

VO>> The pga tour champions rolled into the month of October with the penultimate regular season event. A trip to Florida's first coast, Timaquana Country Club in Jacksonville and the fifth playing of the Constellation Furyk and Friends.

OC>> And with that we welcome you to pga tour champions learning Center. I'm Vince Cellini counting down to the playoffs. but before that the party was on at Timaquana. The event was back and so was the tournament host Jim Furyk who returned to competition. the wind was up over the weekend, and the excitement was up as always. Our John Swantech and Peter Jacobson have a recap.

VO/OC>> Okay thank you Vince it was a terrific final round and final day of the Constellation Furyk and Friends from Jacksonville, Florida. The second to last event of the regular season with the playoffs coming in a couple of weeks. Tommy Gainey was the story coming into the week Peter as he qualified for the fourth time to get into the event and he was the story when he was the last man standing on Sunday.

OC/VO>> I absolutely love this this story this week of Tommy the perseverance that he's add to qualify as you said four times on Monday but his perspective his attitude his demeanor he was having fun out there today he was in the middle of the heat he made that incredible eagle at thirteen and he wrote that all the way to the finish so I'm so proud of that story of what he is done to win this championship.

VO>> Yeah but this par conversion at five was big early in the round.

VO>> Yeah we we didn't really pay much attention because he was trailing the leader Matt Gogel but that but seemed inconsequential but now it's huge.

VO>> Yeah Cameron Percy was in the final group with Gainey and Matt Gogel as well he's been all over leaderboards this season.

VO>> Cameron really hit some good shots played really well all week long.

VO>> Here was the putt that you described just a little bit earlier didn't hesitate to putt it and it was the right decision.

VO>> Yes shortened par five because of the wet fairway conditions and he was trying to get it up there close and it falls in for an incredible eagle to jump two shots ahead.

VO>> So we had a little cushion to work with drove it beautifully all week only four fair ways

VO>> How about this gutsy shot here on eighteen in knows what he has to do. He needs to make four win or a three to ensure the win and he hits that classy shot in there to about nine feet.

VO>> After Percy could not convert for birdie. Gainey had two putts if he needed them, he did not. Birdie at the last just the fifth of the final round at eighteen. He was really emotional after the victory he's been grinding just to get into events on the Champion's Tour. A winner on the PGA TOUR close to twenty years ago and now a winner for the first time after a final round sixty six he's not going to have to qualify anymore Tommy Gainey is a winner let's here from the champion.

OC>> Tommy you played with such decisiveness, aggressiveness, and Attitude. Howd that pull you through today?

OC>> Well as we can we can sit here and say right now I finally won out here. I've been doing a lot of Mondays, spent a lot of pressure doing these Mondays because let's face it these guys are still legends so they still can play. I'm just so happy right now and it's just I've grinded for a long time and finally I can safely say that grinding and that hard work has finally paid off.

VO>> Take us back to thirteen the shot of the tournament, you decide to hit that putt. What was it - what did it look like as it was going up to the hole?

VO>> I thought I had left it short. It had really great line on it, and I knew if it if it got to the hole, it was going in. Then I dropped to my knees, and it finally fell. So, it was like God answered a prayer.

VO>> Like you said you Monday qualified four times that takes a lot of guts and a lot of attitude you don't have the Monday qualify anymore. How's that feel?

VO>> Man a weight has been lifted off my soldiers.

VO>> Congratulations

VO>> Thank you sir, appreciate it.

VO>> In just his fifth career start Tommy Gainey is the first open qualifier to win since 2021 and is the youngest winner on this tour this season. top five in the shop cut unchanged four time winner Miguel Angel Jimenez remains your overall leader. Cameron Percy cracks the top ten after a runner up in Jacksonville his third overall this season. Tommy Gainey jumps thirty six spots to number thirty seven with the victory welcome aboard Tommy.

As mentioned at the start of the show, event host Jim Furyk returned to competitive play at his even. Making his first start of 2025 following

right hip replacement surgery back in April. A major champion on both the PGA TOUR and the PGA TOUR Champion, Furyk was fresh off U.S. Vice Captain duties at the Ryder Cup and updated this on his health and his game which is coming back as well.

OC>> That had been bothered me for number years for three to four years and I kind of had some back pain as law as well with it. I guess I don't know if I was misdiagnosed but it's kind of told that my back issues were causing my hip pain, but I think in reality it was the other way around. I think the limited function and mobility I had of my hip really put a lot of stress on my lower back and caused them injuries there so. The hip feels great, I mean have a lot of friends and family both my mom and dad have had both hips replaced I kind of knew what I was getting into. That recovery went pretty smoothly, getting stronger and feel pretty good it's been over five months now. So, I still do have some you know some lower back issues but I'm working through and managing and getting better at. My games not quite where I want it to be in fact it's nowhere near what I want it to be but I feel like I'm getting a little better every month and getting a little stronger and I don't have the speed I once - I never was a long player but i don't have the speed that I once had. So, kind of getting back to golf strong is probably the next step.

OC>> As it stands only one regular season event remains and that's this week SAS championship. Last chance for players to try to get into the top seventy two in points and qualify for the playoffs, where points are doubled. Those who finish in the top thirty six are guaranteed playing status for next season. So a lot is on the line and for those on the bubble they know that all too well.

VO/OC>> It's always a game of numbers at the end of the season whether you're trying to make top thirty six, top fifty four, top seventy two. So you always know it's there but it still comes down to hey can I boil it down control my own destiny that's the thing about this game is you're always in control of your own destiny so that's the beauty of this sport.

VO/OC>> Well luckily I'm sixty two and you know kind of aging out as it is anyway and already kind of thinking about retirement so be quite honest, I'm not that alarmed by it. It'll be what it'll be so you know I'm here, trying, hope to do well but there's something after this and I'm almost looking forward to it.

VO>> Coming up, the 2025 Ryder was memorable for a number of reasons. Some good, some not so good. We will plug in a few vice captains for the post European victory thoughts after a wild weekend at Beth Page stay with us.

VO>> It was a Ryder Cup we won't soon forget. Beth Page was the backdrop for big leads, a big comeback, and the over the top confrontations between the teams and between the U.S. crowd and the European squad. Final score Europe fifteen, United States thirteen.

We spoke with vice captains from both sides reflecting on a wild week.

OC/VO>> We were told for a long time that this was going to be the one that that we couldn't win this was going to be the hardest one of all and so I think we went in with an approach that everything was an opportunity for us we - Luke worked extremely hard on a strategy to deal with the players and deal with the things that were ahead of them so they were as prepared as you could be i don't think anybody could ever prepare you a hundred percent for for what was there but we had that we had a good plan and and you know he executed it that on Thursday and Friday - on Friday and Saturday a way that probably has never been seen in in Ryder Cup history. How well they performed on the back of the set up that we had and you know credit to Luke and obviously the players for buying into a story that everybody could get behind.

VO/OC>> We obviously dug a big hole on Friday and Saturday you get seven points behind it's that's pretty much an impossible feat to come back from. I give Keegan a lot of credit for the way he handled that team room for the messaging for - I mean one by one each one of those players poured their heart out for that team, banded together, stuck together. Never saw them complain, never saw them upset, and and it showed because what they did on Sunday was just short of a miracle to be honest. A putt here, putt there, one or two more putts they might win that Ryder Cup. Like I said you you you can't come back from seven points down but you can see you can see the look on some of the European's faces you could see the alarm. They they banded together and I think that close knit group that great group of guys great room and they had a good leader I think that's the reason why and and they they put up a hell of a show on Sunday, so I was proud to be a part of that is exciting obviously we're not happy with the result we're not happy with you know how things went on Friday and Saturday but I tip my cap the Europeans played some spectacular golf I think the scoring on both sides if you go back and look at it is probably an all-time low in a Ryder Cup. Golf course was set up for a low scoring but it it definitely ah it was a spectacular show of golf from both sides.

OC>/VO> To be totally honest I didn't think it was going to be that close or at least it shouldn't have been all that close, but well all credit to U.S. team. You know it's amazing how they fought, they almost turn things around. If Shane didn't made the putt on eighteen I think most probably team U.S.A would've won the Ryder Cup.

VO/OC>> Thank God it's only every two years you know I don't think we could live through that all the time it's a - And I don't think that to some extent you know the way the world of golf is now you know when you go back to thirty years you know we leave different worlds and we lived on different tours. Now they all lived together and they play together and their friends across the two teams and and that makes you know makes it a very different in very different world and I don't like that these two teams get thrown up against each other almost as enemies because they're not. As long as would keep it in a place where

you know we understand that it's a competition and it said you know these guys have to go back on tour the week after and and look at each other again and and play hard against each other but they also have to live in the same environment week in, week out. I just don't think the outside the outside world put so much pressure on them to be a certain way that week that I think sometimes it almost brings out it either brings out the best in there the worst in them and and not really anything in between and and I don't really like that and I think the twenty four players in general last week were great I thought the outside environment was you know for me those certain moments I didn't enjoy because I don't think I'm I don't think it fits the game. I don't think you know but then again I maybe I'm just old and that's the game that I grew up in and and it's changing and and who am I to tell what the future game should look at look like but i know what i'd like it to look like for me but what other people want it to look like that's up to them but I certainly thought that was certain moments there last week where I felt like this is this is probably beyond what it should be.

VO>> Despite a furious Sunday comeback, Europe winning on U.S. soil for the first time since 2012. Since 1985 this has been European dominance, more than doubling U.S. wins and erasing homefield advantage. So two more years to ponder this one, as they next meet in Ireland in September of 2027.

VO>> From Europe to South Africa's Reteif Goosen. The goose is very much in the mix to make some postseason noise and breaks down his golf perhaps helping you in the process.

VO>> The transition from other golf tours to pga tour champions can at times be a long and arduous journey players question their game and confidence in that waiting period. Some find a path to stay ready as their fiftieth birthday approaches. Others not so much, we spoke with some players on preparing for this next step.

OC/VO>> When I got to about 48 I think my my focus sort've changed a little bit you know I was more aware of you know am I healthy, how does my body feel stuff like that. I certainly went into it for injury prevention but then you know then I started to learn more about it got more knowledge and and and I suppose it's sort of an old fashion way of thinking about it injury prevention because what I know now is like you know the stronger you get you know the list prone you are to get injured. The better you feel, the more you want to train and you just feel better and better and you know it's not like I'm chasing distance but as I'm getting stronger you know slowly it's sort of it creeps into my game that I can hit it a little harder so.

VO/OC>> I took six years off. The first three or four years you know I played maybe three rounds a year. They were it was corporate stuff and I'd go hit balls for an afternoon and then go for like fake it around there. It was interesting like summer I turn 49 realizing we're living in Colorado so I'm going to go six months or so without doing muc. You know some things felt like I'm actually picking this up and then there were other things you know like wedge control and you know distance control

those things it was it was tougher. But it was also like exciting it was something that I knew something that i enjoyed that I got away from and I got back into it and I knew like when I started practicing that I enjoyed the practice. I enjoyed putting the work in and I always have but you just never know has that kind of has that left me? And have I replaced it with tv or biking or skiing or something I don't know whatever else I was doing. But now apparently I still had that that it's scratch which is good.

OC/VO>> I've always done a fair bit of working out and stuff like that but for me was more just - I still hit the ball around 300 yards and I knew that was going to be far enough out here so I just had the maintain that. So I was really good with 7 or 8 irons when I got out here and i literally would have a wedge on every hole. My wedge game was poor to be honest with you. It's just on to get a little bit better now so my wedge game definitely wasn't good enough for out here so that's a very bit softer grains maybe so I had issues I spin the ball back too much so I've actually changed ball with less spin so I'm trying to take the spin off Whereas when I was on the PGA Tour trying to add spin because it's just a little bit firmer I think out there.

VO/OC>> Well the best competition is on the PGA Tour and Korn Ferry Tour. The reason I say with the PGA Tour you now have the best players in the world okay everybody knows that. What they don't know is the Korn Ferry Tour players if you don't shoot seven under the first two days then you're going home. So that's a good way to keep you sharp right there. I mean seven under and you don't get the seven you're packing your bags and you're leaving

VO>> Retief Goosen is well established on this golf circuit. A four time PGA Tour Champions winner including this year Sanford International. Now age fifty six, he spent some time with us on the range to explain how he got started playing golf and shared a few tips to help your game.

OC>> Hi I'm Retief Goosen and this is how I built my swing. I started playing golf probably when I was around five. My dad was a fairly good player probably around two handicap. So for me it was more mirror work and golf books. 'Jack Nicklaus: Golf my way' was my favorite book my dad's favorite book was on a Ben Hogan and Arnold Palmer. So really there was enough books lying around to learn a game and all I did was followed a pictures so I looked in the picture what it looks like on a book. I stood in front of the mirror, Jack was like that I looked at him on the side to see that my postures like that and really and my dad gave me obviously some tips and the other thing my dad had a practice net in the back of his garden so at night after school I started hitting balls and he was always hitting balls and I started hitting balls. My mom was very upset the we we're hitting all a gross out but uh we kept going. And from there on I just followed the swing for jack you know what they did and I read what they were trying to do through to swing start to swing the hips first. 51 years later we're still hacking at it trying to see if we can improve even more. Golf course was in the winter was very dry not much grass, the greens were fine. So you had to learn to really hit down on a ball where I grew up. You know you get all these tufts of grass, the ball runs in then, it's lying down you got to really dig at it so for me

I've always been a very steep player. Get down steep on a ball and that probably helped me although I was hitting the ball very high but you know out of bad lie's I was really good. I think that help me in Europe early on in my years playing the windy conditions keeping the ball down all. All I knew is that uh had to be on top of the ball to make sure that I come down on it you know anything here wasn't going to help. So for me it was definitely more like more weight here on the left side and definitely more down on the ball. You know trying to just make sure you hit that ball first because being in sandy conditions as well. You know it's like hitting out of fairway bunker. If you if you don't catch a ball first or clean, you're going to chunk it. So, I think that really helped me early on in my career to really track the ball well and and stay on top of it. Iron is definitely down compressing a ball more into the ground in a way and that's how you create your spin if you hit down on a ball it rolls up the grooves more and you can get more spin. So, and then with the driver since the opposite you want to have probably two degrees three degrees of upswing on it. So and that changes with set up, moving to ball up, teeing it up helps obviously and and and swinging more here but the iron is definitely a lot more on top of the ball. So, a good rule to see is you know yours is your divot is very much a little bit past the ball or that gives you a good idea that you've trapped the ball pretty well. You know we we we all like to try get a little bit at something I have the tendency for getting a little across the line so that's always something I worked on to try and make sure I get the club more on plain and not get across it a bit too much so that's it's always been a bit of a fault of mine and it could be a set up thing could be just sometimes i get a bit too quicker to hands and that drags it in a bit and then you lift it so try keep - try and get the club more a little bit in front of your hands there and then then let it go up and not let it go inside too much too quick. So those are things are always worked on and that's been a problem for me. I think for me the thing I do like is is is rhythm in my swing. I always try and feel like I I swing it hard but not like out of control swing uh or out of control hardness I try and make sure I make a full shoulder turn. Make sure this shoulder comes to my chin on a way back and then when I'm coming down, I just think the opposite I'm pushing this shoulder to my chin and that way you can extend through the shot a lot. If you if you hang back this shoulder doesn't come to the ball so definitely to show this is going to feel like it's really going in there and then trapping the ball.

VO>> Big thanks to Retief Goosen and all of our PGA Tour Champions players for another fine show welcome back Jim Furyk and Congrats to our winner in Jacksonville. We will see you in North Carolina. Thank you.