

2025 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER PLAYOFF PREVIEW SPECIAL

VO > The PGA tour champion season is down to the wire. Three events, one champion

VO > players are here from all over the world.

VO > Ernie Els, Miguel Angel Jimenez, Justin Leonard, Stuart Cink, Angel Cabrera, Steven Alker.

VO > The Charles Schwab Cup playoffs are here where the top 72 battle for glory, but only one will claim the cup.

VO > Over the years, all the greats of golf have competed in the Charles Schwab Cup.

VO > The guys held that trophy and of the year, the best of the best.

VO > Winning the Charles Schwab Cup really gets you up too.

VO > From Richmond to Little Rock. The field narrows with each bold step. Only the elite reach Phoenix. And the stakes are high.

VO > There's a different vibe those last three weeks.

VO > I definitely want to join that club.

VO > Be wonderful to try and get my name on that trophy.

VO > And to win that event is something special.

VO > So if you're not in the top 36 by the end of the year, you may not have a job next year.

VO > Three tournaments. One defining moment who will rise above the rest to seize the Charles Schwab Cup?

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > It is the final piece of hardware in the 2025 season and the most coveted, indicating the best of the legendary best. Another duel in the desert to decide who will hold the Charles Schwab Cup.

OC > And with that, we begin our final paces on what has been an exciting and unpredictable season on PGA Tour Champions. Hello everyone, and welcome to the Charles Schwab Cup playoff preview. I'm Vince Cellini and we begin the show with a roadmap to glory. Three events remain. And don't blink because at any age, this is a sprint to the finish.

VO > Once again, the top 72 players on the points list make your first stop in Richmond, Virginia and the Dominion Energy Charity classic, where a year ago, Tim O'Neill broke through with his maiden victory at the Country Club of Virginia. The top 54 finishers

there move on to Pleasant Valley Country Club in Little Rock for the Simmons Bank Championship. Padraig Harrington won last year's inaugural event there. Following that, a field of 36 players head to historic Phoenix Country Club. And the third and final playoff event, the Charles Schwab Cup Championship, where a year ago, Bernhard Langer won in dramatic fashion. And Steven Alker, what season champion.

VO OC > It is nearly impossible to talk about a playoff preview or review, for that matter, and not mention the great Bernhard Langer, the all-time winningest player on PGA Tour Champions. Once again is in the playoff mix. Now, is Langer the front runner for another Schwab Cup? No. Is he a player who can tilt the landscape? Absolutely. And time has allowed Bernhard Langer to be unabashedly himself, both inside and out.

OC > Unbelievable.

VO > Given his amazing career, the first image of Bernhard Langer that comes to mind is stoic German machine major champion Ryder Cup mainstay in short winner. Yet in last year's season ending Charles Schwab Cup championship, his incredible winding downhill putt to win in Phoenix set off a celebration of pure, unbridled joy.

VO OC > And. Well, it was just that special, you know, to have had a fairly big lead. And then it dwindled down and it looked like I may not win it, or it could be a playoff. There was all kinds of scenarios. And then when I made that putt, just all the emotions came out, you know, not having won for a while and to make it a putt under those circumstances, everything came out. All the thoughts and emotions just kind of choked up inside of me.

VO > What a performance and a gutsy finish by Bernhard Langer.

VO > Playing competitor Steven Alker, the overall season champion, had a front row seat.

VO OC > It just goes to show that the tenacity, I guess, of the man, just like how he goes about his business and his will to win. So that was pretty special to watch him. And, you know, I think the whole moment was was pretty amazing because there was so much on the line. You know, there was The Schwab Cup, there was the tournament I'm trying to win and I'm trying to win the Schwab Cup. And and if we don't make our putts and brain comes into the equation. So yeah, there was a whole lot of scenarios. It was it was a pretty cool.

VO > The Phoenix moment was a long way from Langer's first win on PGA Tour Champions, the 2007 Administaff Small Business Classic. Since then, he has posted at least one victory in each and every season on this tour. That's 17 plus years without a blank in the win column, including the 2024 comeback from an Achilles tear. It's that type of consistency that sets him apart and why winning the 2024 finale was huge.

OC > It doesn't get any more exciting than this, says it.

OC > Oh man, that's one way of doing it. All right, so.

OC VO > it's very difficult to do. And in the game of golf, to be consistent, just the way the game is, it's finicky. The swinging, the putting the short game and then playing on a different venue, different courses, different grasses and all kinds of saying it's it's not an easy thing to be, very consistent, though consistently good. It's easy to become consistently inconsistent. That's what easy. But I've been blessed with consistency in many ways, you know, not just on the Champions Tour, but even, you know, my younger years.

VO > At age 68, when most players are history. Bernhard Langer is very much in the present. A tireless worker maintaining that body that has gone relatively unchanged yet tweaking a game that allows him to compete. A hill that grows steeper with each and every passing season.

VO OC > You know you have made up for that in the last few years when it started a little bit with losing distance, with my accuracy and and precision and just, trying not to have a weakness, but it's it's just getting a little harder. Tell you the truth, it's harder to get your body moving the way you want it to move. And if it doesn't move the way you want, and the swing is not quite as round and solid, you mishit a couple of shots and all that translates into maybe a little bit of frustration, and then you score. It's not 68 anymore. It's 71, something like that. And you look over 2 or 3 days and now you're ten behind where you used to be. And that's a lot out here. So, every, every stroke matters. I haven't fully recovered from my injury, but I'm good enough to play golf.

VO > He is unquestionably the greatest winner on PGA Tour Champions. In fact, one day his name may adorn the season championship trophy. The question now and every year is how long? How long will we be able to see this player whose pro career spans over a half century in competition? Bernard said he will lessen his schedule, but beyond that.

VO OC > Goals are still to be the best that I can be. To win tournaments and maybe get to that magic number of 50. I'm definitely on the back nine of my career. Maybe on the 18th hole, who knows? But I've always said there's three things that need to be happening for me to be out here, and that's I need to be healthy. Otherwise, I can't play, you know, competitive golf. I need to have fun and enjoy myself, and I need to have some kind of success. And if I see those three things in place, then I will continue. If 1 or 2 are missing over a longer period of time, then it will be time to think about how that retirement might look like.

VO > Bernard takes great pride in the fact that he has been amazingly consistent during his PGA Tour Champions career, at least one victory in each season here, dating back to, 07. And there is still time to score. Win number 48 to keep the streak alive.

VO > Still to come on the Charles Schwab Cup playoff preview. The Tour's Danish duo comes rolling into postseason. They come in different sizes, but both pack a punch. A word with Thomas Bjorn and Soren Kjeldsen on what's ahead.

VO > 2024 was Thomas Bjorn's first full season on PGA Tour Champions. Then he was knocking on the victory door this season. He kicked it in first with a win in the American Family Insurance Team event with Darren Clarke, then solo victory in the stifle Charity Classic in a playoff. He is sharp, confident and ready for postseason.

OC > Well, Thomas Bjorn is winning again, this time on PGA Tour Champions bringing that class game to the over 50 tour. And Thomas it's funny we sat here a year ago and we were talking about you being in select events and now everything has changed with the winning and and full membership. So, tell me about this journey, how satisfying it's been for you.

OC VO > Yeah, it's been great. You know, it's, I said this last year, I'm grateful for for the opportunity that I, I've been handed, last year and obviously this year I've taken advantage of being in the events. And, you know, to win in Madison with Darren was pretty cool and and good fun. And then to go and do this individually in Saint Louis was, was a cool experience. And I think it's taken me a bit of time to get kind of back into that mindset of, well, you turn up every week with a feeling of winning. You know, I think maybe 7 or 8 years on the main tour, not really coming to tournament with that feeling, you know, takes it a little bit away from you and it takes time to get back into that frame of mind. But certainly, for the most part of this year, I walked into golf tournament thinking, I can I can contend, I can win, I can be right there at the top on Sunday. And and the more you put yourself in that situation, the more chance you have to come out on top. Once in a while. You know, this is a this is an interesting tour because I, I feel like it's the way I played this year. It's not it's not extremely difficult to finish in the top 20 on top 25, but it's extremely difficult to win. You know their serial winners. These guys they claim haven't won once or twice. They won 2030 or 40 times. So so, on Sunday when it comes down to it, they they don't back off. They just keep going and get better. So, it's a hard tour to win on. But thankfully I got got it over the line once or twice.

OC VO > Yeah. And the feeling of winning doesn't age, does it?

VO > No Never.

VO > And having that contention.

VO > No, that's that's never that never gets old. All of a sudden when you get in contention, you get into those situations all all of a sudden that that person comes back to you and you recognize that person, you know who that is, you know how to react, you know how to deal with yourself. And that's, that's what it's like to be, you know, to play professional golf at a high level.

OC > And one of the private conversations we had, and I hope to share it here a little bit, is your purpose on this tour finding your purpose on what you actually want to do on PGA Tour Champions? I think everyone does that individually, and I was just wondering how maybe you define being out here.

OC VO > Well, I think when you when you go through the main tour life and, and you, you kind of you get to an age where you don't really know what you're doing and where you're going, and then you come out here and all of a sudden you see the path. For 5 or 10 years on on the Champions Tour, you kind of see you're you're playing golf and involvement in golf out until the end, where when you're in your 40s, you're kind of thinking, should I continue playing or should I do something else? You know that there's so many, so you get a little bit confused there at that period in time. The purpose of the Champions Tour, which is a game of golf, you play from a when you're a child till the end of life, that doesn't happen in any other sport. I think that's one of the greatest things about this game. And the greatest things about this tour is that the tour here matches what golf is about. It's a game for life, so you can play professionally for life until, you know, you get to an age where it's simply just not possible anymore to to to do it, and it gives you that kind of, oh, I got a second opportunity here in what I do. I'm not finding something else. What I'm actually good at, instead of trying to go on and find something you're not very good at and then pretend you're good at it. And I think that's. So, The Champions Tour is the perfect vehicle to reflect the game of golf.

OC > Yeah, that's a wonderful way to put it. All right. And lastly, I guess we should talk about the playoffs because we've talked about everything else. But last year you went through the playoffs very well. Top tens across the board. Where are you now? How do you feel and what's your approach to, to playoffs?

OC VO > Well, I, you know, I came out of Saint Louis obviously very happy winning that and felt very good about things. I've had a little bit of a wobble for a couple of weeks. Ryder Cup maybe, being involved and I've got kind of caught in the middle there with me in my mind, not really focusing on me and and focusing more on that. So now I got, you know, going into the playoffs, I got a couple of good weeks leading into the playoffs and then the playoffs itself. I feel like the way I played this year, I, you know, I should go into it with, with a feeling of being able to do really well. You know, I, I would love to give myself a chance to push myself into the top five in The Schwab Cup. And and close a year out, but in a way where you think, well, that was, that was an excellent year, you know, to push it all the way to the top. Miguel has played fantastic this year and and

deservedly sit right at the top. And I say that's a good bit of distance up there. But you know when the good points double and and everything is down and, you know, play really well and you can maybe make a push for it.

OC > Just get on. Thank you. Best of luck moving forward. Great to see you.

OC > Thank you.

VO > When the Charles Schwab Cup playoff preview returns. Get to know Cameron Percy. And here's why he almost chose a sport other than golf. Turns out he's right where he needs to be.

VO > Cameron Percy has done just about everything this season, except win. He's come close in playoff losses in Madison and Saint Louis. Yet. And still, he's done a huge top ten points climb and just might score big in the playoffs. A key adjustment in his game could take the Australian born Percy to the next level.

OC > Well, this gentleman is kind of flying under the radar, but he's a knocking on that top ten door in a points race all year long. Cameron Percy is sitting down to join us. First of all, congratulations. And just a really a solid year. How happy are you with your performance?

OC > Really happy. The last. Farthest. Four. Probably 4 or 5 events. I've been really enjoyable. I've sort of got to where I can't miss the top 36 now. And I've been driving the ball incredible this year. So, the last few events have been a lot of fun.

OC > Yeah, it's been fun to watch for you. If you were a teenager today, golf might not be your first choice of sports, right?

OC > Definitely not.

OC > I mean, you right? You came. You did a lot of other activity.

OC > I played everything but golf as a kid. Yeah. And then took up golf at about 16 and then quit playing all the other sports at 19.

OC > What was your favorite before that?

OC > Aussie rules football. Oh, really? I love the Aussie Rules football, so it was the most fun. It probably tennis. I love playing tennis to see that.

OC > So those dreams ended and then golf just kind of took off. Well, I realize that golf, no one's trying to hit me. I didn't get hurt. And I'm like, and if I want to practice as hard as I can, as good. If you are on a team and you practice hard, and everyone else is sort of hanging out. So

OC > I love it.

OC > That's why I went to golf.

OC > I love a little less wear and tear.

OC > Yeah.

OC > So, you hit the ground running, and right after turning 50, you were playing all the way into going in and just really crushing it in Q-School when when you were a medalist. So how important was that path?

OC > I got really lucky. I was playing the PGA tour. I played three events in a row, made the cut and all of them. And then the next week went to Q-School. So, you were ready?

OC VO > So I was ready and I turned up and some guys hadn't played a tournament for four years, like a proper golf tournament for four years. So, they had their coaches there. They had sports psychologist. I had everything else there. They're all. And I'm just like, oh, that's another you know, it's a fourth week in a row. Like I'm pretty tired. So, in hindsight I was pretty lucky. I just sort of went in and just played. It was just like another tournament for me. And away I went.

OC > Yeah, you were nice and relaxed. And the performance certainly showed that, I joked with you as part of the Aussie invasion on PGA Tour Champions, you guys got to be on what's. What's that like? You guys get together and.

OC VO > All the time. I have dinner every night, almost with Stevie Allan and Dave Branston.

VO > What a year he's had.

VO OC > Oh, yeah. It's all right, hasn't he. Yeah. And then Greg Chalmers will join us and then John Senden, then, you know, quite often then were text go out, hey, we're eating dinner here and we all catch up and hang out, and it's really good. Oh, well, we're all friends. The wives of friends. It's a it's a fun, fun time.

OC > And, you know, generally, am I covering golf for years and years and years? Australian guys, you guys are the best. The best. What is it about you and your countrymen that's so, so friendly and so easy to just just get along with folks. Good, good, good people.

OC VO > Yeah. It's just this is a way of life in Australia. We we we we work to live in Australia. I try to explain to Americans like, let me get 1 or 2 weeks off a year over here, like, you work 50 weeks a year, you get two weeks off to enjoy your life like it's totally opposite in Australia. So that's that's I think just that's the way we are in Australia and the climates they go in Australia are always outdoors, so you're always doing something

OC > Well We love the influx, that's for sure. So, what was it like when you went from four rounds to the three rounds sprints on, PGA Tour Champions?

OC VO > What really shocked me was the no cut. So, you'd play you play PGA tour. It was either cut right. You bogey the third. You are now you're worried like oh I've got to worry about the cut. Out here you bogey the third just give me driver. And off we go. Like there's no cut. That pressure of no cut really shocked me. The difference that made to your golf.

OC > So, what's come together in your game late in the season?

OC > Just like.

OC > You talked about driving the ball well.

OC VO > Yeah. I met a guy. He. Last year, he was caddying for Rob Labritz. His name, Eddie Fernandez. And he's a John of a man. And he is a, well, long drive champ. We would become friends. We hit it off, and he gave me a few things to work on my driver and a few exercises to do off the golf course. And I do him every day, and I'm just driving the ball so well. And now I've it's in between three with a drive. I hit driver and it's actually where I drive it. I actually probably haven't played that well, but that's been pretty nice to drive it pretty much straight in the middle of fairway and 300 yards still at my age is still pretty good.

OC > Well, it sounds like a lot of things are falling into place for you as we get to the postseason. What are your what are your thoughts going into the playoffs here? What's you know, what's your mindset?

OC > I'm really excited because my first year I hadn't played the courses. This year, once I hit the the courses I played, I lost in a playoff because I knew all right this hole, I hit driver this all. I got hit over here and I've played I really enjoyed the playoff courses last year, so I'm looking forward to getting back there this year. And and I know where I'm going now. So, a lot. Hopefully I can play a little bit better.

OC > Well Cameron Percy he's one to watch that's for sure. Congrats on a great year.

OC > Thank you very much.

VO > When the Charles Schwab Cup playoff preview returns, one of the Feel-Good stories of the season, The Rise of Jason Caron. Standby to meet team Caron. Teaching us all a thing or two about family.

VO > Do you recognize the man with the hockey putting stroke? His name is Jason Caron, and he is PGA Tour Champions personified. A self-professed grinder and top ten machine in 2025, Caron recently let us into his home and into his world as a PGA professional. Come with us now on an island adventure. Oyster Bay, New York is a quaint, picturesque hamlet on the north shore of Long Island. They're at Mill River club. Jason, Caron, and wife Liz serves as teaching professionals, and life was relatively quiet until it wasn't. Caron, 53, announced himself by nearly walking away with a major

championship in his tour debut, tying for fourth at the 2024 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship, going 67 66 on the weekend. Caron took home over \$150,000 schooling everyone.

OC VO > If I had to think about it, I'd take a while to do as many lessons I have to do to get to that number. But you know, that was a fun day as well, because for me, I mean, Ernie Els, I should I should buy him a bottle of wine because he bogeys the last hole. My brother who caddy for me that week whispers. He goes, hey, I just need you a few more dollars, you know? And I'm thinking, what? That was just kind of a daze. And sure enough, tied for fourth, which is amazing.

VO > The hits just kept on coming. T three at the Rogers Charity classic, a tie for fourth at The Constellation Furyk and friends, as well as tying for third in the Simmons Bank Championship, earning him full membership for the 2025 season. Like so many before him, Caron the player was reborn.

OC VO > Player of the year. Congratulations on your milestone. You get a, Rolex from the PGA of America for last year's 2024 senior PGA player of the year. It's pretty cool. Deep down, I would say yes. I always thought that I could play on the tour. I didn't know if I could ever win on the tour and I think, you know, dreaming of being on tour happened, you know, now I'm starting to have that, you know, second chance, if you will. And I do believe I can win.

VO > He came very close with this year's Cologuard classic, birdies his final three holes only to lose in a playoff to Steven Alker, one of a series of top ten finishes.

VO OC > You know, it really seems like if everything in life is even, then you end up playing better golf. Like one part is a little bit off kilter. It affects you. And I think right now with where Jason is, with work, with family, with golf, everything is nice. And even so, he's been able to not have any worries and just go enjoy himself and do what he loves.

VO > And Mill River loves the Caron's. Even with all the success, the husband, wife team and golf shop owners stay in the fold.

OC > Let me take care of that for you. I mean, that's that's tough.

OC > Seriously, we all have our strengths.

VO OC > I think, first of all, and the most important, they bring the family aspect to Mill River. And I think that's very important for any country club. What's Mill River especially?

OC > All right. The rest is probably going to be pretty solid.

VO > You know, Jason and Liz bringing that that family value and, you know, husband and wife teaching pros and, you know, both accomplished players in their own right.

VO OC > It's so enjoyable to see the bar crowded on a Sunday cheering him on. And it really does bring a sense of community to a club. Like, here we are. We're one big family. We get to like cheer for Jason, and I think it's made the club an even more unbelievable place to be.

VO > Great player from the met section up in New York.

VO OC > Do they look at me differently? I don't know, I think I think it's the aspect of listen when I'm on TV and playing well, they know I represent Mill River and I think that's the part they probably very proud of golf shops, Jason, and I'm very proud of it as well. Sure, we'll get that for you. Not a problem. Thank you.

VO > Make no mistake, Jason may be the front man, but Liz is the backbone of Team Caron, a decorated amateur player in her home state of Connecticut, a star at Duke, the US women's Open and Curtis Cu also on her resume, Liz balances work with being a mom to Caroline and Julia, all the while keeping a coaching eye on her man.

VO OC > If I had her golf swing, but if she had my brain or whatever you want to say that I feel like we would never lose because her golf swing is ridiculously good. Yeah, I mean, if we could combine each other, I think we would be a pretty good golfer.

VO > Who knew this Cape Cod kid and diehard Boston sports fan would end up on Long Island? Karen grew up on Munis as the son of a plumber. Today, he has a taste for the finer things, like an extensive wine collection.

OC > When I was back playing me and Brett Quigley, a good friend of mine, started collecting some stuff and I just kind of kept things going over the years. Four winds. Great job, Thomas Brown. Even better.

VO > As well as some fun hobbies like a massive Lego display and super array of toys that would make any middle schooler go into meltdown.

OC > We have a lot of fun down there. Yeah.

VO > but as golf goes, a top ten in the US Senior Open is great. So too is helping a high handicapper refine his or her swing.

OC > During this ongoing journey. Caron, the teaching professional, received a lesson of his own. Well, more like a reminder. While grateful for his PGA tour champion success, life's greatest reward was already in place.

VO OC > I could walk away from playing. I wouldn't have a problem with that. My life at home is more important to me than, and I've always mentioned this than chasing a white ball down the fairway. You know, this is just a bonus for me. And to be able to go

out there and play has been amazing. We have great events here in the met section and I love to be playing those again someday. You know the support here at the club has been amazing and you know, I just love it.

VO OC > It goes to show you that karma is a real thing. Like there is no better husband, there is no better father, there's no better person like, you could interview any one of his friends like he would give the shirt off his back to to anyone and just all the charities that he supports. He's honestly the most giving person, that I've ever met. And you want to be with a partner who makes you a better person? I think Jason makes everybody who's around him, turns them into better people.

VO > So back to where our story began. Mill River Club. You know, they say golf is a journey, and the Carons are taking their time and enjoying this latest path to success.

VO > Denmark's Soren Kjeldsen is also authoring his PGA Tour champion storyline after crushing it at the 2024 Q-School and winning by eight strokes. He has been a force on this tour and a top ten machine. Carlson gears up for his first go round in the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs, but he's certainly one to watch in this three-event sprint.

OC > Well, when it comes to the playoffs, seated next to a player you might consider a dark horse. In all of this, Soren Kjeldsen is just looming out there ready to pounce. And we spoke when you first started playing regularly about how you had stayed sharp by continuing to play coming in and how important is that been in your journey and playing well this year?

OC VO > Yeah, it really has, you know, playing on DP World Tour all the way, you know, through last year, I felt I came in, I knew where my game was at and and, you know, being competitive week to week, I think that's, that's a huge thing. You know, if you have a little bit of time off, you just you lose that little edge. And I never felt I lost that.

OC > You played well. So, well week to week. And a guy who's been in contention. What what's it like to be on that, player to watch list, you know? Kind of week to week which you are.

OC VO > Yeah, but, I mean, that's what I've been missing, right? On DP World Tour the last few years, you know, it's been difficult for me to compete week in, week out. I've had the odd weeks where I was right off there, but, you know, being in contention on Sunday, it's like, I love it, you know, can't get enough of it.

OC > You know, we spoke with, your contemporary Thomas Bjorn, a fellow Danish player, about just you being here and Thomas and now Rasmus Hojgaard and the guys who are really kind of coming along for Denmark. It must give you some pride, I would imagine.

OC VO > Absolutely. And, you know, we've got great camaraderie here. We all stay in touch and, you know, to see Rasmus play the Ryder Cup, you know, so exciting. His brother Nicolai, you know, world beaters as well. So, yeah, golf is in a great spot. You know, you can look at any level. Girls and and boys, you know, we they're we always represented. And yeah, very proud of that.

OC > You're kind of the same age as Bjorn, but it seems like he's a big. Is he more like an older brother or a.

OC VO > He was like an older brother from a young age. You know, he was always giving advice. And, you know, I'm around you and telling how what it's all about. And, you know, Thomas plays that role really well. And, you know, he's always somebody who's helped me a lot and, somebody that I go to if I need advice. You know, you saw him now with Rory, and he's very good. He's, He's he's a smart man.

OC > This is such an exciting time. How much research have you done about the playoffs? And and what are your thoughts going in your approach to this whole thing being in the mix?

OC VO > I'm just so super excited to be in it. You know, it's great. Like I said to you early in the year, for me, it's just a great feel to be here. And I've, you know, been really pleased about the way I've been playing. So, and I want to I want to finish the year off strongly.

OC > Well, you mentioned that you came on board of the senior PGA Championship. Played very well. A lot of top tens here. Runner up. Is that satisfying or frustrating when you you kind of come close when you'd like to maybe knock one off. You know, how do you draw that line?

OC VO > Yeah. It's a little bit of both of course. You know, very pleased about playing well at the same time. You want to get over the line. Of course, I've had a few chances. I don't really feel like I've had anyone to sort of really slip away. I knew I got into that play off in the Des Moines, but, you know, from a great last round, but, yeah, I want to get over the line for sure. You know, there's no better feeling than winning.

OC > Now that you've been out here and you have a feel for it. How how fast does it feel? Three rounds. Just getting off quick. What's it like? Try to describe that feeling as opposed to the four round tournaments you've always played?

OC > Yeah, there's definitely a feel of sort of like more of a sprint to it, like like compared to a marathon when it's four rounds. But you know, we are getting older, so I don't mind that, the three rounder, I love that. But, you know, I love the whole I love the whole thing about this tour. I think it's an unbelievable, wonderful tour.

OC > I mentioned you as a dark horse to start this. How do you see yourself going into this playoff?

OC VO > Yeah. You know, a lot of good finishes. And I think, you know, it's easy to get caught up in, like, you know, that, you know, now is the time to, to push through and get that win. But at the same time, I need to keep my head down. I need to keep doing the same things, you know, work steadily and just improve the little things. And then hopefully if I do that, things will work out.

OC > Okay. I'm going to ask you a non-golf question and not to come off as someone who maybe should have studied this harder, but why the oh with the the line is that goes back to what the Danish literature or something. I did a little bit of research on that. Explain that.

OC > Yeah. Well, I can't explain it. I can just explain that, you know, I think the funniest thing about that letter, the O with the, with the line through it.

OC > It's either up or can go across.

OC > Yeah. It's a yeah across and the letter on his own means island, which is like, and we've got another a letter the a with the, with the dot on top means river. So, one letter

OC > island. River.

OC > Smart, is it?

OC > Very smart. See, we we like to go beyond golf here on our show. Thanks. Soren.

OC > Thank you.

OC > Problem solved. Mystery solved. Thank you.

VO > Straight ahead on this Charles Schwab Cup playoff preview. Another rookie in the mix. The other Freddie on this tour Freddie Jacobson. And what he expects in his first playoff run and the changes he's made to give himself the best opportunity to win. That's all. Coming up next.

VO > Freddie Jacobson gave us a glimpse of what could be when, in his lone start in 2024, he scored a top ten at The Constellation Furyk and Friends. Shortly after that, a second at Q-School and once in the rhythm of getting back into tour life, he had a runner up and multiple top tens. He has been steady, Freddie indeed.

OC > Freddie Jacobsen as an international PGA tour winner and has spent some real quality time on PGA Tour Champions. Your first full season on this tour. So, tell me what the experience has been like. Has it been a lot of fun?

OC VO > Yeah, absolutely. I mean, I took a few, a few years off for, for a while there. So, getting back, I was super excited. Got to start here last year, had a great experience and

then went to the Q school. Still, unsure a little bit about, you know, playing a full season, not having done it for a few years, but I think it's been a ton of fun. Courses are great. I love the competition. The guys are super competitive whilst Friday starts, you know, it's like being back in the old days and, you know, I'm happy the body has held up pretty good. You don't know when you have. Haven't played for a few years. Been fortunate to feel pretty good also all season.

VO OC > You know, it's interesting you mentioned taking time off and sometimes life gets in the way. I know you moved. You had personal things you went through with every injury. So, in that time, was it a focus to maybe play after 50 and come back here? Was that an incentive at all?

OC VO > Yeah. You know, it was in the way that I wanted to spend the time trying to be on top of my health and my fitness. I tried to play a lot of other sports in the meantime, like tennis, table tennis, ski, workout. But I also wanted a little bit of a breather from the golf. So, I just played socially for a few years just to keep it going a little bit. But I didn't really play much and then picked it up and I think it was good for the body to get a little bit of a break.

VO OC > Well, you're that strong new wave. That's that's. Come on to the tour and runner up at Hoag. Multiple top tens this year. What's it like to be in that mix again? I would imagine that never gets old in the mix to win.

OC VO > No. And I'll say, you know, this, this year I probably have the chance to be up there more than I ever was at the PGA tour. Yeah. So, it's it's been fun to have the feeling that even if you don't get off to a fast start early in the year, I had a few fast starts and you ride in it straight away. But if you're a few shots back and you have one good round, you can go low one day. You know you can get back in it. Even though it's a three-day event. Most of them, as long as you're not too far behind, you have a good day. You know, you feel like, okay, you can run through and at least finish maybe top 15, top ten, or have a chance for a higher finish, you know.

OC > So the playoffs are basically here. So, I was wondering what your approach is for that. Have you done some research on it or how excited are you to just be in that mix?

OC VO > Yeah, well, when it comes to research, I try to look at, I look a little bit at the courses before I go there or like, before, but obviously I try to go a little earlier. A lot of them are first time on there on these courses. But I stayed over this time. I've been back and forth every time this year, as soon as a tournament is finished or a or I have a gap, I come back to Sweden, come back this time. I switched it up a little bit before the playoffs. And this event I stayed here for the week off and try not to have another jet lag before, before the playoffs. So, I'll say that's the only tweak I've done. Obviously, you know, super happy about a solid season. Make it a great season. If I could have a win before the end of the year, that would be huge. You know, that would be my main

ambition to give myself, at least 1 or 2 more great chances to accomplish that. That would be fantastic.

OC > Yeah. I mean, looking at the big picture with the points, it seems pretty wide open. I mean, you're thinking, why not me? Let's let's go.

OC VO > You know, there's been a few guys that have played really, really well this season. I think that's been, winning a few times each and, been fortunate to play with a few of them, along the way. And, you know, it's impressive to see how consistent they are throughout their games, you know, and, you know, take Miguel, for example, being 60, you know, the way he drives the ball, iron play short game and the intensity. I love it. You know, you're out there. You have a chance to play with these guys and, and hopefully play with them on Sunday you know, and get in the mix. It's good fun.

OC > And if for you I mean those are guys that you probably grew up. You grew up watching a lot of these guys, right?

OC > I mean, yeah, I didn't really you know, I'll be honest, I never really, I never really watched golf. That wasn't the sport. I watched, before. And then when I got on tour, I never really watched golf at home much either, but but I enjoy playing it, and I enjoy being out there, but I did. You know, play with this guy since I was 20, out in Europe. So, yeah, we just didn't have much. It's not like here where you can flick the channels. Ain't got all the sports. When I grew up, we had to chat at two channels in Sweden. It sounds like 100 years ago, but it's the fact, you know, like, it's just the way it was back then.

OC > Right? But now you're watching very closely.

OC > Yeah. You know, keeping an eye on it.

OC > Right, right

OC > Absolutely.

OC > Best of luck man.

OC > All right. Thank you so much I appreciate it.

OC > Congrats on a great year.

OC > All right. Thanks.

VO > Coming up next on this Charles Schwab Cup playoff preview. John Cook joins us. He's breaking down his picks for rookie of the year most improved. And of course, the seasons MVP. And that's all coming up right after the break.

VO > Ernie Els and he's won the season opener. And there you have it Miguel Angel Jimenez. Justin Leonard is the Chubb Classic champion. There you have it, Steven

Alker. The red wine will be slowing tonight. Steven Alker, he is the winner of the Gallery Classic. And Jerry Kelly has won. Stewart Cink has won. Angel Cabrera has won his second major in six days. Bjorn and Clarke, your winners.

VO > Since you're up and add them to the Senior Open.

VO > For the third time this season, Steve Allan is a winner. The man from Down Under is finally on top. And he's done it. Stewart Saint Thomas Bjorn puts the pedal down, the goose guts worn out. Was worth the wait. It means everything to him.

VO > He was the qualifier on Tuesday. He's the champion on Sunday.

VO > Oh, goodness. And Cjeka is the champion.

OC > So pleased to welcome him. My colleague John Cook is outstanding player and certainly an announcer on PGA Tour Champions and also pride of the Ohio State University. Oh yeah. Got it everywhere. Yeah, absolutely. Cookie, let's start out with just the season in general. How would you describe this particular season?

OC VO> It's interesting, Vince. I mean, Jimenez has had a great season. Ernie Els has kind of quietly had a really good season. Stewart has quietly had a pretty good season. But then you have Thomas Bjorn coming. Coming through. You've got, you know, Padraig, of course, winning some more. So, I mean, it's it's been a very interesting one kind of spread around a little bit and which is, pretty interesting to me.

OC > Yeah. That was one of the things I want to talk to you about is how we've had a tremendous influx of international players have just basically taken over the winning, on this tour. It says a lot about world golf.

OC VO > Absolutely. And you have Cabrera winning two majors in a span of six days. You know, he's either been the guy or not the guy. He's kind of been all over the place. But it's been nice to see him and, you know him showcase his talents. We all knew he was a great player. He went away for a little bit away from the game a little bit, but you forgot how good he really was and he can still be.

OC > As we hit the playoff area, try to explain to the folks what the difference is between regular season events and once we actually get to that three-playoff event, a little trio.

OC VO > Yeah, you can you can see the finish line now, before you're trying to, you know, build up, build up, build up to SAS and then from then on and now it's just pedal down. Now there's nothing to lose, right? I mean, it's it's the playoffs and you want to get to the next round, but you don't want to be that guy on the bubble. You mean you want to have played your way into all these and be comfortable? And then once you get to Phoenix, then it's I mean, you keep going.

OC > Well, I'm going to throw out a few categories to you, and I want to get your response to this, first, maybe most improved. And I would think there are a lot of international players that could fall into that category.

OC VO > I think it has to be Steve Allan, a winner three times. Played his way, you know, through last year, got himself into Phoenix and got him in that exempt category. But who would have seen him winning three, three times and doing it on really good golf courses? So, I mean, Steve Allan has got to be the most improved I would think.

VO > Yeah, great guy. Part of the Aussie influx as well. How about rookie of the year?

OC VO > You know that that's interesting. It it hasn't been like one real standout. A rookie I think that I think when you turn 50 depends on when you turn 50. But Kjeldsen has really, since he's turned 50, is really played well. He's kind of been in the mix almost every single week.

VO OC > That's one of the things he talked about was going from not really being that guy to being that guy. One to watch. It was interesting for him career wise and who who might be the MVP, of the tour?

OC VO > Oh, that's a hard one, too. Miguel's had an incredible year. Cabrera has won majors. Consistency. I mean, you look at Steven Alker again, you know, a couple of wins, but, you know, he's always there. I mean, his top five percentage average is crazy. It's like. I mean, it's over half of the event since he's finished in the top five. So, MVP is I think still up for grabs I think these those three tournaments, those three playoff events are they're going to weigh heavily.

VO > Thanks Cookie. Thanks for your time.

VO > Thanks, Vince.

VO > What a regular season it has been. Thrilling, full of surprise and drama at every turn. Stand by for more as we hit money time in this Triple Crown playoff run. I'm Vince Cellini. More winning is on the way.