

2025 PGA TOUR Champions Learning Center – Season Preview Show Transcript

VO> The PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO/OC> For nearly three decades. Legends of the game make their way here to the Big island of Hawaii. You start their season leaving behind the icy chill that grips much of the mainland. For a walk in Paradise and first step in the 2025 campaign. Welcome to this PGA Tour Champions season preview. I'm Vince Cellini and we are coming off one of the great tour seasons in history. And now the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai kickstarts what promises to be another amazing run. We have first time winners looking to build on their success and headliners on this tour. Trying to continue to raise the bar, but as it is just like this amazing beauty at Hualalai Golf course, the players will to compete. Never gets old.

VO> That's left I believe.

VO> Here it goes. Simply amazing.

OC/VO> Well I think this tour I would say that there's 40 guys that could win on any given week. It's pretty deep out here.

VO> Doug Barron has won the Regions Tradition.

VO> Very competitive.

VO> What a birdie. What a day for O'Neil.

VO/OC> And these guys are really good at this little bit overwhelming which I knew that very early on. I learned really quick. I had to get a lot better around the game because my short game was terrible. And I'm still working on it. It's still still not there yet.

VO/OC> You have to play great golf to win out here. The players really play good golf and it's very competitive. There's a reason that guys earn their way into these limited fields. For very small fields, they're very hard to get into and you have to have accomplished something pretty grand on the golf scale to be included.

VO/OC> I'd say there's more parity than there probably ever has been. Parity depth, however you want to call it. Jerry Kelly is a winner. Again, this is Phil. A lot of elevated games.

VO/OC> It's just getting better and better. I always say we should be really good where we should be and we are. And the spread it out. And he had to earn it. This tour's ridiculous how good it is top to bottom in the three round events. If you're not coming out on fire, you have no chance.

VO/OC> It's just. I don't think you have to play harder. I think you just got play smarter and better. Not harder.

VO> In for Ames. Finish with a birdie.

VO/OC> It's definitely difficult out there. You got to play very well, not harder. Play very well to win out here.

VO> Ernie Els has won his first major on the PGA Tour Champions.

VO/OC> And playing with guys that played in Ryder Cups and one major. So these guys are really good. These guys are really good. So when you played guys that hit a long, short, whatever, they just found a way to score.

VO> Stewart Cink has won for the first time on the PGA Tour Championship.

VO/OC> Players are able to maintain high quality of play with power later on in their life, and at some point, the the number 50 intersects your age and you still got it. And that's going to keep happening more and more and more. And the level plays is going to keep on rising.

VO> Going to party tonight.

OC> Well, certainly raising the level of play on PGA Tour Champions is 2023 Charles Schwab Cup champion Steve Stricker who joins us now. And Steve, I know you're all things Wisconsin, but I hope this is an okay alternative for you right now in January. Is it okay?

OC> Yeah. This is unbelievable isn't it. 80 degrees every day. Little. It's a little too windy though right.

OC> Oh we'll see what we can do about that.

OC> Yeah. No, no, this is great. And, you know, it's about 6 or 10 degrees in Wisconsin right now, so, we're loving this.

OC> So let's go back to last year and how excited are you to get back to work this year because, you know, things change season to season. And I know it was a big difference in 24.

OC/VO> Yeah, I'm always excited to start here and to try to get off to a good start, try to get in contention, try to win, early in the season is always at the top of my mind. And I don't play, you know, a full schedule as we were talking about. But, you know, I try to play around 15 events and but each time I come out during those 15 events, I want to I want to get in the mix and try to win. So, it's got my attention each and every time I come out to play.

OC> Does it look like that will be about the number again this year?

OC/VO> Yeah, I think so. You know, I, I play, I play, a lot up to the 15. And then in the fall, you know, it was my time to kind of get away. Doesn't mean that I've always played in the Schwab Cup, tournaments at all, but, you know, it's just the time for me to fall, to get away and do the things I like to do, and, and, I feel at 57 or 58 years of age that I've kind of, need to do that. I've kind of earned that right to kind of, you know, take my balls and do what I want to do. And, you know, my daughters are playing golf, my wife plays a lot of golf. So just to be around home and hunt a little bit and to be with them is is always a great time of the year.

OC> Yeah, I know you like to hold on to the family doing Steve. You're holding out to 57, but 58 is right around the corner next month. So yeah, father time is is always around. So you're putting your stamp on golf again with the changes to the American Family Insurance Championship, new course, new format and has to be exciting.

OC/VO> Yeah, we're super excited. We raise the purse 600,000 to a \$3 million purse. It's going to be a team event. Best ball, scramble back to best ball again. So no, no alternate shot. We don't want to put anybody, under the gun too much and have too much pressure on them. So we are we're going to have fun with it. The guys are super excited, about coming there. We're super excited about my father in law's golf course, TPC Wisconsin. So, a couple changes and we're fired up for it.

VO/OC> Where you are in your career here. And I know golf isn't the end all be all, but what kind of a stance do you think you'd like to place on your your time here on PGA Tour Champions? We love you out here. Yeah. It's so much fun to have you.

OC/VO> Yeah. Thank you. It's great to be out here. And Bernhard Langer's win total is you know something that I probably can't get to I'm 58 already. But you know that major Mark is is close by. You know I think won seven majors and out here on the Champions Tour. And that's kind of in the back of my mind to see if I can do something like that to be to be, one of those guys that one of the most majors out here would be something pretty cool.

OC> Yeah. I love the fact you're still setting goals. So we thought about doing this in a deer blind. Just to make you comfortable. But anyway, we're glad to see you.

OC> I appreciate it.

OC> Thanks for stopping by.

OC> Thank you.

OC> Have a great year.

OC> You too.

VO> When the 2025 PGA Tour champion season preview returns, joined by defending Charles Schwab Cup champion Steven Alker, who also defends here on the Big Island, the killer Kiwi took this tour by storm and hasn't looked back. Nice guys do indeed finish first.

OC> Steven Alker continues to impress me all the time.

OC> Alker technically exceptional.

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

VO> Arms raised triumphantly for Steven Alker, who was going to get his hands on the Charles Schwab Cup again.

OC/VO> I think that's incredible. 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> One of the guys out here that's physically fit still swings and really solid.

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

OC> Steven Alker has a fantastic swing.

OC> I really like Steven Alker's swing. I think he's just competing regular tour events. It's you know it's just it's just very solid.

OC> So happy for you.

VO/OC> Steven Alker's swing continues to pay dividends now a multiple Charles Schwab Cup winner as the season points champion and more recently honored with the 2024 Jack Nicklaus Award as Player of the year. Alker second act in golf has been nothing short of amazing. And now joined by the man himself, Steven Alker, winner of two of the last three Charles Schwab Cups. It's good to see you. We just spent some time together back in the fall.

OC> We did, we did.

OC> Are you are you expanding your trophy case at home? Have you had to do any renovations?

OC> Yeah. Not. Not yet. Not. Yeah. We're not there yet, but, they're kind of all over the house. I kind of like that. The ones there, ones there and, you know. So, But yeah, just, just just to get another one, you know, it's. Yeah. Pretty cool.

OC/VO> Yeah. Well, I'm sure you'll have to expand very soon, because the way you're going here, you were involved in one of the great duels on and PGA Tour Champions at the Charles Schwab Cup championship, and I know that Bernard eventually won that, but it was there was so much drama there. What was it like to be on the inside of something like that you had time to process it.

OC VO> Yeah, well, you know what that whole week was, I, I was just fired up. I mean, I don't think I've been fired up for a golf tournament like that for a very long time. And, just knowing that all the scenarios, I got a chance to win the Cup, I might not win the Cup. So many things going on. I have a chance to win the golf tournament I'm trying to defend. So there was a lot going on. It was exciting. And, you know, for the fans and everybody involved, it it was a great ending, it really was.

VO/OC> It was amazing, amazing. I thought you were very gracious to, at the end of that and everything that happened and share that time with Bernie. But I want to say in 22 events in 24, you had five runner up finishes, 16 top tens. And the thing about that, Steven, and we've talked about this, you're never you're never really boat race in any of these. You're like always in contention and always do the how do you do that. What about your game allows you to be that effective week to week event to event, course to course?

OC/VO> Yeah. You know, I'm efficient. You know I'm not the longest hitter. I'm not I'm not the best at everything, but just efficient and good at everything. So that goes a long way on here, you know, I'm in the fairway. I'm hitting greens, giving myself chances. You know, I just I just part myself for them,

especially last year that consistency to to have a chance to, to try and win a golf tournament every week, you know, eventually you put yourself in that position enough. You're going to win some you know you going to lose some as well. So you know it's it's just a good place to be. And I was pretty proud of the consistency I had last year.

OC> No question. All right. Well keep making memories out here. Thank you, Steven. Have a wonderful 2025.

OC> Thank you.

VO> PGA Tour Champions is a new start for many, including 55 year old Ricardo Gonzalez, winning for the first time on this tour in Morocco. A top ten finisher in the season long points race, Gonzalez earned 2024 rookie of the year moving forward. That award is now known as the Hale Irwin Award. And here is the tour legend on this honor.

VO/OC> My first thought was I'd like to be a rookie again. It brings a freshness as it kind of turning over a new leaf. It's a new chapter in the book and all that's exciting and so this to me is if I can tell any of these people, in years to come, be a rookie all the time is fun.

VO> Coming up, we'll hear from the 2008 PGA Tour Champions Rookie of the year, as well as nine-time player of the Year Bernhard Langer. He is the gift that keeps on giving and winning on this tour.

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

OC> Bernhard is amazing he is Incredible.

OC> Bernhard always impresses.

OC/VO> Considering what he did. Bust his achilles tendon and then coming back way earlier than anybody thought. I mean, it's Aaron Rodgers in golf out here.

OC> He's unbelievable. Unbelievable.

VO> Bernhard Langer is going to secure his 47th victory on the Champions Tour

OC> Bernhard Langer is just one of the greatest athletes of our time. Period.

OC/ VO> He's worth watching every shot. You know he's probably the one you'd feared the most if you were coming down the stretch and you were tied. I think he went, he's the one I feared the most, and he's the most likely to holE a 30 footer on the last green to win.

VO> Bernhard Langer again with a win at the PNC, and he and Jason become the first duo to win it four times together.

OC/ VO> He's still at it at 67. He's won everything won, 47 times out here on the Champions tour.

VO> He just keeps rolling along.

VO> Love watching him he is an absolute inspiration to my game.

OC> There are many descriptions of Bernhard Langer, but we can just say he is the finest player in the history of PGA Tour Champions. And, so we come back to the Mitsubishi Electric Championship Hualalai. You've won three times. 47 wins is the record on this tour. I just want to start with what makes you wake up in the morning to be you? Like, how do you continue this? How do you do it?

OC/ VO> I don't think about it. Tell you the truth. I just, have a plan for every week or every month or whatever, and, you know, when I'm home, I got certain things I want to accomplish. And when I'm out here, I have certain things I feel like I should be doing and accomplishing, and. And that's how I've just treated all my life. It's just every day. Give it your best. Whatever you do.

OC> You must love it, though. You must love the work, the grind, the putting in the time to do this.

OC/ VO> I enjoy practicing, tell you the truth, a lot of my colleagues would rather play holes when they're home. I hardly ever play holes. I could be home for three weeks and not play one hole. Just. I just go hit balls for an hour or two and chip and putt a little bit, and that's it. And that's enough for me at this stage in my life. You know when I was younger, obviously I did a lot more, but things change. You got to understand your body. What you can do. What you can't do, what's good for you and go along with it and not fight it.

OC> You know? I know it's a job, but at the Charles Schwab Cup championship, it looked like you were having the time of your life. I mean, how much fun was that? Not only to win, but to extend the win streak to 18 straight years with A victory?

OC/VO> I played really, really good golf that week, and it's always more fun when you know the ball is starting on the line and more or less going to a target that when you're looking this way, oh, I didn't see it. Well because it went over there, over here. So yes, I did have a lot of fun and, was very focused. I got off to a tremendous start on Sunday, you know, six under after nine holes or whatever. And built up a nice lead and lost it all. And then, to make that putt on 18 to, to pull it off.

OC> But you've tilted the tour. There's no question about that. And at age 67, still out and being very, very effective. But I want to also, ask you about 25 and 24. You announced it was going to be your last Masters tournament and then you were injured. So what does that mean for 2025? Will that will this now be the last?

OC> It will definitely be my last Masters playing. Unless I hurt myself again. But it's it's time I'm getting older. I'm getting shorter. And that course is, very, very long. You know, I was paired with, Rory McIlroy and Bryson DeChambeau maybe six years ago seven something at the Masters on the weekend. And it was like I was the shortest hitter in the field, and they're two of the longest. And it was like night and day. I mean, it's it's a totally different golf course.

OC> How far ahead of you are they?

OC> 80 to 100 yards at times. So they're hitting a wedge. And I got a two hybrid open. So I go know and I'm trying to compete with them you know.

OC> And you did.

OC> Well I did somehow but it's yeah it's time for me to say goodbye to the Masters. I had a wonderful run there. I still look forward to coming back, but not as a playing member of the tournament.

OC> All right, well, we're glad you're back here. And we hope you are back here many, many years. Have a great year.

OC> Thank you. Vince.

OC> Every year is a new opportunity to get better. Even though we're getting older, you still get back. And I'm embracing the Hawaiian culture to improve my game. Three different areas. My goal this year is to improve my driving accuracy. Last year I finished 14th in fairways hit, but that's not the aloha way this is. Here we go. That wasn't bad off the pineapple. That was pretty cool. I got up and down last year 60% of the time on the bunkers. Pretty good. But I want to do better. This is the tea leaf way. Hawaiian word is mana, symbolizes protection. So on shots like this, it'll make me kind of stay calm and relaxed, even on the hard ones. Lovely. And then there's putting. I ranked six last year in potting. Not bad for me. But now this year with my new ball marker, I'm going to make every putt count. This is the green sea turn symbolizes good luck. Observe. I feel like it's already in. I don't even have to do anything. I just feel like there's and go like that and we're done here. Any questions? I hope I learned as much as I did, but the Hawaiian culture is fantastic. This week I'm in the Aloha Spirit see ya.

VO> Straight ahead on the PGA Tour Champion season preview Ernie Els came ever so close to capturing the season long race. Now, the World Golf Hall of Famer looks to build on the success of 2024, the Big Easy back for bigger and better, and joining us next.

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 it just sinks in.

OC> He does indeed possess one of the great swings in the game, and it can be seen on PGA Tour Champions. We're spending time with Mr. Hawaii here. Ernie Els Ernie, good to see you. Happy New Year to you.

OC> Great to see you man thank you.

OC> So you coming off a season your best season on PGA Tour Champions with the three wins and second in the Charles Schwab Cup championship. And you know have you that time to sort of process what happened last year and then the finish in Phoenix and give me some perspective on where you are now.

OC> Listen I had a really nice, nice time last year. You know, listen, I had a great season. At the end, I didn't quite play my best golf. You know, I, didn't quite, you know, hit the greens the way I used to do, you know, through the year, my ball striking was a bit off. And then, you know, kind of came up short, you know, but you got to give credit to Steven Alker. You know, Richard Green came through very strong. There was some really great stories. I mean, Padraig Harrington won three times. You know, Steve Ames won three times. It was a very competitive season. I just didn't quite continue from when I really had that form in May and June.

OC> When we talked here last year. And I think we talked about you having a really big year. And I know you put a lot of work into your game. Where do you think that you saw the the fruits of your labor when it came to your game last year? What improved for you?

OC/VO> Well, I got a healthy back. I went to go see Tom Booth. I went to go see him in Georgia. And I don't have any structural damage or anything. I just get very tight on my lower right side, like a lot of golfers do. But he's got a method to really loosen me up, and I got to give him credit. You know, I went to see him, two, three times, and I, I stayed on it last year. And when my back is loose, you know, then I can put the power on the ball. And I felt that was that was really great. And my ball striking because of that was back. Obviously, my putting was, was streaky. But when it was on, you know, I made a lot of birdies. So a lot of things fell in place. You know, my driving was good. For the first time, I hit a lot of fairways more famous than I ever did on this tour. And when you do that with a bit of length, you can get yourself in a birdie birdie range.

OC> At age 55 now you've kind of settled into this tour, you know, and for a lot of guys it's a second chance. But you've always been a star on every tour. Is that has that been helpful to you, that status of being that guy, or is there pressure on being Ernie Els and being, you know, the guy week to week?

OC> It's a little bit of both. But as you say, I mean, we've come a long way. You know, I was actually just back now during December. I was at home for six weeks. We're very competitive nation. And everybody goes, what the hell happened? You know, why didn't you close it? I was like, you guys watch championship golf? So obviously they do. But you know, there's always been expectation for from other people and for myself, you know, the ball was set very high as a very early attempt to continue that. You just live with that.

OC> For this year. Ernie. You're kind of some expectations. Once again, before we let you go, you know what you thinking?

OC/VO> Well. I want to just be consistent. You know, it's nice to be up there, see your name on the leaderboard, and you're in the tournament, you know, and have a chance on a Sunday. You know that there's a lot of competition that you, as you saw last season, got very close with a lot of players. I think there's a bunch ten, 12 guys that are really playing at a very high level. And I think it's going to continue this year. You know, who knows? You know, if you really get hot, I've proven that you can win some tournaments in bunches. Yeah.

OC> Sure.

OC> Not quite like Bernhard Langer. But you know you got to do a lot of things very well AJ to win tournament. So I'm looking forward to that challenge.

OC> It's great to have you out here.

OC> Thanks man.

OC> Have a wonderful year.

OC> Thank you.

OC> Thank you.

VO> Coming up he's done just about everything in the game. And now Fred Couples is back to start his season. And perhaps finally grab the brass ring at who all alive. The people's choice. Boom-Boom joins us next.

VO> As birthdays go, 50 is the new. Well, it's the new guy on the tour. Let's take a look at some notable players hitting the big five-o this year. By order of birth, it starting with JJ Henry, the tall Texan by way of Connecticut, who turns 50 on April 2nd. A three-time PGA tour winner, Henry also represented team USA in the 2008 Ryder Cup. Next, Soren Kjeldsen, who celebrates his 50th birthday on May 17th, the Danish golfer recently regained playing privileges as medalist at New School, winning by an impressive eight shots, and boasts four career wins on the DP World Tour. David Howell hits the milestone on June 23rd. A former top ten player in the world, how has five DP World Tour victories and competed in two Ryder Cups for your on August 13th, Tommy two gloves Gainey reaches the Big Five. Also known for his unique style and homemade swing, Gagne captured the 2012 RSM classic and is teed it up at 241 PGA tour events. Finally, Tiger Woods will turn 50 on December 30th as he becomes eligible for PGA Tour Champions. Speculation is already brewing. He could make his debut right here in Hawaii this time next year. How's that for openers?

OC> He remains ever one of the most popular players on any tour. He's been entertaining us professionally for 45 years now. How about that?

OC> That is a long time.

OC> Fred couples. Good to see you.

OC> Good to see you, Vince. Thanks.

OC> So let's start at the beginning here. 15th start at Hualalai. Four times, you've been a runner up in this tournament, right? You've done a lot of things in your career. Be nice to walk away with that. That beautiful trophy.

OC/VO> Well, I better overnight start playing better, but, this is Paradise. I really, really, really love the course. And they've changed the grass. I'm sure everyone's talking about past (INAUDIBLE) a couple of years ago, and it has meant greens are lightning fast. It's great. And like I say, if I can come out and hit it solid and play, I'll get better and better.

OC> We love having you out here. It raises the event status for sure. So I have to talk to you about, one of our good friends here, a videographer, mentioned that you have what he called an old man bag. Now, so can you describe your bag for our viewers?

OC/VO> Yes. I, start out with the driver, then I go to a mini three wood. Then I go to a five wood, and then all hell breaks loose. I brought a three rescue because of some of the par fives, but I have a three rescue, a four rescue, a five rescue and a six rescue. And trust me, I hopefully I'm good enough to do this next year I'll have a seven rescue, I'm pretty sure, but I have a bag full of woods. I have hit them very, very nice and I'm not really worried about it, but I think if it starts blowing like it can 20 or 30 miles an hour, it'll be the first time I've ever really worked these woods into shots. You know, I'm trying to hit low, but it's kind of saved my body a little bit because when I go and hit balls, I now start out with 4 or 5 and six woods, and I don't take divots and I just sweep the ground, and I feel like I made a little progress.

OC> We love you being out here. I said this before, and the fact that you elevate events, and I know this is a tough question for you because it's it's it can be embarrassing. But to what do you attribute all this your popularity, has it been your play, your style? Because people still gravitate to you out here. And I know you appreciate that.

OC/VO> You know, I, I, answered that differently when I was 35 and 50, and now I love golf, I really do, I mean, I think people understand that I love golf, and I don't just love, Scottie Scheffler and Tiger Woods. I love Tyrrell Hatton. I love anyone on the European tour. Rory is not American, but he plays on our tour. So, the idea that, I get frustrated. Look, I've walked by people before, and, you know, I'm trying to go over there to find you guys today, and they want to do stuff over there. And I get frustrated because my mind says, you know, go here. And in golf you got to be pretty selfish, you know? And I think I was very selfish when I was in my 30s because I didn't practice that long. So, if I had 40 minutes to hit balls, I used to always tell Joe, keep them away. And people look at you. Why can't I talk to you? I'm only going to hit for 40 minutes. You might be out here for two hours, but I only want 40 minutes. So, it is. It is what it is. But I love, the Champions Tour. I love playing it. And one more year I'm going to give it several tournaments and see how I play.

OC> So I ask you this every January, how many-

OC> And I answer it.

OC> What do I say? How many events are going to be out now? We don't hold you to this. You know it's not etched in stone.

OC/VO> I'm going to say two because then I'll know I'm going to play more than two. I can I can go, you know, I'm going to try and play ten, including Augusta. I'm a West Coast kid, so I'm going to play, you know, we have a few of them out here. On, on. Well, we're not on the West Coast. We're in Hawaii, but, you know, the old Newport in the gallery, which I've lived in the desert forever. I'm going to go to Naples. I love apples, the Boeing, Calgary, Pure, Tucson. So, you know, my goal is to really be able to get paired with Ernie Els or Stricker and really compete. And and if I can't, then, then it doesn't really matter how I play. It really doesn't. That's not in a bad way. I still will come play 7 or 8 times and I will enjoy the heck out of it. But you know, you've got to be able to strike the ball to play out here. There's no like, oh, I'm 65, I can't play, I need to be strong. I need to go a long way. I need to play par fives well. The same thing I did when I was 57, 58 and 60. And I'm slowly getting to where I don't make as many birdies, but I still hit the ball pretty sharp, so I enjoy it.

OC> Real pleasure always Fred you know that.

OC> All right. You got it. Thank you.

OC> Thanks for being out here.

VO/OC> And coming up. We'll sit down with the newest member of our broadcast team. Paul Azinger says Aloha. Zinger back on the mic and surprise, he has something to say. Well, Paul Azinger has checked many golf boxes. He's a major champion in the US, Ryder Cup winning captain and TV analyst. And he's. He's going back to check that box again. So welcome aboard.

OC> I watched Vince back in the day. Way back in the CNN days. And so good to see you bud, mega talent you're the man.

OC> You're the man.

OC> You look good too. Can you believe we're the same age? This is disgusting me.

OC> Well I was going to ask about it but keep going.

OC> You're fit.

OC> So, what made you sign up?

OC> Well, my wife pushed me a little bit to get out the door, and I'm actually thrilled to be here. I don't have a monster schedule. I'm going to do 12 several from Jacksonville, which I think will be a challenge. But, you know, I think we'll overcome that. And, I'm looking forward to it. It's nice to hang with these guys. I can say that I feel like, you know, I chose a different career, but I kind of maybe missed playing being out here.

OC> Well, it's pretty close, and particularly Paul, because you're you're with peers. These are the guys that you competed against. So you know their games, you know their tendencies. You got a lot of inside info right?

OC> I do I'm getting all kinds of inside stuff on them now. I'm checking on the injuries and what kind of surgeries you had since I saw you last year. That's been a couple of years. But, it's, you know, for me, these are these are career players. I mean, they made a life out of playing golf. Some of them now are out here that had journeyman careers, and this is the opportunity of a lifetime for them.

And, you know, I admire longevity as much as anything. That was one of the things we strive for when we were younger was longevity. And now you're getting to watch all the guys that had the longevity. And I think maybe a lot of the viewers are close to the same age and, you know, maybe even learn a few things. Well, from them.

OC> You know, better than most that, being out here, it's not the it may not be the same, Champions Tour that that you played on at 50. I mean, these guys are. I mean, they can really go after it.

OC> Well, when I came out, in 2010, I thought they were going to be smoking cigars and drinking red wine. And then, these players out there practicing, I remember by Bernhard Langer was on the putting green when I teed off, out west somewhere and, when I came around after nine holes, he was still in the same spot. And I just thought, wow, I don't know if I have that in me, and I don't want to get out prepared by Hall of Famers. And so, I just decided to walk off and it was tough. But I didn't touch a club for several years, and that I regret that now. But that's what happened. And now I'm swinging at it again. I'm kind of excited. It's really fun to be hanging with my peers, though, you know, they remember that I could play a little bit. I remember them. It's been a blast.

OC> So, from a television aspect, how has your analyst career sort of developed in terms of when you were a player, I'm sure you liked some guys in the commentary that you heard, some you didn't. Did you try to distill from those to your own style?

OC> Well, I was still pretty active player when I first jumped into the broadcast booth at ABC and fouled on, I were put there together. I kept my card two years in a row, broadcasting 20 events, which is not easy, and then we went different directions, and then I stayed there at ABC, ESPN, and that was great. But, you know, for me that I had Mike Tirico as a host, the greatest, you know, and then jumped right in there with Joe Buck. How do you beat Joe Buck? You know, he was new to golf. And you know that social media was, you know, 80% negative about that, which was a shame for Buck because I thought he did a great job. He was thrown in a tough spot.

OC> Not easy.

OC> No not easy at all.

OC> It was a tough, tough assignment.

OC> And then Dan Hicks I mean my goodness. So I learned from all of them. They all protected me as best they could for myself, you know, because I, I can say sometimes I get stats wrong and what have you, but, you know, I remember being in an era where if I said, hey, this guy's the greatest bunker player that's probably played the tour and then somebody will text in that or tweet, oh, he's 130th in bunkers this year, you know. So it's a different thing. You have to be really accurate statistically. Now you can't embellish, and it's taken some of the charm out of the broadcast I think. But through the years you covered golf with a bit of a critical eye because there's a lot of young players trying to achieve something for the first time. That's not the case here, but it can be the case because there are some journeymen that have come out here.

OC> Restart.

OC> Oh, yeah, it's a big restart and the pressure's very real. And, I like to see how guys do under pressure. And that's the fun part.

OC> Well, we welcome your voice.

OC> Thank you.

OC> Zinger always great to see you, man.

OC> Thanks.

OC> Can't wait.

OC> It's great to see you.

OC> We'll be listening.

OC> Yeah. We're going to have to tee it up.

OC> All right. Sounds good.

OC> See if you can out drive me.

OC> I don't know about that.

OC/VO> Hi, this is Alex Cejka here. We are at the (INAUDIBLE) restaurant at the Four Seasons at Hualalai. Let's meet the executive chef. And, he prepared some, exotic flavors off the island. Let's go check it out. Hi, everyone. I'm here with, Chef Richard. What did you prepare for us? Right here at the first dish?

OC/VO> Okay, so we're starting off with our Hualalai oysters. So we call this dish oysters and pearls, right? These oysters actually raised on property here at Puna via Lake. And so we're pairing our own oysters together with it. It was such a caviar. Essentially our private label. Caviar. It's a nice dish. You really celebrate the ocean.

OC> It looks already delicious. Let's see how it how it tastes. Cucumbers are really good. Go with it. An excellent choice. Really good. All right. What we have coming now.

OC> All right, so this next dish is a crudo, from, Kona (INAUDIBLE). It actually in Hawaiian, the name of the fish is Kohala. Right. And so it's a baby amberjack or, similar to hamachi. We finish it with a hollow pino ponzu and then some Asian para, to garnish.

OC> Okay. I'm, I love sashimi. So, let's see what, what we can do in dish two and a dipping sauce nicely. It's definitely fresh. You probably caught it, like, an hour ago, right?

OC> You could probably see the boat out here in the ocean.

OC> It's it's awesome. It's phenomenal. Dish number two. Spectacular. All right. We have dish number three coming.

OC> This is actually a big island abalone. So it's it's farm raised key hole points. Down here by the airport. It's the largest abalone farm in the United States. And we treat this like a Rockefeller. We have a little bit of coconut milk, shallots. We use local rum, and then we top it off with a fennel pollen and crust.

OC> Oh, let me see. Really good. Especially the crust on top as well done. Beautiful. All right. Our fourth dish here. Wow. Let me see what we have here.

OC> So this is one of my favorites. It's a planar Wellington. And so for this we're using a local, bigeye or yellowfin tuna. We're treating it like the filet mignon. So we wrap it in puff pastry. We have some local mushrooms and luau leaf inside. Right. So we're in Hawaii. We like to feature those local ingredients. And then what we do is we finish it with a flag board, place here. And that really ties it all together. And for me, foreground tuna is just one of those flavor affinities. There works so well together because tuna is so lean.

OC> So is this cranberry sauce?

OC> It's actually (INAUDIBLE) cherry. (INAUDIBLE) cherries are it's a local cherry that grows down, in South Kona. We have a farmer that picks him up for us.

OC> It's really good. I've never had tuna like this with pastries. And you said mushrooms as well?

OC> There's local alley mushrooms.

OC> You don't even taste the inside shrooms. That's how soft and tasty they are really good.

OC> Thank you.

OC> Okay. Our final dish.

OC> Our final dish of the day. Yes. So this is an East Coast lobster. It is actually raised in Hawaiian waters by blue ocean marine culture. And so we chop it with a yuzu cocoa and miso butter. Right. And we broil it until the butter just melts down. Really nice. We top it with chives, and we serve it with a grilled lemon. Really kind of a simple clean preparation for lobster.

OC> Let me put it closer to me and I can dig in. Wow. I've never had anything like this. It's really. It's really incredible. You don't even have to chew it. Well Chef Richard I must say five delicious dish. Wow it's all fabulous I love all of them. I'm a great eater. And I enjoyed every dish. And it's well prepared. Thanks for having me today. Thanks. Thanks Chef Richard. Thank you.

VO> When we return the final word from the Big Island, including a look ahead to exciting changes on a regular season schedule and this year's major championship venues as well. It promises to be another fun ride.

OC/VO> Aloha, I'm Joe Terry. PGA Tour Champions are all official here. We are beginning our process to open the PGA Tour Champions year for 2025. We're at the beautiful Four Seasons Resort at Hualalai on the island of Kona and is our tradition. We open the year bringing you an update on the rules of golf, or any changes to the rules of golf. There are no substantial changes to the rules of golf for the 2025 year. However, there was one very interesting change and a local rule that is going to be employed by all of the tours worldwide and high-level competition that deals with rule 4.1 concerning a club that could

become damaged, broken or nonconforming, or unfit for play during the normal course of play. The rules of golf allow the players to replace that club with any club. We're going to place a restriction through local rules that would require a player to replace that club with a club that would fill the gap for the club being taken out of play. In other words, if the five iron is snapped in the follow through and the shaft is broken. That player may replace the club that would fill the gap between the four iron and the six iron. You would not be able to use another club because it didn't fill the gap in there. That would be the local rule difference for 4.1.

VO> The 2025 PGA tour Champion season has arrived and sets up this way. 25 regular season events. Once again, three playoff events. There is a new event, the James Hardie Pro Football Hall of Fame Invitational in Boca Raton, Florida. April 4th through sixth. And in June, the American Family Endurance Championship will debut a team format and a new course. New faces, new places. Same exciting play from legends of the game. PGA Tour Champions hosted three major championships that stand out for their rich history, competitive field, and unique challenge of rotating venues each year. The KitchenAid senior PGA Championship arrives at Congressional Country Club with the addition of the 2025 senior PGA Championship Congressional will become the fourth course to host all four traveling men's majors. The US Senior Open heads west to The Broadmoor, a legendary destination nestled in the Rocky Mountains. The course's east layout, a blend of Donald Ross and Robert Trent Jones senior design, presents a combination of strategic shot making and breathtaking scenery. The thin air at altitude and undulating greens will add layers of complexity. Crossing the Atlantic, the Senior Open returns to Sunningdale Golf Club. The old course's natural beauty and strategic design require precision and creatinine. The hallmarks of link style golf is rolling terrain, and unpredictable weather will ensure that only the most adaptable players contend for his coveted title. And with that, we bid you farewell from this jewel in the South Pacific. As PGA Tour champions get set to begin a 45th season here in our 50th state. We hope you enjoy this season preview and the promise ahead of another great year. For all of us who you bring you learning center. I am Vince Cellini Aloha.