

26CUT27 MASTER

How are you? Good to see you. How are we doing? Good. How are you doing? Good to see you guys. I've always been pretty competitive. That might hit it. We're in trouble here.

This is going to be a really popular win on the PGA tour. This win for Jake Knapp.

My dad is like, you can be good at two things or great at one. And that was his very subtle way of telling me like pick a sport and stick with it. Golf is like, really what I love doing. You get all the credit and all the blame. So I feel like it just fits my personality.

How important was winning to young Jake? And if you asked him what's important, not what was.

Such a good question.

Is he kidding? I probably would have said it was too important, whereas now it's just been a matter of perspective on, you know, what really is important.

Win stands for what's important. Now.

Whoever moves the most dirt wins. Basically,

it's just one of those things that helps bring me back into the moment and just really understand what's important right now.

CURRENTLY ON THE BUBBLE FOR TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP AND LOOKING TO CATCH FIRE EARLY IN THE PLAYOFFS TO SOLIDIFY HIS POSITION AT EASTLAKE. EXPLORE THE LIFE OF JAKE KNAPP AND HOW HIS APPROACH IS BASED ON HIS MANY UNIQUE EXPERIENCES, HERE IN PART ONE.

Knapp, trying to stay in the moment.

I feel like what's important to me now is just trying to keep on the trajectory that I'm on. I think just keep proving myself right and that, you know, I'm kind of where I'm supposed to be right now.

If he had to dig deep and he did it.

I expect a lot of myself. I work really hard, and knowing that I can continue to put in the work, keep getting better, and ideally win some more golf tournaments, or at least giving myself chances to.

Living the dream. Yeah, living the dream.

The lead at the end of the nap time. Handle on his social media. And it is indeed nap time.

Nap time. It was just always like how when people get into competition, whether it's like Kobe and the black mamba or you turn into a different person, it's a little bit of that for me.

Oh, wow. How about Jake Knapp?

In between the ropes, I'm pretty locked in, and I'm pretty dialed into what I'm doing. And then off course, like, I'm very easygoing and talk to everybody all the time. But as soon as I teed up on the first tee.

Knapp back in business.

Red line the entire time from the first tee, the 18th green.

Four straight top 11 finishes to start his season.

The rally here on Sunday for Jake Knapp. Top ten.

Of this.

Early part of the season. The comfortability of being on tour for my third year, knowing what to expect week in, week out.

A 62 on a Sunday in Houston for Jake Knapp.

He has no rush to any part of his game.

He's trying to, day in, day out, just become a better, more well-rounded player, trying to get a little better at the things that I wasn't very good at. Last year.

The sweet swing of Jake Knapp.

He shot at 59 before in 2025.

It was always somewhat of a goal. It wasn't like, oh, I'm 100% going to be on the PGA tour someday. But I just knew it was what I loved doing, so I was going to just keep chasing it and keep playing golf every day and until I couldn't.

We're driving through Costa mesa. My parents still live there and my brother lives right down the street. Home course is a couple minutes away. Kind of a small town feel, I would say, for California. Everybody kind of knows. Everybody wouldn't really want to live anywhere else. This is my beautiful high school all indoors, which is very random for a high school in California.

We're gonna roll over the golf course I grew up going to. That's just where I spent every single day as a kid growing up and, like, truly where I fell in love with golf at a very, very early age.

Ooh.

Oh, that's sneaky nice. Oh.

The club twirl.

Ah, that's.

I mean, I don't think we've both hit balls in this range together for a very long time, but pretty much from the time Jake and I were 5 or 6, like, we'd come over here after having dinner and then just hit balls till they shut the lights off. This is like, kind of where it raised us.

I also know where the light switches to turn on and off the lights. So we got to know the staff very, very well here. How are.

You doing?

I've got all your scorecards.

Okay, so I was going to give it to your mom because that's okay.

That'd be awesome. Yeah.

Took some of my first lessons on the on the back of the range as a little kid. Nice to see everybody. I don't get to come back here very often.

It's nice to be back. Bring back a lot of fun memories with with my brother and all my buddies. I can't wait to see this contact.

Oh, yeah. Watch this. It's gonna be pure.

Freshman year at college, I shot 60. It was incredible. That was the talk of the town, man. It was great. Everyone knew who I was. Six days later, I go play with Mr. Jake Knapp here. He's still senior in high school, and, uh, yeah, he decides to shoot 58. Now. No one remembers my 60. So it is what it is.

Because a junior golfer, I was good. You know, I shot like ten under in a US open local qualifier when I was in high school. I shot 58 at my home course like I was. I was definitely a good player. You want to win the junior events like golf is super competitive in Southern California. Winning was always like very important.

You think everything is kind of like the end of the world when you don't win a junior event. I think I was very raw and like unpolished. I don't think I understood how to really get better. I just did it with like grunt work.

Part of me knew as like someone who played golf, like I would watch him hit balls and I would think, huh, like, that sounds different. Like that's going farther. That's better than anything I've seen. So part of me kind of knew. Like he always had it in him.

I just, like, spent all day at the course, hit a million balls, you know, putting all the time. Just spent all day golfing. But I just knew it was what I loved doing. So I was going to just keep chasing it and keep playing golf every day. And until I couldn't.

CATCH MORE OF KNAPP'S STORY NEXT WEEK ON THE CUT.

It's probably the most simple tattoo I have. What's important now is something that everybody can relate to.

BYU MEN'S GOLFER KIHEI AKINA MADE HIS DEBUT AT THE WYNDHAM CHAMPIONSHIP LAST WEEK, HIS FOURTH PGA TOUR START OF HIS CAREER.

Who was the best player to play with.

He asked me that right in.

Front of.

Him.

Come on.

I love the many things that golf brings. You know, traveling, meeting new people. What do you do on your on your days off?

Work out, sleep, eat.

It's kind of a victory.

It's pretty cool. I mean, he's. He's over a year younger than me, and he's, you know, he's got the full tour life. So I'm I'm older than him, and I'm asking him for advice. Just the whole experience that, you know, comes with golf is, uh, it's cool and something that I cherish.

You know, I got to focus on the center of the green, but the athlete. And you will somehow try to get it close to your hand.

But that's where you got to stay disciplined. I love golf for many reasons, but I'm a competitive person, so I love competing out here. And choosing to go to BYU has been a great decision for me. But with the new PGA tour, you know, it's cool to have a few points already. And my coaches have, you know, got me in the right direction to keep going.

This is why I practice. This is why I play the game because I want to be out here, you know, in my future. So to get a little taste of that, you know, it's my fourth event on the tour. So, you know, to get a few starts is cool at this age, and I'm just trying to take it as a learning experience. And, you know, hopefully I can be out here soon.

Oh man.

Oh my goodness. That's how you land a plane right there. That's exactly right. Smooth as it gets.

MICHAEL BRENNAN FIRED OFF SEVEN BIRDIES IN HIS FINAL ROUND, CAPPING OFF HIS CAREER BEST 72 HOLE SCORE.

Putting for birdie.

How beautiful is that? Unbelievable performance.

HE ENTERED THE WEEK AT NUMBER 105 IN THE FEDEX CUP STANDINGS, AND ADVANCES TO HIS FIRST FEDEX CUP PLAYOFFS AT NUMBER 47.

24 years old and two wins. Now on the PGA tour.

I feel like I'm playing good golf right now. I've been playing good for a couple of weeks and it's just great to get another opportunity playing against some of the best players in the world.

We'll go up to the bench.

Oh my gosh. Oh my God.

Yeah, right.

Yeah. We're going to the Masters.

That's right. You sure? Oh my God. Oh my gosh.

BRENNAN LOOKS TO STAY HOT AS HE MAKES HIS POSTSEASON DEBUT AND CHASE DOWN THE TOUR'S TOP PLAYERS, INCLUDING SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER, AS HE CONTINUES TO HOLD THE TOP SPOT IN THE FEDEX CUP STANDINGS.

Go, Deacs. Let's go.

It's such a special week to be so close to where I was for four years.

Come on. Oh, baby.

Oh. Go on. The beef short ribs. Dude. Come on.

You're on speaker for Ollie here.

Worst thing is, it's not even the biggest. Brennan. Winner of the day, is it?

I made a 1314 footer on 18. He made a 45 footer to win his match on 82.

What is it with the Brennan's and putting?

I mean, I'm good. Mike's good now, I guess.

All right. Love you too.

All right. Good bye. Bye. All right. Good job.

WE DOCUMENT NEIL SHIPLEY'S LATE PUSH TOWARDS THE FEDEX CUP PLAYOFFS IN EMBEDDED ACCESS, TRACKING ALL THE LEARNING OF HIS FIRST TIME AS A PGA TOUR MEMBER.

I think my season.

So far.

Has been frustrating. I would have liked to play a lot better to start the year. I start out in a place where my game wasn't where I wanted it to be.

First on the tee with Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Mr. Neal Shipley.

Just starting off the year in Hawaii is amazing. It's a great place to kick off the year when the rest of the country is pretty snowy and gloomy

Neil Shipley having a rough go of it. A guy who has a ton of potential. I didn't play my best, that's for sure, but it was really cool to get that first start as a member under my belt there.

One of the biggest challenges going from Korn Ferry Tour to the PGA tour is just every week you're learning a new city, learning a new golf course. That's been something that I've handled well. My game just hasn't quite traveled as well as I'd liked it to.

Let's see if Shipley can make a birdie. It's not the tee to green game so far. It's just been this putter. He needs to get that thing going.

Approach with like my mid irons and kind of a little sketchy a short game hasn't been solid and putting a streaky. So I just need to clean up some of the scoring clubs really.

I started working with Brian Cregan in early April, and I've made a lot of great progress since then and seen a lot of consistency since making that coaching switch.

Most of what we're working on has been some postural stuff. I stand a bit too upright and my body wasn't really able to move as freely as it wanted to.

It should be a sensational week at the one flight Myrtle Beach Classic.

When you're a kid playing golf. You weren't worried about making a putt to make the cut. You know, it's all about going out, playing golf with your buddies, having a good time doing it, but it's just kind of having that freedom of not really having any consequences to your play and just trying to kind of take that mentality into the Chardonnay.

I was playing really nice golf at Valspar and in Texas, you know, prior to one flight. But, you know, it's kind of nice to have things kind of click. Finally roll some putts in and hit a lot of really nice golf shots. Shipley trying to make.

The weekend here in his first full season as a card carrying member.

I think I was pretty far off the cut line and just made a couple of birdies and then kept making birdies and we got hot.

Is that one right in the hearts.

It is awesome to kind of finally just get a streak of golf when you get hot like that and make a cut. And that's just a really big momentum shift for us.

He's not just trying to make the cut, he's trying to accumulate a ton of Fedex Cup points this weekend. Make up for the lost ground to start the season.

When you're playing weekends, you learn a lot more when you get four rounds under pressure hitting meaningful golf shots. That's really where you get to learn the most about your game.

We got Neil Shipley here right on that cut line.

You know, with his struggles to start the season he's feeling the pressure.

You get really nervous. Kind of being around the cut line. So it's good to experience when you get yourself in contention. Just kind of dealing with those nerves and playing under pressure.

It's really difficult to replicate the feeling of hitting like golf shots that matter as much as they do on the PGA tour.

There's nothing that can be done about the past, so sometimes you have to have a little touch of delusional optimism and you tell yourself, you know what? I'm a strong finisher of seasons.

Shibley just made it through U.S. open final qualifying on Monday. Got some great golf to build on.

I'd love to try and get a couple top finishes and climb up the points list. I made some cuts but haven't accumulated a lot of points just because my finishes. But I'm just a couple good weeks away from being right where I want to be.

When you have all the wind, just the amount of people, the eyes on you, just the added pressure of a major to just make a cut. And any major just kind of tells you that you're doing the right things, that you're one of the best players in the world. It's great for the confidence.

When we talk about this summer. Sprint six events left to try and push towards that top 70 in the playoffs and inside the top 100. A big month and a half.

Neil Shipley I'm just a couple of good weeks away from being right where I want to be.

I think that it's important to be aware of the amount of strokes, games you need to be competitive at a tournament, or you also just know what are your weaknesses and put a little bit more time towards those. And also what are your strengths and making sure you keep your strengths really strong.

A beautiful day in Blaine, Minnesota. Round one of the 3 a.m. open.

Just three weeks until the playoffs start.

I played 3 a.m.. Yeah, just it's cool to go back to places that, you know, I'm going to feel a lot more comfortable.

Three under round going right now.

Finishing.

Par.

Five.

You have to be careful with second shots. Water lurks as well.

What can happen at TPC Twin Cities? You make one little mistake. Just didn't quite get it over the water and ends up making a double bogey.

I just kind of stay in my lane and try and just stay focused on what I can control. Par three eighth two under for the tournament.

A little club twirl.

Oh.

Man. I'm knocking on the door right now. And when I have a hot weekend, I know I'll be right up there in contention.

For rounds under par. That was very needed.

It was nice to kind of get some low rounds and get some confidence going.

Welcome to Detroit Golf Club in round one of the Rocket Classic where we ratchet up the pressure.

Every week is a big week because it is at this point in the season for me. I got to have some big finishes.

The penultimate week of the PGA Tour's regular season, and that means the playoff picture is starting to come into full focus.

I did a little bit of everything today. I didn't have the short game in a lot, which is always nice. I hit a lot of greens. I think ball striking was nice.

Good solid start.

Three under 67.

About

411 ish. So time for lunch then, uh, go to the truck and work out. My lunch.

Ready to go for the day.

Neil Shipley right.

On the number at three under.

You know, I think I've done such a good job throughout the year. I've never really hitting the panic button and feeling like I need to change my entire game.

Excellent play there by Shipley.

I got a win to make the playoffs, so like that happens. Awesome.

Neil Shipley on the move here.

And if not like very good to go play the fall.

Go.

Probably most likely be able to just kind of take some downtime during the playoffs and get ready and geared up for the fall and you know, finish strong and, you know, keep her card and get in good position for next year.

Two over par 72.

Definitely not the season Shipley was looking for.

A good learning experience. See if you can play well in the fall and get some sort of status for next year.

I'll be honest.

I feel like it's been exactly what I expected in terms of what to experience on a week to week basis. What was unexpected was the fact that I wouldn't be making as many cuts and playing as well. No one's owed anything. So I got to work for it and I got to continue to work for it.

THE FEDEX CUP PLAYOFFS START THIS WEEK AT THE FEDEX SAINT JUDE CHAMPIONSHIP, WHERE THE TOP 70 CONVERGE TO KEEP A PLAYOFF RUN GOING. AND THIS WEEK'S CHAMPIONS HOLE AT TPC SOUTHWIND WILL PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE IN THE DRAMA.

THE PGA TOUR STARTS ITS POSTSEASON THIS WEEK IN MEMPHIS, AND USING HISTORICAL DATA AND COURSE INSIGHTS, WE'VE IDENTIFIED THE CHAMPIONS HOLE.

MEASURING AT 168 YARDS, THE PAR THREE 11TH HOLE IS THE SHORTEST AT TPC SOUTHWIND, BUT IT'S ON AN ISLAND OF ITS OWN WHEN IT COMES TO THE IMPACT IT HAS IN DETERMINING THE EVENT'S WINNER.

Matsuyama for birdie bones, speed shouldn't be difficult, oh again!

SINCE 2005. THE SCORING AVERAGE FOR THE FIELD AT THIS HOLE IS SLIGHTLY OVER PAR AT 3.06, BUT THE CHAMPIONS ARE AVERAGING 2.73, AND THE DIFFERENCE OF A THIRD OF A STROKE IS THE LARGEST ON ANY OF THE 18 HOLES ON THE COURSE.

Putting has been letting him down. Oh, but not here at the 11th. So here I was saying how difficult the 11th was and the last two players we see go two, two.

THE MAIN OBSTACLE HERE AT NUMBER 11 IS OBVIOUSLY THE WATER SURROUNDING THE GREEN. THERE HAVE BEEN 668 BALLS HIT IN THE WATER ON THIS HOLE SINCE 2005, THE FIFTH MOST ON ANY PAR THREE ON TOUR DURING THAT TIME.

Oh, this is right too. That's also short and into the water.

ONLY ONE OF THEM HAS BEEN BY A PLAYER THAT WENT ON TO WIN THE EVENT.

IN FACT, IN 84 ROUNDS OVER THAT TIME, THE EVENTUAL CHAMPION HAS RECORDED A BOGEY OR WORSE, JUST THREE TIMES. THAT'S 3.57% OF THE TIME. THE REST OF THE FIELD IS MORE THAN FOUR TIMES MORE LIKELY TO PUT A SQUARE ON THEIR CARD.

That's got a chance.

TPC SOUTHWIND HAS SEEN ITS SHARE OF RAZOR THIN MARGINS RECENTLY.

How many crazy wild bounces has Zalatoris had

IN FOUR OF THE LAST FIVE YEARS, WE'VE NEEDED A PLAYOFF TO DECIDE A WINNER IN MEMPHIS. OF THE FIVE PLAYERS TO LOSE IN THOSE PLAYOFFS, FOUR WOULD HAVE WON THE TOURNAMENT OUTRIGHT IF THEY HAD PLAYED THE 11TH HOLE AS WELL AS THE EVENTUAL WINNER DID DURING THE WEEK.

It's not a very good swing for JJ under the circumstances.

WHEN YOU ADD IT ALL UP, WINNERS AT TPC SOUTHWIND SINCE 2005 HAVE GAINED 26.31 STROKES AGAINST THE FIELD, THE MOST ON ANY PAR THREE ON THE PGA TOUR OVER THAT TIME. AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT THE CHAMPIONS HOLE.