

## 2025 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER GLFCICT25007ZH SHOW TRANSCRIPT

VO/OC> PGA Tour Champions rolled into April with a third consecutive week of tournament play, featuring a familiar course but brand new event in Boca Raton. The James Hardy Pro Football Hall of Fame Invitational at Broken South. With that, we say hello and welcome to PGA Tour Champions Learning Center. I'm Vince Cellini. Boca Raton is a long way from Canton Ohio yet. And still this is where NFL Hall of Famers return to the field. Or at least the course competing alongside this tour's very best. But Sunday was reserved for PGA Tour Champions players only, with a recap. The men who call the action Bob Papa and John Cook.

VO/OC> Seventh event of the year, the PGA Tour Champions in Boca Raton, Florida. The Old Course had broken south for the James Hardy Pro Football Hall of Fame Invitational and, John Cook. Pretty emotional week for Angel Cabrera, who got in when Mark Hensby withdrew shared the lead after round one with Miguel Angel Jimenez at four under par, and then shot 66 in round two to take a two shot lead going into Sunday. The big question was how would he handle the nerves?

OC/VO> Yeah, exactly. He hadn't been in this position in a long, long time. You know, two-time major championship winner also lost in a playoff at the Masters for his third one. But he's a winner. We always talk about you know how are you going to deal with when you get there if you've won before. Also how he was going to handle a little bit of stress got a little dicey there towards the end, but he handled it like the champion that he is.

VO> Let's take a look at some of the highlights here in the final round. And Cabrera did not birdie the par five first went out even par. And then at the 10th was able to stick the landing with his third. So that got him to 11 under par. Watch out for K.J. Choi. K.J. Choi made a bogey at the third, then two birdies on the front birdied the 10th and then he rolls this putt in for birdie. Cabrera would make bogey at 15 so the lead was one. And then K.J. with the birdie at the par five 16th at the tie.

VO> And until Cabrera not making birdie at the 16th with a mid-iron in his hands. That one got drew K.J. even. But boy did he play the 17th textbook. Bob. Perfect little iron shot right to the turn. Nice wedge shot right underneath the hole. Did exactly what he needed to do. Draw on all that major championship experience. And boy, did he hit some golf shots in the last two holes.

VO> Then he rolls in the putt for birdie to get back to the lead, and then tapped in at the end for par. Shoots a final round one under par 71. The 55-year-old from Argentina. We've talked about all the troubles that he's had over the last couple of years, but excited about his game and working hard on his game and a two-shot win. And now he's in the PGA Tour Champions for the rest of the year Hualalai. And full status for next year. Angel Cabrera gets his first win. Let's hear from our champion.

OC. It's very emotional. After everything that I have gone through the last couple of years. So being here to have this chance again and win again for me is very emotional.

VO> What a comeback story. Another week, another shakeup in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. While Cabrera leads 64 spots into the top ten, along with status on this tour. JJ Choi's runner up in Boca moves him into the top five along with Alex Cejka. The top three remain the same if you are of PGA Tour Champions age, you certainly recall the time when equipment had a very different look. Woods were persimmon, not metal, and golf balls had a very different composition as well. While at the James Hardie event, both ex NFL stars and the pros broke out some throwback woods and a lot of balls and gave it their best shot. Let's watch.

OC/VO> That's a good question. Last time I hit one of these. The Walker Cup in 85 was played in a Pine Valley, and I reckon I just before then, I changed to what they call the Pittsburgh Persimmon, didn't they. The Pittsburgh Persimmon, the tailor made. So it was 84. It looks 80 years old. Never mind 40 years old. But here we go. Very, very heavy. You see, these were I mean, the shafts now are 60g. This is 100 and 130g. So the speed is much less. I'm just trying to make excuses before I, wow. And also there's no loft on this club, so that's why the ball goes slightly right. Because there's less loft on the club.

OC> The funny thing is I had mine so long. I had it all the way to my freshman year in college.

OC> What?

OC> And told me I should be. I said, you got to change your driver. Go now. I love Mervyn King. Personality is pretty good. Yeah. But I didn't want to let it go because it was my baby. How did you find a lot of ball that's still white, not brown?

VO/OC> I was in president's office in Mizuno, USA. That was beautiful. Black persimmon. New driver sitting in there. Had the initials NF. You can guess. Who do you think walked away with it? I took it out of the office, and I still have it. We're trying to hit him off the ground too. So Stupid.

OC> No wind into the wind. How did I ever play with one of these? Well, one of these. Look at that. Just better than the first one. Wow, shot's a bit weak Al.

VO> You miss using those?

OC> No, no.

OC> These ones are all a touch more forgiving. Should we say the new ones?

VO> When's the last time you hit a persimmons?

OC> Want to say? Last time I hit one. Late 80s. Probably. Feels like I was 12 again. It was good, though.

VO> Speaking of reconnecting, say hello to Ronald Henry the Third. You may know him as J.J. Henry, making his PGA Tour Champions debut in Boca Raton. A three-time winner on the PGA tour and former U.S. Ryder Cup team member. Like so many before him, JJ Henry is enjoying his second act in golf, starting just two days after his 50th birthday.

OC/VO> Very grateful for the opportunity, you know, to be able to play this game for all these years. And now to almost have a, another, another, another lifeline, so to speak. It's really, really special. And, you know, quite frankly, I mean, there's really no other sport like it where you can be able to, you know, they dangle a carrot for you when you're about 50 again and, again, it's, you know, my kids now, my, I have a son in college and a and a and a son still in high school. And, like I said, just to see a lot of old faces and

stuff. It's, really rewarding to be out here. Very grateful. Quite frankly, I need to kick myself in the butt a little bit and get going. I've been, just real grateful again for the opportunity and, to be able to, come out and enjoy yourself and, you know, have some fun.

VO> JJ finally settled in after a rough first two rounds, finishing with a two under 70, tied for 59th. Henry's schedule is uncertain, as he hopes to have enough starts to make this season impactful. Coming up on Learning Center. The end of an amazing journey for Bernhard Langer, the German icon making his final start at the Masters and shares with us his thoughts on the emotional weekend ahead.

While his record on PGA Tour Champions is unmatched, it's only a portion of Bernhard Langer's incredible career timeline. A professional for over a half century, a legend in his native Germany ten times representing Europe in Ryder Cup competition, and a two time Masters champion who returns to Augusta for one last appearance as a participant. A 41st and final Masters start, Bernhard Langer is ready to say goodbye.

VO> On Sunday. One man had won a golf tournament and one man had lost.

VO> It's going to be bittersweet.

VO> Bernhard Langer, his wife Becky beside him, celebrated a championship.

VO/OC> Knowing it'll be my last time walking up the 18th as a player. But it will be. Lots of wonderful memories. Will probably flood my brain and having all the support from my family and my friends, it's going to be awesome and very emotional.

VO> Call this the Langer Comeback Part two. After tearing his left Achilles in February of last year, he returned to the Champions Tour three months later, eventually winning the season ending Charles Schwab Cup championship in dramatic final hole fashion. During his rehab, Langer missed the Masters window, pushing his final bow to the 2025 edition.

OC> I mean, not just to come back for one more Masters, you know, I wanted to come back and play more professional golf, because I still felt I was, a very good player on the Champions Tour. Under certain circumstances. And, given, you know, given conditions, I could still win.

VO> 18 consecutive years. That man has captured at least one victory. And the Hall of Famer Bernhard Langer has done it again.

VO> And so it is back to Augusta, where Bernhard has a stellar record.

VO> The Masters title was Bernhard Langer for the taking.

VO> Two wins, nine top tens, 27 cuts made and despite factors like the increase in Augusta National yardage in Langer's age now 67, as well as the challenge of walking for possibly four days, Bernhard is ever the optimist.

OC/VO> Oh, it would be phenomenal to make the cut that I understand. It's very unlikely. At my age and with my distance. It's all about this since I still have the game, but, even the courses on the on the PGA Tour Champions are getting long for me, and, and we're probably playing 4 or 500 yards less than they do on average. So it will be a struggle, I think. But I will give it my best effort.

VO> His effort has been extraordinary, particularly when you consider Langer was an oddity in his first Masters in 1982 as the first Masters participant from Germany. His performance there inspire the next generation of German golfers who saw what was possible call it the Langer effect.

VO/OC> Golf has grown quite a bit in Germany. We have, now a lot more professionals on the various tours around the world. When I first started, I was the only one, that had any kind of success. And then, you know, we had several others, some have become great champions and tournament winners and even world number one with Martin Kaymer, double major champion. That's a pretty special coming from, a place like Germany where golf is really not popular.

VO> Bernhard Langer will always return to Augusta beyond this edition as a past champion, and perhaps one day as an honorary starter. But this week he plays, taking a final bow and admiring his Masters legacy.

VO> Augusta National had tried its best, but Bernhard Langer had proven to be truly the master of the course this week.

VO/OC> What I'm most proud of is probably just winning and the consistency I've had. I've made lots of cuts in a row there, which is not not easy to do. I fell in love with the place, and I still it's still one of my favorite tournaments every year. What I'd like to be remembered off is hopefully not just a great champion and player, but also a good person and somebody that loves God and loves people.

VO> As Bernhard Langer makes his final trip around Augusta National as a competitor, Joe Highsmith, fresh off his victory at the Cognizant Classic, will be making his Masters debut but shaping up to be a special week for Heisman and his caddie, Joe LaCava. The fourth young Joe is no stranger to the spotlight, having caddied for Steve Stricker during this 2023 region's tradition when guiding Charley Woods at the PNC Championship and working with Fred Couples on the PGA Tour Champions. Meanwhile, Couples, the 1992 Masters champion, famously won his green jacket with Joe LaCava the third on his bag. This week at Augusta, couples is eager to see both father and son in action together.

OC/VO> I texted him, see him Monday morning at a first tee at Augusta. So now I got to work on Cantlay a little bit, see if he'll squeeze in and play with us. I'm sure he well, Patrick's a good guy and my guy Tiger's hurt, so he's not going to be in my group or I'm not going to be in his group, I should put it that way. So Augusta will be a treat. Highsmith went up there the last couple days and played film. He's been there before, but for a little man to win on the PGA tour, to come from caddying to want to do what his dad did at Wingfoot, driving over an hour each day to caddie, get the grind and then get a couple of bags he's caddied on the Korn Ferry, he caddied for me. But that's a humongous deal for not just Highsmith, but for LaCava too.

VO> Next on Learning Center valuable course insights from three past champions Larry Mize, Sandy Lyle and Bernhard Langer sharing their Augusta National expertise. Plus, discover why Sam Snead went off the menu at Vijay Singh's Champions Dinner in 2001. The Masters Club was established in 1952 when Ben Hogan hosted a dinner for all Masters champions, including Bobby Jones and Clifford Roberts, during tournament week. Originally held on Friday, it has become a Tuesday tradition every year at the Masters, the dinner menus have been as varied as the Champions themselves. For example, 2000 Masters winner Vijay Singh served Thai food, which included chicken curry along with sea scallops, Chilean sea bass and lamb. Players have the option to order off the menu, and Vijay recalls one famous player who did just that.

OC> Everybody liked it, which is what you want to achieve is, you know, make sure everybody enjoys the food. So the only person that did not eat Thai food or was used to it was Sam Snead. So he he ordered a steak. But he missed out.

VO> Vijay lived the Masters victory experience, as did these three players who have won the green jacket Larry Mize, Sandy Lyle and Bernhard Langer offering this fireside chat, sharing course knowledge and advice to their fellow players competing in this most unique of golf events.

OC> Y'all all have some young guys ever come to you and ask you for advice, and if they do, what do you like to tell them when they come to say, hey, you know you've won here, you got to experience what are you what do you tell them?

OC/VO> I've played with a few Scottish pals over the years that have been there for the first time, and they ask questions and, you know, I like to sort of say to them, you know, you've obviously got to make sure where your misses are on the right place. And but I think the little belly wedge is a very useful shot. When you're on the edge of the green or just off of the green, lights, if you go over the back of the, the 18th that everybody tries to chip it or they try to putt it and not very successful, but the little belly wedge I've always found is a kind of secret shot that I've learned. And can use it in many places. The back of the ninth, back of the 18th. If you go over the back at the ninth, even if you missed the green at number eight and you go down past it of a little belly wedge running through, because the very sticky fringe, you know, the fringes are like the sort of built like this, the fringes. And if you land on the front side, it stops dead. You land on the other side, it goes off like a shot. The fringes of, very, very difficult to play with. And that's sticky grass. So I've, I've always told anybody I'm playing with work away with you. Your belly wedge quite a lot. It's a very useful shot to have.

OC/VO> Right. That's interesting. I would never try that. I'm way too nervous to do this. But worried about just how good he is. He's nothing. Father says go. He's got steady hands. Yeah, I've had a few German guys that, Martin Kaymer or Alex Cejka or some, of the younger amateurs that have, qualified, you know, asked me for to play a practice round and pick my brain. I'm sure we've all experienced it. And that's what was passed on to us from the guys like Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus and some of the older gents. We're trying to pass it on to the younger generation right.

OC> So what do you tell some of them?

OC> Well, similar to what Sandy said, I think the key is angles for me and where you leave your second shot, you know, you want to keep it below the hole. I'd rather have a 30-footer uphill than a ten footer

downhill. Or even a six-footer downhill. You know, so, you know, try and try and keep the ball below the hole or don't broadside yourself. That's for me. The key around around that golf course.

OC> And you can blow your whole tournament just in the first five holes if you're not careful. Yeah. As we all know.

OC> It's a very, very much a second shot golf course. I've always thought I mean, you've really got to. I know when you guys won, you had to be hitting your irons really well. I mean, you got to put the ball in the right spot.

OC/VO> The green changed dramatically, didn't it? I mean, in the eight is nine is the fairways were right 5080 yards wide. And it was all about angles. And then they introduced semi cut rough and then they planted 5000 trees. Right. You know for instance 11 I mean that that fairway was close to 100 yards wide in the old days 90 yards. Now it's a good tee shot to hit the fairway. So they've they've taken some angles out. You know number five for instance in the old days I always try to keep it left near the trees. So I have a better angle into the green. Well now you have to play right of the bunkers. And it's a much tougher angle into that green is.

VO> 515 yards.

OC> That's another story. Yeah, but they hit it that much further. How about you? When you play with young guys, what do you tell them?

OC/VO> I'll tell you. But I agree with it is a much tougher driving golf course. It used to be well you know, a lot of the same things here. You know, as far as keeping below the hole and watch out for some certain areas and, you know, everything breaks toward Amen corner. Always letting them know the whole property slopes that direction. So really be careful with that in your putts. But one of the things that I really like to tell them is don't wear yourself out. To me, I think it's very easy to come to Augusta for the first time. You got the great golf course, you got the great practice range, and you just wear yourself out. And by the time Thursday comes around, you're already a little fatigued. So I'll try and tell them, pace yourselves, don't beat yourself up, get some practice in, but get away and get some time because it's real easy to over practice at Augusta or any major over practice and wear yourself out. So that is one of the things I like to tell them

OC> So it's a very hilly golf course. It's, you know, physically more strenuous the most.

OC> It's a good walk. So, you know, I know people have come there and they've played 36 holes on Tuesday and stuff like that. And I'm thinking, guys don't do that. You know it'd be better off. Play 18 Monday, play nine Tuesday, nine Wednesday and practice and get ready and go. So that's some of the things I like to tell them.

VO> That will do it for this edition of Learning Center. As spring has arrived in Georgia and we are about to experience, in the words of Jim Nantz., a tradition unlike any other. I'm Vince Cellini, and we'll see you next time.