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[00:00:00] From the Alex Trebek stage at Sony Picture Studios. This

is

Inside Jeopardy.

Sarah: Hello and welcome back to Inside Jeopardy, your exclusive and official podcast destination for all things happening in the world of Jeopardy. I'm Sarah Foss, and I'm joined, sadly, remotely by the one and only Sam Butchery. Good morning, good afternoon, hello, happy Monday, Sam.

Sam: Happy Monday, indeed. I'm joining you from the Inside Jeopardy! remote studio, located at the largest river in the world, over which there are no bridges. And perhaps surprisingly, it's the Amazon. No bridges over the Amazon. But let's not talk about me, Sarah. Let's talk about you. What have you been up to?

How was your weekend?

Sarah: Well, it was a big weekend, Sam. I have to know, have you been to the Amazon?

Sam: Uh, in real life, no.

Sarah: Okay.

Sam: But I once ordered something from Amazon. com.

Sarah: Only once.

Sam: Well, let's say at least once.

Sarah: Okay. I've actually been to the Amazon, but not for Jeopardy, which is rare for me to talk about about any of my travels.

So, alas, I saw no [00:01:00] bridges. You are correct. Few piranha, few pink dolphins, but no bridges.

Sam: Wow. You've been everywhere.

Sarah: Well, I have, but this weekend, I was all over town, but right here in Los Angeles. It was my little one's seventh birthday. We had the Reagan sleepover squad. I had little tents. I had little girls.

It was a big night. They didn't go to bed till one in the morning. You'd think they'd be tired at age seven, and if you go to bed at one in the morning, you will surely sleep in, right? No, not right. Wide awake at 6. 15, just in time to have like three hours of fun before they got picked up. So, that was great.

Then we had my daughter's last soccer game. And then she performed in Shrek Jr. yesterday, Sam.

Sam: Wow, that's exciting. What role did she play?

Sarah: Well, she had the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy, which she decided to take on a British accent for. And she was also Gingy, you know, the talking cookie. Right. And then she did a really high voice.

Hello, I'm Chichi! I mean it was just magnificent. Wish you could have been [00:02:00] there, but If you thought I might normally be exhausted from work, I'm extra exhausted just from life this weekend.

Sam: Right. I think I'll allow it. Yes.

Sarah: Okay. You joined us last week. Of course, we taped Champions Wildcard. What was it like to have a front row seat to that, Sam?

Sam: It was very exciting. A lot of great jeopardy, a lot of very nice people. I can't get enough jeopardy, Sarah. I gotta say, I love coming down there and watching the games in person, and these did not disappoint.

Sarah: Well, and the audience loves having you. It's always such a special moment when Jimmy gets to say, And guess who's here?

Sam Buttry is in the house, and the audience goes wild.

Sam: You know, usually I walk around my life and my town, and nobody knows who I am, and that's fine. But if you go to a target rich environment like a Jeopardy taping, a certain number of people want to have their picture taken with me, and of course I'm happy to oblige.

So folks, if you're listening, come down to Jeopardy, and if I'm there, you can have your picture taken with me. But it's not mandatory. I'm sorry.

Sarah: It's not mandatory, but you're right. People used to say that when I was on the [00:03:00] Kluker, they're like, oh, do you get recognized? I said, in a Jeopardy rich environment, yes, I am big, big stuff.

But normally, no, I can go about my business just fine. I will make it through the grocery store line. It is a good

Sam: balance.

Sarah: It is a good balance. Well, if you want more Jeopardy, as we announced last week, we have Jeopardy Bar League. It's been in the works for a long time. The interactive game that you hosted in Detroit is kind of a bit of a spinoff from it, if you will, but it's that same concept of being able to, to To play on your device along with the hosts.

But of course for Bar League, you'll be playing in teams and we're going to be testing it out if you will. So just a few places, they're going to have the first official games. You can go to Jeopardy.com to find out more about that. Of course, we're launching first at Alamo Draft House, which is such a cool organization.

We were actually at their headquarters in Austin a couple of weeks ago. So that's going to be December 2nd in New York. And Austin and San Antonio, December 3rd in San Antonio, [00:04:00] December 5th in Los Angeles, December 7th back in Austin, and then here in LA at the Firestone Walker Brewing Company on December 10th.

So this will be your first chance. to play along and get the game going, but it's going to officially launch a little later. And I know we're going to have to have you host one of these, Sam. I can't imagine Sam Buttrey in a bar.

Sam: Uh, that would be the, my first visit to a bar, I think, at least under my current name.

But I will say I'm looking very much forward to it. The event we did in Detroit had something quite similar as you say, but it was each person playing for him or herself. Whereas the Bar Jeopardy, of course, will be just like your regular bar trivia. There will be teams I imagine a bunch of people huddled around some volunteer's phone yelling things out and generally carousing.

It should be fun.

Sarah: Yeah. I love some good carousing. Yeah. The way it's set up, everyone does have a device that they can refer to, but there's the captain device that's actually. You know, giving the correct responses. So every team member can't go rogue. They do have to work together [00:05:00] as a team, which is always good.

Sam: Very good. I'm excited to see what it'll be like. I know you have it there in Venice, California. Steps away from Culver City.

Sarah: Yes. And we've actually gone as a Jeopardy team to that location a couple of times just to kind of Check out Bar trivia in Los Angeles almost as research, you know, you got to go research.

Maybe they serve you beer at the same time, but you are researching. That is a

Sam: part of the research, Sarah.

Sarah: It's all a part of it. Funny story. A lot of people were talking about Ken Jennings revealing that the show is going to be streaming and you know, one of these clickbait articles even said early next year.

And when we were taping last week, Ken said, Hey, uh, did I say something about streaming? Because everyone keeps coming up and asking me about it. And I said. We have checked the tapes. We can't find anywhere that you said anything specific about early 2025, but according to whatever article ran with it, someone in the audience heard you say it.

The truth is the show will be streaming, but not [00:06:00] until next season. And those streaming pitches are actually happening right now. So we don't know where Jeopardy is going to live in streaming.

Sam: Once that's decided, won't our listeners be able to find out about it here on your exclusive and official home for all things Jeopardy, all things about America's favorite quiz show, trademark used with permission.

Sarah: I love it, Sam. It's our home. I like to think of it as our home, Sam. You're right here. Right here. Just not here, but right here in my heart.

Sam: In the hearts of Jeopardy fans everywhere.

Sarah: Exactly. Well, as you know, we did tape in Jeopardy! production time. We did record the Champion's Wild Card, but today we're going to announce The roster.

I do want to just go over how that tournament, it is a tournament because it has one winner. That's the differentiation between tournament and competition. Second chance, more than one winner. We call it a competition. Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. Four, the champions wildcard tournament. It's going [00:07:00] back old school.

We're going to the field. Fifteen person format, of course, those five quarterfinal games. This is how your professor's tournament was played, Sam.

Sam: That's exactly right. And this will be the first tournament since then with this format, the five winners and the four wildcards advancing to the next round.

Sarah: Yes, so you were one of the winners in your initial quarterfinal, but among the non winners, we pick the four highest scorers. So that gives us the nine players. Those nine players then play in the semifinals, and then it's a two day total point of fair to get our champion. So it'll be a 10 day total tournament, and the players who will be competing, we will reveal now.

Now, one caveat to this is some of these shows. Where these qualifying players are going to compete have not aired, so they're not going to be full rosters as well as Sam for Champions Wildcard. Of course, we have those two second chance winners, so it's a field of 15 for Champions Wildcard. [00:08:00] We're going to give you a chance.

Most of the names, at least the names of those people who you have seen play so far. First up we have Jay Fisher. You saw him back in July three wins. Actually. He's our only player in champions wild card. with three wins, and it was a tough cut off for T. O. C. We had to go by the numbers and Jays. Total earnings were the lowest of the three game winners, so he ended up in champions wild card.

We also have Marco Cerec aired back in April. Two wins, Davie Morrison and airing in July with two wins. Will Weiss, we saw him in September, also a two game winner. Aiden Orzak, another September champion with two wins. Jen Feldman aired in September, also with two wins. Sad to say, Jen is our only female in the field that we are revealing today.

We also have Eamon Campbell. [00:09:00] We saw him back in October. Two wins. Joey DeSena, you watched him last week, clinch two victories. And you also saw Evan Dory, who won one game, but a great game. We're going to discuss it a little bit later. So he's in as a one game winner. Now we have some additional champions, as I mentioned, their shows haven't aired.

We can't talk about them yet. But as their shows do come up, we'll be able to confirm for you that they are champions wildcard participants. So you kind of know where things stand. We had one three game winner. We have some two game winners. We've at least revealed one, one game winner. So we'll see how the rest of the field wraps up.

And now that brings us to the tournament of champions,

Sam: the tournament of champions. I know you said that, but I wanted to repeat it.

Sarah: I love it. Well, a bit of disappointing news off the top for the field. We learned at the end of last week that Lisa Ann Walter, you know, she's on this little show, I don't know if you've heard of it.

Abbott Elementary. Kind of a big deal. They're actually in production [00:10:00] the same week that we are doing Tournament of Champions. She had really tried to work her schedule in a way that she could be able to shoot with us and shoot with them. And it's not going to be possible, but we have extended the invitation for next year's Tournament of Champions.

So we do hope she will be able to join us. And that leaves these names I can reveal to you right now. First up, we're going to seed Our top three champions. These are the three players who won more than five consecutive games. They're going to be right into the semifinals. Now, Sam, I think you experienced this in your TOC a couple of years ago.

You were with one of these seeded players who didn't play in a quarterfinal. I don't think it worked out that well for them.

Sam: Well, they did have seeding in my tournament, although they did not, as you recall, last year. For whatever reason, the year I was in, Season 39's Tournament of Champions had three huge winners in Amy, Matea, and Matt Amodio, as well as 16 game winner Ryan Long and 12 game winner Jonathan Fisher, [00:11:00] who in any other year with seeding might surely have deserved one of those spots.

But there is no guarantee that getting a seed into the semifinal will get you into the final, as Both Matea and Matt learned to their undying sadness as they were knocked out by, uh, players who were not quite as successful in regular Jeopardy, but you know, there's a lot of variability in a Jeopardy game.

And of course, it's a three person game. People say, Oh, Sam, you beat Matt Amodio. And I, I don't use that term. I say, I won a game that Matt Amodio was in because I have a lot of help from John Folkt, the other player in that game and a lot of help from the board. I just managed to. Eek that win out, but it's because of that win that I stand before you.

I'm sitting, but it's metaphorical. Stand before you, the Jeopardy guy I am today. So I love Tournament of Champions. I like the seeding format. I think it makes sense. And of course, you're about to name those top three champions who are all very worthy of the seed and of the semifinals of the Tournament of Champions.

Sarah: Yes. Well, I don't know if you wouldn't be here. I mean, [00:12:00] your personality was dynamic, but we did get to see a lot more of you because of that, because, of course, you played in the finals, which was a first to three wins. It ended up going six games. And then, oh, Masters, you were there, too. So we got a lot more of you than we expected.

could have initially had, had that seating situation not gone the way it did.

Sam: I love the seating, uh, in that case, and I love defeating Matt. Yeah, I beat him. Uh, and I, you know, uh, people love playing Jeopardy at any level, and the Tournament of Champions is as exciting as anything else, particularly in the final, where, uh, you have to win, in this case, you had to win three games to become the champion, so it isn't do or die in every game, and you get to hang with the same players.

And I get to know them. You know, uh, Andrew, he and I are friends today. Amy and I text occasionally. Matt and I are friends today. All growing out of jeopardy.

Sarah: I love it. Well, yes, the seating is going to be, as you mentioned, the top three players. Adriana Harmeier with 15 wins. We've got Isaac Hirsch with nine wins and Drew [00:13:00] Basile with seven wins.

Now we want it to be fair for them because they won't be playing in a quarterfinal game, so they will play in the semifinals. In an exhibition game,

and this allows them to have equal playing time with the other Tournament of Champions players who will be playing in that quarterfinal, they'll have an exhibition game.

It will not be broadcast because we only have a certain amount of games we can put into each season, but you will be able to listen to it on TuneIn. So we'll have more information about that coming up, but you will be able to listen to it on TuneIn. These exhibition games are usually a little A little lighter, a little more fun.

I think in the last one, Ken accidentally gave the correct response before the clue was revealed and we kept it in there because that's, that's good TV. They had to bleep. Ken doesn't make many mistakes.

Sam: They had to bleep Ken saying a word that isn't permitted on television. Honestly, I didn't know Ken Jennings even knew those words.

Sarah: I know, right? So we will have the exhibition game. We will have six quarterfinal matchups. Of [00:14:00] course, then those winners along with our three seated players will go into the semifinals. That will give us nine players. They will each play one of three semifinal games and then our three finalists will advance and it will once again be the first to three win format.

So we're really excited about that. The other players who we can announce right now rounding out the tournament of champions field are Greg Jolin, just saw him recently, five wins. Alison Betts, five wins. Mark Fitzpatrick, also with five wins. Amy Hummel, another five win winner. So those were the names you knew.

You knew they were making the tournament of champions because they have those five wins. So that's automatic. Oftentimes our four game champions also get in and this year that is Ryan Manton, Grant DeYoung, Will Wallace, Amr Kekirdi. Those the four game winners. Lucas Partridge is a three game winner, will be joining us in the TOC.

He's been, you know, he had all those months [00:15:00] to wait as the returning champion from Season 40, and now he's had all this time to wait and see if he would make the TOC cutoff, which he did. We also have David Erb, a three game winner. Along with three game winner Will Stewart, Nilesh Vingimuri with three wins, we have Rishabh Wuppalapati also with three wins, Allison Gross with three, and WakeyEyeRanala with three wins.

Sam: Well, wait a minute, Sarah. You promised me 18 names, and you only gave me 15.

Sarah: Well, Sam. Much will be decided. Of course, we're going to have that champions wildcard winner and we don't know who else will be filling out that field. So stay tuned to more jeopardy. All I know is I love the tournament of champions.

I cannot wait. Of course, we will also be having our honors ceremony on the eve of the TOC. You and I will be on the blue carpet, Sam. That'll be fun. We have lots of cool awards to give away and. Ah, it's just, the excitement's in the air. The postseason [00:16:00] is not disappointing so far.

Sam: Jeopardy! Honors was a blast when I went.

Lots of, uh, nice people, lots of fun. We had Buzzy doing the honors on the blue carpet, and, uh, the awards themselves, when I was there, they, uh, awarded, for example, Johnny Gilbert came out and gave a nice talk as he entered the Jeopardy! Hall of Fame. So, Sarah, can you remind us when the Tournament of Champions is going to air?

Sometime in January, maybe?

Sarah: That is right, you'll probably be hunkered down, it'll be wintertime, you'll be cozied up by the couch, perhaps a warm fire, and January 27th, the TOC will debut, we won't know how many games it's going to go until we play it, but it's going to be fun, we know it's going to be at least two and a half weeks, maybe longer, we'll see, see what's in store.

Sam: Let's see what happens.

Sarah: And now a quick word from our sponsor. When you think about the success of businesses like Heinz or Mattel, it's often overlooked that it's actually the businesses behind the business making selling simple. And nobody does selling simple better than Shopify. [00:17:00] Home of the number one checkout on the planet.

Upgrade your business and get the same checkout Heinz and Mattel use. Sign up for your 1 per month trial period at [shopify.com slash jeopardy](https://shopify.com/slash/jeopardy), all lowercase. Go to [shopify.com slash jeopardy](https://shopify.com/slash/jeopardy) to upgrade your selling today. [Shopify.com slash jeopardy](https://shopify.com/slash/jeopardy). And now back to Inside Jeopardy. Well, Sam, what do you say we get into those game recaps?

Sam: Yeah, what happened on Monday, Cheryl?

Sarah: Well, we kicked off the week with two new players and a returning champion in Rachel Marcus, hoping for her second win going up against Joey and Chris. But it was Joey who managed to find both of the Daily Doubles in Double Jeopardy, taking a strong lead there. It was a triple stumper.

And Joey secured the win.

Sam: It's often an advantage to be in second place for a triple stumper if you're close enough to the leader. But in this case, Joey was so far away, he [00:18:00] needed to bet only a small amount. He did, and when he got it wrong, he emerged as the champion.

Sarah: All right, I want to show a sandwich board from this game.

What is a hoe? Of course, anyone who watched Ken Jennings original run knows what this was a, a slight reference to, but in this game, it was all aboard was the category. This was the 200 clue. It's the delicious advertising item in the game. Use. And, uh, you know, a Redditor said shout out to the what is a ho sandwich board.

The producers will literally take any chance to troll Ken with that. And I love it.

Sam: I love that they use Jeopardy's font on the board as well, just in case you weren't sure what was happening.

Sarah: I just want to say it's not really the Jeopardy producers. It's really the Jeopardy writers that are taking this opportunity to troll Ken.

But I was there for it when I saw it. I loved it.

Sam: You also troll Ken at any opportunity.

Sarah: Well, yeah, but I think it's, uh, mutual. [00:19:00] We do it to each other. One comment I saw on Reddit was that they were wishing that Joey had been in this game last week with Ross and Rachel instead of Susan, but of course that person wouldn't know that it's all random draw and all sorts of things.

So we can't control these things. As much as we would like to say we can, we're not allowed to. So, I agree. That would've been good.

Sam: I did have a gameplay observation about this game. Joey had back to back Daily Doubles in the Double Jeopardy round, in fact. And after he answered both of those correctly, he was only a couple of hundred dollars away from guaranteeing a lead going into Final Jeopardy.

Uh, because you, you're able to, uh, evaluate how much money is left on the board. And although he only answered a couple more questions, that was one of the things that gave him the lead. But it really shows that daily doubles are important for defense as well as offense. Once you've gotten the last daily double out of the way, it's clear how much more money there is left.

Sarah: Nice observation, Sam.

Sam: Well, moving on to Tuesday's game with Joey, Kathleen, and Jonathan, Joey and Jonathan battled back and forth throughout the game. Jonathan [00:20:00] actually tied Joey with the second daily double in the Double Jeopardy round, and there were 11 clues to go. The defending champion got none of those last 11.

But meanwhile, Jonathan got a couple right, but a couple others wrong and dropped below Joey by 800 bucks. So those negatives are where the jeopardy is. Ah,

Sarah: I see what you did there, Sam. I think my favorite part about this game was actually how impressed Ken was with Kathleen responding correctly. to Velocipede, that clue, and actually in the postgame she revealed that she thought that she maybe learned it from Princess Diaries 2, which is a very deep cut.

She said that Julie Andrews, Anne Hathaway, plus Chris Pine, what is not to love? And in fact, Chris Pine's character did ride a Velocipede in the movie, so you just never know where these responses are going to come from.

Sam: And if you're like me, you went right to Wikipedia and looked up the difference between a Velocipede and a Penny Farthing, and now I know.[00:21:00]

Sarah: And you learned that the difference is

Sam: In a Velocipede, the wheels are more similar in size than in a Penny Farthing. In, uh, Velocipede, the rider sits more or less between the two wheels, whereas in A Penny Farthing, the rider sits atop the big wheel. They are otherwise quite similar. I'm not sure that's a piece of information I'll ever need again.

Sarah: Hmm. The movie may then be inaccurate because the photo I saw of Chris Pine riding the Velocipede, he was definitely over the larger wheel and they were definitely different sizes.

Sam: Yeah, I'm not gonna lie. I saw that picture and I was pretty sure it was A Penny Farthing, but I didn't want to bring that up here on the podcast.

Sarah: Okay, we all love Princess Diaries, no conflicts, just, you know, we're just, we're learning things here, and Sam is uncovering the truth, and then here we are.

Sam: Big philosophy is trying to hide this.

Sarah: All right, well on Wednesday, Joey returned and he was facing Evan and Lois. Evan and Lois were neck and neck and [00:22:00] were tied at the end of Double Jeopardy after Lois, who seemed to hold back wagering late on a daily double.

Snagged the final clue. So then Evan was the only player who was correct in final and goes all in to become our new Jeopardy champion.

Sam: Yeah, that seemed like the right move. And Ken asked Lois afterwards if she had considered going all in. And she said she just didn't think the category suited her. So I understand that.

Sarah: Well, and Joey, as we mentioned in champions wildcard as a two game winner, he didn't know that. On that day, but he knows it now, of course, and he told us that, you know, he really wanted to talk about his love of bar trivia and how sometimes he fills in his host and how his favorite category is questions that Ken got wrong on Jeopardy.

He said, you know, more people than you think. No. What an immoral pleasure seeker is. And it is also a gardening tool. So that's the one we talked about a bit earlier. We

Sam: can't get enough of trolling Ken. [00:23:00] I will say that fans on Reddit were questioning the judge's ruling on Evans Final Jeopardy response.

The clue had to do with the geographic word and the title of a Robert Burns poem. And the answer in the title was Highlands, plural. Evans The response of Highland was ruled correct, and to my mind, I felt it was a pretty straightforward judgment call because they were asking for the word, not the title.

And Evan reported, and in fact, we observed that it, uh, the judgment took place more or less in real time. That is, the judges didn't feel a need to confer and decide. They felt that the answer Highland was correct. And it was a good get by Evan, a good job, and he ended, uh, close to 30, 000 after the all in wager.

Sarah: Yeah, big first win. Let's hear how he was feeling after that victory.

Ken: Now you did the big wager with the tie score. You decided to go all in.

Yeah, I figured, you know, either I'm going to know it or not, I'll take my chances. So were you tempted

Ken: to go with the zero bet at any point? No,

I thought Lois would have a good shot potentially at [00:24:00] poetry in places.

So it's like, I didn't want to take the chance of, of kind of, getting it and just coming up short. So I was like, well, go for it all or nothing.

Ken: I mean, it's it's the nightmare wagering scenario. Did you have any thoughts of doing the whole thing? Lois? No, because it wasn't in my wheelhouse. I knew that it was gonna be tough for me.

29, 200. That's a ton of money, Evan. How does that feel?

Well, honestly, I don't even really think about it as money yet. It's kind of, you know, I want it to win the game. I hasn't sunk in at all that, uh, that it's, you know, almost 30, 000, 30, 000 us, 30, 000 Americans. We don't pay tax on it either. So I mean, California takes its share.

I think they get

Ken: you before you even leave the building. Yeah, exactly. I think they're

Sam: waiting for

me in the green

Sam: room to, to, to, I continue to be astounded by our Canadian players. We've seen players like Matea and Ray Lalonde go on very long runs. And Evan, though his run wasn't long, was a strong player.

How difficult it must be for a Canadian to learn all the stuff about the United States [00:25:00] that you need to be good at Jeopardy! Things about presidents and geography, lakes and rivers and what have you. In addition to all the stuff they must know about their native Canada. So good for Evan. Well, on Thursday, Evan went up against Stephen and Stephanie.

He was in control for most of the game, took the lead into the final, but there it was Stephanie who was the only player to come up with the correct response for the exciting come from behind win.

Sarah: So only one win for Evan Dorey, but he is in Champions Wildcard following that big first win. Stephanie told us she took the test on Jeopardy, the anytime test.

I love when we hear that. Stories of people who took that test, 10 to 15 minutes. Here she is on the Alex Trebek stage as a Jeopardy champion.

Sam: Good for her. She had fewer correct responses than either of the other two players and kind of ducked a daily double with a small 500 response. But she said it was in the category of aviation and she knew nothing about it.

She said she at the last minute guessed Antoine de Saint Exupéry because that was the only name that she knew. And that was the right response.

Sarah: Well, I [00:26:00] do want to talk about Steven because he had that first Daily Double and of course said, So, Ken, I've always wanted to say this. I think you're really doing a nice job hosting.

Sam: That was a beautiful setup. I was, I thought Steven did that very well.

Sarah: I fell for it. Unfortunately, he was incorrect, but you know, I'm never going to forget. That moment, and he shared the story during his interview about the family who had picked him up and taken him to the hospital after his scooter accident and how he knew they watched Jeopardy because they talked about Adriana Harmeier, and he was hoping that maybe they would see the show because he just really wanted them to watch it.

to know how much it meant to him. Steven went on Reddit after the game and shared a story.

Will find a way to reach out to me so that I can thank them. He also said, I hope that everyone who has dreamed of being on Jeopardy! can make [00:27:00] that dream a reality. I first auditioned in 1986 when I was in dental school. 38 years later, I made it on the show.

Sam: Spectacular. Yes, we introduced him as a retired dentist.

So all those years of dental practice and finally he made it onto the show. Good for Stephen.

Sarah: Yeah, keep trying. Well, we closed out the week on Friday with players Stephanie, Paul and Kristen. Paul got off to a hot start and managed to secure a narrow runaway win. He's now spending the weekend as a Jeopardy champion.

Sam: Yeah, it was a fun game, an interesting moment on the last clue of double Jeopardy. Paul had a runaway score at that time, and the only way Stephanie or Kristen could have gotten back into contention was to grab that last. 2, 000 clue and that ended up falling through for a triple stumper and giving Paul the runaway victory.

Had either Stephanie or Kristen buzzed in and gotten it, they would have been in contention, although it was a difficult clue. And if you don't know it, you don't know it, I guess.

Sarah: That's kind of how it works on Jeopardy.

Sam: That's because if you get it [00:28:00] wrong, you lose that money. And you know what? That's where the jeopardy is, Sarah.

Sarah: That's where the jeopardy comes in. Well, Ken spoke with Paul after the game about his Holzhauserian, uh, approach, if you will, to this game.

Ken: How does it feel, Paul?

Pretty good. Still nervous for some reason. I don't know.

Ken: Well, you mentioned James Holzhauer in your story, and, uh, you did kind of have kind of a serious approach to the game.

I mean, you kept saying, I'm not here to make friends, and I know that was one of the categories, but it kind of seems like maybe you weren't. I was kind of buying it.

I was trying to remind myself just to, you know, be merciless.

Ken: Were you taking this very seriously, your Jeopardy appearance?

Yeah, I actually took some time off of my work, some unpaid leave, they were able to swing it for me.

And I've just been grinding for a couple weeks, some flashcards, and uh, just trying to study as much as I can, and I'm glad it paid off.

Ken: Did anything come up adjacent to anything you had looked at, or?

Uh, yeah, and I missed them, which is hilarious. Like, uh, Camille the Sculptor. Oh, That was literally a flashcard that I had just made a couple days ago, and I [00:29:00]

Ken: was like, don't

miss that.

Maybe a

Ken: few more passes and you would have surprised us with a sculptor.

Yeah, well, hopefully I've got a little bit of time to sear that in my brain a little here.

Ken: You're going to be back on Monday. How does that feel?

Uh, I'm just thinking about, I gotta text my boss. Just go, hey, uh, mystery illness, uh, reoccurring here.

Sarah: Well, we're now going to have to wait and see. Does Paul keep the run going? Does he qualify for Champions Wildcard? Is it the Tournament of Champions? Does he fall short of a post season bid? You gotta tune in today to find out.

Sam: I promise to tune in today, because I watch Jeopardy every day, Sarah.

Sarah: No thanks for that.

Now, it's time for our favorite segment, but wait, there's more. Sam, what do you have for us this week?

Sam: Today's clue comes from Tuesday's game. It was the 200 clue in a category called We're Saluting Gluten. Bring it. Saluting Gluten 200, please.

Ken: The Lactobacillus bacterium is pivotal to making this bread, whose fermentation process [00:30:00] decreases its gluten content.

Kathleen. What is sourdough? Correct.

Sam: Yes, fermentation is when microorganisms like yeast and bacteria convert carbohydrates and sugars to other products. Yeasts are members of the fungus kingdom, and coincidentally, fungus kingdom was the name of my college sock drawer. Thank you, yes, because cheap laughs are the finest laughs.

Make a note of that. Anyway, we're familiar with using yeast in order to make bread doughs rise before baking. What's happening there is that the yeast consumes sugars and excretes carbon dioxide and ethanol. In bread making, the carbon dioxide creates gaseous bubbles in the dough. And in the fermentation to make booze, different strains and species of yeast produce ethanol to make beer, wine, and other alcoholic beverages.

This sort of thing has been going on for about 10, 000 years.

Sarah: Sam, I gotta know, like, uh, I'm sure you know because you seem to know a lot about this. What's the deal with bacteria?

Sam: That's the same question I get from my house guests. Right, so there are other kinds of fermentation besides yeast, and one very important kind involves lactic [00:31:00] acid bacteria.

There are lots of types of these bacteria, but they generally take in carbohydrates and produce, get this, lactic acid. Lactic acid can help preserve foods, and ancient people all over the world devised fermented foods we eat today. today like kimchi. And there are lots of other foods that are fermented in our regular diets, including sauerkraut, yogurt and more.

Sarah: And my favorite sour dough bread.

Sam: Yes. And in this case, the lactic acid helps break down the bread's gluten, as the clues says. Now, sourdough is not a gluten free food, but it does help some people who can't tolerate other breads. Tangentially, you may think of sourdough bread as a San Francisco gold rush invention, at least I did, but like a lot of other fermented foods, it has a long history, in this case dating back perhaps to ancient Egypt.

I will say that one particular bacterium used to make sourdough is called *Frutilactobacillus Sanfranciscensis*. named after San Francisco. Now it's since been debunked, but it was once believed that a healthy 150 pound adult would be walking around with maybe [00:32:00] one to five pounds of intestinal bacteria.

So I say we form a band and call it five pounds of intestinal bacteria. What do you think?

Sarah: Wow, Sam, that's amazing. So, hmm, yummy. Uh, I'm gonna think about that, and You don't have

Sam: to decide right away.

Sarah: Okay, good. Yeah, give me some time because we gotta get to our host chat. An audience member asked Ken this week, how many clues do you actually know the correct responses for in each game?

Ken: Oh, I know all of them because they write them down for me now. It's, uh, it's a different game over here, I have to say. Like, when you have a piece of paper with all 30 correct responses, Oh my gosh, the game is so easy. Uh, but I do find, no, to answer your real question, I do find, Like, I play along with the

games when I read them in advance, I'm, I'm, like, covering up the answer, like this, to see how I do.

And I do find that just while I'm hosting, I kind of feel like I'm the fourth player. Like, I don't have a buzzer, but I can think, Oh, oh, I know this one, this is Hotel Transylvania, let's see if they get it. Oh, they did know it, he gets to go again, you know, I, So I'm kind of playing [00:33:00] along in my head, and that, that really does help.

But luckily for the ones I don't know The responses are right in front of me.

Sam: I notice how Ken diplomatically declined to answer the question with any kind of meaningful number. 80%, 90%.

Sarah: I think he can do that. I think we trust that Ken knows a lot. My guess is that Ken

Sam: knows most of them, even the pop culture ones.

But of course it helps to be with the writers all the time and learn how they're thinking, which Ken gets to do now.

Sarah: Yeah, and the thing he talks about is just that even though he's, You know, he still knows a lot. He doesn't feel like his reflexes are as good, and his recall is quite as quick. So I think, you know, in this case, given enough time, he could definitely come up with all of the correct responses.

But luckily, he doesn't have to. They're right there, on a script, right in front of him.

Sam: It is true that one of the big skills in Jeopardy is not just knowing stuff, but being able to recall it. And those of us who are a little bit older find ourselves running into trouble with that sometimes. Not me, but other people I've heard of.

Yeah,

Sarah: other people who are, you know, older than you.

Sam: Right, yeah. If there are any people older than me, I don't know.
[00:34:00]

Sarah: Well, believe it or not, Sam, we have come to the end of this week of Inside Jeopardy! I look forward to seeing you next week and all of our listeners, so join us then! Have a great week!

Ken: We're so glad you're here.

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