

A1 – COLD OPEN – THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP EXPERIENCE

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Here at THE PLAYERS we get to experience what the PGA TOUR represents.

DAN HICKS: THE PLAYERS Championship, and TPC Sawgrass, and the Stadium Course just has the “it factor”. It's the feeling of it; it's the aura of it. It's what it stands for.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: The best players in the world are competing, year in year out. The best field in golf, year in year out.

MAX HOMA: Everything here is big and it's manicured for us so well for the event.

LUDVIG ABERG: I love Stadium Course at Sawgrass. It's one of my favorite courses in the world.

JORDAN SPIETH: The combination of the pine straw, the pine trees, the woods right there with the ocean in the background. It's kind of Florida meets the South.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Great golf course. It just makes you uncomfortable on almost every hole, on every shot.

JUSTIN THOMAS: In Jacksonville, we get a little younger crowd than some of the other tournaments and that place is rocking.

ANNC: The gallery rises to its feet!

ADAM SCOTT: THE PLAYERS has established itself as the biggest event on TOUR.

WELCOME TO THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP ... WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR EXPERIENCE.

A2 – EXPERIENCE OF A CHAMPION

TPC SAWGRASS – THE HOME OF THE PLAYERS ... BOTH THE CHAMPIONSHIP, AND THE TOUR MEMBERSHIP ...

RICKIE FOWLER: It's a spectacular place. It's big ... it never gets old coming back here, especially being a past champion.

ANNC: Rickie Fowler owns the island green!

TPC SAWGRASS PROVIDES A WELCOMING EMBRACE FOR ALL 144 PGA TOUR MEMBERS WHO COMPRISE THE CHAMPIONSHIP FIELD ... AND A CELEBRATION FOR IT'S CHAMPIONS, WHO HAVE ACCOMPLISHED ONE OF THE GAME'S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS ...

ADAM SCOTT: Everyone who plays it knows what you have to overcome down the stretch there to be a champion.

ANNC: Scott survives!

ADAM SCOTT: The level of respect that's shared amongst the champions is huge.

IN ADDITION TO THEIR OWN *PRIVATE* LOCKER ROOM, PAST PLAYERS CHAMPIONS ARE CELEBRATED YEAR-ROUND WITH THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON *PUBLIC* DISPLAY ...

RORY McILROY: You arrive at this amazing clubhouse and everything is done to the nth degree.

ANNC: Rory McIlroy is a PLAYERS Champion!

RORY McILROY: Since I've won and being able to go into that little champions locker room, that's very easy to make that feel like home.

THE AFFECTION FROM A CHAMPION IS ALSO FELT PERSONALLY – BY THE RECEPTION THEY RECEIVE FROM BOTH THE STAFF AND THE FANS ...

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: To have a crowd cheering us on is really special as players. Special week, special golf course and I'm just proud and very thankful to be the champion.

A3 – SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: BACK-TO-BACK THE PLAYERS CHAMPION

TWO-TIME DEFENDING CHAMPION, SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER, KNOWS THE EXPERIENCE WELL, AND ENTERS THE 2025 COMPETITION LOOKING TO MAKE MORE HISTORY ... THIS TIME WITH AN IMPROBABLE THREE-PEAT ...

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: It's such a good golf course in the sense that it doesn't really suit one type of player. You don't really see the same guys year in, year out at the top of that leaderboard. It's really the guys that are just playing the best at the time.

COLLIN MORIKAWA: He's just so competitive that he can kind of forget about everything else and just want to execute those shots and beat everyone. I think he's able to bring that from the start of Thursday all the way through Sunday.

SCHEFFLER WAS HEAD-AND-SHOULDERS BETTER THAN THE FIELD IN 2023, BUT IN HIS HISTORIC TITLE DEFENSE IN 2024, THE CHALLENGES SEEMED INSURMOUNTABLE ...

ANNC: Scottie Scheffler, try to defend a title that no one has been able to do thus far in the 50-year history of THE PLAYERS.

SCHEFFLER HAD A STRONG START TO HIS TITLE DEFENSE – A 5-UNDER, 67 IN THE OPENING ROUND – BUT AN ACUTE INJURY EARLY IN ROUND TWO CREATED A WIDESPREAD PANIC ...

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: All of a sudden, you know, I get that pinch in my neck. And I remember getting to the top of my swing on 12, and it just like, shooting pain, like, from my ear down into my shoulder and into my back.

JUSTIN THOMAS: That's the most ridiculous follow-through I've ever seen. I didn't know that his neck was hurt.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I kind of like, stood there on the tee, and I was like, 'oh my gosh, I don't know how I'm gonna be able to play golf today.'

TED SCOTT: I called my wife and said, 'yeah, I'll probably be home this weekend.' I honestly didn't know how he could play golf. I mean, he couldn't turn his head two degrees to the right.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I always try to go back to my preparation. I remind myself that I've done everything I could to play well, and you know, the rest is up to me. And so, if things aren't going my way, I try to stick to my process and continue to try to execute shots and not overthink things and go out there and just do the best I can each time.

SCHEFFLER BATTLED THROUGH THE THIRD ROUND TO SHOOT 68 ... FIVE-SHOTS BACK HEADING INTO SUNDAY ...

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Being mentally tough around that place is important, because you can hit it really good. But there's certain areas of that golf course we just got to step up and hit great shots.

ANNC: Got to get it going after three-straight pars ... unbelievable!

ANNC: What a front nine for Scottie Scheffler – 5-under, 31 – and he has jumped to a tie for the lead!

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I was able to step up there and get off to a good start and just hit the shots I needed to down the stretch.

ANNC: This incredible comeback for Scheffler ... seven back after the 15th hole yesterday, look what he's done today.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Really grinding out towards the end and hitting quality shots when I needed to under pressure and quality putts, and I was very proud of how I finished off the close tournament like that.

ANNC: Scottie Scheffler is the 50th PLAYERS Champion!

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: It's tough enough to win one PLAYERS, and so to have, have it back-to-back is extremely special. And we're really thankful.

SCHEFFLER'S ALREADY MADE HISTORY AS THE FIRST BACK-TO-BACK-PLAYERS CHAMPION, BUT A THREE PEAT ON THE PGA TOUR IS RARE, HAVING LAST OCCURRED IN 2011 ... BUT SCOTTIE HAS A PROVEN TRACK RECORD OF DEFYING THE ODDS ...

SAHITH THEEGALA: He's probably got the best distance control in golf seen in a long time. And that's saying a lot with the amount of ball strikers that we have out on TOUR.

ANNC: It's like he's playing golf in a 10-yard wide tunnel. It's a video game.

RANDY SMITH: It amazes me how good he is with numbers to pins.

SHANE LOWRY: Scotties probably got one of the best golfing brains that I've ever seen.

JUSTIN THOMAS: He stays within himself; I think that's, that's very hard to do when you get to the top. There is no part of his game that's bad. And then if you add that with, you know, a great mindset and great mentalit, he's proven that he's just gonna overcome it.

SHOULD SCHEFFLER CLAIM A THIRD PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE, HE WOULD MATCH THE MARK SET BY THE GOLDEN BEAR ... AND IN JUST A THREE-YEAR SPAN ...

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Jack was so consistent his whole career. He was a tough competitor, but he was very gracious in victory and defeat. And so, I felt like I learned a lot for him and both of those aspects.

A4 – HAL SUTTON: 25-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

SCHEFFLER IS ONE OF ONLY SEVEN MULTIPLE-TIME PLAYERS CHAMPIONS – JOINED BY HAL SUTTON, WHO PROVIDED ONE OF GOLF'S GREATEST QUOTES 25 YEARS AGO ...

HAL SUTTON NATS: This is pretty close to where we were.

HAL SUTTON NATS: You can see how it narrows down down here, too. Why 3-woods not a bad play.

HAL SUTTON: I was ready to finish this off. And that shot finished it off.

ANNC: This from 179. This a six-iron ... well, he's got it going right at the flagstick.

NATS: Be the right club today.

ANNC: It is!

HAL SUTTON: That was just an emotional let go. As if you're ... (exhales) breathing a sigh of relief, basically.

NATS: Be the right club; be the right club today ... yes!

HAL SUTTON: I never thought of that, I never dreamed it up, but just, an emotional outburst.

ANNC: 17 years later, Hal Sutton, is THE PLAYERS Champion again!

HAL SUTTON: The stage is big here, and getting bigger. And to be able to perform at the highest level on this stage means a lot, and did to me as a player.

BI – EXPERIENCE OF THE 1ST HOLE

JEFF PLOTTS: The first hole is probably one of my favorites. You just have this grand entrance where you come in and you can actually see it right away when you turn up the drive. You just kind of get this sense of arrival.

AARON RAI: It's a perfect starter to what TPC, challenges you and offers you as a golf course. You've got to play shots that are uncomfortable.

SAHITH THEEGALA: The first hole at PLAYERS is super underrated. It's one of the hardest tee shots on the course.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: It should be pretty easy, but it tricks you visually. You have water down the right. So it forces you to want to go more to the left.

COLLIN MORIKAWA: You miss it a little left in the pine straw, you're probably rope hooking a pitching wedge or a gap wedge. You miss in the right rough, you're hacking it out to the front edge of the green.

ANNC: 3.5 inches the rough, on the other side it's the pine straw. Try to hit a big hook. This starts to the right side, but hanging to the right and that's gonna get into the moguls.

AARON RAI: Everything points you left, but if anything, you're better off challenging the bunker on the right-hand side.

SAHITH THEEGALA: I aim on the left edge of the right rough, which is hit or miss, but you take your chances with that rather than going left.

ANNC: Theegala, missing the fairway to the right ...

SAHITH THEEGALA: It's one of the few holes where I'm not really aiming for the fairway because left is such a big penalty.

ANNC: Theegala will give himself a look for birdie.

JUSTIN THOMAS: You can hit a good drive and then you get that front left pin and I feel like I have no room to land it.

ANNC: Right at it. This is a small area. You gotta have some courage to take on a flagstick.

JUSTIN THOMAS: It really requires a precise second shot. And if you get out of position, you're busy.

ANNC: Still battling at the first, Jason Day – ooh – got underneath that one.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: It's just a good, straightforward par four that doesn't need to be very long, but it's still very challenging.

B2 – TPC SAWGRASS ENHANCEMENTS

IF PETE DYE'S DECEPTIVE 1ST HOLE SLOWS THE START OF A PLAYER'S ROUND, THE PAR 5, 2ND OFFERS A CHANCE TO GET THINGS GOING ...

ALTHOUGH THE TEE SHOT WILL PLAY A LITTLE DIFFERENT FOLLOWING ENHANCEMENTS TO THE STADIUM COURSE OVER THE PAST YEAR ...

JEFF PLOTTS: Two tee, we lengthened that a little bit and put some trees in there to kind of make the shoot just a little bit better.

DAVIS LOVE III: We were seeing on ShotLink very much under par. The easiest hole on the golf course. And guys were hitting shorter clubs to get around the corner to the same spot.

JEFF PLOTTS: The equipment's changed, the ball's changed, the athletes, and they've gotten better over time.

DAVIS LOVE III: It's always evolving and then now it's evolved to a place where maybe we've lost some of the Pete Dye edge.

JEFF PLOTTS: Davis just has an absolute passion for Pete Dye designed courses. Obviously, he's won here, and has experienced the evolution of this property.

NATS:

JEFF PLOTTS: His architect, Scot Sherman, worked with Pete in the back in the day. And so, he's the perfect fit for us here.

WHILE CHANGES WERE ALSO MADE TO MOVE BACK THE TEE BOX ON THE PAR 5, 11TH ... AND ENHANCE THE MOGULS ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF 14 ... THE MOST SUBSTANCIAL DIFFERENCE IN 2025 BRINGS NUMBER SIX BACK TO IT'S ORIGINAL ROOTS ...

JEFF PLOTTS: It's a great golf hole. But there was an element that was missing and that element that was missing from original was the tree.

DAVIS LOVE III: Pete wanted the tree to not really be in the way. But wanted you to think it was in the way. And it got to the point where it was literally in the way. It started drooping.

ANNC: I've never seen anybody hit it, but you sure do think about it.

JEFF PLOTTS: That tree kind of met its demise in 2014. The idea was to go in and redo the tee complex. And the thought was, 'hey, should we put this tree back in?'

DAVIS LOVE III: Jeff Plotts, the greens superintendent, has an incredible responsibility to protect and grow Pete Dye's golf course. And everybody sees it like that, as a piece of art.

DAVIS LOVE III: When Jeff said, 'I got one, let's go look at it.' And we walk 100 yards down in the woods to the right of six and he goes, 'this is the one.' And I go, 'well, that could be the one, and that could be the one.' And he goes, 'no, this, look at it. This is the one.'

DAVIS LOVE III: You just dig around the whole circumference of the drip line of the tree and get all the roots, and you move the whole thing. If it's done right, the tree actually can stay the same or get better.

DAVIS LOVE III: You dig the hole to get it out, but you also have to dig a hole to put it in. So the bottom of that hole has to be exactly right, because if you dig it too deep, the tree gets buried. If you dig it too high, everything around it doesn't look natural.

DAVIS LOVE III: You're talking about hundreds of thousands of pounds of earth got moved. And to get it dead level is hard to do.

JEFF PLOTTS: It looks like it's always been there. And that's always the mark of a really good project is when you're done, and it's completed, and people come and go, 'I can tell it's different, but I don't understand what changed.'

DAVIS LOVE III: Playing in THE PLAYERS Championship and winning THE PLAYERS Championship, and walking around here with Pete Dye, and the vision of it ... to be a small part of the team that's putting it back and continuing the tradition is just ... one of the most thrilling things we've done in golf course design, to be a part of this team.

[C1 – REJOIN](#)

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[C2 – THE FAN EXPERIENCE](#)

THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP IS AN EXPERIENCE THAT EVERY GOLF ENTHUSIAST MUST HAVE ON THEIR BUCKET LIST ... WHICH FANS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE CAN CHECK OFF YEARLY ...

KARIMA HASSAN: PGA TOUR invited me to watch THE PLAYERS Championship. I would literally pinch myself and ask, 'how did I start an Instagram page filming my process of learning to golf and now I'm literally standing, watching the most amazing players in the world.

IN ADDITION TO WATCHING THE STRONGEST FIELD IN GOLF, THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP OFFERS MUCH MORE ... INCLUDING 37-THOUSAND SQUARE FEET OF SHOPPING ... AND MORE THAN 20 LOCAL DINING OPTIONS TO GIVE YOU A TASTE OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA ...

KARIMA HASSAN: The atmosphere, genuinely, was the most amazing experience ever.

C3 – EXPERIENCE OF A LOCAL

THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP ... AND TPC SAWGRASS ... ARE A FAN FAVORITE ... AS WELL AS A CONTINUED HAVEN FOR THE PRO RANKS SUCH AS JIM FURYK ... VIJAY SINGH ... BILLY HORSCHEL AND MANY OTHERS ... AND THAT TREND HAS REPEATED WITH A NEW CROP OF PLAYERS MOVING IN ...

LUDVIG ABERG: 2018, I played the Junior PLAYERS. It was one of the first times I came over and got to see Bermuda grass, but I also got to see the golf course, and now I moved to Ponte Vedra, so I see it a lot. That was one of my first tournaments in America.

NICO ECHAVARRIA: I call this place Hogwarts. It's just surreal. You have it all; the people that work here are just incredibly nice.

NATS: What's up Nico!?

NICO ECHAVARRIA NATS: How are you doing?

NATS: Good man, you?

NICO ECHAVARRIA NATS: Good.

AARON RAI: It's a fantastic course to be at. You do feel the, the weight of the venue, the weight of the history, the weight of everything that has gone before you.

THE HISTORY IN THE CLUBHOUSE SERVES AS INPIRATION FOR LOCAL TOUR MEMBERS ... AND A REMINDER OF WHERE THEIR TIME SPENT ON PROPERTY COULD LEAD THEM ...

NICO ECHAVARRIA: It's the perfect place to get better at golf. The facilities are probably the best in the world.

AARON RAI: The one thing that I've been really surprised at in the two or three years that I've been there, is just how good it is the other 50 weeks of the year.

DEANE BEMAN: When we built the golf course one of the things that I wanted a great practice facility.

NICO ECHAVARRIA: The facilities in the back range are ... are one of a kind. I'm very happy that I made that decision of moving to Jacksonville. Its helped me a lot in my professional career.

DEANE BEMAN: Being able to choose either the front or the back range so you can test yourself against various winds is key to a really good practice facility and that's what we have here.

FROM HALLS OF LEGENDS IN THE CLUBHOUSE ... TO AN AREA BUILT TO HONE THE SKILLS OF THE BEST PLAYERS IN THE WORLD, EVERYTHING LEADS TO THE HALLMARK OF THE GROUNDS – THE STADIUM COURSE ...

LUDVIG ABERG: It's very true. It's very fair. But, if you don't execute, you're going to get punished.

ANNC: It has become as recognizable as any golf course the pros play around the world.

LUDVIG ABERG: I love number 12. It's such a smart hole. When they move the tee up where you can go for it, and if you don't pull it off, you get punished being in the water left and get a pretty tough chip on the right.

ANNC: A layout that's spoken for itself through the years – Pete Dye's masterpiece – just built for drama.

AARON RAI: Playing in those quiet moments when no one else is around, when you've got an amazing sunrise in the morning or when you've got a beautiful sunset in the evening, it's very special. I do find myself in those moments, pinching myself, that I'm actually at a course like Sawgrass, that I can call it home.

C4 – FRED FUNK: 20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

FEW PLAYERS KNOW THE IMPACT OF LOCAL EXPERIENCE BETTER THAN 2005 PLAYERS CHAMPION, FRED FUNK ...

ANNC: The crowd is getting a little louder. Well, it's Fred Funk, too Gary, right? Well that's true. He lives right here in the Ponte Vedra Beach area, in fact he's got his own fan club here, Funk's Punks.

FRED FUNK: The gallery really started jumping on when they saw me start getting a little closer, a little closer, and then I actually got the lead. Yeah, it was pretty loud.

ANNC: Hats off to Funk for that one! A champion, right here where he lives!

FRED FUNK NATS: We just won the home tournament!

FRED FUNK: I won a huge tournament, against a great field, on a really hard golf course, in really, really hard conditions, in my adopted hometown. I wouldn't have dreamed that big of a dream.

D1 – TIM CLARK: 15-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

ANNC: Tim Clark, who have never won a PGA TOUR event – not a single one – has a chance here at TPC Sawgrass.

TIM CLARK: I think I played over 200 events now on TOUR, and I think the only thing that kept me sane was the fact that I had won overseas. It's tough out here.

ANNC: The wait is over! The PLAYERS Champion in 2010 for his first PGA TOUR win in his 206th PGA TOUR event.

TIM CLARK: Obviously having not won before, didn't know what happened. All this stuff after the tournament finishes but this is, obviously, a big honor and this is a big deal for me.

D2 – INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

IT'S BEEN 15 YEARS SINCE TIM CLARK BECAME THE FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN TO WIN THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP ... AN EVENT THAT HAS TRULY GONE GLOBAL, FEATURING 11 INTERNATIONAL WINNERS IN THE LAST 20 EDITIONS ...

ANNC: Adam Scott, the third Australian to win THE PLAYERS Championship.

ANNC: Stephen Ames, the 2006 PLAYERS Champion!

ANNC: K.J. Choi ... fourth-consecutive International champion of THE PLAYERS!

AND HIGHLIGHTING THE WORLDWIDE IMPACT OF THE PLAYERS, ARE THE FLAGS OF EVERY COUNTRY REPRESENTED IN THE TOURNAMENT FIELD ...

AND IN 2025 – FOR THE FIRST TIME – PUERTO RICO WILL EXPERIENCE THEIR FLAG FLOWN DURING THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP.

D3 – EXPERIENCE OF FIRST TIMER: RAFA CAMPOS

ANNC: A life changing week for Rafa Campos in Bermuda!

RAFA CAMPOS: I'm just grateful to (cough) to be able to call myself a PGA TOUR Champion. It's something I've dreamt about all my life.

ANNC: Joins Chichi Rodriguez as just the second player ever from Puerto Rico to win on the PGA TOUR.

RAFA CAMPOS: Back in the day, when Chichi was playing, THE PLAYERS wasn't around. So, I'm extremely proud and honored to be the first Puerto Rican to play THE PLAYERS. I'm definitely going to be a little bit nervous, but I think it's good nerves. It's just I can't wait to be there.

THE PRIDE FELT BY RAFA CAMPOS IS SHARED BY HIS FELLOW ISLANDERS, WHO CELEBRATED HIS VICTORY UPON HIS RETURN HOME ...

RAFA CAMPOS: It truly means the world to me to be able to call myself a Puerto Rican. We have so much pride being Puerto Rican. The culture here is very strong. This is not a win for myself. It's truly a win for the entire island of Puerto Rico.

WITH THE SUPPORT OF HIS COUNTRY BEHIND HIM, CAMPOS IS READY FOR HIS FIRST PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP EXPERIENCE ... ALTHOUGH HE IS FAMILIAR WITH TPC SAWGRASS AS A FAN OF THE GAME ...

RAFA CAMPOS: I have great memories playing the course. That was the first time my younger brother beat me playing golf was at Sawgrass. It was a rainy day. Cold day. It was 45, 50 degrees, raining, windy. And my brother's like, 'are we really gonna play here?' And I'm like, 'man, we've never played here before.' But it's been six years, so I haven't been around, and I can't wait to walk around 17 and see all those people. I feel more comfortable when there's a lot of people. But if you have 10 people following me, I'll feel very nervous playing in front of them.

ANNC: The iconic island green, 17th.

RAFA CAMPOS: On TV, it just looks so surreal. A lot of memories of seeing so many balls bounce on the green on 17 and go into the water.

NATS

RAFA CAMPOS: And obviously Tiger's putt on 17, that's a highlight for myself.

ANNC: That is better than most ... better than most!

RAFA CAMPOS: I'm a little nervous, but hopefully put it on land on that hole.

ANNC: Rafa Campos is playing some great golf. Such a popular guy. Everybody that's involved in the PGA TOUR loves Rafa Campos.

RAFA CAMPOS: The amount of friends and family that are going to go there; it's so centralized for us. I would like to make sure I play four days there. Be smart about it.

ANNC: The Puerto Rico legend making it happen.

RAFA CAMPOS: Ideally, we can be in the hunt after four days. But if we really think about it, it's first time experience, first time playing THE PLAYERS. I'd be really happy with the top 10. But I'm never taking the possibility or an opportunity to win a golf tournament away.

D4 – ROLLOUT

WHETHER YOU'RE A FIRST TIMER OR A PAST CHAMPION, THE PLAYERS EXPERIENCE STANDS ALONE ...

KEEGAN BRADLEY: THE PLAYERS has elevated to another level. It's an event that we would all love win.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Toughest field in golf. Great golf course, great fans.

WYNDHAM CLARK: Probably one of the best courses we play on TOUR. It's one of the most iconic. Has the best three finishing holes that have so much excitement. I feel like it's the best event on the PGA TOUR.

AARON RAI: Any time you compete in THE PLAYERS is an absolute privilege, on a golf course with that much history, it's amazing to be there.