

1  
00:00:00,320 --> 00:00:03,989  
From the Alex Trebek Stage  
at Sony Pictures Studios,

2  
00:00:04,210 --> 00:00:07,810  
this is Inside Jeopardy!

3  
00:00:08,770 --> 00:00:11,819  
Hello and welcome back to Inside  
Jeopardy!, your exclusive and official

4  
00:00:11,830 --> 00:00:15,610  
podcast destination for all things  
happening in the world of Jeopardy!.

5  
00:00:15,980 --> 00:00:19,199  
I'm Sarah Foss and I'm  
joined today by Buzzy Cohen.

6  
00:00:19,499 --> 00:00:21,389  
Happy spooky season,

7  
00:00:21,389 --> 00:00:22,049  
Sarah.

8  
00:00:22,080 --> 00:00:23,159  
That's right, it's coming.

9  
00:00:23,159 --> 00:00:25,890  
We are just days away from Halloween.

10  
00:00:25,900 --> 00:00:30,019  
Eight days to be exact, and  
I can feel it's building.

11  
00:00:30,029 --> 00:00:30,909  
Yep, bubbling.

12  
00:00:30,919 --> 00:00:36,110  
We've already had a few submissions  
for our Deathly Double competition.

13  
00:00:36,659 --> 00:00:39,000  
Don't forget, get in those costumes.

14  
00:00:39,009 --> 00:00:39,229  
Yes.

15  
00:00:39,369 --> 00:00:39,759  
We want to see

16  
00:00:39,759 --> 00:00:40,119  
them.

17  
00:00:40,239 --> 00:00:44,299  
Yes, be creative, be exciting,  
surprise me, delight me.

18  
00:00:44,389 --> 00:00:48,289  
I'm not the only one, it's a double blind  
committee who decides who the winner is.

19  
00:00:48,500 --> 00:00:51,630  
Like everything at Jeopardy, we  
hold it to the utmost standards

20  
00:00:51,640 --> 00:00:57,020  
of fairness and propriety, but we  
want to see the amazing creativity

21  
00:00:57,020 --> 00:00:58,549  
that you all in the community have.

22  
00:00:58,710 --> 00:01:01,659  
Yes, and again, not that we don't  
love to see anyone's costumes,

23  
00:01:01,659 --> 00:01:05,479  
but if you can find a way to  
incorporate the world of Jeopardy.

24  
00:01:06,045 --> 00:01:07,205  
Into your costume.

25

00:01:07,575 --> 00:01:08,955  
I mean, even better.

26

00:01:09,215 --> 00:01:09,425  
For

27

00:01:09,425 --> 00:01:14,495  
example, last year's winner was dressed  
as Johnny Gilbert Reads Rap Lyrics.

28

00:01:14,495 --> 00:01:15,875  
So it was a classic Johnny.

29

00:01:16,025 --> 00:01:17,674  
They had a wig that looked like Johnny.

30

00:01:17,825 --> 00:01:19,664  
They had, uh, the satin jacket of Johnny.

31

00:01:19,664 --> 00:01:23,185  
But then they had the chain and, you  
know, a little bit of that bling.

32

00:01:23,625 --> 00:01:24,345  
It brought it.

33

00:01:24,525 --> 00:01:25,155  
It really brought it.

34

00:01:25,155 --> 00:01:25,715  
Super fun.

35

00:01:25,725 --> 00:01:26,215  
Bring it.

36

00:01:26,335 --> 00:01:26,825  
Bring it.

37

00:01:26,825 --> 00:01:31,445  
You have until October 31st to post  
your costumes to be eligible for

38

00:01:31,445 --> 00:01:35,524  
the grand prize photograph of Ken  
Jennings signed by Buzzy Cohen.

39

00:01:35,784 --> 00:01:36,134  
Yes.

40

00:01:36,164 --> 00:01:39,284  
And we will be potting with  
our costumes next week.

41

00:01:39,284 --> 00:01:40,955  
So get ready for that.

42

00:01:41,514 --> 00:01:43,765  
I mean, I don't know if we can top  
last year, but we're going to try.

43

00:01:43,805 --> 00:01:44,505  
Last year was fun.

44

00:01:44,505 --> 00:01:44,965  
We'll try.

45

00:01:45,085 --> 00:01:50,205  
We also just, I mean, if we sound a little  
breathless, it's because we just ran from

46

00:01:50,314 --> 00:01:52,495  
the Alex Trebek stage to record this pot.

47

00:01:52,669 --> 00:01:52,919  
That

48

00:01:52,919 --> 00:01:53,329  
is true.

49

00:01:53,329 --> 00:01:58,509  
We are in the middle of another exciting  
champions wild card competition.

50  
00:01:58,509 --> 00:02:00,639  
We're now at the clubs, Buzzy.

51  
00:02:00,800 --> 00:02:01,169  
Okay.

52  
00:02:01,189 --> 00:02:02,789  
Now, in Jeopardy!

53  
00:02:02,839 --> 00:02:04,080  
air time, Yes.

54  
00:02:04,089 --> 00:02:07,399  
We have wrapped up the spades  
and started the diamonds.

55  
00:02:07,399 --> 00:02:08,289  
But in Jeopardy!

56  
00:02:08,300 --> 00:02:13,310  
production time, we are really  
catching fire in the clubs.

57  
00:02:13,450 --> 00:02:14,110  
I always catch

58  
00:02:14,110 --> 00:02:14,650  
fire into

59  
00:02:14,650 --> 00:02:14,920  
clubs.

60  
00:02:15,815 --> 00:02:17,765  
And then we have the hearts remaining.

61  
00:02:18,035 --> 00:02:18,704  
Oh, yes.

62  
00:02:18,714 --> 00:02:22,964  
So, I know everyone is like, how can I  
keep track, but this is what we're doing.

63

00:02:22,975 --> 00:02:23,794

We have a website.

64

00:02:23,794 --> 00:02:26,704

For champions wildcard  
competitions, there is a website.

65

00:02:27,084 --> 00:02:28,024

It's all laid out.

66

00:02:28,044 --> 00:02:31,244

These are all season 37  
and season 38 champions.

67

00:02:31,364 --> 00:02:32,224

Four suits.

68

00:02:32,524 --> 00:02:34,635

The spade, the diamond,  
the clubs, the hearts.

69

00:02:34,655 --> 00:02:35,695

You're going to see them all.

70

00:02:35,984 --> 00:02:38,565

And yes, it was a really  
great taping day today.

71

00:02:38,565 --> 00:02:40,395

I can't wait for people to  
see these episodes live.

72

00:02:40,515 --> 00:02:41,484

But right now.

73

00:02:41,625 --> 00:02:42,535

All the buzz.

74

00:02:42,565 --> 00:02:42,975

Yes.

75  
00:02:43,055 --> 00:02:47,295  
Always about you, BuzzBuzz, but all the  
buzz is about Josh Saak because he is

76  
00:02:47,295 --> 00:02:52,185  
the winner of our first ever champions  
wildcard and as promised, Buzzy and I

77  
00:02:52,185 --> 00:02:56,555  
will be speaking with him later in the  
pod, talking about his return, what it

78  
00:02:56,555 --> 00:03:00,875  
means to be the first to hold this new  
title that we've come up with and what

79  
00:03:00,885 --> 00:03:04,515  
he's going to do to prepare for the  
tournament of champions, because that's

80  
00:03:04,515 --> 00:03:10,224  
what you get in addition to that 100, 000  
prize, you get a fast pass to the TSC.

81  
00:03:11,070 --> 00:03:15,470  
And this is something that these  
Season 37 and Season 38 players never

82  
00:03:15,470 --> 00:03:16,910  
anticipated would come their way.

83  
00:03:16,910 --> 00:03:19,410  
So, really excited to talk with him.

84  
00:03:19,630 --> 00:03:22,470  
We're also going to be highlighting  
last week's Celebrity Jeopardy!

85  
00:03:22,470 --> 00:03:25,990  
and Primetime, and this past  
week's Games in Syndication.

86

00:03:26,260 --> 00:03:29,399  
So a lot to get to, but first, as  
always, we're going to take a quick

87  
00:03:29,400 --> 00:03:31,670  
look back at this week in Jeopardy!

88  
00:03:31,680 --> 00:03:32,370  
history.

89  
00:03:39,695 --> 00:03:41,505  
This is Celebrity Jeopardy!

90  
00:03:42,595 --> 00:03:45,945  
Now entering the studio are  
today's celebrity contestants.

91  
00:03:46,325 --> 00:03:50,905  
The co hosts of Television's Live with  
Regis and Kathy Lee, regis Philbin.

92  
00:03:50,905 --> 00:03:55,075  
in the long running Knots Landing and  
the star of the TV movie, the President's

93  
00:03:55,075 --> 00:04:00,635  
Child, Donna Mills, and actress, comedian,  
and star of stage screen, and television.

94  
00:04:00,924 --> 00:04:09,295  
Carol Burnett, and now here is  
the host of Jeopardy, Alex Trebek

95  
00:04:09,345 --> 00:04:10,295  
.  
Thank you Johnny Gilbert.

96  
00:04:10,305 --> 00:04:11,535  
Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

97  
00:04:11,595 --> 00:04:13,295  
Hi everyone, and welcome to Jeopardy.



98

00:04:13,295 --> 00:04:13,745  
Welcome.

99

00:04:14,755 --> 00:04:15,514  
How do you feel today?

100

00:04:16,449 --> 00:04:17,289  
Strong, Alex, strong.

101

00:04:17,289 --> 00:04:17,630  
Nervous.

102

00:04:17,740 --> 00:04:18,029  
Good.

103

00:04:18,880 --> 00:04:22,219  
This is something I have been looking  
forward to for eight years, and at

104

00:04:22,219 --> 00:04:25,010  
long last we have a Celebrity Jeopardy.

105

00:04:25,030 --> 00:04:28,780  
And in answer to a question many  
of you people are probably thinking

106

00:04:28,780 --> 00:04:30,969  
about right now, the answer is no.

107

00:04:31,280 --> 00:04:33,379  
The celebrities have not been briefed.

108

00:04:33,379 --> 00:04:37,060  
In fact, they do not know what the  
categories are, so they have not

109

00:04:37,060 --> 00:04:40,380  
been told what subjects to study  
for their appearance here today.

110

00:04:40,560 --> 00:04:43,300

They are here, as are all of  
our contestants, with their

111

00:04:43,655 --> 00:04:47,255  
Intelligence, their reflexes, and  
their egos completely exposed.

112

00:04:47,914 --> 00:04:48,824  
It's all on the line.

113

00:04:49,595 --> 00:04:52,414  
So for that, our thanks  
and our admiration.

114

00:04:52,414 --> 00:04:53,914  
We'll get into the game in just a second.

115

00:04:54,184 --> 00:04:57,724  
The stars are playing for their favorite  
charities, and to add an extra element

116

00:04:57,725 --> 00:05:02,554  
of competition, the celebrity who has  
the highest total for the week will

117

00:05:02,554 --> 00:05:06,894  
have that sum matched by the Jeopardy  
program and sent along to the charity.

118

00:05:07,755 --> 00:05:12,054  
Hard to believe 31 years ago  
this week, Celebrity Jeopardy!

119

00:05:12,054 --> 00:05:13,715  
debuted in syndication.

120

00:05:14,115 --> 00:05:16,255  
It was a little different back in 1992.

121

00:05:16,745 --> 00:05:21,135  
It was a week long tournament where  
15 celebrities battled it out, and as

122  
00:05:21,135 --> 00:05:25,049  
you heard Alex mention, The celebrity  
with the highest total for the week was

123  
00:05:25,049 --> 00:05:27,360  
the one who was crowned the champion.

124  
00:05:27,659 --> 00:05:29,970  
You also heard Alex introduce  
our celebrities who were

125  
00:05:29,970 --> 00:05:31,350  
competing in that first game.

126  
00:05:31,359 --> 00:05:34,409  
Regis Feldman, Donna  
Mills, and Carol Burnett.

127  
00:05:34,419 --> 00:05:35,229  
What a lineup.

128  
00:05:35,729 --> 00:05:39,829  
Funny enough, it also happened to be  
this week that Stephen Webber competed

129  
00:05:39,829 --> 00:05:44,770  
in his first Celebrity Jeopardy game  
against Cheech Marin and Alan Reagans.

130  
00:05:44,789 --> 00:05:48,580  
Of course, Steven has returned to  
the Alex Trebek stage just last week.

131  
00:05:48,809 --> 00:05:52,350  
You saw him go up against Shane  
Battier and Melissa Fumero.

132  
00:05:52,569 --> 00:05:56,480  
We're going to discuss that game later  
in the pod, but we had recently kind

133  
00:05:56,480 --> 00:06:00,770

of taken a look back to the early days of Celebrity Jeopardy when we

134

00:06:00,770 --> 00:06:03,439  
played that clip in Steven's show.

135

00:06:03,480 --> 00:06:08,020  
And I think all of us just remarked on how different everything looks,

136

00:06:08,070 --> 00:06:10,659  
but yet how the game remains the same.

137

00:06:11,095 --> 00:06:11,445  
Yeah,

138

00:06:11,445 --> 00:06:14,675  
you know, this is something for those of our listeners who also listen

139

00:06:14,675 --> 00:06:17,035  
to the This Is Jeopardy podcast.

140

00:06:17,065 --> 00:06:20,505  
We did an entire episode on Celebrity Jeopardy and got to talk

141

00:06:20,515 --> 00:06:21,985  
about how this even came about.

142

00:06:22,015 --> 00:06:25,394  
If you enjoyed that clip, hop on over to the This Is Jeopardy page and

143

00:06:25,394 --> 00:06:28,504  
you can hear a little bit more about Celebrity Jeopardy through the years.

144

00:06:28,754 --> 00:06:29,014  
And

145

00:06:29,014 --> 00:06:33,595

to think about how the SNL sketches  
came to be as a result of those

146

00:06:33,645 --> 00:06:35,565  
early days of Celebrity Jeopardy.

147

00:06:35,945 --> 00:06:38,754  
And glad to know that it  
is still continuing on.

148

00:06:39,135 --> 00:06:41,595  
In primetime, right now on ABC.

149

00:06:41,935 --> 00:06:43,905  
But right now, we're gonna  
head into the game highlights.

150

00:06:43,905 --> 00:06:46,375  
We kicked off the week  
with our second semi final.

151

00:06:46,385 --> 00:06:49,255  
Josh Saak, Kendra Blanchett, Dane Rygaard.

152

00:06:49,625 --> 00:06:51,304  
This was an exciting  
way to start the week.

153

00:06:51,315 --> 00:06:53,435  
Dane and Kendra were  
neck and neck early on.

154

00:06:53,445 --> 00:06:54,625  
Josh trailing behind.

155

00:06:54,754 --> 00:06:57,714  
But all three players battled their  
way through double jeopardy, finishing

156

00:06:57,714 --> 00:06:59,945  
the round within 4, 200 of each other.

157

00:07:00,245 --> 00:07:04,295  
Although Dane had a small lead heading  
into final, Josh was the only one to

158  
00:07:04,295 --> 00:07:05,765  
come up with the correct response.

159  
00:07:05,765 --> 00:07:10,015  
Buzzy, the trend continues, capping  
off an impressive come from behind

160  
00:07:10,015 --> 00:07:14,264  
win, securing his spot in the finals,  
joining Sam Stapleton, who had punched

161  
00:07:14,265 --> 00:07:16,104  
his ticket to the finals the week prior.

162  
00:07:16,275 --> 00:07:16,365  
Phew.

163  
00:07:16,955 --> 00:07:17,645  
What a game.

164  
00:07:17,794 --> 00:07:21,544  
I gotta shout out Josh for running  
the You Do The Math category.

165  
00:07:21,564 --> 00:07:22,774  
That'll never happen.

166  
00:07:23,085 --> 00:07:23,564  
to me.

167  
00:07:23,585 --> 00:07:25,944  
So Mazel Tov Josh.

168  
00:07:26,375 --> 00:07:29,875  
Well, and a lot of discussion  
about, yes, Tenochtitlan.

169  
00:07:30,944 --> 00:07:32,414

And this was one of those.

170

00:07:32,684 --> 00:07:37,305

You know, we went back, we  
listened, we deliberated.

171

00:07:37,495 --> 00:07:37,745

It's a

172

00:07:37,745 --> 00:07:38,525

tough break.

173

00:07:38,555 --> 00:07:42,335

We can understand why our players  
might pronounce that name wrong,

174

00:07:42,355 --> 00:07:44,044

but the briefing is very clear.

175

00:07:44,404 --> 00:07:47,914

You either have to pronounce the word  
correctly or phonetically correctly, and

176

00:07:47,925 --> 00:07:50,144

unfortunately that didn't happen in this

177

00:07:50,144 --> 00:07:50,544

case.

178

00:07:50,755 --> 00:07:51,095

Yes.

179

00:07:51,145 --> 00:07:56,235

Had someone said, Tee nope teet lawn,  
even though it's not the way we pronounce

180

00:07:56,235 --> 00:07:59,115

it, it would be phonetically correct  
and that would have been acceptable.

181

00:07:59,355 --> 00:08:04,104

So this was a tough break, but certainly

something that the judges reviewed and

182

00:08:04,164 --> 00:08:08,174  
tried to deliberate on until we knew  
that we had the right call on that one.

183

00:08:08,275 --> 00:08:11,284  
But clearly it didn't stop  
Josh from winning the game.

184

00:08:11,294 --> 00:08:14,385  
So it was a ruling that was  
tough to make, but Josh goes on.

185

00:08:14,530 --> 00:08:18,689  
to the finals moving on to Tuesday  
for our third semifinal game with Joe

186

00:08:18,689 --> 00:08:21,860  
Feldman, Daniel Nguyen, and Lucy Ricketts.

187

00:08:22,270 --> 00:08:26,299  
This was a close Jeopardy round,  
all three players within just 400

188

00:08:26,309 --> 00:08:29,770  
of each other, but Lucy started to  
pull away and double Jeopardy working

189

00:08:29,789 --> 00:08:32,210  
towards a runaway heading into final.

190

00:08:32,640 --> 00:08:34,929  
That's her second runaway  
in this competition.

191

00:08:35,220 --> 00:08:37,959  
She was the only player who was able  
to come up with the correct response

192

00:08:37,959 --> 00:08:43,139  
in Final Jeopardy, so just put a little  
exclamation point on that win, and Lucy



193  
00:08:43,140 --> 00:08:45,300  
rounds up our competition for the finals.

194  
00:08:45,389 --> 00:08:51,150  
I have to say, having a runaway after  
losing 8, 400 in daily doubles, very

195  
00:08:51,199 --> 00:08:52,009  
impressive.

196  
00:08:52,100 --> 00:08:56,020  
And if she's listening to the podcast and  
knowing these statistics, where only one

197  
00:08:56,020 --> 00:08:59,515  
person is getting final correct in this  
competition, You certainly want to be in

198  
00:08:59,515 --> 00:09:03,895  
a runaway when you're heading to final,  
it really, really helps that situation.

199  
00:09:04,215 --> 00:09:07,905  
Heading into Wednesday where we kicked  
off the two day total point of fair, we

200  
00:09:08,834 --> 00:09:14,334  
love to say it, Buzzy, with Sam, Lucy,  
and Josh, all three players, nearly even

201  
00:09:14,334 --> 00:09:18,135  
after the Jeopardy round, but Josh slowly  
starting to pull away in double Jeopardy.

202  
00:09:18,145 --> 00:09:21,225  
Sam and Lucy began to close the  
gap, but Josh headed into final.

203  
00:09:21,705 --> 00:09:26,595  
with a 16, 600 total and  
the lead all three players.

204

00:09:26,595 --> 00:09:28,395  
Buzzy correct in final.

205

00:09:28,395 --> 00:09:32,755  
The streak is broken for this week, but  
with Josh's big wager, he was able to

206

00:09:32,775 --> 00:09:36,194  
take a 10, 000 lead heading into day two.

207

00:09:36,325 --> 00:09:38,754  
I like Josh's big play on the first final.

208

00:09:38,755 --> 00:09:42,945  
I think a lot of people talk about  
treating the first final of a two

209

00:09:42,945 --> 00:09:46,325  
day total point of fair, almost like  
a daily double that everyone plays.

210

00:09:46,555 --> 00:09:47,955  
And the same way that you might bet.

211

00:09:47,975 --> 00:09:49,135  
big on a daily double.

212

00:09:49,135 --> 00:09:53,305  
Of course, you have a little less  
information, but I really, really like

213

00:09:53,315 --> 00:09:57,885  
that wager and it puts him in a really  
good spot going into the second game.

214

00:09:57,885 --> 00:09:59,265  
He's got a little bit of breathing room.

215

00:09:59,654 --> 00:10:03,974  
Well, we always know anything can happen,  
but on day two, the Thursday show.

216

00:10:04,290 --> 00:10:06,040  
Sam, Josh and Lucy returned.

217

00:10:06,110 --> 00:10:09,910  
They all kept up that strong game play  
in the jeopardy round neck and neck

218

00:10:10,230 --> 00:10:16,329  
until Josh hit the first daily double  
in double jeopardy and wagered 7, 200.

219

00:10:16,330 --> 00:10:20,379  
So that really just bounced him  
into a position that allowed him

220

00:10:20,380 --> 00:10:25,190  
to have a two day runaway score  
before we ever got into final.

221

00:10:25,710 --> 00:10:28,470  
That means he went into Final  
Jeopardy, maybe not consciously

222

00:10:28,470 --> 00:10:31,420  
knowing, but we knew at home he was  
headed to the Tournament of Champions.

223

00:10:31,770 --> 00:10:32,090  
Yeah,

224

00:10:32,090 --> 00:10:34,569  
I think, uh, this was a great game.

225

00:10:34,570 --> 00:10:38,639  
I think all three of these players  
played these finals very, very well.

226

00:10:38,780 --> 00:10:43,350  
And I think Josh just had a little bit  
of that eye of the tiger, really pushing.

227

00:10:43,530 --> 00:10:45,489

We're going to talk to him in a little bit, so I don't want to, you

228

00:10:45,489 --> 00:10:46,750  
know, get too far ahead of myself.

229

00:10:46,750 --> 00:10:50,470  
But I hope Sam and Lucy feel good about their performance because they

230

00:10:50,470 --> 00:10:53,190  
both, played really, really well.

231

00:10:53,550 --> 00:10:56,800  
And Sam gave us a little comedic relief in Final Jeopardy.

232

00:10:56,800 --> 00:11:00,620  
What happens if Josh pulls a Cliff Claven?

233

00:11:01,410 --> 00:11:04,030  
I mean, at that point, that's what Sam's hoping for.

234

00:11:04,449 --> 00:11:06,489  
And Josh, he had that runaway game.

235

00:11:06,489 --> 00:11:11,129  
So he was allowed to put what is Regan as his Final Jeopardy response.

236

00:11:11,130 --> 00:11:12,729  
That of course, his daughter's name.

237

00:11:13,110 --> 00:11:14,470  
He and I share a similarity there.

238

00:11:14,470 --> 00:11:18,260  
I have a Reagan, he has a Regan, and um, my daughter will probably never get

239

00:11:18,270 --> 00:11:22,999

to see that moment, but Josh's daughter did, and he is headed to the TOC.

240

00:11:23,329 --> 00:11:25,939  
Ken had a chance to catch up with Josh right after the game.

241

00:11:25,949 --> 00:11:30,760  
Let's take a listen to see how he was feeling after claiming a 100, 000 prize.

242

00:11:31,600 --> 00:11:32,809  
You just won 100, 000.

243

00:11:32,860 --> 00:11:34,230  
I, yeah.

244

00:11:34,250 --> 00:11:35,060  
What are you going to do now?

245

00:11:36,180 --> 00:11:37,350  
I'm not usually speechless.

246

00:11:37,360 --> 00:11:38,689  
So this is weird.

247

00:11:39,230 --> 00:11:40,490  
Um, pretty awesome.

248

00:11:40,530 --> 00:11:45,710  
And I've said this the entire week about how, you know, certainly it's easy for me

249

00:11:45,710 --> 00:11:51,040  
to say now, but the money was secondary to having this full experience here with,

250

00:11:51,070 --> 00:11:55,729  
you know, I've seen a bunch of our folks in the audience this week that that has

251

00:11:55,729 --> 00:11:57,830

been, I mean, I, I'm, this is a dream.

252

00:11:58,030 --> 00:11:58,549

So you're, you're

253

00:11:58,550 --> 00:11:59,250

returning the money.

254

00:11:59,250 --> 00:11:59,810

That's amazing.

255

00:12:00,840 --> 00:12:01,080

I didn't

256

00:12:01,080 --> 00:12:01,560

say that.

257

00:12:02,080 --> 00:12:03,140

My daughter needs to go to college.

258

00:12:03,715 --> 00:12:04,725

Congratulations, Josh.

259

00:12:04,735 --> 00:12:07,615

Well done, all three of you,  
taking home those big cash prizes.

260

00:12:07,895 --> 00:12:10,175

Really enjoyed our first  
ever Champions Wildcard.

261

00:12:10,175 --> 00:12:11,165

You folks made it special.

262

00:12:11,375 --> 00:12:11,810

Thank you.

263

00:12:11,810 --> 00:12:12,345

Thank you, Ken.

264

00:12:13,015 --> 00:12:14,005

All right, there you have it.

265

00:12:14,005 --> 00:12:19,034  
Congratulations to Josh on becoming our  
first ever Champions Wildcard winner.

266

00:12:19,495 --> 00:12:22,535  
We're going to talk with Josh later in  
the show, but for now, we're moving on

267

00:12:22,585 --> 00:12:27,045  
to Friday's game, where we introduced our  
first group of returning champions in...

268

00:12:27,640 --> 00:12:29,150  
The Diamonds group, Buzzy.

269

00:12:29,250 --> 00:12:31,190  
Diamonds are forever.

270

00:12:31,620 --> 00:12:33,180  
Diamonds in the sky.

271

00:12:34,220 --> 00:12:39,610  
Alright, starting off with Dave  
Pye, William Chu, and Kristen Husek.

272

00:12:39,860 --> 00:12:43,570  
Both Kristen and Dave played their  
original games with Alex as host

273

00:12:43,589 --> 00:12:46,790  
back in season 37, and William  
had played his original game with

274

00:12:46,830 --> 00:12:49,790  
Ken as his host during season 38.

275

00:12:49,830 --> 00:12:57,195  
Interestingly enough, Kristen's fourth  
game, her losing game, aired On 10 20

276

00:12:57,424 --> 00:13:03,134  
2020, and of course, this game aired on  
the third anniversary of that game, so...

277  
00:13:03,775 --> 00:13:06,515  
I don't know how she was feeling  
as she headed into that game.

278  
00:13:06,564 --> 00:13:07,525  
I think she had an eye

279  
00:13:07,525 --> 00:13:08,354  
for redemption.

280  
00:13:08,384 --> 00:13:09,045  
There we go.

281  
00:13:09,055 --> 00:13:11,704  
Well, Kristen and Dave battled  
through the entire game with the

282  
00:13:11,704 --> 00:13:13,275  
lead changing multiple times.

283  
00:13:13,624 --> 00:13:18,114  
It came down to the wire with Dave  
taking a slight lead heading into final,

284  
00:13:18,404 --> 00:13:21,694  
and he was able to come up with the  
correct response, becoming our first

285  
00:13:21,704 --> 00:13:24,214  
semi finalist of the Diamonds group.

286  
00:13:24,775 --> 00:13:27,944  
Yeah, tough break for Kristen,  
uh, missing on that final.

287  
00:13:28,880 --> 00:13:33,189  
Even if she had gotten it right, even if  
she had bet it all, uh, Dave with that



288  
00:13:33,229 --> 00:13:36,029  
edge, Dave really dominating the buzzer.

289  
00:13:36,029 --> 00:13:39,110  
I think that's something important  
to look at as he progresses through

290  
00:13:39,110 --> 00:13:41,380  
this 62 percent buzzer percentage.

291  
00:13:41,529 --> 00:13:46,390  
That is much higher than, you know,  
our average winner who's in the 55%.

292  
00:13:46,390 --> 00:13:47,610  
So Dave's one to

293  
00:13:47,610 --> 00:13:48,140  
watch.

294  
00:13:48,654 --> 00:13:52,025  
Well, and I think we've just  
enjoyed this level of competition.

295  
00:13:52,384 --> 00:13:55,344  
Be it the Spades, be it the  
Diamonds, we're seeing a really high

296  
00:13:55,344 --> 00:13:56,654  
level of gameplay in these games.

297  
00:13:56,704 --> 00:13:59,035  
That's what happens when you  
bring back a bunch of champions.

298  
00:13:59,035 --> 00:14:02,295  
You know that you're bringing back  
people who know how to play and know

299  
00:14:02,295 --> 00:14:04,394  
how to win on the Alex Trebek stage.

300

00:14:04,825 --> 00:14:08,435  
All right, we head now back to  
Wednesday night in primetime.

301

00:14:08,805 --> 00:14:11,255  
Where our fourth Celebrity Jeopardy!

302

00:14:11,265 --> 00:14:17,115  
quarterfinal game aired with Stephen  
Webber, Shane Battier, and Melissa Fumero.

303

00:14:17,505 --> 00:14:22,425  
As we mentioned, Stephen first  
played back in 1992, our third

304

00:14:22,425 --> 00:14:24,285  
game ever of Celebrity Jeopardy!

305

00:14:24,364 --> 00:14:27,525  
He came in second behind  
Cheech Marin, who Who won.

306

00:14:27,655 --> 00:14:28,964  
Who won, yes, the whole thing.

307

00:14:29,925 --> 00:14:34,025  
And, you know, Stephen talked about how  
he didn't necessarily go in thinking that

308

00:14:34,025 --> 00:14:36,850  
Cheech was The commanding Jeopardy player.

309

00:14:37,070 --> 00:14:41,230  
I don't think anyone did, but you know,  
I think we talk on This is Jeopardy.

310

00:14:41,230 --> 00:14:44,000  
We talked with Cheech about how  
his appearance on Jeopardy really

311

00:14:44,000 --> 00:14:45,440  
changed how people saw him.

312

00:14:45,440 --> 00:14:48,980  
This show is changing lives, not  
just of our everyday contestants,

313

00:14:49,160 --> 00:14:50,709  
but also these celebrity contestants.

314

00:14:50,710 --> 00:14:52,270  
People see them in a new light.

315

00:14:52,590 --> 00:14:56,570  
Yeah, and Cheech would come on subsequent  
times on the show and continue to

316

00:14:56,570 --> 00:14:58,680  
do very, very well in this game.

317

00:14:58,680 --> 00:15:01,310  
It was Steven and Shane who were  
battling it out throughout the

318

00:15:01,310 --> 00:15:04,660  
Jeopardy round, but then Steven started  
to pull away in double Jeopardy.

319

00:15:04,660 --> 00:15:07,050  
He took a strong lead  
into triple Jeopardy.

320

00:15:07,050 --> 00:15:09,330  
Don't forget we have that  
round in Celebrity Jeopardy.

321

00:15:09,740 --> 00:15:12,870  
Where he continued to dominate,  
fighting all three Daily Doubles

322

00:15:12,890 --> 00:15:19,820  
and wagering huge amounts in each of  
them, 11, 400, 10, 000 and 15, 000.

323

00:15:20,100 --> 00:15:24,689  
Now despite missing that last 15,  
000 Daily Double, he still maintained

324  
00:15:24,690 --> 00:15:25,840  
the lead heading into final.

325  
00:15:26,160 --> 00:15:29,625  
Both Steven and Shane were correct,  
but Steven had already locked up

326  
00:15:29,635 --> 00:15:33,725  
that win with an impressive runaway,  
and he's headed to the semi finals.

327  
00:15:33,795 --> 00:15:35,115  
Steven, that was a great game.

328  
00:15:35,125 --> 00:15:36,775  
If you're listening to  
this, I'm sure you are.

329  
00:15:36,795 --> 00:15:38,075  
That was a great game.

330  
00:15:38,085 --> 00:15:40,765  
I'm not mad at that 15,  
000 miss, especially when

331  
00:15:40,765 --> 00:15:41,875  
you're dominating like that.

332  
00:15:42,064 --> 00:15:43,315  
Great buzzer percentage.

333  
00:15:43,325 --> 00:15:48,825  
Um, and the one thing I really want to  
call out is that your Correct percentage.

334  
00:15:48,835 --> 00:15:49,805  
Very high.

335

00:15:49,835 --> 00:15:53,045  
That shows a high confidence in  
your knowledge and playing it right.

336  
00:15:53,085 --> 00:15:58,564  
Shane actually, with a higher buzzer  
percentage at 63%, but a lower correct

337  
00:15:58,585 --> 00:16:00,285  
percentage, and that really hurt him.

338  
00:16:00,455 --> 00:16:05,345  
Obviously, Steven finding those three  
Daily Doubles puts him in control

339  
00:16:05,364 --> 00:16:06,825  
of a lot of money in this game.

340  
00:16:07,025 --> 00:16:08,505  
But Shane also played well.

341  
00:16:08,605 --> 00:16:11,115  
Maybe a little bit less guessing  
and Shane would be our champion.

342  
00:16:11,585 --> 00:16:15,115  
Well, and Stephen also proved that  
he really knows how to respond

343  
00:16:15,145 --> 00:16:17,455  
like a pirate in that category.

344  
00:16:17,465 --> 00:16:21,385  
Whether it be Arby's,  
the Arctic, Archeology.

345  
00:16:21,785 --> 00:16:25,345  
And then even as we went into other  
categories, he was still pulling it out.

346  
00:16:25,355 --> 00:16:26,625  
So, uh, that was fun.

347  
00:16:27,105 --> 00:16:30,635  
Fun was had by all in Celebrity  
Jeopardy as it always is and now it's

348  
00:16:30,635 --> 00:16:35,195  
time for this week's host chat an  
audience member asked Ken You have

349  
00:16:35,195 --> 00:16:37,285  
to pronounce so many difficult words.

350  
00:16:37,295 --> 00:16:39,515  
How do you do it and make it look so easy?

351  
00:16:40,625 --> 00:16:41,245  
Well,

352  
00:16:41,435 --> 00:16:44,365  
I'm very bright No,

353  
00:16:44,605 --> 00:16:47,385  
in fact, you know Alex used to  
come in early every morning and

354  
00:16:47,385 --> 00:16:49,905  
spend a couple hours with the games  
You know, he'd come in at 6 a.

355  
00:16:49,905 --> 00:16:50,105  
m.

356  
00:16:50,105 --> 00:16:53,015  
And He'd mark up the script,  
and he'd have a dictionary.

357  
00:16:53,035 --> 00:16:56,655  
And I go through the whole process  
as well, except I am not an 80 year

358  
00:16:56,655 --> 00:16:58,475  
old, greatest generation Canadian man.

359

00:16:58,535 --> 00:16:59,935  
Uh, I do not want to get up at 6 a.

360

00:16:59,935 --> 00:17:00,155  
m.

361

00:17:00,175 --> 00:17:02,935  
to play with a dictionary, so I  
tend to do it the night before.

362

00:17:03,125 --> 00:17:05,375  
So last night, I looked  
at all of today's games.

363

00:17:05,415 --> 00:17:07,635  
The researchers helped me  
mark up pronunciations.

364

00:17:07,635 --> 00:17:08,804  
I did my own stuff.

365

00:17:09,195 --> 00:17:11,735  
And then in the morning there's a  
meeting where we go over every clue and,

366

00:17:11,735 --> 00:17:13,065  
you know, how do you want to say this?

367

00:17:13,075 --> 00:17:14,845  
What if the contestant says that?

368

00:17:15,085 --> 00:17:16,975  
Is it confusing if we do it in this order?

369

00:17:17,025 --> 00:17:18,214  
You know, where do the daily doubles go?

370

00:17:18,265 --> 00:17:19,995  
We kick the tires on  
every clue every morning.

371

00:17:20,585 --> 00:17:20,665  
And

372  
00:17:20,665 --> 00:17:23,785  
this is a question Alex  
would often get asked.

373  
00:17:23,825 --> 00:17:24,885  
How many languages do you speak?

374  
00:17:25,155 --> 00:17:26,545  
I speak many tongues.

375  
00:17:26,575 --> 00:17:27,215  
Yes.

376  
00:17:27,355 --> 00:17:30,545  
One thing I will say is that the  
writing and production team are

377  
00:17:30,545 --> 00:17:34,825  
incredibly helpful to all of us  
who have had to say things on TV.

378  
00:17:34,995 --> 00:17:35,575  
Absolutely.

379  
00:17:35,575 --> 00:17:40,015  
They do wonderful little grammatical  
marks to make sure that you know the

380  
00:17:40,015 --> 00:17:44,765  
correct pronunciation and like Alex did,  
you know, coming in every day at 6 a.

381  
00:17:44,765 --> 00:17:45,045  
m.

382  
00:17:45,550 --> 00:17:48,370  
Ken doesn't do it in the morning, he  
stays late in the evening, but he puts

383



00:17:48,370 --> 00:17:51,940  
in the time, he puts in the work to  
make sure that he's really familiar with

384  
00:17:51,950 --> 00:17:55,780  
those games, and in particular, really  
familiar with how to say things correctly.

385  
00:17:55,790 --> 00:17:56,070  
And it

386  
00:17:56,070 --> 00:17:57,600  
really shows, it really shows.

387  
00:17:57,640 --> 00:17:58,720  
I have a question for you, Sarah.

388  
00:17:58,740 --> 00:18:03,790  
Did the clue crew have the benefit of that  
expertise when you were out on the road?

389  
00:18:03,790 --> 00:18:08,400  
If you're shooting at dawn at the Pyramids  
of Giza, did you have someone there who

390  
00:18:08,400 --> 00:18:09,940  
could help you with these pronunciations?

391  
00:18:10,225 --> 00:18:14,695  
Well, interestingly enough, we would often  
get references before we left because our

392  
00:18:14,945 --> 00:18:19,465  
clues had all been written and researched  
primarily unless we came across something.

393  
00:18:19,465 --> 00:18:23,245  
So, they would give us, you know,  
various phonetic pronunciations.

394  
00:18:23,265 --> 00:18:28,204  
But, I will tell you, there are many  
an occasion I can recall picking

395

00:18:28,204 --> 00:18:31,495  
up the phone and calling Billy  
Weiss, one of our co head writers.

396

00:18:31,625 --> 00:18:36,505  
He is known, when we're on a clue crew  
shoot, he'll answer the phone at any hour.

397

00:18:36,835 --> 00:18:39,485  
At any time, you can count  
on Billy to take your call.

398

00:18:39,775 --> 00:18:42,665  
And there were times where, you  
know, I was saying something

399

00:18:42,665 --> 00:18:43,505  
in a foreign language.

400

00:18:43,515 --> 00:18:47,265  
Maybe we were going to ad lib a little  
something and, you know, do some sort

401

00:18:47,265 --> 00:18:48,855  
of introduction in another language.

402

00:18:48,905 --> 00:18:52,435  
You kind of overthink it because maybe  
your local guide is saying it one way.

403

00:18:52,454 --> 00:18:52,484  
Right.

404

00:18:52,485 --> 00:18:56,814  
And so Billy was always there to answer my  
call, answer my questions, and make sure

405

00:18:56,814 --> 00:18:58,804  
that I, that I came across sounding...

406

00:18:59,105 --> 00:18:59,385

Much better.

407

00:18:59,395 --> 00:19:00,715  
As brilliant as you are.

408

00:19:00,725 --> 00:19:01,835  
As brilliant as I am.

409

00:19:01,845 --> 00:19:02,355  
Yes, that's

410

00:19:02,355 --> 00:19:02,955  
what I was going to say.

411

00:19:02,955 --> 00:19:04,235  
The brilliance lives inside you.

412

00:19:04,235 --> 00:19:05,355  
It's just making sure that it gets

413

00:19:05,355 --> 00:19:05,995  
expressed.

414

00:19:06,025 --> 00:19:06,345  
Yeah.

415

00:19:06,365 --> 00:19:07,895  
We have a great team for that at Jeopardy.

416

00:19:07,895 --> 00:19:09,285  
I, I like that very much.

417

00:19:09,295 --> 00:19:09,325  
Yeah.

418

00:19:09,875 --> 00:19:10,255  
All right.

419

00:19:10,255 --> 00:19:11,455  
Well, now it is time.

420

00:19:11,455 --> 00:19:14,825  
We're going to welcome back to  
the pod, Josh Saak, our first

421

00:19:14,825 --> 00:19:16,824  
ever Champions Wildcard winner.

422

00:19:17,054 --> 00:19:18,025  
Welcome, Josh.

423

00:19:18,025 --> 00:19:19,014  
Thanks for joining us.

424

00:19:19,405 --> 00:19:20,025  
Thanks for having

425

00:19:20,025 --> 00:19:20,945  
me, Sarah, I appreciate

426

00:19:20,945 --> 00:19:21,085  
it.

427

00:19:21,465 --> 00:19:29,745  
So take us back, it's July 2021,  
your first appearance on the

428

00:19:29,745 --> 00:19:31,795  
Jeopardy stage at that point.

429

00:19:31,845 --> 00:19:36,194  
Talk me through that, that first,  
that first win, that first time

430

00:19:36,195 --> 00:19:37,574  
being out here in Los Angeles.

431

00:19:38,215 --> 00:19:42,385  
I think, like, pretty much anybody  
who's invited to play Jeopardy, I

432

00:19:42,385 --> 00:19:47,055

think it's, first of all, just an honor  
to be asked and to be on that stage.

433

00:19:47,475 --> 00:19:52,535  
To win a game is, like, you know,  
the cherry on top, but to win

434

00:19:52,535 --> 00:19:56,125  
three games is more than I could  
have ever possibly expected.

435

00:19:56,430 --> 00:19:56,560  
And

436

00:19:56,560 --> 00:20:00,150  
you're kind of hitting a stride, you  
know, we always talk about people after

437

00:20:00,150 --> 00:20:01,980  
that third win, they change a bit.

438

00:20:01,990 --> 00:20:02,900  
Do you notice that Buzzy?

439

00:20:02,960 --> 00:20:04,540  
It's like the third game win.

440

00:20:04,590 --> 00:20:05,949  
It's like something changes.

441

00:20:05,960 --> 00:20:07,600  
So you've kind of hit that stride.

442

00:20:07,870 --> 00:20:11,880  
You come into a game and  
there's this guy, Matt Amodio.

443

00:20:12,850 --> 00:20:16,960  
But I really want to talk about the fact  
that this was not the Amodio rodeo that

444

00:20:16,960 --> 00:20:19,470

we would come to see in later games.

445

00:20:19,860 --> 00:20:22,990

You guys were really, really neck  
and neck throughout the game.

446

00:20:22,990 --> 00:20:28,350

You're only down by 400 to Matt  
in final, and you're both correct.

447

00:20:28,360 --> 00:20:30,980

So, I mean, this really could  
have been anyone's game.

448

00:20:31,610 --> 00:20:35,050

What was it like in that moment,  
and then what was it like to know

449

00:20:35,050 --> 00:20:36,870

the run that then went on for Matt?

450

00:20:37,520 --> 00:20:40,370

Well, I think, you know, when I  
first met Matt, I thought, you

451

00:20:40,370 --> 00:20:41,570

know, he was a super nice guy.

452

00:20:41,635 --> 00:20:43,825

I really enjoyed meeting  
him and getting to know him.

453

00:20:44,095 --> 00:20:46,205

I could tell just by talking  
with him, I thought, he's

454

00:20:46,215 --> 00:20:47,655

going to be a tough competitor.

455

00:20:47,705 --> 00:20:51,125

And sure enough, we got to  
our game, we're neck and neck.

456

00:20:51,225 --> 00:20:54,445

I lost it on that last one, and it's one of those things where I could

457

00:20:54,445 --> 00:20:57,635

probably look at that clue nine times out of ten, I'm going to get it right.

458

00:20:57,695 --> 00:21:00,065

because I, I know who Andrew Lloyd Webber is.

459

00:21:00,365 --> 00:21:03,875

I just completely blanked and it was unfortunate that it happened to put

460

00:21:03,875 --> 00:21:07,155

me 400 behind him going into final.

461

00:21:07,495 --> 00:21:10,505

I pretty much knew at that point, given the category that he was

462

00:21:10,505 --> 00:21:11,925

going to go pretty much all in.

463

00:21:11,945 --> 00:21:15,975

And I was just covering to make sure that I could get at least a second.

464

00:21:16,135 --> 00:21:16,695

I have a

465

00:21:16,695 --> 00:21:18,765

question, not to jump too far ahead.

466

00:21:18,815 --> 00:21:22,085

You played four games, some with George Stephanopoulos.

467

00:21:22,315 --> 00:21:25,235

Some with Robin Roberts,

now you've played with Ken.

468

00:21:25,835 --> 00:21:28,435

What's it like playing  
with these different hosts?

469

00:21:28,825 --> 00:21:31,535

Oh, I, I like to say that  
George was a great host.

470

00:21:31,675 --> 00:21:33,854

You can certainly tell  
he's got the noose chops.

471

00:21:33,855 --> 00:21:36,325

He, he knew how to move a game along.

472

00:21:36,625 --> 00:21:37,835

Robin was fantastic.

473

00:21:37,835 --> 00:21:39,655

I really enjoyed her.

474

00:21:39,665 --> 00:21:43,155

She's got just this great aura,  
great personality, just so friendly.

475

00:21:43,155 --> 00:21:43,945

I will say that...

476

00:21:44,265 --> 00:21:47,305

I was a little disappointed that in  
the game that I lost, she asked me

477

00:21:47,305 --> 00:21:50,645

right before the show started taping,  
or actually it had started taping,

478

00:21:51,015 --> 00:21:54,565

she asked if I was her good luck  
charm, and I had to, of course, say

479



00:21:54,565 --> 00:21:57,205  
yes, and I'll never quite forget it.

480  
00:21:57,275 --> 00:22:00,565  
Um, you know, I can't, I can't  
necessarily put the two and two together.

481  
00:22:00,855 --> 00:22:02,165  
But that was the game I lost.

482  
00:22:02,175 --> 00:22:05,915  
So there's a little bit of sour  
grapes, but they're both fantastic.

483  
00:22:05,925 --> 00:22:06,755  
And now Ken.

484  
00:22:06,845 --> 00:22:07,505  
I mean, Ken was great.

485  
00:22:07,525 --> 00:22:11,395  
Ken has been a contestant for, you  
know, a hundred plus games now.

486  
00:22:11,554 --> 00:22:14,475  
You could tell that he wants  
the players to succeed.

487  
00:22:14,615 --> 00:22:17,285  
And it's great to know that  
he is, he is pretty much

488  
00:22:17,285 --> 00:22:17,834  
one of us.

489  
00:22:17,945 --> 00:22:20,514  
So how long had you been contemplating?

490  
00:22:20,935 --> 00:22:23,555  
Taking the test, trying  
to get on Jeopardy.

491

00:22:23,605 --> 00:22:25,525  
Tell me a little bit about  
your Jeopardy journey.

492  
00:22:25,735 --> 00:22:29,425  
Well, I can recall coming home, you  
know, as a junior high student in

493  
00:22:29,425 --> 00:22:33,264  
the late 1980s to my grandma's house,  
uh, to watch the show with her.

494  
00:22:33,335 --> 00:22:35,875  
In Chicago, it was and still is on at 3.

495  
00:22:35,905 --> 00:22:38,855  
30, so that coincides right  
with when school releases.

496  
00:22:38,865 --> 00:22:41,625  
So I have distinct memories  
of watching the show with her.

497  
00:22:41,640 --> 00:22:46,020  
It wasn't until about 2010, 2011, that  
I took the test for the first time.

498  
00:22:46,070 --> 00:22:50,890  
And I remember getting an interview, an in  
person interview, I think in Portland, uh,

499  
00:22:50,910 --> 00:22:53,210  
having gone was unsuccessful, tried again.

500  
00:22:53,210 --> 00:22:56,670  
I think I ended up trying four  
or five times and ultimately

501  
00:22:56,700 --> 00:23:00,310  
with the Zoom interviews was when  
I was successful in late 2020.

502  
00:23:00,520 --> 00:23:01,360

So it's been a long time.

503

00:23:01,650 --> 00:23:03,420

It's been a long time coming, but not an

504

00:23:03,450 --> 00:23:05,720

uncommon story from great players.

505

00:23:05,720 --> 00:23:06,580

You know, if at

506

00:23:06,580 --> 00:23:09,410

first you don't succeed, try,  
try again to get on Jeopardy.

507

00:23:09,420 --> 00:23:10,010

Absolutely.

508

00:23:10,145 --> 00:23:14,365

So you leave that day, a three game  
champion, what goes through your mind,

509

00:23:14,375 --> 00:23:18,055

you know, with the tournament of champions  
approaching, what would the cut be?

510

00:23:18,055 --> 00:23:19,035

Would you make it?

511

00:23:19,065 --> 00:23:22,155

What's your thought process as  
those continuing months went on?

512

00:23:22,815 --> 00:23:26,175

Oh, I remember having a conversation  
after my three game stint with one

513

00:23:26,175 --> 00:23:29,145

of the contestant coordinators and  
say, you know, kind of asking, you

514

00:23:29,155 --> 00:23:32,095

know, truthfully knowing the answer  
that my chances are slim to none.

515

00:23:32,155 --> 00:23:33,065  
And that was fine by me.

516

00:23:33,065 --> 00:23:34,115  
I had a great time.

517

00:23:34,125 --> 00:23:37,575  
You know, if that was the end of  
my jeopardy journey, then I was

518

00:23:37,575 --> 00:23:39,915  
satisfied in the outcome, even if it.

519

00:23:40,050 --> 00:23:44,170  
Perhaps could have been more losing by  
just a hair, but I was certainly satisfied

520

00:23:44,190 --> 00:23:46,450  
with being as successful as I was.

521

00:23:47,110 --> 00:23:51,040  
So one thing that happens is  
that you finish up the tape

522

00:23:51,040 --> 00:23:52,510  
day and then you're done.

523

00:23:52,510 --> 00:23:53,310  
You go home.

524

00:23:53,460 --> 00:23:56,410  
What was it like to see Matt who beat you?

525

00:23:56,730 --> 00:23:59,329  
You discovered kind of what  
the rest of us about his

526

00:23:59,330 --> 00:23:59,690  
run.

527

00:23:59,779 --> 00:24:00,519

I'll be honest.

528

00:24:00,520 --> 00:24:01,810

I knew he'd do well.

529

00:24:01,930 --> 00:24:04,000

I didn't know that he would win 38 times.

530

00:24:04,740 --> 00:24:07,890

So I think it was fantastic to see  
a success because I know Matt's

531

00:24:07,890 --> 00:24:09,200

an absolutely brilliant guy.

532

00:24:09,530 --> 00:24:13,000

And I was really very happy for him, but  
certainly I wasn't expecting 38 times.

533

00:24:13,200 --> 00:24:13,844

I don't, I don't know if

534

00:24:13,844 --> 00:24:14,160

anybody was.

535

00:24:14,610 --> 00:24:18,340

So then you come to hear a big  
announcement for contestants

536

00:24:18,340 --> 00:24:19,880

who played in season 39.

537

00:24:20,310 --> 00:24:22,030

We're gonna have a champion's wild card.

538

00:24:22,040 --> 00:24:26,370

You know, anyone who's won at least one  
game is gonna get a chance to come back.

539

00:24:26,490 --> 00:24:30,630  
Those who played in Season 39 and you're  
thinking, Hey, what about Season 37?

540  
00:24:31,020 --> 00:24:34,400  
Was there any, gosh, I wish  
I could have another chance.

541  
00:24:34,400 --> 00:24:36,520  
Or, I certainly wish  
that was my opportunity.

542  
00:24:36,980 --> 00:24:38,230  
Sarah, I honestly know.

543  
00:24:38,290 --> 00:24:41,750  
I had no inclination whatsoever  
that they would invite contestants

544  
00:24:41,750 --> 00:24:43,210  
back from previous seasons.

545  
00:24:43,210 --> 00:24:44,980  
I thought my time was, was done.

546  
00:24:44,980 --> 00:24:45,890  
I had a great time.

547  
00:24:45,900 --> 00:24:47,820  
There was nothing, even in  
the back of my mind, that I

548  
00:24:47,820 --> 00:24:49,050  
would get another opportunity.

549  
00:24:49,100 --> 00:24:51,350  
So what's it like when  
you do get the call?

550  
00:24:51,360 --> 00:24:51,710  
When it's

551

00:24:51,710 --> 00:24:52,450  
happening?

552  
00:24:52,570 --> 00:24:53,260  
Oh boy.

553  
00:24:53,290 --> 00:24:57,305  
I remember, uh, sitting down at lunch  
with my former supervisor at work.

554  
00:24:57,305 --> 00:25:00,535  
And I remember getting this, uh,  
you know, looking at my phone.

555  
00:25:00,535 --> 00:25:02,975  
I don't want to be rude, but I  
looked and I saw it was Los Angeles.

556  
00:25:03,005 --> 00:25:05,055  
And I thought, well, I don't  
know anybody in Los Angeles.

557  
00:25:05,085 --> 00:25:07,815  
And I think that's consistent  
with what everybody else has said.

558  
00:25:08,115 --> 00:25:11,165  
But I will say in the back of my mind,  
I saw the Los Angeles and I thought.

559  
00:25:11,370 --> 00:25:15,510  
Well, there's a small potential that  
I do know somebody in Los Angeles.

560  
00:25:15,870 --> 00:25:18,580  
And sure enough, I checked the  
transcript, checked the voice message,

561  
00:25:18,580 --> 00:25:22,040  
and it was an invite back for something  
called this Champion's Wildcard.

562  
00:25:22,320 --> 00:25:25,450

And I hadn't heard that, that  
Jeopardy was gonna do this.

563

00:25:25,500 --> 00:25:29,020  
I honestly thought it was, you  
know, half a joke, half serious.

564

00:25:29,180 --> 00:25:32,800  
But sure enough, it was serious,  
and I gave them a call back,

565

00:25:32,800 --> 00:25:35,290  
discussed the details, and, you

566

00:25:35,290 --> 00:25:35,860  
know, here we are.

567

00:25:36,205 --> 00:25:37,815  
Well, what do you do after that moment?

568

00:25:37,935 --> 00:25:38,815  
You're coming back.

569

00:25:38,855 --> 00:25:40,405  
What do you do to prepare?

570

00:25:40,465 --> 00:25:40,895  
Sarah, I don't

571

00:25:40,895 --> 00:25:43,555  
know if there's anything you  
can do to prepare for this.

572

00:25:43,555 --> 00:25:45,915  
I was only given a couple weeks of notice.

573

00:25:45,985 --> 00:25:49,475  
So, I mean, certainly the J  
Archive is a huge resource.

574

00:25:49,585 --> 00:25:52,495  
I was fortunate enough to do a couple



of mock games with a couple of folks

575

00:25:52,525 --> 00:25:57,065  
locally, looking at some of the previous  
Final Jeopardy, shoring up some of the

576

00:25:57,065 --> 00:25:59,045  
areas that I'm probably not strongest in.

577

00:25:59,370 --> 00:26:03,690  
But with that limited time available,  
you kind of just do your best to, you

578

00:26:03,690 --> 00:26:08,270  
know, keep taking as many quizzes, lucky  
being curious, uh, looking at Uh, current

579

00:26:08,270 --> 00:26:12,250  
events, making as many connections  
as you can to what you know, and sort

580

00:26:12,250 --> 00:26:13,790  
of what the clues ultimately say.

581

00:26:13,950 --> 00:26:14,340  
And I

582

00:26:14,340 --> 00:26:18,540  
don't want to say I heard you took a  
page out of my book, but we borrowed

583

00:26:18,540 --> 00:26:21,650  
the same book from the library  
of getting into physical shape to

584

00:26:21,650 --> 00:26:23,510  
prepare for the Jeopardy appearance.

585

00:26:23,770 --> 00:26:24,230  
Want to tell us

586

00:26:24,230 --> 00:26:25,039

a little bit about that?

587

00:26:25,059 --> 00:26:27,939

Well, Buzzy, I always like to take a page out of your book, absolutely.

588

00:26:28,930 --> 00:26:32,670

One of the things I did, uh, was one of my shows in the quarterfinal was

589

00:26:32,750 --> 00:26:35,850

we've got a workout group that meets, uh, first thing in the morning, and

590

00:26:35,870 --> 00:26:39,000

when I say first thing in the morning, it's about, it's, it's just before 6 a.

591

00:26:39,000 --> 00:26:44,210

m., and we spend time doing various workouts, and sometimes they will use

592

00:26:44,210 --> 00:26:49,250

old Jeopardy boards to incentivize It's kind of a learning process, if you will.

593

00:26:49,250 --> 00:26:52,280

If you get something wrong, you have to do that equivalent in push ups,

594

00:26:52,290 --> 00:26:54,070

sit ups, pull ups, what have you.

595

00:26:54,390 --> 00:26:57,530

So it's a good way to kind of keep your mind and body fresh,

596

00:26:57,530 --> 00:26:58,019

if you will.

597

00:26:58,380 --> 00:26:59,100

I like this.

598

00:26:59,120 --> 00:27:00,130  
I want to see those boards.

599

00:27:00,130 --> 00:27:00,840  
I want to live that.

600

00:27:00,840 --> 00:27:03,030  
I'm going to come out and  
visit and train with you guys.

601

00:27:03,060 --> 00:27:04,760  
He's always up to train, this guy.

602

00:27:05,639 --> 00:27:09,540  
So I have to know, obviously coming  
into this competition, you were one

603

00:27:09,540 --> 00:27:13,030  
of the names when we first announced  
the competition that people thought,

604

00:27:13,040 --> 00:27:15,920  
if only there was a competition  
where Josh Saak could come back.

605

00:27:16,125 --> 00:27:19,675  
Oh, wait, there is, but what was  
it like kind of sizing up the other

606

00:27:19,675 --> 00:27:23,085  
competition within your group and  
seeing, you know, what other champions

607

00:27:23,085 --> 00:27:26,575  
you had maybe anticipated seeing or  
when you saw them, you were like,

608

00:27:26,595 --> 00:27:27,995  
Oh, no, this is going to be tough.

609

00:27:28,035 --> 00:27:30,614  
Just tell me about the camaraderie

of that group when you first

610

00:27:30,615 --> 00:27:31,085  
gathered.

611

00:27:31,240 --> 00:27:35,060  
Oh, I tell you, one of the best parts,  
if not the best part about getting a

612

00:27:35,060 --> 00:27:38,600  
chance to come back, was certainly two  
years ago, when we originally taped, it

613

00:27:38,600 --> 00:27:42,330  
was full COVID restrictions, everybody  
was in a mask, you could barely interact

614

00:27:42,330 --> 00:27:44,440  
with anybody, keeping your six feet apart.

615

00:27:44,440 --> 00:27:47,370  
This time, I've said it to other  
folks, this is a Jeopardy experience

616

00:27:47,370 --> 00:27:48,579  
that everybody should have.

617

00:27:48,629 --> 00:27:51,320  
I mean, all 27 of us, you  
know, we're all champions.

618

00:27:51,435 --> 00:27:55,385  
No matter what happens on this stage,  
but just to get to know my fellow

619

00:27:55,385 --> 00:27:59,485  
competitors in this environment  
to get, again, the full Jeopardy

620

00:27:59,485 --> 00:28:01,215  
experience was, was just amazing.

621

00:28:01,215 --> 00:28:04,754  
And we've got a great little text  
group going, uh, you know, everybody's

622  
00:28:04,755 --> 00:28:08,635  
cheering each other on, it was  
just an absolute fantastic group.

623  
00:28:08,655 --> 00:28:12,895  
I'm just over the moon with just how  
much I really truly enjoyed coming back.

624  
00:28:13,055 --> 00:28:13,235  
Well,

625  
00:28:13,235 --> 00:28:18,825  
that's all swell, but who did you  
size up as the big competition?

626  
00:28:18,995 --> 00:28:19,554  
You're going to make me choose.

627  
00:28:19,555 --> 00:28:19,785  
Yeah, I'm going to.

628  
00:28:21,215 --> 00:28:21,335  
Absolutely.

629  
00:28:21,405 --> 00:28:22,125  
Point, point.

630  
00:28:22,335 --> 00:28:23,005  
We're going to set up

631  
00:28:23,005 --> 00:28:23,415  
the lineup.

632  
00:28:23,605 --> 00:28:24,425  
Which one did it?

633  
00:28:24,535 --> 00:28:27,255  
I, I mean, Lawrence Long

certainly was up there.

634

00:28:27,265 --> 00:28:30,585

I knew he's a bright, bright guy and  
got a lot of different life experiences

635

00:28:30,585 --> 00:28:33,435

and, and honestly the two folks  
that I played in the finals, Sam and

636

00:28:33,435 --> 00:28:35,685

Lucy, they're both very good players.

637

00:28:35,785 --> 00:28:36,925

I knew they would be very

638

00:28:36,925 --> 00:28:37,665

challenging.

639

00:28:37,755 --> 00:28:41,225

I think the competition speaks for  
itself in your first quarterfinal game.

640

00:28:41,405 --> 00:28:44,925

I mean, you have a come from  
behind win in this game.

641

00:28:44,945 --> 00:28:50,595

And if not for word origins in Final  
Jeopardy, and that feeling of nausea

642

00:28:50,625 --> 00:28:53,885

that you said you were feeling, we  
may not be talking to you right now.

643

00:28:53,955 --> 00:28:54,595

This is true.

644

00:28:54,665 --> 00:28:56,235

I did not expect to win that game.

645

00:28:56,235 --> 00:28:59,815

I mean, I thought immediately when they revealed my answer, I thought,

646

00:28:59,815 --> 00:29:01,045  
well, you know, it was great.

647

00:29:01,275 --> 00:29:02,605  
I really enjoyed myself.

648

00:29:02,735 --> 00:29:05,445  
Steve outplayed me by, by every sense of the word.

649

00:29:05,740 --> 00:29:06,990  
He was faster on the buzzer.

650

00:29:06,990 --> 00:29:08,330  
He answered more correct.

651

00:29:08,410 --> 00:29:10,720  
I fully expected him to get that correct, and it was pretty

652

00:29:10,720 --> 00:29:12,020  
shocking to me that he didn't.

653

00:29:12,050 --> 00:29:15,810  
But sometimes, once you get your mind on a certain track, you only have 30 seconds.

654

00:29:16,160 --> 00:29:17,280  
It is real hard to

655

00:29:17,300 --> 00:29:18,130  
deviate from that.

656

00:29:18,190 --> 00:29:21,775  
You know, Brad Rutter once said the most important thing that he thinks for

657

00:29:21,785 --> 00:29:24,815  
Final Jeopardy is to not get on a track.

658  
00:29:24,915 --> 00:29:28,515  
Like, keep your mind as open as possible for as long as possible.

659  
00:29:28,685 --> 00:29:30,505  
Yeah, that's good advice if you can actually follow.

660  
00:29:30,505 --> 00:29:31,125  
But it's very hard to

661  
00:29:31,125 --> 00:29:34,545  
follow, because no matter what, that 30 second clock is ticking in your head,

662  
00:29:34,555 --> 00:29:37,695  
the music is playing, and you've got to come up with something, and you want

663  
00:29:37,855 --> 00:29:38,395  
to go in

664  
00:29:38,825 --> 00:29:42,165  
that 30 seconds, when the category pops up, you start trying to

665  
00:29:42,165 --> 00:29:46,155  
imagine what it could be, and that's a very dangerous game.

666  
00:29:46,235 --> 00:29:49,474  
Blind guessing is fun from the couch, not a good idea when you're up there.

667  
00:29:50,325 --> 00:29:54,455  
We head into your semi final game, and here you are with another come

668  
00:29:54,455 --> 00:29:58,765  
from behind win against I have to say more strong competition in



669

00:29:58,765 --> 00:30:00,965  
Dane Reigard and Kendra Blanchett.

670

00:30:00,995 --> 00:30:05,025  
But Dane Reigard, we knew, nearly defeated  
Andrew He, who was defeated by Amy

671

00:30:05,025 --> 00:30:07,085  
Schneider, who goes on to be in Masters.

672

00:30:07,115 --> 00:30:07,725  
I mean, this is...

673

00:30:09,440 --> 00:30:12,780  
Yeah, Dane and Kendra are both fantastic  
players, too, and fantastic people.

674

00:30:12,800 --> 00:30:15,090  
So again, it was a pleasure  
to share the stage with them.

675

00:30:15,120 --> 00:30:19,410  
And, you know, sometimes the categories  
luck out and you get something right.

676

00:30:19,410 --> 00:30:21,730  
And for me, it just happened  
to occur twice in a row,

677

00:30:21,750 --> 00:30:23,760  
which, you know, is, is great.

678

00:30:23,820 --> 00:30:25,930  
But Dane and Kendra both,  
I think, outplayed me.

679

00:30:25,960 --> 00:30:27,090  
It wasn't my strongest game.

680

00:30:27,310 --> 00:30:27,740  
So I

681  
00:30:27,740 --> 00:30:29,480  
want to go into the psychology here.

682  
00:30:29,520 --> 00:30:30,730  
First of all, congratulations.

683  
00:30:30,730 --> 00:30:33,450  
I'm doing very well in Final Jeopardy,  
which I have a hard time with.

684  
00:30:33,490 --> 00:30:37,520  
Going into the finals, feeling  
like you kind of slid through two

685  
00:30:37,540 --> 00:30:40,670  
games with, I don't want to say  
luck because you played very well,

686  
00:30:40,670 --> 00:30:44,150  
but like, not a decisive gameplay.

687  
00:30:44,420 --> 00:30:47,540  
What kind of things were  
you telling yourself?

688  
00:30:47,850 --> 00:30:51,780  
Heading into the finals  
to try to like, shake that

689  
00:30:51,780 --> 00:30:52,910  
off or work with that.

690  
00:30:53,030 --> 00:30:55,420  
Well, I mean, certainly going  
into the finals, going up against

691  
00:30:55,420 --> 00:30:58,090  
Sam and Lucy, I know these are,  
these are top level players.

692  
00:30:58,160 --> 00:31:03,330  
I did my best to sort of maybe change

my buzzer strategy just a little bit,

693

00:31:03,380 --> 00:31:07,579

and maybe anticipating the lights a bit more, trying to get more of a feel for

694

00:31:07,580 --> 00:31:11,080

the way Ken was reading the responses relative to what that gap would be

695

00:31:11,100 --> 00:31:13,050

when the, the lights were activated.

696

00:31:13,545 --> 00:31:15,795

And I felt like I was a little more successful.

697

00:31:15,795 --> 00:31:19,685

I haven't seen the stats necessarily for the finals yet, but I felt

698

00:31:19,695 --> 00:31:21,795

like I was a little more successful in being able to ring in.

699

00:31:21,795 --> 00:31:22,735

I'll give you those stats

700

00:31:22,735 --> 00:31:23,045

if you'd

701

00:31:23,045 --> 00:31:23,265

like.

702

00:31:23,275 --> 00:31:23,695

Sure.

703

00:31:24,095 --> 00:31:25,065

So in your quarterfinal

704

00:31:26,465 --> 00:31:29,285

game, your buzzer percentage was 44%.

705

00:31:29,525 --> 00:31:32,465

In your semifinal game,  
that went up to 53%.

706

00:31:32,895 --> 00:31:35,965

In the first game of the  
finals, you went up to 55%.

707

00:31:37,035 --> 00:31:40,565

And then the second game of the  
finals fell off a bit to 51%.

708

00:31:40,565 --> 00:31:42,865

So, statistically, your finals were...

709

00:31:43,190 --> 00:31:46,110

quite a bit stronger than your  
quarterfinal and semifinal

710

00:31:46,120 --> 00:31:46,510

games.

711

00:31:46,610 --> 00:31:46,850

Okay.

712

00:31:46,850 --> 00:31:48,090

That's good to get that confirmation.

713

00:31:48,940 --> 00:31:51,100

We head into the final of game one.

714

00:31:51,110 --> 00:31:54,770

You have a lead and you see  
the category natural landmarks.

715

00:31:54,790 --> 00:31:55,970

You make the biggest wager.

716

00:31:55,970 --> 00:31:59,050

You all end up getting it correct,  
but you do the biggest wager.

717  
00:31:59,050 --> 00:32:00,880  
So that puts you in  
really good contention.

718  
00:32:01,195 --> 00:32:02,165  
heading into day two.

719  
00:32:02,165 --> 00:32:04,335  
What was your mindset or what  
was your thinking behind that?

720  
00:32:04,675 --> 00:32:07,685  
Oh, I mean, I, I go with what Buzzy  
experienced in the Tournament of

721  
00:32:07,685 --> 00:32:10,645  
Champions realizing that anybody  
can win on the second day.

722  
00:32:10,675 --> 00:32:13,575  
You may have a lead, it may be a  
large lead, but nothing is safe.

723  
00:32:13,615 --> 00:32:14,615  
Anything can happen.

724  
00:32:14,625 --> 00:32:19,095  
So my thought process going into the  
second day was assuming that Sam bet

725  
00:32:19,115 --> 00:32:20,985  
everything that we would be tied.

726  
00:32:20,985 --> 00:32:21,155  
Right.

727  
00:32:21,155 --> 00:32:23,875  
As it was that I had a  
relatively large wager.

728  
00:32:23,895 --> 00:32:25,305

It's a pretty good category for me.

729

00:32:25,345 --> 00:32:26,585

I had been to Old Faithful.

730

00:32:26,595 --> 00:32:27,865

I was, I'm familiar with it.

731

00:32:27,875 --> 00:32:31,500

And I remember visiting and Pulling up  
and sometimes you have to wait, but as

732

00:32:31,500 --> 00:32:35,240

soon as we got there, it pretty much  
went off, so it's fresh in my mind.

733

00:32:35,400 --> 00:32:36,790

So now we're in game two of the finals.

734

00:32:36,830 --> 00:32:40,340

At what point do you start to  
realize you may have locked this

735

00:32:40,340 --> 00:32:40,890

thing up?

736

00:32:41,110 --> 00:32:44,590

The only part that I remember locking  
it up was the last daily double.

737

00:32:44,660 --> 00:32:48,600

Making sure that I was aggressive enough,  
it's a relatively good category for me.

738

00:32:48,830 --> 00:32:52,560

Wagering enough, doing some quick math,  
realizing that if I, if I wager enough...

739

00:32:52,840 --> 00:32:54,470

Then I can just take Final Jeopardy

740

00:32:54,470 --> 00:32:55,080

out of the second day.

741

00:32:55,200 --> 00:32:59,390  
And might we add, the only Daily  
Double you found in all four of

742

00:32:59,390 --> 00:33:01,550  
your champion wildcard games.

743

00:33:01,630 --> 00:33:02,790  
You had to bring that  
up, Sarah, didn't you?

744

00:33:02,880 --> 00:33:04,160  
Well, it went well for you.

745

00:33:04,160 --> 00:33:06,130  
I mean, Buzzy likes your  
wagering with that one.

746

00:33:06,160 --> 00:33:06,590  
Yeah, I

747

00:33:06,590 --> 00:33:09,740  
actually wanted to talk to you because  
you didn't have a chance to show us

748

00:33:09,770 --> 00:33:13,490  
kind of what your overall strategy  
and approach for Daily Doubles were.

749

00:33:13,520 --> 00:33:16,010  
We saw one of them, but  
what was your overall...

750

00:33:16,110 --> 00:33:16,580  
feeling

751

00:33:16,600 --> 00:33:17,660  
on daily doubles?

752

00:33:17,830 --> 00:33:21,960

I think ultimately I went in with the mindset of finding a daily double.

753

00:33:21,960 --> 00:33:24,710

I recall at least in my original run, I got some flack for

754

00:33:24,710 --> 00:33:25,990

being relatively conservative.

755

00:33:26,040 --> 00:33:26,770

Probably for me.

756

00:33:26,840 --> 00:33:32,440

If I do, if I look back, I realized that I was kind of conservative in some spots and

757

00:33:32,440 --> 00:33:33,990

maybe a little more aggressive in others.

758

00:33:34,010 --> 00:33:37,710

And I feel like I would do my best to try to be more aggressive when I needed to.

759

00:33:37,740 --> 00:33:41,150

I didn't get that chance, unfortunately, until the last one I found, but that was

760

00:33:41,150 --> 00:33:42,420

sort of the mindset that I had going in.

761

00:33:42,490 --> 00:33:42,890

And do you

762

00:33:42,890 --> 00:33:48,615

feel like your big wager kind of Pushed Sam to wager more and it kind

763

00:33:48,615 --> 00:33:53,175

of reminded me of my game two of the TOC where I made a big wager and that

764



00:33:53,175 --> 00:33:56,975  
forced Alan to make maybe a bigger wager  
than he would have, which he got wrong.

765  
00:33:56,985 --> 00:34:00,665  
And that was kind of the  
bounce back of the daily double

766  
00:34:00,665 --> 00:34:01,305  
slingshot.

767  
00:34:01,535 --> 00:34:04,325  
Yeah, I feel like, I feel like  
Sam certainly maybe wagered more

768  
00:34:04,325 --> 00:34:05,655  
than he would have ideally liked.

769  
00:34:05,695 --> 00:34:08,995  
Now, I know that Sam, he already had a  
couple True Daily doubles in his previous

770  
00:34:08,995 --> 00:34:12,075  
round, so I know that he can be an  
aggressive player when he wants to be.

771  
00:34:12,385 --> 00:34:13,605  
Um, so I wasn't surprised.

772  
00:34:13,605 --> 00:34:14,635  
I knew he had to go big.

773  
00:34:14,645 --> 00:34:17,205  
And it was unfortunate that  
he missed that last one.

774  
00:34:17,205 --> 00:34:19,105  
But sometimes that's, that's  
the way the game goes.

775  
00:34:19,115 --> 00:34:21,085  
If I was in his position, I  
would have done the exact same

776

00:34:21,085 --> 00:34:21,315  
thing.

777

00:34:21,430 --> 00:34:24,770  
So if you're doing the math, you  
came in as a three day champion.

778

00:34:24,870 --> 00:34:27,330  
You've essentially now  
won another four games.

779

00:34:27,340 --> 00:34:31,350  
So you're kind of stacking yourself  
as maybe a seven game champion heading

780

00:34:31,350 --> 00:34:33,980  
into the tournament of champions.

781

00:34:33,990 --> 00:34:38,160  
First of all, what's it like to  
realize I'm going to the TOC?

782

00:34:38,250 --> 00:34:38,660  
Sarah, I don't

783

00:34:38,660 --> 00:34:40,470  
think it's sunk in yet, honestly.

784

00:34:40,510 --> 00:34:41,710  
No, I don't think so.

785

00:34:41,760 --> 00:34:43,550  
No, I was, this was so unexpected.

786

00:34:43,630 --> 00:34:46,430  
I mean, certainly I've thought  
about it, but at the same time,

787

00:34:46,440 --> 00:34:51,120  
it still feels so fresh and  
unexpected that I honestly can't.

788  
00:34:51,270 --> 00:34:54,750  
Figure out what the words, how I would  
put that into actual sentences is.

789  
00:34:55,260 --> 00:34:55,520  
Have

790  
00:34:55,520 --> 00:34:57,410  
you looked at the field?

791  
00:34:57,610 --> 00:35:01,470  
Have you taken a glance at some of  
the people that you will be facing

792  
00:35:01,490 --> 00:35:02,780  
in the tournament of champions?

793  
00:35:02,890 --> 00:35:04,350  
Oh, I've been watching this past season.

794  
00:35:04,350 --> 00:35:07,990  
I know exactly who the strong  
there's your Chris Panulo is

795  
00:35:07,990 --> 00:35:09,220  
your Ray Lalonde's of the world.

796  
00:35:09,230 --> 00:35:10,200  
These are, these are extraordinary.

797  
00:35:10,200 --> 00:35:10,210  
I

798  
00:35:10,210 --> 00:35:11,380  
want you to throw a name out.

799  
00:35:11,390 --> 00:35:13,220  
This is like a WWE moment.

800  
00:35:13,370 --> 00:35:14,210

You're like, I want

801

00:35:14,210 --> 00:35:15,270

Panulo.

802

00:35:16,030 --> 00:35:17,220

I am not doing that.

803

00:35:17,960 --> 00:35:21,600

But if I were to say that, I would  
say that Chris and Ray are up there.

804

00:35:21,600 --> 00:35:22,700

They are top competitors.

805

00:35:22,700 --> 00:35:25,960

Ben Chan, he lost by the skin  
of his teeth on his last final.

806

00:35:25,990 --> 00:35:27,990

He could have probably  
gone twice as many games.

807

00:35:28,030 --> 00:35:31,580

These are all fantastic players, and I'm  
absolutely thrilled to be joining them.

808

00:35:31,590 --> 00:35:35,500

So without revealing too much, because,  
you know, we don't want to give your

809

00:35:35,530 --> 00:35:39,800

competition any sort of edge that we  
don't have to, are you changing up your

810

00:35:39,810 --> 00:35:42,410

preparation for the TOC from what you did?

811

00:35:42,565 --> 00:35:43,355

coming into Champions

812

00:35:43,365 --> 00:35:43,915

Wildcard.

813  
00:35:43,965 --> 00:35:46,245  
My Champions Wildcard, my new Jeopardy!

814  
00:35:46,245 --> 00:35:50,295  
friends, I think they are, uh, they're,  
they're doing their best to be as

815  
00:35:50,295 --> 00:35:51,735  
supportive as they, as they can.

816  
00:35:51,735 --> 00:35:55,675  
So if we can play a few mock games  
between now and the tournament, I, I

817  
00:35:55,685 --> 00:35:57,075  
think we're going to work towards that.

818  
00:35:57,085 --> 00:36:00,695  
It's shoring up some of the things  
that I don't know as well, that I'd

819  
00:36:00,695 --> 00:36:02,335  
like to be at least passable in.

820  
00:36:02,365 --> 00:36:05,945  
Working on maybe a little more buzzer  
practice than, than I did before.

821  
00:36:05,985 --> 00:36:08,755  
And just taking in as much  
as I can for as long as

822  
00:36:08,755 --> 00:36:09,135  
I can.

823  
00:36:09,355 --> 00:36:13,445  
I love that your fellow competitors are  
gathering and rallying around to help you.

824  
00:36:13,485 --> 00:36:17,435

To think of Sam and Lucy and everybody championing you is

825

00:36:17,475 --> 00:36:18,135  
awesome.

826

00:36:18,265 --> 00:36:19,125  
Oh, these are fantastic.

827

00:36:19,125 --> 00:36:20,555  
I have absolutely loved this group.

828

00:36:20,585 --> 00:36:21,945  
It is a fantastic group of people.

829

00:36:21,945 --> 00:36:24,665  
Jeopardy knows how to, how  
to pick, you know, fantastic

830

00:36:24,675 --> 00:36:26,325  
contestants and fantastic people.

831

00:36:26,345 --> 00:36:28,895  
So I am just over the moon with  
the new friends that I've made.

832

00:36:28,955 --> 00:36:29,225  
They're the

833

00:36:29,225 --> 00:36:29,995  
Spades, Buzzy.

834

00:36:29,995 --> 00:36:30,595  
I don't know if you know.

835

00:36:30,595 --> 00:36:33,385  
The first Champions Wild  
group, you're the Spades.

836

00:36:33,405 --> 00:36:35,665  
So it's good to know that  
that is a sweet suit.

837

00:36:35,790 --> 00:36:36,070

I was

838

00:36:36,070 --> 00:36:38,700

sort of disappointed that you  
didn't go for, like, the tarot,

839

00:36:38,700 --> 00:36:39,870

like, the cups and anything.

840

00:36:40,190 --> 00:36:40,540

Ah, yes.

841

00:36:40,580 --> 00:36:40,950

But anyway,

842

00:36:40,950 --> 00:36:41,460

I digress.

843

00:36:41,520 --> 00:36:44,220

You know, let's hope we don't ever  
have to come up with this many

844

00:36:44,220 --> 00:36:47,870

competitions with this many different  
ways to identify them, let's just say

845

00:36:47,900 --> 00:36:47,930

that.

846

00:36:48,480 --> 00:36:49,020

Josh,

847

00:36:49,090 --> 00:36:52,460

the softball questions are over,  
it's time for the gotcha journalism.

848

00:36:52,510 --> 00:36:55,730

What is your lunch order when you are

849

00:36:55,730 --> 00:36:56,870  
here on the Sony lot?

850  
00:36:57,035 --> 00:36:58,935  
Buzzy, I was waiting for that question.

851  
00:36:59,355 --> 00:37:01,135  
He's anticipating the  
hard hitting question.

852  
00:37:01,205 --> 00:37:01,565  
I know, I

853  
00:37:01,565 --> 00:37:03,495  
feel like, I kind of feel  
like James Lipton now.

854  
00:37:03,495 --> 00:37:04,915  
What is your favorite curse word?

855  
00:37:04,995 --> 00:37:05,145  
I

856  
00:37:05,145 --> 00:37:07,725  
knew when I was doing this, I knew  
Buzzy would ask me the question when I,

857  
00:37:07,775 --> 00:37:10,965  
because we had the quarterfinals taping,  
I knew I was taping the second day.

858  
00:37:11,195 --> 00:37:14,605  
I went with some world cuisine the first  
day because, well, you know, I wanted to

859  
00:37:14,655 --> 00:37:16,095  
have some little bit of Nepalese curry.

860  
00:37:16,105 --> 00:37:16,425  
Risky.

861  
00:37:17,445 --> 00:37:17,925



Oh, yes.

862

00:37:19,025 --> 00:37:20,115

Well, I knew I wasn't playing that.

863

00:37:20,185 --> 00:37:20,905

I know, but I

864

00:37:21,325 --> 00:37:22,595

eat here every day, Josh.

865

00:37:22,595 --> 00:37:23,345

It's risky.

866

00:37:23,505 --> 00:37:24,515

Whether you're playing or not.

867

00:37:25,825 --> 00:37:29,045

Yeah, get Gastrointestinal

distress can last more

868

00:37:29,045 --> 00:37:30,105

than 24 hours.

869

00:37:30,285 --> 00:37:33,745

The next two days I went with something  
that I knew was, I mean, a chef's

870

00:37:33,745 --> 00:37:37,055

salad I think one day and I think

I went with a poke bowl the next.

871

00:37:37,075 --> 00:37:37,215

Ooh,

872

00:37:37,705 --> 00:37:38,535

also very risky.

873

00:37:39,845 --> 00:37:41,175

You know, but Ken likes the poke

874

00:37:41,365 --> 00:37:41,655  
bowl.

875  
00:37:41,925 --> 00:37:42,485  
He does.

876  
00:37:42,605 --> 00:37:44,515  
No, and I love a good  
pokey, but I'm a little

877  
00:37:44,515 --> 00:37:45,255  
Cafeteria

878  
00:37:45,255 --> 00:37:45,774  
pokey hits different.

879  
00:37:45,775 --> 00:37:48,055  
I'm a little hesitant at  
the Sony commissary, but

880  
00:37:48,065 --> 00:37:49,725  
obviously it serves you well.

881  
00:37:49,815 --> 00:37:50,075  
Yeah.

882  
00:37:50,075 --> 00:37:53,295  
You're headed to the TOC on the  
heels of that pokey, so it's working.

883  
00:37:53,455 --> 00:37:54,075  
That's fantastic to

884  
00:37:54,075 --> 00:37:54,355  
hear.

885  
00:37:54,425 --> 00:37:55,245  
I don't get sick of hearing

886  
00:37:55,245 --> 00:37:55,315  
that.

887

00:37:55,515 --> 00:37:58,885

You know, next time when you're a TOC champion, I'm gonna ask you again,

888

00:37:58,885 --> 00:38:00,585

and I hope that you have as good of

889

00:38:00,655 --> 00:38:01,555

responses.

890

00:38:01,595 --> 00:38:02,815

I bet you say that to all the contestants.

891

00:38:02,875 --> 00:38:03,495

I do, yeah.

892

00:38:03,815 --> 00:38:04,255

I do.

893

00:38:05,085 --> 00:38:07,905

So next, you mentioned that you hadn't seen all the stats yet,

894

00:38:07,905 --> 00:38:11,310

but of what you know, Is there a stat that you're most proud

895

00:38:11,310 --> 00:38:11,560

of?

896

00:38:11,680 --> 00:38:14,690

The first day I didn't get any wrong, that's the one I'm most proud of.

897

00:38:14,910 --> 00:38:17,850

Um, unfortunately, I feel like 100 percent is hard to beat.

898

00:38:18,180 --> 00:38:22,870

But, I mean, I feel like my first day I was a little too conservative in my play.

899  
00:38:22,890 --> 00:38:26,300  
Now I kind of balanced that out with  
some maybe more aggressive tactics that

900  
00:38:26,620 --> 00:38:28,090  
just happened to play out my second day.

901  
00:38:28,090 --> 00:38:32,440  
But I feel like at least in the finals  
I was able to bring a game that was

902  
00:38:32,845 --> 00:38:37,655  
Competitive to go against some fantastic  
players and ultimately I ended up

903  
00:38:37,745 --> 00:38:40,205  
successful and I'm still floored by

904  
00:38:40,205 --> 00:38:40,305  
it.

905  
00:38:40,745 --> 00:38:44,795  
What's been the reaction of, you know,  
the people in your life getting to see you

906  
00:38:44,815 --> 00:38:47,265  
back on the Alex Trebek stage and doing so

907  
00:38:47,265 --> 00:38:47,765  
well?

908  
00:38:47,925 --> 00:38:50,815  
I feel like, you know, nothing  
like this happens in a vacuum.

909  
00:38:50,825 --> 00:38:55,705  
My family has been thrilled beyond  
belief, all my co workers, all my friends.

910  
00:38:55,985 --> 00:39:00,475  
I feel like this is a community  
that has really gotten behind

911  
00:39:00,475 --> 00:39:04,945  
me and been so supportive, lots  
of messages, texts, phone calls.

912  
00:39:04,955 --> 00:39:06,145  
It's been fantastic.

913  
00:39:06,205 --> 00:39:07,795  
So, obviously, your Jeopardy!

914  
00:39:07,795 --> 00:39:09,055  
journey is not over.

915  
00:39:09,055 --> 00:39:10,995  
We know we're going to see you in the TOC.

916  
00:39:11,375 --> 00:39:15,135  
Up until this point, what's  
been the best part so far?

917  
00:39:15,415 --> 00:39:18,635  
Oh, the best part has been meeting  
my fellow contestants and again,

918  
00:39:18,645 --> 00:39:22,285  
making my, my new Jeopardy friends  
and meeting all kinds of folks, even

919  
00:39:22,285 --> 00:39:25,575  
though we're from different walks  
of life, have different occupations.

920  
00:39:25,585 --> 00:39:26,745  
I mean, Jeopardy has brought us.

921  
00:39:26,880 --> 00:39:27,440  
together.

922  
00:39:27,450 --> 00:39:31,030  
And we all have kind of the trivia  
itch, if you will, that needs to

923

00:39:31,040 --> 00:39:32,380  
be scratched from time to time.

924

00:39:32,380 --> 00:39:36,220  
And having that in common really  
kind of makes your community.

925

00:39:36,250 --> 00:39:37,960  
And that's just been  
probably one of the best

926

00:39:37,960 --> 00:39:38,810  
parts of all this.

927

00:39:38,860 --> 00:39:42,710  
Well, Josh, we add you to the list of  
wonderful ambassadors that we're so

928

00:39:42,710 --> 00:39:44,850  
lucky to have in our Jeopardy family.

929

00:39:45,210 --> 00:39:49,050  
We can't wait to welcome you  
back for the TOC and enjoy.

930

00:39:49,060 --> 00:39:49,980  
Enjoy this moment.

931

00:39:49,980 --> 00:39:50,200  
Yeah.

932

00:39:50,250 --> 00:39:51,300  
Unexpected.

933

00:39:52,130 --> 00:39:52,610  
Enjoy

934

00:39:52,610 --> 00:39:52,830  
it.

935

00:39:52,960 --> 00:39:54,040  
Oh, I have been, Sarah.

936  
00:39:54,050 --> 00:39:54,650  
I have been.

937  
00:39:54,820 --> 00:39:55,790  
And I really appreciate that.

938  
00:39:55,790 --> 00:39:56,170  
Thank you.

939  
00:39:56,200 --> 00:39:57,460  
We'll see you again very soon.

940  
00:39:57,520 --> 00:39:57,960  
Appreciate it.

941  
00:39:57,990 --> 00:39:58,620  
Take care, everybody.

942  
00:39:59,170 --> 00:40:01,260  
Wow, Buzzy, what a great  
guy, that Josh Stack.

943  
00:40:01,260 --> 00:40:03,850  
Don't you just want to hang  
out with him a little longer?

944  
00:40:03,850 --> 00:40:06,100  
I'm like going to the workout with him.

945  
00:40:06,110 --> 00:40:10,010  
I'm excited to see him come  
back and see what he can do in

946  
00:40:10,010 --> 00:40:11,040  
this Tournament of Champions.

947  
00:40:11,040 --> 00:40:15,450  
You know, last year we saw the  
first second chance people in

948  
00:40:15,450 --> 00:40:16,360  
the Tournament of Champions.

949  
00:40:16,360 --> 00:40:18,220  
Now we're going to have  
some Champions wildcard.

950  
00:40:18,220 --> 00:40:20,400  
It's really, you know,  
these people now have won.

951  
00:40:20,790 --> 00:40:25,460  
The number of games that a Tournament of  
Champions winner needs to win to qualify.

952  
00:40:25,460 --> 00:40:27,960  
So they are really  
qualified and I'm excited.

953  
00:40:27,960 --> 00:40:30,490  
I'm so excited to see  
what he in particular

954  
00:40:30,490 --> 00:40:30,840  
can do.

955  
00:40:31,000 --> 00:40:33,870  
Yeah, well we're gonna have to  
wait a little longer for that.

956  
00:40:34,330 --> 00:40:37,360  
But next week we will be  
highlighting more games.

957  
00:40:37,360 --> 00:40:37,530  
Yes.

958  
00:40:37,630 --> 00:40:39,550  
Because we've reached  
the end of today's show.

959



00:40:39,580 --> 00:40:41,290  
But don't worry, we're gonna be back.

960  
00:40:41,540 --> 00:40:44,870  
As I mentioned, we're gonna  
highlight more Champions Wildcard

961  
00:40:44,870 --> 00:40:46,450  
games from the Diamonds group.

962  
00:40:46,490 --> 00:40:48,440  
And our next Celebrity Jeopardy!

963  
00:40:48,440 --> 00:40:49,140  
Quarterfinal.

964  
00:40:49,540 --> 00:40:53,620  
Oscar winner Mira Sorvino, Adam  
Rodriguez, and Peter Schragar.

965  
00:40:53,900 --> 00:40:57,890  
So be sure to tune in to those games this  
week, and then join us here back on the

966  
00:40:57,890 --> 00:40:59,690  
pod on Monday as we break it all down.

967  
00:40:59,800 --> 00:40:59,980  
And

968  
00:41:00,010 --> 00:41:03,480  
don't forget to post your hashtag  
Deathly Double Costumes for the chance

969  
00:41:03,480 --> 00:41:08,350  
to win the very exclusive Ken Jennings  
photograph signed by me, Buzzy Cohen.

970  
00:41:08,550 --> 00:41:10,870  
This is one of only two in existence.

971  
00:41:11,390 --> 00:41:15,430

And as always, please subscribe to the  
podcast and follow us at Jeopardy on

972

00:41:15,450 --> 00:41:17,360  
Instagram, on Facebook, on YouTube.

973

00:41:17,615 --> 00:41:17,835  
On

974

00:41:17,865 --> 00:41:18,605  
TikTok, on

975

00:41:18,605 --> 00:41:21,415  
Twitter, or X, whatever you  
want to call it, we will see

976

00:41:21,415 --> 00:41:22,305  
you next week.

977

00:41:22,745 --> 00:41:23,085  
See you then!