

A1 Cold Open

FLEETWOOD: Describe the Open in one word. Dream.

SCHAUFFELE: Fair.

MORIKAWA: Creative.

LOWRY: One word, I think would be – The greatest.

LEE: Challenging

STRAKA: Tradition

SPIETH: The international

ABERG: History.

LOWRY: I think it's the greatest championship in golf. And as the years have gone on as you go back there the magnitude of the field is bigger all the time, the build out is getting bigger all the time. The R&A do a great job and you certainly get to that tournament and you feel like this is the biggest tournament in the world.

A2 TITLES

VO: WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT

A3 Lowry 2019 Open Championship

LOWRY: My hometown would probably be, how do I describe it? It's small. Like, you know, my hometown's probably a population of maybe, I don't know, two or 3000 people. You know, probably working-class town. Factory-based-town. People grew up working in the factories there.

Fans: Good luck Shane, we're here to support you.

Fan: Thumbs up Shane, we know you can do it!

Fan: Lets bring the Claret Jug back to Offlaly, woohoo!

LOWRY: What my Open win did for the town, well, when I went back on Tuesday it kinda hit me what it actually did when you see the amount of people and what it meant to the people there to have someone from our little town we call it the little town of Clara do something like that on the world stage was pretty cool and obviously the fact it was me was even extra special.

ANNC: That was a proper celebration that Shane Lowry had there for a while. Two years' worth. He kept the Jug because it was during the Covid ... that's right. Somehow, the Claret Jug survived!

REPORTER: Watching you go around Portrush, it looked effortless.

LOWRY: It wasn't. When I got going on Saturday, I just put the foot down and just kept going. I'm not sure I've ever been in that place before, but it's a nice place to be. I felt like I was going to birdie every hole. I felt like nothing was a problem. I enjoyed that day. Obviously Sunday was incredible to win The Open, but the Saturday on the golf course, honestly was one of the most surreal things that's ever happened. The crowds, the singing, everything that was going on, it was unbelievable.

LOWRY: I've thought about it a bit over the last couple of weeks. If you were to lay out my career on a piece of paper when I'm all done, and you were to pick one tournament you'd want to win, that one would be very much at the top of the list. So, yeah, I do feel very fortunate.

ANNC: Three wins in his PGA TOUR career, including that Open Championship at Royal Portrush in 2019, and I'm not sure any Open champion is celebrated more than Shane Lowry.

RORY McILROY: With Shane winning, you know, it was a fairytale ending. And especially doing it there at Portrush, I mean, you know, he's going to be a national hero for the rest of his life.

LOWRY: It's changed my life a little bit. I'm definitely more recognized now, and even coming over here to events, but if anything when you are like that, it makes you feel a little bit more comfortable. That's the way I feel, anyway. They are not calling me "Beef", or they are not calling me "J.B. Holmes" out there today, so that's a plus. The support I've got back home has just been incredible. I haven't really sat back and thought about it a lot but what I feel -- hopefully it's going to do a little bit for golf in Ireland and hopefully it's going to get kids playing the game.

LOWRY: The coolest thing I did was I went out to Croke Park on the Saturday evening after the tournament and got a standing ovation from 60,000 people. That's the mecca in Ireland. When I was a kid, that's the only place you wanted to play.

LOWRY: I think it's the greatest championship in golf. I think, and as years have gone on, when you go back there the magnitude of the field's bigger all the time. You know the buildout's getting bigger all the time. The R&A do a great job and you certainly get to that tournament, and you certainly feel like this is the biggest tournament in the world.

A4 The EliminaTOUR

THE FINAL MAJOR OF THE YEAR TAKES PLACE THIS WEEK, AND THE ELIMINATOUR MAKES THE TRIP ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN TO USE STATS AND TRENDS TO TELL YOU WHICH TOUR PLAYER IS GOING TO LIFT THE CLARET JUG...

53 OF THE LAST 54 MAJORS HAVE BEEN WON BY PLAYERS IN THE TOP 50 OF THE OFFICIAL WORLD GOLF RANKING... THIS MAY FEEL LIKE CHEATING, BUT A TREND IS A TREND... THAT GETS US TO 48

ANNC: So many different types of players who are successful on links or in the wind, some who flight it down all the time or some // who just hit it solid.

IN THE LAST 20 YEARS, 16 OF THE WINNERS HAD PREVIOUSLY HAD A TOP-10 FINISH IN THE OPEN... THAT GETS US DOWN TO 23, AND THE LIKES OF JUSTIN THOMAS AND KEEGAN BRADLEY WILL HAVE TO WAIT...

IN THE LAST 20 YEARS, THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP IS THE ONLY MAJOR THAT HASN'T HAD 3 STRAIGHT AMERICAN WINNERS... WE THINK THE INTERNATIONAL THEME TAKES PRECEDENCE AND 11 AMERICANS ARE ELIMINATED... SO NO REPEAT FOR XANDER.. AND SCOTTIE - NOT THIS TIME.... WE ARE DOWN TO 12...

ROYAL PORTRUSH HAS HOSTED THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP TWICE... THE PLAYER WHO LIFTED THE CLARET JUG EACH TIME WAS A EUROPEAN AND A FIRST-TIME MAJOR WINNER... SO RORY AND SHANE – NO HOMETOWN TITLE THIS TIME AROUND... AND THAT BRINGS US TO OUR 4 FINALISTS... SEPP STRAKA, VIKTOR HOVLAND, ROBERT MACINTYRE AND TOMMY FLEETWOOD.

ANNC: We've seen proven veterans on the PGA TOUR have success on this old-school layout.
//Could this be a day where we have a career-changing day for one of those players.

THE OPEN IS THE OLDEST MAJOR IN THE GAME... AND LATELY IT HAS CATERED TO THE OLDER PLAYERS... IN THE LAST 15 YEARS, THE AVERAGE WINNER OF THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP IS 34 YEARS OLD – BY FAR THE OLDEST AMONG THE 4 MAJORS... ONLY ONE OF OUR FINALISTS CAN LAY CLAIM TO THAT LEVEL OF SEASONING... WE LOSE ALL FINALISTS UNDER THE AGE OF 34 AND THE ELIMINATOUR PRESENTS YOUR 2025 CHAMPION GOLFER OF THE YEAR, TOMMY FLEETWOOD...

B1 Scottish Fans Mini

FAN: it's the first time I think where it feels like you can reach out and touch them. It feels as if you can actually play the ball with them.

FAN: It's amazing to see the golfers, I mean to see Rory McIlroy and Bob MacIntyre

FAN: You know, got to see a lot of players up close. Look at their swings.

FAN: To see how far they hit the ball, to control the ball, how they play the game is just so different from anyone else.

FAN: It's just amazing how good they hit it and how far they hit it.

FAN: Golf in Scotland is different than golf in other parts of the world.

FAN: you have bunkers that deep and that high.

FAN: What is unique about Scotland is for definite, the weather. You not get weather like this anywhere else in the world, in July.

FAN: It's a bit cold, got my hats on. Secondly, you meet nice people in Scotland.

FAN: Everybody loves it, no matter where you go it's golf, golf, golf it's just brilliant

FAN: I think a lot of players even the American players that have come over kind of appreciate that this is kind of the founding place of the game and they take a lot from that.

FAN: Anyone that wants to experience it absolutely come to Scotland and enjoy yourself.

FAN: best courses in the world, not necessarily the best weather however you get the best scenery and the nicest people.

FAN: Sun in the morning, wind at lunch time, rain in the afternoon and we still enjoy it all

B2 Genesis Scottish Open Winner

ANNC: It's gonna be life changing ... finishes in style and golf has a new up and comer! So impressive what we saw this weekend! What a week it has been for Chris. Tied the course record, he's won for the second time, this prestigious event, and he gets into the Open next week. Just a complete life changer for him.

GOTTERUP SOT: Yeah it's awesome, I can't wait to see everyone and I'm playing in The Open next week. // After my start this week I really just struggled and then I mean I found something on Friday. Today I knew it was going to be a grind but held it together really well and man it was so much fun out there.

NATS: If they can do a steak, that would be nice. Medium rare, please.

NATS: Let's see how many texts we have. It's on do not disturb. That's a lot.

NATS: Conquered links golf this week, and I'm excited to get after it at The Open next week.

NATS: Okay now I'm gonna cry. It was the coolest thing I've ever seen, unbelievable boy. Unbelievable.

NATS: Mom and I want to come over but we want to talk to you first.

NATS: Love you too. I'll talk to you later.

B3 ISCO Winner + FedExCup Standing

ANNC: New city on the PGA TOUR schedule this year// the TOUR's in Louisville, Kentucky.

ANNC: This guy just can't miss right now//started the day 7 shots back and now has the lead.

ANNC: A career launched in Louisville, William Mouw wins the ISCO championship!

Mouw: I'm thrilled to be a PGA Tour Champion// I was so happy with this weekend how I played, I played such a clean weekend, I had one bogey all weekend. I wanted to play a clean round of golf and to not make a bogey was probably one of my favorite memories today, to go bogey free.

VO: BOTH GOTTERUP AND MOUW VAULT UP THE FEDEX CUP STANDINGS WITH MOUW MOVING TO 83RD AND GOTTERUP POSITIONING HIMSELF SAFELY INSIDE THE TOP SEVENTY AT 39TH

C2 Rory History at Royal Portrush

MCILROY: I think every year's a pivotal year. Every year's important. I think there's a couple of things this year that make it maybe a little more so for me. The Open goes back to Portrush, so playing a major championship pretty much at home is a big thing.

ANNC: Royal Portrush, where the course record is held by a 16-year-old Rory McIlroy. 61. He said, sometimes I wish I still played like that, full of confidence and without worry.

MCILROY: I shot the course record 61 at Portrush // But you know, it was very funny, on the golf course // I can still vividly remember that 61. I can remember nearly every shot. // It's almost like you're out of your own body and looking at yourself play. So if I could bottle that feeling and take it with me week to week I would. Sort it of comes and goes. Just a matter of being confident with your game and everything sort of falling into place.

ANNC: You asked about Rory McIlroy when we opened the show. Rory has earlier this week circled Royal Portrush on his calendar.

MCILROY: I was so relaxed in the warm-up, I was so relaxed on the putting green 10 minutes before. Once I was announced and I put my tee in the ground, I sort of noticed my hand trembling. I was like, jeez, this is different. I probably should have just hit driver instead of trying to hit an iron down there. I think subconsciously I knew I was uncomfortable because I suggested a different club to Harry and he said, "Well, this is the club you've hit every day in practice and it's done well. Why would you want to hit something different?" And I'm like, "I don't know."

ANNC: Rory was not ready for that opening tee shot at Portrush. It was like walking into a ring of a heavyweight fight and shot 78, I think the first day.

MCILROY: I don't know if it hit home my place in the game, but I think it was more where I stood in terms of the people of my home country. I think that was what was overwhelming for me. I didn't cry because I missed the cut, I was overwhelmed by the support that I got. And I guess at the end of the day I didn't think I meant as much to them. It's such a weird thing to say, but to think about a missed cut being one of the best experiences you've ever had on a golf course, so I guess there is some sort of silver lining in there somewhere.

ANNC: Most of us can relate to Rory McIlroy with the emotion of the day // that's sort of the way most people carry themselves.

MCILROY: Sometimes a bit of emotion on the course isn't a bad thing. It's just about how you can handle it and resetting in between shots. The standing ovations that I was getting walking on the greens and then from walking from greens to tees, that's when it really hit me.

ANNC: The Struggle, the Relief, and the Joy. To me, that sums up // Rory - the ascent to Everest, and then // stumbled down and then trying to find another Everest, and I think he's looking forward to // getting to Portrush.

McILROY: I don't want that to be my last great moment in the game. There's plenty more that I can do. I feel like I've kept banging on this drum all of this year, I feel like I'm a better player now than I ever have been. And there's so many opportunities that lie ahead and whether that's Portrush next week or The Open going back to St Andrews or a U.S. Open at Pebble Beach. There's all these great venues that all the greats have won on, and I'd love to add my name to those lists, as well.

C3 Aldrich Potgieter Swing Theory

VO: AFTER A MISSED CUT AT SAINT ANDREWS IN 2022 AS AN AMATEUR, ALDRICH POTGIETER WILL BE MAKING HIS FIRST APPEARANCE AT THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP AS A PROFESSIONAL — HERE'S MARK IMMELMAN TO BREAK DOWN THE SOUTH AFRICAN'S DRIVER SWING.

Immelman ANNC: The first thing to bear in mind with Potgieter is how he carries his very strong lead hand grip. You notice as the left hand, the glove hand is turned over the club, the right hand, his trail hand is more underneath the club there. It's very strong, it's as strong a grip in the professional game as anybody. And that's going to manifest in a closed club face and we'll see that as we break this swing down. So remember that grip throughout, because it sets up what he does. First off, he builds an incredible launching pad for this drive, and notice how the spine is tilted backwards. See here too how the ball position is well forward in the stance and his upper body is well behind that. Now as we start him back, I want to point out a little something. He sweeps the club away from the golf ball, you see how he drifts to his trail side. There's a huge

wind up here, and I want to stop him right there, because I want to reference this ball position once again. Because it's kind of going to have an effect on how he creates high launch and low spin. So here we are going back. Watch how now, there's the big coil in the body. So here's the levers – first off, watch the club face. It's almost looking way at the sky. Did you see that coil across the back, with the extension in the back, and watch how the low body, those big, strong legs almost a la Jack Nicklaus settle down, drive forward, watch the separation. Lower body from upper body. And look at that picture right there. Notice how big wrist hinge. I mean, how about that wrist lag over there? He's gonna use that to release an incredible speed lever in just a split second. But first off, I want you to see there how the spine is still on the angle it was at address. The legs are in front. He's creating a massive launching pad. Look how he's retained that wrist angle there. In fact, it might even have increased a little bit as he now continues to load that golf club. But you see the spine angle? Notice how the head is dropping back, see how he's still well behind the ball position, all the while the low body has driven past there and that front leg has posted up already. Now as we continue to go, now watch the wrist release. See how right here the hand is past the golf ball. Still lag there across those wrists and now comes the snap. The body is led, the wrist released, and see that incredible picture right there? The upper body is well behind the golf ball, the hands are well in front of him, and look at this match up here, he has the left arm behind the shaft of the club, which is down his front leg, that's incredible. As he's got the club face squarely on the back of the ball. Now you'll see the wrist continue to release, head still back there, upward launching swing, and look how quickly now those arms overtake each other and now it's just free flowing all the way into the follow through.

D1 Golf is Hard – Links Edition

VO: IN THE MIDST OF A TWO WEEK STRETCH OF GOLF ACROSS THE POND, PLAYERS' CREATIVITY WILL NEED TO BE ON FULL DISPLAY, TAKING ON THE BEAST THAT IS LINKS GOLF.

ANNC: What was he thinking of here?

ANNC: Oh my. Frank, you know the rule about pot bunkers. You don't go in pot bunkers, right? Burns now forced to play this as a second, excuse me, his third shot, and the fourth is gonna be even worse.

ANNC: This is off the other side. You remember a skit with Marty Feldman across the green, across the green, it could happen here, with this pin.

ANNC: Well I'm looking forward to this, I don't think Xander Schauffele will be. Poached egg. That's gone. That could be in the other one. Side to side to side.

ANNC: Oh. There is a description of that. That was a shank. There you go.

ANNC: Anything short will come back, anything long works away from you as well. It's all about striking it and hitting a number. Well that was a shank. He's nearly by us over there.

ANNC: Take your punishment. Get it on the right hand side. He's gone right underneath it. He's moved it out 3 inches.

ANNC: Yeah, gotta unload everything you've got. As Eric Cole is whipping this in. Oh, no. We've seen that too many times from players that tried to play too big of a draw, you come up short, and you're in all sorts of trouble.

ANNC: Shankaroo. Oh, no. Look out over there.

D2 Tiger 2000 – Wins The Open By 8 at St. Andrews

VO: 25 YEARS AGO, AT THE HOME OF GOLF, TIGER MADE LINKS GOLF LOOK EASY EN ROUTE TO ONE OF HIS MOST DOMINANT WINS OF ALL TIME.

BUTCH HARMON: Pebble was amazing because he won by 15. But then he backed it up the next month at Saint Andrew's on a very hard golf course.

TIGER WOODS: The British Open was more physical than it was mental, because that ground will just beat you up, it was so hard.

VO: ON A COURSE THAT PENALIZES YOU FOR MISSTEPS, TIGER'S TANGIBLE PRECISION AT ST. ANDREWS DREW A STARK CONTRAST BETWEEN HE AND THE REST OF THE FIELD.

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Tiger and I always played practice rounds together. He made 18 birdies in 32 holes and didn't really read any putts. I mean, it was just every shot was perfect

DAVID TOMS: I played with Tiger and at St Andrews in the third round, last group. And it was a chaotic day. What I remember the most was his focus and his ability to be there on every shot, not hitting in a bunker once and there are bunkers everywhere, just being in total control.

ROCCO MEDIATE: It can take a bad bounce. I mean, a perfect shot to go in the bunker. But it didn't and obviously decimated everybody there

DAVID TOMS: it was always to me his ability on long iron shots to stop the ball by the hole. A good shot for me on some holes would be 25 or 30 feet, whereas a good shot for him was five or six feet.

VO: TIGER'S ABILITY TO NEVER LOSE HOLD OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP WEIGHED HEAVILY ON HIS OPPONENTS – LIKE THE SIX-SHOT LEAD HE HELD GOING INTO THE FINAL ROUND.

ADAM SCOTT: We were playing a no bogeys game he had a four iron on a par three and I saw that. And so I went back and got the four iron, i had a five iron and I hit my four on straight over the green because I was just fooled into it by Tiger. He really was intimidating.

FRED COUPLES you say, it's one week and then he won the British Open at St Andrews by a ton. If you're smart, you let him win all those events by his great play, not by you thinking you're better.

LEE JANZEN: It was just very discouraging to get beat by that many shots and know that there was no answer for it. I had never felt that at a golf tournament before that he was at a different level by that much.

DAVID DUVAL: We all know that tiger woods is the best player in this game and we all know that we're going to have to play better golf so we can talk about it till we're blue in the face but the only way we're going to accomplish it is going out there and doing it.

VO: AS THE MARGINS OF VICTORY CONTINUED TO SEPARATE HIM FROM THE REST, TIGER'S EIGHT-SHOT OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP WIN FURTHER VALIDATED ONE OF GREATEST SEASONS THE GAME HAS EVER SEEN – EVEN 25 YEARS LATER.

TIGER WOODS: To always know in the back of your mind that you've won the Open Championship at the home of golf, where it all started, is probably going to be the highlight of your career.

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: If he would have really tried to shoot as low as he could have that week, he could have shot probably 30 under par, but he just closed it around for an easy 19 under

TIGER WOODS: I have some nice margins there 15, 8 so, I won the dog fights but also had a couple blow outs.