

A1 - OPEN & TITLES

ANNC: Welcome to the big time!

ANNC: You're going to be watching him for a long, long time.

ANNC: Golf at its finest!

RORY MCILROY: My name is Rory McIlroy and I'm 21 years old.

RORY MCILROY: Basically over half of my lifetime I've been a pro golfer.

ANNC: That blend of youth and power.

RORY MCILROY: I've learned how to handle winning big events and carrying myself forward.

ANNC: The finest player in the world.

ANNC: When he first came out here as a skinny 19-year-old. You see McIlroy, who has developed a physique now.

RORY MCILROY: That was the reason that I got in the gym was for longevity.

ANNC: At his brilliant best again.

RORY MCILROY: If I play well in a sustained period then that will take care of everything else.

ANNC: He is a different class.

RORY MCILROY: I think that's probably a part of the reason why my longevity and consistency has been what it's been.

A2 – CURRENT SUCCESS & FORM

RORY MCILROY: It's been a great start to the year. I felt like I got a little bit of momentum coming out of the '24 season. And then I've been able to carry that into the first few months of this year.

RORY'S HISTORIC 2025 SEASON...

...IS A TESTAMENT TO HIS RESILIENCE. A SERIES OF HEARTBREAKS IN THE PRECEDING YEARS ONLY PROPELLED HIM TO REACH NEW HEIGHTS.

ANNC: Look for this to carry over 300 ... and the rest. 338 – (laughter).

SEPP STRAKA: Me, him and Shane. Tied going in the back nine and, and then it's like a switch flipped, and he's hitting every drive right down the middle and controlling his wedges beautifully.

ANNC: It's an eagle for McIlroy!

RORY MCILROY: There's some venues in our game that just mean a little bit more than others.

ANNC: Pebble Beach has a popular champion.

HE WAS JUST GETTING STARTED. ... MCILROY'S NEXT TARGET WAS TPC SAWGRASS AS HE CONTINUED TO RAISE THE BAR IN A BANNER YEAR.

LUKE KERR-DINEEN: In 2024, Rory realized that there were some holes in his golf swing. So while the rest of golf was taking time off during the offseason, he was cleaning up some technical stuff that I think transformed his ball striking.

ANNC: All of that talent in McIlroy's body is gonna end up winning this championship.

RORY MCILROY: I've had to learn to play this golf course and adapt my game to it in some ways.

ANNC: McIlroy's got another PLAYERS title!

HE NOW HAD TWO WINS IN HIS FIRST FIVE STARTS OF 20-25.

RORY MCILROY: To think that I've won this now a couple of times and I've been coming here since 2009. Ten-year old Rory would think this was really, really cool.

AND THEN TWO STARTS LATER, A CHILDHOOD DREAM WAS ACHIEVED AT THE MASTERS.

HE FINALLY DONNED THE GREEN JACKET IN HIS 17TH START AT AUGUSTA NATIONAL.

ANNC: There is the Masters champion, Rory McIlroy.

IT WAS THE FINAL LEG OF THE CAREER GRAND SLAM, COMING 11 YEARS AFTER HIS LAST MAJOR. ... HE WAS JUST THE SIXTH PLAYER TO COMPLETE THE SLAM – AND THE FIRST SINCE TIGER WOODS IN 2000.

IN HIS MASTERS WIN, RORY DISPLAYED THE RESILIENCE THAT HAS DEFINED HIS CAREER.

RORY MCILROY: Now there's rarely a group that I play in where I'm not the oldest person in that group. So, longevity is something that I'm super proud of, that I've been a professional golfer for 18 high-quality years.

A3 – THE EARLY YEARS

RORY'S GOLFING LIFE BEGAN WITH HUMBLE ROOTS IN HOLYWOOD, NORTHERN IRELAND, WHERE HIS SUCCESS SEEMED WRITTEN IN THE STARS.

NATS: Couple of big swings, big swing.

RORY MCILROY: From the age of, like, 6 or 7 years old, I would tell everyone I was going to be the best golfer in the world.

RORY MCILROY: I realized that I was better than most of the kids out there and sometimes I probably let it get to my head a little bit when I was younger (laughs).

FRANK NOBILO: Some people have a gift. Rory's not exactly 6-foot-5. If you could measure. If you could weigh talent, he's a heavyweight. Always has been. As a teenager, he was the one guy in Europe they talked about.

MARK O'MEARA: I said he doesn't have the record that Tiger Woods had at 19. But I reckon this young man swings the golf club better than Tiger did.

...AND WITHIN 18 MONTHS OF TURNING PRO, HE EARNED HIS FIRST WIN ON THE D-P WORLD TOUR.

RORY ENTERED THE TOP 20 IN THE WORLD RANKING BEFORE TURNING 20 – AND OPPORTUNITIES ON THE PGA TOUR SOON FOLLOWED.

RORY MCILROY 2009: Ok, Rory, thanks for coming in and joining us. How are you feeling looking forward to your debut? A: It's great to be over here and the course is in great shape and looks like it's going to be a good week. Q: Welcome to America and good luck this week. RORY: Thanks

BUT JUST AS THINGS WERE TAKING OFF ON TOUR, A LINGERING INJURY WAS CAUSE FOR CONCERN.

RORY MCILROY: When I was 18 or 19. I had a herniated disc L4, L5. And I was told that, my career could only last a handful of years.

LUKE KERR DINEEN: This was a reality check for Rory and in some ways a weird blessing in disguise because it forced Rory to shift his lifestyle.

RORY MCILROY: I've always been very flexible, which gives me a lot of speed through the ball. That's where I get all my distance from. But I've started working on stability because I put so much load on my lower back during my golf swing.

RORY MCILROY: Middle of 2010 I realized that this isn't gonna get any better unless I start to take care of myself better. So getting in the gym, eating better.

LUKE KERR DINEEN: As he started getting in the gym, it started giving him the strength to support all this flexibility, and suddenly he was more in control of his own body and in control of the golf club.

ANNC: From Belfast, Northern Ireland. Please welcome Rory McIlroy. That's seven birdies and an eagle.

RORY MCILROY: To win a golf tournament the way I did, I sort of needed to have that little bit of naivete of youth or like innocence to not really understand what you're doing is pretty special.

ANNC: How about making it. He does indeed. Welcome to the big time Rory McIlroy.

WHILE RORY'S RISE WAS JUST BEGINNING...HIS RESILIENCE WAS TESTED AT THE 20-11 MASTERS – WHERE HE SHOT A FINAL-ROUND 80 TO LOSE A 4-STROKE LEAD.

RORY MCILROY: On the last day I was trying to be someone else that I wasn't. I was trying to be hyper focused, not look at anyone, not talk to anyone. That's where it went wrong for me.

NICK DOUGHERTY: It was disastrous. And something that leaves a mark for a lot of players

RORY MCILROY: For me it was, am I ever going to get that opportunity again? The mentality I had after that was, let's try to get yourself back in that position as quickly as possible and see if you've learned from your mistakes.

NICK DOUGHERTY: But again, resilience, there he goes to the next major wins by eight at the US Open.

FRANK NOBILO: Congressional is a great golf course. And he just took it to its knees and everybody was left in the dust. Rory fit the bill. He won in a similar way to Tiger Woods.

RORY MCILROY: It's great for the game of golf and I'm proud to be a part of the so-called new era and bring golf to new people and make it cool.

HE WAS GOLF'S NEW PHENOM, AND MEASURING STICK - HIS DEDICATION TO BODY AND MIND WAS ABOUT TO BRING EVEN MORE SUCCESS.

RORY MCILROY: I always correlated fitness and getting in shape and making my health a priority with playing my best golf, and that's why I've continued to do that since.

B1 – WHAT IS LONGEVITY?

FRANK NOBILO: Definition of greatness in sport, especially golf, is longevity. If you can last a decade or a decade plus, you're special. If you can do a decade and a half, nearly two decades like Rory McIlroy, you're great.

BERNHARD LANGER: You need to stay healthy, most of all. You've got to have the hunger and the drive to continuously work on your game even when you think there's not much room to get better.

MARK O'MEARA: We know every player, no matter who it is, has ups and downs in their careers. But because he's a true champion, he'll always fight through it.

JACK NICKLAUS: You got to have perseverance. The ones who work at it, work at it hard and believe in themselves, they come out the other end.

B2 – THE TRANSITION

LUKE KERR-DINEEN: The biggest key to Rory's longevity is that he's really transformed himself from a talent early in his career to this elite athlete.

IN 20-12, RORY McILROY TOOK HIS PHYSIQUE TO A NEW LEVEL AND BECAME HIS GENERATION'S MODEL OF FITNESS. HIS TRANSFORMATION WAS A CATALYST FOR HIS CAREER, AND THE CORNERSTONE FOR HIS SUSTAINED SUCCESS.

RORY McILROY: Starting to get into a little bit of Olympic lifting; so snatches, cleans, squats, lunges, bench press.

FRANK NOBILO: He became a different athlete, became a real athlete

ANNC: He has ascended to the top of the world at the age of 22!

FRANK NOBILO: The PGA Championship broke Nicklaus' record margin of victory.

RORY McILROY: It was a great week at Kiawah being able to separate yourself from a major championship field and winning by eight.

ANNC: His fifth PGA TOUR title at the age of 23.

RORY McILROY: I'm getting to that stage where I'm thinking, this is what I should be doing. I should be lifting a trophy at the end of the week.

ANNC: Rory McIlroy has won back-to-back playoff events.

RORY McILROY: I'm going to try and keep the run going for as long as possible.

ANNC: Rory McIlroy, at his brilliant best again.

HE WON 3 CONSECUTIVE TOURNAMENTS IN 2014 – INCLUDING TWO MAJORS. HE NOW HAD THREE LEGS OF THE CAREER GRAND SLAM AT JUST 25 YEARS OLD.

RORY McILROY: Winning The Open Championship, especially as a player from that part of the world, it's probably the biggest win of my career.

NICK DOUGHERTY: 2012 to 2014 is that coming of age where he realizes, not just potential, it's the reality of it. I remember that being a pivotal moment, but then a pressurized moment because it's, 'What next?'

RORY McILROY: My 2015 has been an interesting year. It started pretty well. Won a couple of times.

ANNC: The world number one, outlasts 'em all!

ANNC: The finest player in the world put together all he needed to do today.

RORY McILROY: After that my season was sort of derailed. Had an injury. Missed a good chunk of the summer.

FRANK NOBILO: People would say it's just an ankle injury that'll heal. I remember talking to his trainer at that specific time and I said, how bad is it? He said, it's bad.

McILROY PERSEVERED AND CONTINUED HIS WINNING WAYS IN 20-16 ...

ANNC: Everybody was wondering when Rory was gonna be the old Rory. This week he was indeed. Classic Rory McIlroy.

ANNC: No way!

INCLUDING ANOTHER MONUMENTAL FIRST ...

ANNC: Rory McIlroy wins the FedExCup!

NICK DOUGHERTY: '17 it was quieter. I think it was becoming clear that, need another major, need another major.

RORY McILROY: There's been other things – because of the ankle injury in 2015 or the rib injury in 2017 – that I've had to try and tweak here and there just to try to manage those things.

RORY'S FITNESS WAS PIVOTAL AS HE OVERCAME INJURIES WHILE PUTTING UP NOTABLE RESULTS ... HOWEVER, IN 20-17, HE WENT WINLESS WORLDWIDE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NEARLY A DECADE ...

FRANK NOBILO: It was the first time there was a lot of negativity that was focused at him personally and his game. People would nitpick. And then he stopped winning the majors.

NICK DOUGHERTY: That was piling pressure on week in week out that I think was a burden for Rory and was starting to build there.

IMPORTANT LESSONS WERE STILL TO BE LEARNED THROUGHOUT BOTH THE LOW'S – AND THE HIGH'S...

NAT API WIN

RORY MCILROY CONTINUED TO EVOLVE. AND SOME OF THE GREATEST YEARS OF HIS CAREER WERE YET TO COME.

C1 – REJOIN TITLE

NO COPY

C2 – THE SWING

RORY MCILROY: I've had a great decade or more on TOUR. And all that knowledge that I've gathered, I can put into these next ten. My body feels as good as it ever has at 30. I'm excited for the future.

AS RORY WAS TURNING THE PAGE ON HIS 20s, HE CONTINUED TO BUILD ON THE FOUNDATIONS LAID YEARS AGO IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

ANNC: Maybe one of the greatest swings in the game.

ANNC: Everything perfectly sequenced up, wonderful balance.

NICK DOUGHERTY: He's got a swing that is his. He hasn't really tried to put his body in positions that it hasn't been used to across his whole lifetime. Yes. It's matured. Yes. It's more polished, more efficient. But it's the same framework really.

LUKE KERR-DINEEN: Rory, isn't that metric based when it comes to his golf swing but he's incredibly metric based and data focused when it comes to his health.

C3 – THE EVOLUTION

RORY MCILROY: I just wanted to know more about my body and myself and how I recover. I just wanted to optimize what I do.

LUKE KERR-DINEEN: He tracks the amount of grams of protein he eats a day, the amount of hours of sleep he gets. He tracks all these different parameters within himself.

WITH FOCUS ON BOTH BODY AND MIND, A MORE COMPLETE RORY WAS BEGINNING TO EMERGE.

ANNC: "Rory McIlroy is a PLAYERS champion"

NICK DOUGHERTY: The hardest thing for him was to separate Rory the golfer from Rory the man. And it was only about 10 years into his career when he realized that...

RORY MCILROY: Who I am as a person isn't who I am as a golfer And I think that's been the big difference between the highs and lows of the last few years and the more consistent play.

HE CAPPED HIS MOST CONSISTENT SEASON WITH HIS SECOND FEDEXCUP, JOINING TIGER WOODS AS THE ONLY PLAYERS TO WIN THAT TITLE MULTIPLE TIMES.

ANNC: It's only appropriate that the guy with a win at THE PLAYERS ends it with the FedExCup title.

HE WAS ALSO NAMED PGA TOUR PLAYER OF THE YEAR FOR A THIRD TIME.

RORY MCILROY: It's been a five-year gap since I've won it, so to get back to this level again. It means I'm doing the right thing.

FRANK NOBILO: I would say he was getting his game back on track. And then Covid hit probably at the worst time, and I think in retrospect, Rory was flat for a good 18 months. But if you're a headliner, you want the crowd.

THE RETURN OF THE FANS MEANT A RETURN TO RORY'S WINNING WAYS. 20-21 WAS THE START OF FIVE STRAIGHT YEARS WHERE RORY WON MULTIPLE TIMES WORLDWIDE, THE LONGEST STREAK OF HIS CAREER.

ANNC: The roars have returned in golf.

ANNC: The crowds are back. And I think that means Rory's back.

RORY MCILROY: I just sort of stuck my head down and kept going and took advantage of the opportunity that I was given.

ANNC: Rory McIlroy, with his extraordinary talents, wins a third FedExCup title.

RORY MCILROY: I've been waiting a long time to win a major championship after my last one. To share two FedExCup's with Tiger Woods I thought was a really cool accomplishment. But to get three, I would put that up with some of the biggest achievements I've had in the game.

RORY MCILROY: This is a year to really build off of And I'm really excited about going into '23 and beyond.

ANNC: He'll leave Congaree with the trophy. Win No. 23.

BUT EVEN WHILE SUCCEEDING AROUND THE WORLD, HE ALSO HAD TO OVERCOME SOME OF THE MOST DIFFICULT LOSSES OF HIS CAREER.

RORY MCILROY: I think that's the perception that it's just a one-way path to success. You shouldn't be fearful of failure because it should make you better.

RORY ALWAYS FOUND WAYS TO GET BACK INTO THE FIGHT. AND HIS RESILIENCE WAS ON DISPLAY FOR ALL TO SEE.

ANNC: Oh. Wow. An amazing finish for McIlroy. And a first victory ever in Scotland.

ANNC: Milestone win for McIlroy. A signature performance by Rory McIlroy.

RORY MCILROY: I feel like my entire game is a little more consistent now than it was back in 2014.

ANNC: It's been so well documented that he's gone 10 years without winning a major and majors are what Rory McIlroy is measured by.

FRANK NOBILO: You're only going to come back 1 or 2 ways. And one you're going to be better than before or you're going to disappear.

RORY MCILROY: I just wanna achieve a lot more, I wanna be competing for the biggest titles in the game.

D2 – RORY'S HEART RATE IMPROVEMENT

KRISTEN HOLMES WHOOP DATE SCIENTIST: What was so cool to see in his data going into the Masters, Rory improved his resting heart rate by six beats per minute, which is clinically like very significant.

He improved his heart rate variability which is basically a measure of how well you can adapt to external stress by nine milliseconds. So what Rory did is essentially build in the offseason this incredible physiological buffer, which enable him to withstand the rigors of a season.

D3 – AMBITIONS HEADING INTO MASTERS

RORY MCILROY: I don't see the point in putting all this time and effort into what I do and into my career and trying to master my craft, if I don't get to prove to myself that I can do it under the most intense pressure and in the biggest moments in our game. To see what I'm made of.

ANNC: A virtuoso performance by McIlroy.

DESPITE ALL MCILROY HAD ACCOMPLISHED IN HIS LONG CAREER... ONE GOAL STILL REMAINED.

QUESTION: Masters what's your jacket size?

RORY MCILROY I'm either a 38 or a 40 short. I like it a little more like European style. So a little more fitted, a little more tapered and pinched in.

AFTER A DECADE OF HEARTACHE AND CLOSE CALLS, RORY STILL FOUND WAYS TO CLIMB CLOSER TO THE TITLE THAT HAD ELUDED HIM.

RORY MCILROY: I've loved Augusta since the first time I laid eyes on it back in '09. Every time that I've been there and I've had a chance, I've learned something different.

D4 – MASTERS & BEYOND

20-25 WAS THE YEAR THAT HE FINALLY PUT ON THE GREEN JACKET, AFTER NEARLY TWO DECADES OF TRYING. A LIFETIME'S WORTH OF RETURNS TO AUGUSTA WAS GUARANTEED.

RORY MCILROY: It's not every day you get to fulfill one of your lifelong goals and dreams. The big thing for me is just how the whole journey sort of resonated with people.

LUKE KERR-DINEEN: When you start coming up against a wall, push through the wall. That's what Rory taught us.

NICK DOUGHERTY: For me, was the ultimate resilience from any golfer I've ever seen.

FRANK NOBILO: The only word I can use with the scene on the 18th green at Augusta National was relief.

SHANE LOWRY: Rory does Rory things, and he did. I see what he puts into the game and I see the time and effort he puts into the game, and he deserves it more than anyone.

LUKE KERR-DINEEN: Even after these close losses, he's pushing himself to get a little better and all these different ways.

RORY MCILROY: People can see themselves in the struggle at times, and everything that you sort of try to put into getting the best out of yourself in that journey.

ADAM SCOTT: He just manages all the different aspects of what he needs to be at the highest level, from his technique, to his training, to his recovery. He's just kind of ticking all those boxes, consistently and that good work's accumulating.

FRANK NOBILO: You could conceivably see Rory play at the highest level for nearly another decade. If he stays the course, the next phase actually could be like the first phase could be a lot of fun.

RORY MCILROY: Someone from a tiny little town in Northern Ireland worked really hard and followed his dreams and got the most out of what he wanted to achieve. I wanna continue to sort of step outside my comfort zone, challenge myself in different areas of my life. That's a goal for the rest of my life.