

2025 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW #20

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > PGA Tour Champions continued a busy month of August as the legends made their way to the mitten, Grand Blanc, Michigan and venerable Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club for the Ally Challenge. Classic layout. Classic players. Event number 20 on the schedule. Let's go!

VO > We went to Extra holes in this eighth edition of the event, a brilliant par save on the 72nd hole to force a playoff with Ernie Els, then finishing the job on the first extra hole to make it back-to-back titles and a second victory of the season. For more from the final round, here's Bob Papa and the 2025 recipient of the PGA Tour's Payne Stewart Award, Paul Azinger.

VO OC > Thanks, Vince. PGA Tour Champions in Grand Blanc, Michigan, for the eighth year for the Ally Challenge at Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club, and Ernie Els started the day with a one-shot lead. Stewart Cink had led after round one after shooting 62, and there were opportunities throughout the course of this final round. But in the end, Stewart Cink goes back-to-back to win the Ally Challenge.

OC > Stewart ended up making the big putts and he hit some clutch shots there at the very end. And I think Ernie Els is going to lose some sleep tonight because he really did have one hand on the trophy today, especially standing on 16 fairway with a five iron, the par five with a two-shot lead.

VO > Take a look at the highlights after Stewart Cink made a bogey at 15. He from parts unknown playing up the other fairway, knocks it in tight and gives himself a look for birdie.

VO > Well, that was an eyelash from going over the green. He was so far off line. But then he hit that wedge and was able to make this big-time putt here when he hadn't made anything all day.

VO > Yea. So that pulled him to within one of Els who had to scramble just to make par. Then at 17, he took on this hole and pours in this putt for birdie to get to 15 under and a share of the lead.

VO > Well, he ran the tables on day one and he made a big putt there on 17 that none bigger than that one today.

VO > And then after Ernie Els missed his birdie putt to win outright, Stewart Cink, after an errant tee shot, scrambles to force a playoff at 15 under par. And Stewart Cink decided on the tee at 18 that he was going to take the driver out because he'd been spraying it everywhere, able to knock a good tee shot, and then has this putt for birdie to win it outright.

VO > Yeah, and he hit a nice putt there. I feel like the putt he made on 18 is going to be something he's going to draw on the rest of the year. And the rest of his time on this Champions Tour.

VO > And then Ernie Els had this putt for par. One of his worst tee shots of the day came in the playoff. Pitched it to here. Had to make this to extend the playoff. Missed it on the low side. And Stewart Cink picks up his second win of the year. Second in the Schwab Cup standings. Gets the victory in a playoff defeating Ernie Els. Cink with a four under 68 in the final round to win for the third time on the PGA tour Champions. Let's hear from our Ally Challenge champion.

OC VO > My attitude was really good. It was probably the 15th club. You know, me and Chris both, we had a great attitude about being in the trees and hitting all kind of crazy shots and playing out the wrong fairways. I mean, it was an adventure, but that's golf sometimes, and I was just pleased to make some really good putts down the stretch.

VO > With a victory. Stewart Cink cuts into the overall Charles Schwab Cup standings lead held by Miguel Angel Jimenez. Ever present Steven Alker finishing tee three at Warwick Hills, his 12th top ten finish of the year and Els runner up performance pushing him back into the top five. The outstanding season long race continues.

VO > PGA Tour Champions is fertile ground for second chance stories as players reach the age of 50. One of those stories is being authored by Tommy "Two Gloves" Gainey, coming off a birthday weekend T5 finish in Calgary as a qualifier, Gagne played his way into the Ally Challenge and brings with him a swing that's, well, it's let's just say it's different.

VO OC > I think everyone's heard what Brandon Chamblee said about my swing. It's like you're trying to kill a rattlesnake with a garden hose. I look at it this way. I've never really analyzed my golf swing. All I've tried to do is just pick a spot, tee it up and hit that spot and, you know, everybody these days, you see all the new guys coming out and some of the older guys too. They got a lot of analytics in their golf swing. And and I think, you know, if you think about too much, too much information can really hurt your golf swing. So, I just try to keep it simple and just go with what I have. Because the way I swing at it, you know, I've got a bad back now and I'm 50 and you know, so many things now that, you know, used to not hurt. They hurt now.

VO > A final round 75 dropped him out of the top ten and into a tie for 32nd. Gagne is 87th in the Charles Schwab Cup standings, the top 70 to qualify for the playoffs.

VO > Now, a salute to our service people. One of the military initiatives at the Ally Challenge was compliment free admission available to members of the U.S. Armed Forces and veterans. Enter Lieutenant Colonel Dan Rooney, founder of Folds of Honor, which is an amazing work providing educational scholarships to the children and

spouses of fallen or disabled military service members and first responders. Rooney is also a PGA professional and played in his first ever PGA Tour Champions event on a sponsor's exemption. Here's Dan Rooney, on two of his passions Folds of Honor and golf.

OC VO > You know, the opportunity to be here. I always say it's a divine echo. So, when you put good out in the world, good comes back. And, you know, we've held now about 75,000 spouses and kids chase their dream of an education, of a fallen military or disabled first responder. And I always think, you know, God brings it back. So, I get my boyhood dream to come out here and compete against, you know, the guys I've grown up watching on TV and watch every week on TV and it's just, you know, it's a once in a lifetime. And I really believe the way life works is what you put out. You get back.

VO > As a result of the Ally Challenges inclusion of Folds of Honor Friday 13 individuals in southeastern Michigan will receive academic scholarships on behalf of the tournament. Well done, sir.

VO > Up next on Learning Center. Prior to the Ally Challenge, defending champion Stewart Cink accepted a less serious challenge from an internet source. A four-hole contest that had everyone gabbing.

VO > In a made for YouTube event, 2024 Ally Challenge champion Stewart Sink and golf content creator Gabs Gonzalez went head-to-head in a four-hole challenge on holes number ten, 11, 17 and 18 at Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club. However, it wasn't that clear cut. This was a match with a twist. You didn't lose strokes, you lost clubs. Let's watch.

VOC > I'm Gabs Gonzalez I'm here with ally Challenge presented by McLaren. I'm playing a formal match against defending champ Stewart Cink. The only caveat is that every time he uses a club, he loses it. You ready?

OC > I don't know, because this sounds pretty harsh. I'm just going to tell you right now this sounds harsh.

VO OC > Par four. Have you played this golf course?

OC > Never. First time in Grand Blanc.

OC > The greens over there.

OC > Okay. I'm not tall I can't see over hill.

OC > That's the last bit of advice you're getting from me.

OC > Well, I'm going to try and follow his ball. I'm gonna try and.

OC > Now you can see the flag Gabs.

OC > Yeah, exactly.

OC > Look, you're tall now.

OC > See?

OC > See, I got my Ally Challenge ball.

OC > You hit it pretty far. This is a gap wedge 121.

VO > All right, so money yardage.

OC > Okay. So, bye bye. Gap wedge.

VO> See a gap wedge. Oh, don't be left. You go under that a little. Yeah, I probably could have clubbed up. I don't have an 8.

OC > We've got to work on some things here. I could have hit an eight, but I don't have one. Yeah, that's usually something you shouldn't have to say in around the course.

OC > Breaks left.

OC > Yeah. Pretty good. Gabs. Oh. Not left enough. Hopefully you get to show me a line. Hopefully I don't show you one.

OC > Well.

OC > Dang it. All right.

OC > I think the strategy in this thing is.

OC > So, you're up, right?

OC > Yeah.

OC > So we're playing match play.

OC > The strategy is in this game today because I have to drop my club is to just not hit that many shots.

VO OC > Yeah, well, yeah. Yeah.

VO OC > 172 to the flag plays uphill double. I'm not exactly at full speed right now, but I still think I might be able to get it there because there's a tiny little puff of wind behind us.

VO > Beach, beach, beach, beach.

VO > Don't say that.

VO > Dang it. It might have.

VO OC > I'm standing right here. You know, when you say that I can hear you. That was out loud.

OC > Oh, sorry.

OC > You said that out loud.

VO > Oh, you hit that good.

OC > Green in regulation.

VO > Yeah. Birdie putt.

VO > Okay. Let's go.

VO > That's a great putt.

OC > Thank you.

VO > You would put me in that position where I have to say, is that good? Or I'm going to have to see that. Whoa. Not short.

OC > I have to make time. We probably should just say good. Good to you, right?

OC > I'm fine. You want to putt it?

OC > No.

OC > Okay.

OC > Of course not. I want to tie with you.

OC > Yeah. Good, good. I want to tie with you.

OC > Okay.

VO OC > You're good. Okay, so I can't use my driver or my eight iron or my U wedge. Looks like I have about eight yards of green there short of the flag, so I should be able to hit this far enough to be okay.

OC > Okay.

OC > Perfect distance.

VO > Another far putt.

VO > Perfect distance. You can make that.

VO > Yeah. Yeah.

OC > oooo. Nice putt.

OC > Thanks. Almost. Reaching for my coin. Because I've heard you say anything about is it good or.

OC > You can have it.

OC > Oh.

OC > I'm just going to make this.

OC > Thanks, Gabs.

OC > I'm gonna make this.

OC > Nice stroke. Turned a lot.

OC > Oh.

OC > A lot. This green is really steep.

OC VO > Oh. Great putt. Keep the match alive. That was awesome. Kept the match going. You got one hole to go. You needed that one. Normally a driver hole, but since today, I've already used my driver. Three straight. It's three wood.

OC > That was exactly where you said you wanted to be. Yeah. Oh, come back. I know, I'll be okay over there.

VO OC > Going to be all right. That's 173. We have wind kind of straight across. Those would be a perfect eight shot. So that's one way you can shave distance off your shot is to curve it against the wind. Okay, so let me see if I can slice the seven iron. See it holding.

OC > Nice shot.

VO > I didn't know was going to be put to the test like this today.

VO. No. In the sand.

VO > Not the beach.

VO > No.

VO > Okay.

VO > Okay, short.

VO > It's pretty good.

VO > It's like the best I could do.

VO > So, this right here is to finish the match off.

VO > I hope you sink this.

VO > Actually a two putt would do it.

VO > I'm gonna need to see that.

OC > How did I know you're going to say that?

OC > It's the last hole.

OC > Not that far left.

OC > Nice. Nice putt.

OC > Thank you.

OC > That was pure.

OC > Thanks.

OC > I like that sound to you hit the back of the cup, so nice.

OC > Gosh, why do you do that?

OC > Nice playing with you.

OC > thanks, Gabs. That was fun.

OC > Good luck. Out here.

VO > Thank you.

VO > Coming up, the winning best player in PGA Tour Champions history celebrates a birthday this week. And you thought Bernhard Langer was ageless? Nope. It just seems that. Bernie's fellow players have some fun gift suggestions and share them with us when we come back.

VO > The NFL regular season begins next week. The league looks pretty good for turning 105 this year. One thing that hasn't changed in a century of football is the need for a great offensive line, and in particular, a left tackle. We chatted up two of the best ever back in April at the James Hardy Pro Football Hall of Fame Invitational.

OC > Well, I've never felt so protected in all of my life with two of the greatest left tackles in NFL history, although I have to say UCLA Jonathan Ogden, USC Anthony Munoz. But it's all about golf. As we sit here now. It's great to see you guys. And, Jonathan, I'll start with you. What's your relationship with golf?

OC VO > It is a love hate. I don't know if I love to hate it or hate to love it. I don't know, but it's just the challenge. Just every day is a different swing, a different feel. And I just love just not knowing, you know, football. I knew what I was going to do. I knew how to get in the pass. But this game, it challenges me every single time. And I absolutely love it.

OC > What about you, Anthony?

OC > That's a great workout. But I gotta say, first of all, both left tackles. But you know, I would have felt very comfortable at left guard next to this. I had a ten oh play message.

OC > Oh no no no no no.

OC VO > You know, it is a challenge, and it's, you know, when we were playing football, I mean, we practiced all week. I had these sets against this guy. And I tell people, I played a year of baseball at USC, and I got to hit quite a bit before I became a relief pitcher. And that 91st fastball, I'd rather face up than that ball just sitting there like that. And you never know. Whole the whole course of the course, basically. And that's what I love. I love the challenge of going out and really trying to do something well.

OC > I saw, Jerome Bettis or read about him talking about for football players, because you're so trained to practice all the time, you can practice golf like you almost get yourself in that mindset. Is that is there something to that about working on the game?

OC VO > I have no problem with that. I probably, if not as much the last year, but I mean, I was one that was always hitting balls, always hitting balls for me to go to the range for an hour and a half. I'd love it. And I'm sweating balls. And that's the way I was trained when I was playing football is you just work, work, work, work. And that's one of the things I love about, you know, the game of golf.

OC VO > I'll tell you this. There was a time in my life when I was first starting golf where I was a range, right? And I was out there 2 or 3 hours just hitting balls off ball. Now, I kind of realized I plateaued and so I will go hit balls in the range, but I'd rather just go out and play because I know that, you know, I'm a nine handicap. I can shoot just 75, but I can shoot a 90. I know where I am, I just go have fun.

OC > But I would think there's a somewhat of a relationship between left tackle and playing golf, because in many times you're on your own, right? You're an individual in a team situation or in an offense. Is that fair?

OC VO > Absolutely. I told him we're Gilligan, you know, we're on the island out there, left tackle man. I mean, you work on your own. And, and that's the thing, you know, about football. Football is the ultimate team game is the left tackle. You do work by yourself, but you still are only as successful as the quarterback and the running backs or everyone else. Out here, you hit a good shot. You hit a good shot; you hit a bad one. I can't look at the right guard and be like, what happened? It was on me. So that's that's the beauty of this game as well though, because it is on you and it's individual and that's that's a good thing.

OC > I don't recall either of you being raging like going, really getting very, very angry out there was almost like controlling emotions like particularly you Johnson. So, and that's how golf is, you know, you can't let yourself just come unraveled, right?

OC VO > No. Absolutely. I mean, on the football field, if you make a mistake, you got to just compartmentalize what you did and just move on. Same thing on the golf course. I mean, I'm a little more temperamental on the golf course. I mean, I might get a word that come out of my mouth that Mike can't see on TV. But then I let it go, and I just keep moving on. And then, you know, I just realized, as my friend Butch Harmon said, you're not really that good. You can't get that mad. You know,

OC > You were pretty calm out there too.

OC VO > I was I mean, I just remember one incident with, you know, somebody to my quarterback, and my teammates looked at me like, what the heck happened? And I learned quickly, if you're going to go off on a D lineman, that hit your quarterback, make sure one of your guys has your back. But I went, I mean, I knocked this guy into our bench, and all of a sudden, we had one of those guys, and I didn't see him. But yeah, you know, you have to be you have to have that intensity, but it has to be controlled. But once you're, you know, the snap, then you can unleash.

OC > So finally, guys, golf goals Anthony moving forward? Because it's a game of a lifetime.

OC VO > My goal is, especially off the tee boxes to find it for a second shot.

VO OC > I just want to play a really good round of golf one day where everything comes together. The driver, the iron, the chipping, the putting, we're all just comes together. One day that's going to happen for me. I don't know when. But we're still searching for that vice, but one day.

OC > Well, after these brilliant careers, anything out here is a bonus. Thank you so much. It's great seeing you.

OC > Oh thank you man I appreciate it.

OC > Take care.

VO > On the subject of Hall of Fame talent, he is far and away the greatest player in PGA champions history. Bernhard Langer continues to hold Father Time at bay as he turns 68 on Wednesday. No player has been this effective for this long and it calls for a celebration, Langer style.

OC > We're going to be in North Carolina in the mountains, so my daughter and my wife will cook some surprise dinner and, probably have a little cake and we're just going to hang out together and have a, have a nice evening or a fun afternoon.

VO > Bernhard has been an inspirational figure here since joining PGA Tour Champions in 2007. 47 wins after age 50. At least one victory in every season on this tour. And if fellow players could select a birthday gift for birdie, it might include a gentle nudge, you know, into life after golf.

OC > Hey. Happy birthday. Bernhard.

OC > So Bernhard Langer, 68. Wow.

OC > We're going. I'll get you a recliner or couch or something. You know, it's time for you to just chill out a little bit. I think we're going to have to buy you a couch and a new bed mattress, big screen television.

OC > Nice retirement package. Maybe a year cruise, something like that.

OC > And go back to the Boca Raton and just watch TV and watch some golf. Don't come out here and just play with us.

OC > Maybe you can stay at home.

OC > You know, Bernie, just keep on skiing, keep hitting those winter slopes and enjoy everything that you've accomplished. I know you will.

OC > I don't know what I'd to get my wife for her birthday, let alone Bernhard Langer.

OC > I will take him to a great German restaurant, get him some good Kaiserschmarrn,

OC > A birthday present. Yeah, a year cruise that will do.

OC > And, some good Bavarian beer. I know he occasionally has, you know, a glass or so.

OC > I just want to say happy birthday. Bernhard, 68. It's amazing. You still playing? He's still competitive. So much respect.

OC > But anyway, congratulations and happy birthday to you.

OC > Happy 68, buddy. Welcome to the club.

OC > No, seriously Bernhard. Congratulations. Happy birthday. Very very happy for you. Always being one of my heroes. And it was a privilege, and it is a privilege to play with you. So, enjoy and hopefully many, many more. And I hope you stay forever.

VO > At this point, Langer isn't going anywhere, and we wish you a happy birthday to the Tour's legend among legends. And that's all for this edition of Learning Center. The tour resumes next month for the first of five final regular season events. I'm Vince Cellini and we will see you next time.