

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,040
From the Alex Trebek Stage
at Sony Pictures Studios, this

2
00:00:05,130 --> 00:00:07,830
is Inside Jeopardy!

3
00:00:08,790 --> 00:00:12,300
Hello and welcome back to Inside
Jeopardy!, your exclusive and official

4
00:00:12,300 --> 00:00:16,050
podcast destination for all things
happening in the world of Jeopardy!.

5
00:00:16,470 --> 00:00:23,850
I'm Sarah Foss, and today I'm joined by 21-game Jeopardy! super-champion
Chris Pannullo.

6
00:00:24,360 --> 00:00:26,010
Chris, welcome to the pod.

7
00:00:26,310 --> 00:00:27,390
It is wonderful to be here.

8
00:00:27,390 --> 00:00:29,310
Thank you for that
exceptional introduction.

9
00:00:29,460 --> 00:00:29,759
What's it

10
00:00:29,759 --> 00:00:30,630
like to hear that?

11
00:00:30,630 --> 00:00:32,790
Does it ever get old 21-game champion?

12
00:00:33,690 --> 00:00:33,930
That's

13

00:00:33,930 --> 00:00:37,530
probably the first time I've heard it
since you announced it to me, uh, in

14
00:00:37,530 --> 00:00:39,570
our last discussion after my last game.

15
00:00:39,570 --> 00:00:40,710
But it feels good.

16
00:00:40,710 --> 00:00:42,090
Every single time I hear it.

17
00:00:42,090 --> 00:00:43,320
I don't hear it too much at home.

18
00:00:43,380 --> 00:00:46,110
Heather's not often really just
banding it about, usually it's

19
00:00:46,110 --> 00:00:47,880
me that's saying it to Heather.

20
00:00:47,880 --> 00:00:50,070
Say, Hey, 21-game champion here.

21
00:00:50,225 --> 00:00:51,305
Little respect.

22
00:00:51,695 --> 00:00:52,265
Just a little.

23
00:00:52,295 --> 00:00:53,105
I'd need a little bit.

24
00:00:53,495 --> 00:00:57,905
So what's life been like since
you left the Alex Trebek Stage?

25
00:00:57,965 --> 00:01:00,605
Life has been very much back to normal.

26

00:01:00,665 --> 00:01:04,565
Like same job, same house, same
heather, same lentils, same routine.

27

00:01:05,045 --> 00:01:05,585
Oh good.

28

00:01:05,585 --> 00:01:07,115
I'm glad Lentils is still

29

00:01:07,120 --> 00:01:07,505
doing well.

30

00:01:07,505 --> 00:01:08,135
Yeah, she's still with us.

31

00:01:08,135 --> 00:01:09,785
She's 11, so she's an old rabbit.

32

00:01:10,055 --> 00:01:13,415
She does a lot of sleeping,
so I, uh, I envy her.

33

00:01:13,835 --> 00:01:17,465
Um, but yeah, people talk about how they
get recognized after their game and.

34

00:01:17,895 --> 00:01:19,425
That hasn't been my experience that much.

35

00:01:19,425 --> 00:01:23,865
I've been recognized in the year
since I taped just about, uh, six

36

00:01:23,865 --> 00:01:26,205
times in public, which is, that's it.

37

00:01:26,324 --> 00:01:26,595
Yeah.

38

00:01:26,595 --> 00:01:27,615

Only six times.

39

00:01:27,619 --> 00:01:30,854
So I think maybe because I look
kind of like everyone else in

40

00:01:30,854 --> 00:01:32,865
New Jersey, I sort of blend in.

41

00:01:33,074 --> 00:01:36,464
I'm usually wearing cargo shorts
and a t-shirt and not what I'm

42

00:01:36,464 --> 00:01:38,145
wearing on, uh, the jeopardy stage.

43

00:01:38,145 --> 00:01:39,195
So it's good.

44

00:01:39,195 --> 00:01:41,535
Everyone who's approached me
has been super considerate

45

00:01:41,535 --> 00:01:42,884
and polite and complimentary.

46

00:01:42,884 --> 00:01:45,945
So, the little brushes of fame
that I do get have been nice.

47

00:01:46,244 --> 00:01:49,154
The six occurrences have been good
ones the six brushes with fame.

48

00:01:49,154 --> 00:01:49,335
Yeah.

49

00:01:50,324 --> 00:01:52,664
Do they like to quiz
you in those six times?

50

00:01:52,664 --> 00:01:55,304

I know Ken would always talk about,
you know, people would practically

51

00:01:55,304 --> 00:01:59,115
come out of the woods when he'd be
at a lake to be quizzing him on some,

52

00:01:59,115 --> 00:02:00,734
you know, perfect trivia question.

53

00:02:01,125 --> 00:02:05,264
They have not, they usually ask first if
I'm the guy from Jeopardy! and then they

54

00:02:05,264 --> 00:02:06,824
just say, you know, congratulations it.

55

00:02:06,824 --> 00:02:08,084
It was a lot of fun to watch.

56

00:02:08,084 --> 00:02:10,394
Thank you for representing New Jersey.

57

00:02:10,755 --> 00:02:12,855
I guess you have to get to
the 70 game mark before.

58

00:02:13,605 --> 00:02:15,015
They start quizzing you on things.

59

00:02:15,015 --> 00:02:15,915
So, yeah.

60

00:02:16,905 --> 00:02:22,485
So I wanna know what your Jeopardy
journey was like when you first

61

00:02:22,490 --> 00:02:26,355
decided, you know, what I think I
should try out and, and how that looked.

62

00:02:26,355 --> 00:02:27,855

Did you try out more than once?

63

00:02:27,860 --> 00:02:29,685

How did it all go down

64

00:02:29,685 --> 00:02:30,135

for you?

65

00:02:30,825 --> 00:02:36,285

I've been trying out for a solid decade
or so, uh, seven or eight times on and

66

00:02:36,285 --> 00:02:38,385

off, um, prior to the Anytime test.

67

00:02:38,595 --> 00:02:41,295

If you missed the test,
you had to wait a year.

68

00:02:41,655 --> 00:02:43,484

And there were a couple
times where I just missed it.

69

00:02:44,024 --> 00:02:47,774

I actually got the call two
years ago and I was out of the

70

00:02:47,780 --> 00:02:49,245

country and I had to turn it down.

71

00:02:49,665 --> 00:02:49,755

Mm-hmm.

72

00:02:49,785 --> 00:02:51,495

Um, and I was like, oh man.

73

00:02:51,554 --> 00:02:57,644

It was like a crushing, but I, I was
like, all right, well, maybe in a year,

74

00:02:57,674 --> 00:02:59,055

maybe soon, they'll, they'll call me back.

75
00:02:59,055 --> 00:03:00,375
At least they know I'm on their radar.

76
00:03:00,795 --> 00:03:01,964
And then in my.

77
00:03:02,640 --> 00:03:04,620
I think 17th month of eligibility.

78
00:03:04,620 --> 00:03:07,650
Right before I was about to fall
off, I got the call again, and I

79
00:03:07,650 --> 00:03:09,299
think maybe you can check on this.

80
00:03:09,720 --> 00:03:14,640
The week I was supposed to tape
originally was, Amy Schneider and Andrew.

81
00:03:14,640 --> 00:03:15,720
He's tape date.

82
00:03:15,810 --> 00:03:16,680
Wow.

83
00:03:16,685 --> 00:03:19,290
So maybe I'm 80% sure
that that's the case.

84
00:03:19,380 --> 00:03:20,910
Luck was on your side.

85
00:03:21,060 --> 00:03:21,210
I

86
00:03:21,210 --> 00:03:25,230
guess so something was on my side,
but yeah, I, I told that to Andrew

87

00:03:25,234 --> 00:03:28,950
and we were taping masters and yeah,
it's a real sliding doors moment.

88
00:03:29,665 --> 00:03:34,584
Life has so many of those and we hear
it so often for Jeopardy champions.

89
00:03:34,915 --> 00:03:38,605
You know I talked about back when
James Holser was playing and you

90
00:03:38,605 --> 00:03:41,845
probably know if there's another
person with the same first name as you.

91
00:03:41,904 --> 00:03:44,725
They have the option of going
by a nickname or coming back

92
00:03:44,964 --> 00:03:46,554
and playing at a different time.

93
00:03:46,825 --> 00:03:49,435
We did have a James who made that choice.

94
00:03:49,464 --> 00:03:55,435
So you know, you never know when is the
best time, the most optimal time to come

95
00:03:55,435 --> 00:03:57,475
to the Alex Rebeck stage, but certainly.

96
00:03:58,055 --> 00:04:02,195
The second time you got the call
was the charm for you when you

97
00:04:02,195 --> 00:04:06,425
first arrived and you know, you go
on on the stage for the first time.

98
00:04:06,575 --> 00:04:07,715
What were you thinking?

99

00:04:07,720 --> 00:04:09,035

What was going through your mind?

100

00:04:09,755 --> 00:04:14,825

Well, that entire day I was watching David Sibley just mowed down all

101

00:04:14,825 --> 00:04:18,755

of his opponents and for the last game there were three of us there.

102

00:04:19,529 --> 00:04:22,919

And two of us would have to play David and one would get to go back to the hotel and

103

00:04:22,919 --> 00:04:27,810

rest and eat breakfast and come back and hope, hopefully David would not be there.

104

00:04:28,229 --> 00:04:32,340

And, uh, fortunately or unfortunately, I guess fortunately in hindsight, I

105

00:04:32,340 --> 00:04:37,229

got the call and I had to go up against David and buy the skin of my teeth.

106

00:04:37,229 --> 00:04:43,770

I managed to pull out a, a runaway and was very fortunate to, to win against two

107

00:04:43,770 --> 00:04:45,719

really good opponents in David and Pam.

108

00:04:45,870 --> 00:04:47,669

And, and then I was off to the

109

00:04:47,669 --> 00:04:48,090

aces.

110

00:04:48,525 --> 00:04:53,175

That is hard to play your first game
in that fifth game because like you

111

00:04:53,175 --> 00:04:58,665
mentioned, one, it's a long day, you've
been there for hours, and then two, you

112

00:04:58,670 --> 00:05:02,805
can't help but get in your head when
you're watching a champion kind of get

113

00:05:02,805 --> 00:05:05,745
into their streak, get their rhythm
on the buzzer, and you're thinking.

114

00:05:06,219 --> 00:05:07,960
I don't wanna come in right now.

115

00:05:07,960 --> 00:05:08,680
They're hot.

116

00:05:08,770 --> 00:05:09,760
I haven't played yet.

117

00:05:10,210 --> 00:05:11,770
But yet you pulled off a runaway.

118

00:05:11,770 --> 00:05:15,880
So that had to feel, not that that
moment of becoming a Jeopardy champion

119

00:05:15,880 --> 00:05:19,900
for the first time isn't excellent
on its own, but the way that it

120

00:05:19,905 --> 00:05:21,789
happened for you had to be particularly

121

00:05:21,789 --> 00:05:22,360
rewarding.

122

00:05:22,719 --> 00:05:24,670

Yeah, it was incredible.

123

00:05:24,670 --> 00:05:29,219
And Heather, I've been with Heather
for 12 years and she said, After I

124

00:05:29,219 --> 00:05:32,340
called her, we had a video call that
it was the happiest she's ever seen me.

125

00:05:32,490 --> 00:05:36,510
And so I think that's saying a lot, just
such an endorphin release after that game.

126

00:05:36,540 --> 00:05:38,940
Just waiting all day
and waiting and waiting.

127

00:05:38,940 --> 00:05:45,570
And then you have 20 minutes to, you
know, Your entire, like life has been

128

00:05:45,570 --> 00:05:50,490
leading to this moment and it, it
actually worked out and man, what a dream.

129

00:05:50,820 --> 00:05:50,940
Well,

130

00:05:50,940 --> 00:05:52,200
I love that you said that.

131

00:05:52,349 --> 00:05:54,570
Heather said it was the
happiest she's ever seen you.

132

00:05:54,570 --> 00:05:57,960
Because if there's one thing we
learned about you over your run is

133

00:05:57,960 --> 00:05:59,430
that you didn't show a lot of emotion.

134

00:05:59,430 --> 00:06:02,219
You told me you were having
fun, but I didn't necessarily

135

00:06:02,219 --> 00:06:03,330
know that if you didn't tell

136

00:06:03,330 --> 00:06:03,510
me.

137

00:06:04,104 --> 00:06:07,284
Yeah, I think after my second game,
Megan, one of the contestant producers

138

00:06:07,284 --> 00:06:10,015
came up to me and she's like, you
know, we, we read your application.

139

00:06:10,015 --> 00:06:12,594
We know you're really funny and
it's okay if you wanna show that.

140

00:06:13,075 --> 00:06:16,914
And I was thinking, oh man, I must
really be coming across as standoffish

141

00:06:16,914 --> 00:06:19,615
on camera if she has to say that to me.

142

00:06:19,674 --> 00:06:21,745
So I tried to loosen up a little bit.

143

00:06:21,805 --> 00:06:25,135
It's tough like, 'cause you're trying to
compete and you're trying to be in that

144

00:06:25,135 --> 00:06:29,125
moment and just focus on the board and
then you're inside your head and there

145

00:06:29,125 --> 00:06:30,655
are so many things to think about that.

146
00:06:30,830 --> 00:06:34,669
Cracking jokes and being convivial is,
is like fifth or sixth on the list.

147
00:06:34,669 --> 00:06:38,810
So I wouldn't change anything if I could,
except for maybe winning a few more games.

148
00:06:38,930 --> 00:06:39,380
Well,

149
00:06:39,440 --> 00:06:45,409
there's that, but you did end up, you
know, our biggest champion of season 39.

150
00:06:45,680 --> 00:06:47,450
We had come off of season 38.

151
00:06:47,455 --> 00:06:50,360
Everyone wonders, you know, what
was in the water for season 38.

152
00:06:50,360 --> 00:06:51,620
So many of these.

153
00:06:52,050 --> 00:06:55,500
Ultra super champions and then you
know, at the start of the season

154
00:06:55,500 --> 00:06:58,890
you come along and it really feels
like it's gonna be more of the same.

155
00:06:58,890 --> 00:07:02,430
But as we would come to know
for the rest of season 39, you

156
00:07:02,435 --> 00:07:04,800
really were our biggest champion.

157
00:07:04,980 --> 00:07:10,470

Yeah, it's a strange world to live in
where winning 21 games was sort of seen

158
00:07:10,470 --> 00:07:12,660
as normal and the continuation of normal.

159
00:07:12,660 --> 00:07:15,090
But I think maybe we're
sliding back into the.

160
00:07:15,419 --> 00:07:20,400
Preseason 38 world where winning
10 games is really, really hard.

161
00:07:20,489 --> 00:07:20,580
Mm-hmm.

162
00:07:20,820 --> 00:07:23,669
And even winning five, like there's
a reason that the threshold for the

163
00:07:23,669 --> 00:07:25,349
Tournament of Champions is five games.

164
00:07:25,590 --> 00:07:28,859
'cause it's incredibly difficult
to go up against 10 people

165
00:07:29,099 --> 00:07:31,409
and to beat them all in a row.

166
00:07:31,409 --> 00:07:36,210
And being able to manage all of the
different boards and stay confident on the

167
00:07:36,210 --> 00:07:38,640
buzzer, be on your feet for eight hours.

168
00:07:39,059 --> 00:07:40,770
It's incredibly difficult.

169
00:07:40,770 --> 00:07:43,679

At the end of each day,
I was completely spent.

170
00:07:44,130 --> 00:07:45,659
Then I didn't sleep well either.

171
00:07:45,930 --> 00:07:47,669
So back to the studio the next day.

172
00:07:47,669 --> 00:07:52,950
And yeah, 2020 games is incredible,
but five games is also incredible.

173
00:07:52,979 --> 00:07:53,400
I think

174
00:07:53,400 --> 00:07:57,000
just what you said, it really
said a lot about just how hard

175
00:07:57,000 --> 00:07:59,460
it is to excel at this game and.

176
00:08:00,300 --> 00:08:04,170
All the circumstances, you know, so
many things have to kind of come into

177
00:08:04,170 --> 00:08:07,050
play for a run to get strung together.

178
00:08:07,050 --> 00:08:10,350
And not that it's luck, I'm not saying
that, but just there are a lot of moments

179
00:08:10,350 --> 00:08:13,470
that have to kind of work out, you know,
whether it's a daily double knowledge

180
00:08:13,470 --> 00:08:15,000
and a final jeopardy competition.

181
00:08:15,000 --> 00:08:19,230

There's just so many variables that go into each and every Jeopardy game.

182

00:08:19,800 --> 00:08:20,970

So you leave us.

183

00:08:21,174 --> 00:08:24,205

After your 11th game, you know we're gonna take a little break.

184

00:08:24,205 --> 00:08:25,734

You head out on August 10th.

185

00:08:25,974 --> 00:08:28,885

Obviously your shows hadn't aired yet, but then we tape Second

186

00:08:28,885 --> 00:08:31,825

Chance and we tape the Tournament of Champions and you're basically

187

00:08:31,825 --> 00:08:34,105

home for two months, which really.

188

00:08:34,500 --> 00:08:35,610

Never happens.

189

00:08:35,610 --> 00:08:39,270

You know, we always talk about Jeopardy production time and Jeopardy airtime,

190

00:08:39,630 --> 00:08:44,220

to have that big of a gap, it's unusual and it's so unusual that it's very rare

191

00:08:44,220 --> 00:08:48,880

for a contestant other than Ken Jennings to see their episodes start airing.

192

00:08:49,465 --> 00:08:52,105

While they are set to return to play.

193

00:08:52,195 --> 00:08:55,495
Talk me through what that parallel
universe was like for you.

194
00:08:56,125 --> 00:09:00,025
It was very strange because most
people, when their games start

195
00:09:00,025 --> 00:09:01,465
airing, they know how it ends.

196
00:09:01,465 --> 00:09:06,025
So I wasn't sure how to act with
my friends because I could've, I

197
00:09:06,030 --> 00:09:10,585
could've been an 11 game champion,
I been a 12 game champion, or I

198
00:09:10,585 --> 00:09:12,175
could have been a 50 game champion.

199
00:09:12,175 --> 00:09:13,035
I knew it was going to be.

200
00:09:13,665 --> 00:09:17,385
Good, regardless, like 11 games
had far exceeded my expectations,

201
00:09:17,385 --> 00:09:19,185
but it was very strange.

202
00:09:19,185 --> 00:09:23,505
One benefit I did have was being
able to see how I had played.

203
00:09:23,564 --> 00:09:29,055
I was able to sort of fine tune a bit
of my strategy and see, oh, I might not

204
00:09:29,055 --> 00:09:30,614
be quite as good as James Holz Our, I.

205

00:09:31,380 --> 00:09:34,650
But I can play a similar system
and I can make some adjustments

206

00:09:34,650 --> 00:09:36,420
and be a little bit better.

207

00:09:36,540 --> 00:09:37,740
I had that going for me.

208

00:09:37,740 --> 00:09:41,850
I was able to maybe make a few little
adjustments and, and improve my

209

00:09:41,850 --> 00:09:43,290
game, which most people do not get

210

00:09:43,290 --> 00:09:43,590
to do.

211

00:09:43,860 --> 00:09:45,120
Yeah, that's interesting.

212

00:09:45,420 --> 00:09:48,330
And what had been your process
from when you got the call

213

00:09:48,330 --> 00:09:49,650
to when you first appeared?

214

00:09:49,650 --> 00:09:51,720
What was your preparation?

215

00:09:51,720 --> 00:09:55,260
Did you go into, you know, heavy
prep mode or did you just kind

216

00:09:55,260 --> 00:09:56,790
of trust you, knew what you knew?

217

00:09:56,790 --> 00:09:57,870

What did that look like for you?

218

00:09:58,775 --> 00:10:03,364

I was pretty heavy into flashcards
for the majority of the, the 18

219

00:10:03,370 --> 00:10:05,584

months I was on the, uh, on the list.

220

00:10:05,734 --> 00:10:08,194

And when I got the call, I
just like dove into it fully.

221

00:10:08,255 --> 00:10:09,694

Just a couple of hours a day.

222

00:10:09,755 --> 00:10:12,305

I was having trouble sleeping
because I was so excited for it.

223

00:10:12,484 --> 00:10:13,055

So I'd wake up at.

224

00:10:13,200 --> 00:10:17,670

4:00 AM and just lying in bed, you go
for flashcards for a couple of hours.

225

00:10:17,940 --> 00:10:21,360

And that insomnia, I think
probably, um, ended up being a

226

00:10:21,360 --> 00:10:24,240

little bit beneficial, even if it
took a year or two off of my life.

227

00:10:24,300 --> 00:10:27,540

Now did Heather ever help you with
the flashcards and studying, or

228

00:10:27,540 --> 00:10:28,560

was that kind of something you

229

00:10:28,560 --> 00:10:29,130
did on your own?

230
00:10:29,310 --> 00:10:30,960
No, I, I, I just let her sleep.

231
00:10:31,260 --> 00:10:33,750
It's something that I,
I would do it on my own.

232
00:10:33,750 --> 00:10:36,780
I would take a walk and just sit on
a bench or I would do it at the gym.

233
00:10:37,170 --> 00:10:40,320
Um, just anytime I had,
you know, a few minutes.

234
00:10:40,320 --> 00:10:43,290
It wasn't all like, With the exception
of, uh, when I couldn't sleep, it

235
00:10:43,290 --> 00:10:44,790
was just like sort of piecemeal.

236
00:10:44,790 --> 00:10:47,849
Anytime I could get a couple of
minutes, I would do it and I did

237
00:10:47,849 --> 00:10:49,050
not want to bother Heather with

238
00:10:49,050 --> 00:10:49,199
it.

239
00:10:49,260 --> 00:10:50,130
That's a nice partner.

240
00:10:50,480 --> 00:10:50,770
Yeah.

241
00:10:51,329 --> 00:10:53,250

That's probably a good thing for your relationship.

242

00:10:53,790 --> 00:10:56,040

Now, you had alluded that you were a former.

243

00:10:56,300 --> 00:11:01,640

Poker player, and that is a profession that has come up in a lot of our, you

244

00:11:01,640 --> 00:11:06,349

know, in a lot, I won't say a lot, but in more than one of our great champions.

245

00:11:06,650 --> 00:11:08,359

What do you attribute that to?

246

00:11:08,359 --> 00:11:11,689

Or is there something that, you know, some connective tissue to being

247

00:11:11,694 --> 00:11:13,250

good at poker and good at jeopardy?

248

00:11:13,849 --> 00:11:16,640

I just think that it allows you to think strategically about

249

00:11:16,640 --> 00:11:17,839

the game a little bit more.

250

00:11:18,079 --> 00:11:20,120

It's not just answers and questions.

251

00:11:20,120 --> 00:11:22,790

It's also where do you attack the board?

252

00:11:22,790 --> 00:11:23,870

How much do you bet.

253

00:11:24,240 --> 00:11:26,460

Where do you get your edges?

254

00:11:26,520 --> 00:11:29,160
You don't have too many edges
in jeopardy outside of knowing

255

00:11:29,160 --> 00:11:30,570
the answers, but there are some.

256

00:11:30,570 --> 00:11:34,050
And if you can find the daily doubles,
if you can keep control of the board,

257

00:11:34,050 --> 00:11:40,020
then you can take, you know, what
might be a 30% edge and make it 35%.

258

00:11:40,025 --> 00:11:43,140
And that might not sound big, but
it could be the difference between

259

00:11:43,140 --> 00:11:45,510
winning, you know, 21 games versus.

260

00:11:45,949 --> 00:11:46,880
You know, 17.

261

00:11:46,970 --> 00:11:47,270
And did

262

00:11:47,270 --> 00:11:49,610
you have a goal for yourself coming in?

263

00:11:49,610 --> 00:11:53,090
Did you have a benchmark like,
I wanna make it to the t o c, or

264

00:11:53,090 --> 00:11:56,210
I just wanna be a champion, or
I just wanna make it to final?

265

00:11:56,210 --> 00:11:57,860

Like what was kind of your personal

266

00:11:57,860 --> 00:11:58,520
benchmark?

267

00:11:58,970 --> 00:12:02,449
My personal benchmark
was just to play well.

268

00:12:02,630 --> 00:12:07,939
So to make big wages when I knew I had to
make them to find the daily doubles and.

269

00:12:08,250 --> 00:12:11,460
If you don't know the answer,
if you don't know something,

270

00:12:11,520 --> 00:12:12,690
you can't really control that.

271

00:12:12,690 --> 00:12:15,060
You can't control what the
questions are, what the answers are.

272

00:12:15,330 --> 00:12:17,550
All you can control is how you're playing.

273

00:12:17,790 --> 00:12:21,120
So I just wanted to make sure that I
was playing the way I knew I could.

274

00:12:21,120 --> 00:12:21,150
I.

275

00:12:22,050 --> 00:12:23,490
If things went well, they went well.

276

00:12:23,490 --> 00:12:26,130
And if not, then at least I
gave myself a chance to succeed.

277

00:12:26,220 --> 00:12:27,450

That was all I really wanted.

278

00:12:27,450 --> 00:12:30,750
And then after that first game,
everything else was just gravy.

279

00:12:30,990 --> 00:12:31,320
Well, in

280

00:12:31,320 --> 00:12:35,520
terms of your approach, you know,
you really did come in a little

281

00:12:35,520 --> 00:12:38,190
holt's howing, like with those.

282

00:12:38,615 --> 00:12:40,355
Big daily double wagers.

283

00:12:40,625 --> 00:12:44,045
You know, I think you can think
you're gonna do that heading in, but

284

00:12:44,045 --> 00:12:47,795
actually being up on that stage and
being able to have the chance to,

285

00:12:47,885 --> 00:12:49,985
to win or lose money that quickly.

286

00:12:50,255 --> 00:12:51,365
Were you surprised?

287

00:12:51,395 --> 00:12:54,665
Or was it like, yep, this is
just how I thought it would be

288

00:12:54,670 --> 00:12:55,715
and I'm, I'm ready to put it

289

00:12:55,715 --> 00:12:56,255
all out there.

290

00:12:56,585 --> 00:12:59,825

It was just like how I thought
it would be going over old games

291

00:12:59,825 --> 00:13:02,100

and, you know, Sort of train.

292

00:13:02,130 --> 00:13:04,949

I, I would train a little bit, go
through old situations and see,

293

00:13:05,189 --> 00:13:08,220

alright, what's the best bet size
in this particular situation?

294

00:13:08,220 --> 00:13:12,569

And it's almost always a lot, there are
very few situations where you should

295

00:13:12,574 --> 00:13:14,340

be betting small amounts in jeopardy.

296

00:13:14,430 --> 00:13:17,069

There are some, uh, in
strategic situations, but I.

297

00:13:17,740 --> 00:13:20,530

You know, just having trained
myself and knowing, okay, these

298

00:13:20,530 --> 00:13:23,170

are the betts I have to make and
the times that I need to make them.

299

00:13:23,380 --> 00:13:25,930

And so when I was up there, I
don't remember much from being

300

00:13:25,935 --> 00:13:29,020

up there, so it was just, you
know, second nature at that point.

301

00:13:29,020 --> 00:13:32,110
I had, I had gotten myself into
a state of mind where I knew

302

00:13:32,260 --> 00:13:35,790
generally the right bets to make,
and if there's any, Regrets I have.

303

00:13:35,790 --> 00:13:39,329
There were plenty of times I didn't
bet as much as I should have, and I

304

00:13:39,329 --> 00:13:42,000
was a little bit too conservative,
if that tells you anything about how

305

00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:43,620
Jeopardy should probably be played.

306

00:13:43,739 --> 00:13:44,520
Interesting.

307

00:13:45,089 --> 00:13:50,069
I have to ask, as one of five
siblings, has it changed?

308

00:13:50,130 --> 00:13:52,949
You know, do you get any more
respect in the family now?

309

00:13:52,954 --> 00:13:55,170
Do you get a little more
ribbing from your siblings?

310

00:13:55,199 --> 00:13:58,469
What's it like to be in your family now
that you're this big Jeopardy champion?

311

00:13:58,775 --> 00:13:59,255
It's

312

00:13:59,435 --> 00:14:02,255

exactly the same at,
at the first few games.

313

00:14:02,255 --> 00:14:06,035
It was real high stakes for,
for all of my siblings watching.

314

00:14:06,454 --> 00:14:10,655
But by about game seven or eight,
my sister Rachel, who is very

315

00:14:10,660 --> 00:14:12,334
competitive, she played D one soccer.

316

00:14:12,665 --> 00:14:16,834
She was, you know, super, super
nervous for the few first few games.

317

00:14:16,834 --> 00:14:20,074
She was like, you know, I, I feel
bad for some of these opponents.

318

00:14:20,105 --> 00:14:23,944
She's like, I'm not rooting against you,
but everyone out there is, is playing and.

319

00:14:24,465 --> 00:14:26,055
They all deserve their chance too.

320

00:14:26,055 --> 00:14:29,835
So my siblings are, they're very nice
people and they're very supportive

321

00:14:29,835 --> 00:14:32,745
of me, but even they were tired of
me after like seven or eight games.

322

00:14:33,135 --> 00:14:33,495
Oh my

323

00:14:33,495 --> 00:14:34,215
goodness.

324

00:14:34,245 --> 00:14:36,435

What would it have been like
if you were Ken Jennings?

325

00:14:36,435 --> 00:14:38,115

They would've been turning
off the television.

326

00:14:38,115 --> 00:14:38,175

I guess I

327

00:14:38,175 --> 00:14:39,704

would've been disowned at that point.

328

00:14:39,824 --> 00:14:40,365

All right.

329

00:14:40,365 --> 00:14:41,985

Well, good thing you only went 21.

330

00:14:41,985 --> 00:14:42,045

Yeah.

331

00:14:42,675 --> 00:14:45,525

Often in your wagers you
would use Heather's birthday.

332

00:14:45,525 --> 00:14:48,765

We came to learn that February
21st was Heather's birthday.

333

00:14:48,765 --> 00:14:53,595

Two twenty one came up a lot in
your wagering and scoring, and

334

00:14:53,595 --> 00:14:55,515

then here comes February 21st.

335

00:14:56,370 --> 00:14:59,790

Even Jeopardy is like
posting about the day.

336

00:15:00,030 --> 00:15:03,390
What was it like for Heather to
celebrate a birthday that had, you

337

00:15:03,390 --> 00:15:06,900
know, probably been recognized by you in
the past, but maybe not to this level?

338

00:15:06,905 --> 00:15:09,300
I have to know what that
first celebration was like.

339

00:15:09,390 --> 00:15:10,170
It was really nice.

340

00:15:10,170 --> 00:15:13,680
It was nice to see that post from
Jeopardy and the social media people

341

00:15:13,800 --> 00:15:15,180
and she really got a kick out of it.

342

00:15:15,180 --> 00:15:19,530
She got messages from her friends and
family who, who are pointing it out and

343

00:15:19,800 --> 00:15:23,130
it's, it's really nice for Jeopardy to
have done that and she really enjoyed it

344

00:15:23,190 --> 00:15:25,500
and got to celebrate a nice birthday with.

345

00:15:25,980 --> 00:15:28,260
Thousands of people who do
not know her personally.

346

00:15:28,290 --> 00:15:28,650
For those

347

00:15:28,655 --> 00:15:32,280
of you who didn't see it, there

was a picture of Chris and it said,

348

00:15:32,280 --> 00:15:37,560
happy 2 21, and it said, somewhere in
Ocean City, New Jersey, a bunny named

349

00:15:37,560 --> 00:15:41,820
Lentils and a boy named Chris are
celebrating the best day of the year.

350

00:15:41,825 --> 00:15:43,020
So, That was funny.

351

00:15:43,260 --> 00:15:45,870
You know, James did the same
thing when he was playing.

352

00:15:45,870 --> 00:15:48,390
You would often put his
anniversary in there.

353

00:15:48,390 --> 00:15:52,110
He would put his daughter's birthday
and like these little nuggets, but

354

00:15:52,170 --> 00:15:55,140
you know, you don't know until after
the fact if that's something that

355

00:15:55,380 --> 00:15:56,850
someone in your family is gonna like.

356

00:15:56,850 --> 00:15:59,820
So I'm glad to hear that it
was well received by Heather.

357

00:16:00,270 --> 00:16:00,480
Me too.

358

00:16:01,500 --> 00:16:01,830
Yeah.

359

00:16:01,860 --> 00:16:04,770
You had to go home and be like, just so
you know, I talked about you and your

360
00:16:04,770 --> 00:16:06,900
birthday a few times in my 21 games.

361
00:16:07,115 --> 00:16:11,705
So as it's happening and you're
building up these stats and we have

362
00:16:11,705 --> 00:16:16,805
this famous leaderboard of legends,
and you're going up the ranks, you're

363
00:16:16,805 --> 00:16:19,145
surpassing these jeopardy legends.

364
00:16:19,150 --> 00:16:21,995
What's it like as that's unfolding?

365
00:16:22,385 --> 00:16:26,225
There really is not any time to think
about it because it happens so fast.

366
00:16:26,495 --> 00:16:28,295
Even with that two month gap.

367
00:16:29,010 --> 00:16:30,870
And stopping at 11 games.

368
00:16:30,870 --> 00:16:34,770
At that point I was, I was at 10 games,
so I was already at a really good level,

369
00:16:34,860 --> 00:16:37,949
but then going back to the studio,
it was, all right, that's WIN 12.

370
00:16:37,980 --> 00:16:39,180
All right, that's WIN 13.

371

00:16:39,240 --> 00:16:40,319
All right, that's win 14.

372
00:16:40,380 --> 00:16:42,660
And so you don't have a chance to reflect.

373
00:16:42,660 --> 00:16:44,370
It's just, all right, get changed.

374
00:16:44,579 --> 00:16:46,199
15 minutes back out next game.

375
00:16:46,439 --> 00:16:47,370
And so you just.

376
00:16:47,925 --> 00:16:51,375
Have to take it as it comes and
you only get to reflect at the end.

377
00:16:51,405 --> 00:16:54,675
And so at the end I was just
thinking about it and 20 wins

378
00:16:54,675 --> 00:16:57,315
has only been accomplished seven
times with Julia Collins, I guess.

379
00:16:57,345 --> 00:16:57,705
Yes

380
00:16:57,705 --> 00:17:01,905
you are sixth place behind Matea Roach

381
00:17:01,965 --> 00:17:03,225
and then Julia Collins has 20.

382
00:17:03,225 --> 00:17:04,305
Exactly, yes.

383
00:17:04,485 --> 00:17:09,705
So that's, I mean, we've been in
the era of going past five wins for

384
00:17:09,705 --> 00:17:11,565
20 years now, and to be in the top.

385
00:17:12,149 --> 00:17:17,939
Six is ridiculous, and I don't
think I'll ever truly be able to

386
00:17:18,000 --> 00:17:22,889
conceptualize how rare it is, but I'm,
I'm definitely thankful that it happened.

387
00:17:23,010 --> 00:17:26,099
Well, and then you're even
higher for, you know, highest

388
00:17:26,099 --> 00:17:27,300
winnings in the regular season.

389
00:17:27,300 --> 00:17:32,699
You're number five, I mean, nearly three
quarters of a million dollars you earned.

390
00:17:33,060 --> 00:17:33,449
Yeah.

391
00:17:33,510 --> 00:17:35,010
Of all the 10 game winners I am.

392
00:17:35,639 --> 00:17:37,170
Third in per game winning.

393
00:17:37,170 --> 00:17:40,440
So it's James, it's Matt, and
then it's me and then a little,

394
00:17:40,440 --> 00:17:41,820
little guy called Ken Jennings.

395
00:17:42,120 --> 00:17:45,060
That's always fun to say
in jeopardy stats as well.

396

00:17:45,510 --> 00:17:47,970

Did you do anything fun
with all that money?

397

00:17:47,970 --> 00:17:51,780

I mean, anything fun and exciting
or is it all just nicely invested?

398

00:17:52,110 --> 00:17:53,399

It's all nicely invested.

399

00:17:53,645 --> 00:17:55,770

I, I live a pretty fun life, but.

400

00:17:56,129 --> 00:18:00,240

I'm not a, a risk taker, I'm not a
thrill seeker, so most of the nice

401

00:18:00,240 --> 00:18:03,450

things are going to restaurants
or, or spending time with Heather.

402

00:18:03,450 --> 00:18:05,550

So it's not a reckless life

403

00:18:05,550 --> 00:18:06,090

that I live.

404

00:18:06,180 --> 00:18:06,510

Yeah.

405

00:18:06,510 --> 00:18:08,190

Only on the Alex Beck State.

406

00:18:08,220 --> 00:18:09,720

You talked about that in your initial run.

407

00:18:09,720 --> 00:18:13,050

You know, I don't take risks and
we're like, you just wage thousands

408

00:18:13,050 --> 00:18:16,650
of dollars in a matter of seconds,
but that is not a risk to you, I

409

00:18:16,650 --> 00:18:17,129
guess.

410

00:18:17,610 --> 00:18:22,020
Yeah, you have to take some risks,
but the, the bigger risk is not taking

411

00:18:22,020 --> 00:18:23,820
the risk at all on the jeopardy stage.

412

00:18:23,850 --> 00:18:25,379
You have to take risks if you wanna win.

413

00:18:26,385 --> 00:18:29,625
In one of your games you earned,
I think it was, you know, almost

414

00:18:29,625 --> 00:18:33,105
\$72,000 within 30 minutes.

415

00:18:33,555 --> 00:18:35,355
It's not bad for a half hour's work,

416

00:18:35,355 --> 00:18:35,625
huh?

417

00:18:35,775 --> 00:18:36,705
No, not at all.

418

00:18:36,710 --> 00:18:39,764
That is one of the games I think I
could have been more aggressive on.

419

00:18:39,764 --> 00:18:41,655
Like I could have bet
more in final jeopardy.

420

00:18:41,655 --> 00:18:43,575
I could have bet I found
all three daily doubles.

421
00:18:43,575 --> 00:18:46,185
I could have had aggressively
on the two latter ones.

422
00:18:46,185 --> 00:18:46,665
I could have.

423
00:18:47,050 --> 00:18:49,510
Finished with six figures,
maybe in that game.

424
00:18:49,930 --> 00:18:54,760
Uh, I'm not complaining, but I think
when I look back at some of my regrets,

425
00:18:54,760 --> 00:18:58,180
that's, that's one of them I'd, I would've
loved to have hit six figures in a game.

426
00:18:58,510 --> 00:18:58,660
Well,

427
00:18:58,665 --> 00:19:01,660
and then you look at someone
like James Sauer who had so

428
00:19:01,665 --> 00:19:02,980
many, I mean, I think he holds.

429
00:19:02,980 --> 00:19:05,804
Like 12 of, you know, the
highest one game totals.

430
00:19:06,435 --> 00:19:09,435
And he was probably our most
aggressive player in the past.

431
00:19:09,435 --> 00:19:12,645
So to know how you played, which

was pretty aggressive, but then to

432

00:19:12,645 --> 00:19:16,665
know how much more aggressively you
have to play to really get that six

433

00:19:16,665 --> 00:19:18,314
figure total it, it says a lot about

434

00:19:18,314 --> 00:19:18,794
gameplay.

435

00:19:18,794 --> 00:19:18,795
Yeah.

436

00:19:19,274 --> 00:19:23,895
I believe his average score
is higher than all of my.

437

00:19:24,260 --> 00:19:25,520
Even my highest score.

438

00:19:25,610 --> 00:19:29,030
So I mean, people say, James Holts
Outer broke the game of Jeopardy.

439

00:19:29,030 --> 00:19:32,720
But if you know all of the answers,
which James basically does, it's

440

00:19:32,720 --> 00:19:35,270
going to be really hard to beat him.

441

00:19:35,270 --> 00:19:37,820
And it's, that's not something
you can easily replicate.

442

00:19:37,825 --> 00:19:42,050
You can't just go on jeopardy and bet
really high on every question unless

443

00:19:42,055 --> 00:19:43,610

you know almost every question, right.

444

00:19:43,880 --> 00:19:45,320
Which very few people do.

445

00:19:45,320 --> 00:19:48,020
And James, James knows more
than almost anyone else.

446

00:19:48,389 --> 00:19:51,899
Well, you got to meet James
because as many people know, you

447

00:19:51,899 --> 00:19:54,540
were our alternate for masters.

448

00:19:54,570 --> 00:19:55,560
We gave you the call.

449

00:19:55,560 --> 00:20:00,180
We said, Hey, please come out to
Los Angeles, be our alternate.

450

00:20:00,450 --> 00:20:03,120
The way that this, you know,
competition is structured.

451

00:20:03,120 --> 00:20:05,940
If we don't put you in the first
day, we won't be able to add you

452

00:20:05,940 --> 00:20:07,800
subsequently because of the point system.

453

00:20:07,800 --> 00:20:09,480
But what was that experience

454

00:20:09,480 --> 00:20:09,870
like?

455

00:20:10,050 --> 00:20:12,629
Masters was like a dream too,

even without getting to play.

456

00:20:12,629 --> 00:20:16,170
Getting to meet James and Sam
and Matt and Andrew, Amy Mateo.

457

00:20:16,540 --> 00:20:21,070
I was just there trying to keep the
mood light and so I was just trying

458

00:20:21,070 --> 00:20:22,540
to, you know, crack some jokes.

459

00:20:22,815 --> 00:20:24,135
Laugh at Sam's jokes.

460

00:20:24,495 --> 00:20:27,195
Tell Matt how much I enjoy
Yale as a university.

461

00:20:27,195 --> 00:20:29,625
Just trying to, trying
to keep the mood light.

462

00:20:30,015 --> 00:20:32,265
And I, I think, I think I did
a pretty good job of that.

463

00:20:32,325 --> 00:20:33,765
It was a really great experience.

464

00:20:33,765 --> 00:20:34,935
They're all awesome people.

465

00:20:34,995 --> 00:20:35,415
See, this

466

00:20:35,415 --> 00:20:38,475
is when your jovial joking
side can really come out.

467

00:20:38,505 --> 00:20:41,055

'cause you don't have to
be on the stage competing.

468
00:20:41,385 --> 00:20:41,925
Exactly.

469
00:20:41,925 --> 00:20:43,215
Everyone there seemed.

470
00:20:43,485 --> 00:20:48,225
Way, way more, you know, upbeat and
open and, and ready to, you know,

471
00:20:48,225 --> 00:20:49,514
be happy than I would've been.

472
00:20:49,520 --> 00:20:52,935
I would probably would've been a
little tighter and, and more tense.

473
00:20:53,145 --> 00:20:54,344
I mean, they didn't need me there.

474
00:20:54,350 --> 00:20:57,975
They were just as happy go lucky as
they probably otherwise would've been.

475
00:20:58,064 --> 00:20:58,514
And what was

476
00:20:58,514 --> 00:21:01,485
it like for you then to
watch Masters at home?

477
00:21:01,489 --> 00:21:04,665
You know, you saw the beginning, you
didn't see the culmination, but what

478
00:21:04,665 --> 00:21:07,814
was it like to have been there and
then to see how it all played out?

479

00:21:08,324 --> 00:21:09,824
It was really incredible.

480
00:21:09,824 --> 00:21:10,665
The.

481
00:21:11,025 --> 00:21:16,125
Andrew and Matea tiebreaker moment,
and then the finals with James

482
00:21:16,125 --> 00:21:17,655
just barely squeaking out the wind.

483
00:21:17,655 --> 00:21:18,195
It ended up being.

484
00:21:19,110 --> 00:21:24,300
Really incredible drama and I'm, I'm glad
that the first edition of Masters sort

485
00:21:24,300 --> 00:21:27,660
of lived up to what it could have been,
and hopefully next year does as well.

486
00:21:27,780 --> 00:21:28,290
Yeah, we're

487
00:21:28,290 --> 00:21:29,310
excited about that.

488
00:21:29,730 --> 00:21:33,840
Going back to the end of your
initial run, your last game,

489
00:21:33,845 --> 00:21:36,030
you go up against Andy Terrell.

490
00:21:36,705 --> 00:21:41,655
It was a game nine lead changes between
the two of you within that game,

491
00:21:41,655 --> 00:21:45,885

and I still don't know how Andy did
the comeback that he did going from

492

00:21:45,945 --> 00:21:48,645
negative 2000 to winning the game.

493

00:21:48,705 --> 00:21:50,055
What was that game like?

494

00:21:50,055 --> 00:21:53,965
Obviously a very different game than
you had played in the 21 previous games.

495

00:21:54,185 --> 00:21:58,365
It felt like a pretty standard
game through the jeopardy round.

496

00:21:58,740 --> 00:22:02,880
And then I missed the first
daily double in double jeopardy,

497

00:22:02,880 --> 00:22:05,550
which put me down pretty bad.

498

00:22:06,000 --> 00:22:10,140
Uh, and then Andy found the third one,
and I was in even worse sheep than I

499

00:22:10,145 --> 00:22:12,210
had to crawl myself out of the hole.

500

00:22:12,210 --> 00:22:17,040
And I passed Andy on the very last
question of the game, which I remember.

501

00:22:17,340 --> 00:22:20,700
I, I remember looking at the question
and not fully processing it, but

502

00:22:20,700 --> 00:22:22,170
knowing I had to ring in on it.

503

00:22:22,410 --> 00:22:25,290
And I rang in on it and I
read it again and again.

504
00:22:25,290 --> 00:22:26,850
And then I finally responded to Ken.

505
00:22:26,880 --> 00:22:30,300
And I believe the answer was Helsinki and
I got it and I was like, all right, great.

506
00:22:30,480 --> 00:22:34,020
And then I didn't really take into account
the fact that I needed to get final

507
00:22:34,020 --> 00:22:35,550
jeopardy right as well, which I did not.

508
00:22:35,940 --> 00:22:39,480
I remember that game being really
tense the whole time, which a lot

509
00:22:39,480 --> 00:22:42,960
of my games were, but this one just
ended up a little bit differently.

510
00:22:44,010 --> 00:22:48,105
Well, and I think James, once again
pointing out that you both ended

511
00:22:48,105 --> 00:22:50,745
your run with a Shakespeare category.

512
00:22:50,805 --> 00:22:53,865
James had Wagered 1399 in his game.

513
00:22:53,865 --> 00:22:56,085
You had ended with 1399.

514
00:22:56,085 --> 00:22:58,305
The similarities, they just don't stop.

515

00:22:58,665 --> 00:23:00,435
No, the Just keep 'em coming.

516
00:23:00,435 --> 00:23:04,695
Hopefully, uh, I win my Tournament of
Champions and masters just like James did.

517
00:23:04,935 --> 00:23:05,235
There you

518
00:23:05,235 --> 00:23:05,625
go.

519
00:23:05,655 --> 00:23:07,635
Well, that is what's next.

520
00:23:07,635 --> 00:23:09,405
So you leave us on that day.

521
00:23:09,855 --> 00:23:11,745
But you know, you're coming back.

522
00:23:11,775 --> 00:23:14,205
And what's that like for a contestant?

523
00:23:14,235 --> 00:23:17,835
You know, obviously once you secure that
fifth game, you know this isn't gonna be

524
00:23:18,195 --> 00:23:19,995
your last chance on the Alex Trebek stage.

525
00:23:19,995 --> 00:23:22,845
What's it like knowing you
have a guaranteed invitation

526
00:23:22,845 --> 00:23:23,265
back?

527
00:23:24,255 --> 00:23:28,875
I mean, I was thrilled just to be able
to go to the studio once for a single

528
00:23:28,875 --> 00:23:31,335
tape day and play in a single episode.

529
00:23:31,965 --> 00:23:38,235
But now I've had 22 games over six tape
days, and then going back for masters.

530
00:23:38,504 --> 00:23:41,685
Every time I go out there, it's
sort of like a childhood dream.

531
00:23:41,745 --> 00:23:46,905
Reac accomplished and relived, knowing
that I get to go back again is really

532
00:23:46,965 --> 00:23:49,575
just, again, it's a dream come true.

533
00:23:49,995 --> 00:23:53,835
And, uh, I know it'll be harder
this time because everyone out there

534
00:23:53,835 --> 00:23:58,635
for the Tournament of Champions
is really, really good and I, I am

535
00:23:58,635 --> 00:23:59,835
looking forward to the challenge.

536
00:24:00,360 --> 00:24:00,629
It was

537
00:24:00,629 --> 00:24:02,520
actually Ben Chan who brought up to us.

538
00:24:02,520 --> 00:24:07,530
You know, we may not have as many of
these super champions in the mix, but

539
00:24:07,530 --> 00:24:12,570
if you look at our stats, many would say

are better than a lot of the competition

540

00:24:12,750 --> 00:24:14,669
in last year's Tournament of Champions.

541

00:24:14,699 --> 00:24:17,669
So you've got some tough
competition to face.

542

00:24:17,669 --> 00:24:21,719
Is there anyone in particular that you
are nervous about or anything that you're

543

00:24:21,719 --> 00:24:23,610
gonna do differently in your strategy of

544

00:24:23,615 --> 00:24:24,300
preparing?

545

00:24:24,510 --> 00:24:27,060
Uh, I think there are
maybe some incremental.

546

00:24:27,295 --> 00:24:30,325
It improvements I can make,
and I'll hopefully make those.

547

00:24:30,595 --> 00:24:36,475
But like Ben said, everyone there is
really good, and a lot of people probably

548

00:24:36,480 --> 00:24:38,215
could have won 10 games or more this year.

549

00:24:38,215 --> 00:24:41,215
When you think about how
they lost Troy ran into Jake.

550

00:24:41,215 --> 00:24:42,895
Dear Ruda, who's really, really good.

551

00:24:43,274 --> 00:24:44,504

Hannah ran into Ben.

552

00:24:44,865 --> 00:24:49,335
Ben lost by misspelling a single letter
Luigi lost because he didn't wager

553

00:24:49,335 --> 00:24:50,685
enough on a question he got, right?

554

00:24:50,685 --> 00:24:50,774
Mm-hmm.

555

00:24:51,020 --> 00:24:55,125
So all of these people who were
really, really good and who I'm sort

556

00:24:55,125 --> 00:24:59,595
of dreading playing, but also looking
forward to, they all went out in a way

557

00:24:59,595 --> 00:25:03,270
that's just, you know, It jeopardy's
a minefield, and you never know

558

00:25:03,270 --> 00:25:04,889
when you're gonna step on that mine.

559

00:25:04,889 --> 00:25:10,949
And you never know, when you know your
next opponent is Troy or Yogesh or Jake.

560

00:25:11,100 --> 00:25:11,189
Mm-hmm.

561

00:25:11,520 --> 00:25:12,959
Or Ben Chan.

562

00:25:12,965 --> 00:25:15,510
You know, there are, there's
always another potential super

563

00:25:15,510 --> 00:25:16,949

champion waiting for you.

564

00:25:17,200 --> 00:25:17,379

Well

565

00:25:17,379 --> 00:25:20,800

last year in the Tournament of
Champions, we unveiled the new format

566

00:25:20,830 --> 00:25:23,680

and we plan to follow that through
with the finals this year where it's

567

00:25:23,680 --> 00:25:27,639

not that two game total point of fair,
you have the first to three wins.

568

00:25:27,669 --> 00:25:29,169

How do you feel about that format?

569

00:25:29,169 --> 00:25:32,470

Do you think that's gonna give you an
advantage if you make it to the finals?

570

00:25:32,620 --> 00:25:33,129

I think so.

571

00:25:33,129 --> 00:25:34,659

I think it depends on who I play.

572

00:25:34,810 --> 00:25:35,470

Um, sure.

573

00:25:35,710 --> 00:25:38,260

But I like the format
for a couple of reasons.

574

00:25:38,260 --> 00:25:38,980

I think it does.

575

00:25:39,344 --> 00:25:40,995

Take out a little bit of the variance.

576

00:25:40,995 --> 00:25:44,235
So I think the best person will
win more often, and I think it also

577

00:25:44,235 --> 00:25:49,604
helps to have America get to meet
the contestants a little bit better.

578

00:25:49,935 --> 00:25:53,264
Um, I think the reason that America
was able to fall in love with

579

00:25:53,385 --> 00:25:56,985
Amy, and especially Andrew and Sam
because Amy had had a long run.

580

00:25:57,074 --> 00:25:57,165
Mm-hmm.

581

00:25:57,405 --> 00:26:01,094
But they got to see Andrew and
Sam for an additional six games

582

00:26:01,094 --> 00:26:03,675
and, and really get to see their
personalities a little bit more.

583

00:26:03,915 --> 00:26:07,425
And I think that, Jeopardy for
as much as it is a quiz game,

584

00:26:07,425 --> 00:26:11,475
people also sort of fall in love
with the personalities as well.

585

00:26:12,135 --> 00:26:12,795
Absolutely.

586

00:26:12,795 --> 00:26:16,545
I think Masters showed us that
because, you know, these contestants

587

00:26:16,845 --> 00:26:18,885
had been able to play more games.

588

00:26:18,885 --> 00:26:21,315
They had been together more,
and so they were able to really.

589

00:26:21,915 --> 00:26:24,435
Enjoy the experience in a way
that we hadn't seen before.

590

00:26:24,435 --> 00:26:28,635
And that comradery between the
six of them was so fun to watch.

591

00:26:28,635 --> 00:26:33,044
And I think that that, you know, did begin
to form in the T O C with that finals.

592

00:26:33,050 --> 00:26:37,365
And with those six games, the
t o C was always the pinnacle

593

00:26:37,754 --> 00:26:39,225
of jeopardy excellence.

594

00:26:39,225 --> 00:26:42,215
But now you win that and
you know you're headed.

595

00:26:42,415 --> 00:26:43,615
To Masters.

596

00:26:43,615 --> 00:26:47,935
So what's that like for someone
heading into the T O c, that North

597

00:26:47,940 --> 00:26:51,205
Star, that's even farther from the
biggest goal, which is to win the T O

598

00:26:51,205 --> 00:26:51,565

c.

599

00:26:51,625 --> 00:26:52,405

It's exciting.

600

00:26:52,405 --> 00:26:56,125

I would obviously be playing to win
the, the Tournament of Champions anyway,

601

00:26:56,220 --> 00:27:01,014

but to know that there's a continuous
tournament, the highest level to get

602

00:27:01,014 --> 00:27:05,185

to it adds a little bit more pressure,
which I accept with all of my heart.

603

00:27:05,719 --> 00:27:07,429

I feel like you thrive on pressure.

604

00:27:07,459 --> 00:27:09,830

I don't know, maybe
it's just an instinct, I

605

00:27:09,830 --> 00:27:10,370

guess so.

606

00:27:10,375 --> 00:27:13,399

I, I feel like in my day-to-day life,
I do not thrive on pressure, but

607

00:27:13,399 --> 00:27:16,310

maybe when I get under the lights
and it, it really comes down to it.

608

00:27:16,310 --> 00:27:16,909

Maybe I do.

609

00:27:17,330 --> 00:27:17,449

Well

610

00:27:17,449 --> 00:27:22,010

buzzy iss not here for this interview, but
I'm gonna ask Buzz's top two questions.

611

00:27:22,490 --> 00:27:25,399
Yours For the first one we kind
of already know, he asks, you

612

00:27:25,399 --> 00:27:26,570
know, what is your lunch order?

613

00:27:26,570 --> 00:27:30,469
When you're on the Sony lot, you always
talked about the salad with chickpeas

614

00:27:30,469 --> 00:27:32,719
and chicken and a banana on the side.

615

00:27:33,065 --> 00:27:36,335
Is that gonna stay true when
you come back for the t o c?

616

00:27:36,335 --> 00:27:38,315
You gonna change it up
or is that the go-to?

617

00:27:38,645 --> 00:27:41,855
I'm going to continue eating
the absolute blandest food.

618

00:27:41,915 --> 00:27:44,165
I, I can find on the Sony lot.

619

00:27:44,375 --> 00:27:46,715
I don't know how people
like James Auer can do it.

620

00:27:46,715 --> 00:27:51,455
Who I think famously was eating slices
of pizza, pepperoni, pizza, uh, no.

621

00:27:51,460 --> 00:27:51,605
And soda.

622

00:27:51,685 --> 00:27:55,175

I mean, if, if I were eating slices of
pizza, you would find me dead behind

623

00:27:55,175 --> 00:27:57,125

the first podium after game four.

624

00:27:57,180 --> 00:28:01,800

So, yeah, just a lot of
bland foods and maybe a diet

625

00:28:01,800 --> 00:28:02,190

Coke.

626

00:28:02,280 --> 00:28:03,840

We know there will not be any olives.

627

00:28:03,840 --> 00:28:04,320

We remember

628

00:28:04,320 --> 00:28:04,710

that.

629

00:28:04,830 --> 00:28:07,170

I mean, if you can remove all of
the olives from the commissary

630

00:28:07,170 --> 00:28:07,980

in advance, I would really

631

00:28:08,250 --> 00:28:08,610

appreciate it.

632

00:28:09,450 --> 00:28:10,560

We'll see what we can do.

633

00:28:11,010 --> 00:28:12,180

One more question.

634

00:28:12,330 --> 00:28:14,340

What is the jeopardy stat?

635
00:28:14,460 --> 00:28:17,520
You've got a lot of great ones, but
what's the one that you're most proud of?

636
00:28:17,760 --> 00:28:19,500
I think I'll give you two.

637
00:28:19,860 --> 00:28:26,910
When I played my game and during
my run, I was the second oldest

638
00:28:26,910 --> 00:28:28,350
10 game winner of all time.

639
00:28:28,650 --> 00:28:33,000
So Ray, uh, quickly surpassed
me and I'm now the third oldest,

640
00:28:33,005 --> 00:28:34,050
but I believe that's true.

641
00:28:34,050 --> 00:28:37,230
I believe in the still the third,
oldest 10 game winner of all time.

642
00:28:37,470 --> 00:28:41,310
So if they have a Jeopardy Senior
tour, I'll make my bid for that.

643
00:28:41,460 --> 00:28:47,340
And then my other one would be in my,
one of my latter winds is Annie Brown.

644
00:28:47,925 --> 00:28:52,245
A really, really good player had
the highest ever Jeopardy score to

645
00:28:52,245 --> 00:28:54,465
be locked out at final jeopardy.

646
00:28:54,705 --> 00:28:57,115

So when the game finished, she had 19,400.

647

00:28:57,930 --> 00:29:00,240

And I had 39,800.

648

00:29:00,450 --> 00:29:04,230

So not only was like I winning games,
but I was winning games against

649

00:29:04,230 --> 00:29:08,670

really good people like Zany Brown
and Matt Harvey and Mike Elliot.

650

00:29:08,850 --> 00:29:12,870

Like these people were, they were putting
up \$20,000 against me and I was just

651

00:29:13,200 --> 00:29:14,760

barely fighting them off every time.

652

00:29:14,765 --> 00:29:17,370

So those sorts of wins make
my streak feel a lot more

653

00:29:17,370 --> 00:29:17,820

special.

654

00:29:18,020 --> 00:29:22,790

Well, your streak was special to us
for many reasons, and we cannot wait to

655

00:29:22,790 --> 00:29:25,850

see you back on the Alex Trebek stage.

656

00:29:25,879 --> 00:29:26,899

It's gonna be good, Chris.

657

00:29:26,899 --> 00:29:27,740

It's gonna be good.

658

00:29:28,280 --> 00:29:28,820

I eagerly

659

00:29:28,820 --> 00:29:29,540
anticipated.

660

00:29:29,659 --> 00:29:33,230
All right, well thanks so much for joining
us on the pod and we'll see you soon.

661

00:29:33,710 --> 00:29:34,280
Thank you very much.

662

00:29:34,810 --> 00:29:34,929
I.

663

00:29:35,385 --> 00:29:37,274
So great catching up with Chris.

664

00:29:37,335 --> 00:29:40,514
Looking forward to seeing him
back in the T O c and that wraps

665

00:29:40,514 --> 00:29:42,165
up our special interview series.

666

00:29:42,195 --> 00:29:44,804
I've had such a great time
speaking with our Jeopardy

667

00:29:44,804 --> 00:29:46,905
masters, kicking off with James.

668

00:29:46,905 --> 00:29:50,205
We had that great interview with
him right after he took home the

669

00:29:50,210 --> 00:29:52,514
Masters trophy and the big prize.

670

00:29:52,514 --> 00:29:55,605
And then we talked with our other
Jeopardy masters throughout the summer.

671

00:29:56,024 --> 00:29:59,085
We talked to some season 39
standouts, and I hope you've

672

00:29:59,085 --> 00:30:00,705
enjoyed all of our conversations.

673

00:30:00,735 --> 00:30:03,865
If you've been watching our
Jeopardy reruns, The past few

674

00:30:03,865 --> 00:30:08,754
weeks, you probably saw last week
the infamous T O C exhibition game.

675

00:30:08,814 --> 00:30:13,045
You got to hear Ken Jennings get
bleeped, and you also got to see Amy

676

00:30:13,045 --> 00:30:15,445
Schneider, Madam Modio, and Mattea Roach.

677

00:30:15,445 --> 00:30:19,044
Well, as a result of all the great
feedback we've been receiving next

678

00:30:19,050 --> 00:30:23,665
Monday for our Labor Day holiday, we are
going to air one of our bonus podcast

679

00:30:23,665 --> 00:30:27,835
episodes where I had the chance to
break that game down with Amy, Matt,

680

00:30:28,375 --> 00:30:30,235
AYA, all the behind the scenes stories.

681

00:30:30,235 --> 00:30:32,605
So please enjoy that encore pod.

682

00:30:33,105 --> 00:30:36,645
And in the meantime, subscribe to the

podcast, rate us, leave us a comment,

683

00:30:36,645 --> 00:30:41,325

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684

00:30:41,325 --> 00:30:46,004

YouTube, on TikTok, on Twitter X, whatever
you wanna call it, and send us your

685

00:30:46,010 --> 00:30:48,285

questions to Inside Jeopardy Podcast.

686

00:30:48,765 --> 00:30:50,145

At gmail.com.

687

00:30:50,685 --> 00:30:50,985

We'll see you

688

00:30:50,985 --> 00:30:51,465

next week.