

2025 PGA TOUR Champions Learning Center Show #12

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center

VO > PGA Tour Champions closes out the month of May in America's heartland. Des Moines, Iowa, with the Principal Charity Classic. The Wakanda Club welcomed an A-list field that promised more of the same on this tour. Big names and big surprises.

VO > We had a big name, but no surprise when it came to our winner. The mechanic strikes again. After an opening round 63 Miguel Angel Jimenez found himself in a three-way playoff Sunday. Yet. And still he again found a way. Jimenez again tied for the lead in wins on this tour capturing number three at the principal Charity classic in wire-to-wire fashion. Our Bob Papa and John Cook have more.

VO OC> PGA Tour Champions 12th event of the year. The principal charity classic from The Wakanda Club in Des Moines, Iowa. Ernie Els, the defending champ in Miguel Angel Jimenez, shot 63, in round number one. Then followed it up with a 66 in round two. And John Cook, he had a two-shot lead going into the final round but really didn't put pedal to the metal early.

OC > No he didn't. Struggled. Pretty early. Pitched in actually for birdie on the par five. Number five. And from there just kind of steady. Not great, but steady. Played with some patience. Played with a little bit of confidence. And then. Then the playoffs.

VO > Well, you mentioned that Chip. And he was coming off a bogey at the fourth and you know he loves to pitch the ball around the greens. Other guys putt it. Had the flagstick out. So that kind of stabilized things for Miguel. And then this was a gorgeous shot at 13.

VO > Yeah, he didn't have much green to work with. The kind of the middle of the bunker on a flat lie. Just kind of flipped that right hand underneath. Put some spin on the ball. He would get that up and down for much needed birdie.

VO > Now Soren Kjeldsen, playing in only his second event of the PGA Tour Champions, had posted 17 under. So many had this putt for eagle on the final hole for the win, but speed control was perfect there to set up a birdie opportunity to get him into a playoff with Soren Kjeldsen and Cameron Percy, and both guys hit while tee shots, but not McGowan again.

VO > The short game paid dividends. Yeah, short right off the tee. Just a nice little pitch shot up and over that little gum drop. Put it underneath the hole exactly where he needed to put it. And this was a very confident putt right here. Right in the center. Right in the back of the hole. And the sword.

VO > After going two and a half years without winning. Miguel Angel Jimenez wins for the third time in thousand and 25. And hoist the trophy here at the Principal Charity Classic. Take a look at the final numbers once again and shoot 17 under par 70. In the final round, but good enough to win with a birdie on the first playoff hole. Kevin Sutherland had opportunities. Another good week for Ernie Els. How about Scott McCarron shooting 65

Mark Hensby shooting a 63. Ricardo Gonzalez also getting inside that top ten. But Miguel Angel Jimenez the winner. Once again let's hear from our champion.

OC VO > My game is not the shot. I did it. Now the finish. Today's I been there and been so good. And I feel so nice. But then the golf course I don't know that just in the things. And also, the putts were quite close today. It's a little bit of everything now. I didn't manage to make it when they partnered with everybody in the 18th to come into the playoff and, make another very to see the Visalia.

VO > Big thanks all around, guys. Jimenez building on his overall lead in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. Fellow three-time winner Angel Cabrera remains right behind him. Then it's Steven Alker and Ernie Els and Stewart Cink trading places this week after the Principal Charity Classic. What a season long race we have.

VO > In the Shakespeare classic, hamlet was the melancholy Danish prince on PGA Tour Champions Thomas Bjorn is the optimistic Danish player. Bjorn entered the principal Charity Classic as a four-time runner up since joining the over 50 set, including the recent Senior PGA Championship, here in act one of the events. Bjorn generously brings us into his strategy on the opening hole. To birdie or not to birdie, that is the question.

OC > Do the nerves still come up when we go to the first tee?

OC VO > Every time it doesn't change and probably gets worse. To be honest, I think I should get, I don't know, like I don't. I always have that. I look at nerves in two different ways. Like there's there's nerves when you are not prepared and its nerves off hoping that you're going to do well. And then there's nerves when you are prepared. But yeah, at the moment I played a lot of golf and doing a lot of work. So, it's probably more nerves of anticipation and not trying to get ahead of yourself. Good morning. How are you? How are you doing? Well. Good to see you. Thank you for coming. Thank you. I knew even if we gave him a microphone for the day.

OC > I'm surprised you took an understanding.

OC > Well, are you. Well, I'm not sure if you do. Hello Terry, how are you? Good to see you. Going this week. Thank you, thank you. Good to see you again. Hi, Thomas. All right. Jackie. Hi. Nice Jacie Nice to meet you. And you? Good luck. Thank you. Have a go. Yeah. One. Two. Three. Thank you. Friends.

OC > Please move on to the team from Denmark. Thomas. Bjorn.

OC > Thank you.

OC > Go ahead.

OC > Thank you.

OC> good shot Ames.

OC > Good shot, Bernie! I found one of the big, big problems in golf is that as a result, starts improving, your expectations go up. And expectations. This is a disaster in this game. You know, every time you have too high expectations it's so easy to get disappointed in golf. So, when you have two high expectations and it doesn't really work for you, you just hitting it pretty much on those two behind.

OC > Yeah. You know absolutely. Great shot.

OC > I was a bit safe.

OC > Good.

OC > And but on the safe side, it's amazing to share. Share this moment in time of your life with with guys that you have shared the fairways with for so many years. And this is just a great tour to be on in that aspect. You know, you it's very difficult not to enjoy this part of your life. You know, I live for the day that's in front of me.

OC > Make a putt.

OC > And Okay. But thank you. Good two putt. Thank you.

VO > We thank Thomas for donating his time. And speaking of giving, players did just that during the pro-am as school supplies were donated to some 1500 Iowa public school students. Principal has been packing school supplies for years. That way they can color code their subjects. Exactly. I used to love doing it. That's how I would do it.

OC > Exactly. These going to five different school districts across the state, teeming with good. 360.

VO > The players took a moment to pass along written words of encouragement. Tissue pencils. Lots of pencils. Personal messages to kids who came away with more than just a book bag stuffed with classroom essentials.

OC > It was fabulous, fun and impactful. Greg. That's all we thank you. Like I appreciate it. Thanks so much. Thank you for supporting Iowa. You.

VO > Coming up, a segment that is not to be missed. A conversation with one of the living teaching legends of the game, the great Bob Toski on life lessons and love and his connection with tour winner Ken Duke. Stay with us.

VO > The word legend is often overused, but certainly not in this case. Recently, the great Bob Toski spent some time with Learning Center. Bob turns 99 in September and not only enjoyed a stellar playing career that started just after World War two.

OC > from the King's Bay Yacht and Country Club to South Miami, Florida. Bob Toski

VO > But as a teacher, enhance the games of dozens of players, including Ken Duke, whom Tarski coached during his 2013 Travelers Championship win, the same event Tarski won in

53. The real reward is their lasting friendship and the wisdom of a remarkable diminutive golf treasure. Bob Toski.

OC> Well, it is truly a pleasure to spend time with these gentlemen. Ken Duke is a PGA Tour Champions winner, a tour winner. And to my left is an absolute legend of the game. Bob Tarski will be 99 in September. He turned professional in 1945, and he has been one of the legendary instructors in the game.

OC > Mr. Toski, it's so great to see you. You too can thank you for most of you. Bob, good to spend time with you. Did you ever imagine that your life would impact so many people?

OC VO > Yeah, no, I did. All I wanted to do was play golf. I won't be on tour. I never thought I'd be a teacher. And I parlayed a success as a player and teacher. And am very proud of that.

OC > Ken you are one of the many who has been touched by this absolute legend, what's what's it been like?

OC VO > Yeah, mean it's just an honor to meet a Hall of Famer like this guy right here. And and it's like I tell him every day he has a gift that he's passed on to me. Plus, some of the other pros and club pros and just amateurs all around the changed my world. I would never be sitting here without the guidance from this guy. You know, changing my golf swing to make him more consistent and, help me out out there on the tour.

OC < And you all have a neat connection, too.

OC VO > Yeah, we have a little connection here and there. And his first tournament was in 1953 at Insurance City Open up in Hartford, Connecticut. 60 years later, Travelers Championship 2013 for me. First championship for me. And we talk about it all the time. It's pretty special. But he's very special to me and my family that, well, I would I really find

OC > What I really find interesting is the smile that came on your face there because it's about helping people, isn't it?

OC > Teaching and just helping people along the way.

OC > Well, isn't that what you put on there for? Yes. Share your knowledge. Absolutely. Knowledge is power transmitted in the physical realm. And I think I did a pretty good job.

OC > I would say you did, sir. What is the secret to reaching different types of players? Is it everyone is it individual understanding how to reach them?

OC VO > Well, I'm first of all, in my 20 years of teaching Golf Digest, I found out about 90% of my students had poor hand-eye coordination. And if you don't have good hand-eye coordination, you're not going to be. You don't have any athleticism per se. And most of my students and I mean high handicap. So, you teach, those type of things for like, going to school as a young child, teaching them how to putt but you pitch approach and you I

because the learning process has to be to control the clubface of the ball of the club place where you're aiming. And most people have no idea what that's all about.

OC > It's amazing that all the players can still glean this type of knowledge, isn't it, from Mr. Toski.

OC VO > I mean, I learn something every day. I talk to him. You know, we were just an even lunch in there and so many guys came by, you know, Jerry Kelly, David Frost and Dickie Pride and everybody was coming by. They have stories back when they were kids, you know, with this guy teaching them. And he doesn't forget. That's the thing about him, he's so knowledgeable and his mind is unbelievable.

And I mean, he'll give you a lesson right now as you're talking about it, you know.

OC < Mr. Toski, I'll ask you a couple of questions. What's your favorite teaching moment that you've had where someone had success that made you very happy?

OC VO > Well, two students in my mind, Judy Rankin, who had a well, you could see all the knuckle and she would change a grip. And I had to teach you how to become a three-dimensional player. I taught her how to cut the ball. The ball is great with that. And she didn't want to change a word when she came to me, she said, if you're going to change my grip, I'm going home on the next plane. And then of course, Ken Duke. Well, he was four years old. A lot of people. No, no, he had scoliosis, got a run in the back and the teach him how to play golf and improve golf and teaching as a dog than playing as a skilled, skillful player could become an art teacher because of the knowledge he's learned and the application of the golf swing as a competitor. And I've been fortunate to be able to do both.

OC > Favorite moment as a player yourself as a player in the in the 50s, perhaps.

OC VO > My favorite moment, I was dead broke, and I had to birdie the last Little Havana open, and it was a dog, and I tried to hook it. I hit it on the fairway, close the gap. Oh, I had to go be doing good. Palm trees. And I had a birdie. The hole. I want to be a four away player. And I said I don't want any player no. Four, and I cut it between the two palm trees totally out of bounds. And I look at that five no to win the tournament. And I think that's why my wife married me.

OC < That's beautiful. Ken, what about today's equipment? I wonder how much of a factor that's been.

OC > It's, I got him out a few times before, you know, the last few years, and he hit a few and still hits a pretty solid. But he hasn't been playing much here lately, but I can only imagine the guys, like, in his age and all the older guys, what they could do with this equipment.

OC > What would you do with that?

OC > Unbelievable.

OC > What did you do with this equipment today?

OC > Well, I don't know. I've never used it.

OC > But you had to be more of an artist back in your time.

OC > You know, high technology is, you know, its family evolved. But the biggest thing I've learned about a teacher and a player is when I played on tour. And the average price of a player was five, ten, 165. pounds Today, the average player is six foot tall, weighs over 200 pounds as a range, and that club is about eight feet high. Yeah. So, look at the leverage.

OC > Oh, yeah.

OC > And this time they have to build speed. Yeah, yeah.

O C> So what would you leave everyone with if we're all students about what's what's one piece of advice that you think is a good piece of advice for everyone?

OC > Well, golf is a game. You enjoy your life with your family and friends and golf spelled with two F's is this G is gone. Oh, it's over. L is alone and is family and friends. And I've been fortunate enough to be able to do that. Teach and play golf.

OC > You are an absolute treasure. God bless you. It's great to spend time with you two kids. Pleasure. Thank you so much. Thank you so much.

OC > The 125th U.S. open is upon us, an event that provides a pathway for both amateurs and professionals, regardless of prior ranking or success. Up next, we hear some of the stories of those who went through the 36-hole final qualifying stage to make it to the National Open.

VO > The 125th U.S. Open at Oakmont Country Club is next week, our national championship, a major championship that is open to anyone who can play their way into the field. Qualifying is a journey almost as grueling as the U.S. open itself. Final qualifying, also known as Golf's Longest Day, is an experience those who have lived it will never forget.

OC VO > We all want to get into the U.S. open. It's a shame the U.S. open doesn't have a lifetime exemption like the others, which is nice. Would have been nice. Should I say. But you got too got to go low for those two two rounds to have a chance. And, yeah, I've been lucky that it's happened to me and, get through and, yeah. Then you get to the U.S. open. It's a different, different layout.

OC VO > I mean, you got, you know, amateurs, local guys, tour pros, a little bit of everything. You could, you know, you could get paired with, you know, anybody as far as amateur pro whatever. And then you get the times where you get people that are not playing so well, you get withdrawals. And then it kind of throws off the, the pace of play and you get to wait more and stuff like that. But it's, it's a really long day.

OC VO > You got to one day you got to be on and off. You know, if you on the day then it's and I want to say walk in a park, but you can make it, you know. But if you're struggling off the course doesn't suit you. Not not now. Not everybody gets the course they want. Right.

So, it all depends on your category, what you assign then and then you come to a course where there's only two spots instead of four spots than in Ohio, because the memorial there will a lot of as I remember a lot of the tour players. So, they have more spots. So, it's like ten, ten spots, 11 spots. So, you have a little bit better chance. I did one qualifier in, for the Olympic Club in San Francisco at Lake Merced. There were like three spots on it. So, so, you know, you really got to play well.

OC VO > playing as hard as you can to get into a golf tournament, it's just going to beat you up when you get there. But, it's an interesting that whole qualifying process because you got young people, you got older guys like myself, you got guys, you know, kind of in the prime of their career and they're, you know, playing great on tour, but they can't get in the U.S. open because their status is not such that gets them exempt to it. And it's a hard tournament to get into. But that's why they call it the U.S. open. It's open to everyone.

VO > This week's American Family Insurance Championship went through a complete makeover that promises to bring big excitement to the event. The tournament is moving to the Steve Stricker Co Design TPC Wisconsin in Madison and includes a new team format. Two-man teams will play best ball on Friday and Sunday, while Saturday play is a scramble. We asked a pair of teams how they form their partnership. Tim Herron found a great one in Ernie Els.

OC > That pairing came about because I pretty much asked him so. But I asked him. There might have been a few beers involved because I was a little nervous to ask him. I don't want to get shot down by the Big Easy.

OC VO > We've known each other a long time. I was 30 years, we both didn't even think about it until we went to Scott Verplanks Pro-Am in Oklahoma City last year, and we had a couple of beverages, cold ones, and the topic came up and he said, no. Stricker, tournament and fans going into a team event. What am I thinking? So, I said, well, don't really ask me what I'm thinking. It's dangerous question. And I immediately said, well, we have to play, you know, I mean, we both didn't really think about it, but it was a spur of the moment, and I can't wait to play with my friend Timmy.

OC VO > We spoke about it last year as soon as Strick announced the tournament, and we spoke to each other and thought that, you know, we could be a very good pairing. We, we both can, maybe lose your temperature a little bit at times and stuff, but I think I'm a little bit more mental unstable than he is at the moment, so we shall see.

OC > Yeah, this could go wrong after one hole, but it could be great for 54 as well. But we're looking forward to it. Yeah.

OC > He did tell me last week whenever we're playing in the PGA, he hopes the greens are really faster. I can reach the hole with a putter. He didn't tell me that already.

VO > Well, you did leave everything short for me.

VO < Yeah. Thank you very much.

VO > This might be a good time to remind you there is no I in team, but two I's in Cellini. And that's me. And that's our show. Thank you for being a part of this learning center. It's on to Wisconsin for PGA Tour Champions Legends. So long.