

2025 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW #19

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > PGA Tour Champions stepped out of the continental United States and into Canada for the 13th edition of the Rogers Charity classic. Beautiful Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club in Calgary, Alberta. And their Aussie left hander Richard Green came roaring from behind to score a breakthrough win. Green was 13 under par over his final two rounds and finished 18 under to capture the Rogers Charity Classic and now victory in his 71st start on PGA Tour Champions. Our John Swantek and Peter Jacobsen have more.

VO > Okay. Thank you, Vince, and what a week it was at the Rogers Charity classic. We crowned a first-time champion in Calgary, and his name is Richard Green. And he got off to a blazing start, Peter he birdied four of his opening seven holes.

VO > Well, he's been so close to getting his first win in his short Champions Tour career. But take a look at this tee shot at number three. We saw it earlier. We thought it was going in and it just grazes that that cup. That's an easy tap in birdie.

VO > Got him to 16 under. He bogeyed the 11th but bounced right back quickly.

VO > Yeah this was a huge moment coming off that sloppy bogey at the very easy par five 11th. And to stand up there and hit a shot like that tells you something about his intestinal fortitude.

VO > It was his 71st career start on the Champions Tour. He was a runner up six times, including five times last year when Green made back birdie. He was back at 17 under with a little breathing room down the stretch, but Ricardo Gonzales did not give him much breathing room.

VO > Yeah. How about this shot? Take a look at this. Like playing it off the Green Monster at Fenway, off the grandstand, and it almost goes in. What? What a two that would have been.

VO > Off the red monster there. And it had Gonzalez's attention, but he still had a birdie putt that he kind of needed to buckle down on. And here it was. Got him within the shot of the lead heading to the par five 18th. Drove it in the fairway. Reach the green and two and had a little testy five-footer coming back for birdie to get it in the house at 17 under and tie Richard Green for the moment. Green being in the group behind. And he had a big second shot on his hands.

VO > This was a huge moment. He knew what he had to do. Middle of the fairway reachable par five. Just aiming to the middle of the green. Give himself a chance to two putt for the win.

VO > The really fast putt. We've seen a couple of guys run it four or five, six feet past the hole, and it just kind of nursed it down to a couple of feet and took care of that one to punctuate a 65 and get across the line for the first time on the Champion Tour. And Richard Green gets to don the Stetson cowboy hat as the winner here of the Rogers Charity Classic. And he's off the schneid and into the winner's circle. And let's hear now from our first time champion.

OC VO > It's been a great week. I've loved coming back to Canada and playing the Rogers Charity Classic again. I played so well here last year when close, when Ken won. And you know, to play so nicely this week, you know, just feels great.

VO > Congratulations to Richard Green. With a third-place finish in Calgary, Miguel Angel Jimenez continues to pad his Charles Schwab Cup lead. Stewart Cink and Rogers Charity Classic third place finisher Steven Alker are right behind. Green moved up 12 places to 12th overall.

VO > On Tuesday, Tommy two gloves Gainey received one of three available spots in the Rogers Charity classic qualifier. The next day, he celebrated his 50th birthday.

OC > Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday, dear Tommy. Happy birthday to you.

VO > A Golf Channel big break alum with a homemade swing. Gainey won the 2012 RSM classic and has competed in 245 PGA tour events, including four this year. But now he's PGA Tour Champions eligible and told us what he's looking forward to on this tour.

OC > Please welcome to the team The Contender, the qualifier celebrating his 50th birthday today and his first day of eligibility on the PGA Tour Champions. \

OC> Give it up for Tommy Gainey.

VO OC > Playing against people my own age, not getting out driven by 80 to 100 yards. You know, I've got a lot of friends on here. So, I'm I'm looking to rekindle some of those friendships. And you know it used to be these guys are good. Listen to Champions Tour players. These guys are still good. Games okay. It's hard to compare against the young kids because there's there's so much younger. No injuries. It's a big difference between me versus them. But you know guys my own age now I mean I know I'm just as my first tournament and a lot of pressure on me to to play well. But I'm just going to enjoy it because I feel like I'm good enough to play out here and win, and we'll see where that goes.

VO > What a wonderful start for Tommy Gainey, who tied for fifth in his PGA Tour Champions debut. And that means he won't have to qualify for this week's Ally Challenge, a perk he didn't realize as he walked off the 72nd hole.

OC > Am I in under anybody? Oh, I'll tell you, that's a big relief on my shoulders right now.

VO > However, the plan is qualifiers when necessary to gain access to future PGA Tour Champions events.

VO > Steve Blake, a golf professional in Calgary, played with Gainey in the Pro-Am.

OC > They are the original Blake's Army and they're here supporting dad Steve. Please welcome Steve Blake, Connor Blake, Kelly Blake and Brooklyn Blake. Blake's army. Let's go.

VO > Last year, Blake received a sponsor's invitation to the Rogers Charity Classic and competed while battling inoperable stage four lung cancer.

OC > Oh. All right.

OC > That was a good one.

VO > The diagnosis he received almost two years ago.

OC VO > Unfortunately, it's kicking my butt, taking my hair, taking a lot of my muscle mass. And most importantly, it's taking my golf swing, unfortunately. So please getting lucky. Oh, we're out here. We're still swinging. And, to to to have Rodgers, reach out to to me and and the family and invite us to come back and share and in such a wonderful tournament and it just meant the world.

VO > And it means the world to report his return to Calgary.

OC > We'll take it. We'll take it.

VO > Blake told us that playing golf is a huge part of his mental and physical health. It's what gets him through the treatments and keeps him motivated, and we wish him the very best.

VO > Last year, a doctor's visit revealed Geri Kelly had rheumatoid arthritis. When we come back on Learning Center, an update on how Kelly is handling the condition.

OC > My feet are pretty, pretty bad. My hands warming up holding on in the club and that radiates up to the forearms, elbows, shoulders.

VO > Oh, you see it better. All right. Yeah. Yeah. Good.

OC > After Back-To-Back multiple win seasons, Canadian Stephen Ames was looking for his first victory of 25 in Calgary.

OC > Morning.

OC > Good morning.

OC > Hi.

OC > Hi, Steve. How are you?

OC > Good to see you.

OC > You too. How are you?

VO > It's been a challenging summer for the 61-year-old Ames, who changed things up last week, allowing our learning center cameras to tag along inside the ropes as he played the opening hole at Canyon Meadows.

OC > And if it's any bar I'm going to take, and it's going to be the overhand right. Those are the best. And I do have a box coming with me. Are you playing with us today? Yeah. You know, where are your clubs? You're not going to join us? Sure. Kill it buddy

OC > First up, he is the recipient of the Chicory Medal from Tobago. Celebrated member of the winner of the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame. He's representing Canada. So how about a big kaboom for Stephen Ames.

OC > Well, Thank you. Nice. Oh, 25 years. Yes, it is a home crowd, isn't that? Yeah. Oh my God. Because my other son just arrived. Hiya. Yo! What? It's a. Hi, Jojo. Oh, goodbye. Yeah. I'm not playing well. I'm just trying to play the events that I enjoy playing the citizen enjoy going to. And we'll go from there. I'm one of the fortunate ones. I don't have to worry about a job next year, so I'm going to enjoy my golf rather than grind it out. You know, I like to lay back, relax. And if I'm home in Turks, it's very much underneath the coconut tree, relaxing. That's my favorite spot. 26, 26 and six. It's a 1232, 26 man. 59. So, what'd you get? 59. Yeah. 52. Just seeing that. Mr. It's good. Good. Missed. Yeah. On the right in front.

OC > How nice is it to have junior on the bag?

OC > Yeah. It's fun. He's a player. He gets the understanding of the game. We don't get to see each other as often as we like, but I think overall, it's it's fun to have him on the bag again. I know the bag check came from. Just balance was so bad here. A little right left up the hill, isn't it? Yeah. Like. Held the line. Nice.

OC > Yeah.

OC > Let me go. And Spanish contestant don't start off as a birdie. And it's a start. And I'm off.

VO > Last week, Rob Le Brits teamed up with Brown Bagging for Calgary's kids to support a vital cause for over 30 years. This group has ensured that more than 7800 students from kindergarten to grade 12, receive healthy lunches every school day. Something that is often overlooked when considering the process of learning. Here's Labritz with more on the initiative.

OC VO > We fold it over. It just goes in. Just like that. Like that. Beautiful. Blow it up. Well done. Hey, I'm rob Labritz, PGA Tour Champions. We're here today in the brown

bagging of Calgary. And we're we're making a ton of food about, 7800, pieces of food for local schools and local charities for kids who are, are just malnutrition and need food. So, we have a ton of volunteers here. And we're providing a ton of food for the Calgary area, which just brings a lot of joy to my heart. And I'm sure everybody else's who's here.

OC VO > I think it's really exciting to have someone in our kitchen, which brings such an excitement. There's a buzz upstairs about having a PGA Champion in our space, and I know some of our volunteers are golfers. We have some young kids in here this morning who are pretty excited to meet him. And it's just it's exciting that someone of that nature wants to come in and spend the morning with us and sees the value in the work that we're doing here in Calgary.

OC > That's awesome. So that was really cool. We made all of those lunches. I don't even know how many oranges I bag. A couple hundred, I think, which is awesome. And some chickpeas. And now we're on our way to the YMCA to go deliver the lunches. To the children. We got the box lunches all ready to go. Mission accomplished. We deliver the food, and we're going to have some happy, well-fed kids and counselors. So, very happy to be part of this and excited to put an end to this. But this is. Wow. This is great. That's amazing. Thank you for this.

OC > Yeah, absolutely.

VO > The PGA Tour Champions Boeing Classic, held two weeks ago, raised millions for the local economy, with a significant portion supporting the Ben Arroyo Research Institutes work on autoimmune disorders. This cause resonates with Jerry Kelly, who last year revealed he was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, an autoimmune disease-causing joint inflammation. Here's Kelly with an update on his condition and doctor Gene Buckner, Institute president, on their efforts to understand the immune system's role in this disease.

VO OC > Rheumatoid arthritis is is difficult to play golf with. I've. I've actually taken a golf cart to few times for the first time in my career. My feet are pretty, pretty bad. My hands warming up. Holding on in the club. And that radiates up to the forearms, elbows, shoulders. But lower back. I know is impacted quite a bit the size with the inflammation that's that's been chronic for a long time. It's pretty much ravaged me injury wise for a long time. Going way back I had to look back. And I do remember my doctor saying, hey, you're RA numbers are up. And I was like, I'm young, whatever. Let's go. You know, like, I can fight through anything. So, I got used to pain very early. You know, I know that pain steps up and you don't notice how much is stepping up until it's debilitating. And, yeah, that's what I really started receiving help.

OC VO > You know what? I want people to know about the work BRI does. To understand that here in Seattle, there's this real, sham of a research institute that's completely focused on immune system diseases, particularly autoimmune diseases and

allergy, and that we're working to find solutions to these diseases so that if you're living with one of these autoimmune diseases, you have someone on your side. Innovation, our instrumentation, our core facilities, all supported through Boeing Classic really accelerates discovery and I think accelerates our likelihood of really preventing and predicting and curing these diseases.

OC > I'm attacking this wholeheartedly. There's there are things that I'm doing that that I think are my my best options right now. And hopefully BRI can come up with something to save us all.

VO > Kelly has dealt with more than his share of aches and pains on this tour, and despite the rheumatoid arthritis, Kelly is still playing elite golf. The 58-year-old won the Mitsubishi Electric Classic earlier this year and is currently in the top 20 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings and is expected to keep alive his perfect streak of qualifying for the season finale in Phoenix.

VO > Coming up, should captain Keegan Bradley select himself as a player on the U.S. Ryder Cup team? Two former captains weigh in with their opinions.

VO > Scottie Scheffler rallied from four back to win the BMW Championship, his fifth victory of the year, thus the event ending automatic qualifying for the U.S. Ryder Cup team. The top six are all in. The American captain Keegan Bradley did not qualify on points, but he sits at 11th in the standings. So, will he select himself as a captain's pick? Two former Ryder Cup captains offered this advice.

OC VO > I think him being on the team makes the team better, so I would say pick himself, It's doable, certainly. You know, they're playing foursomes in the morning and, fourballs in the afternoon, and he's a fourball guy, so he can do his captaincy duties, if you want to call it that in the morning and then play in the afternoon on Friday and Saturday. So, I think it's very doable. He's got people around him that can help him out, and it's up to him if he's going to choose himself or not.

VO OC > Keegan has played, obviously sensation, played really, really well this year and he should be playing on the team without question. You know he's one of the top American players, over this qualifying period. Now whether he can do both for me, there's absolutely no way, that I could have done both. I think your emotions, everything that's going on and that particular week and stuff you got to take care of to try and be a playing captain. That would be incredibly difficult. So, if it was me personally, I couldn't do it. But. But Keegan thinks he can then fair play to him.

VO > This week stop on PGA Tour Champions. Schedule event number 20 the Ally Challenge at venerable Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club in Grand Blanc, Michigan, a long time PGA tour stop. Warwick Hills is a classic layout and welcomes an impressive field, including the defending champion.

VO > Stewart Cink is one of those players seemingly unaffected by age, his body the same, his game still elite, so capturing his first win on PGA Tour Champions was inevitable. And it happened. In his 10th start on this tour, Cink ran away with the 2024 Ally Challenge, a 54-hole total of 17 under tied the tournament record. Dazzling the crowd in Grand Blanc, Michigan in 2020 for the eight-time PGA tour winner and major champion, invited us into his home outside of Atlanta, where he recalled some of the highlights of a career still being written.

OC VO > A lot of the stuff just brings back such good memories, you know, presidents have here from 05. Nicklaus was our captain, and it's so awesome to be part of these teams and some of the memorabilia. I'm not that big on the memorabilia side of things, but to have these memories and, you know, some of the guys, I see these guys all the time, you know, and some of them I never see anymore. My son Ragan caddy for me and we took got two wins there. Up there in the front of the hallway. And a lot of the team events, some of the more unusual items like the shoes that Nike used to make us a long time ago. So, you do get a lot of items like this over the years if you played, for instance, in the Presidents Cup or the Ryder Cup, but these just make the best wall pieces and, you know, you get to see the faces and the, the courses and both both teams are, represented on some of these things. So, it's just cool to think that you were able to be part of this stuff. And how much of it for for so many years, special part of a career. There's no question about that. At Turnberry strangely, I wasn't all that nervous. I think I was in a really contented place, like off the golf course I'd spent the week before in Ireland with my kids and my wife, and just playing golf and having fun. We played 36 a day and just having a blast. It was the first time my kids ever played links, and I played really well the first day, and I was up in contention pretty much the whole tournament. And but Tom Watson being involved I think, served as a good distraction for me because, normally I get pretty nervous out there like most guys do. And that week I was focused on what Tom Watson was doing. So, while I would hit my shots and I kind of look at the board and like a golf fan like, wow, this is amazing. Look at Tom Watson. He's playing great. He's 59 years old and he may win this year.

VO > In the hole. Yes Stewart Cink.

OC VO > Pour that baby right in the middle of the hole for birdie didn't mean I was going to win. But you know a birdie on the 72nd hole a major doesn't really ever hurt I after the term was over and and I was the winner I was I was proud to battle against Watson. I think I felt a little bit validated to have a win and to join that elite group of major champions felt really good. And, you know, it's something they can't ever take away. This pickleball, you know, sweeping the nation. And last year at the Ryder Cup, this is one of two pickleball paddles that, we received as a team gift from PGA signed by the players and captains, which is cool. This one probably won't ever see any, dinking or smashing or serving, but the other one we got, Ted Scott who caddies for Scottie

Scheffler has a company that he got us all paddles too. So that one I do use for smashing and dinking and serving. But this racket or paddle we'll probably never see, a wiffle ball.

VO > As it is, all signs point to a great event in Michigan. And that is our time for this edition of Learning Center. I'm Vince Cellini, as always. We thank you for watching.