

2025 PGA TOUR: The CUT #20
International Script

COLD OPEN

ANNC: Well, you can't match Rory's power that's for sure.

ANNC: Already with multiple wins and a major.

ANNC: And Rory McIlroy is a PLAYERS Champion again.

ANNC: He walked the sacred sod. Pebble Beach has a popular champion.

ANNC: Rory McIlroy won The Masters; we're all wondering what he does next?

WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT

RORY MCILROY – THE KING OF QUAIL HOLLOW

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 so to knock one off at Pebble is very cool.

BY THE SECOND WEEK OF APRIL, MCILROY CHECKED OFF ANOTHER CATHEDRAL FROM HIS LIST. BECOMING THE SIXTH PLAYER TO COMPLETE THE CAREER GRAND SLAM.

NATS: Masters Champion, Rory McIlroy!

NOW MCILROY HEADS BACK TO REVERED QUAIL HOLLOW CLUB FOR THE PGA CHAMPIONSHIP. SEEKING HIS 6TH MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIP AT A COURSE THAT HAS BECOME A SHRINE TO HIS GREATNESS.

ANNC: From Belfast, Northern Ireland. Please welcome Rory McIlroy.

RORY MCILROY: I've had so much history at Quail Hollow. It's a week that I really look forward to every year. I first played Quail Hollow in 2010. I was just having so much fun playing golf and living out my dream.

ANNC: What a story developing here.

RORY MCILROY: I still have so many vivid memories from that Sunday finishing on the back nine. The way I did.

ANNC: How about making it. He does indeed! Welcome to the big time Rory McIlroy! Wow, what a finish!

RORY MCILROY: You know, ever since I was, you know, 10 or 11 years old, I wanted to be a professional golfer. And I'm just delighted to get here. And to get my first win in the US is very special. And to do it on a golf course like this is, is even better.

McILROY'S BOND WITH QUAIL HOLLOW DEEPENED, WINNING THREE MORE TIMES ...

ANNC: Golf at its finest.

RORY MCILROY: I feel like I'm a much more controlled player. I've learned now how to handle these positions You know, I'm finishing the job off the way. The way I should.

ANNC: In a league of his own. Rory McIlroy takes the title.

RORY MCILROY: Ever since I first set eyes on this golf course, I loved it. You know that love has sort of been reciprocated. I think this is the first time I've ever won an event for the third time. So, that's pretty cool.

ANNC: About to be given the champion's ovation for the fourth time on this very green.

ANNC: A signature performance by Rory McIlroy!

BACK AT HIS ADOPTED CLUB, MCILROY IS LOOKING FOR HIS FOURTH WIN OF THE SEASON AND A CHANCE AT THE 2ND LEG OF THE SEASON GRAND SLAM.

RORY MCILROY: I feel really proud to be linked with Quail Hollow in some way.

ANNC: They call this the Queen City; I don't think there's any doubt who the King of the Queen City is.

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP – THE ELIMATOIR

THE BEST IN THE WORLD MAKE THEIR WAY TO QUAIL HOLLOW FOR THE PGA CHAMPIONSHIP... LIKE YOU, WE WANT TO KNOW WHO IS GOING TO WIN... SO USING STATISTICAL AND HISTORICAL ANALYSIS, WE IDENTIFY OUR PICK, IN WHAT WE CALL "THE ELIMATOIR" ...

30 OF THE LAST 32 MAJORS HAVE BEEN WON BY SOMEONE INSIDE THE TOP 40 OF THE OFFICIAL WORLD GOLF RANKING ... SO WE ELIMINATE 116 PLAYERS AND ARE DOWN TO 40 ...

THE LAST 9 PGA CHAMPIONSHIPS HAVE BEEN WON BY AMERICANS ... BUT 2025 HAS ALREADY HAD WINNERS FROM 14 COUNTRIES, SO WE'RE BANKING ON THAT TREND AND THE AMERICAN WIN STREAK GETTING SNAPPED ... WITH THAT, WE ARE DOWN TO 20 PLAYERS...

12 OF THE LAST 15 WINNERS ALREADY HAD A TOP TEN AT THE PGA CHAMPIONSHIP ... WE LIKE THAT BET ON PEDIGREE AND ELIMINATE EIGHT MORE GOLFERS - WE ARE DOWN TO 12 ...

THIS IS THE TENTH TIME THE PGA CHAMPIONSHIP IS THE SECOND MAJOR OF THE SEASON ... OF THE LAST NINE WINNERS, SEVEN FINISHED IN THE TOP 10 OF THAT YEAR'S MASTERS... OF OUR 12 REMAINING PLAYERS, ONLY RORY MCILROY, JASON DAY AND JUSTIN ROSE FIT THAT CRITERIA ...

LAST MONTH, RORY MCILROY JOINED TIGER WOODS AS THE ONLY GOLFERS IN THE LAST 50 YEARS TO WIN THE CAREER GRAND SLAM ... WHEN TIGER DID IT AT THE 2000 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP – WHAT DID HE DO A MONTH LATER? HE WON THE PGA CHAMPIONSHIP. THE STATS – AND HISTORY – SUGGEST THAT MCILROY WILL DO THE SAME, AND HE IS THE ELIMINATOUR'S PICK TO WIN THE 2025 PGA CHAMPIONSHIP.

JASON KELCIE PLAYS IN TRUIST CHAMPIONSHIP PRACTICE ROUND

JASON KELCE: Yeah baby!

ON WEDNESDAY OF THE TRUIST CHAMPIONSHIP, FORMER PHILADELPHIA EAGLES CENTER JASON KELCE SPENT THE DAY AT THE PHILADELPHIA CRICKET CLUB FOR A PRACTICE ROUND.

JASON KELCIE: What's up brother? How you doing?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Justin. Good. How are you?

JASON KELCE: Good to see you, man.

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah.

JASON KELCE: Pleasure. Pleasure. How are you doing?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Good. Congrats on, saw you all just had another little one.

JASON KELCE: Yeah, man, yes. I'm trying to get better, man. Heavy over the top. I don't know if you can tell by looking at me.

JUSTIN THOMAS: Do you know who you're playing with today?

JASON KELCE: Shane.

JUSTIN THOMAS: He's a good dude. You can [BLANK] with him a good bit, which is real fun.

JASON KELCE: Alright, wedge is ready ... alright, we're ready. Let's go.

SHANE LOWRY: How's it going?

JASON KELCE: Shane, Jason. Pleasure. Yeah, man. Let's have some fun. Do you guys do this before a lot of the major tournaments?

SHANE LOWRY: Yeah. Every Wednesday.

JASON KELCE: Every Wednesday?

SHANE LOWRY: Yeah. Apart from the majors.

JASON KELCE: That blows my mind.

SHANE LOWRY: Yeah, I know, yeah.

JASON KELCE: That's so much golf. You don't get wore out from all this stuff?

SHANE LOWRY: No.

STARTER: And the amateurs for the 7:11 tee time, Mr. Jason Kelce.

JASON KELCE: I like that Mr. I don't know if I've ever heard that.

SHANE LOWRY: Do you live here still?

JASON KELCE: Yeah. Yeah. My wife's from the area. So, we have four kids.

SHANE LOWRY: Four? How old?

JASON KELCE: A big reason, I'm like – oh, so five, four, two, and ... a month.

SHANE LOWRY: Oh nice.

JASON KELCE: She's Irish, too. So, we have a couple Irish twins, yeah.

SHANE LOWRY: I think my house is busy ...

JASON KELCE: Oh, it's chaos; in the best way, though.

SHANE LOWRY: Yeah, I'm sure.

JASON KELCE: It's a good rebound.

SHANE LOWRY: There we go.

My favorite club? This one. That usually means I'm uh, I'm almost to the end of the hole.

Good read, Moose.

SHANE LOWRY: You don't get the credit, you get the blame.

JASON KELCE: That's right.

That was either going to be good or a pull hook.

Moose, I apologize. I've been known to take some beaver tails. I got a steep angle.

SHANE LOWRY: There you go, nice!

JASON KELCE: With confidence!

Okay. Oh, this is fun.

SHANE LOWRY: Yeah, this is probably the hardest shot in the world.

NATS: Great shot.

JASON KELCE: Shane's always, I mean, he's got personality. He's an unbelievable player. I love watching Scottie swing. Rory.

Are we playing good? Is it?

SHANE LOWRY: That's good, yeah, yeah.

JASON KELCE: Thank God that's good.

Are you sure you're not a Kelce?

SHANE LOWRY: I know, did you see that?

JASON KELCE: I didn't.

SHANE LOWRY: My daughter's obsessed with ...

JASON KELCE: Taylor? Yeah.

SHANE LOWRY: She was dressing up for Halloween, so I ordered the shirt online.

JASON KELCE: Yeah.

SHANE LOWRY: And then I went down to Dick's Sporting Goods and bought all the pads and all that.

JASON KELCE: I love it. That looks so good.

SHANE LOWRY: There you go.

JASON KELCE: The beard is pretty spot on.

SHANE LOWRY: I got a trim last week.

JASON KELCE: Did you?

SHANE LOWRY: It was long last week. I got a lot taken off last week. I should have left it.

JASON KELCE: Yeah.

SHANE LOWRY: If I'd have known I was going to be playing with you I would've left it long.

SEPP STRAKA WINS TRUIST CHAMPIONSHIP

ANNC: At the moment, we've got two trying to just separate field and make it a two-man chase. Shane looking for his first individual win on the PGA TOUR win the 2019 Open Championship. Sepp looking for his second win of the season.

Need a nice soft first bounce. Like that. How about it?! Wow! And raises the lead total to 16!

Shane looking on. Found the left side! Matching birdies!

Listen to these Philadelphia fans, showering these two players with a high level of appreciation. Never separated by more than a shot except for a little blip at the turn after the 9th.

Lowry has to make. There you go. That's it. So now, two putts to win. Sepp Straka wins the signature event, the Truist Championship! Joins Rory McIlroy as the only multiple winners on TOUR this season!

SEPP STRAKA: This year has been pretty good to me. Just really grateful for all the hard work from the people that, you know, don't get to stand on that 18th green and celebrate.

It's not the best ball striking week I've had. Off the tee the first two days, I hit it terrible. Made a little bit of, kind of a tweak with my takeaway, from then on, striking it really well with the driver. Iron play was decent, but the putter was just excellent this week. I made a lot of midrange putts, and that's something you have to do when you want to win a golf tournament.

FEDEXCUP STANDINGS

SEPP STRAKA'S WIN MOVES HIM BACK INTO SECOND PLACE IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS... AND AS STRAKA ENJOYED PHILADELPHIA, THE RESIDENTS ENJOYED THEIR TIME WITH THE TOUR IN TOWN.

OVERHEARD AT TRUIST CHAMPIONSHIP

FAN: You think Rory is a Pat's or Geno's guy if we put them to a taste test?

FAN: Neither he goes to Angelo's.

FAN: You think he goes to Angelo's?

FAN: Yeah.

FAN: There's Rory right there. Right there.

FAN: Oh, ya there he is.

FAN: He doesn't look that big of a guy but he's strong, look at his shoulders.

FAN: Who do you think would win in a fight, Rory or Justin Thomas?

FAN: I think just Rory's frame is just a little bit larger, Justin's more lean, not that that's a bad thing.

FAN: Oh my god Min Woo, Min Woo, Min Woo. Yo, Min Woo. Lululemon is such a sick...

FAN: Such a fire sponsor. That headcover is sick.

FAN: Lululemon, Topgolf, Callaway.

FAN: How do they pick the people for the first round?

FAN: Mara, I don't freaking know.

FAN: You're supposed to be educating me.

FAN: I don't know.

FAN: Let's go Viktor!

FAN: There you go!

FAN: Yes, no looks.

FAN: He looked!

FAN: I'm so excited.

FAN: Did he wave to you? He was looking at you.

FAN: He was looking at me.

FAN: Alright I'll go over here.

FAN: Yeah, go away.

RYAN FOX WINS ONEFLIGHT MYRTLE BEACH CLASSIC

ANNC: Happy Mother's Day from Myrtle Beach. So many names trying to win for the first time on the PGA TOUR. Searching for that breakthrough week at the Dunes Golf and Beach Club.

His third, on a good line... Ryan Fox Delivers!! From off the green he holes it for birdie! Gets his first win on the PGA TOUR.

RYAN FOX: About 8 foot out it never looked like it was going anywhere else, and the rest of it is a bit of a blur from there. I haven't transitioned probably as well as I would have liked over to the PGA TOUR. It was a tough year last year. I managed to just keep my card. It's been a scratchy start this year as well.

To have the wife and kids here is amazing on Friday I said, what can I get you for Mother's Day? She goes, well, a trophy would be nice. I guess I lived up to my end of the bargain there.

RYAN FOX FEATURE

RYAN FOX: My upbringing helped shape my game because I grew up in a sporting family.

New Zealand in general, love sports. My dad played for the All Blacks. My mum's father played cricket for New Zealand, so I always had a bat, a ball, a golf club, tennis racket, something in my hands growing up.

NAT: Oh, nice. Good shot. You liked to hit it hard back then as well. Sure did. Nothing's changed.

RYAN FOX: Dad played for the All Blacks from 1984, 85 to 1993. He was regarded as one of the greats. He was the highest point scorer at the time in All Black history that won the 1987 World Cup, which was the first rugby World Cup they had, and that was in New Zealand and that helped shape the competitive juices growing up.

Wow, I actually think that is my first ever set of golf clubs.

I came to golf relatively late. I played golf all the way through school, but rugby and cricket were my main two sports and I didn't start competitive golf until after I left school when I was 18. So, a lot of guys are full time college players by then, and I certainly was a two or three handicapper that struggled to break 80 other than my home club.

I didn't turn pro till I was basically 25. It was a bit of a process to get out on to the DP World Tour. I started in Aussie in 2012. I got some invites onto the Challenge Tour on 2015 and managed to get a challenge to a card and then went back on to the Challenge tour in 2016 and had a really good year.

ANNC: Look at this, it's dream golf from a really top-class player.

RYAN FOX: That extra year really did set me up for what was a pretty good year for that DP World Tour in 2017. Keeping your card your first year out is always the goal and I did that pretty comfortably.

ANNC: One of the European Tour's most storied events.

RYAN FOX: The Irish Open hurt a lot in 2018.

ANNC: Oh, it's got a chance. Well done what a fantastic putt.

RYAN FOX: Russell Knox holed two 40 footers from about the same spot, which is almost unheard of.

ANNC: It's looking good again, it's looking good again, oh he's done it. I don't believe it.

RYAN FOX: After I got over the initial hurt, I felt like at that point that I could compete.

It was the first real shot I had at winning.

ANNC: You've got to be joking.

RYAN FOX: Obviously had someone do something really, really special to beat me and I took a lot out of that.

ANNC: Ryan Fox, he's broken through.

RYAN FOX: Winning the World Super 6 at Perth was an amazing feeling and got it done pretty comfortably in the final against Adrian. It's kind of a strange feeling not getting to walk up the last and soak it all in but it was a massive goal of mine to win on a major tour.

ANNC: First time winner on the European Tour.

RYAN FOX: It had been a tough couple of years with COVID, and after those years I'm not sure if I still had it and to win early took the pressure off the rest of the year.

ANNC: Fox has gone wire to wire in Ras Al Khaimah.

RYAN FOX: I put myself in contention a lot more and then to win at Dunhill Links at the end of the year going round St. Andrews and coming down 18 with a lead is probably one of the best feelings in golf.

ANNC: And Fox has his place history, he is a winner at St. Andrews.

RYAN FOX: Cemented me in the top 50 in the world, got me into The Masters and a bunch of the big PGA TOUR events. It was just a year to dream of.

I never thought at my age I'd get to that point. It had probably pass me by a little bit. Just getting onto the DP World Tour, having a couple of wins out here was not necessarily my ceiling, but I was pretty happy with that. To have a year like that was just amazing.

Golf is just getting stronger and stronger at the moment. We've had so many young guys out here. It was just kind of nice to prove that as an older guy, I can still compete a little bit with those young guys and it's nice to take that opportunity.

ANNC: How about that from Ryan Fox, he's a Rolex Series winner, he's the BMW PGA Champion.

RYAN FOX: I'm in a really good position now. I've got an opportunity to do it on both Tours and I still love playing out on the DP World Tour, so going forward I'd love to be able to keep dual membership and play both tours and being one of the best players in the world.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE – PGA CHAMPIONSHIP LOOKBACK

ANNC: Xander hasn't won in the last two seasons, but he has been knocking on the door seemingly every week.

Boy, this is so good. Just can't tell you how good that is.

IN MARCH OF 20-24, XANDER SCHAUFFELE WAS WELL POSITIONED TO WIN THE BIGGEST TITLE OF HIS CAREER – THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP – BUT ULTIMATELY FINISHED 1-SHOT BEHIND SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER ...

ANNC: So, Schauffele comes up short again as he chases his big championship. It's another 54-hole lead that he can't close the deal.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I tell myself all the time. If you're trying to win, you to walk through the fire, and if you're able to walk through unscathed, then you're going to win the tournament. My dad told me a long time ago to commit, execute and accept. I'm swallowing a heavy dose of acceptance right now, but that's kind of what I did. You know? I try to commit. I executed poorly on some shots, and here I am accepting it.

A FAMILIAR STORY UNFOLDED FOR SCHAUFFELE TWO MONTHS LATER AT THE TRUIST CHAMPIONSHIP, AS A FINAL ROUND LEAD BECAME ANOTHER MISSED OPPORTUNITY.

ANNC: This is the fourth time that Xander has been in the final pairing on Sunday with no conversions, that's second-most.

Not everything is about winning on the PGA TOUR; consistency is definitely something that is highly valued by these players. 23 out of 23 cuts last year cannot call that a slump at all.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: He's one of those guys that the bad shots don't really get to him. And sometimes you think he's out of a hole after one shot and all of a sudden, he hits a great chip out there to 15 feet and then he holes a putt just because he does a really good job of taking it shot by shot.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: He probably hasn't been too happy about how he's finished off some tournaments. When you put yourself in a situation like that enough times, you kind of figure it out eventually and it seems like you can kind of see it in his mentality. So, when he's in a spot like that now, it seems like he's hungry; He's going to go and get it.

HIS PERSISTENCE FINALLY PAID OFF AT THE PGA CHAMPIONSHIP, CAPTURING HIS FIRST MAJOR TITLE WITH A ONE-STROKE VICTORY AT VALHALLA GOLF CLUB.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: It was a sort of huge monkey off my back. It was extremely validating, but just a serious relief. So, nice to make a putt to win a tournament, especially my first major, having a lip in it makes it even more dramatic.

ANNC: Good as gold! Xander Schauffele!

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I was able to just keep chugging along through a lot of close calls, because I just knew you have to put yourself in that position and just keep running it. And that's what I told myself.

TWO MONTHS LATER, SCHAUFFELE ADDED A SECOND MAJOR TITLE, BECOMING THE FIRST PLAYER IN SIX YEARS TO CAPTURE TWO MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIPS IN THE SAME SEASON.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Winning two majors is definitely going to add to the confidence. I was going through about a two-year spell where I didn't win a golf tournament. Winning my first major and then a second one shortly after added to that self-belief bucket.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

XANDER SCHAUFFELE IS ONE OF THE CUT'S PLAYERS TO WATCH THIS WEEK.

HE'LL TRY TO DEFEND HIS PGA CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE – AS WELL AS AVENGE LAST YEAR'S SECOND PLACE FINISH IN THE TRUIST CHAMPIONSHIP – AS HE RETURNS TO QUAIL HOLLOW CLUB.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER IS BACK AFTER TAKING LAST WEEK OFF, FOLLOWING HIS HOMETOWN VICTORY IN HIS LAST START.

ANNC: Scottie wins for the first time this year!

WORLD NUMBER ONE HAS SIX TOP-10s IN NINE STARTS THIS SEASON AND IS LOOKING TO WIN THE THIRD MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIP OF HIS CAREER.

FELLOW TWO-TIME MAJOR CHAMPION, JUSTIN THOMAS, IS ALSO LOOKING FOR HIS SECOND WIN OF THE SEASON.

ANNC: Is it the winning putt? Here it comes! Yes it is! Justin Thomas, back in the winner's circle!

JT RETURNS TO QUAIL HOLLOW – WHERE HE WON THE FIRST OF HIS TWO PGA CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES.

IN THAT 20-17 PGA CHAMPIONSHIP, HIDEKI MATSUYAMA FINISHED IN A TIE FOR FIFTH ... THE SUPERSTAR FROM JAPAN HAS SIX TOP-25s IN 11 STARTS THIS SEASON, HIGHLIGHTED BY A WIN IN THE SENTRY.

AND JORDAN SPIETH ROUNDS OUT THE LIST ... THE THREE-TIME MAJOR CHAMPION HAS 3 TOP-10s IN 11 STARTS THIS SEASON ... AND WITH A PGA CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY, WOULD BECOME THE 7TH PLAYER IN HISTORY TO COMPLETE THE CAREER GRAND SLAM.