

## **A1 – COLD OPEN – SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER’S SHOES**

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: I think what's always been really interesting about working with Nike is the amount of input they try to get from their athletes. So, for me to be able to have a relationship with the head shoe designer for the golf shoes since I was a junior golfer, I think is something that's really cool.

ANNC: Here comes number one in the world!

ANNC: And you look at Scheffler and you go, oh gosh, this guy's going to do the same thing in 2025, right?

ANNC: The best players in the world are taking complete notice of what Scottie Scheffler is doing.

## **A2 – THE CUT TITLES**

**WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT.**

## **A3 – SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER SHOES**

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER NATS: Matt, what's going on? Good to see you.

MATT PLUMB NATS: Let's talk shoes.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER NATS: The baby blue.

MATT PLUMB NATS: Yeah.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: When it came to designing this next shoe, there were some aspects of the shoe that I was wearing that I really liked. And there were some aspects of the shoe that I didn't like as much. Working with Matt and the rest of the shoe team, we kind of figured out what was really good about the shoe at different ways we could improve it.

MATT PLUMB: I've been fortunate enough to work with Scottie close to the last kind of 10 or 12 years. Way back when Nike had equipment. Scottie was one of our athletes that as a junior played with Nike golf clubs. And then as we've kind of transitioned into the new chapter of Nike Golf, we looked at Scottie, obviously the phenomenal talent that he is. But one of the things that sticks out is he's got really unique footwork.

ANNC: Here comes the Scottie shuffle.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: The traction on the bottom of the shoe is really important for me. You know, it's funny. You need the traction and the right side of the shoe to kind of post up against. But then when you turn your left foot actually, especially mine kind of spins and actually moves

off the ground. So that's why when I talk about the sweet spot and support, you know, it's having the ability to have something to push up against in the back swing and be able to turn through on the forward swing without, you know, the shoe rolling over. So there really is a sweet spot.

ANNC: Oh, when you have a feeling you have a feeling!

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: So with the Victory Pro 4, the most important thing for me was performance throughout the golf swing. The stuff we worked on at the beginning was a lot of stability, a lot of support in the shoe and kind of worked our way back in there. So the first testing of the shoe we did on the golf course, I think Matt actually took some scissors to the shoe and was cutting off some of the support that I was feeling in the shoe to almost get less.

MATT PLUMB: We just started cutting away parts and pieces of this shoe, and we got to a really clear point of view where Scottie said, I need more support for exactly here, which is really what bred what we now call the fly wing.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Well, when we released the last shoe, one of the things that we liked was how far it was off the ground. And, what do you call the slope from heel to toe?

MATT PLUMB NATS: The offset.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: The offset in the shoe. And so, we kept that the exact same from the shoe to the shoe, which was important to me, because when you start changing those angles or height off the ground, you know, it can have an effect on your golf.

ANNC: Hear that roar across the golf course. For the man who was the best in the game right now.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: For me, what's most important about my pieces of equipment is if I'm out there thinking about how my driver is, I'm probably not going to be driving very well. If I'm out thinking about my shoes, you know, the shoes are performing the way they need to be. And so when I go out and play, the most important thing to be able to focus on golf, I feel like the shoes have put me in a good place where I feel supportive. Like I said, I'm not going to worry when we change turf conditions, like when we go from the desert in Phoenix to Torrey Pines, I'm not worried about how my shoe is going to perform. I know I'm going to have good traction. I'm going to have a good support. I'm going to be able to walk 18 holes and not not think about how my feet are going to feel at the end of the day.

ANNC: Get a little momentum going into Saturday ... just pours it in. And that's two in the last three holes.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: For me, having a layoff to start the year and coming out and playing three weeks in a row, it's not easy for the body just to get back into golf shape. Like the only way to get back in the golf shape is by playing golf. And I think having a shoe that performs really well as a golf shoe, while also having that comfort and feel of a tennis shoe is really important.

You know, especially when you're going out walking 18 holes. And like I said, I can take them right out of the box and put them on and they feel like I feel like they're already worn in.

#### **A4 – SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER MASTERS TAG**

**DEFENDING MASTERS CHAMPION, SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER, RETURNS TO AUGUSTA THIS WEEK IN SEARCH OF HIS THIRD GREEN JACKET IN FOUR YEARS ... A FEAT THAT HAS ONLY BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY JACK NICKLAUS.**

#### **A5 –RESTORING YOUR GAME**

**PGA TOUR PRESENTS, RESTORING YOUR GAME.**

**IN THE SUMMER OF 2023, VIKTOR HOVLAND ASSERTED HIMSELF AS ONE OF THE BEST GOLFERS IN THE GAME ...**

ANNC: You go to the upper reaches of Norway and you're on top of the world...and now Viktor is too.

**BUT IN THE YEAR-AND-A-HALF THAT FOLLOWED, HOVLAND'S GAME PLUMMETED ...**

ANNC: He doesn't even want to look where this is going ... it's really been the story of his season.

**AS HE RECORDED ONLY TWO TOP-10 FINISHES IN 2024, COMPARED TO NINE IN 2023 ...**

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I can still have a good week here and there and pop, but that's it's a little stressful when you when you don't play very well in between. So still disappointed but all I can do is kind of look ahead.

**UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE 2023 FEDEXCUP CHAMPION, THE FIRST FIVE EVENTS OF 2025 MOVED FURTHER IN THE WRONG DIRECTION ... BUT HOVLAND STAYED OPTIMISTIC ...**

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Results wise, it hasn't been very good, but I've been finally hitting the shots that I'm envisioning and I'm kind of pumped about the next few tournaments.

**FOLLOWING THREE-STRAIGHT MISSED CUTS, THE NORWEGIAN RESTORED HIS GAME AT THE VALSPAR CHAMPIONSHIP ...**

ANNC: It has been a circuitous, long journey back. Viktor Hovland emerges as the champion!

VIKTOR HOVLAND: It's been quite the struggle the past year and a half, so for me to come back and win this tournament is quite incredible

## **B1 – VALERO TEXAS OPEN ON-SITE CONTENT**

AKSHAY BHATIA: Hi Katherine, how are you?

KATHERINE: Good.

BHATIA: I'm Akshay. I've heard a lot of great things about you. My friends at Callaway, we wanted to get you a fresh set. I heard you're starting to become into golf a little bit.

KATHERINE: Thank you.

BHATIA: Hopefully, you can enjoy those and maybe I can give you a couple tips.

KATHERINE: OK.

BHATIA: Obviously, my first time defending a tournament, it's pretty cool. You know, you step on this property and you realize how hard this golf course is and so, you know, I look forward to, you know, see if I can get back in that position this week.

BHATIA: Have you ever played golf before or is this kind of your first time starting?

KATHERINE: I think I've done it once.

BHATIA: Once? OK.

KATHERINE: Like practice but never been on a team.

BHATIA: They're gonna be jealous when you're hitting it so much better than all these guys.

BHATIA: You can, yep, right there.

KATHERINE: And then your pinky ...

BHATIA: Pinky ...

BHATIA: When you take it back, you're gonna just kind of brush the grass.

KATHERINE: OK.

BHATIA: OIK. And then you can start making bigger swings like that.

BHATIA: You can take it back ... that far.

KATHERINE: OK.

BHATIA: Nice job!

BHATIA: Next thing I want you to do is, you're gonna wanna just turn your hips and release your back foot.

KATHERINE: OK.

BHATIA: See that?

BHATIA: You want to hit a driver?

KATHERINE: Sure.

BHATIA: The one that goes far.

BHATIA: So, this one, you can have a wide stance.

BHATIA: There you go. And then get your grip right. And then you can stand a little further away from the golf ball. So, take a step back.

BHATIA: Nice job! That was awesome!

BHATIA: Oh my gosh!

BHATIA: You wanna hit one more?

KATHERINE: Sure.

BHATIA: All right, see if I got another tee on me.

KATHERINE: Oh, did it break?

BHATIA: Yeah ...

KATHERINE: Sorry.

BHATIA: Because you're really strong.

BHATIA: You can grip it a little tighter. There you go. So now the club's gonna stay more.

BHATIA: Nice! That was your furthest one.

BHATIA: You're on the right track. You learned a little bit, and just remember that grip, that's the most important thing. Make sure you keep practicing that and it'll help.

KATHERINE: Thank you.

BHATIA: Kind of like a backpack. No, just on your arm. There you go. Perfect. Now you got your own set of clubs!

BHATIA: Is this right? Or do I flip it?

KATHERINE: Flip it.

BHATIA: Flip it.

KATHERINE: No, no. Flip it.

BHATIA: Oh, this way.

KATHERINE: Yeah.

BHATIA: OK, I got it.

KATHERINE: Thank you. Good luck.

BHATIA: All right, thank you. Nice to meet you, Katherine.

## **B2 – VALERO TEXAS OPEN WINNER**

ANNC: Final round of the Valero Texas Open. The wind will be a factor here at TPC San Antonio. Brian Harman had the lead overnight by three; 12-under par.

BRIAN HARMAN: Having a little bit of experience and knowing that score was kind of a relative thing today, it was more kind of a game of attrition.

ANNC: New putter for him this week ... pure. Four-shot lead! Absolutely pure. Strong start for the Georgia Bulldog.

BRIAN HARMAN: I didn't have my best stuff today, but good enough to make a few putts, and a couple birdies on the back nine helped a lot.

ANNC: Did he get it? Yes he did! Beautiful read by Harman.

BRIAN HARMAN: I had to wait a long time in between my second and third, didn't have to wait quite as long this time.

ANNC: Harman is a winner again! His fourth PGA TOUR victory!

**WITH THE WIN, HARMAN NOW SITS JUST NINE SPOTS OUTSIDE OF THE COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10, WHICH CELEBRATES CONSISTENT AND RELIABLE PERFORMANCES.**

BRIAN HARMAN: Been playing some really good golf. My scores haven't showed it, but I've been feeling like it was right there. To have it pop this week and be in good form for some big stuff coming up is really awesome.

## **B3 – FEDEXCUP STANDINGS**

**HARMAN JUMPS UP 64 SPOTS TO 19<sup>TH</sup> IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS, WHILE COREY CONNERS MOVES AHEAD OF LUDVIG ABERG, AND THE TOP FIVE REMAIN THE SAME WITH RORY McILROY LEADING OVER SEPP STRAKA.**

**C1 – THE CUT REJOIN**

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**C2 – THE DROP – RORY McILROY MASTERS PREVIEW**

ANNC: Rory McIlroy is starting his season and ... slam dunk!

ANNC: Pebble Beach has a popular champion, Rory McIlroy!

RORY McILROY: Sorry, I'm going to move this. I hate when my trophies get in the way.

ANNC: What a great drive and a statement made by Rory right there.

RORY McILROY: To step up and make that swing was awesome.

ANNC: And McIlroy's got another PLAYERS title. World No. 2 with his second. And setting the table here for what could be a very special year.

RORY McILROY: Not a lot of people have done that over the 51 years of THE PLAYERS.

ANNC: Can you believe it's been 10 years since he's won a major?

RORY McILROY: I've put so much emphasis on the Masters my whole career.

ANNC: That's the last grand slam piece to the puzzle.

LAUREN WITHROW: Newly crowned 2025 PLAYERS champion Rory McIlroy heads to Augusta National this week. Adding a green jacket to his wardrobe this week with a Masters win, McIlroy would achieve legendary status, becoming just the sixth golfer in history to earn a career grand slam. McIlroy would join Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods. Here's a look into McIlroy's journey.

ANNC: A triple crown: Open Championship, World Golf Championship and a PGA in three consecutive tournaments.

RORY McILROY: The Open was fantastic, the Bridgestone was awesome, but the one that I'm proudest of is the PGA, just because it was the third in a row.

ANNC: All eyes on Rory McIlroy in the run-up to Augusta National. He'll try to become the sixth man in history to complete the career grand slam, all four modern majors, and he's played outstanding golf, to say the least, over the last seven months.

RORY McILROY: I think every year, there's always such buildup and hype towards Augusta. I've got a chance to go to Augusta and do something very few players in this game have done before, so that adds a little bit of spice to it.

**IT'S BEEN MORE THAN A DECADE SINCE RORY McILROY'S LAST MAJOR WIN – WITH TWO COMING IN 2014 – THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP AT ROYAL LIVERPOOL AND THE PGA CHAMPIONSHIP AT VALHALLA.**

RORY McILROY: I almost feel I put myself under too much pressure going into Augusta. I felt like, honestly, that was the first one that I would win. The golf course is set up really well for me.

ANNC: It's got to be awfully difficult for Rory to leave Augusta for the 10th consecutive time with a chance to win the career grand slam.

RORY McILROY: Good golf at Augusta feels like boring golf, and I think that's something that I've always struggled with because that's not my game. To me, it's the biggest test of discipline and the biggest test of patience of the year for me.

**HIS BEST PERFORMANCE CAME IN 2022 WITH A RUNNER-UP FINISH TO SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER.**

RORY McILROY: It gives me comfort knowing that my game is there. I got a lot of confidence from that round on Sunday. I did a lot of great things.

**THIS SEASON HE'S MAKING A STATEMENT, WITH TWO WINS IN FIVE STARTS.**

ANNC: For the coronation of Rory McIlroy at Pebble ... tap-in par at the last. The 2025 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am champion Rory McIlroy. An icon at an iconic venue for a signature win in his season debut.

RORY McILROY: There's a few, what I would call “cathedrals” of golf: here, Augusta, St Andrews, obviously. I had a big fat zero on all of those going in here. To knock one off at Pebble is very cool.

ANNC: This will be long remembered as a virtuoso performance by McIlroy.

RORY McILROY: I'm a better putter. I'm better around the greens. My ability to shape shots both ways. Really, managing myself more.

ANNC: And Irish eyes do smile on a St. Patrick's Day! Rory McIlroy, the 2025 PLAYERS Championship winner. His second PLAYERS Championship. His second victory this season on the PGA TOUR. 28<sup>th</sup> of his career.

RORY McILROY: To think that I've won this now a couple of times and I've been coming here since 2009, 10-year-old Rory would think this was really, really cool.

ANNC: I said earlier this year that I thought he would win a major championship and after this signature win, I like that prediction even more.

### **IN 2025, McILROY'S STROKES GAINED STATISTICS IMPLY THAT HE'S AS READY AS HE'S EVER BEEN, LEADING THE PGA TOUR IN STROKES GAINED TOTAL ...**

RORY McILROY: I'm obviously playing well, I want to keep playing well, so I think every round you play where you see good things, you're sort of filling up that confidence bucket a little bit.

ANNC: He said he wants to accomplish three more things in golf: a green jacket, a medal and to win an away Ryder Cup.

RORY McILROY: You're teeing up against the guys that you've beaten before, so there's no reason why you just can't beat them on this golf course.

LAUREN WITHROW: McIlroy has six top-10 finishes in his last 10 starts at Augusta. Tune in this week to watch him to attempt this historic feat.

### **DI – XANDER SCHAUFFELE – EMBEDDED – EPISODE 4**

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Return to, to Arnold Palmer, Bay Hill. A little hesitant, but hopeful.

RUSSELL HENLEY NATS: You been hurt, what happened to you? What did you hurt?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE NATS: I got hurt dude, my freakin' intercostal cartilage area.

RUSSELL HENLEY NATS: Was it from dropping bombs? No. What's it from?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE NATS: All the Karma from making fun of you. Good to see ya again. Good to see ya Russ.

ANNC: The first time we've seen Xander in a PGA Tour event since early in the season.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: It's great to be back, nice to see some familiar faces. And, yeah, definitely had some time to reflect in, you know, what was six weeks. Sounds pretty short, but felt like a lifetime for me, so I'm just really happy to be here.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Not competing and then coming into one of the harder events last last week at Bay Hill, I knew it was going to take a lot for me to perform at a high level. And, you know, obviously didn't perform the way I wanted, but, I feel like I'm in a better position to play better.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I look at golf as work. I do love it. So it's good to have 1 a friend and 2 someone that's a bit funny too, it's sort of lighten the load when you're trying to compete.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE AND AUSTIN KAISER NATS: Ow. Cute. That's, going to go in the yearbook.

AUSTIN KAISER: He's my one of my best friends. I've spent a lot of time with him and you know, he's he's a really good human being. We've built a relationship over the last ten years to where we trust each other so much.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I need to give him, two, three hours to go around nine holes, to check things out and then to walk with me as well for nine holes.

AUSTIN KAISER NATS: It's kind of like my zen time. I like to come out here and just think think about different scenarios and how I would plan out if where he hit, if, you know, if you hit it here, he hit it here.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Austin's always trying to see if there's some way to play the hole easier. He's always trying to turn over every stone, even if we've been on a property but that that sort of preparation, gives me a lot of confidence.

AUSTIN KAISER NATS: This is hole seven, TPC Sawgrass. Can kind of reward yourself with a good tee shot, but you got water left. Thick trees. Right. So it's a great hole.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE AND AUSTIN KAISER NATS: *XANDER* This hole, it's all wind based. *AUSTIN* It's the out. So if we get a little bit of help, we might hear a little less from driver that firms up *XANDER* So this is the hardest wind for the hole. *AUSTIN* into the Wind it's a little tougher. *XANDER* it's definitely a driver today. Yeah.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE NATS: Trying to get better. Bunker. Here you go. This is a pretty well designed hole. it's kind of a must hit fairway hole.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE AND AUSTIN KAISER NATS: I think you're used to hitting out of the fairway most time. So it's good to try and get a few looks that may be weird.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE AND AUSTIN KAISER NATS: Catch a piece. A little long, Yeah. *AUSTIN* A little Tuesday rake job.

AUSTIN KAISER NATS: Hole 8 TPC Sawgrass. One of the hardest par 3's on the PGA TOUR. This is one where you pray for par and then move on.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE AND AUSTIN KAISER NATS: *XANDER* How far? *AUSTIN* 221 to 241. *XANDER* This is helping. *AUSTIN* It's very cross on up your slightly left side of the tee box *XANDER* It's good practice.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE AND AUSTIN KAISER NATS: Chips short to that front pin *XANDER* I'll try and get up and down on this left bunker too see how fluffy this.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE AND AUSTIN KAISER NATS: *XANDER* Got of almost try and chunk and run this a lot more, Yeah. It's hitting so soft in that, Yeah. *AUSTIN* Still coming. Not terrible. Pretty good.

KIDS NATS: Thank you so much Xander. Yeah. Hey, good luck next week.

AUSTIN KAISER NATS: It is a tricky hole. If you don't hit the fairway, kind of hit the left or in this right rough forced to lay up and then you kind of play a game of angles at that point.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE NATS: On this hole, you know, if you play it correctly, you can give yourself a really good chance at four. Three is a really hard score to make on a hole like this , depending on how your day is going, sometimes it's, just another birdie you make and, sometimes it's, you need to kickstart your round.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE AND AUSTIN KAISER NATS: We're dead. *AUSTIN* right where my number is. *XANDER* We're dead. Oh, gosh.

FAN NAT: Xander!

ANNC: These are the kind of shots where you are kinda knocking the rust off when you haven't played for a couple months. No question. And he is going to drop 2 here. So that's a killer way to end the day.

ANNC: How bout this, would not be surprised in the least for ole Xander to work his way right back into this golf tournament.

ANNC: A birdie at the ninth means Xander is 1 under par and that streak should continue into 59 consecutive cuts made.

ANNC: Just working off the cobb webs, they're not coming off quite as quickly as Xander Schaufele would like.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Not hitting it close enough, to duffing chips, to missing every fairway, to hitting fairways to missing greens. The game feels pretty bad.

ANNC: Xander is the ultimate professional he doesn't like what just happened, he's not overly bothered he is very comfortable no doubt with who he is as a player.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I need to start contending in tournaments versus being like, the, the poor guy who's still rusty. You know, I got to throw that narrative out.

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