

2025 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS SHOW ROAD TO SCHWAB CUP

VO > The Charles Schwab Cup championship, the season's final showdown where the year's hard work can come down to one putt.

VO > Had to sweat it out, but Steven Alker takes down the season ending Charles Schwab Cup championship.

VO > Harrington rewrites the record books.

VO > This is where champions are made, and the season long leader claims a place in history.

OC > And this, this is why we do it.

VO > The thrill of winning the Charles Schwab Cup is unmatched.

VO > He is simply amazing.

OC > Doesn't get any more exciting than this, is it?

OC > Oh, man. That's one way of doing it.

VO > The final event is here. One name will stand above the rest.

OC > Ernie. Els, Miguel. Angel. Havana. Justin. Leonard, Stewart Cink, Angel Cabrera, Steven Alker.

VO > To win that event is something special.

VO > Steven Alker is your Charles Schwab Cup playing champion.

VO > I definitely want to join that club.

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

VO > Who's ready to seize greatness?

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > Who is ready? Indeed. All roads lead here to downtown Phoenix, Arizona. And the desert beauty surrounding the season's final step. 36 players, four rounds, one date with history.

OC > Greetings, everyone, and welcome to Phoenix Country Club and the road to the Charles Schwab Cup. I'm Vince Chiellini. What began back in January on the Big Island of Hawaii is to be decided here, on a classic course dotted with legends of the game, proving once again that our players do grow older, but they never age out of a will to win. So, let's begin by seeing how we arrived here.

VO > And this part, got way more important. Justin Leonard trying to get the 12 under.

VO > This could do it if he could make this.

VO > He has done it. He did it. What a putt right in the middle.

VO > Justin Leonard.

VO > On a blustery Sunday afternoon, former open champion Justin Leonard put on a Sunday rally in Richmond, his eagle on 18, propelling him to victory in the playoff opener, winning the Dominion Energy Charity Classic, his second victory of the year.

VO OC > This is why I'm playing is the feeling of, you know, this means something and and I just I love working, I love putting in the work. I love practicing at home. I love finding ways to get my body right to, you know, things in the gym and all those. And there's a whole bunch of people in in Florida that help me, you know, get here. And I hope they're celebrating tonight.

VO > In the second playoff event, familiar territory for reigning Charles Schwab Cup champion Steven Alker. I'll put up a record performance in little Rock to run away with the Simmons Bank Championship. Three days 20 under finish, grabbing the overall points lead and peaking at the right time.

VO OC > I got my own game back on song, you know it's hitting, it's nice shots. And then and I was the putter, you know, it just wasn't quite there for the last few weeks. And I got I mean these greens are so good. You just get it online and hey Bob's your uncle. So yeah, putting was a difference obviously, but I just felt more in control of myself for my game.

VO > And now it all comes down to the Charles Schwab Cup championship on display at Phoenix Country Club, an urban oasis in the desert parkland style golf course. Par 71, 6848 yards and classic in style and play. A fair test for all as year after year it serves as the canvas in a portrait of pressure and performance.

VO > Bernhard Langer is the defending champion, scoring his 47th win on this tour in breathtaking fashion. Rolling in a winding downhill birdie putt at the last. Also keeping his streak alive of at least one victory in every season on PGA Tour Champions.

OC > Unbelievable.

VO > Just what do you think Langer the legend has run out of magic. He does this.

VO OC > When I made that putt just all the emotions came out. You know, not having won for a while. And to making a putt under those circumstances, everything came out all just thoughts and emotions. Just kind of choked up inside of me. It all happened, because you don't make whatever that was a 20 30 footer. It doesn't happen all the time or that often, and certainly not under the circumstances.

VO > Due to Langer's heroics and a Steven Alker missed birdie putt at 18. Bernhard won the tournament, but Alker won the cup. He became the seventh multi winner of the Charles Schwab Cup in its 23 season history, joining Langer, Lehman, Roberts, Haas, Watson, and Irwin. In his last three seasons the killer Kiwis finishes in the Schwab Cup standings are as follows. Win. Second win.

VO > He is in position for another high finish. Top ten in the standings now. Everyone in the top five has a mathematical chance of winning the Charles Schwab Cup. Cink, Jimenez and Alker can't guarantee winning the Schwab Cup if they win the Charles Schwab Cup championship. Yet following his last performance, no one is in better form than Alker. Once again, his fellow competitors marveled at the consistency that marks his play.

OC > Steve Alker continues to impress me all the time,

OC > Alker is technically exceptional.

OC > Steven Alker story continues to me to be one of the greatest stories in golf.

VO > Arms raised triumphantly for Steven Alker, who is going to get his hands in the General Schwab Cup again.

OC > I think that's incredible

OC > An amazingly good golfer, and he's got a great game now.

VO OC > He doesn't make a lot of mistakes. When he does, you're like, Holy crap, he made a mistake. He just doesn't make mistakes obviously.

OC VO > One of the guys out here that's physically fit still swings at really solid.

VO > Alker's golf swing is is is I'll call it timeless.

VO > Alker has a fantastic swing.

OC VO > I really like Steve Alker swing. I think he's just could compete in regular tour events, you know, it's just it's just very solid.

OC > So happy for you.

OC > Well, you've heard from the others. Now let's hear from number one. Steven Alker joins us now, winner of the Schwab Cup in two of the last three years. And again, coming in as number one. You've done this in the past. Is that Steven a psychological edge for you as far as being on top coming in?

OC > I hope so. And that's, you know, I've done it both ways. I've kind of come from behind last year and then 20, 22 hours ahead, you know, so hopefully draw from that experience, you know, a lot of the past and yeah, I mean, there's still a lot of work to do.

We got a golf tournament to try and win. And then, you know, the rest takes care of itself.

OC > Right, it does. But this is a little bit of a I hate to say it, home field advantage for you here. Right. You were a member.

OC VO > Yeah. Yeah, yeah yeah I don't get out of here very much. Maybe a couple of times a year. I like this place, you know, just get on the grounds. It feels good. And it's all golf and, build it all in style getting it in the fairway and just yeah.

VO > Yeah. I want to ask you a little bit about the course coming up in a moment, but just your career on PGA Tour Champions in its entirety now in double digit figures with wins and 17 runner up, dozen third place finishers. Don't be humble. Why has this been such a tremendous run for you as you kind of step back and look at this?

VO OC > Well, I think, just that transition, you know, that 48 to 50 years where I just kept playing, stayed competitive, I stayed fit, and I'm not going to say it was an easy transition, but it was just a nice, smooth transition on the Champions were it felt like, you know, I had something to show my game felt pretty good. And, just kept playing my game, you know, so, I kind of felt like I had something to show and I my game is all still keen to play, you know, persevered and and so I felt good coming out. That was that was half the battle really.

VO > So you really didn't have to change much. You just kind of stepped in and hit the ground running.

VO > Yeah. Yeah, exactly.

OC > Talked talk to you at the Simmons Bank Championship which you won handily at 20 under. And I asked you at that point, is that the best that you think you've played on this tour? And you said scoring wise. Yes. What what where where is everything now, as far as your entire game? Is this is this as sharp possibly as you've been coming?

OC VO > I'm going to say no, because, you know, we're golfers. We're always kind of working at something. There's something not quite right, you know? So, I've, you know, I think my short game has improved, and I obviously putted very well at Simmons Bank. And, you know, you don't shoot 20 under without making some putts. Right. So, but I'm going to say no to that because I just feel like, you know, I look back at the year 22 and parts of 23 where my game was better, and I'd like to get it back to there and even better.

VO > But you're close.

VO > Yeah. I'm close.

OC VO > So as we sit here, we can see 18 green. And, last year, in this event, it was very interesting on the last day where Bernhard rolls in that long winding downhill birdie putt. It was crazy. And while you still had an opportunity to, to win the Charles Schwab championship, it didn't happen. But do you feel like how motivating is that for you to come back up this year?

VO > It's it's huge. I mean, the gold star of the year. Let's let's first of all get the Phoenix, you know, top 36. But to have a chance to win the Cup that's that's the biggest thing is defending champion of the Cup. I can it's just gives us a chance and I've done that. I'm here right now I mean there's you know mathematically there are guys other guys can win it. But yeah, it is it is very pleasing and I'm just happy to be in situation I'm in right now.

VO > Where do you keep those trophies in the house? Where are they?

VO OC > I think they are in the cupboard right now. My wife likes to scatter them all over the house.

VO > like like they're in a way she has to clean up around them.

VO > Yeah, yeah. So, but at the moment I think we've just put them all in a cupboard. But that they've been out most of the year, which is kind of cool. So hopefully I think maybe she's thinking, what if we put them away and we can get another one up on the, on the mantel piece. I don't know. But, yeah, it's, it's a lot of fun. We scattered all over the house.

VO OC > Finally. What is really the strategy? Give me this Steven Alker kind of a strategy. The game plan coming in because this is it's four days. Everybody's really sharp. I mean, what's what's it like to be in that mix? What's going to happen?

OC VO > Focus is going to be sharper. Like, you really got to get into what you're doing because the focus is on trying to win the tournament, obviously, you know, or at least finish this good as I can. The rest kind of takes care of itself. So that's the focus is definitely on like on the golf tournament, four days, an extra day I feel I want need a cart for the last day, but the, I'll, I'll make it round. Got a flat golf course here but focus definitely be on trying to win the golf tournament because take will care of the Schwab Cup.

OC > Well, we'll be keeping an eye on you, that's for sure.

OC > Thank you.

OC > Thank you Steven.

OC > Thanks, Vince.

OC > Congrats on a great year. And have a great finish.

OC > Thank you.

VO > We are just getting started on the road to the Charles Schwab Cup. Coming up, the most interesting story on tour, Miguel Angel Jimenez has always marched to the beat of his own drummer. His final steps may lead him directly to the season long title. What has clicked for Miguel and why? Next.

VO > It has been quite the year for Miguel Angel Jimenez. Stacking up wins in a single season like never before, including a major in Akron and three more regular season events. All told, 17 career wins on PGA tour champion and counting. He remains one to watch as we reach the season finale.

OC > For many years, he has been referred to as the most interesting man in golf, firmly committed to a hairstyle and a shoe style, complimenting a lifestyle that's work hard, play hard. At age 61, Miguel Angel Jimenez is enjoying a career year, aging like the fine wine he enjoys with a good quality cigar and smoking most of those in his path in pursuit of the tour's highest honor.

VO > And he pours it in.

VO > Miguel Angel Jimenez has been winning for decades, both on the course and off it.

VO > and there you have it, Miguel Angel Jimenez.

VO > Now, the man nicknamed The Mechanic is fine tuning a run to the top. After entering the postseason as the points leader. He now sits in second heading into the final event and still very much in the hunt.

OC > Number one is better than number two. Number two is always better than number three.

VO > Miguel Angel Jimenez has won The Hoag classic.

VO OC > Miguel is many things. Pretty easygoing guy, you know, tell a little bit of a free spirit. I think, if you like. He just enjoys life. He knows what he likes. He still enjoys the game, obviously.

VO OC > Yeah. He's a pretty hard character on the golf course. Tough, tough character off the course. He's very relaxed. Hey, he's always been a class player. I know he's a bit of a late bloomer, but in that period of time he's always a great ball striker. You know beautiful short iron player and lots of control.

VO > Miguel Angel Jimenez.

VO > You know, 61 years of age. He's he stays relatively fit. He's quite flexible. So that helps.

VO > Miguel's mobility has always been off the charts, aided by regular work in the gym to stay flexible and strong.

OC > You work hard, you be rewarded.

VO > And of course, the famous warm up routine.

OC > Let him go, boy, you better out than in. That's more like it. They move the knees. Little hula hooping.

VO > It's been a season of flexing on his fellow competitors. Event after event, hovering at or near the top of the leaderboard only three times this season has Jimenez finished outside the top 25 in a tournament. When asked why, he shrugs.

VO OC > Well, he said, I believe nothing. Nothing different compared with the other ones. Really? No. But, he's, I've been hitting very nice, very solid. I improve a little bit on the greens and that's probably made the difference. Yeah. My putting is consistent for the last couple of seasons. This year is a little more consistent less mistake.

VO > Not mentioned Miguel's secret sauce. His recipe for success is directly tied to improvement on the greens.

VO > Miguel Angel Jimenez with a birdie on the first playoff hole.

VO > Jimenez is statistically at the top in several categories, including putting average and putts per round. Enter wife Suzanne, who provided the sword Miguel majestically waves while winning. Jimenez borrowed Suzanne's putter at the 2024 SAS Championship, stood slightly more upright and boom!

VO > And he pours it in Miguel Angel Jimenez.

VO > But it's really not Miguel. You know, he's won four times this year, but it's not really him at all. It's his putter, his wife's putter actually that's won four times this year.

OC > What about a message for your wife Suzanne? She's on holiday in Austria. I understand.

OC > I well, I love I know you are looking there. Big kiss. See you tomorrow.

VO OC > I actually walked by him on the golf courses playing with him, and he put his putter down like anybody has kind of there. And I was walking pretty close to stay off the green on the fringe, and he withdrew the putter like it was his first born child. It was brought back into the bosom so that it didn't I couldn't step on a break. And so, yeah, we're we're all looking at Porter with the pink ribbon where we're waiting for the day the grip wears out or something happens.

OC > As a result, this is clearly Miguel's finest season since joining the tour in 2014. He's won 17 times on the over 50 circuit, but never the season long race. This is a man with 21

wins on the European Tour, a two time Ryder Cup champion and in the footsteps of the tour's all-time best.

VO OC > You can play as good as you want to play, but you still have to get it over the line and win. That's just incredible. Yeah, even even on Bernhard Langer standards, you know, and I think Miguel is kind of the next one from Bernhard since I've been here. You know winning wise. His winning percentage is way up there.

OC VO > He's doing everything well. He's enjoying the game like he's always enjoyed life. And now he's just got the confidence, I think, in every aspect of the game. And he's having an unbelievable year.

VO > Look celebrating. We've got beautiful...Foreign speaking Spanish.

VO > As for the ultimate prize, the Charles Schwab Cup would be another chance to toast the Spaniard and add yet another honor to an already stellar international career.

OC VO > At this moment...split the system to the 70 here when the 80 have a chance to be there. But for now, on the 2025 61 year old, it will be amazing.

VO > No one at age 60 or above has won more times in one season than Jimenez. Not even the greatest player ever on this tour. Miguel has impressed in all areas and despite a late season dip, will again bring an all-around game that defies age. He certainly embraces life on and off the course. Will he embrace the Charles Schwab Cup?

VO > Straight ahead on the road to the Charles Schwab Cup, Stewart sinks full time commitment to this tour has paid dividends. A multiple winner this season, Stewart Cink sits down with us to discuss Cup contention and more.

VO > When Stewart Cink, won on the PGA TOUR in his late 40s, you just knew he would tilt the over 50 landscape. And he has in 2025, Cink posted a pair of wins, the first coming at the In斯perity Invitational with a birdie on the first playoff hole to defeat Retief Goosen. Then in August, after a runner up at the Boeing Classic, Cink again won in playoff fashion, defeating Ernie Els and claiming back to back titles in the Ally Challenge. With a swing as powerful as ever, the 52 year old Cink hopes to build on a breakthrough year and perhaps come away with the season long title.

OC > And we're pleased to welcome Stuart Cinque, to the show. And yeah, it's it's interesting you're this is, I would think, why you're here, why you're playing so much on PGA Tour Champions. This is your spot, man. You're you're going to win it. All right. This is it.

OC > Well I'm here to win it all. Yeah, I've been saying that all year. And I'm not in a position where I can really do much except for absolute excellence to, to capture the Charles Schwab Cup. But it means a lot to me and all of us out here playing to have a

chance to win. And, you know, I got four days of golf to perform really well and and give it a run.

OC > It's funny that you mention that, because my next question was going to be about on PGA TOUR. You know, I don't I think you're very much in the moment and correct me if I'm wrong, you're not thinking about the years or the finale or. But I wonder how much that that has inspired you and other players to know that this is the kind of final chapter and PGA TOUR you're not thinking about that. But here you're like, opportunities must mean a lot.

OC VO > Yeah, I would say that it's different for every player. I think depending on what your career on the PGA tour kind of produced and what gets you out here. Certain players know that they better hang on and or they're going to be gone because, you know, they it's not just a gift. And then if you've earned it, there's there's a chance you could play out here for a long time. I'm more in that second category where I can play out here for quite a while still and, continue to, you know, support the PGA tour through playing out here on the PGA Tour Champions. And it's I just love the, the opportunity to, to come out here. I feel like it's it's a little bit more of a pure version of competing because you're not trying to, I'm not trying to define a legacy or anything. Certainly, know that all happened already, you know, and it's never been about that for me. But out here, I just get to come out here and compete, try to win. And sometimes you win. You play great, sometimes you play great and don't win, sometimes you lay an egg. I've done it all. And it just continues to unfold. And golf writes its own script for you in a little different way every week. And it keeps you on your toes. And it's always interesting and entertaining.

OC > You know, watching you, out here, you look like the same Stewart Cink that I remember covering on PGA TOUR. Hasn't changed all that much. I mean, as far as physically in your game, what do you think? Maybe you do better even than you did as a younger version of yourself?

OC > I think I'm a little bit better emotion manager than I used to be, but I just it's one of the fascinating parts of golf to me, is the way that, the mind and the emotions kind of work together with the results and the process to basically put a score on a scorecard.

OC > Right.

OC VO > And I've learned a lot about the way I react, and I'm similar to a lot of players, but I know everybody's a little different, and I've learned a lot about the way I react. So, it's a fun challenge to sort of like, manage all that and recognize when it's happening, good or bad. But it's always interesting and fun to put yourself into contention to see how you react, because you're always in a position to learn a little bit, grow a little bit, be a little bit better next time.

VO OC > Well, let's talk more about that process coming off the Simmons Bank Championship where you played well. You came here last year. Great start. What what's your strategy coming in after the experience of last year and just be just being out here for a few years in this, in this kind of duality of playing for a season long and playing for an event.

OC VO > Well out here last year at Phoenix Country Club in the Charles Schwab Championship, I was learning a new course and, trying to figure out the game plan off the tee and the into the greens and, you know, just learning the track. And my caddie, Chris Jones and I do usually a pretty good job on that. So, I won't do a whole lot of changing on the game plan. The weather is going to be a factor. It sounds like it's going to be very wet weekend here, which is quite unusual. So, the course will play a little different if it's if it's rainy and wet, but it's a long we're here 72 holes. You know usually we're at 54 holes. This is 72 holes. So, I think that favors me a little bit because, you know, I have some power still, and I can I can wear down, I think some of the players, just because of I mean, distance is a factor at every level. And so out here, there's a couple guys that really launch it and we love to launch it. It's, it's fun to, to take that advantage, you know, onto the golf course and use it to compete. Where when you go and play on the PGA TOUR, you're I'm Mr. Average when it comes to driving distance.

OC > But it sounds like you're really in a good headspace right now coming into this place. That be correct. I mean, you're right where you need to be.

OC > Yeah, I am I are off the course. Life is way different than it used to be. Off weeks. I'm speaking of my wife, Lisa and myself because we have three little grandchildren now, and so, the tournament, we feel the same. But when we go home, a lot of our time is focused on seeing them and helping our children out. But really, it's just to see the kids with, you know, the help part is just that it's necessary. But we we just want to see those little two girls and one boy. And so, I still am doing plenty of practice at home, but my time is just divided up quite differently. And so, we're in a peaceful place. It's just, you know, it's a good place to be in your early 50s, being a professional golfer, playing on PGA Tour Champions, growing family. And just feels great.

OC > Be nice to take one of those home. Little toy container. Candy container. For the grandkids.

OC > Yeah, yeah, I can see myself trick or treating in my own foyer. Get some candy out of that thing.

OC > Sounds good. Best of luck man. Good to see you.

OC > Thanks, Vince.

VO > When we return to road to the Charles Schwab Cup, Ernie Els with some unfinished business. The Big Easy at one hand on the Cup a year ago, only to see it slip

away, his perspective on making his way back, and why things could be very different this time around.

VO > Ernie Els on the tee.

OC > Smooth,

OC > Smooth like butter.

OC > Tempo.

OC > Silky.

OC > Rhythm.

OC > Dance.

OC > Beautiful.

OC > Ridiculous.

OC > Butter.

OC > Melting butter on hot toast. And it just sinks in.

VO > At age 56, Ernie Els has a swing that remains butter. It has taken him to seven PGA Tour Champions wins, but only 1 in 2025.

OC > Here you go guys.

VO > The season opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai. However, Ernie's year has included four runner up finishes, including two just last month. He is fourth in the season long race, coming in.

VO > In Ernie's 24 events this season, his four runner up finishes equal his second place finishes in the previous three seasons combined. Also, the Big Easy is showing good form coming into this week's Charles Schwab Cup Championship, as mentioned second in two of the last three events, including the regular season finale and the playoff opener. World Golf Hall of Famer is always among the favorites to win any time and any place is.

OC > Always a pleasure to have Ernie Els with us. Spend some time here getting ready for the finale and, coming in at four last year at one. Does that make a difference at all?

OC > Yes.

OC > But you still have to go out and do your job.

OC VO > You got to get it done. Like last year. I came in at one and I left at number two. So, I'd like to come in at four and one. But there's a lot of work to be done and I need a

lot of help. I think that, you know, my season's been good. You know, I've felt in many ways have played better this season than any of my other, you know, guys, I'm sure. So that gives me some hope for next year, whatever happens this week.

OC > Well, it's interesting that you have that perspective on your season, because that was my next question. And I remember in Richmond, when I talked to Justin Leonard, he was like, I feel for Ernie because it was his four runner runners up this year. But your perspective is I played well enough to win. You have to look at it I think in that positive manner. Right?

OC VO > Exactly Vince. So, I mean, you know, we've been around long enough. You know, I played at the highest level for a lot of my career. You had a bit of a lull there. As I said, many times, you know, from 45, 46 to 50, you know, didn't play a lot of great competitive golf. And I think that hurt my confidence and a little bit, you know, coming out. Yeah. You get yourself going and get have some energy. But you need a little confidence. And this year I felt like my putting's come around my driving's come around a lot better. My iron play has always been kind of okay. The short games been better. So, a lot of my disciplines have really excelled a little bit more than in past year. So that gives me, as I said, a little bit of hope for the future.

OC > Well, that's interesting because we see you and we see your your swing, which is one of the great swings. We think, well, that's maintenance free, but that's not the case, is it? I mean, you put a lot of work in, especially now at 56

OC VO > At 56 now you know the body, you know, you got to look after the body. And I still feel like even in that department I felt a lot better this year. Felt like I was more free thru the shot. You know, you see me stand up sometimes since the lower right catching, like a lot of us golfers do. And then you just constrain the shot. But I feel like my physical, ability is it's all also been a little bit better this year. So, you know, I just worked hard on all those other disciplines, and it's finally came through.

OC > And what's interesting, too, is not like you're different from many players in that you're off course activities have taken up a lot of your attention as well, with Portugal and hosting that event, the course design and your and your son Ben's, Els for autism over the weekend, which is a function for him and so many others. So, you have all of these things that I wonder. It's trying to keep a lot of balls in the air. Right. Well staying competitive.

OC VO > Yeah. You're right. I mean, you know, and a lot of the guys, you know, Golf Channel, you guys have documented it very well. You know, some of the stuff that we busy with. Takes a lot of the time. It's a it's a passion of mine. You know, it's something that I want to do. Well, you know the charity work is obviously very dear to our heart. And there's a lot of work involved there too. But it's a lot of work, but it's a lot of fun. But it's a lot of travel, you know, and especially with the golf course design, we we

everywhere. So, we've got a great people that's really more involved than I am. You know, I get all the, the, the niceties of the job I do. Other people do the really hard work, but it's taking up time, you know, and as you get older, you know, it's harder to travel. But every year I say I'm going to take it a little bit more slow. I'm going to, you know, take it easy. Things just kind of ramp up. So, but we'll see where that goes. But it's it's a lot of fun.

OC > Well it will be always is. Thanks Ernie.

OC > Thanks bud.

OC > Thanks. Congratulations on a great year.

OC> Appreciate it.

VO > More Hall of Fame quality competition is next. Padraig Harrington is a past winner of the Phoenix event and is again poised for a big finish. Paddy is always big event ready. We will have him on set next as road to the Charles Schwab Cup continues after this.

VO > The 2025 PGA Tour Champions majors did not disappoint. Rain made for a Monday finish at the Region's Tradition in Birmingham. There, Angel Cabrera scored his first PGA Tour Champions major and did it in just his fourth major start on this tour. El Pato was dialed in to break through, then kept it rolling. Later that same week at the senior PGA Championship at Congressional Angel Cabrera stepped up again, becoming the first player to win his second major in the same week. Yes, the same week. It propelled him into Charles Schwab Cup contention for much of the year. The Kaulig Company Championship at Firestone Country Club saw Miguel Angel Jimenez win his third career major in a playoff. Birdies on the final two holes of regulation to get their and then a birdie on the second hole of sudden death, also earning an exemption into the 2026 Players. The US Senior Open at The Broadmoor Padraig Harrington shoots 67 in 3 of his four rounds, winning by one shot. And with that, Harrington becomes the eighth man to win the US Senior Open two or more time. Senior Open Championship Harrington 16 under total is three better than the field. He becomes the fifth person to win the Open and Senior Open, joining the likes of Bob Charles, Gary Player, Tom Watson and Darren Clarke.

OC > Well, it's always fun to spend time with Padraig Harrington. His musings on golf, we talk about strategy and so many other different things. Here in Phoenix, you only played 15 events this year, right? This season and two of those were wins. So, I want to start with you just kind of gauging your year on PGA tour champ.

OC VO > Hey, you know, I knew you were kind of going to ask this question. I would definitely give myself an A for the year. Okay. And, you know, kind of strange. I'm a bit like the student who didn't study for his exams. But the two right questions came up like

I was a target in the Open. The Senior Open. That was the one for me to win. I wanted. So, it's a great year winning two majors. Icing on the cake.

VO > History making. Joining a small group of gentlemen.

VO OC > here's only certain teams that I can add to my CV that you know that I put on my CV and say, hey, I've done that. And people, you know, I see myself being introduced at times. Three time major winner, three time senior major winner. So, it does, you know, you want things that you can put in your CV that you can put up there and say, this is what I've achieved.

OC > It definitely matters. And your game, of course, is good on not only this tour but DP World Tour as well. Do you feel do you still feel compelled to to be competitive on that tour?

OC > Yeah, I look, I still...

OC > I ask you that all the time, I know.

OC > I, I want to I, I'm still physically capable of keep it, keep keeping up with the young guys compete with the young guys. You know I'm under a lot of stress and pressure when I'm there and probably don't get the best.

OC > Why is that?

OC VO > Because you feel like you need your A-game. I've said this before is you think you need your your A game. Your B game turns up. If you think you need your B game, your A-game. But that's just golf, you know, Tiger said it once. You know he could win with his big game. And the minute you see it like that, your A-game turns up all the time. You're very comfortable. You're very relaxed. You can take the hard hit early on, like if I miss an eight footer in the first round here for par. Okay. Move on. I should make some birdies. If I miss an effort in the first round of a tour event, I'm like, oh, what's the line going to be? It's just harder. You know? Clearly play No Events is a lot easier. And now here on the Champions Tour there's a lot less stress. But the one thing on the Champions Tour, which it can be very hard going back and forth, it's very quick on the champions is you're not like three under after nine holes. You really feel like, oh, I'm in trouble here. You kind of have to get to that. You're trying to get to that 15, 18, 15 under par anyway. So, our total and three days, you got to go low pretty quickly.

OC > So when you see and I rarely ask players to talk about other players, but you talk about being in that position and it looks like the leader in the points, StepVen is kind of in that is he is he kind of in that zone?

OC VO > He's turned a nice corner towards the end of the season. So, I played with him at the start of the season, and I know he's having tough times, but his game wasn't anywhere near where it was. Had like it started the season. He was I was kind of looking

forwards. It's he wasn't too comfortable chipping into this thing. And now I've played at the end of the year and he's playing really nicely now. He's in very good form. He back to the Alker maybe a year or two ago, where I know he's had a lot of top tens, but you know, he's playing very nicely at the moment hitting the ball nicely. He always putts nicely but he, he's, he's been very he's like I know he's leading this week and obviously he's the man to beat. But he really is the man to beat. His form is very good.

OC > So tell me about competing in this what you have and just the the the vibe or the feeling of being in this event because anybody can get hot in a four round event. And this, this course is relatively fair to everyone, is it not?

OC > This is a good old, old school golf. It's a great week actually. It's a strange week as well for us. Everybody here is made the finals. So, you've got 36 guys here. They're very like they're all happy. The last two tournaments are the playoffs. And the last race of SAS as well, the one before the very stressful atmosphere around the events because those guys lose in the cards. So, you don't know who to say. You're kind of looking at everybody and you going high and you you don't know. How is he gonna like those guys there do. You're never going to see again. I mean that if they lose the cards with no Tour School with no chance, they'll never have an opportunity to be back. So, it's the last three weeks has been very awkward with this week is everybody's happy here. You know, there's only a couple of us really in the shape for, you know. Well, I'm not in shape for for winning the Charles Schwab but for moving up. So, everybody's trying to win this week. But there's a lot of people here who are very comfortable and relaxed this week. Obviously, the guys at the very top who have a chance of winning the outright Charles Schwab are going to be stressed. We've just come off three weeks of a lot of people play very stressful.

OC > Is Patty happy this week? This is your final go round.

OC > I really like this course. Yeah, I'm.

OC > And some goals this week then obviously win.

OC > I'm fortunate I'm not in that. I Can't win it outright. So, you know I'm here to play golf when the tournament I've had two weeks off and I've been, as usual, come down a bit of a rabbit hole, a golf swing, thinking about things. So just trying to get my head together over the next couple of days, do a few things right. If I can. I know the course suits me.

OC > It does.

O C> Thank you, Paddy.

OC > Thank you.

OC > I appreciate it.

OC > Yeah.

VO > Next on road to the Charles Schwab Cup, a look at some of the first timers to qualify for the Charles Schwab Cup championship. A list that includes Tagg Ridings, who season took an upward turn of late when qualifying led to quality finishes. And here he is. That's next.

VO > Tagg ridings is a feel good story. Here at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. He caught lightning in a bottle in March with a second at the Gallery Classic, then did some grinding until September, brought a top ten at the Sanford International and then Playoff Magic T5 in Richmond and T2 in Little Rock. No status to a top 36 in the standings to earn a spot in Phoenix and playing privileges next season.

VO OC > Man, this is unexpected to say the least. Last fall didn't make it through a Monday. Starting out this spring, I got some great support from my Rhinos sponsors and they really kind of freed me up to go feel comfortable chasing it, and that changed the mindset quite a bit. So, I had some support that really loosened me up to go freely to chase this thing. And just got a hot week there in Palm Springs and that made a huge difference. So, we've had a we've had a from nothingness to incredible and I'm so happy for it.

VO > This isn't the easiest thing. Honest.

VO OC > This is the hardest to get an answer for sure. But you can do it. And the last couple of years on the Korn Ferry Tour, people are going, oh, you're going to do great out there. Look at Alker. He's just killing them. I'm like, yeah, yeah, he does. He shoots about ten under every time you tee it up. I don't I haven't made that change yet. But maybe so. But yeah, you know and to have it come through when I know how hard it really is to do. I'm just ecstatic. Really grateful.

VO > First time participants in Phoenix include Aussie and three time winner this season Steve Allen, rookies Frederik Jacobson and Soren Kjeldsen both coming off stellar campaigns. Matt Gogol, who quietly made the march to Arizona. Boo Weekly, is in and Constellation Furyk and Friends winner Tommy Gainey. We asked players who made it to the finale to reflect on their seasons and share the types of improvements they've made and those required in the offseason.

OC > Lots of room for improvement and got to tidy up a few areas, but more, more I think more mentally pushing it as opposed to just pushing to try and win so much as opposed to just get out of my own way and just playing.

OC VO > My lower body, hips low back, hadn't felt this good in 15 years, and so physically, I'm in a lot better shape. So, my, our goal this offseason, I'm I'm, I want to continue that. And I'm still not very flexible despite being here. I can't touch my ankles, let alone my toes. So, I got a goal to touch my toes in the offseason. The number one

thing for me is my body, because I can't play broken. And I've been broken for quite a while. And so, this year has been fun. To not be broken, to actually feel like I have energy going into this, into the playoffs and but yeah, so just little things, little fine tuning. But I think we can still get a little better.

OC > I think my wedge plays probably, you know, it's always been one of my stronger parts of the game. But I think this year it's been even stronger than it usually has.

OC VO > I think my attitude has been a little better this year, a little more laid back. You know, I sometimes I wear my shots on my sleeve. You can tell if I hit a good one or bad one, but I tried to be a little more like Bernhard, maybe a little more, we call it, my dad says even keel. Not too high, not too low. So, I've kind of been in that in that middle range for most of the year. So, I think that's probably something that I've improved most on.

OC VO > I was on a roll there for a while. It was like every other week I was getting a top ten. And now the last top ten I finished second at the Dicks, had a couple of close top tens, maybe an 11th and a 13th or something. But I just think it's more confidence. I mean, you can still hit it. Not as good as you want to hit it, but if you're making some putts, you can kind of get through the round. But I see like I said, like right now Derek and I are talking about like what are some of the things that I'm missing? And it's more I think it's just really like that confidence of seeing the ball getting close, making a couple of putts, get that ball rolling in the right direction instead of always having 30, 40ft and two putt, make another par, another par. And, you know, making one, 2 or 3 birdies a day just doesn't cut it out here.

VO > And that brings to a close a magnificent season on PGA Tour Champions, full of fantastic stories and sensational golf legends. Indeed. I'm Vince Cellini, leaving you with a salute to some of the great winners in 2025.

VO > Els and his won the season opener.

VO> And there you have it Miguel Angel Jimenez, Justin Leonard is the Chubb Classic champion.

VO > There you have it, Steven Alker.

VO> The red wine will be flowing tonight.

VO > Steve Allen he is the winner of the Gallery Classic.

VO > And Jerry Kelly has won.

VO > Stewart Cink has won.

VO > Angel Cabrera has won his second major in six days.

VO> Bjorn and Clarke, your winners.

VO > Senior open at it to the US Senior Open.

VO> For the third time this season Steve Allen is a winner.

VO > The man from Down Under is finally on top.

VO > And he's done it, Stuart Cink.

VO > Thomas Bjorn puts the pedal down,

VO > The goose guts one out.

VO > It 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.

VO > And Cjeka is the champion.

VO > What a close for Leonard. Your champion here in Virginia.

VO > And Steven Alker dominating in little Rock. Now atop the points list with one event left.