

## 2025 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER GLFCICT25003ZH TRANSCRIPT

VO/OC> PGA Tour Champions Learning Center. Following stops in exotic locations like Hawaii and Morocco. PGA Tour Champions return to very familiar territory. Beautiful. Naples, Florida. For the 38th consecutive year. Hi, everyone, and welcome to Learning Center. I'm Vince Cellini and this was the Chubb Classic, the first full field event of the season. Tiburon Golf Club Black course is just a shade under 6900 yards and a wide-open track given the variety of past winners here on Florida's Paradise Coast. So, what about this year? To recap the men who call the action Bob Papa and Paul Azinger.

VO> 38 years the PGA Tour Champions has been heading to Naples, Florida for the Chubb Classic and Justin Leonard started his final round with a one-shot lead. And he played his first ten holes at one over par, and this par saved Paul Azinger at 11 was key.

VO> Well it really was. And he alluded it to it in his final round Interview how important that was to keep the momentum going that he made a couple more. He made really three birdies in a row after that. And this was the third one here at 14.

VO> Remember, at this point in time Billy Andrade's birdies holes four in a row ahead of them. And suddenly Justin Leonard's trailing them at the difficult 17th. This is as perfect as you're going to get.

VO> Yeah. Well, he hit a lot of short irons today, but this was more of a mid-iron five iron to the front of this grain. He landed it right where he needed to. John Cook said hit it at the TV tower. He'll be happy he ended up in the shadow of that tower. Well just outside it. But what a great shot for Justin Leonard. That's a hard tee shot. And this putt, the unexpected pleasure Bob.

VO> Yeah, I mean birdies at 17 year in and year out. Hard to come by. But Justin Leonard pours that in. And that got him to 14 under opened up a three-shot lead. And that made things nice and easy finishing with a birdie. So he plays the final eight holes after that par save at 11 five under par. And Justin Leonard shoots 68 and gets his first win on the PGA Tour Champions in his 45th start as he shoots 15 under par, beats Billy Andrade by four and Darren Clarke by five. Fred Couples with the low round of the day with a six under 66, but Justin Leonard the winner. Let's hear from our champion.

OC/VO> It's it's been, it's been a long time since I've won. And I tell myself all the time that I. That I have won. But, you know, it's easy to, to kind of forget a little bit and say, well, you know, is it going to be. And I just, put a lot of work in, you know, starting I mean, last year was so bad. It was good. It was good for me. Made some changes, with my golf swing and and, you know, I've got a great situation with Randy Smith and Mike Thomas. And, you know, it's just, it's so fun to finally be here. Because I always felt like I would be, but it's nice to finally get it done.

VO/OC> Justin Leonard had focus and a plan coming into this tour and is rewarded with victory and a big jump in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. Ernie Els regains the top spot over Miguel Angel the minute, while Chubb runner up Billy Andrade soars into the top five. Darren Clark solo third zooms him into the top ten. If a players to watch in 2025 list existed on this tour, chances are Richard Green would be at the

top. The Aussie left hander has been a huge presence as he begins his third full season on PGA Tour Champions. Six times a runner up overall, twice in playoffs and third in the Charles Schwab Cup standings last season, the lefty is unquestionably in line for a breakthrough victory. A couple of full seasons on this tour, what to what do you attribute, you know, just your amazing performance and kind of rise on this tour since joining?

OC> Just a lot of hard work. You know, I've been really inspired to, to improve my game and get my game up to the competitive level required to compete with a lot of, you know, Langer and Ernie Els and Padraig Harrington and Steve Stricker and all these guys, you know, I've put in the work to, to to get there, I guess. And I think that's what, it's nice to see the fruits of that effort, to be honest. You know, it's, it's still a work in progress and it's something that I feel like to to stay in that window, still requires, you know, a lot of hard work.

OC> What is it about your game? Which. How would you describe it? I guess if you. If this were auto racing, what would you be an aggressive, player, like an aggressive driver? Or does situations just dictate how you are going to perform week to week?

OC/VO> It's interesting analogy to put, motor racing in there, you know, I think it's, you know, 2 to 4 different sports in the way you got to handle it. But, you know, I think I'd be certainly a contender in motor racing if I put the same effort or the effort into it in, in every aspect of it that I do with golf. So, you know, whether you're one of those guys that takes on really, you know, I would say ballsy corners if you like, you know, where you really put everything on the, on the line, you know, there's drive is to do that and there's other drivers that don't, but, so want to win, you've got to kind of take on those opportunities every now and again. And, you know, when you practice hard, in motor racing or whether it be golf, those opportunities become a little bit more doable.

OC> What do you think in the past couple of years has been tested more your game or your patience?

OC/VO> My game has been tested, you know, at the at the highest level, you know, competing with the best and best of my generation, you know, your belief in yourself and your confidence and your game. So, you know, you've got to go and perform if you want to win.

OC> Well, in terms of confidence. And you've won everywhere around the world and all these different tours and talking to players here, they feel it's inevitable you're going to win here. Has that been something that you think about? I know you've been close. Is how do you kind of push forward with that and find positives in those areas?

OC/VO> Yeah. You know, I'd like to think the fact that I have won, you know, seven or 7 or 8 times around the world at different times, you know, you'd like to get confidence out of that and know that you can do it. I certainly have to to some, to some level, it's just, it's a shame that I haven't done it more often in the same season and year after year, like some of the great guys, great golfers have done. You know, a lot of my wins have come in ten year gaps between a win, you know, so so for me, it feels like it's a little bit more hard earned. But I believe that's where I want to be. You know, I do everything every day to, to, to push myself into that winning space. And, you know, I think it's just a matter of allowing myself to do it. So, you know, I'm giving myself every chance to to win, and it's just, you know, letting the cards fall at the right time.

OC> It's going to happen.

OC> Yeah. Thanks. Thanks, Vince.

OC/VO> Appreciate it. Richard's nickname could be Tee to Green, given his strong overall game and a swing that has gone relatively unchanged over the years. According to those who have known and competed against him. We spoke with some of his fellow competitors for more insight on Richard Green, who celebrates his 54th birthday on Wednesday.

OC/VO> Richard Green, he's come so close so many times and it's only a matter of time. It feels like everyone. You keep saying that, but he's still got to do it so. And like anything, it doesn't. It doesn't get given to you.

VO> From the Ozzie who's been a four-time bridesmaid this season.

OC/VO> You know, Richard Green. He's had a great season. But yeah, he's just missed out. He's got to be due a win some time, he has been second and third so many times this year.

VO/OC> Greeny right there. Exceptional golf swing exceptional golf swing.

VO/OC> He's playing good enough golf to do it. It just needs to fall into his lap at the right time.

VO/OC> You know the first one is always the toughest. No matter what tour. Doesn't matter if you start and you win it on a little tour or on the Korn Ferry tour and the next one, you know, you step your level up, then you want to win on the PGA tour. But he's he's won in Europe. So, he's won the Common Australia. He won even on the Legends tour before he came out here. So, he knows how to win.

VO/OC> He's getting better around the greens and he's going to beat people soon he will win soon. It's just a matter of time.

VO/OC> Coming up next on Learning Center. Another year another crop of new faces joining the over 50 circuit. We have international talent as well as some American made the PGA Tour Champions just keeps getting better. The international wave continues on PGA Tour Champions. Joining full time in 2025 is Sweden's Freddie Jakobsen, a winner on the PGA tour and three times internationally. Jacobson finished second at qualifying school back in December. Prior to that, a top ten in the Constellation Furyk and Friends just after turning 50 in September, it's very apparent Freddie is ready. And Freddie Jacobson with us and jumping into 2025. It's good to see you out here, and I'm wondering how much of a springboard was Q school for you to start your PGA Tour Champions career?

OC> Coming into it, Vince I knew I was playing a little bit of the career money list, so. But we moved back to Sweden when I took a few years off, you know, from 2019 onwards. So, I wanted to to me, it was super important to get that ranking, to just make sure I could plan a little better, you know, and go to a few in a row. So it was a springboard in that aspect because it helped tremendously to plan the season.

OC> And then great performance at the Constellation Furyk and friends as well. It's a nice way to start, right?

OC/VO> Yeah, yeah. No, I was very fortunate. I was, lucky to get an invite last minute for my 50th birthday there. We went over kind of trying the Monday qualifiers for the two events dip to toast a little bit in the water and, you know, got that invite then? Yeah. Played really well and got to feel it a little bit again. It was nice.

VO/OC> Tell me about the pace of PGA Tour Champions. Is it different in that three rounds. And you really have to put the pedal down quickly.

OC/VO> You can definitely tell you know some low scoring going on last week in Morocco was a difficult course. You know tricky greens. You know, I think this one before the guys that drive it well, you know, you get some chances, but it's also challenging, you know, so it's not you still got to do the job, but it's definitely low scoring. And you get, you know, three rounds if you're in, it's after day one day two, you know, you know you got a chance. You want to you want to get off hot.

VO/OC> So what would be prime Freddie Jacobson we see now if I took you on a time machine, you know, 25 years ago, you would say, oh, he still does this very well at this point. Or maybe better.

VO/OC> The one thing I'm hoping I can benefit a little bit is being away for a little while. You know, maybe a perspective in some aspects, you know, when it comes to preparations before the tournament starts, maybe course management a little bit, stuff like that, I think want to just step away a little bit, then you're away from the game and do all this stuff, you know, and play other sports for a while and just let it rest a little bit. You come back with a little fresher eyes. So I think, yeah, you know, that's one aspect I hope I can benefit a little bit from age. I was always kind of go for broke kind of guy on the course, but, you know, maybe still, but we'll see.

OC> Well, this isn't pickleball anymore. I guess this is, something entirely different. It's nice, isn't it, to be able to have another chapter in your career? I mean, and you don't have to do this Freddie. I know you've been very successful business wise. Why are you back here? And what do you hope to accomplish here?

OC> I think, you know, you can tell also a lot of the guys, you know, I think it's very appreciative to have a second tour to play, you know, and it's very competitive. And I think the guys you take care of yourself better when you have goals, you have ambitions, you set up your goals for the season, what you want to play and what you want to achieve. So I like that aspect to stay active, to stay focused. And, you know, I think you take care of your health a lot better and and you have fun doing it. So, that's why I kind of back at it because it's it brings you in a little bit. And I think we all like that.

OC> So what can you tell us about your schedule in 2025? How will that work for you?

OC> I was first I was thinking like 15 events or something, but I wouldn't be surprised if I play around 20 events this year. That would that be my goal to be around that number.

OC> Nice to grab a win wouldn't it as a rookie?

OC> For sure. For sure. Yes. But yes we we had breakfast together. He was talking about Hawaii and how nice it is out there, and you know it would take care of a lot of things. I think, you know, for me, it would certainly take care of getting into the majors. I'm really keen on getting into the US senior. I know I'm into the Open.

But the PGA, you know, all the majors and the invitations would be nice to give myself a chance to to take care of that. So, yeah, we'll do our best.

OC> Wonderful to have you out here. All right.

OC> Thank you so much. Thanks Vince.

VO> Philippe Aguilar comes aboard PGA Tour Champions after a top five in qualifying school as well. He becomes the first Chilean born player to have full time status on this tour, with 27 professional wins Asia, Europe and South America. Aguilar is yet another battle tested 50-year-old excited about the next step.

VO/OC> I'm one of those guys I've been lucky enough to, to do certain things in life, and I was lucky enough to be the first Chilean to win the DP tour on the Challenge Tour. South America, play the Olympics now playing, the most competitive senior tour in the world. So I'm really, I feel blessed and, hopefully I'm up to it.

OC > After a wonderful showing in Q school, Mark Walker ready to show out on PGA Tour Champions, giving it another go here. Congratulations on being here.

OC> Thank you.

OC> Before we get to what we're talking about here we will have a putting tip or two. Tell me about your journey. And tell us about your journey back here and playing on PGA tour.

OC/VO> Yeah, the journey. It's a long one. It's played a lot of mini tour stuff. Played the Nationwide Tour for several years. Always struggled with the putter. Could never get over the hump because the putting wouldn't allow it. Ball striking was always there, but the putter was always held me back. Played until I was like 48, and then decided I'm going to wait until the Champions Tour came up. Once it did, I went to tour school and finish with top 30 with a chance to get, you know, top five. But anyway, that kind of started off and it was been Monday qualifying and fighting that battle. And you know how that is frustrating.

OC> You've done a little bit of everything too right? What was it? Lawn maintenance did some bartending over the years.

OC> Bartending that was all when I was going to school.

OC> Whatever it takes.

OC/VO> So yeah. And then played, you know, I was playing in between mini tour stuff, always was able to support myself through the mini tours, which is shocking. And then here we are.

VO/OC> Here we are. Well, I wish you the very best year. So, you talked about putting struggles over the years and I know well we can all relate.

OC> Yeah.

OC> So I wonder if you would walk us through, some of the check points that you use now.

OC> Okay. Sure. Yeah, sure. I try and get stable. I try and get consistent with the grip and the way I set the left hand on the grip every time. I think that's a very important part of what I do, allows my consistency from day to day to be to move on the same or closer to the same. That's one aspect of it. The other is the lower body. So, I try and have the lower body as stable and as still as possible during the stroke. Right. So, I want the forearms aligned with the shaft, not cocked or anything more straight in line. And those are my three check points. When I get ready or before around pre round, I'll go through those check points and hit some putts and kind of get make sure those three, those three things are in line. And then that's what we do and that's what we work on in all the time in practice at home as I'm working on those three points.

VO> So, let's let it rip.

OC> So yeah so again it's get the left hand on the grip the exact same way, which for me is like this. And then the lower body is stable as possible, and then the forearms in line with each other. And then from there it's just be athletic. You know and make the stroke. And it's pretty simple sometimes.

OC> Yeah. Making it work. Well it's great to see you out here. Congratulations.

OC> Thank you so much. Yeah.

OC> And now that you're here, you know, what are your personal goals?

OC/VO> Get out here and get some consistency. That's one thing I've been lacking. You know, during the Monday qualify play one week and then I don't maybe not play for a month. So being consistent and being able to play tournament after tournament, you know, I like to see where it'll go, but obviously top 30 if not top 54 would be obviously key. And maybe even a win.

OC> Well, maybe take us out with one more.

OC> Okay, one more putt it.

OC> Appreciate it. This is for top 30.

OC> Yeah. Top 30 right here. There it is.

OC> Good to see you. Appreciate your time.

OC> Thank you.

VO> When Learning Center returns a special golf reunion on several levels.

OC> Bob what's this swing doing?

OC> You know, I haven't actually looked at what it's supposed to be doing. It's blowing.

OC> It's blowing. That's good enough.

VO> Billy and fluff and why it's the 1980s all over again. Plus, Morocco. Miguel, why winning in his 60s is possible for Miguel Angel Jimenez, the mechanic making sure to tune that engine in the gym. He's known as the most interesting man in golf, or sometimes as the mechanic. And while Miguel Angel Jimenez enjoys life to the fullest, it's not all fine wine and expensive cigars. Okay, it's a lot of that. But for some two decades, he followed a golf focused method to maintain movement and mobility even at age

61. Jimenez takes us with him inside the gym and reveals the fitness routine he lives by during tournament weeks.

VO/OC> Every morning, come tournament days as well every morning. And then, on the beginning of the week before the start, working with the two days with the weight and the full body. Monday is legs with abdominals. Increase the next day, maybe working shoulders with arms. (INAUDIBLE) always, always.

OC> Like a quarterback and his trusty tight end. Or a pitcher and a reliable catcher. The player and caddie in golf work together hole by hole to conquer an event. Their relationship is big parts trust and chemistry. Take, for example, Bernhard Langer and Terry Holt, or more recently, Miguel Angel Jimenez and Cliff both are winning in Morocco. Well at the Chubb classic. We spotlight a tandem, this one with a reunion almost 40 years in the making. Billy and Fluff back together again.

OC/VO> It's 2025. And in 1987 I just got out of college and I was going to Q school and I got to the finals and Gypsy Joe Grillo was going to caddie for me and first day of practice round. No Gypsy. So I went out and played. It was kind of spitting rain. And I get to the seventh hole and I get behind the seventh green. I look and there's Fluff and it's raining and he's sitting there like this, you know, and no umbrella. And I said, hey fluff, what's up? He goes, Gypsy can't make it. I'm going to caddie for you. And I went, okay, great.

OC/VO> That's the kind of guy he is. Just okay, great. And to this day, with all the clubs that I've kind of helped out on, I call it the best club I ever pulled in my life.

OC> I thought for sure if he said hit a driver, I'd hit a driver. If he said, you know, a soup spoon, I would have taken the soup spoon, whatever he said I was going to hit and he said, five iron. And, you know, I hit a five iron, 190 yards, tops. Maybe at that. Maybe in those days, 180. And it was 230. And I said, yes, yes, sir. I just I just did what he, what he told me to do. And I cannot believe it jumped. And it ran up there to ten feet. And just everything just was like, we're good now. And I got my PGA tour card. So.

OC> Yes, sir.

OC> And 38 years later you're caddying for me again.

OC> Here I am again.

VO/OC> Yeah. So, every year, you know Bay Hill after Bay Hill, you drive up to play the players Championship and you get on 95 and you go right past Palm Coast. I get to I'd get to to the Players Championship. I see Fluff on the putting green. I just slip him \$100. He goes, what the hell are you doing? I said, listen, I just went past Palm Coast. That's where this whole thing began. Just go out and have a nice dinner on me and just think about how this thing all started.

OC> It became my annual annuity.

OC> So he did it for years. It was awesome.

VO> It was more than just once he did this for me or to me.

VO> Yeah, yeah, it was great.

VO> And that will do it from Florida's Paradise Coast. PGA Tour Champions resumes the second weekend in March at the Cologuard Classic in Tucson. Until then I'm Vince Cellini, as always. Thank you for watching. And we'll see you next time.