

26ICUT25 ROCKET CLASSIC - #25 - MASTER SCRIPT

A1 – TITLES

(NO COPY)

A2 – POTGIETER SETUP

IN THE FIELD THIS WEEK IS DEFENDING CHAMPION ALDRICH POTGIETER – HERE'S A LOOK BACK AT HIS JOURNEY TO VICTORY AFTER LEARNING FROM HEARTBREAK EARLIER IN HIS ROOKIE SEASON.

A3 – POTGIETER FEATURE

ANNC: Aldrich Potgieter, 20 years of age, rookie on the PGA TOUR; trying to win for the first time.

IT'S HARD TO MISS THE BURLY SOUTH AFRICAN WHO LED THE PGA TOUR IN DRIVING DISTANCE WITH AN AVERAGE OF 325 YARDS ...

ANNC: Cruising ball speeds of 195 mile an hour. He can smash it with this driver.

ANNC: Aldrich Potgieter, he's got one of the strongest club faces at the top in all of golf right there.

HAVING LED THE MEXICO OPEN AT VIDANTAWORLD IN PUTTING, POTGIETER FOUND HIMSELF IN CONTENTION FOR THE FIRST TIME, IN A PLAYOFF AGAINST BRIAN CAMPBELL ...

ANNC: None bigger chance than this one right now.

NATS: (crowd groans)

ANNC: Campbell, a chance to win ...

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Pressure is a big thing. You can't really beat it. You just have to learn and adjust to the next time you're in this position again.

10 STARTS LATER, POTGIETER HAD ANOTHER CHANCE AT GLORY ... THIS TIME, ON THE FIFTH HOLE OF YET ANOTHER PLAYOFF IN DETROIT ...

ANNC: Potgieter pours it in! And he's got his first PGA TOUR victory!

ALDRICH POTGIETER NATS: This was my first TOUR event as a pro two years ago, so this was a special one for me. So, thank you, guys.

WITH THAT WIN, POTGIETER BECAME THE YOUNGEST-EVER WINNER FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND CEMENTED HIS NAME TO THE NEW ERA OF YOUNG, INTERNATIONAL TALENT ON THE PGA TOUR.

A4 – POTGIETER SEGUE

THE LONG HITTING POTGIETER LEADS THE TOUR IN DRIVING DISTANCE AT JUST OVER 330 YARDS. HERE ARE THE KEYS TO HIS ONE-OF-A-KIND POWER.

A5 – POTGIETER MY SWING

ANNC: I think I felt that go by me Ian.

ANNC: 196, Dottie.

ALDRICH POTGIETER: How my body works, I think is really good. We're trying to change a few things with some dynamics. I got a lot of lag in my swing, which is really good if you want power and all that. But when I swing, I kind of go into little side bend with the lag. And what we're trying to work on is me more rotating, trying to get this left shoulder more down instead of going up. And you can definitely see ball striking get a little bit better, a bit more consistent.

ANNC: This guy just has all the length in the world and another one tight at seven.

ALDRICH POTGIETER: I've always had a strong grip as a junior. I think it starts with this left hand sitting more on top of the club. I feel like I've got more control, a bit more levers that I can pull on, and then the right hand just kind of fits right in with it. So it'll be a little bit strong, but not as strong as this left hand.

ALDRICH POTGIETER: We've seen a little jump up in speed, I think from the training we've done all season. We didn't really know what that change of me losing some weight was going to be with the driver. And I think it's definitely a bit more consistent. It's been kind of around that. 325 mark just carry wise, and I think it's a bit more consistent around like 190 ball speed and I got two shots that I would hit. One would be a little lower t a little lower flighted. Maybe this week will use that when it gets windy as well. And then I'll have the high T kind of just a high normal low fade that I would hit. And then obviously the speed would just ramp up if you want to hit it further. But the shot shape and how I'm hitting it would stay the same.

We had this discussion in the off season, what my path was going to be forward for 2026 and 2027. We kind of had a look at where some of the top guys are with Scottie Scheffler, and I mean, they're all 28, 27 years old and I won at the age of 20. So that was kind of like an eye-opening moment where I was like, okay, I got eight years to get where Scottie is now.

It helps that I have a physio, a trainer this year that's out there with me, and I think most of it is just to be able to play out here for 20 plus years. I think that's kind of the goal. If I just kind of

learn how to be a professional golfer in every aspect, I think the results will kind of just start creeping in more and more and I get more consistent as well over time.

So, I think looking at the time I still have in front of me, it's exciting to kind of see where we can get to.

B1 – OVERHEARD 3M

FANS: Scottie Scheffler

Boy, Scottie's a big dude, isn't he?

Yeah, he is. Yeah.

He's gotta be six, three. Six, four.

He's actually a hoss.

There's just a few more people here than last year.

Just a few.

I'm gonna put my whole trust fund on Scottie Scheffler.

Damn it. I missed my opportunity with his last name on there. I tried to do a video. No, I'm not embarrassing. Everybody's doing the same thing. It's the number one player in the world.

What do you think you would shoot from the tips on this course?

If I give you my honest answer. Probably gonna shoot like a 98. What do you think?

Like, if I play, like, my best golf? Probably 80, 80, 84.

You're not shooting an 80 here.

It sounded like a rocket.

It sounds like a frickin' missile.

Just to be able to hit you 3-wood like that? Oh my God.

That would. I would love to hit my 3-wood like that.

Keep working at it, man.

Absolutely.

Oh, kind of grab grab the club there a little bit.

Caught it.

Well, that's why you bump it around.

I would have made it. Jake Knapp's one off the lead.

Guys dialed. Doesn't matter what he does. Like, if he didn't play golf, I would hire that guy. He's just a beauty.

Yeah.

You know what 3M stands for?

Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing.

Oh, now I know what I mean.

3M's a great partner of ours. We use this epoxy the 424 bonding the driver heads. And then we use the DPA ten to bond the sleeve to the shaft.

That's such a free eagle two... straight 12-foot putt.

Straight. Come on.

Can you make it?

No, that is also not 12ft.

I would definitely be watering this. Or I'd hit it into the crowd too, because I got a big slice of my lefty.

Well, if I was hitting a shot, like with all these people here, it wouldn't matter where.

I made my first eagle the other day.

I think. He'd send It eight feet by.

Three feet from albatross.

I would send that eight feet by albatross.

You know, an albatross is.

Yeah, two on a five. It's a bird. It's a bird. God.

Come on. Scottie. One time.

Go one time. Go go go. One time.

B2 – 3M WINNER

ANNC: Nine years ago in San Jose, California, there was a 12-year-old boy who trained to become a PGA tour professional. And now here he is. Jackson Koivun is that kid, just 21 years

old, playing his third tournament as a professional. And he has been the story here at the 3 a.m. open.

JACKSON KOIVUN: I played a great round of golf today, definitely had some nerves coming down on 18, but he was able to find some good putts coming down the stretch.

ANNC: 14.5ft. Come on now.

ANNC: That's what I'm talking about. Just walking it in.

ANNC: On he marches, to a victory.

ANNC: And a nod to Arnold Palmer. What did he used to say? You must play boldly to win this kid played boldly to win future so bright.

ANNC: Is it fair to say this is just the beginning.

ANNC: A dream come true!

JACKSON KOIVUN: Yes, ma'am.

B3 – FEC STANDING

WITH A VICTORY IN JUST HIS THIRD CAREER PROFESSIONAL START ON THE PGA TOUR JACKSON KOIVUN MOVES UP 124 SPOTS IN THE FEDEX CUP STANDINGS – JUST INSIDE THE BUBBLE FOR A PLAYOFF START.

B4 – WINNER WALK 3M

AGENT: Over/under 400 texts?

JACKSON KOIVUN: We'll find out right now. 117 messages.

AGENT: I got 157.

JACKSON KOIVUN: You're more connected than me.

FAN: How does it feel to have like, Scottie Scheffler.

JACKSON KOIVUN: I kept having people yelling at me that Scottie coming, but yeah.

UNKNOWN: Ted watched you hit it on 16 in the locker room and went to the airport. He left. That shows you how much respect these guys have for you already. Everybody, if you would raise your glass, please. Adult beverage for you. You're old enough to drink.

JACKSON KOIVUN: I am, yeah.

C1 – REJOIN

2026 HAS SEEN MATT FITZPATRICK CRAFT ONE OF HIS FINEST SEASONS ON THE PGA TOUR - AND MARK IMMELMAN TAKES YOU INSIDE THE SWING THAT HAS LED TO THAT SUCCESS.

C2 – INTRO SWING THEORY

MARK IMMELMAN: He may be small in stature, but Matt Fitzpatrick plays a big game. The plucky, determined Englishman has always been known for his gutsy game and his stellar short game skills, but a commitment to adding speed and distance has propelled him up the world rankings and to a major championship.

C3 – SWING THEORY: MATT FITZPATRICK

ANNC: Well, he does not hang around over the ball. A couple quick waggles and off it goes.

ANNC: We were all amazed at the country club how long Fitzpatrick had become, because he had worked specifically on his speed.

ANNC: That is going to be in perfect position for him to go for it.

ANNC: Excellent tee shot.

MARK IMMELMAN: Let's see how he does it. At five foot ten, Matt Fitzpatrick not as tall as most, so he has to stand up to the ball a little bit more. So you see there's a little less flexion in the knees than you'll see typically on the PGA tour. He still, however, does a great job of bending from the hips, so he does get some good spine tilt there.

He also allows the arms to hang out a little bit more, which in my opinion allows him to hit a little bit more from the inside of the golf ball, which is the first way on a better swing path and certainly a better angle of attack to gain a little bit more ball speed as you increase clubhead speed. So now there is a line on the shaft at address.

Most golfers, when they take that club away will get the club working along that line. Certain guys will be a little higher. Matt Fitzpatrick, he tends to want to drag the club inside of that line a touch more, and so as a result, he gets his arms really deep. Let's see how he does that. So, the club moves away.

Little trigger in the body. Now his hips Guide the action. Look at that rotation there. And the arms just follow. And when the left arm is parallel with the ground, you notice how he's got that shaft angle a little more horizontal or flat in comparison to where it was at a dress. From there it continues to wind.

The arms swing up, but they deeper. They more in behind than most little lifting in the arms. And you can see now because of the way it holds it, there's just that touch of cupping in the wrist that's out of the ordinary for the PGA tour as well. You'll see golfers up there have a flatter lead wrist or even a flexed or bowed wrist.

Not Fitzpatrick. Now, as we start him down to the same heights where he was going back, left arm parallel with the ground right there. Look at the magic that he has just shown us. See that angle of that shaft? It's matching the angle of the shaft at a dress. So whereas most folks will say he's coming over the top, all Fitzpatrick is doing is getting the club back on a similar plane to where he was at address.

So now it's all systems go. His body starts to unwind. The chest leads look at the hips opening up. The hands are getting back in front. There's that slightly more inside approach, and he has the shaft right back on the money with this clubface looking directly over the back of the golf ball.

Now you'll see the legs push up. You'll see the body open up like the arms freewheel. He slings the clubhead at the ball through the ball, accelerating, gaining extra miles per hour and certainly gaining more speed off the tee.

Here's the caddie view of Matt Fitzpatrick with a driver in the hand. Now, the first thing to do if you want to gain more speed is make sure you organized pre-swing. And let's look through the fundamentals.

First off he's hold on the golf club. That glove hand. The leading hand he's left is way more cranked over the club than one would typically advocate. That's a strong grip. It's going to lead to a more closed clubface. But you notice how the right hand, the non glove hand is turned over that almost in a butterfly style grip. I see a lot of powerful golfers holding the club in that fashion, because the right hand neutralizes the left thumb, and so it doesn't get that face to shut.

Then secondly and I love this, I would advocate this to all golfers. Notice how the front foot is turned outward, some. Notice how the trail foot is straight up. That is very Ben Hogan esque. And that straight up foot at a 90-degree angle to the target line is going to provide a nice brace for the hips to turn against.

Now, I also love a trigger, because we've got to move this club from zero miles an hour to maximum speed at clubhead. So, starting away from the ball, I love a trigger. And watch what Matt Fitzpatrick does. See that little movement in the hips? You'll see the hips kind of bump to the right. And then the knees follow a little bit and then widen.

We'll just move that back and forth. So, before the club goes see the movement of the body, he's shifting pressure into that trail side, says presets, almost preloading the movement of the body so the trigger sets him in motion. Watch the hips go, then the arms follow. Now watch how the hips rotate, and they almost driving the swing of the arms.

Look at that big hip rotation over there. It's helped him turn farther with the upper body. So, he's got the maximum out there. Whilst not giving up this angle in the right leg. He's got a brace he's rotating against. So wonderful trigger wonderful powerful back swing.

Now I want to show you this. Imagine that the in steps of his feet are kind of like boundaries. Now watch how Matt like you saw the trigger with the hips to start the back swing. Watch how

the hips lead. But they never, ever break through that forward circle. What's the trigger? No forward shifting. See? Just pure rotation. Once again, the hips. The knees, the ankles, are leading the action. And one more time, right to that spot.

Watch the hips move and cut him off over there. Look at how powerful he looks in that situation. Hips opening up. Chest square. Left arm down the chest and catch a load of this leg. Now he's behind the ball. He's rotating open. Picture a home run hitter. And now from that situation, the front foot is going to push up. It's going to elevate. Look the forward legs straighten and from there it is. Just unload.

Look at how all those angles have been released into the club. The left foot is off the ground as there's been so much upward force. So he's using the ground reaction forces. He's using all that load and unload, and he's using the movement of his lower body to absolutely slingshot this golf club around him and into the free flowing and balanced follow through.

It's brisk, it's athletic. It's powerful. It's one to learn from.

DI – THE DROP: CHAMPIONS HOLE

THE PGA TOUR HEADS TO MOTOWN THIS WEEK FOR THE ROCKET CLASSIC, AND USING HISTORICAL DATA AND COURSE INSIGHTS, WE’VE IDENTIFIED THE CHAMPION’S HOLE...

THE PENULTIMATE HOLE AT THE DETROIT GOLF CLUB’S NORTH COURSE IS THE PAR-5 17TH, BUT ULTIMATELY, IT HAS GONE FURTHER THAN ANY OF THE 18 HOLES IN TERMS OF IDENTIFYING THE EVENT’S CHAMPION.

THE FIELD’S AVERAGE SCORE ON THE 17TH HOLE IS 4.5, AN EYE-OPENING HALF-STROKE BETTER THAN PAR... BUT THE CHAMPIONS DON’T JUST OPEN YOUR EYES – THEY MAKE YOUR JAW DROP. THAT’S BECAUSE THE 7 WINNERS HERE HAVE A SCORING AVERAGE OF NEARLY A STROKE UNDER PAR AT 4.04...

THE DIFFERENCE OF 0.46 STROKES BETWEEN WINNERS AND THE FIELD, IS THE LARGEST OF ANY HOLE AT DETROIT GOLF CLUB...

ANNC: And it’s another birdie.

A STEP TOWARD WINNING THIS EVENT IS TO SIMPLY NOT BOGEY THE 17TH HOLE... IN THIS EVENT’S 7-YEAR HISTORY, THE WINNER HAS NEVER PUT A SQUARE ON HIS SCORECARD.

SO, WHEN YOU FIND YOURSELF IN TROUBLE, SCRAMBLING IS A SIGNIFICANTLY IMPORTANT SKILL TO POSSESS... WINNERS GET UP-AND-DOWN 100 PERCENT OF THE TIME, BUT THE REST OF THE FIELD SITS AT JUST UNDER 75 PERCENT – AND THAT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE...

NATS: Fore! Fore left!

ANNC: Cam Davis and his third...

ANNC: Hit a really good shot from the right rough just to get it to here.

ANNC: Oh my gosh.

ANNC: Cam Davis, more like Crash Davis.

ON THE PGA TOUR, THE RAZOR-THIN MARGIN BETWEEN VICTORY AND DEFEAT IS BEST ILLUSTRATED WHEN AN EVENT GOES TO A PLAYOFF, AND IN 3 OF THE 7 YEARS THIS EVENT HAS EXISTED – WE HAVE GONE TO EXTRA HOLES... CAM DAVIS, RICKIE FOWLER AND ALDRICH POTGIETER EMERGED VICTORIOUS...

THOSE YEARS, THERE WERE FOURTEEN(!) OTHER PLAYERS WHO COULD HAVE ALTERED THE OUTCOME IF THEY HAD PLAYED THE 17TH HOLE AS WELL AS THE CHAMPION... 6 OF THEM WOULD HAVE WON OUTRIGHT AND 8 OF THEM WOULD HAVE JOINED THE PLAYOFF...

BUT ULTIMATELY, NOBODY COULD MATCH THE COMBINED 13-UNDER PAR THE WINNERS SHOT IN A DOZEN ROUNDS THOSE WEEKS... AND THE ABILITY TO GO THAT LOW IS WHAT MAKES THE 17TH AT DETROIT GOLF CLUB THE CHAMPION'S HOLE...

D2 – TV TIMES

THE TOUR TRAVELS EAST TO DETROIT MICHIGAN FOR THE ROCKET CLASSIC. WHERE FORMER CHAMPION RICKIE FOWLER HAS BEEN KNOWN TO WEAR SOME EXTRAVAGANT OUTFITS OVER THE YEARS.

D3 – FOWLER RANKS OUTFITS

RICKIE FOWLER: For me, it's just been it's more just having fun, not worrying what people think or say, enjoying being out there, kind of just having fun with it.

I was all for being fun and different people would have kind of a blue top or some maybe shorts options and said, let's just make all blue options. We'll just wear it all together. I can't remember the year. I'm assuming Saturday at Phoenix Green Out Day. I mean, I don't mind, I'll still wear it.

This is one of probably one of my more kind of favorite just because the being back at Pinehurst U.S. Open obviously Payne winning there. So being able to kind of get the not real knickers, but we made them work and look as close to knickers as possible. It's hard to say bold because it's not like loud and colorful, but we did a collab with Real Tree and they had shirt and short options and I just said we could. If you make the pants, we could potentially just wear all camo.

ANNC: So I don't know who that is. I believe it's Rickie Fowler. Can you see him? No. Top to bottom. Oh don't lose him. You might lose him in that bush with what he's wearing.

RICKIE FOWLER: I don't mind it, but sometimes. Yeah. Just go say screw it and have fun.

Palm tree crew I'm assuming this is PLAYERS. Usually when we do palm tree drop, I'd say this is a pretty mellow, just a little floral top. Nothing crazy.

This kind of become the simple, normal Sunday orange. We'll bring out some all-orange at some point.

ANNC: I have to talk to Ricky about that. Straight up orange, head to toe.

RICKIE FOWLER: That'll be make a little bit more of a splash now, instead of it being every week.

PRODUCER: Over the years. What's it been to kind of experiment? Maybe pushing boundaries. Have some fun with your fashion?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, kind of just having fun with it. I think that's been a big part of one of the only ways I could explain why kids became fans of me. So it was just me having fun, being genuine, you know, true to who I am. And yeah, we pushed the boundaries a little bit and maybe wore some stuff that other people wouldn't.