

## **2026 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW #3**

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > On fairways, greens and golds. As in gold jackets. Year two of the James Hardie Pro Football Hall of Fame Invitational set up in Boca Raton, Florida. As Legends of Golf and the gridiron meet at the Old Course at Broken Sound.

OC > Hello everyone, and welcome to PGA Tour Champions Learning Center. I'm Vince Cellini. Imagine you're heroes from two different sports converging on the same playing field. Well, that was the case as NFL greats competed right alongside our over 50 tour. And the result was a full contact weekend, kicking off what promises to be a very busy month of March. With more on our winner, let's go to the men who call the action Bob Papa and Paul Azinger.

VO OC > PGA Tour Champions 19th year in Boca Raton, Florida. The James Hardy Pro Football Hall of Fame Invitational and this is always one of the sternest tests of the year on the PGA Tour Champions, the Old Course at Broken Sound. Last year Angel Cabrera won at 11 under. This year it's Zach Johnson and his PGA Tour Champions debut winning at 11 under par, winning by four shots, becoming the 22nd player to ever win his PGA Tour Champions debut. And what a performance by Zach Johnson throughout the course of this weekend.

OC > Yeah for sure. I mean he proved his thoroughbred status really. He hasn't won in 11 years, but it sure didn't look like it the way he came out of the gate today. He was in control. I mean, the whole day belonged to him. He outplayed all the, guys trying to chase him down. And he ended up winning it with the putter. I feel in the end.

OC VO > You know, he shot a bogey free 66 in round number two to set him up into the final round going into it with a one shot lead. Bogeyed the third. Birdied the fourth. Clutch par save at five.

VO > No doubt the steely eyed veteran you know he just was in full grind mode when he showed up. His expectations were high when he got here. This is another great par save here Bob.

VO > Yeah and especially after the general par five 10th he had to settle for par there but was able to make that par putt at 11. And then this shot at the difficult 12th.

VO > Now this is one of the hardest holes all week long. And with the hole cut there he landed right where he needed to. If that lands on the green, he's 25ft past the hole.

VO > And then he rolls in this putt for birdie at the 12th. And this would get him the ten under par and open up a three shot lead over the field. And then over at the par five 16<sup>th</sup> able to make this putt for birdie and pretty much sealed the deal.

VO > That did seal the deal. They did get a lucky break on 17 off the golf cart. But really the other final little exclamation point here at 18 for Zach.

VO > Zach Johnson shoots a final round 6920 fourth player in history to win on the Korn Ferry Tour, the PGA tour and now the PGA Tour Champions. And he is excited about turning 50 and competing each and every week on this tour. A four shot win over Stewart Cink and George McNeil. Let's hear from Zach Johnson, our champion.

OC VO > If you were told me I'd be here at 50 years old, you know, the hypothetical part of that is so incredible that I would have said, you're crazy. And so calm. Yeah. You know, staying in shape, you know, to play with these guys because it's still really good golf, highly competitive on a phenomenal track. I am humbled, I'm extremely excited. And I have been excited. The first moment I stepped foot on this premises, I was like, hey, this is this is special. And so welcoming. The guys have been amazing. So, to share with my family, I mean, that's that's everything.

VO > Hello, Zach Johnson, what a fantastic first step on this tour. And what a jump in the Charles Schwab standings, placing himself behind only Stewart Cink and David Toms following this debut victory and a tip of the cap to George McNeil, who's now fifth, tied for second after a T5 in his debut at last month's Chubb Classic.

VO > Prior to his debut, Zach Johnson was enjoying a reunion with old friends and heeding the advice of players who helped prep him on what to expect. A highly decorated two time major champion, he is now a winner on the over 50 tour, becoming the fourth youngest champion in PGA Tour Champions history. Zach took some time to visit with Learning Center, sharing his path to success here.

OC > Zach Johnson brings his stellar resume to PGA Tour Champions. We're so happy to have him. It's great to see you.

OC > Great to see them.

OC > You're ready to roll. Are you excited?

OC VO > I'm very excited. I mean I don't know if I'm quite ready yet. I mean I got to get, you know, the competitive juices going. I feel like all I've done for the last two days is, you know, a lot of handshakes and hugs, which is great. I welcome; welcome it and I'll have more of it. But I got a lot of great friends out here and I'm excited about that. Everybody's like, hey, it's fun. It's a little more relaxed, but you still got to go out and do it. And I love that.

OC > Well, I think the fact that your game is still really intact is going to be a great thing for you out here, too. I mean, you were a top ten finisher at the Masters.

OC OV > That's true. Yeah. That was a good week. Well, yeah, but I'm not naive. Not to know that if you don't take care of it and don't work, it can go. I love the work. I love the

fight; I love the grind. But I also like knowing that the grind might be one day less so. I'm excited. I feel like I've toned guys. I feel like I graduated, you know, I got my diploma, and now I'm, I'm going to, to somewhat greener pastures. So, it's fun.

OC > And you've reached out to some of the older guys in the fraternity. I guess you've had some counseling from from players on PGA Tour Champions, right?

OC VO > Some I've asked and some I haven't, but it's spectacular. All sincere, all I obviously welcome. The sentiment I felt is like you don't have to figure it out yourself, but here's what to expect. And I love that. I mean, I you know, it's kind of like when you're a rookie on the PGA tour, you really don't know what to expect. So, it's nice having men that are essentially my peer group. Now, tell me kind of what to do, rather than me having to, you know, shed some wisdom because, you know, it's like the first week of school all over again. It's pretty cool.

OC > So can you share with us maybe one of those nuggets they told you about?

OC VO > Sure. Yeah. I mean, I don't mind at all. I mean, I've talked to Darren Clarke a couple times. We just kind of bumps into each other, whether it was here or, you know, months ago. And he's like, you got to come out, number one. You got to come out. I don't know where you are with your status. And I don't have full exam status on the PGA tour. So, it was pretty easy decision in that regard. But he's like, you got to come out and we want you. And he's like, hey Zach, you got to make putts early. It's only three days. You got to get it going early. You know I didn't really know what to think. But now the more I'm getting into it now it makes sense. Justin Leonard Stewart saying Josh, you know my buddies back there, they give me a little things here and there and and they've made fun of me, which is the best part. It's still a fraternity of guys that enjoy, you know, ribbing and sarcasm. And I fit right in. So, I'm welcoming every piece.

OC > That's. That's so good. Now, how about your health? And how much will we see you out here? And maybe some time on tour, I guess.

OC VO > Yeah, I yeah, I might play a few out there, you know, if given the ability. And, again, I'm not, I'm not exempt. This could have been a different discussion had I earned my card last year, but I didn't. I'll probably play a couple out there, obviously a couple majors in particular, but I'm going to play for fair schedule. I mean, I've got the blessing at home, which is probably 95% of it. You know, I'm I'm going to try to see some of the venues that I've never been to. I mean, I know some of the courses already, but she was like, hey, you know what? You haven't seen these. Maybe check them out and then we'll, we'll, we can plot so the future, you know, for years to come, given that I'm in decent shape and I'm in good shape, I work hard and I've got a great team.

VO OC > It's interesting because you come out here and it's. It is a lot of fun. But do you feel that even with this, you know, your amazing career, there's more to do in golf? Do you feel like this is a chapter that you need to talk about?

OC VO > You know, I'm yeah, I appreciate that question. I don't know if I've really looked at it that way. I mean, I, I get it at the same time, I'm always operating mentally and I would say, you know, just from a posture standpoint, right where my feet are, I don't get too ahead of myself in that regard. I mean, I obviously learn from the past. I mean, that goes without saying, but I'm, you know, I've got I'm plotting the future. I mean, I'm still planning, but at the same time, I'm not going to sit there and have something on my bulletin board that says, do this check marks. I want to operate where I want to get better every day, and that can be off the golf course. That could be on the golf course. That could be physically, technically, mentally, spiritually. I want to get better. And so, I got a great team of guys that help me pursue that and challenge me and make me uncomfortable, and I'm going to ride with that.

OC > You know, it's interesting you talked about relationships, and reporters aren't supposed to involve themselves in the story. But I told you earlier, yeah, I was there when your sponsor exemption, the John Deere, I think it was 2003 or 4.

OC > Yeah.

OC > Meeting you for the first time and at the old BellSouth Classic in Atlanta saw your first victory there. So, this is kind of like old home week for us.

OC > Full circle. We haven't changed a bit, right?

OC > No, not at all. Look exactly the same. Well, you do anyway. Zach. Thanks, brother.

OC > My pleasure.

OC > Have a great time. Oh. Thank you.

OC > It's nice to see you. Yes, sir.

VO > When learning center returns, more new faces in Boca Raton. Ooh la la la la. And we're like, Ben Crane is fit and ready to make his mark. He celebrated a birthday and his first over 50 event. And Ryan Armor also made his debut. This tour winner has an interesting backstory linked to a head coach fresh off a Super Bowl. Ben and Ryan sit in next.

VO > Ben Crane not only made the James Hardy Pro Football Hall of Fame Invitational his tour debut, he doubled the celebration by turning 50 while in Boca Raton, complete with birthday cake.

OC > Happy early birthday!

OC > Golf boy.

VO > We going insane. We going Ben Crane. ka ka

OC > Happy early birthday.

OC > thanks y'all

VO > Crane has worked hard to prepare for what's ahead on PGA Tour Champions. And it shows. Prior to step one, he joined us to discuss the transition and his excitement for what's ahead.

OC > I don't know how y'all do that, but that's that's pretty great.

OC VO > Well, Ben Crane is a five time winner on the PGA tour, and he hit it right on the nose for the James Hardy Pro Football Hall of Fame Invitational. He turned 50 on the Friday of first round. So, is that a sign you think?

OC > I mean well it's I guess you didn't used to get in when your birthday wasn't before the pro-am and all that, but now it's there's a new rule. And so, if you turn by the day the tournament starts, you get in. And so thankfully, yeah, I get to play this week.

OC VO > How excited are you to be here? I'd say an 11 out of ten. Just like super excited. A bunch of my friends out here, Zach and Stewart Paul Stankowski, a lot of my just good friends, but also just to compete again. You know, like we were just talking. I was talking to Senko and like, you know, guys who play football, you know like lot like guys we're going to be with this week. You know they play ten years and they're done. And thankfully we get another run at it. And so, if you can stay healthy and you still love the game you know there's an opportunity out here. And so, I couldn't be more thankful for it.

OC > What are the guys telling you about this tour. What are they feeling. You know Darren Clarke was great yesterday.

OC VO > He's like buddy it's so fun. And he's like it's a fun. You know, Monday through Thursday and Friday everyone locks in and plays golf you know. And there's and he's like you know there's three rounds. It's not for most of the time the majors are four. But he's like you know shoot 72 the first day. You're kind of out of it. Like you don't really have that time, that fourth round to kind of make it up, you know, like you could on the tour. So, you got to get going right away. But all in all, just very excited to be here. See a lot of friends. Great golf course, great venue, very excited.

OC > Well you you look terrific. You're in shape. So, you've been obviously preparing for this right?

OC VO > I have I've been taking all my metrics and trying to get my, my whoop age down and just been training. I've always been passionate about eating well, and then I've

got a great team at home to help me through body stuff and then try to keep my club at speed up and work on my game. And so yeah, just trying to hit all the marks. Got four young kids one just off to college. So, it's been a great season at home for the last five years. But now really excited to kind of jump back in.

OC > How much will we see you out here?

OC VO > I'm going to play a full schedule. I'll I'll play almost every week. I think the rotation for someone just coming out who has status is generally two pro-ams, one week, one program the next. You kind of go back and forth. I'll opt in for a second pro-am. Most weeks just so I can see the golf courses and just learn the ropes. And yeah, so that I'm looking forward to playing a lot. You know, there's some natural breaks in the champ tour. So, you get, you know, some two week breaks. You get some nice one week breaks. I never play more than four weeks in a row. You go to Pebble Beach when when you want to be at Pebble Beach. So, it's a really good schedule. Compared to what I'm used to. So, I'm really excited about it.

OC > It's nice to reminisce and get with the guys. And I remember you as a deliberate player. Is that. Is that fair?

OC VO > Yeah. Oh, yeah. Yeah, I used to have the waggles. I used to, yeah. Have trouble, you know, getting my shot in in under 45 seconds for sure. Thankfully, I've, I've gotten better and. Yeah, this is something that, you know, you want to you're going to play your best golf when you're not doing.

VO OC > Sure. But I always love the way you handle it. I thought you faced it really well and that you kind of work through that. And that's part of, I guess, being in the spotlight on any tour, right? I mean, you can in a way, it was probably a, a learning point for you

OC VO > For sure. And this is a hard game. And there's not just like one part of the game. There's like 5 or 6 like major facets of the game and preparation. You know, your body, you know, then you've got the fundamentals of the golf. You know, chipping is a different motion than driving. And, you know, it's like there's just so many facets of the game which makes makes us love it, but makes us hate it too, when it's because it's so hard to get everything going in the same direction for one week. And that's why winning is so special.

OC > So finally is there a possibility we could have a golf boys' reunion as some. PGA Tour Champions.

OC VO > Yes. We're asking like, okay, who are your golf boys out there? I'm like, look, I don't know. But yeah, Bubba and I were talking the reason, like, why don't we do another one? We just were I have a podcast called Bible Caddie. We were just talking with, guy who leads Dude Perfect, which is a big YouTube platform, and he's like, oh, I remember when, you know, you guys came on the scene about the same time we did

dude. Perfect. And YouTube's like, now a thing, you know, and you know, Hunter Manahan, Rickie Fowler, Bubba Watson and I, we had a lot of fun filming those. We are terrible singers. We need a lot of autotune, but we had a heck of a good time with it. We launched it at congressional US open and we literally with Frank Nobile, Rich Lerner on the set, and all of a sudden, we go out the next morning and the kids are yelling, ooh la la la la! And we're like, ooh la la la la la. What are you done? Like we're trying to play golf here.

OC > I just want to know who picked the outfits.

OC VO > Those are straight from good. Well, the cheapest thing in the store. Yeah, I know why. I know that one's. And you still have it break it out every now and then. Just for fun. 100% sure

OC > We'll be looking for that down the road. Thanks, Ben.

OC > Vince, enjoyed it. Play well. Good to have you.

VO > Still to come on learning center Ryan Armour went from sports dad driving his sons around to jumping back into competition in Boca Armour shares a fun story involving high school basketball teammate and New England Patriots head coach Mike Vrabel. You won't want to miss it.

VO > Ryan Armour enjoyed a decorated career at Ohio State, won on the PGA tour, but just might be one of those guys who breaks through on PGA Tour Champions. Armour turned 50 on February 27th and made his tour debut over the weekend, going from shuttling sons Patrick and Nicklaus to their sporting events to competition versus legends. Standby for a non-golf knockout story as well. From back in his high school days.

OC > We welcome PGA tour winner Ryan Armour; the PGA Tour Champions. He turned 50 on February 27th and now he's jumping up to, well, the over 50 crowd, how excited are you?

OC VO > I'm excited. Nervous because I'm a rookie again all of a sudden. And, you know, I was a little jumpy, but I'm excited to get it going. I was joking with Ben Crane on the range. I was the youngest for a week. I get all the practice rounds of being the youngest, but not tournament rounds.

VO > I imagine you've had some conversations with the guys here and what have they shared with you?

OC > So, Russ Cochran and Mark Calcavecchia. Yeah, we play a lot of golf together, and they've been they've been great. Just there like, it's real golf. You got to go out and grind and you got to you got to make a lot of putts. But they've been really instrumental on, you know, pushing me forward to this age and trying to get started.

OC > So of late. You've been more of a sports dad, right, with your sons. Tell us about how that was. And was that break kind of good for you?

OC VO > I wouldn't give it back. Let's just say that. And, you know, if I was fully exempt on the PGA tour and getting in everything, I would probably still be playing. But to go out there and grind and Monday and do that stuff, I just couldn't do it because I missed so much when they were young. And now I have a 17 and a 14 year old and they're very they're very athletic boys. They're very active. They're always busy. For the last year and a half, I was able to pretty much be at everything, and it was one of the most rewarding experiences. You know, they both go to Cardinal Newman High School. I got one in varsity basketball, and I got one that's playing ice hockey over out of Tampa, though. So, weekends have been pretty much in Tampa for me.

OC > Yeah, well you're right, those are great memories. So, we're a couple of Northeast Ohio guys, and I'm not trying to involve myself in this, but I am familiar with Walsh Jesuit High School, where you attended high school and then on to Ohio State. First thing about that was you were you were a hoop guy at that. At how good were you in basketball?

OC VO > I mean, come on, people thought I was better than I really was, but now, I mean, I started my senior year. I came off the bench my junior year and played for a guy named Frank Lupica, and he was my golf coach and my basketball coach. So, he had been both seasons. The interesting thing about Frank is he never let me work out in the fall because golf was a fall sport. So, I would come in out of shape to basketball and he had a lot of fun with me. Let's say for the first three weeks I was there and, there were a lot of trash cans I saw around the school. So, it made it interesting.

OC > Were you a point guard?

OC > We kind of ran a double point, so whoever got it just took it. It was kind of. We were kind of Steph Curry in a way. We were both five nine. We couldn't really get our own shot at the rim. And he just said, if you're open inside the timeline, shoot it. And we we loved it. And we played five out and it was a lot of fun.

OC > Well, it's interesting because you have a very famous teammate at Walsh Jesuit who went on to Ohio State as well. And tell us about this, this fellow who's in the spotlight recently in the Super Bowl, in fact.

OC VO > Yeah, Mike Vrabel and I were team basketball teammates of Walsh and then classmates at Ohio State. So, I was around him for seven years, and he's just unbelievable. He's a great football player. He was a great basketball player. He you know, he was in the field part of track and field, even a three sport athlete that was great at all three. And then he went to Ohio State, became the all-time sack leader. And then

he did what he did in the NFL when and all those Super Bowls. And now he's an unbelievable head coach. I mean, I'm proud to say he was a teammate. He's a friend. So

OC > Can you share can you share your Vrabel story. You told me earlier.

OC I could share some of them. I'll share one. So we're running full court and in high school. And he's to this day the only person who ever knocked me out cold. He set a blind pick on me that the gentleman who was guarding him didn't call it out. And I hit Mike, I hit the floor, and I was out out cold smelling salts. They had to bring him out. And back then, we didn't really report concussions. So maybe that's why I'm so messed up.

OC > I don't know about that, but. But back to golf. How are you, approaching a return to competitive play?

OC VO >I think it's a wait and see. I was really surprised to get in on my number this week, but Ken Kennerley had told me, don't worry about it if you don't get in. And so, I planned on playing here and then I got to see what the kids spring schedule, what's happening, whether I'll go out west on Monday. But I'm looking forward to it. I want to compete again. I love to compete. That's the biggest thing that has always drawn me to golf is the competition, and we'll just see.

VO OC > And lastly, please explain this to me because I have several friends like you who are Ohio State fans, but also Steeler fans, and that's me, I hadn't I well please explain.

OC > My old man grew up in downtown Pittsburgh, so I was brainwashed from an early age. He had season tickets till I was. I was about in third grade. We had season tickets and then, now we're just, I mean, it's what. Well, what can I say? I was brainwashed, and my kids are brainwashed because I'm a Steelers fan, and that's the way it goes.

OC > I did that to my kids as well. It's generational. Ryan great to see you, man.

OC.> It's great to see you.

OIC > Best of luck out there.

OC > Thank you.

VO > And that is our time from South Florida. PGA Tour Champions reunion tour continues later this month at the Cologuard Classic in Tucson, Arizona. Until then, I'm Vince Cellini. Thanks for catching this edition of Learning Center.