

2025 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW #21

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > The calendar hit September and PGA Tour Champions entered its stretch run. It was the gateway to the West, Saint Louis for the fifth playing of the Stifle Charity Classic, once again staged at Norwood Hills Country Club. We had a playoff and a guaranteed first-time individual winner on tour. Cameron Percy shot a Sunday 64 to get there. Here on the final hole in regulation. A clutch seven-foot birdie putt to post at 12 under, joining Thomas Bjorn for extra holes.

VO > The two men shook hands and came out swinging in the playoff.

OC > Good playing. Thomas well played.

VO > So back to 18 and Bjorn from the fairway bunker manages to get it on the green in two.

VO > Great contact. Great strike. Gonna have the same put he had in regulation.

VO > Now Thomas Bjorn looking at a long putt for birdie on that first playoff hole. It looks good. It looks very good. He drains it.

VO > Thomas Bjorn puts the pedal down and drops the hammer.

VO > Cameron Percy now to answer with a birdie try of his own.

OC > He's got to have to match him now.

VO > But this one does not fall.

VO > Thomas Bjorn is the last man standing in Saint Louis, the champion of the steeple charity classic.

VO > And so it is Thomas Bjorn. Yes. A great day for the Great Dane who earns the victory. Bjorn won back in June in the American Family Insurance Championship, but that was a team event alongside Darren Clarke. Cameron Percy's fine season continues. The Aussie scores his second runner up and now has eight top ten finishes. Alex Cejka finished one shot out of a playoff, while alternate Heath Slocombe and Paul Stankowski tied for fourth. A word now from our winner.

OC VO > I played so well this year, you know, and I thought I got close in a few of the majors. And I think when you're in those senior major championships where you know you're going up against some, some really strong guys that, you know, eventually you're going to get over the line and something else and eventually something just kind of go your way.

So that was, you know, it's just been that kind of year where I felt like if I just say patience with it, it's going to come my way. And today was the day.

VO > With the victory, Thomas Bjorn moves up two spots in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. Ditto Cameron Percy, who enters the top ten in the season long race, Stewart Cink moving closer to overall leader Miguel Angel Jimenez after the Saint Louis stop with just four regular season events remaining.

VO > As for the 2026 edition of this event, and even higher profile as the Stifel Charity Classic becomes one of three playoff events on PGA champions, Saint Louis will be the site of the opening postseason event, setting in motion another exciting playoff run come October 19th of next year. Congratulations to tournament organizers and the great sports city of Saint Louis on elevating this event in a very short amount of time.

VO > It all began here back in 2021. Then David Toms won his second PGA Tour Champions title at the Ascension Charity Classic, defeating Dickie Pride in a playoff. Toms has won twice since and at age 58, continues to navigate through the rigors of play, including a health challenge, telling us last week about a procedure he had done on his back and why it had him pondering his future.

VO OC > My year on the golf course hasn't been very good. I had an ablation two and a half almost three weeks ago in three spots on my back. The reason I did that is because it completely went out on me twice. And no matter of about six weeks, which that's never really happened before to me. So, I'm like, I have to do something to get relief. You know, it's it's one thing to be stiff, but to be in pain at all times. You can't really play golf that way. So, I'm still waiting for the full effect of that procedure, and I'm hoping it gets better soon. I've been doing this a long time, and if you're not excited to do it, I mean, I've always said to myself, when you're not excited or looking forward to going on the road and playing in a golf tournament, you probably shouldn't be doing it. So that's kind of not that that's where I am right now. But, probably not too far off of it as well, I've gotten to the point where I kind of want to do what I want to do, rather than having, a job that dictates where you have to be and when you have to be there. Just like next week. I mean, I don't know if, if I'm going to make it to South Dakota. I mean, the Tigers are playing Florida on a Saturday night in Baton Rouge. I've had tickets since I got out of college, and I haven't used them very often. It's like it seems like I'm, you know, furnishing tickets for everyone in the family but myself. So, it's time for me to enjoy some of that.

VO > The Stifel Charity Classic deeply felt the absence of longtime Marshal and First Tee of Greater Saint Louis board member Tim Powers, who passed away from a heart attack four months ago, shortly after his 47th birthday. In a solemn tribute, Tim's father, Dave Powers, stepped in to marshal the spot where his son once stood beside the 17th tee. Our deepest condolences to the entire powers' family.

VO > Straight ahead on Learning Center when it comes to picking up yardage. NFL Hall of Famer Marshall Faulk is still getting it done. Why he's MVP caliber on the course and a comeback story that defies description. Trevor Drummond turned near tragedy into triumph and a meeting with his personal hero. You won't want to miss it.

VO > On February 1st, 2024, Trevor Drummond's life changed in an instant. He was hit by a driver, making an illegal turn. The crash was so severe Trevor was pronounced dead at the scene. But what happened next defied every expectation.

VO OC > I got a phone call from my older son telling me that Trevor had been in a motorcycle accident, and the officer said he didn't survive.

OC VO > There happened to be a gas station that had some surveillance outside the exit of the gas station. That caught the accident. And he, when he was traveling, late, he had turned in front of them and all I could see was the impact and then the blur of him spinning like a fan. Not not not like a small spinning, but almost a blurry of the centrifugal force. It just didn't look real to me. And, when he hit, he literally spun out of camera view.

VO > His injuries were extensive, and early on the outlook for recovery was bleak.

VO OC > We all met in the emergency room here at Saint Joseph. Found out the worst news. I think most mothers could imagine hearing that he didn't make it. And then that news turned into the fact he had survived, and that they were looking at doing surgery and still trying to save his life. We got to meet the doctor, and you just saw a huge staff all pouring into Trevor and trying to save his life. And that was the first real breath of hope that I had felt since that call came in.

VO > Trevor suffered numerous broken bones, a collapsed lung and traumatic brain injuries. Doctors didn't know if he'd ever walk or speak again. He spent months recovering at Saint Joseph Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington. During that time, his mom said watching the Golf Channel helped him cope with the long, uncertain days.

OC VO > Paul loves to watch golf, so while we were here at the hospital, it was the perfect background for healing. I liked that he could hear everyone talking. I liked it was familiar to him. And so, we always had golf on television.

VO > before the crash, Trevor was passionate about golf. He played in high school and loved being on the course

VO OC > Having the Golf Channel on in the hospital, it was just the sounds of home, and he hadn't been home in so long. And to see him watch so intently. That was the first time I ever really remember his eyes focusing on something for long term.

VO > We were at Saint Joseph's for almost three months, and it did become a home.

VO > Once discharged by yourself, he created a list of goals for himself. Walk again and eventually return to golf. Today, Trevor is back on the driving range, working on his swing. One of his biggest dreams was meeting golf legend Fred Couples.

VO OC > Yeah, when Freddie's on where we're watching him.

VO OC > Yep. We are. If I was able to meet Fred Couples, I would please caddie for him. Please like to caddie for him.

OC > Whoa, birdie.

OC > I got it.

OC VO > It's it's been a miracle from the day of the accident to now and every day. Yeah. So, we want to see it through rebirth here. Better day, better every day here. Yeah.

VO > That dream came true at this year's Boeing Classic, marking another milestone in Trevor's incredible journey.

OC > How are you? How are you? Good. How are you? My pleasure. You swing is amazing. Thank you. So, I have a Bettinardi Putter Okay. And its center shafted. No, no, you're gonna have to. And they made two of them. But it's Seahawk colors I asked for. How about that. I just got so right. So, isn't that wild? So, there you go. This is for you. And you can go putt against him. And then I don't honestly when my glasses putt putt they're big. You can you can play a couple holes with us right around. Hopefully I'll hit a few good shots, and you can putt for me. Oh, wow. Okay. Easy enough. Right? Sure. His clubhead speed was pretty bad. Yeah. Okay. Come on, turn around. We'll get a picture right here. Okay.

OC > How cool is that putter?

OC > Very cool. Two. Four. Two. Two. Cool.

OC > Where does this rink up there is one of those good days. The other. Yeah. The best other than surviving the next. Yeah. Yeah.

OC > It's been such a long 18 months. We were never supposed to be here. I'm talking walking, eating, breathing. Yeah, the miracle was going to be in a decade. You could ever get his hand in his mouth to feed himself, brush his teeth? Yeah. You're putting on the senior PGA tour? Yeah, and a lot of improvements already. Couples. Fred, couples.

OC > I'll do my best to put the line down to help. Okay. You want to clean?

OC > Oh, yes. Yes. Oh, dang. Yep. You finish it. Right. All right. Oh. So cute. Oh, it's so funny. Shocks! No more. That was good. You put good roll on it, but it's okay. Looks that's way better than I would have done under the circumstances.

OC > Today what's going on? And Freddy being Freddy, which is, you know, the coolest guy, but also one of the sweetest people that I've ever met. We just couldn't ask for more. It's. It's a dream come true, actually, for all of us. You don't trust me? Yeah. I'll try. I tried. I was so close. Good job. Thank you.

VO > Up next on Learning Center, one of the most versatile players in NFL history. An all-time great Marshall Faulk picked up lots of yardage. Still does with a golf game so renowned his handicap is a secret.

VO > The 105th season of the National Football League is well underway. Many storylines and big optimism for all 32 teams. Each team chasing the holy grail of pro football, the Vince Lombardi Award. The Super Bowl is miles away, but our PGA Tour Champions player predictions for Super Bowl 60 have arrived.

OC > Cowboys. Dax gonna have his best year ever.

OC > I'll go with the Lions.

OC > It's hard to bet against Kansas City.

OC > because they're going to score more points than the other team. That's why.

OC > But I certainly would like to see the Buffalo Bills contend for it.

OC > San Francisco, 49ers, that's why.

OC> I'm gonna go with the Steelers. I'm a Steelers fan.

OC > I'd like to say the New England Patriots, but I don't think they're going to win it.

OC > Well we know the Cowboys have the talent.

OC > I kind of wouldn't mind seeing Buffalo win it. You know that'd be nice. It's long overdue for them so.

OC > Well Dallas Cowboys because they're long overdue.

OC > You probably got to go with Kansas City still.

OC > The team with the most points at the end of the Super Bowl.

VO > The great Marshall Faulk knows all about winning the big one. A past Super Bowl champion and NFL Hall of Famer. Faulk is a former league MVP and one of only a handful of players to pile up over 10,000 yards rushing and over 5000 receiving in his career. All that and a rock-solid golf game. Still somewhat of a mystery. One we tried to unravel during April's James Hardy Pro Football Hall of Fame Invitational.

OC > A pleasure to spend time with Marshall Faulk. He is a Super Bowl champion, NFL MVP, and of course, a Pro Football Hall of Famer. Over 12,000 yards rushing, almost

7000 receiving no other player in NFL history has ever done that. Ever gotten those numbers. But Marshall, the number I want to talk about is your handicap. What's your handicap right now? And tell the truth.

OC > Hey man, you you trying to get me in trouble. Good to know. I have no idea what my handicap is. I don't ask for strokes. I try not to give strokes. And I just love to compete. I feel like that's. That's what golf is.

OC > Can you ballpark? Guess what? I'm. I'm four, maybe three.

OC VO > I'm in and around there. I put it like this. Here's here's why I don't really give out. Because you can never, ever live up to whatever it is. In a sense. There's times that I'm a two and I'm playing like a zero, and there's times that I'm a zero and I'm playing like a five in this game just does it to you, and I'm with you, and you never know which golfer is going to show up. And I don't get to dedicate the time to it to maintain the handicap, you know, and it's just like people, they expect you to just when you show up and obviously, you know, you know how I go with the boys, they want their strokes. They don't care.

OC > You know, it's funny,

OC > I don't care.

OC > It's like a gunslinger in the Old West. You get a reputation and then you got to live up to some reputation. When you come to town.

OC > That's it, that's it. And here's the thing. There's so many variables in this game. It's not like playing football, where all football fields are the same size and you get four downs to be successful and you get ten yards, you get four more downs. Golf is not like that.

OC > No, not like that at all. When did you decide to get serious about the game?

OC VO > Probably when I retired. When I retired, I really started. I started to love for the game developed when I was playing, and I realized how, wanted. The one thing that I fell in love with about golf is, regardless of how bad you hit a shot, what you had to do on the next shot was stand up there with the conviction, as if that shot didn't matter. This, the next shot was the only shot that mattered. And if you take that into the football world because things are going to happen, you're going to fumble the ball, you're going to miss the pass. Does that mean you can't catch? Does that mean you're a fumbler? No, you have to put it out of your head and go out and do what you need to do? So, playing golf really got me in the mindset in how to deal with the negative plays that happened in football that in front of 60,000 people, it looks like everything but in golf it happens every shot. We never hit the ball exactly where we want to. Maybe once in a once in a

lifetime. It happens once in a round it happens. But you have to learn how to deal with the things that goes bad and and still go out and perform.

OC > But you seem like a guy to me. Immensely talented, but a worker. So, like you. Like you like the process, right?

OC VO > If I wasn't here doing this with you, I'd probably be hitting balls on the range. And not because. Not because I played bad. Just because I love it. Like I enjoy putting in the time to to like to play the game.

VO > What do you think is your greatest golf accomplishment?

VO OC > Probably just picking up the game and developing the love and respect for the game. Like, like sitting here and and you, you were you were like, going through my steps, and I'm watching. I'm like Vijay Singh like; I love that dude. Yeah. Like he's, my grunt. That's my dude. Like, I love the way. No no no no not still grind. He's a grinder. This is what when he was at the height of the game he was grinding it. Now he's on now. He's on it. He's on a he's on the Champions Tour Still grinding. That's his DNA. And I love that about the game. And I love what this game brings out the best thing you or it can bring out the worst in you.

OC > Oh no no question about it. You're doing a little coaching now.

OC > Yes.

OC > University of Colorado running backs coach.

OC > Yeah.

OC > So what is that like for you? How's that transition been to you and what is what's today's modern player like in coaching?

OC VO > Hey, it's, I'm going to say this is different, and I'm gonna say it's a challenge. And part of the reason why I took it on was, I've always. I never shied away from a challenge. And coaching was something I was like, oh, I don't really want to do. And then when I sat down with Coach Prime when we talked about, he said, Marshall, here's what you have an opportunity to do. I was like, oh, oh man. Like, like, this is I get I get to really affect some young men's lives. I can really help change, not just on the field but off the field and be a catalyst or a source for them to get somewhere. I couldn't pass it up. I couldn't pass up the opportunity to see, like, how am I going to do like what? What other challenges? And right now, I'm going through it, learning a new player like you speak like me, like you talked about, it's it's different.

OC > Is the messaging different?

OC VO > It's it is, it is, it is. And and you know, I, I grew up, I grew up in a time to where, being coachable was like, what you wanted. And now you got to teach them, like,

there's a lot you got. You got to teach a lot of stuff. They're teachable. They're not coachable. You can't just say, hey, I need you to do this. They going to be like, why? You got to explain all the ins and outs before they decide, okay, I can do that.

OC > Yeah. That's interesting. So, Saquon Barkley making running backs cool again right. You have to you feel good about that. And the position that it's always been very important. But we got so caught up I think in the passing game that we kind of disregarded what that kind of type of player can be. And what you were really to the Rams.

OC VO > Yeah, we are still caught up in that. And we won't get away from it until they allow quarterbacks to participate in the tackle game of football without all these rules. When you when you have when you have when you look at the top five guys in a league that's making 55 million per year and none of them has, has won a championship. It speaks volumes about your game and where it is. Something's wrong with it. And we just gotta listen. I'm not saying don't pay him the money or whatever. I'm just saying we got it. We have to disperse the monies amongst the players to make sure that everybody is taken care of, and not just a position, because that position is coveted. Because if you don't have a quarterback, then nobody's going to come watch. The league has made the position. What it is. And they've, they've really created, how we have it, what we see, and it caused teams to now pay guys that they don't want to pay guys this, this amount of money. And they know and they don't know what to do.

OC > Going back to Colorado before I let you go. If you get some of these young guys, get him playing golf a little bit, you get your hands on that NIL money from those guys and take it out here on tour.

OC > Yeah, I'm not going I'm not going to gamble with them. That's not that's not even fair. Plus, you know, you know, in, in, in Denver, the ball goes far, the ball goes far. And it's it's not even fair, you know, at that, like when they say taking candy from a baby, that's what that would be, literally. And I don't want to do that to them. I'm here to teach them. I want them to learn lessons without losing money. That's the thing. I want to teach them how to keep them.

OC > Because you have a financial background as well?

OC > Exactly, exactly. I dove into the financial second, and we have conversations about not just not just what to do on the field, but off the field, understanding what your marketing team is doing, understanding what your agent means to you. It blows my mind when guys, players, aides, fire agents thinking like it's done. The agent still gets paid. Don't fire him until the job is done. You still have to pay the guy, although he's although he's not working for you, so it doesn't make sense. So just trying to teach him how to make sense of the sense.

OC > You know what? It's been a pleasure to talk with you.

OC > Likewise.

OC > And best of luck moving forward and coaching in and out here as well.

OC > All good.

OC > What's that handicap again?

OC > It's pretty good. It's pretty good I'm when I get to play from the up tees it's pretty good.

OC > Thank you Marshall.

VO > And now we are on the run until our next learning center. Big congratulations to our champion in Saint Louis I'm Vince Cellini. As always, we thank you for watching.