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CHRIS GOTTERUP

MODERATOR: Morning, everyone. We are joined with FedExCup leader and World No. 5, Chris Gotterup.

Chris, welcome. You're making your debut here at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. Just want to get some opening thoughts on what it's like to be at such an iconic spot.

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Yeah, obviously excited to be here and hopefully weather clears up a little bit. But even so, I was saying this morning I was like this is one of the only places all year where if it's raining, you're still pretty happy to be here.

Yeah, it will be an interesting test. I'm going to go out on the course this afternoon and see what it's like after the rain.

Yeah, obviously excited to be here at Pebble Beach.

MODERATOR: Tournament debut, but how many rounds do you think you've played here at the course, or last time?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: I think I have five, five rounds total. I played once for fun. Me and my dad had a bet when I was growing up that once I broke par, he would take me out here. So we came, I don't know how many years ago it was, but we came then, me and my brother and my dad played.

Then we played a college tournament here when I was at Oklahoma. It was our first one to start the year. It's an awesome place.

MODERATOR: Exciting start to the season with two wins, including last week. What's the outreach been from players or even on your phone, people reaching out?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Yeah, it's been awesome. I think it's cool to have everyone understanding -- I think everyone understands out here how hard it is to win. We were joking around, Scottie was following me at lunch and he's like, I'm just going to eat what you're eating. I was like, yeah, he's doing pretty good on his own so I'm not too worried about him.

Yeah, it's fun. You know, everyone at home, I haven't been home in a while so it's nice to hear from everyone. I think my parents are coming out today. Yeah, it's been fun to share it with everyone.

At some point when we get some time off I'll go home and celebrate with everyone. Yeah,



it's been a lot of fun.

Q. Chris, obviously these weren't your first two wins the last couple weeks, but I'm just curious about how you're navigating about sort of the sudden moment of affirmation, I guess. Like every golfer is chasing wins on the biggest stage against the best players and you've had two of those in the span of like three weeks. How do you navigate like all of the confidence and just the various emotions that come with that?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: I think after Sony I took a week off and kind of just hung out and practiced and played. It's just to just like -- I think part of it's nice to just be ready for this week where like that kind of -- I guess a little bit to what Scottie was saying last year, like, all right, you get your moment in the sun and then you have a new tournament the next week and it's kind of ready to roll a little bit.

Yeah, it's been, I mean, it's been great problems to have. Problems is a loose term. Just try to keep my head on straight and not get too over my skis and obviously get ready for, you know, the first Signature Event of the year and try to keep what I've been doing rolling.

Q. What was like the most unusual or unexpected part about winning on the PGA TOUR?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: I think just like the amount of, and it happens at every win I've had so far, it's like you go from like this crazy build-up of the week and trying to stay in the mix and kind of grind it out and then all of a sudden you're on top of the world.

Then it's like, all right, I have to get to -- my first win, we were in Myrtle Beach and I was like, all right, I have to get to the PGA Championship and I had no flights. Like all of a sudden you're back to reality and packing your bags and trying to figure out how you're going to get from point A to point B.

I think it's just like a funny, we were talking about it the other day, it's a funny part of what we do. You literally for a week reach the pinnacle of the sport for a week and then it's like, you know, an hour later you're packing your bags and making sure you've got everything and don't leave anything behind. I think it's a nice like reality check after a big win.

Q. How old were you when you broke par?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: I have the scorecard somewhere in my house. I think I was like 13 or 14, somewhere in that ballpark. But it was at my home course of Rumson. I don't remember exactly. I have it somewhere, but my mom's like got it framed and it's in the basement somewhere at the house.

Q. Do you have any other scorecards that you've kept that were meaningful?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Other than like tournament scorecards that I think the Tour sends us



when we win, we get the scorecards from the week, but nothing -- that was like -- other than a non-win, that's like the only one I think I have.

Q. And then when you said you came out here for a college tournament, was that -- where was it?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: I don't remember the name of it, but it was this guy Finn from Dallas, it was his, like he sponsored it and it was like a -- I don't even know how to describe it. I think he booked like whatever amount of tee times to start the day and then everyone played afterwards like normal play. It was here, yeah.

Q. And last thing, there was some stuff made earlier in the week that you've won four times before you get to Augusta. Now that you finally get to go this year, do you have any pre-Augusta plans?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: It's in the works at the moment. I'm going to try and go get a practice round in during Cognizant or Valspar, one of those weeks where I'm not going to play.

I haven't been yet. I've done a couple like sponsor things during the tournament, but they would always ask if I wanted to go over and I would say no because I didn't want to go on property until I played for real. This time I'll happily go over.

Q. You've not set foot on the property?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: No.

Q. It's nice.

CHRIS GOTTERUP: I've heard.

Q. Chris, I know you played well last year, but to be the No. 2 ranked American in the world, could you have imagined that a year, year and a half ago?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: No, definitely not. Not to say that I didn't ever -- like, I mean everyone out here will say that they're chasing to be the best version of themselves and you never know how high you can go. I still think I'm chasing the best version of myself on the golf course, which is exciting. It's part of why I think this game's great and why the Tour is so great, because every week everyone starts from scratch and you've got to earn your spot out here.

I think a year or two ago I definitely was putting pieces together, and I still am putting pieces together, but to see it kind of like build as it has is exciting. I think for my team as well, it's a lot of work that they've put in, a lot of work that we've all put in. For them to get some of that is awesome.



Q. When did it maybe click that you could compete out here?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: I think leaving school and getting off to a good start with sponsor exemptions. I was just talking to Andy from Travelers on the range and they gave me a spot three, four years ago.

I've had like the John Deere tournament director reach out to me from the past who gave me a spot. I finished fourth there I think when I first was leaving school. So that was like, all right, I'm not -- I'm not ready yet but like I was in a good spot and obviously beat a lot of good players that week.

I think now I'm much more prepared to like play well week in and week out where in the past I was explosive one week and then I would miss four cuts in a row. It's now much more of a -- my game, even when it doesn't feel great, I'm in better control of what's going on when it's not A-game.

Q. Chris, what's maybe been the hardest thing to grasp as you sit here right now? Is it four wins in a short period of time, is it being No. 4 in the world, or is it looking at your bank account?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: I don't think I've looked at my bank account this year.

Q. No need.

CHRIS GOTTERUP: I got nothing to -- I got nothing -- I've got everything I need so far.

I think it was funny, after I won someone said, "You're No. 5 in the world now." That was like, I mean it's just a number, but it is like crazy to think about especially like to your point before, it's like I think missing a couple cuts the start of my second year, I don't think I was inside the top-200.

I think it's just, I don't think I get too caught up in it all. I try to focus on what's in front of me and this week obviously is a big week for everyone.

But all that stuff is very cool, like there's no denying that, but it doesn't stop what we're trying to do. My coach texted me, he was saying, he's like obviously enjoy Sunday but I want you to get out there and do some combines and send me some texts and make sure you're doing your stuff still and not get too caught up in everything. Everyone keeps me in check and I try to keep myself in check for the most part, too.

Q. Looking way ahead, you're No. 4 in the Presidents Cup standings. What would that mean to play in that?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Yeah, it would mean a lot. Obviously at the end of last year I was trying to play my way onto the team for the Ryder Cup and that didn't happen. There's no



harm. I flew home with Keegan the other day and we were talking, he's been really supportive of me. He's been one of the first people to text me and say congrats and if I need anything, to talk to him.

But we talked. I talked to George on like Monday or Tuesday at Sony and he's like, what are your -- and I'm not a big goal guy but he was like, what are you goals, and I said I want to be at Medinah at the end of the year. And obviously off to good start, but like I said, every week is important to get to that point.

Q. Say the name of your golf course again where you first broke par?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Rumson Country Club.

Q. Do you remember what you shot or any specific --

CHRIS GOTTERUP: I think I shot 69, which is 2 under there.

Q. Do you remember what you shot here when your dad brought you out here? Any specific shots or holes?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: I remember I hit driver off 18 and hit the fairway, which at the time I was not playing particularly great.

But I just remember I have a video of my brother lipping out a putt on 18 and he fell to his knees.

It's one of those things that it was my first time like being a decent player and getting to like play a place like this and enjoying it rather than being a young kid and not really know what you're doing. I was able to like appreciate the history and the greatness of this place.

Q. I guess when you win you tend to cry. Are you a big crier?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: No, I'm not, like usually not. I don't know what happens in those interviews. Amanda or whoever is interviewing me gets me every time. I really, I've probably -- every time I win I can't control it and I don't know why.

My girlfriend was like, "You've never cried in the two years that we've dated, only when you won." I was like, I don't, I don't know what causes it or why but it happens.

It's just a crazy feeling of like you're trying to suppress everything all week of like there's so much going on, there's so much like going through your head and then like all of a sudden when the putt drops, it's just like your brain lets everything back in and it's an overwhelming amount of stuff hitting you at the same time and realizing what you just did. I don't know, it's hard to explain.



Q. This might be a little hard for me to understand, you've got to explain this one for me. You're messing around with changing your putter; is that right?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Kind of, not really. I'm using the same putter that I've used this year. But we've been trying to find something that, because my putter sits very flat because I putt left-hand-low and I'm kind of an upright putter to begin with, we've been trying to build the same putter.

But whether it's like shaving it down or to get it to sit flatter but have the same specs, and James has been helping us out with it. It's more of a trial and error process and at some time in the offseason or in the off weeks we'll mess with it.

But no, I'm not going to change what I've been using. My dad called me on Friday of last week after I putted great the first round and then putted bad. He was like, "Did you switch putters?" I'm like, "No, I did not switch putters, I'm using the same one that I'm comfortable with."

We're all crazy in the fact that we, I mean, you can go win four times and you're like I think I can change my putter and it will be better. In that sense, that's what we're doing.

Q. Chris, in '24 and the start of '25 your approach play, your numbers were down. Flipped midway through the summer last year, kind of coincides with your rise back up. I'm just wondering if there's anything specific you changed or tweaked or worked on to make that more of a strength as you've kind of elevated the last few months?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Yeah, a big focus of at least this offseason has been, even last year I think we looked at, we did end-of-the-year stats breakdown and I was losing the most strokes of my game in the 100 to 150 category. If I'm driving it well, that's what I have in a lot. To lose strokes in that department out here is not great.

So to the combine point that I made earlier, that's what we've been hammering home and trying to make sure my distance control has been good. Not that I didn't practice it before, but it wasn't a priority of mine. I didn't think it needed to be. It's been helpful to have stats breakdown be like, hey, numbers don't lie, this is what it's saying.

Yeah, it's been better this year. I definitely think I could say a couple things that need to improve, but that's why this game, that's why we're all nuts, we're always trying to find something else to work on.

Q. So it wasn't anything inherent in the swing or the strategy, just kind of working on it, putting hours in?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Definitely a little bit of strategy -- not strategy, but I've become a much better drawer of the ball. In the past I could not turn it over comfortably like under the gun and it's almost become more of my go-to shot under the gun. It's something that we've



talked about for a while where if I had a back left pin somewhere, I felt like I could not get it close. I would hit it in the middle of the green or miss it right and have a 40-footer. Now I feel like I have access to more pin locations, just trying to get as many looks throughout the week as possible and it's been a big help.

Q. Sorry, just wanted to follow up on the Augusta National thing. So you chose never to step foot on property? Why?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Well, I haven't been invited to play in general, but I would go down -- one of my sponsors would do a dinner down there every Wednesday before and they would ask if I wanted to go over on Thursday and watch.

I don't know, I feel like it would ruin my -- like one, I don't really like watching other people play unless I'm not playing that week. It's just my, I don't know, I'm kind of weird in that sense. Like I wanted it to be, like it's the most hyped up tournament in the sport and I don't want to go over there and be a spectator, I want to play.

I had faith in myself that I was going to be able to do it as a player. Now that I'm going to be able to, it will be much more rewarding stepping on the first tee there rather than being a fan.

Q. Is there something that you're excited to see or do while you're there? Something specific?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Nothing specific. It's just one of those tournaments where I think -- like here is similar in the fact that I could tell you every hole on that course even if I didn't step foot on it.

So I'm excited to just kind of be out there and enjoy maybe in one of these off weeks, enjoy, like get the, not the nerves, but like the awe factor of it hopefully away and try to get settled in by the time the tournament comes.

Just talking to like at the Bridgestone, stuff that we've done, talking to Freddie and Tiger and Jason and all these guys like about it, it's just the only tournament that everyone talks about all the time. I don't know, it's just exciting.

Q. Two things. Where did you win your state open in Jersey?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Trump Bedminster.

Q. Unrelated, you kind of touched on this earlier, when you mentioned being explosive and then missing four cuts in a row, what is it you've done when you first got out here to get to where you are now? Is it strictly swing related? There's got to be a lot of self belief in there. What was the trigger, I guess?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: You know, I don't, I don't really know. I think it's more of a -- it would



be a better question for my coach honestly than me. I think a lot of it is self belief and confidence in what I'm doing and what we're doing.

Q. Where does that come from?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Hours of practice and plenty of conversations of after missing a cut, like what the hell's wrong, like why is this happening.

And being able to -- being able to -- I think a big thing is being able to listen to -- I try to -- I like to think of myself as someone that like responds to feedback and not think that what I'm doing is right every time and like that everyone else is, you know, not wrong but like I'm going to listen to them. I have faith in them.

I think a lot of it is just I've always been someone that in the past was, I would get very like, not to get too into the weeds but I would get very left path and go like really far this way and then I would go really far this way.

I feel like we've got it to where my misses are better. Even when I'm off I can go to if I'm feeling more of a draw that week, I can go to that shot and be comfortable where there's weeks where I feel like I can't and I'll play cuts and make it work.

I feel like the weeks where I'm making it work, I'm still competitive, which in the past if I was off, I had no idea where to go. I feel like I have a much better sense of my game even when it's when I say wouldn't be, you know, point and shoot. The weeks where it's a little more thinking and a little bit more work, it's still very productive.

Q. OK. And lastly, what's the one thing about Scottie that impresses you the most?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: I think there's a couple things, but I think for me, having played with him last week, the first round he struggled. And he would say that, too. But like to go back out there the next round and like know that he's going to play well. Like he, and this is what I've tried to do a much better job of, too, is like wash the first round, like don't carry the first round into the rest of the week. Like first round's gone, reset and go shoot, like I don't know what he shot the next round, like 5, 6 under. Like don't let it carry over and then the next round's another even and then you're all upset and missing the cut, then it carries into the next week, the next week.

It's like just wash it away. Try to wash it away and just be ready to go for the next day. And if it goes well, great. If not, like it's more just I think the mindset of like he's not out of the tournament even if he -- I don't know what place he was in but obviously not where he would want to be after the first round. I think that's impressive. I think a lot of guys would agree.

Q. Keegan has talked about having a chip on his shoulder having played at St. John's and come out of the Northeast. Is that in your DNA at all?



CHRIS GOTTERUP: For sure. I think there's, I don't know if it's a chip on my shoulder in a sense but like it's something that I like take pride in. There's more of us out here now with Keegan, Max and John Pak last year and Ryan McCormick last year. There's more guys coming out of the Northeast.

It's just, I think it's a place that has a lot of pride in everything. I know for sure that when I go home a lot of people that I don't know care about what I'm doing because they share the same town or same area or we played the same course where we grew up. It's something that I take pride in and want to like represent that area of the country well.

MODERATOR: Perfect. That's all the questions we have. Thank you for the time.

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Yeah, you got it. Thank you.

