

26ICUT28 BMW CHAMPIONSHIP - #28 - MASTER SCRIPT

A1 – BMW SIZZLE

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: It's extremely hard to win out here... in our sport in order to accomplish what you want to accomplish you have to play good golf at the right time.

A2 – VO SEG UNSCRIPTED

THIS WEEK, PATRICK CANTLAY FINDS HIMSELF ON THE BUBBLE AT THE BMW CHAMPIONSHIP... BUT THE ROAD TO MAKE THE TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP STARTED LONG BEFORE. HERE'S A SNAPSHOT INTO A LATE SUMMER PUSH TO TRY TO CREEP UP THE STANDINGS AT THE GENESIS SCOTTISH OPEN.

A3 – UNSCRIPTED: PATRICK CANTLAY

JOE LACAVA NAT: 204 Bucket. Decent right to left.

PATRICK CANTLAY NAT: Yep.

PATRICK CANTLAY SOT: When we're out here on the course, just seeing where whole locations have been in the past and seeing where you want to putt from, where you know, the spot to get up and down from is if you get in trouble on a hole.

PATRICK CANTLAY NAT: So I can maybe cover those ones on the right.

JOE LACAVA NAT: I think you can I don't think its blowing hard off where you can't.

PATRICK CANTLAY NAT: All right.

PATRICK CANTLAY SOT: Traveling overseas is always tricky. I think it takes a couple of days to adjust.

PATRICK CANTLAY SOT: When you get to a tournament week. For me, it's about acclimating to, you know, the conditions, the speed of the greens, the types of grass that it is.

JAMIE MULLIGAN SOT: Every day is pretty religious as far as the way that he goes about it. And I think the TOUR player culture that he grew up in. If practice was starting at 9:00, he was ready to go at 9:00, I mean, and he was nutrition and warm up, stretched, getting ready to start practicing and then work on it.

PATRICK CANTLAY NAT: Joe, can I hit one from down here to that pin?

JOE LACAVA NAT: Yep. Thanks.

A KEY PART OF CANTLAY'S TEAM SINCE 20-23 IS CADDIE JOE LACAVA, WHOSE 30-PLUS YEARS OF EXPERIENCE HAS INCLUDED TIME ON THE BAG FOR FRED COUPLES AND TIGER WOODS.

PATRICK CANTLAY SOT: Joe's great. I mean, he helps me on the course in every aspect, and he's been doing it a long time. He's got a lot of experience, which I think is invaluable in a caddy.

JOE LACAVA SOT: We've become pretty good friends. Like I kind of find like I do with all my bosses. Pat's been great to me. So we're just kind of hanging out and having a good time together.

JOE LACAVA NAT: A lot of hill, pretty slow.

PATRICK CANTLAY NAT: Yeah, I remember it being really slow

JOE LACAVA NAT: I haven't been out here that often myself, so I've got to give it a pretty good look, which I did on Monday. About six hours. Not crazy, but enough to get a lay of the land.

JAMIE MULLIGAN SOT: He's probably one of the most practical, basic people that I've ever met, and I think that meshes perfectly with Pat. And Joe wants to win really, really badly. That's the combined goal for us all.

PATRICK CANTLAY SOT: When we go out there. We're a team and we communicate really well and work hard to play as well as we can.

CANTLAY ENTERS THE GENESIS SCOTTISH OPEN 40TH IN THE FEDEX CUP STANDINGS WITH AN EYE ON MOVING CLOSER INTO THE TOP 30, SETTING UP A RETURN TRIP TO THE TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP.

PATRICK CANTLAY SOT: I've been really fortunate to play well the last nine years I've made it to the Tour Championship. That's a good marker for playing really consistent, solid golf for the whole year.

IN 20-21, CANTLAY HAD A MEMORABLE PLAYOFF RUN, WINNING THE BMW CHAMPIONSHIP IN A DRAMATIC PLAYOFF.

AND FOLLOWING IT UP WITH THE BIGGEST VICTORY OF HIS CAREER SO FAR BY CAPTURING THE FEDEX CUP.

ANNC: What an achievement. Wire to wire. This guy is suddenly a superstar.

PATRICK CANTLAY SOT: It was just a really good, solid year of golf. It means a lot just because it's reflective of play throughout the year.

ANNC: This is game number 19, on the tee from the USA, Patrick Cantlay.

PATRICK CANTLAY SOT: There's a huge advantage to having played the TOUR a number of years because you see the same holes in the same winds year after year, and you can kind of draw on that experience when you get out there, and especially when you get into contention.

CANTLAY'S PREPARATION WAS REWARDED WITH A FIVE-UNDER SIXTY FIVE IN THE OPENING ROUND, WHICH TIED HIM FOR THE EARLY LEAD.

PATRICK CANTLAY SOT: Very pleased. Off to a good start. Conditions were benign today, I think, compared to what we're going to see the next three days, but nice to get off to a good start and feeling good about my game.

THE SECOND ROUND PROVED A CHALLENGE THOUGH, AS CANTLAY MADE FIVE BOGEYS TO ONLY ONE BIRDIE, UNDER DIFFICULT CONDITIONS.

ANNC: What a disappointing afternoon for sure.

THIS WAS CANTLAY'S FOURTH MISSED CUT OF THE SEASON, AND HE DROPPED TO 42ND IN THE FEDEX CUP STANDINGS.

JAMIE MULLIGAN SOT: We feel like we're trending and we just haven't quite completely done it. But last year wasn't dissimilar and we worked really hard. So we're trying to do that, that for the next month.

CANTLAY CURRENTLY SITS AT 43RD IN THE FEDEX CUP STANDINGS WHERE IT'S ALL ON THE LINE THIS WEEK IN ST. LOUIS FOR THE BMW CHAMPIONSHIP.

PATRICK CANTLAY SOT: If you are practicing the right way each and every day, that practice and that prep is going to add up over time and you're going to get the results and it's going to pay off. It may not be right away, but it's going to pay off in the long run.

BI – LUDVIG SPEED GOLF

ANNC: This guy I mean playing with Ludvig Aberg in in a twosome is almost like playing with yourself in a way with with your faster because you, you you. He plays so fast. He's like, he's got ice cream in the car melting.

LUDVIG ABERG: Sometimes when I'm at home, I like to go play early. And if you're in a cart by yourself, man, you can fly around an hour and 20. I almost think sometimes I get a little too fast, so I almost have to slow myself down. I think I am a pretty quick player in general. I like to think, you know, once you've made your decision and it's time to go, it's time to go.

PRODUCER: Would you say you were this efficient in other parts of your life off the golf course?

LUDVIG ABERG: No, no, I wouldn't say so. I tend to get a little quick at times, but I also forget a lot of things. When I was younger. You should have seen it. I left stuff everywhere. It's gotten better, but still some some work to do.

B3 – FESJ WINNER

ABERG'S QUICK CADENCE PAID OFF IN MEMPHIS WITH A T7 FINISH, WHILE A FAMILAIR NAME FINDS HIMSELF IN THE MIX ON SUNDAY.

B3 – FESJ WINNER

ANNC NANCE (14:01:19;23) At the end of this week there will be 50 survivors who will take the train to St. Louis.

ANNC NANCE (14:01:19;23) Exciting day to track Scottie Scheffler's pursuit of his first win since January.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Third hole hit a good bunker shot ball bounces off sprinkler head and goes in the water I'm like "when is this going to stop happening," but did a good job of staying in it and bouncing back from that.

ANNC: That's one of the worst breaks ive seen all year.

ANNC: Just curls in that right side, that's a huge birdie from Scheffler. That's two in a row and now the lead is five.

ANNC: This is dominance at its peak right here...

ANNC: Did he do it again, oh he did! What a clinic from Scheffler.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER (17:48:03;00) I've had some close calls this year / today was a day / I wanted to do my best and execute.

ANNC (17:57:44;29) Its called an era – the Scottie Scheffler era, we're in it right now.

18 WINNING MOMENT (17:46:14;12) domination... Scottie Scheffler runs away from the field in Memphis.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER (17:49:17;28) It's nice to pay it off with a win this week... statistics are one thing but being able to win golf tournaments is another and this a lot better feeling than having statistically a good week.

B4 – FEC STANDINGS

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER MAINTAINS THE NUMBER ONE SPOT IN THE FEDEX CUP STANDINGS AFTER HIS 21ST CAREER PGA TOUR VICTORY. FOR EVERYONE ELSE, THERE'S JUST ONE SHOT LEFT TO PUNCH A TICKET TO EAST LAKE FOR THE TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP.

B5 – WINNER WALK

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: We're walking in Haley goes you guys. It'll be short and sweet, just like your Wednesday presser. She goes, well, well, Doug's here, but it'll...

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Is he asleep? No way...

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: All right, Benny, I'm gonna leave you here in the shade with mama. Okay.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Do we do handshakes or knuckles? What do you wanna do? Handshake. I like you good. Good handshake. Nice to meet you, too.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Was that fun Bennett?

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: You know, this tournament, I felt like I've learned a lot at this tournament over the years. It was my my second start on the PGA tour. I played this tournament a number of times now, and definitely proud to be walking away with a trophy this week.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Sweet let's go!

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: Fellas, what's up.

C1 – REJOIN

C2 – SETUP KNAPP

LAST WEEK, WE SHARED PART 1 ON THE LIFE OF JAKE KNAPP'S ROOTS IN CALIFORNIA. WE CONTINUE THIS WEEK WITH MORE INSIGHTS INTO HIS UNIQUE PATH TO THE TOUR, AS HE LOOKS TO MAKE A FINAL PUSH FROM 35TH IN THE STANDINGS INTO THE TOP 30 FOR THE TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP.

C3 – JAKE KNAPP PT2

JAKE KNAPP: This is the lab. It's where the money is printed.

Any like putting analytics stuff? This is where it's all done.

Pretty sure I took my first lesson from you and I was like 6 or 7, so

JOHN ORTEGA: Close enough. Eight. Eight. Six Seven.

JAKE KNAPP: Six. Seven. Yeah, that's the thing with the kids these days.

JOHN ORTEGA: It was pretty awesome. That's hilarious.

JAKE KNAPP: Yeah, he took my brother and I on at a really early age, basically saw him every single day when I was there growing up.

JOHN ORTEGA: He and his brother were hitting balls at night one time with their dad, and it was raining. Nobody was on the range and he's hitting balls, little tiny guy. And he just hit him pretty straight and like, wow, that's pretty good. And his dad thought I was just trying to pump him up like, oh no, it's really good.

ANNC: We'll get a look at young Jake Knapp here. He's a junior at UCLA on Monday. Qualified to crack the field here this week.

JAKE KNAPP: Turned pro early out of college. Went up and did some Monday qualifiers and got in.

ANNC: There was young Jake Knapp from Costa mesa, California, not far from here.

JAKE KNAPP: I never got through Korn Ferry Q-School. I could never get past the second round. I just, I don't know, I just had the Q-School yips, basically.

I did Canadian Q-School in 2017 and I won. Played in 16, 17 and 18 and then lost my status up there. In 2018.

I went back to Canadian Q school and won Q school again in 2019. And then that's kind of when I had my first batch of success. I won two of the first three events in 2019 and finished third on the Order of Merit up there, and that got me Korn Ferry status.

JOHN ORTEGA: You know, him having tough times when he was middle 20s and almost into 30, you know, playing the Canadian tour and then the two year Korn Ferry Tour. Didn't quite play like, you know, everybody expected him to. Failure is a teacher to him. And so that's really been what has enabled him to become who he is.

JAKE KNAPP: It's basically just up this hill and then a right. And it'll be on our left. The beautiful Country club.

I lost my status on Korn Ferry in 21. I wasn't going to have any income, basically. So I was like, man, I need to get a job. Figured something in like the bar slash nightlife, something like that would work. So something that wouldn't take away from like practice during the day. And the guy just kind of looked me up and down.

It was just like you could do security. So I worked every Friday, Saturday from like 8:00 until 233 ish in the morning. It was worth it. Gave me a good perspective. Kind of kicked my butt into gear and making sure I didn't have to do that as my full time gig.

I think that's where like, the what's Important now stuff comes in hand for me.

It's probably the most simple tattoo I have. It's just that constant reminder of like, what are we trying to do? What's the end goal? I heard it from a buddy of ours when I was maybe just getting back on the Korn Ferry or something like that, and he brought up the song and I wrote it down kind of immediately and really stuck with me.

We all kind of get sidetracked on certain things all the time. What's important now is something that everybody can relate to.

PRODUCER: Were there ever any kind of like moments on that journey where you were like, this is never going to come?

JAKE KNAPP: Yeah, I think there was a couple times trying.

ANNC: To figure out a way to get it back on track.

JAKE KNAPP: Had two bad years in 20 and 21. I was like 27 years old. And it's like all the guys out there like 22. So it was still just kind of a kid doing whatever, and then just kind of had a mindset shift of like, If I'm going to do this, I'm all in all the time. And then that's kind of what showed. And in 23, I just played really consistent.

I only missed two cuts. We just played solid all year and then got on tour in 24. Bit of a whirlwind of eight years but wouldn't have it any other way.

PRODUCER: Chinese bamboo Tree. Do you recall that?

JAKE KNAPP: I got a tattooed on my leg, so I hope so.

The whole idea is basically like bamboo lays dormant for like 3 to 4 years, and then all of a sudden it grows 30ft in, like four months. Was it just lying dormant and doing nothing, or was it laying the foundation basically for like the growth that eventually was going to come? And I feel like that's like the perfect example of like my career.

JOHN ORTEGA: So just do your thing. Just normal.

This is an example of somebody that does a lot of practice. So he didn't used to practice as much. That's why he didn't know about him until now. But he decided he was gonna he decided he was going to practice. Because he thought it'd be better for his bank account.

JAKE KNAPP: Putting is like the one spot that, like, you can just never spend too much time. My favorite thing, since I like to mess around with different putters is like, come in, see how I line up certain stuff, see if something like naturally I line up straighter, stroke a little bit better, see how good my muscle memory is.

JOHN ORTEGA: Pretty good.

JAKE KNAPP: And then yeah, put it into action.

ANNC: Clutch putt right there for Jake Knapp.

JOH ORTEGA: But you see these lines here. That kind of demonstrates like where his putter is moving. And you would think somebody who putts as well as him it'd be like right on top of each other every time. But you see it's a little bit like this way and that way, but it's the same every time. It's just really consistent.

So we're not looking for perfect. We're looking for a pattern that he can repeat when he's nervous, which he's been doing pretty well.

ANNC: Fourth Eagle of the week for Jake Knapp.

JAKE KNAPP: I'm definitely more of like a feel player. I'm not super technical.

DI – CHAMPIONS HOLE BMW

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THIS WEEK'S CHAMPION'S HOLE AT BELLERIVE COUNTRY CLUB FOR THE BMW CHAMPIONSHIP.

THE 14TH HOLE AT BELLERIVE IS A 417-YARD PAR 4 THAT PLAYED A REMARKABLY PIVOTAL ROLE WHEN CAMILO VILLEGAS WON THE BMW CHAMPIONSHIP THE LAST TIME IT WAS PLAYED HERE IN 2008...

HE WON BY 2 SHOTS AND BIRDIED THE 14TH HOLE EVERY ROUND...

ANNC: Little ticklish one downhill a little bit here, there you go.

RUNNER-UP DUDLEY HART PLAYED THE HOLE AT 1-UNDER – MEANING IF HE HAD PLAYED IT AS WELL AS VILLEGAS, HE WOULD'VE BEEN THE WINNER... THE COLOMBIAN WAS 1 OF 2 PLAYERS TO BIRDIE THE 14TH ALL FOUR ROUNDS...

THE 14TH FAIRWAY WAS HIT BARELY 60 PERCENT OF THE TIME THAT WEEK... IT WAS THE 3RD-TOUGHEST FAIRWAY FOR THE FIELD TO HIT, BUT VILLEGAS FOUND THE SHORT GRASS IN 3 OF HIS 4 ROUNDS, LEADING TO SHORT BIRDIE PUTTS...

THE ONE ROUND CAMILO DIDN'T FIND THE FAIRWAY, HE MADE A INCREDIBLE RECOVERY... HE PUT HIS APPROACH TO 36-FEET, 3-INCHES AND CAPPED HIS PERFORMANCE ON THE 14TH WITH THE LONGEST PUTT ANYBODY MADE ON THE HOLE ALL WEEK...

ANNC: Right in the bottom!

THE BIRDIE GAVE HIM A 3-SHOT LEAD AND PLENTY OF WIGGLE ROOM AS HE CLOSED OUT HIS ROUND AND THE VICTORY...

ANNC: But the wait is over for Camillo Villegas, champion on the PGA TOUR.

D2 – TV TIMES BMW

THE BMW FIELD SHOWCASES THE TOP 50 PLAYERS IN THE FEDEX CUP – ALL LOOKING TO QUALIFY FOR THE TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP.

AMONG THOSE VYING FOR A SPOT IN THE TOP 30 IS JAKE KNAPP. WHO WE’VE SEEN OVER THE PAST TWO SHOWS HEAD HOME TO CALIFORNIA TO RESET AND RECHARGE.

D3 – JAKE KNAPP PT3

JAKE KNAPP: Oh my gosh, you're so fast. You're so fast. What's up dude?

What are you doing? You want to say hi? Say hi.

See you wave. Hi. My baby. Trace.

Did you miss me that much? Do you want to play golf in the backyard? Golf? You can hit big booms. Are you gonna chip?

You're gonna chip in putts. That's my boy. Short game King. Okay, let's see.

JAKE KNAPP: Being present in these moments and stuff. Especially not living here year round and not getting to see him very often. Ooh. Almost. Here you go. Try again. I'm on the road 30 plus weeks a year. Good job.

RYAN KNAPP: Try To explain to him that it's a little uncommon to see, like your uncle playing golf on TV all the time. But it's also very fun to, like, sit there and watch Jake play and he's cheering and living and breathing with every shot.

ANNC: And this is going to change the entire trajectory of this guy's golfing life.

JAKE KNAPP: What's important right now, like go around your process and kind of get lost in it. And that was kind of my goal for the day. You know, I had a four shot lead, so I was more so just like trying not to mess up basically. And that's not a good place to be.

ANNC: That's only the second time he's missed a green on the front nine the entire week. A little bit of a shaky start there.

JAKE KNAPP: I had to like reset after those first 4 or 5 holes and just kind of remind myself that they have to come and get me. I remember being nervous coming down the stretch, but at the same time I was asking myself, like, why am I nervous? I've already put myself in contention and I know I can win. If this is my time, then this is my time.

And if it's not, that's okay. Like I'll have other chances to win to.

ANNC Nearly perfect. What a shot.

JAKE KNAPP: To keep myself in the moment, basically, and just try to execute golf shots. I remember hitting that last wedge shot on the green on 18, and that was the first moment where I could actually let myself breathe a little bit.

ANNC: That's what he needed. You've spent all that time being a bouncer in one room if you're ever going to have this opportunity.

JAKE KNAPP: I was just like, oh my gosh, this is just everything you've always dreamed of. I wish I could relive that every day.

ANNC: Well, you never know where a player can draw inspiration. And for Jake Knapp, it's from his late grandfather.

JAKE KNAPP: My papa passed in February of 2023.

He was the guy I talked to after every single round. Um, I still text him after every round. So sorry. Wish you could see it. It was always like my dream. And and and his dream as well. For me to get out of here, he'd probably say, uh, yo, dude. Good playing winner winner chicken dinner. So, Papa. Thank you.

JAKE KNAPP: For me, it's just been a matter of keeping the perspective on what really is important. Have things that I want to accomplish. It's just that constant daily reminder of making sure I stay on task.

JAKE KNAPP: It's golf and trying to become a better player and and really just trying to squeeze every last drop out of myself as I can. You know, whenever I stop playing, whether it's five years or 30 years from now, I just want to make sure that when I put the clubs away that it's like, yeah, I did everything I possibly could and I got everything out of my game that I possibly could.

JAKE KNAPP: Noggin dude!