

2025 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW # 23

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > The latest stop on PGA Tour Champions showcase the wondrous beauty of Monterey, California. Pebble Beach Golf Links, a bucket list destination for those who love the game and a bigger prize for legends battling in the 22nd play of the Pure Insurance Championship, impacting first Tee.

OC VO > Hello everyone and welcome to PGA Tour Champions Learning Center. I'm Vince Cellini amidst the breathtaking backdrop of Pebble Beach. But beyond the beauty, this was another opportunity for a player to win and make a move in the season long race for the Charles Schwab Cup. And with teams from first team chapters across the country also competing youth experience. So how did things shake out here in Golf Paradise? Our John Swantek and Paul Azinger have a recap.

VO OC > Okay thank you Vince. It was another magnificent week along the Monterey Peninsula. Always something special in store when you get to Sunday at Pebble Beach. And the Pure Insurance Championship goes to Doug Barron. And Zinger, no one saw him coming. He just posted by finishing with three birdies across the final three holes and sat and waited it out.

OC > Yeah, I'm happy for Doug. He shot 66 in blustery conditions, came out of the pack and pulled it off. But that finish was incredible. You know he's been working on his putting he's trying to catch the ball more in the equator. The center of the ball. He put this little mat right behind his ball. And that's how he's been training. And it paid big dividends the last three holes as he made three clutch putts.

VO > Clutch all the way during the final round for Barron. And a couple of guys were trying to chase him. He was the first to post a 12 under. This was the approach and the 16.

VO > He said he asked his caddie for the first time where he stood. He was only one shot back, so he decided to hit driver on 16 and it paid off. He flicked a sandwich in there and this was the first of the three putts, and this one made him happy. You can tell by the fist pump. He knew this was to tie the lead. And that's just, you know a lot of intestinal fortitude to be able to do that. Alker getting one good shot after another John.

VO > Yeah, all weekend long in fact that was from 110 into the 16th. And it's circled around behind the flagstick. He would convert that to get within one. So, Alker needed to birdie one of the final two holes to get to 12 under and catch Barron. This was Doug's tee shot at 17.

VO > Well he plays a little bit of a draw. He played it off the hill on purpose. That parts the middle of this green and got the last kick.

He counted on it. And again, another one of those little nine footers. Dead straight putt. That's a big-time birdie. That just is.

VO > Got him to 11 under the par five 18th. This was worth the wait. And it was worth the reaction. Watch this. Just enough energy to topple in over the front edge.

VO > That's awesome. And it means the whole world to Doug Baer. And he still works so hard. He plays every week out here. He loves this tour and he's taking advantage of it now.

VO > And he's got his fourth victory on the Champions Tour after a final round 66. Let's hear from our champion.

OC VO > You know our goal all week is just get a putt somehow. And it was cool. But you know my dad passed away in January and he played in the Monterey Peninsula for years and years. And he loved it talked about it all the time. And he was with me today.

OC > There you go.

OC > I want to dedicate today to my dad.

OC > Oh, you sure did. I did. He's looking down. He's super proud of you.

OC > Amen.

OC > Congratulations to Doug Barron who posted, hung on and jumped to 16th in the season long race for the Charles Schwab Cup. Miguel Angel Jimenez is still your frontrunner, as the top five in the standings remain the same. Only two regular season events to go before the playoffs begin. The October stretch is coming.

VO > Two-time Charles Schwab Cup winner Steven Alker has played very well in the Pure Insurance, finishing sixth or better in three previous tries, including a runner up, I'm Steve.

OC > Okay. All right Steve this image you see green. Nope okay okay okay. That's okay.

VO > Alker started his week on number ten at Spyglass Hill where he and caddie Troy Martin let our learning center cameras eavesdrop a bit. Let's listen in as one of the top teams on tour targets their opening hole.

OC > You still get nervous?

OC > Yeah, a little bit. You know, it's, and this week's a little different too, because, you know, we've got the we've got a partner that's ready and a responsibility. You know, you want to play well for your partner. So yeah, it's a fun week. It's the butterflies still go. But isn't it kind of nice to have that. Just know that you kind of care a little bit, you know? So.

OC > Who is taking the cards today?

OC > The pro taking the card. Yeah, and this is in honor of John Harris who passed away this year.

OC > Oh yeah, John. Yeah, bless him. So so. Okay. Yeah. We'll put that on the hat. Thank you. Hey, you guys, how you doing, Steve? Okay. Steve green. Steve. Steve, how are you? All right, all right, say hi. Nice to meet you. Yeah. Good. Steve, where are you from?

OC. Houston.

OC > A Houston man. All right. Our girls, my girls from Houston as well. Houston area. So, we got it all going on.

OC > Red one with the happy face.

OC > Easy. And the good stuff from the. All right, guys, have fun. Yeah. Enjoy, guys. Make some birdies.

OC > With the 8:38 starting time, please welcome SteVen Alker to the tee.

OC > Cut it down. Every year Troy white rough.

OC > That will work Steve. What's so great about this event is like you know we're giving back. We had people I had people like me when I started out you know playing and events mentors and you know coaches and people I, I looked up to so this is what I'm kind of doing this week, you know, kind of giving back and and hopefully they'll learn a little something I'm sure all in a little something. And that's what this event's all about.

OC > We just want to fly up on the top of that little ridge there don't we. Got about 7 or 8 up there, maybe 33. Yeah, 30. I want to come out of there a little softer. Softly, softly, softly, softly.

OC > Softly, softly. This is the tougher of the two, I think. More demanding in terms of the greens and the uphill and down hills and so, yeah, if you get a good start at spy, you're, you're looking good. Sure. I haven't seen the pin there before. It's normally a little further. Further Right. The driver off that line mate. Now look at that thing.

OC > Oh. Well done.

OC > Thank you mate. Oh, clean that up too.

OC > Straight in.

OC > straight in?

OC > Yeah. Good job guys. Nice. Yeah, that was a tough pin there. Par the first where we go, we got a par five coming up. So, let's get after.

VO > The best part about playing courses you love is the anticipation of a return. And PGA tour champions made sure that would happen at Pebble Beach and Spyglass Hill. Extending their title sponsorship with Pure Insurance through 2029. Pure Insurance also continues its support at First Tee with a \$1 million commitment to the nonprofit from 2026 through 2029. Great news as one of the highlights of the over 50 schedule continues.

VO > If you travel to Monterey, California for golf, chances are a good time is waiting off the course. Turns out we had a party, the golf party, a new tradition full of fun and song. We will set the stage and take it next.

OC > Whether you're a seasoned broadcaster like myself or simply a longtime fan of the game, you might recall the days when the legendary Bing Crosby strolled these grounds. Der Bingle founded the original Crosby Clambake celebrity event back in 1947. He wanted to create a fun and breezy atmosphere, sort of like the singer himself. Well, these days are entertainer PGA Tour Champions voice and former major champion Peter Jacobsen is going for a modern clambake version. He assembled celebrities and players Tuesday and Wednesday here, each of them trying to hit it straight down the middle. With charity the big winner at the golf party.

VO OC > Huey Lewis and I played in the AT&T for so many years. We had so much fun. I played with Jack Lemmon for 20 years and having a chance to play with all these celebrities and actors and musicians, I was really sad when the format went away.

OC > The idea is to just kind of extend the pro-am singers from the AT&T that we used to have so much fun doing, you know, and we kind of miss that a little bit.

OC> First club period.

OC VO > So Huey and I thought, let's get together and maybe create it and keep that, that interaction between pros, celebrities, amateurs alive. So that's how the golf party came about. We put it together in about three months, and here we are. This is my second home.

VO > With AI this going to look great.

OC VO > The ability for the camaraderie between the amateurs who are businessmen, our pros, and then the celebrities. It takes you back to the old days. Really?

OC > We get ready for steep green.

OC VO > And I grew up in Los Angeles. I was lucky enough to have a place to go play. You know, I grew up playing with the likes of Tiger Woods as well. We were both juniors playing in junior golf, but we had a lot of friends around us who didn't have the exact same opportunities to go play. And when we could see that.

OC > Show tonight.

OC VO > It's still crazy to me that you can just get your friends together, play golf, and raise so much money to help people. You know, that's just always amazing to me.

VO OC > You know, being a part of the tournament to where all the money stays locally and it goes to the youth. It's really special that it's opening up some pathways for people who don't have access to this. They should.

VO OC > And then push for me to come and get to play with Jay Haas. You know, you get to hang out with the line and get to see all my friends that I haven't seen in a minute, guys that you can play golf with them. I mean, as a golfer, you couldn't ask for anything better.

OC > Thank you so much.

OC > Thank you Tommy.

OC > Well, what a pleasure to spend time with John O'Hurley. And as celebrities go, you. I think you're in an upper tier now when it comes to golf, because you have played a long, long time in many celebrity events.

OC > Well, I have, and, not deservedly so. I think at some time they should send the herd, and I probably will be the first carcass they toss out. But let's look at this now. This is, as I've learned over the years from the pros that I played with, is that you really have to develop a strategy on each hole. Now, this is 422 yards on a par four. For me, this is easily reachable and for but and allows me because I'm playing of course, with Stephen Allen, the great Australian pro who's won three times. Did I mention three times on tour this year.

OC > And counting.

OC > And I can I know that he's got my back. So, what I can do is tee up here and I can put it safely in that bunker. Yeah, know, give him the freedom to go for it. So, let's see what, let's see what happens.

OC > All right. Let her rip, John.

OC > Now, what I try to do is relax my shoulders. Relax my hands. I grip the club like I'm trying to Milk a moose. And that gives me the strength for the direction of the ball. My swing thought is, I am a god. And I proceed to hit a flaming whoopsie right into the bunker.

OC So, how often do you practice series? How often do you get up and hit a play?

OC VO > As often as this is not necessary. I live in an airplane, so golf is a luxury for me, but it is the, the great dynamic that we have in our family. My son plays. My my wife, as

most people know, is a much better golfer than I have to roll over in the morning and wake up to a beautiful blond scratch golfer.

OC > What a what a terrible life.

OC > I live by. I live it, I live, I live my pain.

OC > And my last question is this how often have you been stopped in your career and asked to do voicemail messages and messages?

OC > Oh, I, I get it, three times a day on that, new platform they call cameo.com.

OC > Oh yeah, sure.

VO > They always want the Peterman monologues.

VO OC < So more fun. Doing your work, acting or. This is this is the most fun.

OC VO > Well, this is where you know when God needs a weekend off. This is where he comes in. I've seen the footprints in the sand. No, I mean, this is just this tournament that Peter has put on is as enjoyable as the AT&T easily. And and I think every pro, every celebrity has said that this, this weekend, that it's just been absolutely a dream to be, to be part of this thing. I hope it's blessed with permanence; I really do. I hope that every year we're able to come back and do this and and recreate what, Bing Crosby did years ago, which was just invite a bunch of the buds up and throw a few with lobsters and clams and have a lot of fun.

OC > Well, it's wonderful to have you. In any event. Thank you so much.

VO > Thank you John. We're in Monterey, but it will always be perma to me. Now, on a more serious note, Thomas Bjorn shares the darker side of professional golf. A game to test even the best in the world.

VO OC > You know, there's nothing in the game. I had those that I found great. There's nothing that gave me pleasure in the game. Everything was just a battle and hard.

VO > Thomas Bjorn has come close to winning a major championship three times, finishing runner up. A real feather in his cap was captaining the European Ryder Cup team to victory in 2018 at Le Golf National in Paris, defeating the United States 17.5 to 10 and a half. Yet even the game's elite can encounter low points as well.

OC > Thomas Bjorn is a multiple winner on tour this season, but before turning 50, Bjorn experienced what many pros go through in what is sort of a dead zone in their career. You know, lost years when their game and confidence is tested. You're not really winning on your tour and you're not quite eligible for PGA Tour Champions. So, after winning the Ryder Cup, Bjorn coauthored a book that shared his experiences. It was

called Mind Game the Secrets of Golf's Winners, and in it, he reveals the very real struggle of life on tour.

VO OC > Walking off golf courses, couldn't couldn't get anything to work. The mind was in the way of everything. It goes from a kind of disbelief to despair to just a pure hatred for the game. Really. And that's why I got to. I had no, no desires. To, you know, there was nothing in the game. I had the that I found great. There was nothing that gave me pleasure in the game. Everything was just a battle. And I'm hard and, you know, and it it fills your, you know, the the lonely nights in the hotel room fills you with tears and fills you with, you know, just you don't want to go. You don't want to go out and play. You don't want to go home. You don't want to do anything. You know? It's just like it becomes you and and that hotel room, and it really is, not a nice place to be. And I think when I see guys go through tough times on tour, I always think back to those days and, and thankfully, I, I've been fortunate to work my way out of it a couple of times. But a couple of guys, I have a few guys out here don't ever work their way out of it, and they playing professional sport on a high level should give you so much pleasure. But it doesn't always because you, you live your career, and you build pressure for yourself to do more and more and more. And you remember that you forget to look back on and enjoy the moments that actually I supposed to be the the great ones. And when you when you do that then then professional sport can be it can be really, really tough. I probably was a good enough golfer to win a major championship. I was probably a good enough golfer to do much more. But for way I came, it was a great over achievement. So, I there's a nice balance in it for me today. I sit and go. I have no regrets. I have no feelings of that. Oh, I should have done more. I could, you know, I could have done more, but I don't feel like I should have done more. The golf, the game of golf has given me a lot more than I ever thought it would do. So, I I look at it and say my greatest achievement is just it's probably that I'm at. I'm at ease and in total peace with what I've achieved. And don't sit and go, oh, well, you know, I should have done more. But I look at a lot of the players around me and I feel like, well, I'm equal to the task as they. And they have one major championship, and they have done more, but they come from different backgrounds, but with a lot of, with it's just a different perspective early in their career. And I think the game hit me too hard, too quick for, for 3 or 4 years early in my career. And it just came at me so fast that I it was difficult for me to keep up. And then you turn into a person that you don't really recognize, and at times that turned into a person I didn't really want to be.

VO > Bjorn has weathered his storms and made the most of his opportunity on PGA Tour Champions, his wins making him a full playing member here. As for the Ryder Cup, Bjorn will be an assistant captain to Luke Donald this week.

VO > The 2004 Ryder Cup matches were held at Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Township, Michigan. Hal Sutton was the U.S. captain and in the Saturday

morning, Fourballs, he set out Chris DiMarco and Jay Haas to face Sergio Garcia and Lee Westwood in the opening match. It went the distance ultimately ended in a half point. Last week, the US duo reflected on that match, which included a heated exchange with Garcia.

VO OC > We get to the fifth hole and Chris has got about a three and a half footer to tie the hole or something like that, and he makes this part, and he gives it like this one, walking off the green. And there's a little, I don't know, 150 fans in a, in a grandstand right behind the green. And they clap, you know, and then he gives it another fist, and they clap even more. So now we go to the next and Chris hits a nice drive, and Sergio hits a good drive up there and Chris is storming up the fairway and Sergio goes jogging up and puts his arm around Chris and he's talking to him. And so, they kind of separate. And so, we go run it up there. What the hell Sergio saying to my partner here and and so he had this caddie Pat.

OC > Yeah. Pat.

OC > And Pat kind of had a little bit of a...

OC > Hair lip and talk like this. He had a hair lip

OC > Yeah. And so, we're like Pat what was that? What was going on? Oh, Sergio thinks it's Chris is getting over the line a little bit. He's getting a little too excited and everything. And I said, oh well what did what did Chris say? Goes, Sergio, this is a home game.

OC VO > Exactly. Walk away Sergio, walk away. They are the enemy. And I feel really bad for them in New York. That crowd up there on Long Island is going to destroy them, which is what they should do. It's a home. It's a home field advantage and I hope the crowd goes frickin nuts. And I hope Rory gets fired up and does his thing, but I hope we beat the...out of them.

OC > Oh, so you know I didn't make that story up.

OC > Yeah, yeah, yeah.

VO > The American team is three and one on U.S. soil. Since that loss at Oakland Hills. Expect plenty of fireworks this time around Bethpage Black when the gentleman's game runs a little hotter. Can't wait. For all of us in Learning Center. I'm Vince Cellini. We thank you for watching.