

SEGMENT 1:

ANNC: The feeling is always the same at Bay Hill, big time golf course and home of the King.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Everyone kind of knows what Bay Hill gives you, you know? It takes a lot more than it gives, and you have to earn every par or birdie or bogey that you make. So, it's a tough place.

RORY McILROY: It's a golf course that sets up really, really well for me and you know, I've obviously done pretty well here.

ANNC: What a finish for McIlroy!

RORY McILROY: It's a great event. I think it's one of the best setups that we play all year. With as strong a field as pretty much anywhere that we play and it's good to be back.

ANNC: And Scottie Scheffler is the king of Bay Hill again!

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Definitely gave me a little bit of a jump start to the year. A lot of confidence going forward. Should be up for another fun, challenging week here.

JUSTIN THOMAS IS TEEING IT UP FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2025 AFTER HAVING BACK SURGERY.

THOMAS, WHO WON THE RBC HERITAGE IN 2025, WILL LOOK TO IMPROVE UPON HIS BEST FINISH ... A T12 PERFORMANCE IN 2024 AT BAY HILL.

NOW A GUY WHO'S ACCOLADES CONTINUE TO GET LONGER ... WORLD NUMBER TWO AND 2018 CHAMPION RORY MCILROY ...

HE KNOWS HOW TO GET AROUND THIS COURSE ...

THE NORTHERN IRISHMAN HAS 9 TOP 15 FINISHES IN HIS 11 CAREER STARTS HERE.

LAST YEAR'S WINNER AT ARNIE'S PLACE WAS RUSSELL HENLEY WHO LOOKS TO BECOME THE FOURTH INDIVIDUAL TO SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND HIS TITLE AT BAY HILL.

HENLEY COMES BACK TO BAY HILL TO UPHOLD THE CHAMPIONSHIP HE CAPTURED HERE IN 2025 -- HIS MOST RECENT PGA TOUR WIN -- AS HIS COMEBACK STORY CONTINUES TO UNFOLD.

ANNC: This man right here, Russell Henley said he's playing the best golf of his career at the moment.

ANNC: Russell Henley has it! The Arnold Palmer Invitational is his!

HENLEY: Winning the Arnold Palmer Bay Hill Invitational is just unbelievable. I've grown up watching that tournament, watching all the crazy finishes with Tiger on the 18th hole.

ANNC: Again, at Bay Hill!!

HENLEY: A lot of excitement on that hole. To come down the stretch and finish strong like I did, really gave me a lot of confidence where my game is and what I'm capable of under pressure. And to do it, at that course, that, you know, the tournament means so much to me. It was really cool.

NAT: Congratulations to our 2025....

BLAYNE BARBER: The word that comes to mind when I think about Russ is self-awareness. I think he's one of the most underrated stories in golf the last couple of years.

ANNC: This is for birdie and a round of 61. And when you're a guy whose missed his last four cuts, that has to feel good.

ANNC: There he is. A 61. For the moment, takes the outright lead.

HENLEY: I almost lost my card in '19 and ended up finishing second in the John Deere. I just kinda realized like, I needed to be more consistent and work harder and put in effort towards every part of my game.

ANNC: If you ask any of the players and caddies out here on the PGA TOUR what is Russell Henley's strength in his game, they'll tell you his iron play and that's exactly right.

ANNC: He's got it really dialed in. He knows his game. He doesn't get enough credit for how good of an iron player he is. And his short-game and putting has always been great.

HENLEY: I started working with Phil Kenyon three years ago and he's helped me tremendously on my putting.

BLAYNE BARBER: I know he went through a period where putting became more of a liability than a strength. I think sometimes for really feel orientated free players, if you start to get off and you don't have a baseline to get back to, it gets a little bit confusing and discombobulating. But I know for certain now, I mean the way that he's cleaned up that part of his game, that's just become a huge asset.

ANNC: He's putted beautifully too. Made a lot of putts, averaging like 93 feet of putts per day and you got a great compliment from Rory McIlroy yesterday. Rory said, "This guy really, really plays tough courses well, Bones."

ENGLISH: I've known Russell for a long time now. Probably close to 26 years. Even throughout college, like he was the best clutch putter I've ever seen in my life. I've played other sports with him. He's just naturally a really good athlete. And just the way he goes about playing golf. Like he's such a gritty, grindy player. I tell people all the time like if there's a putt on 18 that

needs to be made, Russell would be one of the guys I'd put out to do it because I've seen him do it time and time again. He gets laser focused and nothing phases him.

ANNC: At a 6-shot lead coming into this final round and in dominating fashion, Russell Henley picks up his fourth career win on the PGA TOUR. What a performance.

ANNC: Guys never forget how to have success out here, even though it's been a little while, right?

ANNC: No, it's like riding a bike.

HENLEY: I'd say I'm, able to deal with my emotions a lot better. I kind of know how my mind works a little bit better. Now I'd try to rely less on how I feel and just focus more on the task.

BLAYNE BARBER: He's very comfortable in his own skin.

ANNC: I think Russell Henley is going to have himself quite a year.

ANNC: Oh yeah, I've actually heard that prediction from you too, Trevor.

ANNC: I put that out there a few weeks ago. He played so brilliantly last year and I watched him closely at the Presidents Cup too, seriously impressed.

HENLEY: I feel like my bad weeks were really good this year. And that's been a goal of mine as well is just being consistent.

ANNC: Coming off his best season a year ago, he backed it up with another strong campaign, one of the automatic qualifiers for the US Ryder Cup team and a reinforcement that Henley is at the top of his game.

PRODUCER: If someone had told you that this process would lead to you being the number four player in the world, winning a signature event, playing on a Ryder Cup, what would your reaction have been back then?

HENLEY: It's hard to comprehend all that you just said, and it's been a dream of mine to do this.

SEGMENT 2:

STEP INSIDE THE PALM BEACH PAD OF FLORIDA'S OWN RYAN GERARD AS HE SHOWED US AROUND DURING THE COGNIZANT CLASSIC LAST WEEK.

PRODUCER: What are your parents think of the setup of the place?

GERARD: Yeah, they're a little. Probably disappointed. We're light on decorations, but heavy on cool stuff and, like, toys.

GERARD: Hit putts here, have some putters on the wall. A couple of big TVs. Can watch three games at once. I mean, you can't be a one TV guy in this day and age. You got to have multiple TVs.

GERARD: I don't think I ever really had designs on a, a dining room table, but putting green seemed like a natural step.

GERARD: It helps that I'm not married and don't have a wife making furniture and or decoration decisions. So I can kind of just roll with whatever my heart desires.

GERARD: We like putting instead formal dining. We have a nice countertop over there with a bunch of stools around it, so dining felt a little bit. Maybe too formal.

GERARD: Two for two.

GERARD: Gotten a lot of hate on my cup selection and plate selection, so we did buy some more cups. I think a lot of them are just coming from, like, different golf courses.

GERARD: My goal this year is I'm going to buy a cup from like every golf course that we go to. So I'll actually have enough cups for the end of the year.

GERARD: So I got one from my sawgrass. And then last week we were in Pebble. So I picked one up from Pebble Beach. So, I understand the, the importance of having cups in my house. And I'm working on the problem.

GERARD: Yeah, we have a couple plates. I think we have seven big plates and like, 4 or 5 small plates. So this is this is what we're working with.

GERARD: When I go for two weeks and my roommates are here, they'll leave me a note that says the dishwasher is dirty on this date.

GERARD: Have a nice little couch here and a Yeti cooler we're actually using is like a footrest.

GERARD: A nice Blackstone PGA TOUR partner, Blackstone.

GERARD: I personally don't do a lot of cooking. I set off the smoke detector like, a few too many times, and I get a little scared about cranking the heat on high.

GERARD: My room up here, so we just got back from Pebble Beach a couple days ago, so.

GERARD: I'm not really a sword guy, but I picked up the samurai sword from Japan at the Bay current last year, I figured it was pretty cool looking, and I deserved a spot on the wall.

GERARD: Yeah, closet. A lot of golf clubs and a lot of golf clothes. So we got clubs there. Old bag here filled with golf clubs, more golf clubs over here.

GERARD: Yeah, yeah, big TVs. That's a staple, right? Like, every guy needs at least five TVs in their house. It's, it's, you need, you need TVs.

GERARD: That's kind of the tour. So thank you for stopping by.

ANNC: The typical south Florida breeze of the Cognizant Classic in the Palm Beaches is back.

ANNC: Four of the five toughest holes today are the back nine. 15, 16, and 17, all a part of the Bear Trap.

NICO ECHAVARRIA: I didn't think it was going to be possible with a three-shot lead that he had. But the Bear Trap played harder today than any of the other three days. I was only thinking of making the putt. I put a good read on it, and I just focused on where I wanted to start it, and that was it.

ANNC: The two-time winner on the PGA TOUR is fired up. Shane Lowry has company on the leader board.

SHANE LOWRY: Today I hit two really bad shots at the wrong time, and that's what this course does to you. I beat myself today.

ANNC: Oh my goodness. Two times in a row. Just an unbelievable series of events for Lowry.

SHANE LOWRY: I'm obviously extremely disappointed. I had the tournament in my hands, and I threw it away. What more can I say? I played unbelievable all day, and one bad shot on 16 completely threw me for the last three holes. It's never happened to me before.

NICO ECHAVARRIA: It's a roller coaster. Closing a tournament at the Bear Trap, I can't see a harder stretch of golf to finish a tournament.

THANKS TO HIS 3RD CAREER WIN NICO ECHAVARRIA EARNS 500 FEDEXCUP POINTS AND JUMPS TO NUMBER SIX IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS.

ANNC: Nico Echavarria!

NICO ECHAVARRIA: Thank you sir. I appreciate it. Oh it is heavy. Do some biceps.

NICO ECHAVARRIA: Do you guys want to hold it? You want to try? Come on. I'll help you guys. All hold it together.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Look over here. Right here, guys. Big smiles.

NICO ECHAVARRIA: Heavy huh?

KIDS: Yeah.

NICO ECHAVARRIA: Switch. Come on.

NICO ECHAVARRIA: Can you open it? To drink some beer out of it.

REPORTER: Your wife just told me she promised you a dog if you won this tournament. So there you go. What type of dog are you going to get?

NICO ECHAVARRIA: Yeah, we don't know yet. We haven't figured it out. We don't know when, but I am getting a dog. I'm the one who is pushing hard,

FANS: Congratulations

NICO ECHAVARRIA: Gracias, gracias.

FAN: For Colombia for Colombia.

SEGMENT 3:

THE PGA TOUR IS AT BAY HILL THIS WEEK FOR THE ARNOLD PALMER INVITATIONAL PRESENTED BY MASTERCARD... WE HAVE Poured THROUGH HISTORICAL DATA TO IDENTIFY WHICH OF THE 18 HOLES GOES THE FURTHEst IN DECIDING A WINNER... THESE COURSE INSIGHTS HELP US DETERMINE THE CHAMPIONS HOLE

THE 555-YARD 6TH HOLE LOOKS PERILOUS FROM THE TEE BOX... BUT IF YOUR BALL STAYS DRY...

FAN NAT: Scottie Bugatti.

THIS PAR 5 BECOMES A SCORING OPPORTUNITY YOU MUST CAPITALIZE ON IF YOU EXPECT TO CONTEND...

SCHEFFLER: It's like you hit it and your heart's like, oh ok.

SINCE 2010, WINNERS HAVE RECORDED BIRDIE OR BETTER ON THIS HOLE 62.5 PERCENT OF THE TIME... THE REST OF THE FIELD IS BARELY OVER 35 PERCENT... TRANSLATION? IF YOU WANT A CHANCE TO WIN, YOU BETTER BE PUTTING A CIRCLE ON YOUR CARD, WHEN YOU FINISH THE 6TH HOLE...

ANNC: Great up and down for Scottie Scheffler!

IN THAT SAME TIME FRAME, THE FIELD MAKES BOGEY OR WORSE MORE THAN TWICE AS OFTEN AS THE WINNERS... AND WHILE IT IS CRUCIAL TO PUT CIRCLES ON YOUR CARD, WALKING OFF THE 6TH GREEN WITH ANYTHING WORSE THAN PAR MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD...

IN 2023, RORY MCILROY HAD JUST ONE DOUBLE-BOGEY ON THE WEEK... IT WAS THE FIRST ROUND ON NUMBER 6...

ANNC: That is one of the errors that you cannot make at Bay Hill. That's a big mistake early.

MCILROY FINISHED AS THE RUNNER-UP, 1 SHOT BACK... A PAR WOULD'VE WON HIM THE TOURNAMENT...

ANNC: 6 has bitten McIlroy again.

SINCE THE CALENDAR TURNED TO 2000, 25 OF THE 26 WINNERS PLAYED THE HOLE UNDER PAR FOR THE WEEK...

THE ONLY OUTLIER? TIGER WOODS IN 2009. BUT NO WORRIES... THE OTHER SEVEN TIMES HE WON THIS EVENT, HE WAS 22-UNDER PAR THE 28 TIMES HE PLAYED THE HOLE...

ANNC: No problem there! Good up and down for birdie.

WITH ITS DECORATED LIST OF WINNERS AND LEGENDARY NAMESAKE, THIS EVENT DEMANDS AN ELITE PERFORMANCE IF YOU WANT TO DON THE RED CARDIGAN... AND NUMBER 6 IS WHERE THAT NOTION IS MOST CLEARLY ILLUSTRATED... THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT THE CHAMPION'S HOLE...

TAKING ON THE TOUGH TEST OF BAY HILL BY WAY OF SOUTH AFRICA IS 2025 ARNOLD PALMER CUP SELECTION DANIEL BENNETT WHO EARNED A SPONSOR EXEMPTION THIS WEEK.

DANIEL BENNETT: My name's Daniel Bennett. I'm a sophomore at the University of Texas.

DANIEL BENNETT: Born in Botswana, lived in Botswana for nine and a half years and moved to Canada in 2015. The move basically got me into golf. Spent five years in Canada up until 2020 and then moved to South Africa.

JOHN FIELDS: Growing up in other country other than South Africa and then going to Canada. Mom and dad meeting with tough times, house burns down. He's probably had one of the bumpier rides getting to Texas.

DANIEL BENNETT: I like to think of myself as a grinder, like just find a way to get things done even when it's not going away.

JOHN FIELDS: He became a member of the national team and he got introduced to his instructor, which is also the same instructor for Christian Moss. And that kind of really changed his life because it gave him more direction. He became much more powerful as a player.

DANIEL BENNETT: I started working with my coach, Nico von Rensberg in South Africa, and also a mental coach. Just the help between them too and then my family also always being there for me. Just having a big support team around you and just always having someone to talk to you and even if it's not about golf. It obviously helps a lot.

JOHN FIELDS: Later on, he let me know through email and then WhatsApp that he really wanted to come to Texas. And I told him simply, if I'm going to recruit you, you need to be the number one amateur in South Africa. You need to be the number one junior.

DANIEL BENNETT: It took some time to really take off, a couple years longer than I would have liked, but when it did, I felt like it was at the right time. There were obviously a couple fairly big tournaments that I'd won in South Africa. The one event in particular, the South African Boys Under 19, I'd won by 21 shots, and then got to number one amateur in South Africa.

JOHN FIELDS: He called me and said, hey, coach, I am the number one amateur, and I am the number one junior in South Africa. Are you still interested? And I'm like, well, yeah, you're the number one amateur and you're the number one junior. And from there, it's all worked out.

JOHN FIELDS: He's just seriously creative. Daniel's great around the greens, his chipping abilities, hands, speed in his arms, all those different things are phenomenal. He's kind of magical when he gets into trouble as well. I tell both my assistants, you know, we cannot get in the way of these guys believe. Because when they believe they can do something like that, that's seriously special and that's Daniel Bennett.

DANIEL BENNETT: I remember he used to tell me in freshman year that I don't need to play good to compete. And that was something that really hit me hard because I was struggling early in my freshman year to make the lineup. And just to hear that from him and kind of that belief he has in me, it was kind of just a shock to me and it really helped me in my first event. I went out there and didn't necessarily play my best, but I competed and found a way to get a good finish.

JOHN FIELDS: People in South Africa told me you're getting a great guy beyond the fact that he's a really fine player. He played on the Palmer Cup team for the rest of the world, and the kids voted him the most important player on the team which gives him an opportunity to be at Bay Hill this year in Arnold Palmer's tournament.

DANIEL BENNETT: I wasn't expecting it at all when they called my name, I was really shell-shocked I didn't know what to say or what to do super emotional and kind of took a couple days to set in. It's something that you always dream of as a kid, I guess, wanting to play on the PGA tour. And yeah, I mean, it's kind of just surreal to realize that it's actually going to happen.

SEGMENT 4:

THE PGA TOUR WILL ALSO BE IN THE CARIBBEAN FOR THE PUERTO RICO OPEN. LAST YEARS CHAMPION, KARL VILIPS, SHOW OFF SOME OF THE SKILLS THAT DROVE HIM TO HIS VICTORY WITH A “HIT THE NUMBER” CHALLENGE.

KARL VILIPS: I got my seven-wood here. Favorite club in the bag. Eight-iron. Favorite iron in the bag. This is my four-wood, maybe my new favorite club in the bag. This drivers been really good for me. This is actually maybe my favorite club in the bag. How many different clubs have I said are my favorite so far?

KARL VILIPS: Hey, it's Karl Vilips here, and today we're going to be trying our best to guess my yardages. Starting out with a 60 degree here.

KARL VILIPS: 92 that was 99. 7 yards off. Next up I got 54.

KARL VILIPS: 114. 112, okay I was closer that was only 2 yards there. Here we are 50 degree.

KARL VILIPS: Ooh it's a little high, a little spinning, 125. Oh 124.6 we're gonna round that up to 125. So we got that one.

KARL VILIPS: Alright here we got pitching wedge it's a new pitching wedge. That was nice I'm gonna say that's 145. 147.8, three yards off. That's actually that's a that's a pretty big pitching much for me. I'm usually around 45, 44.

KARL VILIPS: Now this is the point in the bag where I feel like I'm pretty dialed in with my numbers I hope I don't make myself look stupid here.

KARL VILIPS: Slight miss hit. I'm gonna say that's 55. 57, alright, we're two yards off again If I'm on the course and I'm within three yards of my number, I'm pretty happy with that.

KARL VILIPS: Alright, eight iron. Favorite iron in the bag. Hit pretty solid. 172.

KARL VILIPS: 76. I'm not giving myself enough credit for my distance here. Might need to add a couple more mentally.

KARL VILIPS: I got my seven wood here. Favorite club in the bag. A lot of versatility. Off a fairway, it's usually going to be some sort of spiny cut. Off a T, it's going to be some sort of low cut.

KARL VILIPS: That was hit really nice. Oh, that's 258. 254. From that far out that's acceptable. Just close the face down a little bit, so it went further. I'd say that's 250 off the T usually.

KARL VILIPS: This is my four-wood. I found with three-wood, I was getting it a little too far back when I was using the mini. But this is a lot easier for me to hit personally off the ground.

KARL VILIPS: Good for those par fives where they're about, you know, at 580, 600 and I'm 270 in.

KARL VILIPS: Let's hit just a little high on the face, 262, 264, 2 yards off again. This driver's been really good for me so far. Pre -guess, I'm going to carry this like 307, which I don't know.

KARL VILIPS: That was hit pretty nice. Maybe I touched high on the face, 306 in the air. That was 315. Maybe I just really don't give myself enough credit. I thought that was pretty good. I was a little off on some, but I'd say it was all right.