

A1 – MCNEALY WINS 2024 RSM COLD OPEN

ANNC: In his 142nd PGA TOUR start, Maverick McNealy is finally a winner!

MAVERICK MCNEALY: I'm shaking right now. My family's here. My whole team's watching. I'm just so happy I got one for them.

A2 – TITLES

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A3 – TEE UP MCNEALY 2025 AND LOVE OF FLIGHT

AFTER BREAKING THROUGH AT LAST SEASON'S R-S-M CLASSIC, MAVERICK MCNEALY ACCOMPLISHED HIS BEST SEASON ON THE P-G-A TOUR, FINISHING T-23 IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS, PLAYING IN HIS FIRST TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP, AND RECORDING FIVE TOP FIVE RESULTS. FITTINGLY, AS HIS CAREER IS TAKING OFF... THE STANFORD GRADUATE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT AVIATION AND TOOK US FOR A RIDE INTO THE SKIES.

A4 – MAVERICK TAKING FLIGHT

MAVERICK MCNEALY: I love the studying and the learning aspect of it. I love the flying aspect. I love the the focus. So what I'm doing right now is because we're in Henderson, which is really close to the, Las Vegas McCarran airport. We have all of these called airspace shelves like this one right here. It goes from 4000ft to 10,000ft.

MAVERICK MCNEALY: For what it's worth, a lot of my coaches going back to my college coaches have always had an action item for me on my year-end review of, you know, what are you passionate about outside of golf? What do you do outside of golf? And I go, well, I golf all day, I work out, I cook food, go to bed. And it was just kind of that. And flying and aviation is, is definitely the one thing that has stuck and that I'm really passionate about. And it is an escape from golf.

MAVERICK MCNEALY: This is 100 low-lead fuel. So I'm looking for that light blue color, anything that smells like kerosene, that could be jet fuel, which is really dangerous because you'll fire up and start flying, but then the engine will die. So again, looking to make sure that it's the right type of fuel, it's, does not have water in it and it doesn't have a bunch of particulate in it.

MAVERICK MCNEALY: All right, all right, I'm all good. Yeah. You can pass me that door. Thank you. All right. Clear.

AIRPORT COMMS NATS: Cirrus 426 Bravo Gulf. Henderson tower. Make a left downwind departure, southwestbound. Runway three five left, cleared for takeoff.

MAVERICK MCNEALY: Power set, engine green. Airspeed live. At plus 90, safe altitude flaps up.

AIRPORT COMMS NATS: For about five miles. west-northwest 3100 uplink control west.

MAVERICK MCNEALY: It's something I take seriously because I don't want to be average in an airplane. You want to be really good when you're in a box in the sky. But I absolutely love it.

MAVERICK MCNEALY: It's so fun to fly. I have so much fun out here. Planes are so safe and reliable.

MAVERICK MCNEALY: Yeah, I liked school when I was in school, but I love studying airplane stuff and aviation. And I, you know, people say you've got the aviation bug, and I definitely have it.

MAVERICK MCNEALY: We're right near the Henderson airport. It's a very quick flight. And, at all in, we're pretty lucky to have such a great practice area right here. There we go. Feeling some positive Gs. About two G's right there in the bank. This plane is rated for 3.8, so we are just fine.

MAVERICK MCNEALY: Spinning around in a steep turn. This is important for sometimes terrain or traffic avoidance, but just general airplane control. Good instruments scan. Be able to manage a bunch of things. So that is a steep turn

MAVERICK MCNEALY: Here we go. It's touchdown. Flaps up. Aerodynamic breaking. Here we go.

AIRPORT COMMS NATS: Expedited turn left echo. Contact ground. Have a good day.

MAVERICK MCNEALY: It's been really fun over the last year to keep training and working. And you know, really the reason I love flying is the reason why I love golf is because you're always learning and there's always room for improvement. And it's one of those things where the more you learn, the more you realize you don't know. So I'm really excited to take this instrument check ride, because that opens up a whole new, way of flying. And, it's it's just fun. I love it every time I get in the airplane. It's a high and I don't think about anything else.

MAVERICK MCNEALY: Practice area. Solo. Recorded. And we are good.

B1 – BERMUDA WINNER

ANNC: It's the final round of the Butterfield Bermuda Championship!

ANNC: These 18 holes today cannot only change the course of someone's season but we can see a career defined by what unfolds over these next few hours.

AFTER ADAM SCHENK SUFFERED THROUGH TWO SIX-TOURNAMENT STRETCHES OF MISSED CUTS, THE EIGHT-YEAR VETERAN CARDED 19 BIRDIES OVER THE WEEK FOR HIS FIRST WIN ON THE PGA TOUR.

ANNC: Unbelievable! Are you kidding me? I mean, that's just beyond good!

ADAM SCHENK: I feel like I'm playing the best golf of my life that I ever played.

ANNC: And Adam Schenk breaks through in Bermuda. He is now forever known as a PGA TOUR winner.

ADAM SCHENK: Like that was just a massive putt for me to make, a massive putt to have go in. It's somewhat life-changing. I get two more years on the PGA TOUR, and I was really hoping this day would come at some point in my life. Never really know if it is. That's what makes the journey so amazing, interesting, and it's a surreal moment when it finally does.

B2 – FEDEXCUP STANDINGS

ADAM SCHENK VAULTED 67 SPOTS TO NUMBER 67 IN THE FEDEXCUP FALL STANDINGS, WHILE RICO HOEY IMPROVED HIS POSITION BY ONE SPOT WITH HIS T-22 FINISH.

B3 – WINNER'S WALK

ADAM SCHENK: Thanks, buddy. I was hoping you'd come back out.

ADAM SCHENK: Hey! We did something good.

CADDIE: Say 'Congrats' Say 'Congrats, Adam'.

ADAM SCHENK: Thank you. Thank you.

EMCEE: Mister Adam Schenk!

ADAM SCHENK: All right.

ADAM SCHENK: Bermuda is one of the prettiest places you'll ever go. All the houses are different colors. It'll be, it'll be a little windy and the food is phenomenal.

ADAM SCHENK: I couldn't be more honored to be your champion.

ADAM SCHENK: This is my second one. This is a

ADAM SCHENK: Probably the two hardest days of golf for a long time. Other than. I don't know if. I don't know if Pinehurst was harder, or I was just playing so bad going into Pinehurst. But, oh, what a, what a challenge.

ADAM SCHENK: Oh, I just got my hair in my face. Think I couldn't get a haircut.

ADAM SCHENK: Two months to get a haircut and I couldn't get it done. Help me hold this.

ADAM SCHENK: Butterfield. Bermuda. Think I can remember that?

ADAM SCHENK: Hey, this is Adam Shank. I just won the Butterfield Bermuda Championship. I putted one-handed a lot of this week, which takes, you know, a decent amount of not caring what people think.

NATS: Oh, that's a good idea. I get. Thank you. Thank you. For the kids!

B4 – SEGUE TO DAVID FORD

PGA TOUR UNIVERSITY'S "CLASS OF 2025 VALEDICTORIAN" DAVID FORD HAS HAD AN EVENTFUL YEAR – FROM A SURPRISE CARD CEREMONY AT PGA TOUR'S GLOBAL HOME TO A T-3 FINISH AT THE BANK OF UTAH CHAMPIONSHIP. THE LEFTHANDER SHOWS HOW HE GETS HIS UNORTHODOX SWING DIALED IN FOR SUCCESS.

B5 – DAVID FORD ON THE RANGE

DAVID FORD: Felt like Tiger.

PRODUCER: I was about to say it's a pretty good-looking club twirl.

DAVID FORD: That's good. That's a good compliment.

PRODUCER: How would you describe your swing to the average fan?

DAVID FORD: Yeah, I'd say it's. It's not very conventional. I get the handle a little bit higher than some guys at the top, and the club is a little bit more across the line, so a little bit more pointed over my head than what some guys might teach, but, it's worked pretty well for me. And I feel like it's repeatable.

DAVID FORD: Some of the feels that help me a lot are feeling like I'm getting the club more around me. So the club goes more this way as opposed to up. I think I have a tendency to get the club too up here. So I work a lot on keeping the club deep, maintaining depth on the way back. And then another thing I work on a lot is footwork.

DAVID FORD: Yeah, I'll definitely show some club twirls. I think it's a good confidence thing. I'll club twirl in practice rounds sometimes on the bad ones, just to get my confidence up. I did that in college, and, my teammates just thought it was funny. If I can convince myself that I hit a good shot when I didn't hit a great shot, then, yeah, it's just another way to get my confidence a little higher. But, yeah, it's also when I'm coming down the stretch and feeling it, and I hit a really good one, I'll club twirl it. I'd say there's nothing technical about it, but, I think Tiger made it famous. And cool, and other guys try to copy it.

DAVID FORD: I feel like my driver shows off my swing pretty well. It gets a little bit more across the line at the top. so club is pointed just a hair more this way than with a wedge or a short iron. I've been driving it great. I don't hit it super long, but I usually keep it in front of me and I get it out there far enough to where the stats would say that I'm a good driver of the golf ball.

DAVID FORD: I like to hit either a low fade or high draw, or if I, if I want to hit a high fade, it, it spins a lot, so it doesn't go very far. That's a shot that's been helpful on certain courses. So I like to move it around a ton.

DAVID FORD: That's a normal one. Stock draw. Probably carried, no wind, in a vacuum. 82 degrees. It was probably 175 ball speed, carrying about 292, if I had to guess. And then for a low one, I'll just move the ball back in my stance. And because of that, I have to feel like I'm coming in, and hitting more of the outside of the ball.

DAVID FORD: That one probably carried about 240, but boy, is it going to roll. That's a shot that I go to when I'm super nervous. Or when I just really need to hit a fairway. It's a tight hole. I hit it a lot in Utah just because the fairways out there were generous. But if you missed them, then it wasn't great. So I hit the low ball a lot out there. I like it a lot for desert golf.

DAVID FORD: I feel like my game has been in a great spot the whole year. I've driven it really well. Switched putters right after Wyndham. It helped a lot on the greens. And then was just rolling it great in Utah, the iron play was working as well. So it was huge just to see some good results. I know I've been doing the right things.

C1 – REJOIN

ANNC: The eighth Swedish player to earn his PGA TOUR card through the Korn Ferry Tour – Pontus Nyholm.

C2 – TEE UP NYHOLM KFT PROFILE

PONTUS NYHOLM KNOWS THE GRIND AS WELL AS ANYONE ... WHILE COMPETING IN HIS FOURTH STRAIGHT SEASON ON THE KORN FERRY TOUR, THE SWEDISH STAR HAD NEVER BEEN SO WELL-POSITIONED, SO LATE IN THE SEASON ... BUT 20-25 WAS A BREAKTHROUGH YEAR THAT PLACED HIM ON THE DOORSTEP OF HIS DREAMS.

C3 – KFT PROFILE – PONTUS NYHOLM

PONTUS NYHOLM: I don't think anyone's really on the Korn Ferry just to play on the Korn Ferry their whole career. Everyone's trying to get to the PGA TOUR.

ANNC: Played college golf at Campbell University; won four times.

ANNC: Spent a lot of time in his career with the Swedish National team. He's got the full game, just needs to put it together.

PONTUS NYHOLM: It's so easy to get caught up in lists and rankings and points and like, where you're on the list. And if you're in the top 20.

PONTUS NYHOLM: My game's changed so much and just the way that I think about golf from four years ago when I first got out here. Every time I had a bad round I was like, 'ok, I'm swinging it bad, that's why I'm playing bad.' So, I went to the range and I hit balls for five hours afterwards.

ANNC: And that will be extremely disappointing.

PONTUS NYHOLM: I've been really close a lot of times and just haven't really pulled it off. Had a lot of 36, 54-hole leads ...

ANNC: Pontus will drop for tie for fifth now.

ANNC: You don't know if you're going to get this opportunity again, so it's extra pressure you put on yourself to make the most of this chance because it might be your only one.

PONTUS NYHOLM: I've always known that my game is good enough. And I know if I play good, I'm going to have a nice finish on Sunday. But it still doesn't make it necessarily any easier.

JOSH HETHERINGTON: He's been in the lead a couple times and sort of struggles when you're trying to win for the first time, having a lead, you're obviously thinking about it a lot.

PONTUS NYHOLM: And that's sort of what I've been working on all year, just trying to block out results and be more process-driven and not trying to force anything.

ANNC: When you look at his season, it's been very consistent. The fact he's getting more comfortable out here, it's a testament to his mental game.

INSIDE THE TOP FIVE ENTERING THE FINAL ROUND FOR THE SIXTH TIME IN HIS CAREER ... YEARS OF SCAR TISSUE AND A NEWFOUND OUTLOOK FINALLY PAID OFF ON A SUNDAY, IN MAY, IN KNOXVILLE.

JOSH HETHERINGTON: When you're in contention like that, it's sort of ... you're getting really focused on sort of doing one thing at a time. So I told him, let's not look at leaderboards today and he actually did something that I told him for once.

ANNC: Nyholm for the win ... oh my!

PONTUS NYHOLM: Missing that putt in regulation, obviously gut-wrenching. I was five back going into the day, I would've obviously taken a playoff this morning.

ANNC: How about that putt!? And the reaction as good as the putt! The 27-year-old Swede picks up his first victory. He's having a heck of a season on the Korn Ferry Tour.

PONTUS NYHOLM: It was a process of three or four years of, of work, you know, coming to fruition. It's what I've been trying to do for a long time out here.

JOSH HETHERINGTON: It feels good for him to sort of, get the monkey off his back. If I put myself in his shoes, I'd be thinking about a TOUR card as well. I sort of keep reminding him, give yourself a pat on the back for the win, and to put you in the position where you are to have a chance at going to the TOUR.

ANNC: He is right there in the top 20 in terms of points. If he can get himself to the PGA TOUR, his game translates very, very well to be able to compete out there and maybe do some good things.

PONTUS NYHOLM: From the moment you start playing golf, you dream of playing on the PGA TOUR. So just stick to my process; try and stay in the moment as much as I can and then, we'll see where we end up at the end.

C4 – PONTUS NYHOLM TAG OUT

AND AT THE END, NYHOLM ACCOMPLISHED HIS DREAM BY THE THINNEST OF MARGINS. THE SWEDE FINISHED IN 20TH PLACE ON THE KORN FERRY TOUR POINTS LIST - THE FINAL SPOT TO BECOME TOURBOUND.

PONTUS NYHOLM: It's been a goal of mine to play on the PGA TOUR for as long as I can remember and I want to be able to tee it up there and compete and win tournaments and compete in majors. A great moment and something I'll remember for a long time.

D1 –TEE IT UP RSM

THE TOUR FINISHES THE 2025 SEASON AT THE RSM CLASSIC ON SAINT SIMONS ISLAND IN GEORGIA. HERE ARE THREE PLAYERS TO WATCH.

FINISHING AT SOLO 4TH AT THE RSM CLASSIC LAST SEASON, MACKENZIE HUGHES LED THE FIELD IN STROKES GAINED: PUTTING AND SCORING AVERAGE FOR THE WEEK. NOW COMING OFF TWO MISSED CUTS, THE CANADIAN IS LOOKING FOR A GOOD RESULT AT SEA ISLAND TO GET HIM INSIDE THE TOP 60 AND INTO THE FIRST TWO SIGNATURE EVENTS OF THE SEASON VIA THE AON NEXT 10.

ALSO LOOKING TO CLIMB THE FEDEXCUP FALL STANDINGS IS MAX MCGREEVY. A T-3 FINISH AT LAST WEEK'S BUTTERFIELD BERMUDA CHAMPIONSHIP LAUNCHED HIM FROM ON THE NUMBER AT ONE HUNDRED ALL THE WAY UP TO A FAR MORE COMFORTABLE 89TH.

PLAYING CLOSE TO HOME THIS WEEK, HARRIS ENGLISH IS ALREADY INSIDE THE TOP 50. LOCKED IN AT T-13 IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS AFTER THE TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP, THE SEA ISLAND NATIVE HAD A RETURN TO FORM THIS YEAR WITH A WIN AT THE FARMERS INSURANCE OPEN AT TORREY PINES, HIS FIRST SINCE 2021. PART OF HIS SUCCESS THIS SEASON IS HIS WORK ON THE GREENS, RANKING 17TH IN STROKES GAINED: PUTTING.

D2 –TV TIMES

THE RSM CLASSIC MARKS THE LAST CHANCE FOR PLAYERS TO FINALIZE THEIR PLACE IN THE FEDEXCUP FALL STANDINGS. THE TOP ONE HUNDRED PLAYERS EARN THEIR TOUR CARDS FOR THE 2026 SEASON.

D3 –SETUP THORBJORNSEN

MICHAEL THORBJORNSEN CURRENTLY SITS AT 72ND IN THOSE STANDINGS AND JOINED TWO-TIME PGA TOUR WINNER MATT EVERY DURING A SHORT-GAME PRACTICE SESSION.

D4 –THORBJORNSEN EVERY TUESDAY

MATT EVERY: What's up, boys? Mikey

MICHAEL THORBJORNSEN: What's up?

MATT EVERY: Good to see you. Thanks for hanging. Derek, good to see you.

DEREK DEMINSKY: Oh it's good to see you.

MATT EVERY: Nice little team right here. Almost 40 events under your belt out here on the PGA TOUR. 24 years old. Absolute stud coming out of Stanford. How does your prep change from, you know, prepping for a college tournament to - I don't want to call you a vet out here, but, you know, you're certainly not a newbie by any means. Forty events is a lot under your belt. What's changed for you?

MICHAEL THORBJORNSEN: I feel like a lot has changed, especially from college. Definitely doing a lot more short game.

MATT EVERY: Yeah.

MICHAEL THORBJORNSEN: College. I mean, we do kind of like our normal warm up routine, and prep for a tournament. But now, I mean, I'm working two and a half, three hours a day on the short game green, putting green, driving range. Just really making sure that I'm ready kind of for the week.

MATT EVERY: Is that where this guy got involved? Derek here, Derek Daminsky.

MICHAEL THORBJORNSEN: He he drives my my short game practice routine. I feel like it's helped a lot. I feel like I have a lot more knowledge and kind of like what I need to work on. So yeah, it's definitely been good.

MATT EVERY: Well, it's interesting, you know, today. Is this a pretty normal Tuesday for you? Nine holes a little later. But your practice routine, you're out here about two hours before you play. You've already putted for what, 30, 40 minutes? Now we're on the chipping green. You haven't even hit balls yet. I mean, this is you're spending at least half of your actual practice time on the short stuff, right?

MICHAEL THORBJORNSEN: Yeah. Yeah. That's, that's again something I didn't do in college or in amateur golf. Kind of just went with the flow and with my feels. But out here, I mean, everyone is. You see it. All the guys out here chipping, practicing for hours on hours and just trying to keep up.

MATT EVERY: Yeah, you're doing fine, bro. Listen, one of the things I really like about you, I pay a ton of attention to doing the TV stuff is your rawness. For a young kid, you do not look like he came out of the womb with the Trackman. I know you've got one, but, like, it doesn't. It doesn't look that way. And you don't see many guys out here that look like - and I don't, I don't

want to say homemade either, because it's pure. It is very pure. But you can tell it's yours. Where did that come from? Who who was kind of your guidance coming up?

MICHAEL THORBJORNSSEN: Yeah, that's definitely my dad. He's been my swing coach my whole life.

MATT EVERY: Is he really?

MICHAEL THORBJORNSSEN: Yeah.

MATT EVERY: Dude! That's awesome.

MICHAEL THORBJORNSSEN: Since we were five, six years old. I mean, that's when I really started to take it seriously. It's kind of weird looking back, like, yeah, like I'm five years old practicing that much. But, I mean, that's just kind of what it takes. I mean, Derek is I think my first actual coach.

MATT EVERY: Really?

MICHAEL THORBJORNSSEN: That I've seen.

DEREK DEMINSKY: Yeah, his dad's done a great job. It literally is homemade. I mean, his dad's a swing guy.

MATT EVERY: Ten, ten finger grip?

MICHAEL THORBJORNSSEN: Ten finger grip.

MATT EVERY: Dude, I'm obsessed with that.

DEREK DEMINSKY: When you watch him hit it, you're going to try it, dude.

MATT EVERY: Listen, we all learn the game that way, and at some point it gets coached out of you. (Yeah.) And, that that to me is, is very interesting that it has stuck with you and you are at the peak of this game, dude. I mean, it's there's no need to change now. It clearly works. It's what makes this kid unique, isn't it?

DEREK DEMINSKY: Yeah, absolutely. I mean, he hit, what, 500 balls a day growing up with your Dad, so they really honed in some awesome fundamentals. Again, I think Ted has done as good of a job coaching as I've seen from, like, a student-teacher relationship. So fundamentally, you know, we'll spend time here because they're just working on the same things in the swing. They're not trying to find anything. So just dialing in greens and learning more shots around here that - in college, he hit it so that he didn't need to have all of these skills. But then out here, you know, playing with the world's best, you just got to add some add some shots and skills.

MATT EVERY: All right. So when you're in college, a lot of downtime. But you also had school to work on, projects, tests, things in the back of your mind. Out here, it's a little different. It's it's

a real easy trap to fall into. You know, your your life is your golf game, basically. What are you doing to to not fall into that trap off the course?

MICHAEL THORBJORNSSEN: Probably just hanging out with some of the guys out here. Karl and I obviously very close. Went to school together. Luke, as well. We, I mean, last night Luke came over. Karl and I are staying together at one of my friend's houses. Yeah, and we're just playing F1 and MLB The Show. (Oh nice!) That's kind of how we kind of pass time and kind of get our minds off of the golfing part of things, because, I mean, 4 or 5 weeks in a row can just really take a mental toll on you, and you sometimes really just want to go home and just sit on the couch and do nothing. But yeah, that's kind of what we do. We just spend time with each other and don't really talk about golf outside of golf. Yeah, I mean it's nothing special, but I definitely think it's important to kind of have something at least.

MATT EVERY: Yeah, some good clean fun. That's what it sounds like to me.

MICHAEL THORBJORNSSEN: Oh yeah.

MATT EVERY: You know, video games at night with the boys? Come on.

MATT EVERY Well, dude, thanks for hanging out so much with us today. That was killer.

MICHAEL THORBJORNSSEN: Yeah of course.

MATT EVERY: And a massive, massive fan here, dude.

MICHAEL THORBJORNSSEN: Appreciate it.

MATT EVERY: All right, Mike. Thanks for coming, bro. Appreciate it. Thanks. It's good to see you, brother.

DEREK DEMINSKY: Enjoyed it.

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