

2025 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW #6

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > PGA Tour Champions closed out the month of March with back-to-back weeks in Southern California. Historic Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, where the Gallery Classic celebrated its third season.

VO > And what storylines we had on Sunday. Australian Steve Allan making the most of his opportunity in the field by virtue of a Steve Stricker withdrawal. Allan led the way over the final 18, firing a blistering 31 on his front nine. Yet pushing the Aussie was Tag Ridings after qualifying writings came ever so close to a first win in just his second start on PGA Tour Champions. He birdied holes 14 through 16 to climb within one of Allan, but that's where it ended. Both finished par par.

VO > Steve Allan, 28 start of the PGA Tour Champions makes par at 18 and wins by a shot. His first win on the PGA Tour Champions comes at Mission Hills. He is the winner of the Galleri Classic.

VO > And Steve Allen is a first-time winner on PGA Tour Champions at the Galleri Classic. Our Bob Papa with a recap.

VO OC > PGA Tour Champions for the third straight year in Rancho Mirage, California. Mission Hills Country Club the Gallery Classic. Steve Allan had a one-shot lead over Tag Riding. Ridings shot 63, in round number two, a Monday qualifier. Allan looking for his first win on the PGA Tour Champions. And John Cook, they did not look nervous at all. Playing in that last group.

OC > They certainly didn't look like a couple of players that had not won in a long time, but they can punch counterpunch, birdies being made by all these great players. And Steven Allan took advantage of that great opportunity.

OC VO > Steve Allan got off to a fast start, birdied the first two holes and then added a birdie at the fifth and then at the par three eighth just locked in.

VO > Yeah, I've always said going into Sunday with a chance to win, just don't give away the par threes. Well, he birdied the par three number five and hits this curl into number eight and takes advantage of that opportunity at the other par three on the front nine.

VO > That got him to 14 under. Then he rolls in this birdie putt at the ninth. And this would open up a four-shot lead over Steve now. Absolute dream. Start going out in 31 with the lead.

VO > Tag Ridings birdie 10 11 then birdied 14 and 15. And this was his second in the 16. And look at that. Hits it to about a foot. So, you know he's going to get to 14 under. Steve Allan, he played his second shot to the back of the green and made this long putt which pretty much locked in the tournament.

VO > Yeah. Drove it to the right. Hit a nice wedge shot to the back of the green. Just trying to creep the putt down and it falls in that front edge.

VO > So, he maintains a one-shot lead. Then Tag Ridings down a shot and pulls his tee shot left

VO > Ultimate opportunity for Tag Ridings as long as he is he it's a drive in the fairway. He's going to have a short iron into this par five. Got a little bit quick, maybe a little ahead of himself.

VO > Steve Allan two putts for card beat Tag Ridings by a shot. He made an incredible par and actually had a birdie putt that came close to going in. But in the end Steve Allen in his 28th start on the PGA Tour Champions, a one shot win over Tag Ridings. Schwab Cup leader Miguel Angel Jimenez in that group tied for third. Let's hear from our champion at The Galleri Classic.

OC > He's had all day. I mean, you know, I played really well. The other guys are playing well, too. Obviously jumped out, you know, to birdies on the front nine. And then it's just trying not to get ahead of yourself. And I'm not very good ahead of the best of time. So, I was really just trying to bear down. You know I didn't play poorly. I think a couple of putts in the middle of the round and I could have, really sort of kept going, but, you know, Tag came hard at the back nine and, I was lucky to sneak one in on 16 there, which gave me not really breathing room, but it kept me ahead.

OC > It's been quite some time since that last victory, as a player to go through and, and we've all experienced as veteran players. Did you ever think you're going to get back in that winner's circle?

OC VO > I don't know. I don't know, I mean, I can't say, you know, funny story. I won the Australian Open in 2002, and it was my second win in four years after my first win. And I told my girlfriend, now my wife won't be four years till I win again. Unfortunately, it's been 23 years, so, it's a bigger place to get to get a win. You know, I was coaching the PGA tour a couple of times, didn't get over the line. You know, once it was completely my fault. And the other time, Kenny Perry had a hot finish, and I didn't. So, it was really good to really get to hang on there and and finish off. You know, I can plan a schedule as far as I know. It gets into every tournament as far as I know. So, it's great. If you need a week off, you can take it. So yeah, it's it's fantastic.

VO > Thank you. On to the Schwab Cup standings. An oasis in the desert for Allan, who jumps up 56 spots with his first victory. Two-time 2025 winner Jimenez remains the leader ever present. Steven Alker was two three and moves into second place with Ernie Els dropping to third. Justin Leonard and Stewart Cink making their presence felt in rounding out the top five. With another event this weekend look for more movement in the season long race.

VO > 65-year-old Fred Couples, a past winner in the Coachella Valley back in 1998 and a contender in last week's Hoag classic, did a slight look ahead while practicing in Mission Hills. And for good reason. Freddy is about to play in his 40th Masters Tournament this month and shared his favorite memory following his 1992 victory there. Spoiler alert it wasn't just his play.

VO > I get fired up for Augusta. I get fired up for a lot of tournaments, but not not as much as you do in Augusta, but 40 years? No idea. It's a long time.

VO > Favorite memory besides winning?

VO OC > Actually, after I won in the champions locker, I had seen Gene Sarazen. I'd seen Sam Snead, on the range and doing stuff. But in the, you know, my first year sitting at the front desk with Mr. Stevens and Byron Nelson was a little nerve wracking, but Gene Sarazen was unreal. And of course, everyone knows the meal that I chose was chicken catch story for Gene Sarazen. But that's my favorite memory really, is seeing those old guys. And there are a lot of other old guys that really helped me. But Gene Sarazen was, you know, he's this tall and the kindest man in the world. And for some reason he liked my golf game, and we were talking after I won. And he goes, son, I just believe that, you know, you're you're you should be able to birdie. I'm like, I

know I should be able to birdie every par five. But what happens when I, you know, I'm trying to change the subject when I hook it in the creek on 13. Well, you don't want to do that. But he was so cool. But anyway, the whole thing is amazing. Probably 1983. My first year I walked up to the locker room and the guy knew my name, you know, the guard, and I thought that was amazing, too. You know, I don't know why this guy would know me, but they know everybody's. So, it's a it's a once in a lifetime trip, and I get to 40 times.

VO > The incomparable Fred Couples bounce back from a rough start at Mission Hills to finish seven under par on the weekend and tie for 54th. Next stop for Freddy, Augusta National.

VO > When Learning Center returns, Ernie Els doing double duty between tour events, the Big Easy in course designer mode and travel south of the border to see his canvas. Plus, it's in the cards. Three decades of time, that is. The players look so different in 1992. Yeah, who didn't?

VO > Last Sunday, Ernie Els went from course management at the Hoag Classic to course design in Mexico. Following play at Newport Beach, Ernie hopped in his private jet and shifted into Ernie Els design mode, landing in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, to get an up-close look at a piece of property that will eventually become Oleada Golf Links Los Cabos, an 18 hole links style championship course, another feather in Ernie's cap.

VO > Ernie and Alker, both going to finish at 12 under. Ernie came into the week with a \$23,300 lead over Alker, so that's not going to change because they're tied for the week.

VO OC > So, we just played the Hoag classic yeah, Newport Beach Country Club Sunday afternoon. We had a beautiful weather week. I had a pretty nice week. I was trying to get up there on the leaderboard, but, ended up three shots behind Miguel Angel, who won today. And then we off on our little Monday excursion. You know, I do a lot of these Monday excursions. You know, we have quite a few jobs around the world. You've been with me to Portugal, be going down to Oleada you know, down in, the Baja. We'll spend the day down there tomorrow. We got quite a few holes that are mapped out, and then we'll go see what the boys have done so far. Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, one of the golfing meccas in the world, standing on this most beautiful property. It's just amazing place. Got a great team involved. Yeah, two great shapers. We got Brad, our project manager. Everybody very exciting to see what we're going to do with the golf course. At four golf holes on the hill there, that's. It's basically getting grassed in. And we just busy with this part of the, of the property in the sand. So really exciting stuff.

VO OC > You know, I worked on sites throughout the world, and Oleada is really so special. I mean, the man upstairs gave us this, this site, and all we can do is fit our holes with our routing and our strategy into it. And every time I come out here in the morning or in the evenings, the sun is so different, and you see so much. And when you look at, a hole and in the morning, they'll say, wow. And then you take a whole different perspective in the afternoon. And Ernie and I are just so excited about the opportunity to create a course, not only the top in Mexico, but throughout the world.

VO OC > Well, whenever we can work in sand as golf, as golf design designers, we get very excited. This is, you know, we got basically 14 holes in the sand. Yeah, we're going to move this stuff around. It's going to be fantastic. It's going to be spectacular. So, we're very excited about us. I actually hit a couple of shots as you can feel and yeah, there's a lot of wind. So, we got to take that in consideration with our length of holes.

VO OC > It's a lot of fun. This morning, you know, Ernie and I, we're out, you know, walking and driving the site. And for me, you know, I'll set the golf course up, but Ernie, he'll test it. He had shots today. And, you know, with the wind, you know, his experience playing in open venues, you know, lends itself to creating something even more special than, you know, any other golf course architectural team in the world.

VO OC > It was a team effort this morning. Got it very condensed. Myself and Greg got a lot of good work done because the guys need to get in the dirt. As you can see, we got a lot of sand to work with. Which makes us really excited. You know, whenever we can work in sand, it's heaven for us. So, we in the sand shaping around, trying to get a holes the right length. So, Greg's got a good, opportunity to get to the shape us and really get going.

VO > So how long until this spectacular property on the southern point of Mexico's Baja Peninsula becomes reality? Else is pushing for a grand opening to happen next year.

VO > You know the old saying Father Time is undefeated. And while PGA Tour Champions players continue to compete, there is no doubt their games and their appearances have changed. 1992 PGA Tour Pro Set trading cards serve as a further reminder that time marches on. We asked players to react to their images on the cards and what message they would deliver to their younger selves.

VO OC > Nice pants What the hell as I anyway?

VO > What does that bring back when you see those pictures?

OC > Youngness. You know what was cool? Look at the old Footjoy. See the old Foojoy when we talk. Scottie and I were talking about it. And they made it the all leather. Well, those are white and brown and the white and black money. Those days are over.

OC VO > I think this was in England somewhere. I don't know which tournament. Could have been the Benson and Hedges. It's not just, it's been around for a long time. I've seen thousands of them over the years. So, it had to be a cold day wearing waterproofs, but that's all I remember. I look a lot younger with more hair.

OC > When you look at that card can you believe it's been 30 years?

OC > Thanks for reminding me. I don't think I've been out here for three decades. I only been dead 11 times. I'm like Lazarus. I just keep coming back from the dead. Wow, that was a handsome little fellow. That's when I that's when I could actually play the game, you know

OC > What would you tell that guy in 1992?

OC > Hey. Great life.

OC > It's a cool card I get about. Honestly.

OC > Yeah. How many years have you think?

OC > I hit. I lived in a house in Newport and never got anything I moved, not exaggerating. It's great. I get 25 to 30 a day of something to sign. I'm so far behind. But it's a cool card. It's one of my favorite. I like the outfit folks. It says my name and then it says large 186. Right below that. This is worth \$0.03 and if you send it to me, I sign it goes up to \$0.09. So, if you have a million of these, what is that, 900,000.

OC > Something like that? Yeah. I'm not a math guy.

OC > Not bad.

OC > I don't know. It's been a long one. I've seen a lot of this, but I don't know who's who print it out.

OC > That's from a rookie box of 1992.

OC > 1992. It's a long time isn't it.

OC > Yeah. Well, what would a 2025 Vijay Singh tell a 1992 Vijay Singh?

OC > I wish I was back there again. You know, I wish I had I give him all the knowledge I have now about the game, but so wishful thinking.

OC VO > Yeah, I remember that little thing. My shirt said Cajun Caddy. It was like a crawfish with a golf clubs on his back. So yeah, I got that. I knew, gave me some shirts to get started, and yeah, it was back then it was all, I mean, if I had more patience, I would have done a lot better. You know, I'm a lot like the kids are now where they want everything now, you know, everything's accessible. And to think that it. You know, it's a journey. It takes a long time. If I could have told myself back then, you know, you go from being one of the best players in junior golf to one of the best players in college, and then all of a sudden, you're playing against Tom Watson and Greg Norman and guys like that. And it was quite the adjustment. So, if I could have just given myself a little more patience and wait it out, maybe I would have done even better.

VO > Coming up, Stewart sink with a fairy tale that is very real. Why you'll need to rethink Goldilocks as a path to helping your game. Three bears not included.

VO > Always seeking pathways to improve, Stewart Cink has a unique approach that brings to mind an old fairy tale. Sink calls it the Goldilocks drill, and it can apply to almost any swing and any club. Sometimes it's about taking information or coaching and finding new ways to help it register. Stewart explains why he calls this tip by that name, which seems just right.

OC > Hi there, Stewart Cink here with the PGA Tour Champions. I'm at the range here at the Westin La Paloma in Tucson. And I want to show you a little thing we call the Goldilocks. And the reason we call it Goldilocks, it's a we're looking for a good, better, best thing here with these three golf balls I've got on the range. And the way to start it is I've always liked things in my golf swing that I find that I can't do too much of, like, I there's no way to overdo it. So, the premise of this little drill is I start off by doing one of those feels good, and then I try to add to it and do it better, and then I try to exaggerate it to the point of where it's like almost ridiculous. And we call that the best. So, here's the Goldilocks drill. And in this case, what I'm trying to do is to, get my club pointed a little bit laid off or that way, and keep my wrist nice and flat. So that would be a good. That would be a better. And then that would be like a best. It's really hard to achieve that. And sometimes I hit shots, and I feel that way, but I don't even see it. You couldn't see it. So, let's try a good. So, you start off with that. That's a I call that a good. And then you just increase whatever you're trying to do a little bit more. It doesn't have to be this with the wrist position. It could be anything. So, let's try a little bit of a better. So, I don't know if it looks like a better, but it felt like one. And now we'll really try to get extreme on it and really get that club back there with the wrist bowed out. We'll call it a best. And so, the idea is you're not really looking to see where the ball goes on these shots. It's all about ingraining feels. And I like things that I can't do

too much of and this Goldilocks trail helps me get further and further and deeper into a certain feeling.

VO > Finally, we've often seen Boo Weekley as an avid outdoorsman, away from golf, as a hunter, and more recently, an angler working the lakes of Mission Hills Country Club. Now, this is no fish story, nor is it. Well, that's up to Boo Weekly, who regales us with a good one about who taught him to fish while showing us how it's done.

OC VO > Well, I grew up on the river in Blackwater, Milton, Florida, you know, and my families always fished, and I used to fish a lot when I was really little, like six, seven, eight, nine with my great grandmama. And she loved him. She loved to bring fish, loved the kids dog life. And that was one of her favorite fish, a war mouse. Whatever people call, we call them goggles. But that's what we like. We just love to mess around and just, you know, fishing, catch fish, have a good time with it. And, you know, and she was kind of the one who taught me to the fish and we're going to see if we got one. Right. Oh, yeah. There's one right there. It. Oh, he's a spinner. Yeah. But no, she was, she's the one who kind of taught me how to bream fish and what to look for. And like when the mayflies are out and how to sweep them out the limbs and lock them in the water and the bream, would come up and pop in the water and like, we'd go in there and we'd take a fly, with a little popping bug, and we'd get bring him. I mean, it was just fun to do. This is my sanctuary to get away from golf, this and hunting my property, my tractor, all the stuff that I get to do back home is my full sanctuary. I like, I love it like, hey, Mr. Pavin. How are you, sir? I'm just fishing. I've got that too. Hey, go. Hey, Mr. Pavin, I got one about as big as you. I got one about as big as you. You eat some of these fish without this fertilizer and all the chemicals they put me, I'm jerking around like like that right there. You'd be thanking you on that. That movie, the, Thriller movie or Thriller show. When he does thriller, and they all come out like little zombies and stuff.

VO > Are you hooked yet? Well, next time we'll tell you about the one that got away. But this one is in the books. Until next time. I'm Vince Cellini. And as always, we thank you for watching PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.