

2026 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW #5

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > Back to back weeks on PGA Tour Champions meant moving west. The stop was Southern California and Newport Beach Country Club. We close out the month of March with the 2026 Hoag Classic. With that, we welcome you to PGA Tour Champions Learning Center, where a strong field assembled for the fifth event of the season. World Golf Hall of Fame members and major champions making their way to Newport Beach Country Club, where the past five winners boasted an average winning score of 15 under par. with more on a wild weekend here's Bob Papa and Paul Azinger.

OC > Well, thanks, Vince. Through five events of the PGA Tour Championship season, Stewart Cink becomes the first multiple winner as he wins the whole classic, and Paul Azinger it's game, seems to be completely rounded into form. He knows the golf courses now. He knows the tour. He knows the rhythm of the PGA Tour Champions, and it looks like there's no stopping him.

OC > Well there's not. If he can keep hitting it like he did today. You know, he just has eliminated the hook altogether and can swing as hard as he wants. And this week he was deadly accurate with power. And he completely dominated really. And separated himself even though it was close in the middle of it. It was just obvious that Stewart was in control. He's the next level player and he's the dominant force on champions, for sure.

OC VO > Yeah, and really, the whole tournament switched with his final shot of round number two. He only had 205 yards in with a six iron at the par five 18th. Pick the spot. And this was just perfect.

VO < It can't be any more perfect. It was the rarest of all shots, the double eagle. You'd never see this ever. And I actually dropped a little hyperbole today on the on camera about how consequential that shot was for today, but maybe for the entire year for Stewart Cink. It's really set up after the interview for dominance.

VO > Yeah, he birdied the third and then all pars and then rolls in this birdie putt at the ninth that got him to 16 under par. And Ernie Els was closing in on him a little bit. And he rolls in this birdie putt at the 11th to get to 17 under par. Wound up making a bogey at the 12th but then his second in the 14. And once again his length and hitting the fairway. It paid dividends for him.

VO > It did. He was playing a different game than the other players. He dictated everything anyone and everyone else had to do. He did what he wanted to do, and then he dictated what they had to do, and it was really no response to what Stewart Cink had today.

VO > Yeah, it really held off all the contenders. Nobody really made a run at him. And then walking up to green at 18 rolls in this final putt for birdie to finish at 19 under. Yeah. Shotted a 66.

VO > One of the nicest most humble people you'll ever meet.

VO > Ernie Els, a two time champion, finishes in a tie for second with Zach Johnson, Bernhard Langer at 68 shoots 66 and gets another top ten. Let's hear from our champion.

OC VO > I had a little bit more of a purpose about things the last, 4 or 5 tournaments, and I saw some good results. So, I just decided to kind of play that out and let it run. And I was actually a little sloppy. Yeah. Color guard and at the James Hardy. So, I had a little bit to clean up. But coming here, I was, I was very not sloppy this week, and I'm blessed to be playing golf at 52 years old on Champions Tour against these great players. And, you know, a place like this, these fans are amazing. Hoag is a great sponsor on this tour, for sure. And having that kind of heart puts me in a good place to perform well. And, you know, the scores add up.

VO > Stewart Cink second win in four events keeps him well out front in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. Rookie Zach Johnson right behind after a T-2 at Newport Beach. The top five remains unchanged. Ernie Els zooms up 15 spots after his share of second place at the Hoag classic. Big names, big possibilities early in 2026.

VO > Regarding a deep dive into Newport Beach Country Club, look no further than 2008 champion and tour legend Bernhard Langer, aged 68 and 47 PGA Tour Champions wins and counting Bernhard remains ever diligent in his preparation for every event, like watching Van Gogh paint or Andrea Bocelli sing. Langer is a master craftsman and brought us along to start his weekend and hole number one.

OC > Good luck today. Have a great day. All the best. Good luck today. Absolutely. Enjoy what you make here. Morning. Yeah. All the short people in the middle. I think.

VO > Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the first tee. The Ho classic. The 2026 edition for the 10:50 pairing. Next on the tee. A member of the World Golf Hall of Fame and since 2008, Ho classic champion Bernhard Langer.

OC > Thank you. Thank you. Appreciate it. Yeah.

OC > Do you still get any kind of nervous when you get its first tee?

OC > Yeah. I think we're all you know, a little nervous sometimes more than other times. And I think that's a good thing. It heightens your awareness. Makes you alert, makes you ready to go. A little bit of adrenaline. It's just when it gets too much where it's overwhelming, then that's not a good thing. I just want to be the best that I can be at all times. I don't think I need to prove anything to anybody. No, not even myself anymore.

But I still enjoy the game and try to compete. Be out here with my colleagues. And I've been out here 50 years, as a touring pro and, have status. So why not enjoy some of these wonderful tournaments.

OC > 50 years does that does that compute?

OC > Oh, no, but it's a long time. I didn't think we would get to this point. Two meters, in case you wonder, and the slope is off. Okay.

OC > What do you got?

OC> Eight meters, probably two uphill. 90. So, about 99 yards. Oh, no. No, it's time on. Hit into the bank and spun all the way back. about a yard away from being good. It is. Big hitters are way ahead of me. Making the course a lot easier. Break, break.

OC > Off.

OC > Left center. Maybe.

OC > You decide.

OC > Okay.

OC > Thank you. Needed one more yard that wedge would have been great. Yeah. It's like cold, cold air and the sea level the ball doesn't go very far here. A little different from Tucson last week.

OC > I'll do it.

VO > Chris Dunn is a local pro pro basketball player. That is as a point guard with the Los Angeles Clippers. He's caught the bug obsessed with golf and improving his game. Who better to guide him than tour veteran Billy and Rick as both played in the Wednesday Pro-Am, Dunn may find fewer things more challenging than slowing down Steph Curry on the court, but high level play is one of them. Let's watch this happen.

OC > Like that. Billy. How's everything? Everything is awesome. I'm ready to take my game to the. Let's go play a few holes on the tee. Let's have a warm Newport Beach welcome for Chris Dunn. Get down! Yeah.

OC > Now putting. It's like shooting free throws when you're on the free throw line. You have a beautiful routine for sure. The best putters have the best routines.

OC > Billy what are you doing? There we go.

OC > Let's go. Let's go play the last. Yeah. A little off here inside your left foot. Yeah, out drove me.

OC > I could do a couple of things.

OC > Come on.

OC > My muscles. There's a lot of green out there. Come on. Smoke. Oh. That's beautiful. That's your boy. You talking about me?

OC > I go, like, inside right edge.

OC > Oh. There's this. Oh, there's the Hoag classic champion right there. Oh, that's for you. Right here we see how they take care of you. You're not.

VO > When Learning Center returns, we'll hear from Ernie Else. Hall of Famer, major champion father and voice for autism.

OC > He wants the best for his child. We want the best for our child.

VO > A tireless journey continues to help advance the cause and the impact is immense.

VO > April is Autism Awareness Month, a time to promote understanding, acceptance and support for individuals on the autism spectrum. Joining forces in this quest are Ernie Els, whose son Ben was diagnosed at age three, inspiring his Els for Autism Foundation, and Arcus Golf founder, chairman and CEO Blake Walker, who knows firsthand about the challenges and who created the Arcus Golf Round up for Els for autism program. They are among the Warriors providing a platform and resources for individuals with autism. The battle continues.

VO OC > Being a parent of a child on the spectrum who teaches me every day the importance of a little patience and little direction, I mean, those those kids can do incredible things that neither one of us thought were possible.

OC > So what do we have here? He's apparently so helpful. Wow, he's really good.

OC VO > We met Blake through, being parents with autistic kids.

OC > The Big Easy, the World Champions Cup Ernie Els.

OC > Oh, I feel like I've known Blake, my whole life. You know, he's been around us for such a long time.

OC > All right, you want to eat these, flower? This one.

OC VO > Once you get past the original diagnosis, she began to think about sort of what's possible and what the rest of your child's life looks like, and how you can provide those resources for them.

OC > Well, you got it. Nice job.

OC > When you begin to sort of navigate sort of the myriad of options, it's it's daunting.

OC > Having two children with autism, you know, there's challenges and it just feels like a new like you're a pioneer trying to figure things out.

OC > As Karen and I began to look at else for autism, other resources, that's when I initially met Ernie.

OC > Those kids will be open this is the school for excellence. I'll we made through our foundation to do our events. Like got a daughter with autism. He wants the best for his child. We want the best for our child.

VO > The people that they have, they're the resources, the, the research that they've done. It's just so helpful.

VO OC > Ernie is one of the best golfers that ever played the game. He plays to events a few of our golf courses every year, and I can count on one hand how many times we've talked about golf. Those conversations are about, you know, being a dad and our unique circumstances and what we're navigating, and you know, how we can have a greater impact, quite frankly. And, you know, as I began to think about that and how I could use Arcus as a platform, it was the natural relationship with Ernie.

OC > You can have the other one.

OC VO > To have Blake as a friend and as a colleague now, and seeing his business grow, and he's helping autism through his business, it's just amazing. That's the special bond we have as autistic families.

VO > And what Arcus has done for our foundation has been incredible. They were the brainchild behind the roundup program that they've started at they golf clubs all around the country, in the US. I think in six years it's been over \$1 million that's been rounded up.

VO OC > You know, the roundup campaign has grown tremendously over the past several years. And then arguably the most rewarding thing I've done is the leader of this organization is the impact that that we thought we've had today, but I think the impact we can have on a go forward basis.

VO > It's a incredible revenue stream into our center. The average money must be about 250,000 a year, and we know for a fact that that's going to be around. So, it takes the pressure off a lot of fundraising that we have to do throughout the year.

VO OC > Els for autism and the foundation. We went to Florida and we were blown away with the best in class talent there. And and initially, it was selfishly, we were utilizing those resources for ourselves. And then I began to think, I've got this really unique platform with Arcus. And there's other families that are attempting to navigate the same issue. And how can I, in some small way, be a resource to them? So, we have several families in our portfolio of clubs out the country that have been impacted by

autism, and they had the same questions that Karen and I had initially. And so, they really rallied behind. Now it's become absolutely the company's journey.

VO OC > Greyhawk is a part of the Arcus Golf Cart portfolio, and as a company, Els for autism is our company charity.

VO OC > This year I was piloting to be a kind of a team captain for Arizona. We have 17 clubs in the market, and we raised 46% of the money that was raised for ELS for autism. So, it's just getting that conversation and getting everybody to be a part of it. And next year, in the following years will be even stronger.

VO OC > Autism. As we talk with our staff and all our guests, everybody knows somebody that's impacted from autism.

OC > I can remember it vividly. It was a very, very interesting moment for Anton and I.

OC > My wife and I were up at the gala for Els for autism.

OC > And we were attending what we thought was a work related charity event, and it ended up being a life changing moment. Truly.

OC VO > They had some great speakers. For adults with autism, some families talking. And as we were sitting there listening to the speakers, my wife and I looked at each other and the man, some of the stuff sounds pretty, pretty knowledgeable of what we're doing, dealing with today.

OC > We both kind of welled up with tears at the exact same moment and looked at each other and thought, maybe this is what we've been missing.

OC > There we go. Oh God, I get this.

VO > I was able to stop Ernie for a moment and tell him our little story, and he, without hesitation, grabbed his board of directors to come over and talk to us, introduce us to a couple of their other leaders, set us up with a company here in Phoenix, where we were able to get Ryder tested. Found out that he was on the spectrum and then gave us a roadmap of where to go next.

OC > I had that book in my room. If you want me to go, then you're going to read it. Okay? Okay. Yeah, I want to know. What? Are you kidding? Oh, okay. Let's go.

OC > I have to be honest; it was something really hard as a mom. Really hard. I think for any of our kids, you don't want to associate a label.

OC > I am grateful for my parents and my brother and my sister and my puppies.

OC > It's hard to be brave and put it out there, but at the end of the day, you want your kids to shine and do the best that they can.

OC > Outfit when I get home, when is I wasn't paying it.

OC VO > So it wasn't for Arcus Golf allowing us to be part of this charity and for my members of my club to donate the money that allowed us to go to the event. I'm not the greatest golfer in the world, and we played in one of the tournaments and won it, and that winning that golf tournament got us additional money to qualify for Palm Beach. Stars were lined.

VO OC > Originally, it started out in which we would do the round up campaign, and we would raise money during the month of April. And as I thought about in my own life with my children, life skills, job training, what's their life looked like far beyond our involvement in terms of raising them? I thought I would love to employ those types of young adults that are neurodivergent in our clubs, and that you can employ program was something that initially I thought I was giving back on.

OC > One, two, three. Everybody look at me, cut it.

OC VO > We developed a program called You Can Employ where we get companies and they've done it in their golf clubs. And teach them how to hire and retain people on the spectrum. And Arcus was one of our first sites where we implemented you can employ and after a three month training period at one of their clubs, they actually at the club at Westland employed a young man on the spectrum, and he's been hugely successful there.

OC VO > That's why I just love what Ernie and Lisa are doing with the foundation and helping employers' kind of understand the autistic population and see how we can serve them better. When these are people, too, they want to feel worth. They want to be a part of the community.

VO OC > Kudos to Ernie Els and his family for getting behind us, and it's extraordinary what's going on down in Florida and all the research and everything that's going into it. It's great to just be a part of it.

OC > And, you know, it's it's it's Vernon.

OC > It's a long road. But it's your child, so you kind of do whatever you can for your child to, to make it the easiest for them.

OC VO > Being a parent of a child with autism can be very overwhelming. You have the high highs of the low lows, but you know it's all worth it. And they're amazing human beings and just seeing them grow.

VO OC > That journey is no different than the journey of being a CEO. It has its ups and its downs, right? But the ups far outweigh the downs. And my own daughter takes all my

excuses away. If I'm having a bad day and I come home when I see her and I see the smile on her face, none of the other stuff matters.

VO > Still to come on Learning Center, it's soon to be Masters Week. And who better to offer advice on playing Augusta National than our array of past champions they have lived The Masters experience. Stand by for green jacket gold.

VO > Soon, the first week of April will usher in yet another glorious sight dogwoods, azaleas and the wondrous backdrop of Augusta National for the 2026 Masters. As it is, our tour is dotted with past champions most ready to make their way back to Augusta. Before that, generously bestowing advice upon those first timers. In the event with a focus on the challenging Masters Greens.

OC > It's Augusta National; it is a major. It is the Masters.

OC > I think you can just overdo it. You know, you can putt too long, you can be on your feet too long. You can think about it too long.

OC > Don't get overwhelmed by the atmosphere and the place.

OC VO > They just have to figure out where not to go. And that sounds so easy to do.

VO > Take a very good look at the greens, where you want to place your second shot.

VO OC > And the key is to know the course, to know where to hit it. Depending on where the flags are.

OC VO > Just figure out the greens. I mean, just try to spend as much time on the greens and, you know, putting inside of eight feet, you know, spend a lot of time on those because you can hit great putts and still be left with five, six, seven footers for your second putts. So, you got to hole those ones coming back.

OC VO > I remember Mark O'Meara was the one of the guys, one of the champions I played with right off the bat and you know, one of the one of the things he kind of said it and then he butchered this. He's like hey you know I've never really tried to make putts here. I pick my line, maybe go a little bit higher than what I see, and I try to lag it down in there. If it goes in, it goes in. There's a lot of truth in that.

VO > Hunter spend a lot of time, around the greens and on the greens. I think that is the key. Obviously, you still have to play great from tee to green left, but approach to the green. Where you put the ball and, yeah. Chipping on, putting.

OC VO > There's no reason to manipulate and or change your game based on the venue. You're still 18. Tee box is 18 cups, and you know what you're doing. So, it doesn't know who's playing it. So, you know what? You don't have to try too hard. Yeah. What you have is it's good to stick with it and just refine it.

VO OC > You can't really teach anyone how to play there. It's it's just it's unteachable. You just got to learn.

VO > With that, we leave you with Georgia on our minds. Welcome to another month of legendary Golf. And until next time, I'm Vince Cellini. We will see you soon with a PGA Tour Champions major the Senior PGA Championship. Until then, so long from learning center.