles of golf. I just made it on the top 50 number cut off two weeks ago and I'm just grateful to be here playing against the best and playing such a good golf course.

WHILE RYAN FOX HOPES TO FOLLOW IN A FELLOW KIWI'S FOOTSTEPS...

RYAN FOX: I remember when Craig Perks won. I remember watching it. I saw that crazy finish.

ANNC: You've seen the biggest surprise winner at this championship.

PERKS IS THE MOST RECENT CHAMPION TO WIN THE PLAYERS IN THEIR DEBUT...

A8 – FIRST ROUND FINISH

WHILE FOX CARDS A 2-OVER, 74 IN ROUND ONE, THE STRONG FIRST TIMER PRESENCE IS BEST EXEMPLIFIED BY CHAD RAMEY...

ANNC: He's in a comfort zone, he's in the zone. What a shot!

WHO'S 8-UNDER, 64 POSITIONS HIM WITH THE 18-HOLE LEAD – THE FIRST TIME A DEBUTANT HAS DONE SO SINCE 2017...

CHAD RAMEY: It was fun. First time to shoot a score on such an iconic course like this, I mean, you can't ask for anymore.

RAMEY IS ONE OF ONLY TWO PLAYERS IN THE FIELD WITHOUT A BOGEY OR WORSE...THE OTHER...COLLIN MORIKAWA...

ANNC: He's played great today. Not just in terms of score, but also, he leads that approach play category quite comfortably.

WHO PLAYS THE FIRST SIX HOLES OF HIS SECOND NINE 5-UNDER...

COLLIN MORIKAWA: My swing hasn't looked this good probably since 2019 when I first came out. That just allows that freedom to just kind of hit your shot.

IT'S A 7-UNDER, 65 FOR MORIKAWA, MARKING HIS LOWEST CAREER ROUND IN THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP...SITTING SOLO SECOND HEADING INTO ROUND TWO.

B1 – COURSE SETUP

PATRICK REINHARDT: It's currently 4:03AM. We're getting ready to head out onto the golf course right about 4:30 AM.

PATRICK REINHARDT: We're going to make our way out to the back nine.

PATRICK REINHARDT: It's completely dark on the golf course for the first two-and-a-half to three hours that we're out there preparing.

PATRICK REINHARDT: Got about 23 minutes till show time.

ROBBY WARE: So this morning started set up at 6:35, which was just about five minutes before sunrise, but had enough light to begin. Our job is to challenge the best players in the world, but also to keep it fair.

ROBBY WARE: Pete Dye's done an unbelievable job here, challenging basically all the skills that the golfers have. So, it's a fun week.

NATS: He's going to give me the number from the three ShotLink cameras that we have around the greens here, so, very accurate.

NATS: All right, Robby, 23 on, four right.

NATS: Thanks, Andrew.

ROBBY WARE: I love the challenge of setting up a golf course for the players and basically working with what the architect is giving you. That's the most fun part of the job for me.

B2 – SECOND ROUND START

ANNC: It's day two of the 49th playing of THE PLAYERS Championship. The wind is up and so is the angst for the players trying to find a way to the weekend.

NO STRANGER TO THE TOUGH CONDITIONS OR PETE DYE'S DIABOLIC TEST AT TPC SAWGRASS, 2016 CHAMPION JASON DAY MAINTAINS HIS SOLID PLAY...

ANNC: 70 yesterday, 70 today, so a couple of good rounds for the former champion.

VIKTOR HOVLAND STARTS THE DAY STRONG, MAKING FIVE BIRDIES IN HIS FIRST 11 HOLES...

ANNC: He has been on fire!

BUT STRUGGLES ON THE CLOSING STRETCH AND PLAYS HIS FINAL SIX HOLES 4-OVER PAR...

ANNC: 69 yesterday, 71 today, four under...within shouting distance of the lead.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Obviously in a good spot, but pretty disappointed I didn't finish it off today because I played some really, really good golf.

COLLIN MORIKAWA LOOKS DIALED IN FROM THE START...

ANNC: Oh that's to tap in...and instantly will get him right on top of the leaderboard!

BUT MAKES TWO BOGEYS THROUGHOUT HIS NEXT EIGHT HOLES.

ANNC: Alright, so Collin drops back to six.

THE BIG THREE ARE SET TO BEGIN ROUND TWO ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON...BUT ONLY TWO MAKE IT TO THE FIRST TEE...AS WORLD NUMBER ONE JON RAHM WITHDRAWS FROM THE TOURNAMENT DUE TO ILLNESS.

ANNC: I think this is a disadvantage to Scheffler and Rory. Rory likes a rhythm and he's a quick player and it's going to be a long day for him which this huge field and slow play.

McILROY DOES START SLOW, OPENING WITH FOUR PARS BEFORE A BOGEY ON THE 5TH...

ANNC: Rory seems a little bit lost right now.

SCHEFFLER ALSO STRUGGLES, AND IS OVER PAR THROUGH SIX HOLES...

WHILE NUMBER TWO AND THREE IN THE WORLD LOOK FOR AN IGNITION, THE 57TH RANKED PLAYER, ADAM SVENSSON, IS HEATING UP...

ANNC: He's having a good day – 2-under, no bogeys in this wind!

THE CANADIAN IS THRIVING IN HIS PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP DEBUT, JUST FOUR MONTHS AFTER HIS MAIDEN VICTORY ON THE PGA TOUR...

ANNC: In his 70th career start, Adam Svensson is now a PGA TOUR winner for the very first time.

ADAM SVENSSON: It was almost a relief – just grinding and doing all that stuff and to win and then, you know, you're like, wow, I won.

B3 – GABI POWEL WALK & TALK

GABI POWEL: Very proud of him. He has grinded so incredibly hard, so he really deserves to be here.

BY HIS SIDE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY EN ROUTE TO A FIRST ROUND, 68, SVENSSON'S BIGGEST SUPPORTER IS A KEY FIGURE IN HIS SUCCESS BOTH ON AND OFF THE GOLF COURSE.

GABI POWEL: I am here because of my boyfriend, Adam Svensson. Played four years of college at FIU down in Miami and I'm actually competing in professional long drive, currently. My longest is 364 in competition.

NATS: Go, go, go, go, go...in! Yes!

GABI POWEL: We have been doing this new thing...playing UNO games. We're both very competitive, so it's a lot of fun and just keeps us busy because, you know, after each day on the course, like, you're exhausted. Usually we do best to five, so we're playing like, up to nine games because like we keep going back and forth, but we go at it pretty competitively.

GABI POWEL: When I watch him play, I know exactly – based off how he reacts to the shot – if he likes it or not or where it's going, basically.

NATS: He's 187 out. Downwind though.

GABI POWEL: He hits and then he lets go one hand and lets his hand kind of wiggle back a little bit...

NATS: Be good.

GABI POWEL: ...that's when he really likes it. And then sometimes when he's holding it, he doesn't know if he likes it yet and then you'll see him lean a little bit and then you're like, okay, you know, it's going a little left, he's trying to make it go right, but just like a little bit of body language. He's so motivated and determined to continue to play well on the PGA TOUR and win again. I love that about him.

B4 – SECOND ROUND FRIDAY FINISH

AFTER A STRONG START FOR TEAM SVENSSON IN THEIR FIRST PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP, THE CANADIAN REMAINS ON THE ATTACK IN THE SECOND ROUND...

ANNC: Yeah, right there, great speed! He walks it in and he walks right to the top!

AND MAKES FOUR BIRDIES THRU 11 HOLES, MOVING HIM TO 8-UNDER...

ANNC: This guy's got a swing made for this golf course – a game made for this golf course.

JUST AHEAD OF SVENSSON, SOUTH AFRICA'S CHRISTIAAN BEZUIDENHOUT IS PUTTING HIS WAY UP THE LEADERBOARD...

ANNC: He can roll his rock – his third birdie of the day!

AND TIES SVENSSON AT THE TOP WITH HIS FOURTH BIRDIE THRU 13 HOLES...

ANNC: There you go – to 8-under par.

WHILE ANOTHER PAIR OF INTERNATIONALS HOP ON THE BIRDIE TRAIN...

ANNC: Min Woo Lee to get to a tie for third...Lee gets into that group at 6-under par!

AND SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER RIGHTS THE SHIP WITH BACK-TO-BACK BIRDIES THROUGH THE TURN.

ANNC: Scottie Scheffler – 5-under!

BUT AS THE WEATHER WORSENS, LOW SCORES BECOME DIFFICULT FOR SOME...

AT 1-OVER THRU FIVE HOLES, RORY McILROY CARDS A DOUBLE BOGEY ON THE PAR 4, 6TH...

ANNC: He is officially reeling and trying to scramble his way back into this weekend.

AND NEWLY MINTED PGA TOUR WINNER NICO ECHAVARRIA FOLLOWS AN OPENING ROUND, 71, WITH THREE BOGEYS AND TWO DOUBLES THROUGH EIGHT HOLES OF ROUND TWO...

ANNC: There you see the frustration that we've seen from so many players.

FOR THOSE STRUGGLING TO FIND THEIR GROOVE, INCLEMENT WEATHER PROVIDES A MUCH-NEEDED BREAK...

ANNC: Play has been suspended here at 4:30 Eastern time. We are done for this day here in Ponte Vedra Beach. Two at 8-under. Morikawa and Lee at 6-under. Scottie Scheffler sitting on 5-under par as he plays the 11th. And names like Jason Day, Viktor Hovland are lurking.

CI – SECOND ROUND SATURDAY FINISH

ANNC: Good early morning from TPC Sawgrass. It is a windless morning, the greens are receptive, so this is a great opportunity for these guys to make a big move.

AS SECOND ROUND PLAY CONTINUES ON SATURDAY MORNING, RORY McILROY IS IN NEED OF BIRDIES IN BUNCHES...

ANNC: McIlroy will inch one closer, but probably not gonna be enough.

IT'S NOT FOR THE 2019 CHAMPION, WHO ULTIMATELY MISSES THE CUT.

RORY McILROY: You just have to be really on to play well here and if you're a little off, it definitely magnifies where you are off. It's just a tricky golf course, and you don't hit fairways and you've got your work cut out for you.

ALONGSIDE McILROY, SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER CARDS TWO BIRDIES IN THE FINAL EIGHT HOLES...

ANNC: Stress-free birdie. And Scheffler will move to 7-under par and continue to climb the leaderboard this morning.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: It's a good test tee-to-green. Anytime you're hitting fairways and greens out here it's pretty scorable.

SCHEFFLER POSITIONS HIMSELF SOLO 2ND THRU 36 HOLES...TWO SHOTS BEHIND...

ANNC: Svensson, again, in his first trip here has the lead!

ANNC: Adam Svensson after a 68, a 67...your 36-hole leader. 9-under.

ADAM SVENSSON: This is my first time in my career I feel confident with the putter and it's been awesome.

TRAILING SVENSSON AND SCHEFFLER ARE FOUR TIED AT 6-UNDER, INCLUDING FRIDAY-NIGHT CO-LEADER, CHRISTIAAN BEZUIDENHOUT...

WHILE AUSTRALIA'S CAM DAVIS IS WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE AT 5-UNDER...

ANNC: Drips it over the front edge...

AFTER A BIRDIE-BIRDIE FINISH TO ROUND TWO...

ANNC: And Cam is on the move!

AND DAVID LINGMERTH TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE SCOREABLE CONDITIONS ON SATURDAY MORNING, WITH FOUR BIRDIES IN 11 HOLES...

ANNC: Lingmerth just kind of cruises along on this golf course...lookout for David.

C2 – DAVID LINGMERTH FEATURE

TEN YEARS PRIOR, LINGMERTH – A PONTE VEDRA BEACH RESIDENT – WAS EXPERIENCING SIMILAR SUCCESS IN HIS ADOPTED HOMETOWN EVENT...

ANNC: With a birdie at 13, gets to 12-under.

AND FOUND HIMSELF IN A FOUR-WAY TIE FOR THE LEAD AFTER A DOUBLE BOGEY FROM LEADER TIGER WOODS...

ANNC: There are so many players that have been brought back into play with Tiger in the water at 14.

THE SWEDE ARRIVED AT THE 72ND HOLE TRAILING TIGER BY ONE...BUT A LENGTHY BIRDIE PUTT TO FORCE A PLAYOFF...ROLLS BY.

ANNC: And Tiger Woods is a PLAYERS Champion again!

DAVID LINGMERTH: I'm so proud of the way I handled that situation and it's just tough beating Tiger.

IN THE DECADE SINCE, MUCH HAS CHANGED FOR LINGMERTH...

ANNC: Rock Solid, David Lingmerth! His first tournament win of the 40th anniversary of the Memorial Tournament.

WITH ONE PGA TOUR VICTORY...AND TWO ADDITIONS TO THE FAMILY...

DAVID LINGMERTH: Leon is five and Noah is two. I'm having so much fun just hanging out with them and playing games and goofing off.

NATS: Oh, watch the camera!

MEGAN LINGMERTH: I feel like fatherhood comes naturally for him. They have a word they use. They say "lagom." And it's like not too little, not too much, just right and David's just all-encompassing of that word.

DAVID LINGMERTH: Golf is one of those things where it's so easy to carry something with you from the course to home and you can't really let it go. I was definitely more that way in the past, prior to having kids.

WHILE FAMILY LIFE FOR THE LINGMERTH'S IS BLISS, DAVID'S GOLF GAME HAS BEEN PLAGUED WITH INJURY...

DAVID LINGMERTH: There's two discs that I had a surgeon who, who wanted to replace them. The guarantee that you can come back and play golf after a surgery like that is it's not very, very big. So, you know, I felt like trying to do the physical rehab to try to make it feel as good as possible was going to be my best route.

MEGAN LINGMERTH: I'm very, very proud of his resiliency. He goes out there every day and works on what he needs to work on.

LINGMERTH'S HARD WORK IS PAYING OFF WITH THREE TOP 10s SO FAR THIS SEASON...

ANNC: Yeah! All that putting practice up there in the Jacksonville area, paying off.

DAVID LINGMERTH: It's been some really great moments and then there's been some really, really tough moments in the last few years. Thankful in the last year or so been able to make some progress and golf is a lot more fun again.

C3 – THIRD ROUND START

WITH THE SECOND ROUND FINALLY IN THE BOOKS, DAVID LINGMERTH CONTINUES HIS STRONG PLAY WITH FOUR BIRDIES IN HIS FIRST SIX HOLES OF ROUND THREE...

ANNC: And he rolls that in so a good start for Lingmerth!

DAVID LINGMERTH: At this point I feel like I'm back enough on track to where you know we're here to try to make a run at it.

HE PLAYS THE REST OF THE ROUND EVEN AND SHOOTS 68.

LIKE LINGMERTH OTHER PLAYERS ARE OFF TO HOT STARTS...

ANNC: Dripping in a birdie and Jordan Spieth opens with 33 on his first nine!

SPIETH ADDS ANOTHER 33 ON HIS SECOND NINE, SHOOTING 66...

WHILE HIDEKI MATSUYAMA...

ANNC: What a way to play that!

AND MAX HOMA EACH CARD 67.

ANNC: Electrify this colosseum!

BUT NOT EVERYONE TAKES ADVANTAGE OF MOVING DAY...

COLLIN MORIKAWA MAKES TWO BOGEYS THOUGH EIGHT HOLES...

AND 36-HOLE LEADER ADAM SVENSSON, MAKES THE TURN AT 1-OVER AND ALL BUT ENDS HIS CHANCES WITH A TRIPLE ON 14.

ANNC: This is skulled over the green...oh gosh. Oh man, disaster here. Just compounding his problems.

SVENSSON CARDS A 3-OVER, 75, DROPPING HIM INTO A TIE FOR 14TH...

MEANWHILE, MORIKAWA MAKES TWO MORE BOGEYS IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS BACK NINE...

ANNC: Morikawa, who began the day three back, settles for an even par round of 72 and you will get passed by the contenders like he did.

TWO OF SAID CONTENDERS WHO VAULT UP THE LEADERBOARD ARE SOUTH KOREA'S SUNGJAE IM – AND AMERICAN TOM HOGE.

BOTH GOING OUT IN 31 AND HUNTING THE COURSE RECORD OF 63, WHICH HAS STOOD SINCE 1992, AND BEEN MATCHED EIGHT OTHER TIMES.

ANNC: Look at all those birdies for Hoge!

HOPING FOR A LOW ROUND HIMSELF, NEW CROWD FAVORITE MIN WOO LEE GIVES THE PEOPLE SOMETHING TO CHEER FOR EARLY...

MIN WOO LEE: I had 112 in...little bit on the downslope, and my caddie Stew and I were in between hitting a 50 and 55...

ANNC: Just a sand wedge here...

MIN WOO LEE: Luckily I thinned a nice 55 in there and one-hopped and back-spinned in the hole.

ANNC: Min Woo Lee 8-under par in a hurry!

LEE IS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION EARLY IN ROUND THREE, WITH THE HOPES OF CAPTURING HIS MAIDEN PGA TOUR VICTORY ON ONE OF GOLF'S BIGGEST STAGES.

C4 – MIN WOO LEE FEATURE

MIN WOO LEE: One of the pinnacles of golf. It's one of the biggest events. I'm just grateful to be here playing against the best and playing such a good golf course.

LEE'S BREAKOUT AT THE PLAYERS JIVES WITH MARCH'S TRADITIONAL CINDERELLA STORIES, AS THE 24-YEAR-OLD AUSTRALIAN WAS ONE OF THE LAST MEN IN THE FIELD...

MIN WOO LEE: I had that pressure of, you know, how are you going to make this tournament?

ANNC: Top 50 in the world after this week and you're into THE PLAYERS Championship.

MIN WOO LEE: It is it is a bit daunting, every week. You're going to play good so you can get into the week after. I'm kind of used to it being so young out on the TOUR and having your back against the wall. It's what you have to do, you know, you just got to play good golf.

ANNC: This is Min Woo Lee now at 15; a long birdie attempt...wow!

MIN WOO LEE: I just made it on the top 50 number. To get into these tournaments was a big goal just because you want to play these tournaments.

NO STRANGER TO BIG EVENTS, LEE HAS DAZZLED INTERNATIONAL CROWDS AS A TWO-TIME WINNER ON THE DP WORLD TOUR.

MIN WOO LEE: I like playing in front of a crowd. They're here to watch you hit some good shots, so, I like to strive when there's a big crowd.

AS A FIRST TIMER, LEE HOPES TO FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HIS FELLOW COUNTRYMEN.

ANNC: And Scott Survives!

ANNC: Jason Day – 2016 PLAYERS Champion!

MIN WOO LEE: Jason, and Adam Scott have been my idols. I did get to play with them, practice round actually, so that was cool. It is nice to have a course that's so defined. It forces you to hit a shape which I like and I think that's I think that's why the Aussies do so well.

C5 – THIRD ROUND FINISH

IN STEP WITH AUSSIE GREATS – MIN WOO LEE CONTINUES HIS STRONG PERFORMANCE.

ANNC: He ties Scheffler at the top, 5-under in his first nine holes.

MIN WOO LEE: As long as you can control your emotions and go out there and have fun, which I did, it was fun playing really good golf.

LIKE LEE, SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER HOLES OUT FOR EAGLE EARLY IN HIS ROUND...

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I had a decent lie there in the rough and was able to hit a flop shot pretty much exactly where I wanted to land it...

ANNC: What a touch by Scheffler, and he's made it!

SCHEFFLER CLOSES HIS FIRST NINE WITH BACK-TO-BACK BIRDIES.

ANNC: Up by one as he makes the turn. He's got to be the most comfortable, most experienced guy on the board by a wide margin at this point.

MEANWHILE, TPC SAWGRASS STAPLE TOMMY FLEETWOOD CARDS A 7-UNDER, 65...

ANNC: That is three birdies in a row. Getting in the picture here.

AS DOES FELLOW ENGLISHMEN AARON RAI, HIGHLIGHTED BY A MEMORABLE MOMENT AT THE 17TH...

AARON RAI: 17 fell at a very good number with my gap wedge. Hit it great, looked great in the air...

ANNC: This is coming back, it's going to take a look, yes! Aaron Rai, another hole in one here!

AARON RAI: Very, very special. Something I'll always remember.

TIED FOR FOURTH THROUGH 54 HOLES WITH THE ENGLISHMEN IS CHRISTIAAN BEZUIDENHOUT....

ANNC: Clean card for the South African, 69 for Christiaan.

AND ONE AHEAD OF THE TRIO IS ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL...AUSTRALIAN CAM DAVIS.

ANNC: A great finish at the last, 67.

CAM DAVIS: This whole day actually, I played, what, 25 holes or so and I felt like I did a really good job of getting the most out of what I had. So, awesome to see my name up toward the top of the leaderboard; really looking forward to keep pushing tomorrow.

ON THE OTHERSIDE OF THE COURSE, SUNGJAE IM FINISHES HIS ROUND WITH A BIRDIE – JUST ONE SHY OF TYING THE COURSE RECORD.

ANNC: What a round that was for Im...64 here in round three! That gets him back in the hunt.

BUT THE DREAM IS STILL ALIVE FOR TOM HOGE, AFTER THREE STRAIGHT BIRDIES EARLY ON HIS INWARD NINE, AS HE PLAYS HIS 17TH HOLE OF ROUND THREE...

ANNC: Nine under now on the round!

ANNC: What is going to happen to Tom Hoge is he going to rewrite history...

ANNC: Par for 63, birdie for 62 which would be the new course record.

TOM HOGE: Just tried to go out and make as many birdies as I could...

ANNC: For 62... yes! What a round for Tom Hoge!

TOM HOGE: I didn't even know it was a course record until after we got done in the scoring there. Today was going to be the day to do it, so just felt fortunate and tried to take advantage of it the best I could.

AS RECORDS FALL, MIN WOO LEE COOLS OFF ON THE BACK NINE, DROPPING A SHOT AT THE LAST...

ANNC: Three-putt bogey... still a 66, stellar third round.

AND THE STAGE IS SET FOR SCHEFFLER...

ANNC: That's money right there, what a putt and what a way to finish off this incredible record setting scoring day!

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Put in a lot of hard work over the years, and it's been a blessing to see so many results and it's been a lot of fun. Hoping to continue that going into tomorrow.

ANNC: Scheffler world number two, rises to the top by two, with a birdie three at the last. No surprise at all that he's in line for another big title.

D1 – GOLDMAN'S JOURNEY

ANDRE SILVA: At the beginning of the week, NBC takes the trophy and shoots the trophy in many different areas of the golf course. It has gone to 17 for The Today Show with Rickie Fowler and Mike Tirico. It has gone to all the rooms at the clubhouse for all the events. And the main part is being on the first tee every day as we start playing.

ANDRE SILVA: Sunday is somewhat of a relaxing day for the gold man. He will actually be showcased on the first tee until the last group comes through.

ANDRE SILVA: He goes back to the clubhouse and then waits for the engraver to do its work and actually engrave the name of our next champion.

D2 – SUNDAY SETUP

ANNC: This day, it's Championship Sunday at THE PLAYERS. One that figures to be quite different than yesterday. The forecast for increasing wind – that's gonna add to the drama.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I prepare to be in these moments. I prepare to come out here and play well and so, when I'm at home getting ready for tournaments, I'm hopeful that I'm going to be in this position. It's a lot more fun being in the arena and being in the moment.

ANNC: Scottie Scheffler is going to start this day with a two-shot lead. Can anybody make a charge to the top of the leaderboard?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I would much rather win the tournament than get back to No. 1 in the world. So that will be my focus is just going out and having a solid round of golf.

ANNC: Scottie Scheffler along with 24-year-old Australian, Min Woo Lee, who is two off the pace. They are the final group.

MIN WOO LEE: Could be the biggest day of my life, but I'm going to go out there and have fun again. Scottie's playing really good, but I'm just going to go out there and hit the best I can. Hopefully I can take him down but it will be a big effort.

D3 – FINAL ROUND START

WELL AHEAD OF THE FINAL TEE TIME, ONE OF THE 32 FIRST TIMERS KICKS OFF THE EXCITEMENT...

ALEX SMALLEY: We had 128 yards to carry that bunker...

ANNC: Alex Smalley...one bounce and in! The third ace in four days!

ALEX SMALLEY: We figured it was playing 118, 117, so I went ahead and hit a hard sand wedge and it landed right on the downslope and just went in.

AND WITH THE FIELD NEEDING LOW ROUNDS TO CATCH SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER, JAPAN'S HIDEKI MATSUYAMA STEPS UP TO THE CHALLENGE...

ANNC: That's his fourth birdie on the front nine! And at 9-under, creeping up that leaderboard!

WITH CHASERS ON THE PROWL, THE 54-HOLE FRONT MAN BEGINS HIS FINAL ROUND STILL HOLDING A TWO-SHOT LEAD...

NATS: First on the tee...five-time PGA TOUR winner, Scottie Scheffler!

SCHEFFLER STARTS STEADY WITH A TWO-PUTT PAR, BUT HIS PLAYING PARTNER MAKES A MOVE ON THE OPENING HOLE FOR THE SECOND DAY IN A ROW...

ANNC: Brilliant start by Lee! He's got that kind of moxie.

WHILE LEE GETS WITHIN ONE OF THE LEAD, THE IMMEDIATE EIGHT PLAYERS AHEAD – WHO ALL STARTED THE DAY WITHIN SIX SHOTS OF SCHEFFLER – MAKE EARLY MISTAKES, ULTIMATELY ENDING THEIR CHAMPIONSHIP DREAMS...

ANNC: Two thrown away right there at the 1st.

ANNC: A colossal error which can happen at every turn here.

ANNC: A double at the 5th. He knows that, probably, his hopes are dashed.

AND THE BOGEY BUG BITES SCHEFFLER ON THE PAR 3, 3RD...

ANNC: Disappointing hole for Scottie Scheffler. The lead was two and now they are all even three holes in. Very interesting couple of hours ahead. Maybe Matsuyama can post and put the pressure on.

HIDEKI CONTINUES TO STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION EARLY ON THE BACK NINE...

ANNC: He walked that one in! Good putt for Matsuyama!

ADDING THREE MORE BIRDIES FROM 11 THRU 13...

ANNC: Hideki Matsuyama walkin' it in! On fire!

AND IN THE GROUP BEHIND, MAX HOMA FOLLOWS IN MATSUYAMA'S FOOTSTEPS...

ANNC: That's a birdie, eagle start to his second nine!

HOMA KEEPS THE MOMENTUM ROLLING AND REACHES DOUBLE-DIGITS AT 10-UNDER PAR...

AS NORWAY'S VIKTOR HOVLAND ALSO MAKES A MOVE...

ANNC: He's birdied three of the last four!

ANNC: He gets to double-figures under par and three back!

WITH A STRONG CONTINGENT OF CONTENDERS CLOSING THE GAP ON THE LEADERS, IT'S ANYONE'S GAME ON SUNDAY AT THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP.

E1 – FINAL ROUND CONTINUED

ANNC: They're lining up at THE PLAYERS as they usually do on a Championship Sunday at TPC Sawgrass.

AS THE FINAL ROUND CONTINUES...ENGLAND'S TYRRELL HATTON JOINS THE QUEUE WITH A HOT START ON THE BACK NINE...

ANNC: He can flat out roll it!

CARDING FOUR BIRDIES IN HIS FIRST SIX HOLES...

ANNC: Joining the party! Close to those 10-unders!

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GOLF COURSE, CO-LEADER MIN WOO LEE MAKES A CRUCIAL MISTAKE ON THE PAR 4, 4TH...

ANNC: Watch out! And that is a disaster! Everything went wrong right there for Min Woo Lee.

MIN WOO LEE: It happened really quick. It's one of those things where it's Sunday and you just make a couple bad decisions and it all kind of falls down. It's a short hole. To make a seven there, it was pretty gut wrenching after I started really well.

THE TIMING OF LEE'S FIRST BLEMISH ON THE FRONT NINE THIS WEEK IS UNFORTUNATE AND HE NEVER RECOVERS, PLAYING HIS REMAINING 14 HOLES 2-OVER.

AND AFTER HIS BOGEY ON THE THIRD, SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER STEADIES THE SHIP WITH FOUR-CONSECUTIVE PARS.

NOW ALONE IN SECOND PLACE, HIDEKI MATSUYAMA HEADS TO THE PIVOTAL 14TH HOLE – ONE SHOT BEHIND SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER...

ANNC: Ohh! Goodness! Double for Matsuyama and his hot round comes to a screeching halt.

MAX HOMA ENDS HIS HOPES IN A SIMILAR FASHION ON THE ISLAND GREEN, 17TH...

ANNC: Ohh! That one took one of the biggest bounces we've seen. What a shocker. Double bogey for Max Homa right as he got to 10-under.

AND VIKTOR HOVLAND COOLS OFF WITH FIVE-CONSECUTIVE PARS TO FINISH...

ANNC: Another strong tournament for Viktor. He just kind of continues to tease us at these big championships.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Just haven't quite put all the pieces together to be at the top, but another good week here.

AS SOME OF THE CONTENDERS BOW OUT, TYRRELL HATTON STAYS HOT...

ANNC: He makes it for birdie on 17! So, suddenly, it's Hatton on the heels!

HE'S NOW 6-UNDER ON THE BACK NINE WITH FOUR-CONSECUTIVE BIRDIES...BUT NEEDS A MIRACLE ON THE FINISHING HOLE FOLLOWING AN ERRANT TEE SHOT...

ANNC: Oh! Oh man what a play! Are you kidding me! I've never seen him smile this much!

TYRRELL HATTON: It was a risky shot, but it never crossed my mind to just try and chip out. For it to come out as well as it did, I was delighted with.

ANNC: What a finish for Hatton! 65, it's the best round of the day so far. The fourth 29 on the back nine here, but it's the first in the final round.

HATTON'S HISTORIC FINISH GIVES HIM THE CLUBHOUSE LEAD AT 12-UNDER PAR...PROVIDING THE TARGET FOR SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER...

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I saw Tyrrell had posted his score and there wasn't really anybody else up on the leaderboard that could have made a big move at me. I wasn't going to change the game plan. You can't limp in on this golf course. You got to hit the shots.

ANNC: Scottie Scheffler! First birdie of the day! Chip-in here on the Par 3! Gets to 14-under par!

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I was in a position where, it wasn't an easy chip, but it was a very gettable up-and-down and just fortunate to see it go in. It definitely kick started me a little bit.

SCHEFFLER CLOSES HIS OPENING NINE WITH ANOTHER BIRDIE, AND KEEPS THE TRAIN ROLLING AS HE MAKES THE TURN...

ANNC: Just when you think he might be hearing some noise, he makes his own noise! Three-in-a-row for Scheffler – four clear of that 12-under posted.

ANNC: Five better than Hatton with four-in-a-row.

ANNC: Five birdies in-a-row!

AND IN A FIVE-HOLE STRETCH, SCHEFFLER OPENS UP A SIX-SHOT LEAD WITH SIX TO PLAY.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I got kind of hot in spurts in each of my rounds, whether it was the back nine on first round or 8 through 12 this afternoon. I just found a way to choose my moments and get hot.

E2 – SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER BREAKOUT

A HEATER IS NOTHING NEW FOR SCHEFFLER, WHO HAS CLAIMED FIVE VICTORIES IN THE PAST 13 MONTHS...

ANNC: Ted Scott and Scottie Scheffler figured it out!

JON RAHM: You get an incredibly talented player who has been close before and hadn't gotten it done and gets one taste of a win and goes on a crazy run.

ANNC: Well we felt like the floodgates could open for Scottie Scheffler!

ANNC: There's a new number one, his name is Scottie Scheffler!

JUSTIN THOMAS: He went from being a very, very consistent player and playing really well a lot, to finding himself in the biggest golf tournaments every single week and winning very, very frequently.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I always believed that I could make it out here and play well on TOUR but I never expected it. I want to win and I get excited when we get to the biggest tournaments and that's a lot of fun for me to compete against those guys. As a person I don't feel any different, I still feel the same as I did in college. I still feel like I might even been in high school.

SCHEFFLERS LIVING OUT HIS BOYHOOD DREAMS, WITH ANOTHER BIG TIME TITLE WITHIN REACH AT A PLACE NEAR TO HIS HEART...IN HIS GRANDMOTHER'S NECK OF THE WOODS...

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: We've been coming here to spend time with her for long time. It's pretty impressive she's walking so many holes out here. She's a trooper. I'm happy that we're able to enjoy all of this together.

E3 – FINAL ROUND FINISH

AFTER SCHEFFLER'S FIVE-CONSECUTIVE BIRDIES, HE PLAYS HIS NEXT FOUR 1-OVER AND MAKES THE WALK TO THE FAMED 17TH HOLE LEADING BY FIVE.

ANNC: Worth noting that a champion here has never hit a ball in the water on the 71st hole.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: The wind on that hole was pretty much straight across. And when you have that much wind and you have the grandstands and all those variables out there, it's a really, really hard shot.

ANNC: Right at the middle where he was aiming...he's found land!

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I hit mine exactly how I wanted to, and I was very relieved when it hit the green.

ANNC: A great shot when he needed it most!

SCHEFFLER ADDS ANOTHER PAR AND HEADS TO THE 72ND HOLE, LOOKING TO AVOID DISASTROUS WATERS.

ANNC: Way right, but that's about what you'd expect! That's where I would've hit it with a five-shot lead!

WITH HIS TEE BALL SAFELY ON LAND, SCHEFFLER CHIPS BACK TO THE FAIRWAY AND STICKS HIS THIRD SHOT HOLE-HIGH...

ANNC: It's all about Scottie Scheffler now and the walk up he and Ted have enjoyed numerous times.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: The walks up 18 are always so nice for both of us when you have the tournament in hand. Those are moments that you can never get back, and a lot of the enjoyment of the win is having that walk up 18 where everybody's cheering.

ANNC: The Scheffler victory train just keeps on rolling! What a finish to save it! And back on top of the world!

E4 – AFTER THE FINAL PUTT

ANNC: And when you've got the family there, it makes THE PLAYERS title even more special!

JAY MONAHAN: I think it's both fitting and impressive that our 2022 PGA TOUR Player of the Year, is now our 2023 PLAYERS Champion.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I can find a way to make pars and hang in there. I had five bogeys for the whole week. Around this place that's really, really hard to do and that's probably what I'm most proud of.

NATS: There he is!

NATS: What's up!

NATS: Congrats champ!

NATS: Locker nine – you and Freddie.

NATS: Freddie! Nice!

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Just growing up, watching it on tv, seeing the 17th hole and it's such a challenge and it's so hard to defeat this field and this golf course. I'm very proud to have done it this week

NATS: The Scheffler dominance continues. PLAYERS Champion and No. 1 again, congratulations.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: To be able to hold this trophy is, is really special and I'm grateful for being able to be out here on the PGA TOUR and I'm just thankful to be the champion this week. Lifelong memories having my family here, Meredith and the walk up 18 and the celebration immediately after is something I'll remember for a long time.