

26ICUT21 JOHN DEERE CLASSIC - #21 - MASTER SCRIPT

A1 – Titles

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A2 - Shipley Intro

IN THE FIELD THIS WEEK AT THE JOHN DEERE CLASSIC IS NEAL SHIPLEY, AND THIS PAST WINTER WE CAUGHT UP WITH HIM TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HIS UPBRINGING AND HOW IT PROPELLED HIM THROUGH A NOTABLE COLLEGE CAREER TO THE PGA TOUR.

A3 - Neal Shipley Pittsburgh Content

SHIPLEY SOT: Welcome to Saint Clair Country Club. Beautiful warm Pittsburgh, December day.

SHIPLEY SOT: Pittsburgh's so special to me. I just wish it was 40 degrees warmer during winter time.

SHIPLEY SOT: My family and I joined here, I might have been like, 10 or 12 years old but, I mean the club has a lot of history. You know, the plans for the golf course, the drawings. You got a great championship golf course here that, I got to grow up on.

SHIPLEY SOT: This is Will Miller, he's won the West Penn Junior three times, and that's him with Mr. Palmer, who also won the West Penn Junior, I think 1 or 2 times. This is Scottie's there and me. Still kind of a crazy picture to see.

SHIPLEY SOT: This is my first time actually seeing this picture up on the wall and still doesn't feel real. Like that whole day in Butler Cabin was insane and, it's pretty cool to see it up here and kind of have it immortalized on my home club's walls. It's pretty cool.

SHIPLEY SOT: Got a nice primo locker spot right next to the steam room. So it's pretty, pretty ideal but they, they just added my name plate. This is my dad's locker still. This is I think I tried to donate this for the hall of... if they wanted to put an iron up because it was. I mean, it's got a nice little wear mark on it. This is one that irons I used when I was a, when I was in junior golf.

SHIPLEY SOT: I'm pretty lucky to have grown up at a place like this. I mean, you got great facilities, a membership that really supports the juniors, and we had a lot of junior golfers and a strong junior golf program, which I think helped my development a ton.

SHIPLEY SOT: That's my, that's my James Madison letterman jacket. It's dirty, smells like stale beer probably from the tailgate but, yeah, it's, it's actually, I think it's a great looking

jacket. It's pretty, pretty sharp. I was at the College Football Playoff game. So, had to break it out of the closet for that. I had a great time with some, some old friends, old teammates.

SHIPLEY SOT: My time at James Madison, I really think was huge for me in my development. It was a great mix of academics and athletics. I really learned what good golf looked like over my three years there.

SHIPLEY SOT: I realized if I took a couple summer courses, I'd be able to graduate in three years and it got around that time where I had to start thinking about, what master's program do I want to apply to?

SHIPLEY SOT: I loved JMU so much but I decided to hit the portal and Ohio State was the perfect balance.

JAY MOSELEY: I describe Neal Shipley as one of the most interesting people in the world. He's truly a man of the people. He believes in hard work and he believes in himself, and he's just a lot of fun to be around.

SHIPLEY SOT: I think that mentality of really working hard and maximizing your resources, that I kind of learned at James Madison, when I got to Ohio State, where you have the best resources and the best facilities in college athletics, I think that's why I had a lot of growth.

SHIPLEY SOT: I was able to get my master's in data analytics my first year and they're a top 25 golf program at the time and it's the best of both worlds and I knew I'd be able to learn from a lot of really good players there, and a lot of my teammates.

JAY MOSELEY: He's got a brilliant mind for numbers, and he certainly enjoys trying to figure out a way that that can create an edge for him in golf.

SHIPLEY SOT: From a young age I loved numbers and loved math. Math is part of the way that we as humans, explain the universe. Information that you can draw out of data is so interesting and as a player, it's really rewarding to see what I'm working on day to day translate to statistical changes over the course of a season or a year.

SHIPLEY SOT: Hey guys, welcome to the home of Ohio State Golf.

SHIPLEY SOT: We come here we have the wall of TOUR players. We just added my name here the other day. Some pretty good names. I mean we have Mr. Nicklaus, Weiskopf a pretty good list here.

SHIPLEY SOT: As my teammates could attest, this is my favorite room in the building, I spent a lot of time in here. I'm kind of a club nut. Do a lot of stuff. I'd grind my own wedges, re-shaft you know, drivers or irons or just, just kind of screw around with things. It was almost an issue, I was always in here way too much.

SHIPLEY SOT: This is our little semifinal trophy from my senior year had good memories with that team.

JAY MOSELEY: Neal's the kind of guy that makes his own path. He didn't need anyone to challenge him. He didn't need anyone to motivate him.

SHIPLEY SOT: As an All-American Ohio State, I still pinch myself. I don't consider myself to have been that good but it's really cool that, I was able to develop really well and quickly.

JAY MOSELEY: He really left here with a very, very high level of understanding of the independence and the work ethic and a very, very good baseline of being able to carry himself as a professional.

SHIPLEY SOT: Seemed like every December, you know, we might squeak in like one week of golfable weather. Yeah, you can do plenty to stay sharp and I think it's a great time too and you have like an indoor bay with some video. It is a good time to really work on your swing and your mechanics and, maybe make some changes.

JAY MULL: Neal's been known to destroy a few of the screens. So I told him once he has his first win on the PGA TOUR I'm going to hit him up for a new screen so he. He'll come in with driver and 190 mph ball speed and put a hole through it.

SHIPLEY SOT: I think we got two holes. Two Korn Ferry wins and two indoor screens.

SHIPLEY SOT: Two indoor screens at St. Clair that he's destroyed, so we're going to make that a trophy for you. If you put a hole in it today, I'm gonna have him sign it and we'll auction it.

SHIPLEY SOT: Just put it on my dad's tab. I mean...

JAY MULL: Absolutely his name is Neal!

SHIPLEY SOT: Yeah, exactly.

JAY MULL: He would go out there, you know, after the season and he would, didn't matter what the, you know, what the weather was but he would come back caked in mud and, you know, play 18 holes and then walk into the simulator room, you know, caked in mud like a typical high school kid and beat balls and, you know, try to leave and the staff would just hand in the vacuum and be like, no, no, no, like clean up after you're done but, you know, you couldn't get enough and I think that's what we love about him. He constantly wants to work.

SHIPLEY SOT: I don't think I would have made it to college golf if I wasn't at St. Clair. Being able to sit on the range and hit unlimited golf balls all day and not pay a single dollar, that

was like the best. I was a range rat and, you know, without that type of access, I don't think I would have been playing college golf, that's for sure.

B1 - Travelers Winners

AS IT OFTEN DOES, THE TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP CAME DOWN TO THE WIRE ON THE WEEKEND, WITH A BACK AND FORTH BATTLE BETWEEN SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER AND VIKTOR HOVLAND.

ANNC: Scottie from about nine feet... first one in here at 13.

ANNC: Again the answer.

HOVLAND SOT: Scottie and I have played a lot, we both have a lot of respect for each other's games.

THEY SEPARATE FROM THE FIELD, MATCHING SCORES ON EVERY HOLE FROM THE FIFTH TO THE THIRTEENTH, BUT SCHEFFLER FINALLY BREAKS THE STALEMATE.

ANNC: So Scottie takes the 14th from Hovland and takes over the lead by one.

UNDETERRED, HOVLAND STAYS ONE BACK UNTIL 18. AS THE NORWEGIAN FANS WATCH ON, SCHEFFLER FAILS TO SAVE HIS PAR, SETTING HOVLAND UP WITH A CHANCE TO TAKE THE SOLO LEAD.

ANNC: The Norwegian fans have pumped up the volume here.

FOLLOWING A WEATHER DELAY ON SUNDAY, SCHEFFLER WOULD COME UP CLUTCH TO SEND IT TO A PLAYOFF ON MONDAY MORNING.

SCHEFFLER SUNDAY PUTT: Scheffler again, walks it in. // We will head into Monday.

ANNC MONDAY: Sudden death playoff set at TPC River Highlands between // Scottie Scheffler // and Viktor Hovland.

HOVLAND PUTT: Just crept in there on the right side // That puts more pressure on Scheffler // for birdie coming up to stay alive.

SCHEFFLER MISS: Misses it, and Viktor Hovland has won the Travelers.

B2 - FEC Standings

WITH THE WIN, VIKTOR HOVLAND MOVES UP 36 SPOTS TO NUMBER 20 IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS, CAPTURING HIS EIGHTH CAREER VICTORY, AND THE FIRST OF THIS SEASON.

B3 - Viktor Hovland Winner Soundbite

HOVLAND SOT: Obviously I know how good I can get, and I keep pushing myself and I keep wanting to get better // I didn't get off to a great start Thursday, and I just kind of didn't let it bother me as much. // It was a blast.

C1 – Rejoin

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C2 - Intro - The Climb

THIS SEASON, WE HIGHLIGHT GOLF'S FUTURE STARS AND THEIR PATHWAY TO THE PGA TOUR. THIS WEEK, WE HEAD TO ARGENTINA TO EXPLORE THE PATHS OF TWO PGA TOUR AMERICAS STANDOUTS.

C3 - The Climb - Americas

WOLCOTT SOT: My name is Hunter Walcott. I'm from Dixon, Tennessee.

OLIVEIRA SOT: Hi, everyone. My name is my Mateo Fernandez De Oliveira. I'm from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

OLIVEIRA SOT: Here we are to play the second tournament of the PGA TOUR America's 2026 season.

WOLCOTT SOT: I'm so excited to get the win here in Peru. Looking forward to more off here on PGA TOUR Americas.

ANNC: Latin American amateur champion there and what a quality golf shot there for Mateo.

NATS: Little cut.

WOLCOTT SOT: There's such a learning curve. And being able to win is a skill and a trait. And so if I can take anything from that week to put it into this week to just finish one shot better than I might, I think it's valuable to continue to take with me.

OLIVEIRA SOT: I feel like I am surrounded by the right people. I have a great team work that motivates me to become the best version of myself. I am on, on my way to, to be where I want to be.

WOLCOTT SOT: I know I'm good enough to play the PGA TOUR and I just have to free it up and just play.

OLIVEIRA SOT: So this evening we're going to have our asado. Segundo Oliva Pinto's place. Really good friend of mine. Really close friend of mine. We grew up playing for the national team. We played college together, too, so he's hosting me this week. So we invited some other players from, I would say, different countries, not only American.

OLIVEIRA SOT: So we're at Segundo's place here in Cordoba. We're trying to share our Argentinian culture with them. Hopefully they have a nice steak and a good experience that they can take away from this trip. My viewpoint of an asado is an open flame, cooking a bunch of meats and a big gathering late at night because they eat super late down here.

PINTO SOT: Yes. So this is a classic Argentina barbecue, asado, we call it. So here we have 12 kilos of prime steak, prime rib, all top notch. We are going to work the grills together because we have 20 people today and we're just going to drink wine, eat steak and have a good time.

PINTO SOT: Put on this side of the grease, that way it burns better.

OLIVEIRA SOT: People would be amazed on how much talent there is down here. I think the last few years with, Michael Brennan and Johnny Keefer showing up and playing the way they did, and then they were at the Masters this year. So I think that kind of tells, speaks for itself.

WOLCOTT SOT: I think some of the cuts out here are just as deep as the cuts would be on the PGA TOUR and the Korn Ferry Tour, so it shows the depth of this tour and the strength of it. When our top two guys the last two years have are on the PGA TOUR and one's won, I think it just shows the strength of the overall tour.

OLIVEIRA SOT: And also you get used to travel long ways from home too, and I think all the lessons you get to learn on the road are the experiences you need to get to be successful at this tour.

WOLCOTT SOT: My first year playing, I didn't do a good job at traveling at all. I kind of, it was hotel, golf course, restaurants. And then last year I kind of explored a little bit and then this year I've just really wanted to take it all in and just really get to experience everywhere I'm going and try to do something new in every country. And I think it's so easy that you come to these events and you can leave and people could ask you, well, how was Argentina? And if. Well, the hotel was good, the airport was good and the golf course is good. And I think it's cool to be able to say, man, I really got to like, see some unique parts of the culture. I got to see a, you know, one of the seven wonders of the world. I'm really trying to get out of my comfort zone. And then I think it's really helped me on the golf course too, to just be able to focus when I'm there and then when I'm off the course, be able to explore and kind of not be thinking about golf.

WOLCOTT SOT: That's the best steak I've ever had. And that's just the starter, I mean. Probably some of the best steak I've ever had. I mean, the skirt steak was unbelievable. He kind of taught me a little bit how to do a little rosemary, a little salt, pepper, rosemary, olive oil. Makes me want to, like, put a grill in my house and do it this way. The, short rib was phenomenal. And the stuff that's coming out, he said the name but I don't know, it's phenomenal. I mean, it's some of the best meat I've ever had. And I really like the way they do it here. It's like, it seems like they're all like having a party together, you know? Like we're all like, cut it up eating pieces one at a time. It's like a really good experience when they do it. So, it's a really cool experience.

OLIVEIRA SOT: Like, if I ever get to the PGA TOUR, it would be my biggest dream accomplished. That's the reason why I get up every single day in my life and play golf, and I'm passionate about it. That's why I like the process. Even though it's a sport where you get used to, you're not having all this success you would you would like to. So it's, it's a lot about being resilient along the way.

WOLCOTT SOT: I'm excited for this year. I'm excited for the opportunity to see it up and just see what this year is kind of going to have in store for me.

D1 - Shipley Pittsburgh Content (Oakmont)

WE HEAD BACK TO NEAL SHIPLEY'S HOMETOWN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW HIS GAME HAS DEVELOPED OVER THE YEARS.

SHIPLEY SOT: I mean life's definitely changed a lot since I was a kid here. There's the obvious of, I'm on the PGA TOUR now. I mean, that's that's crazy. I'm still just me. I'm just some guy from Pittsburgh, who just happens to be pretty good at golf and I try to continue to work really hard and grind and, you know, remember what's got me to this point.

SHIPLEY SOT: I used to do this drive into high school every day. It's still a treat. We got a beautiful city... And welcome to Pittsburgh.

SHIPLEY SOT: Even though the city itself feels very east like east coast old school. People are really friendly. Really cool. It's a great mix.

SHIPLEY SOT: You know, we have such a great history here in western P.A. of championship golf. Knowing Mr. Palmer's from here and knowing Rocco and all those guys are from western Pennsylvania knowing that, you know, heck, if they can do it too, you know, then, then I can, you know, it's, it's possible to be a PGA TOUR player even if you're from a northeast city like Pittsburgh.

SHIPLEY SOT: Welcome to Oakmont Country Club. I think the best golf course in the world, personally. Really special place to me, you know, special place to most people in

Pittsburgh golf. There's so much history here, really is the pride of the Pittsburgh golf community. One of the best golf courses in the world, hardest golf courses in the world, that's for sure.

SHIPLEY SOT: Once you play Oakmont, when it's firm, fast, you know it doesn't get a lot tougher than that. That's why my game as a whole is really well tailored for some of the toughest tests in golf. I think that's why I've done well in the majors that I've played. It's because I, I just get to see those type of challenges week in, week out if I want.

SHIPLEY SOT: This is the '07 U.S. Open that Angel Cabrera won, and this is the first U.S. Open I attended. When I was six years old, Dad and I came to a practice round super, super early so we could watch Tiger play some golf and you know Tiger went out so early back in those days that for the first few holes there's literally just us and maybe, you know, 50 or 60 other people and I also love just this little touch that we got one of Angel's cigarette butts from it.

SHIPLEY SOT: When I'm here for off weeks, I'll usually come out here and at least play probably twice. Right after the TOUR Championship, the weather was perfect out here. I was probably out here for two or three weeks, I was here almost every day, so played a lot of golf.

SHIPLEY SOT: So this is the new golf performance center here at Oakmont, opened up about a year ago, right after the U.S. Open. It's a pretty good spot if you're gonna, if you're gonna be a cold weather place, you want a facility like this.

SHIPLEY SOT: Started caddying here it was right during COVID or right before COVID. It was perfect out here, you got a little bit of access, you could play on some Monday afternoons out here. It was a fun thing to do, I enjoyed caddying. The members out here were always great to me when I was caddying.

D2 - TV Times - JDC

LUKE CLANTON IS ALSO IN THE FIELD AT TPC DEERE RUN THIS WEEK, AND WE LOOK BACK ON THE YEAR HE'S HAD SINCE BECOMING A PGA TOUR MEMBER, AFTER A SIGNIFICANT COLLEGE CAREER.

D3 - Clanton 1-Year since Turning Pro

NATS: Next on a tee from Hialeah, Florida, Luke Clanton.

ANNC: Luke Clanton makes his professional debut on the PGA TOUR.

CLANTON SOT: The past 12 months have been a lot of learning. It's funny, I think a lot of people, may look at a little bit as failure, but I look at it as more of learning. I think the

biggest thing for me was, you know, having early success and playing well as, you know, as an amateur.

ANNC: What a performance by Luke Clanton, just 20 years of age.

ANNC: The amateur, ha, with another highlight.

ANNC: This young man can play.

ANNC: What a breath of fresh air this young man has been the last couple of weeks.

CLANTON SOT: Coming out as a pro was definitely a little bit different. I was so excited to get the year started well and ... and play well, and starting off with three missed cuts in a row was definitely a different message that was sent down. And I think it was honestly pretty cool for me because I remember after Torrey, we got back in the hotel room, I was really mad. I said, I'm done with this, I'm done feeling this way. I'm done. You know, feeling scared almost in a way, to play and in a way a little bit of just saying, like, hey, like you're meant to do this, you're meant to go out and play. You're meant to go out and win, you're meant to go out and play well. And don't be scared of it. I think for me, it's learning that, you know, a missed cut or even a win. It's not gonna really change who I am as a person. And I think that's something that I've been working on pretty hard lately. You know, if it takes one year to learn or 12 months or five months or whatever it is, to learn how to play out here, and then it's fine. It's one year out of a lot of years.

PRODUCER: So speaking of a win, how close are you to a win?

CLANTON SOT: I think I'm as close as I've ever been. I think I could be the best in the world. If I didn't say that, then I shouldn't be in the sport. I think every other guy in this sport thinks the same way. And, you know, if I do what I need to do in the way I'm training and the way I'm practicing, and I just keep saying to myself that it will happen sooner or later, you know, I know that may come off a little cocky or whatever, but to me it's I know how good I can play and I know how good my team is around me and I know how good my supporters are. And I know that if I keep doing what I need to do and keep training the way I am, it's it's bound to happen.