

MASTER SCRIPT
25ICUTSAND - EPISODE 38

A1 - BAYCURRENT TEASE

THE GAME OF GOLF AND THE NATION OF JAPAN SHARE MANY SIMILARITIES. THE DEEP RESPECT FOR NATURE AND AN APPRECIATION FOR THE BEAUTY FOUND IN THE JOURNEY OF THE GAME.

ANNC: Make room on the mountain top. Tiger Woods has matched Sam Snead with 82 PGA tour wins, the most of all time.

THIS WEEK, THE EYES OF THE GOLF WORLD ARE ON YOKOHAMA COUNTRY CLUB FOR THE FIRST TIME, AS JAPAN'S ONLY PGA TOUR EVENT OF THE SEASON TEES OFF AT THE BAYCURRENT CLASSIC.

ANNC: Matsuyama making 2021 a year to remember.

ANNC: Drought for Keegan Bradley ends in Japan.

ANNC: Morikawa dominates. What a performance.

ANNC: Echavarria so clutch in winning his second PGA tour event!

IN THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN, THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE WHO WILL BE CROWNED CHAMPION OF THE BAYCURRENT CLASSIC?

A2 - TITLES

WELCOME TO PGA TOUR, THE CUT.

A3 - TEE IT UP

JAPAN'S GREATEST GOLFING EXPORT AND 20-21 BAYCURRENT CLASSIC CHAMPION, HIDEKI MATSUYAMA, HEADLINES THE FIELD. THE LOCAL FAVORITE IS LOOKING FOR HIS FIRST TOP 10 SINCE HIS VICTORY IN THE SENTRY IN JANUARY.

THE U.S.A.'S BILLY HORSCHER TEES IT UP FOR THE THIRD TIME IN THE BAYCURRENT CLASSIC. THE 8 TIME PGA TOUR WINNER IS MAKING HIS FIRST START ON THE PGA TOUR SINCE APRIL, HAVING BEEN SIDELINED FOR THE SUMMER FOLLOWING HIP SURGERY IN MAY.

AND 2023 CHAMPION, COLLIN MORIKAWA, IS LOOKING TO RETURN TO THE WINNER'S CIRCLE FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HIS VICTORY IN JAPAN, BUT HAS STRUGGLED IN THE TWO YEARS SINCE, AND RANKS 147TH IN STROKES GAINED PUTTING THIS SEASON.

A4 - COLLIN MORIKAWA FEATURE

THEY SAY SEASONS CHANGE, AND CHANGE IS AN APPROPRIATE TERM FOR MORIKAWA IN 2025, AS THE CALENDAR TRANSITIONS TO THE FALL.

MORIKAWA: I think golf is so interesting because you're always working on something.

ANNC: There are a lot of things to analyze in Collin right now. He's not wearing a glove. What's he got going on his head with the glove? No idea.

MORIKAWA: For some reason, when I've taken the glove off this week, it's kind of worked. It's very, very weird. Trust me. Oh, that was well over. That was a two and a half day or, Travelers specific.

ANNC: This new kind of pre-shot routine that he's doing is very, Sam Snead.

MORIKAWA: If you watch a lot of my shots today, I was kind of doing this little preset thing before a lot of my iron shots.

PRODUCER: The Pre-shot routine felt like I had a little promise...

MORIKAWA: at the beginning of the year? Yeah, yeah, that lasted also about a week.

ANNC: Morikawa changed putters this week. A new brand, new style.

ANNC: Collin Morikawa, who's searching for something, he's rifled through a bunch of caddies, all sorts of tinkering in the game with Morikawa.

KAUFMAN: Why are all golfers like this where we find something and think this could be the difference?

MORIKAWA: I think I belong in a mental asylum for the amount of things I've tried in my lifetime. We will do whatever it takes for the ball to go where we want it.

MORIKAWA: Golf is so repetitive. How do you make things new without it actually being new? When you do have something new and you are searching, makes you think that it's going to help you. So when maybe that adds a little belief, but sometimes it also drives you down the wrong path. And that's part of that craziness that we work full circle.

MORIKAWA: When you're feeling great at the beginning of the season, you think, okay, let's just continue that and then you may hit a little roadblock and then you try and fix that and it kind of tumbles into the rest of the game.

ANNC: Not much doing for Collin Morikawa lately. It's been a very quiet 2025 campaign.

MORIKAWA: The grind is a perfect way to describe my season because I started off great and the rest of the season has just been me constantly trying to not stay above water, but just get afloat again and figure out, you know, how do I play my game? So it's always this constant search.

ANNC: There's been several moments where Griner is jokingly called Collin crazy just for his ideas. His tinkering his ever active mind. You have still yet to sort of find the rhythm, to calm down the mind and commit in certain elements.

PRODUCER: The Instagram post after The Open felt like one of your more open moments. What, maybe led you to kind of laying some of it out there, being open, maybe being a little vulnerable.

MORIKAWA: I've been in the face of a lot of stuff this year, and, I think you have to be honest with yourself, and I don't have to tell people that, but I have to be honest with myself and say, like, truthfully, like, what do you need to do? And how do you go and do that? Right? And that's why I'm always trying to get better. And I think when you try and get better, sometimes it leads you down the wrong path. But I will do anything it takes to get where I know I can be winning golf tournaments, contending all the time, being very consistent, right? I know I've been there. It's finding those little things and putting those puzzle pieces together. The hardest thing is putting the puzzle pieces together, and sometimes I might have a lot of puzzle pieces around me. It's just figuring out which ones I want to piece together and say, that's what's going to work. Go from there.

ANNC: You can see he's really searching, but he's made it here, and he was a victim, in my opinion, of so much early success.

ANNC: At an elite level of the game, these guys are measured by trophies.

ANNC: When you've been at the highest of highs and the game falls off, then all of a sudden you become enamored with a search to get back to where you were, as opposed to just kind of riding the momentum a little bit and continuing to do what you've been doing.

ANNC: Searching for that perfect magic component, when in fact he already owns it and just needs to find it within himself.

MORIKAWA: I said earlier in the season in Hawaii, I was going to try and play this season as if every shot was my last shot. I think I did a decent job of that. I'm here at Eastlake, you know,

top 30 of the season and you know you can't take that for granted. I know every year it takes a lot to get here. And, you know, essentially I've gotten here every year other than my so-called half rookie season, even if I had a bad stretch of golf or a great stretch of golf, it all wipes clean every time you tee it up.

I'm not the only one going through it. There's hundreds and thousands of golfers and athletes going through that grind every single day, just trying to get better, right? And sometimes it just doesn't go your way. But that doesn't mean you give up. And I never will. And the day I do, then that's the day I should probably stop playing golf. But I wake up every day very excited to be out here.

B1 - THORBJORSEN ON THE RANGE

SECOND YEAR PGA TOUR PRO, MICHAEL THORBJORSEN, WALKS US THROUGH HIS RANGE SESSION PRIOR TO TEEING IT UP AT THE SANDERSON FARMS CHAMPIONSHIP.

THORBJORSEN: We're sticking with the ten finger baseball grip, whatever you want to call it. I've been doing it my whole life. Kind of just what came natural to me from the start. Whenever I picked up a club or started playing golf. Before, it used to be like a true baseball game where I didn't have any thumbs on the club. And when I was age 5 or 6, that's kind of when I started to put them in the club to get more control, because I'm growing up a little bit. I definitely could not do this. This I feel like would hurt my knuckles a little bit. And then if I go overlap, I just feel like I don't have as much control. So that's not going away anytime soon.

THORBJORSEN: I don't know anyone else, does it. Some guys just get curious with it. They want to try a few swings. They feel like they control the ball better with it. I think I can release it pretty well through the ball, but it's also a curse in a way too, because there's not as much stability. I can really get into angles like this that you can't really get into if you are doing the overlap or locking.

THORBJORSEN: Every single day, I'm always working on something. What I like about my swing, when I'm swinging it good, is it's pretty on plane throughout the whole process of the swing. I think Adam Scott does something very similar. He likes to be on plane throughout the whole swing just so there's not much movement in the ball. I like to see a pretty straight ball.

THORBJORSEN: Right now it's kind of just getting the start of the back swing, kind of just getting here. This is kind of what I'm doing in my pre-shot routine. I was getting a little too close in the back swing. Sort of just trying to open the face a little bit and then kind of from there, that just allows me to swing more freely through the ball.

THORBJORSEN: I feel like where my distance comes from is just it's a pretty efficient ball flight. It's not too high spin, it's high launch, not hitting too hard down on it.

THORBJORSEN: I want to be able to kind of fit my ball flight to the hole. I want to hit a 5,10 yard draw I can and on command, I want to hit a straight one, low one. Just having more control overall with being able to hit every shot that I need. See shot, hit shot.

B2 - SEGUE PAYING OFF THORBJORSEN FINISH

THE MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENT RANKS 90TH IN THE FEDEX CUP FALL STANDINGS AND FINISHED 11 UNDER IN A TIE FOR 29TH PLACE AT THE SANDERSON FARMS CHAMPIONSHIP.

B3 - SANDERSON WINNER

ANNC: Fisk likes it, though, and he should. He's trying to seal it and he may have with that shot right there!

ROOKIE STEVEN FISK, BIRDIED FOUR OF HIS LAST FIVE HOLES TO CAPTURE HIS FIRST PGA TOUR WIN.

ANNC: Steven Fisk has won the Sanderson Farms Championship and he did it in style coming down the stretch.

FISK: We all think we're good enough to compete out here to win and come out here today and play like I did, and truly know that I'm good enough to be a PGA tour winner is really cool.

B4 - FEC CUP FALL STANDINGS

BY SECURING THE WIN AT THE SANDERSON FARMS, STEVEN FISK MOVES UP FROM 135TH TO 65TH IN THE FEDEX CUP FALL STANDINGS. WITH FIVE EVENTS LEFT, THE TOP 100 WILL EARN FULL STATUS FOR 2026.

B5 - WINNER WALK

FISK: We're buying a house! It's a lot of money. I wonder if they have income tax here...

FISK: Look how heavy that thing is. Where is my wife? Here we go. What did you get?

EDITH FISK: a margarita!

FISK: Nice! You're a PGA tour winner!

FISK: That's cool.

EDITH FISK: How does that feel?

FISK: Pretty good. I get to park in this parking spot.

EDITH FISK: I thought about that! I thought about that already. Oh, we were still kind of like halfway through that I was like, oh, you know, he could do this...

FISK: Yeah.. oh yeah.

EDITH FISK: I feel like I'm dreaming still.

FISK: Yeah. It's crazy. I told you it was going to happen.

JAY GREEN: Let's go, baby! Come on!

FISK: Thanks for sticking with me after Wyndham.

JAY GREEN: What do you mean?

FISK: I know, but, I knew it could be good. You know?

JAY GREEN: Absolutely! I did too.

C1 - REJOIN

C2 - SETUP JOHNNY KEEFER

THE KORN FERRY TOUR SEASON CONCLUDES THIS WEEK WITH EYES ON THE GAME'S NEXT STARS. BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR JOHNNY KIEFER IN THE 2026 PGA TOUR SEASON.

C3 - JOHNNY KEEFER TOURBOUND FEATURE

ANNC: Playing very, very well this season on the Korn Ferry Tour. A guy that, as an amateur wasn't meant to be this prodigy. Ton of charisma, a lot of power off of the tee. He's fun to watch. He's always smiling, and he's just one of the personalities that you need to see in golf.

KEEFER: Hey, guys, I'm Johnny Kiefer, and welcome to my house. Here's my shrine. It's just stuff that we've collected over the years.

JUDY KEEFER: Johnny growing up was very athletic. You put him on a surfboard, he'll get up and start surfing.

KEEFER: My first sport was lacrosse. I started lacrosse in Maryland when I was four years old. And then as I kind of went on my dad was pushing me towards golf. He figured out that bribing me with new lacrosse equipment to get into golf was the best way to get me in.

VO: JOHNNY KEEFER PUT HIS BARTERED LACROSSE GEAR TO GOOD USE AND PLAYED COMPETITIVELY THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL, BUT ULTIMATELY SAW A BRIGHTER FUTURE IN GOLF, ALTHOUGH HIS FIRST LOVE DID PROVIDE ITS BENEFITS.

KEEFER: The twisting and turning that you have to do in lacrosse helped with a little bit of distance, or at least the motion.

IN 2014, THE KEEFER FAMILY MOVED TO TEXAS, AND ESTABLISHED ROOTS AT TPC SAN ANTONIO, WHERE JOHNNY HONED HIS GOLF GAME.

MATT FLORY: Congrats on all the success.

KEEFER: Thanks. Yeah. It's exciting. Yeah, it's good to be back.

MATT FLORY: I got a call from Johnny's dad in August of 2014, and he said, "Hey, we're moving to TPC San Antonio. We're not going to find a home and then a home club. We're going to find a home club and then a home. And I need a place where Johnny can own his game and get ready." He had tour aspirations from that day, so we welcomed him to the club, and from that moment on, I think we saw Johnny Keefer here every day.

KEEFER: That's kind of where it took off. There's one summer where I went out there at 7 a.m. every day and then stayed till 7 p.m. playing all day and started to really improve quick.

KEEFER'S HARD WORK HAS PAID OFF RAPIDLY. IN MAY 2024, HE NABBED THE 25TH AND FINAL SPOT IN THE PGA TOUR U RANKINGS, WHICH EARNED HIM STATUS ON PGA TOUR AMERICA'S, WHERE HE AMASSED ONE WIN AND FOUR RUNNER UP FINISHES IN TEN STARTS, ULTIMATELY FINISHING ATOP THE POINTS LIST AND EARNING KORN FERRY TOUR MEMBERSHIP.

KEEFER: I hit the ground running. I played really, really well up in Canada and then on Korn Ferry, I probably came in with a little bit of a bigger head than I needed to be. I missed my first cut and then I got in a really good rhythm, got my head on straight, and just tried to have as much fun as possible.

KEEFERS TENACITY WAS ON FULL DISPLAY AT THE VERITEX BANK CHAMPIONSHIP, WHERE HE TURNED A 36 HOLE LEAD INTO HIS FIRST KORN FERRY TOUR WIN.

HITOMI CHILCUTT: Watching him grow into his professional career has been really cool. When he gets that PGA TOUR Card, it's going to be so fulfilling and so cool to see.

THREE MONTHS LATER, JOHNNY ADDED HIS SECOND VICTORY THIS SEASON AND SECURED HIS TOUR BOUND STATUS.

KEEFER: Oh that's sick. Oh, that is so cool. Oh oh thank you guys. It says TOUR BOUND. Come on. That is so cool.

JUDY KEEFER: He has just excelled. And it's crazy how quickly he got where he is.

KEEFER: Hey look at this. That's so sweet.

JUDY KEEFER: Yay! Oh, that's so cool. We're so proud of you. We wish we were there!

KEEFER: Yeah, love you guys. Oh, it's been a while since I got a new lacrosse stick.

JOHNNY KIEFER CURRENTLY HOLDS THE NUMBER ONE SPOT ON THE KORN FERRY TOUR POINTS LIST GOING INTO THE FINAL EVENT AND HOPES TO LOCK IT UP FOR HEIGHTENED STATUS FOR THE 2026 SEASON.

KEEFER: Competing against the best in the world is kind of what we all grow up and dream about, and the dream is definitely coming into fruition, but being where my feet are is really important. Obviously, there are a lot of things I'm really excited for. I think at the same time, I've got work to do.

D1 - SIMPSON CUP

TEAM USA AND TEAM GREAT BRITAIN FACED OFF IN THE 13TH EDITION OF THE SIMPSON CUP LAST WEEK AT ROYAL ST. GEORGES. THE ANNUAL TOURNAMENT FEATURES TEAMS OF INJURED VETERANS AND SERVICEMAN FROM AMERICA AND THE UK GOING HEAD TO HEAD IN A RYDER CUP STYLE COMPETITION.

GREAT BRITAIN CAME AWAY VICTORIOUS BY A SCORE OF 12-7 AND NOW LEADS THE ALL TIME SERIES 7-6.

D2 - TV TIMES

THE NEXT STOP ON THE SCHEDULE IS THE BAYCURRENT CLASSIC IN JAPAN, WHERE THE 2021 CHAMPION AND 11 TIME PGA TOUR WINNER, HIDEKI MATSUYAMA, IS REVERED.

D3 - HIDEKI CHALLENGE WINNER

ANNC: Matsuyama year in and year out. One of the best ball strikers on the PGA tour, and this was textbook.

MATSUYAMA: I've been playing on the PGA TOUR for over 10 years now and I've been seeing a lot of younger players struggle to reach the PGA TOUR.

MATSUYAMA: I wanted to create an opportunity for them to experience competing on the PGA TOUR. There are many players on the TOUR and a wealth of information for amateurs to see and absorb. I hope this (Amateur Challenge) would serve as a path to such an educational platform.

ANNC: The Champion is Taiga who shot 67.

TAIGA KOBAYASHI: I always wanted to play on the PGA TOUR and I didn't expect it to happen so soon. Fun fact, when Hideki won at the 2021 ZOZO Championship, I was walking with him with the score board as a volunteer. I can not forget about his second shot on the final hole. I remember I got goosebumps.

ANNC: It's on a great line if it's there. Oh! Hideki Matsuyama! Just over the pin in two on the 18th!

TAIGA KOBAYASHI: I felt the destiny. I saw the gallery react at him and I knew I wanted to play like Hideki one day.

ANNC: Look at the crowd in the background. Brilliant moment! Great for golf in Japan.

MATSUYAMA: As for myself, I was fortunate enough to get a sponsor exemption at the Sony Open and play on the PGA TOUR for the first time.

ANNC: Matsuyama, the Asian Amateur Champion.

MATSUYAMA: That was an incredible chance for me to get to know more about the PGA TOUR back then.

ANNC: It's part of the learning curve getting yourself out there, first of all, getting used to going to the locker room and rubbing shoulders with the greats of the game.

TAIGA KOBAYASHI: I can not thank him enough. That kind of player is providing amateurs like me an opportunity. If I become such a big player like him, I would do the same for the younger generation. My name is originated to Tiger Woods and he is my favorite player. It was my first time seeing Tiger Woods in person (in 2019). I got really excited. Even on TV he has an aura, but in person it was extreme. My focus is to play my game every time I compete. That won't be changed.

MATSUYAMA: Congratulations Taiga on winning and earning an exemption into the Baycurrent Classic. I'll pursue winning, I want Taiga to fight for top spot on the leaderboard. Let's have a good game.

TAIGA KOBAYASHI HOPES YOUTH WILL BE SERVED AGAIN THIS YEAR AT THE BAYCURRENT CLASSIC AS IT WAS LAST YEAR

D4 - NICO 2024 JAPAN WIN

ANNC: Echavarria so clutch a new tournament scoring record at 20 under par, 260 for the week.

NICO ECHAVARRIA VALIDATED HIS SECOND WIN ON THE PGA TOUR AT THE 2024 BAYCURRENT CLASSIC WITH A ONE SHOT VICTORY.

ECHAVARRIA: I felt amazing overall, it had been a very consistent season. All the aspects of the game were trending or getting better.

ANNC: Two birdies, the final three holes to go from one behind to a one shot victory.

ECHAVARRIA: You have a chance to call my mom for one minute while we get there.

MEDIA OFFICIAL: Yeah, do that now.

NICO'S MOM: Hola Nico!

ECHAVARRIA: I knew it was pretty late in Medellin. But I also knew they were for sure up watching the whole thing. Their emotions were high and started crying because it was hard, a hard to explain. The emotion that I felt when I saw them in their faces was unique.

THE COLOMBIANS WIN PUT ECHAVARRIA'S NAME ON THE SAME TROPHY AS COLLIN MORIKAWA, HIDEKI MATSUYAMA AND TIGER WOODS

ECHAVARRIA: Having a second win and a place like that. With those names, it means a lot. Getting a win in such an impactful place like Japan was very cool.