

2025 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW #13

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > PGA Tour Champions brought us to America's Dairyland, home of the green Bay Packers, and a new venue and format for the American Family Insurance Championship. We had team play.

VO > The over 50 crew paired up in twos at TPC Wisconsin and finished Sunday in best ball there. Darren Clarke and Thomas Bjorn completed a wire-to-wire victory in Madison. These former European Ryder Cup teammates went deep over three days, finishing at 32 under par, and made history along the way with more. The men who call the action are Bob Papa and Peter Jacobsen.

VO OC > Well, thanks, Finch to PGA Tour Champions in Madison, Wisconsin, for a ninth year. The American Family Insurance Championship new venue TPC Wisconsin, and a new format. Teammates Darren Clarke and Thomas Bjorn go wire to wire. You know, they played best ball on Friday. Best ball on Sunday and a scramble in between. And they were marvelous in any format.

OC > Yeah, they're good friends. They know each other. They played Ryder Cups together. But when they bogeyed their first hole today and Stricker and Tiziana made birdie, it was down to a one-shot lead. And I actually thought we were going to have a really close championship. But around the turn Tiziana and Stricker stalled, and Bjorn and Clark got hot and I going into the back nine. It was it was it was over.

VO > Yeah. Take a look at some of the highlights. Remember they bogeyed the first hole. They made birdie at nine. And then Darren Clarke with a birdie at ten.

VO > And that's just what you have to do in a team game. They had managed it all week long. Thomas going here at 12. And this was what they did. We saw a couple of chip-ins early in the week from Darren Clarke and right here from Bjorn.

VO > That was their fourth in a row. That got them to 31 under was smooth sailing. And then at the drivable 16th what a pitch by Bjorn.

VO > Yeah this is a magical shot watch. He takes it in low and watch how much spinning puts on this from a very tight lid. And he knows. They know it's over.

VO > Thomas Bjorn gets his first win on the PGA Tour Champions Darren Clarke picks up win number five. What a run by Alex Cejka and Soren Kjeldsen. They shot 12 under Doug Barron, Dickie Pride shoot 11 under par. And Brett Quigley. It was a fun week in Madison Wisconsin. Bjorn and Clarke come away with the victory. Let's hear from our winners.

OC > And around the turn was important. We kind of got away from everybody again and got ourselves in a comfortable position and knowing with the last four holes had some good chances coming in. So, you know, you you're probably going to pick up 1 or 2 on the last few holes as well. So, we're going to be difficult to catch from now on.

OC > And you guys have been very successful in a couple Ryder Cups, and you've been in this position before. You've won out here, you've won a lot, you've won a lot all over the world as well. But for your fifth win, how cool is this to get your buddies first win and a trip to Hualalai. How cool is that?

VO OC > It's brilliant. You know Thomas, he was awesome today. I was a little bit out of sorts there on on that front man, and he was absolutely brilliant. But you know, we, we we said we're going to be partners last year and I kept said, come on, Tom, we're going to be one of the best teams ever going to have a chance. And as it transpired, with both pens, we played great and won the tournament. So, you know, to help Thomas hit not that he needs my help. But you know to get his first victory is brilliant. We gelled really, really well this week.

VO > Congratulations on the win and what was certainly a championship caliber celebration afterward. With the victory, Bjorn and Clarke placed in the top ten of the Charles Schwab Cup standings at six and eight, respectively. The top five remains unchanged, with a pair of three-time winners, Jimenez and Cabrera showing the way. Following the Am fam.

VO > Some of the two-man teams were new to one another, but not this duo. Fred Couples and Jay Haas enjoyed many a pre-tournament round. This time. It was the 65-year-old Boom-Boom and 71-year-old Gentleman Jay, in the heat of battle on PGA Tour Champions. We mic'd up these fan favorites as they played the first hole of the Am Fam, Freddie and Jay unfiltered.

OC > You guys still get nervous going into the first?

OC > We better.

OC > Yeah. Otherwise, why even be here? I. Why even be here? Plus, were, is anyone older than us two.

OC > No. He told us total strokes were

OC > we're winning. We're winning.

OC > We're winning in total age. We got him by a lot.

OC > You got any change on you? Hello?

OC > I just need the phone.

OC > What's a b c? You got any change on you?

OC > I don't.

OC > No one does.

OC > No practice putting. But you can always finish your balls.

OC > Oh, okay.

OC > So if you switch swish up to 20, he's got a six-footer, you are more than welcome to finish the ball.

OC > Okay. No, it doesn't matter.

OC > Wherever my ball is on the green, I can putt from?

OC > Yes.

OC > That's basically.

OC > Thank you.

OC > You have any change on you?

OC > Oh, I don't have my wallet. I'm sorry.

OC > You don't have a penny. Do you have a penny?

OC > Yeah. Yeah.

OC > No one carries change anymore.

OC > I've got one for you.

OC > I do, I've got one right here.

OC > Ooo dark new.

OC > There you go. You know, it could be worse now. Can I have your picture?

OC > I guess so, I mean, you're asking a lot. Jesus. I asked for a penny.

OC > Oh, there you go.

OC > You better check very much. You better check that.

OC > He charges interest.

OC > She will.

OC > Awesome, thanks.

OC > Thank you, thank you.

OC > Davis.

OC > I have a white ball.

OC > Freddie.

OC > Good to see you.

OC > is that a camera?

OC > It's cause we're mic'd up.

OC > I think it's a camera.

OC > That's what it feels like.

OC > Representing the white and blue team today will be Fred Couples and Jay Haas. And representing our white and red team today will be Davis Love the third and Scott Verplank. Teeing off first, Jay Haas.

OC > Good one Jay.

OC > Now off World Golf Hall of Fame member Fred Couples.

OC > I kid you like. I say thank you.

OC > What a day?

OC > It's beautiful.

OC > This weather is unreal all week.

OC > Good crowd.

OC > Beautiful golf course here.

OC > the condition is amazing, isn't it?

OC > Look at this.

OC > It's like a carpet out here.

OC > As soon as they said it was a best ball, I think we might have texted at the exact same time.

OC > Say so? Yes.

OC > And of course, I finished 309th on the money list last year, so I was hoping Jay could get me in correct. Did we not discuss that? And here we are Madison, Wisconsin TPC. This ain't an easy course, though. Well, we're gonna have to fight. I'm going to get

away from my man here. I don't want to get too close to him today. Go. Great shot Jay 25.

OC > Right?

OC > Bite, bite! Oh!

OC > I might have all the help.

OC > Yeah.

OC > The right thing to do.

OC > I don't know, I still hit it 30. Great shot. Yeah. What did you hit?

OC > I hit eight.

OC > You cut it right in there. Hit a hell of a shot. Heck of a shot.

OC > Right. Good Putt.

O C> Okay. Yeah. Yes, sir. Well done, Jay, well done. Beautiful stroke. Okay, we can putt from our coin, right? Yeah. Oh, can we keep the mix on one more hole? Thank you, thank you, thank.

VO > Straight ahead on learning Center. Players may know a teammate's game, but do they know personal details? We'll soon find out. As guest hosts, the Stricker Sisters quiz the field and audition for host. Audition for host. Hey, wait. What?

VO > A team format in golf means knowing your partner's game tendencies and approach to golf. It means, of course, working in tandem. But beyond the game, how much did certain team members know about their partners? We thought it might be fun to ask and set host Steve Stricker's daughters out to do some digging.

OC > Thanks, Vince. My name is Bobbi Stricker, and we are here at the 2025 AM FM Champ.

OC > I'm Izzy Stricker and we're doing things a little different this year, just like the new format and course.

OC > It's a two-man team. And we're about to find out how well these guys know their partners.

OC > Just like how sisters do. Let's go. I'll go this way. No.

VO OC > We are here with

OC > Justin Leonard.

OC > Who are you playing with?

OC > Jerry Kelly.

OC > Your partner this week is?

OC > Darren Clarke.

OC > I'm playing with Soren Kjeldsen.

OC > And who is your partner this week?

OC > David Toms.

OC > We're here with Davis love. We're going to see how well you know your partner Scottie V. Scott Verplank.

OC > Who is your playing partner this week?

OC > Michael Allen.

OC > > Okay. Do you feel like you know him pretty well?

OC > Oh yeah.

OC > We are here with Uncle Mario who is partnering with?

OC > Steve Stricker.

OC > Who is your?

OC > Brother-in-law.

OC > And I'm playing with a guy called Timmy Herron. You heard of him?

OC > Yes. And I'm going to see how well you know him.

OC > Who is your partner this week?

OC > I'm playing with Joe Durrant,

OC > So I'm going to see how well, you know, the cheesehead.

OC > We are going to ask you a few questions to see if you know him well.

OC > What year Jerry Kelly turn pro.

OC > Oh, God. It's so long ago.

OC > What year did he turned pro? 1

OC > 990.

OC > 97.

OC > Close.

OC > 96.

OC > One off.

OC > 95.

OC > 90.

OC > Correct. 1990. Good job.

OC > 91.

OC > Close.

OC > 92. Maybe. Then.

OC > One off. 93 okay,

OC > 1989.

OC > Correct.

OC > 1989.

OC > Wow. Correct.

OC > See.

OC > 1986.

OC > Yes.

OC > Okay.

OC > I'm going to say 1990.

OC > Correct. Way to go.

OC > I know, my man.

OC > How many Champions Tour wins does he have?

OC > 13. That's easy.

OC > Is it 13? 15?

OC > No.

OC > 17?

No.

OC > He has two.

OC > Correct.

OC > Should have ten.

OC > Two.

OC > Wrong. Four. That's okay.

OC > 18.

OC > Yes. 18.

OC > Four.

OC > Yes.

OC > I'll say six.

OC > Again, close.

OC > seven.

OC > one more.

OC > Eight. He's got eight. Oh, he's a legend.

OC < He's a legend.

OC > What's his favorite on course snack?

OC > Beef jerky.

OC > No, but I really like the answer.

OC > Not sushi.

OC > A brat.

OC > No,

OC > I've never seen him eat a brat. But I figure, like, on course when he's at home, it just seems like he would get a brat.

OC > Custables. Those crustable things.

OC > Okay.

OC > I don't know that well, I don't know what he eats. He's crazy though. He. Who knows? It could be birdseed. It could be birdseed. I don't know what he's.

OC > He pretends to be healthy, so he eats a banana, but then I don't. I don't know what he eats after he eats something after the banana. I think that's the favorite. It's not the banana.

OC > Okay, fair.

OC > Quest Bars is probably his favorite.

OC > I would say no.

OC > Pistachios.

OC > I would say no.

OC > Java.

OC > No.

OC > A buffalo chicken wrap.

OC > That's not a snack. That's a meal.

OC > It's probably some Danish PowerBar or something.

OC > You're right.

OC > Good.

OC > It was a ham and cheese sandwich. And specifically, his wife's ham and cheese sandwich.

OC > That's this. That's just B.S. I'm not going with it.

OC > Oh, it had to be alcohol. It's some type of alcohol. Could be he likes gin or some martini. And every now and then, a little scotch.

OC <> I like that answer a lot better than that.

OC > That is his snack. Trust me.

OC > M&M's.

OC > No.

OC > What is it?

OC > I would say a banana at the moment.

OC > A Banana.

OC > From fun on the course to the grind, that is our national championship, US Open Week is upon us, and a past winner joins us to reflect on the 30-year anniversary of his victory. Corey Pavin with the interview of his life. Well, the four wood of his life anyway.

OC > June of 1994, a 24-year-old Ernie Els rises to the occasion to capture the first of his four major championships at the 94th U.S. open, outlasting Colin Montgomerie and Loren Roberts in a playoff. 18 holes Monday wasn't enough. Young Ernie pushed into a second hole of sudden death to outlast Roberts and hoist the trophy at Oakmont. The Big Easy thinks back to that breakthrough victory.

OC VO > Oakmont it was a very different golf course. Trees with this big, tree lined, most of the fairways. Very different now. But 30 years ago. Yeah. Unbelievable to shoot three over in the playoff. It was a miracle anything could happen. So just through grit and determination and just staying in the in the tournament somehow. Yeah. And I was shooting 74 in the playoff and then winning in a sudden death. Arnold Palmer retiring from U.S. open play in Pittsburgh, his hometown. Remember seeing Nicklaus play well. Hale Irwin playing well. All my Euros playing great. And somehow, I prevailed. Of the 92 holes, you know, I did have some wins. You know, I won some in South Africa, won in Japan and Europe. But, you know, to win out here and win a major at 24, that was that was a lot of pressure of ten-year exemption. Imagine that ten-year exemption. So, you can plan your stuff all the way through your prime almost which I did. So biggest win of my life, no question. Not even close.

VO > The following year, a breakthrough for a player whom some wondered would ever get his major championship. Corey Pavin authored an amazing finish to capture the 1995 U.S. open, giving NBC's Johnny Miller an opening for a signature call. 30 years later, Corey remembers.

OC > It's been 30 years since Corey Pavin hit the shot of his life, winning the 1995 U.S. open 100th edition at Shinnecock Hills. Now we're going to get to the details on the shot of your life and that whole bit. But about that time, you're like 34 years old and you're you're probably one of those guys who gets talked about with best player never to win a major. Do you remember that?

OC VO > I remember hearing that a little bit, but I heard it in my own head more than what other people said. So, it was it was something I wanted to accomplish. And, media likes to remind you of that stuff, but it was something that was on my mind and I wanted to get accomplished. I think I'd won 12 times, I believe, before that US open. So, it was about that time for something like that to happen.

OC > Did you feel like that could be a special week going in?

OC VO > A well, I lost a playoff the week before, so I was playing well. And I love Shinnecock. The first time I played it, even though I didn't play very well. But I really enjoyed the golf course, and I was looking forward to the U.S. open being there.

OC > I think on Sunday. Well, I know on Sunday you start the day with three off the lead that might have been a good thing for you, right, to not have a share of the lead.

OC VO > Yeah, I think it's a little easier to chase. You know, in general, the big thing was there's only four players in front of me. You know, I was three shots back at two and two shots back of, two other people. So, I only had four players to pass. But I was very relaxed. You know, nobody really seemed to want to talk to me that week media wise. So, it was it was very quiet, and nobody was really looking at me. And that helped a little bit, too. So, I didn't have that pressure of being reminded of, of the aforementioned item. So it was, it was good. I was very relaxed. I played a very, around that. I was just playing golf. And, you know, I got the lead on 16 or 15 and I got a little nervous. But before that I was just it was like a walk in the park.

OC > So, let's get to 18 and the shot of your life. And what do you recall about that? And I was telling you before we started the interview, you look so comfortable going back and looking at that video. It was just like; you're at the range and you just everything fell into place.

OC > Yeah, it was, I was just very calm. You know, at 15, I hit a wedge. And I think Johnny Miller, even on the telecast, said, look how relaxed he looks. You know, he just looks, focused, relaxed, and, you know, I birdied 15 and I got the lead, and I got pretty nervous. But but I was still in a very good place mentally. You know, I just go through your stuff, do your routine, you know, part of the last three holes. And I probably win and and put that on my mind and just try to execute.

OC > So that's pretty much stock distance for you. Or is that the best four wood you've ever hit in your whole life?

OC VO > Well it was it was a good shot under the circumstances to say the least. You know, I made a putt on 17, which was really critical about a six-foot par putt, and it kind of allowed me to play 18 a little more conservatively. That's why I had, you know, 228 yards. And, but I just wanted to hit the fairway. That was my main concern off the tee. I did it, and then I just wanted hit in the middle of the green and two putt and get out of there. And I just hit a great shot. I mean, it just never left the pin. From the fairway. It actually looked like it might roll up and actually go into the hole. And it broke off to the right. And, but fortunately, I didn't need to make the putt. I tried to make it, but I didn't, but I still ended up winning by two.

VO > So, with a couple of cool things, one, obviously U.S. open champion, but then at Shinnecock Hills, which when it set up for a U.S. open, that's two notches in the belt together.

OC > Well, it's a cool course to win, anything on especially the U.S. open. So it was, you know, the course I think is one of the best in the world. I still feel that way. And not just because I won. I played there in 86, and I love the course the second I saw it, and I missed the cut by a bunch, so I was excited to win there. I think it was the 100th playing of the U.S. open. So, there's a lot of, things that came together. It was pretty cool.

OC > And so the U.S. open this year, Oakmont Country Club, nearly 7400 yards, par 70, par three yardages include at number eight, 289, 236 and number 16. All of the two par fours are par fives rather are over 600 yards. So, in 1995, Corey Pavin, how would you perform at a course like that?

OC > Well, it'd be hard to reach the eighth, green off the tee. But, you know, I would think I do okay there. You know, I mean, obviously I was playing pretty well at 95, so, you know, I think I perform reasonably well, you know, I don't know if I can win on a course like that, but I certainly would be there to win a tournament like that.

OC > How did the U.S. open change your life lastly?

OC > You know, it didn't change it too much. I wanted to make sure that I just kept doing the things that I was doing before, tried to be the peaceful, fun-loving individual that I am.

OC > Who did? So? Who described you? Well, we talking about that manner? Go ahead.

VO OC > I really didn't want it to change me. I just wanted to keep playing golf. I didn't want to go chase tournaments all over the world. I played a couple, but I just wanted to stay grounded. I knew what I was doing just because I won the U.S. open didn't mean I was all of a sudden, some different kind of golfer. Still the same golfer. Just with. With the U.S. open under by belt. That's all.

OC > That's all. Corey, thanks for going down memory lane.

OC > Sure.

OC > that was great.

OC > Pleasure.

VO > Should be another edge of your seat outcome as the majors take us into summer. And that's our time. Our PGA Tour Champions Learning Center I'm Vince Cellini, as always. We thank you for watching.