

2026 PGA TOUR THE CUT International #17 - CHARLES SCHWAB CHALLENGE - MASTER SCRIPT

A1 – Titles

(NO COPY)

A2 - Tee it Up - CJ Cup

THE PGA TOUR IS IN TEXAS THIS WEEK, AND THERE AREN'T MANY GOLFERS HITTING IT MORE CONSISTENTLY THAN LUDVIG ABERG RIGHT NOW... HE HAS A TOP-5 FINISH IN 5 OF HIS LAST 7 STARTS, INCLUDING A T4 AT THE PGA THE LAST TIME WE SAW HIM... HE'S STILL SEEKING HIS FIRST WIN OF THE YEAR, AND MAKING HIS COLONIAL DEBUT...

ANOTHER GOLFER ON A HOT STREAK IS ALEX SMALLEY... A RUNNER-UP FINISH AT ARONIMINK CAPPED A RUN OF TOP-10 FINISHES IN 3 OF HIS 4 MOST RECENT STARTS ON TOUR.

A3 - Segue Griffin

THE DEFENDING CHAMPION IS BEN GRIFFIN, WHO WON AT COLONIAL LAST YEAR FOR THE SECOND OF HIS THREE CAREER WINS... HIS WIN AT THE 2025 CHARLES SCHWAB CHALLENGE WAS PART OF WHAT WOULD BE A BREAKOUT YEAR.

A4 - Ben Griffin Comeback

ANNC: Ben Griffin Taps in for his tenth birdie of the day at 18 the breakout year just came a smash out season with his third win at the World Wide Technology Championship.

DOUG SIEG NAT: That is probably Ben. How many wins, I love it.

BEN GRIFFIN NAT: I know we are racking them up.

DOUG SIEG NAT: You knew you were going to win, man. You knew it Saturday night.

BEN GRIFFIN NAT: Yeah. Pretty much.

DOUG SIEG NAT: Unbelievable.

BEN GRIFFIN NAT: Just another day in the life Doug.

DOUG SIEG NAT: Just another day in the life. Let's go.

DOUG SIEG SOT: My name is Doug Sieg. I'm the managing partner and CEO of Lord Abbott. The whole story around Ben is, just so much by chance and so interesting.

BEN GRIFFIN SOT: It's ultimately became one of the coolest stories in sports. Golf's cyclical. I was playing really well in Canada, out on the Korn Ferry Tour was a conditional member.

BEN GRIFFIN SOT: It's tough, you have a season on the Canadian tour where I was dominating, then you go to the next tour, and you don't know when you're going to tee it up next. You're basically throwing away money trying to make it.

COWAN GRIFFIN SOT: Low and behold God came down and blessed him with Doug Sieg.

BEN GRIFFIN SOT: I met Doug in the fall of 2020, just a random day in Sea Island we went to the first tee and it was just Doug and his daughter playing 9 and they asked us to join.

DOUG SIEG SOT: It was amazing it was a chance meeting, had an incredible nine hole conversation about a lot of things and he was incredibly engaging.

BEN GRIFFIN SOT: We kind of built this connection.

DOUG SIEG SOT: He didn't at all talk about the struggles he was having or anything from there. I could sort of tell how hard it was.

BEN GRIFFIN SOT: I saw the struggles my parents went through, and I knew how much they were investing in me.

COWAN GRIFFIN SOT: People don't have any idea how much resources are really needed, for a player to perform at the highest level.

BEN GRIFFIN SOT: It's hard to play really good golf when you see your credit card statement at seventeen thousand in debt on top of my dad paying for my rent.

COWAN GRIFFIN SOT: He was very, very conscientious about how much this was costing.

BEN GRIFFIN SOT: I was just at a point where I was like I'm so much in the hole I don't see myself getting out of this hole, that's when doubt sets in and you start to lose some of that self-belief. I wanted to get away from golf.

COWAN GRIFFIN SOT: He made a decision that. Okay, Dad, I'm coming home and I'm going to get a job. And he just did it just like that. And then when he came home, he excelled in the mortgage business.

BEN GRIFFIN SOT: I knew I was done I didn't want to touch a club for a while, I wanted to start something fresh and I'm loving this new opportunity in front of me.

DOUG SIEG: Randy Myers who was a joint friend sent me a note and said, you should sponsor Ben. I was open to the idea we never sponsored an athlete or anything like that. A lot of us love the game of golf it would be fun to help someone who needs help and Ben sort of checked all those boxes.

BEN GRIFFIN SOT: This golf course, my office I was working in was right over next to the third tee so pretty crazy spent a lot of time here brings back a lot of memories.

BEN GRIFFIN SOT: It wasn't until late July leading up right before Q school, where some things happened and it just sparked a light, my brain that I need to go take advantage of this opportunity.

BEN GRIFFIN SOT: I was just driving to work subconsciously drove to the golf course. I pulled in and I was like, what are you doing? And turned around and went to work like nothing happened. But that was right around, I think that was maybe a few days before my grandpa had passed away. His favorite quote was, hit 'em long and straight and that hit me hard when I was working a desk job. That was a big reason why I got back to golf for sure.

BEN GRIFFIN SOT: Those two events happened kind of simultaneously in the back of my head. I'm like, man, Doug wants to sponsor me the same time that the Price Cutter Korn Ferry event is in Missouri. I've got to go try, maybe if I make it like, this is my sign I need to go back to golf. I go to that Monday qualifier and hit it out of bounds on the first hole. Whatever, classic, like, I'll go back to work. Then the back 9 I went on a run and shot a 65 and Monday qualified into the Korn Ferry event.

BEN GRIFFIN SOT: So I called Doug back and I, I asked him, I was like, are you still willing to because I've got this new rejuvenated energy that I didn't have, and I've got things telling me I need to go do this.

BEN GRIFFIN NAT: Feeling pretty good about it honestly.

DOUG SIEG SOT: He called, he said, I'm going to win on the PGA tour. And I said, Ben, that's the second craziest thing I've heard you say in the last couple of months, but that certainly sounds better than being a mortgage broker. We agreed on a handshake to sponsor him.

BEN GRIFFIN SOT: September was the first stage of Q school made it through and then played really well on the Korn Ferry Tour right at the start. Had four top 12's in my first five starts, two seconds pretty much had my PGA tour card in February of 2022, and I was working a desk job in July of 2021. Crazy, crazy journey.

BEN GRIFFIN SOT: I had huge dreams and aspirations in golf, and Doug was able to, to help support me in that endeavor of coming back, it helped me gain some self-belief.

DOUG SIEG SOT: When you give somebody the chance to do something they've dreamed of for their entire life, and then they go do it, that is that is just something incredibly special in this life.

DOUG SIEG NAT: So this was Ben's first win with Andrew Novak I love what he wrote here from the Zurich Classic. We were always going to win on the PGA TOUR thank you for making this dream a reality. Team win for the whole firm let's go. Typical Ben and a great win.

COWAN GRIFFIN SOT: Every parent wants their child to succeed in whatever they do. And to see the progress he's made from nine years old to through college and then to persevere through the ups and downs. It's amazing.

BEN GRIFFIN SOT: My story has showed a lot about the importance of self-belief. Don't push an opportunity to the side. Especially if it's something that you believe in. You never know when one moment might change your life.

B1 - Blind Taste Test - Kim vs Coody

COODY NATS: Eating blind is really hard.

COODY SOT: Hi. I'm PGA TOUR player Pierceson Cody.

ANNC: And if you're not familiar with this young man, he is off to a red hot start.

COODY NATS: Here with Si Woo Kim.

ANNC: Si Woo Kim, under the hole, with a birdie try. Good the whole way.

COODY SOT: We're here at the CJ Cup Byron Nelson. And we're going to be blind taste testing some South Korean food. We can read greens, but hopefully we can read our palates as well. It's gonna be hard getting into my mouth.

COODY SOT: Okay. It's very soft.

SI WOO KIM SOT: Oh, I know what it is.

COODY SOT: A lot of vegetables.

SI WOO KIM: Bulgogi. Bulgogi Gimbap.

COODY SOT: What have we got there?

SI WOO KIM: Is it chicken or beef?

COODY SOT: I thought it was beef. It's definitely not chicken. I don't know what kind of beef.

SI WOO KIM: Gotta be ribs.

PRODUCER: Grilled pork belly.

SI WOO KIM SOT: What?!

COODY SOT: Pork belly? Gosh. We're so ... we're really bad at this.

SI WOO KIM: I guess I don't have to eat dinner.

COODY SOT: A little bit of sweet and spicy.

SI WOO KIM SOT: It's got to be chicken, right?

COODY SOT: All right, I'm lost on this one.

SI WOO KIM SOT: Chicken.

COODY SOT: I don't know what is. What is that?

SI WOO KIM: Is it chicken? Oh, mandu, dumpling.

COODY SOT: Eating blind's really hard.

SI WOO KIM SOT: Hard to guess.

SI WOO KIM SOT: What do you think about Korean food?

COODY SOT: I think it's really good. I like the balance of some pork dishes. Some chicken. Sauces are really nice. They're really an easy, easy balance to put with whatever meat you choose.

SI WOO KIM: Yeah. So good.

B2 - CJ Cup Winner

SI WOO KIM BROUGHT THE HEAT IN DALLAS, NOTCHING A SECOND PLACE FINISH AT THE CJ CUP BYRON NELSON.

ANNC: May just want to turn a whisk left towards the end.

ANNC: Just enough, that left turn paid off.

IN THE END, NO ONE WOULD CATCH WYNDHAM CLARK.

CLARK SOT: I felt pretty comfortable, but I knew I had to put the pedal to the metal and keep making birdies. I made more than I thought I was going to make, that's for sure.

CAPTURING HIS FIRST WIN IN TWO YEARS, HE DELIVERED A MASTERFUL 60 ON SUNDAY WITH NINE BIRDIES AND ONE EAGLE.

CLARK 18 APPROACH: Oh, that's good! What a shot by Wyndham Clark. He nearly did have a 59!

CLARK 18 PUTT: And Wyndham Clark wins in Texas!

CLARK SOT: Here it just almost felt like I was playing at home, and every hole was a new hole. I didn't worry that I just made six birdies or that I needed to make more. It was a different zone than I've been in before, that's for sure.

B3 - FEC Standings

WITH THE VICTORY, WYNDHAM CLARK MOVES FROM 82ND TO 34TH IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS, AND SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER MOVES BACK INTO FIRST AFTER A SOLO THIRD PLACE FINISH.

B4 - CJ Cup Winner Walk

CLARK NATS: Thanks brother. Thank you.

NATS: Congratulations.

NATS: So happy for you, congratulations! Celebrate big.

CLARK NATS: Yeah thank you, I will.

CLARK NATS: I have a small dome, so. Haha.

NATS: Congratulations.

CLARK NATS: Yeah, thank you guys.

NATS: You want to try that on for us?

CLARK: Yeah. Maybe, one size smaller? Told you I have a small dome. Thank you. Yeah, that's probably good.

NATS: That feel better?

CLARK: Yeah. This is awesome, thank you.

NATS: Do you have a cowboy hat at all?

CLARK: I have one, yeah. I went to school in Oklahoma, so.

NATS: Now you've got two.

CLARK: Well now this one's way better.

CLARK: Let's go! Haha. My dad was born in Texas, yep, love coming to Texas and definitely going to be celebrating quite hard in Dallas tonight, so thank you guys.

C1 - Rejoin - Intro The Climb

THIS SEASON, THE CUT WILL CELEBRATE KORN FERRY TOUR PLAYERS WITH INSPIRING STORIES IN A NEW SERIES CALLED "THE CLIMB".

C2 - The Climb - James Nicholas

NICHOLAS NATS: All right. Draw.

RECENT FIRST TIME KORN FERRY TOUR WINNER JAMES NICHOLAS SAT DOWN TO SHARE HIS JOURNEY.

NICHOLAS SOT: I'm on year six of my journey and I'm not on the PGA TOUR yet. And there's guys that get on the PGA TOUR out of high school and out of college, and it would be easy to sit here and compare myself to those guys instead of focusing onto my journey. There's so many good players out here. I'm one of them, and I think I need to believe that more and really give myself that confidence and winning gives me that confidence.

NICHOLAS SOT: Pretty long story. I grew up as a hockey player, football player and ended up getting an opportunity to play football, hockey and golf at Yale University. And we won the national championship in hockey in 2015. And then as I was getting recruited, I had the opportunity to play football and golf, and that was a for sure thing. And I just took that opportunity, had to give up hockey, but went to Yale to play football and golf. Didn't love football my first year. Ended up transitioning to only golf for the first time in my life when I was about 20 years old, so that was the first time I was able to play multiple months in a row, and not just June and July, and got really good really quickly. Went to Q School for the Korn Ferry Tour, got my card and, you know, fast forward 5 years I've played on the Korn Ferry Tour, the DP World Tour now, Korn Ferry Tour again, and this is, you know, my sixth year as a pro and it's been an incredible journey. So last year I was I wasn't a rookie, but it was the first time I had full status. So it was the first time I got into this event in Chile. So when I get my new numbers and my new normal with, you know, things like Trackman and GC quads and four sites, then I will have that data from last year. I know how far the ball is going into the week, so I don't have to do all that work on Monday or Tuesday. It's just right to prepping for the golf tournament, hitting shots and getting used to the golf course rather than doing all that little dirty work I call it, which is range work, getting my numbers, getting my feels. But that's been done last year. I know the golf course and all the game plan, and now it's just executing and see if I can do that.

NICHOLAS SOT: There's so many things I love about golf. One being that is the hardest sport that I've ever played. It is the one that doesn't come naturally to me. You play an imperfect game with an imperfect ball and imperfect surfaces and imperfect conditions, and you got things like wind and different courses, different designs, different bounces. So that's one of the things that drew me to it. And then two, the travel. Right? The reason why I picked golf over football was my freshman year of college. We went to Monterey and we played our spring break trip in

Pebble Beach, NPCC, Cypress, Spyglass and I fell in love with that aspect of it. I was able to see the world and do something that I love outdoors, and then on top of that, also meet some incredible people, so just the whole vibe, the whole experience of playing golf, pursuing golf and professional level and all that comes with it is what drew me to it.

NICHOLAS SOT: Yeah, that's the one that bounces. So I know, it's all right, I'll knock this in and then if not, we'll go figure out how we're supposed to play those ones.

NICHOLAS SOT: Got it. Save it with putter.

NICHOLAS SOT: On the Korn Ferry Tour, we go to some of these special places, one of them being Santiago, Chile right now. And that allows us the opportunity to travel outside of golf. Like after this week I'm going to go to Patagonia. First hike, it's about six miles. That's a lot longer than we expected. Keeping the positive energy, I think it's having an outlet outside of golf, whether that's travel, hiking, exploring, surfing, making videos, editing. Like for me, I do all of those things that I just mentioned, and that's what's allowed me to come to the golf course and have a positive mindset because I'm not burnt out. I'm not just focused on golf every single day.

NICHOLAS SOT: The tallest building in South America. Little escalator ride to the top floor. I think it's outdoors as well, so we'll get a little 360 aerial view outside of the view here.

NICHOLAS SOT: I think it is technically outside. It's open up there. I think that's the golf course over there. I think that's it because I remember hitting on the range. You hit into the mountains that way and you can see that little like snowcapped mountain up there. Golf courses always look so easy from above. And then you get down there and you're like, uh oh, it's much tighter than it looks.

NICHOLAS SOT: I've been in some tall buildings in New York and Dubai, but this is pretty cool. I feel like, in New York you have like the Empire State Building or the top of the Rock, and you're looking at other tall buildings around you. But this is way taller than any other skyscraper or high rise. The vastness that is Santiago, Chile. And seeing the Andes mountains, seeing golf courses, you know what feels like just a stone throw away, but obviously you are way further than it looks. And then to see just the development, they're putting up a cable car down here. And when you get up top, you have this perspective of the entire city and a little bit more of, I guess, what you are in and what's surrounding you.

NICHOLAS SOT: Reaching the PGA TOUR would represent like a symbol that all the decisions that I've made leading up to this point were worth it. Like giving up hockey, giving up football, deciding to pursue pro golf and play on the Korn Ferry Tour and leave behind the DP World Tour. Focus here. It would serve as like this. Okay, like these decisions were worth it, you know, to have this win, to have this many points this early in the season and, you know, see that path towards the PGA TOUR is amazing.

NICHOLAS SOT: But at the end of the day, I'm not there yet. And I have so much work that needs to be done to get there. Feeling all those emotions and then bringing it back to the present on what I can do right now in order to get there, in order to have those affirmations. And yeah, to get to the PGA TOUR.

D1 - TV Times Charles Schwab Challenge

EARLIER THIS MONTH, DEFENDING CHARLES SCHWAB CHALLENGE CHAMPION BEN GRIFFIN TRADED IN THE CLUBS FOR A FISHING POLE, ALONGSIDE MATT EVERY.

D2 - Ben Griffin Fishing

GRIFFIN SOT: Good, this is perfect. Perfect amount of slack.

GRIFFIN SOT: Just casting some lines.

MATT EVERY: Action. I'm Matt Every and this is this week's. Oh that feels good. Oh my gosh. Another edition of Every Tuesday, I'm with Ben Griffin. And I'm going to be asking all the right questions as we try and catch a monster here in the blue monster.

BEN GRIFFIN: Yeah. Let's cast some lines. Let's do it. Let's do it. All right, I'm ready.

MATT EVERY: How's it? When's the last time you've thrown one of these or cast one of these?

BEN GRIFFIN: It's been a minute.

MATT EVERY: Okay. Oh, athlete. How's, uh.

BEN GRIFFIN: My caddie Alex.

MATT EVERY: Yeah. How's that relationship? He's been with you since the start pretty much.

BEN GRIFFIN: Yeah. Since the Korn Ferry days. It's been good. Yeah, we've. We've seen it all. Seen missed cuts. We've seen Ryder Cups.

MATT EVERY: I know. Let's talk about that last year. Three wins and a Ryder Cup.

BEN GRIFFIN: Yep.

MATT EVERY: Just walk me through that experience in New York for you. I mean, was that even on your radar at the start of the year?

BEN GRIFFIN: Definitely was not on the radar.

MATT EVERY: No?

BEN GRIFFIN: Winning was on the radar. I felt like I had some close calls. Andrew was playing really good golf leading into Zurich. Yeah. And yeah, it was just destiny it felt like. And then one

thing led to another and then started playing solid kind of middle of the year and kind of kept the top finishes going towards the end and ultimately made the team. It was nuts.

MATT EVERY: What's your routine like on the road? Do you have a trainer and are you are you trying to get gains during the season or is this kind of just maintaining?

BEN GRIFFIN: Definitely no. Trying to continue to get stronger. I have my trainer, Derek Smidt. He's with me every week, pretty much on tour doing both training and physio. So I see him basically twice a day. I saw him this morning recently. Gerard just hopped on like last week two weeks ago. So watch out for Gerard. See if his physique changes a little bit.

MATT EVERY: Dude, I love it.

BEN GRIFFIN: We'll see how hard he goes in the gym. Uh oh.

MATT EVERY: You got something?

BEN GRIFFIN: We almost did. I think I scared him. We're not leaving until we catch a fish, by the way.

MATT EVERY: Dude, we might be here all day. I'm going to need some sunscreen if that's the case. Last year, BMW Championship. Fifth green. I was covering the group behind you, and you walked by me, and I don't. I forget what I said. It was just something. It was something quick and easy. I knew you, I had seen you had gotten off to a rough start. And you, you kind of ghosted me a little bit. Like you looked like you were lost. And then later in the day, you said you overdosed on creatine. What was that all about?

BEN GRIFFIN: I've never overdosed on creatine before, but I think I did in the moment.

BEN GRIFFIN: Yeah. First hole and a half.

MATT EVERY: Yeah.

BEN GRIFFIN: Really, two holes? I was like, shaking, I didn't know what was going on. I was, I had taken so I was at the end of my batch of creatine and I had these creatine rocks. And it was like throwing me off because I like, accidentally drank one of the rocks in my water bottle. It was like some old stuff. Yeah. And I was like, huh, something's not right. I was actually just dehydrated. After I hit my second shot on one, I started feeling really weird. But I actually just hadn't drank, like, hardly any water. I'd taken, like, the creatine with the water and stuff, but that was like my only water I had had. And I teed off at 1:00 and it was like 90 degrees.

MATT EVERY: Yeah.

BEN GRIFFIN: So I just started pounding waters. So I get to two tee. I, like, hit it way right out of bounds. Not even like, out of bounds isn't even in play.

MATT EVERY: Yeah, I saw it.

BEN GRIFFIN: Something's. Something's wrong. So I just like, after before I hit my provisional, I just chugged two waters, hit another one, somehow hit it down the middle. And then when I got to my second shot in the fairway, I started to feel better. And I probably had another two waters leading up to that. And then by three tee, I felt totally fine. And I was like, all right, motivation, let's see if we can get it back to even par. And I think I shot under par in that round.

MATT EVERY: Massive rally. When I'm watching you play like I can tell from a fairway over that's Ben Griffin, your swing. It's yours.

BEN GRIFFIN: As a kid, I just went out and played like I didn't even look at it on film.

MATT EVERY: Yeah.

BEN GRIFFIN: I didn't know what my swing looked like for a long time, but like, we didn't have the same tech like in junior golf that kids do now.

MATT EVERY: Are you practicing ever without a track man?

BEN GRIFFIN: Yeah, I use the quad, and I like it a lot just for distances, but nothing for, like, swing path or anything like that. I just kind of. I still just play golf for the most part. I try not to get too technical.

BEN GRIFFIN: We just lost it.

MATT EVERY: Yeah we did. Wow.

BEN GRIFFIN: Just came right off the line.

MATT EVERY: Look at that speed. Snap the shaft.

BEN GRIFFIN: Straight from the ...

MATT EVERY: That's a good way to end right there.

BEN GRIFFIN: I mean, that was launched.

MATT EVERY: It's destiny.