

2026 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW #4

VO>> PGA TOUR Champions Learning Center

VO>> Following back to back Florida stops PGA TOUR Champions trick to the Arizona desert Tucson and La paloma Country Club featuring one of the strongest fields on tour this was the twelfth playing of the Cologuard Classic

VO>> welcome to learning center where this week great golf and an eye on health both took center stage. The Cologuard Classic is not only a jewel of an event it helps raise awareness and fight Colo-rectal cancer. Along the way we crowned our fourth champion of the season with a look back here's Bob Papa and Paul Azinger.

OC>> Thanks Vince for the first time in Cologuards classic history

we got back to back winner multiple winner his name is Stephen Alker back to back years he wins in a playoff and you know the we didn't start off great for Alker after Friday's opening round singer he was nine off the lead of Bo Van Pelt.

OC>>Yes he was and pretty much figured Alker was going to be

out of it he teed off on the back nine the second day after

having dinner with his wife she said honey I need you to shoot a

sixty three for me tomorrow he went out shot sixty two and then sixty five today an unbelievably bad bogey on the last hole for Padraig Harrington in allowed Alker in that playoff in border he take advantage.

OC>>VO Take a look at some of the highlights from the final round

and Alker started the day two off the lead Padraig Harrington made birdie at the difficult thirteenth hole when he made the birdie here you're saying yourself it's gotta be his week.

VO>> Yeah he made clutch parts there on those holes coming in Alker hit a tremendous shot here from the bunker at fourteen. This was one of those he only had one way to play it it was to fly it to the hole he did just that tap that in.

VO>> Now Harrington didn't birdie the par five sixteen but then he birdies the par three seventeenth

VO>> Which was the second hardest all day today what a shot we didn't see anybody get that close he knew that he needed to make that take the lead Bob, saw the leader border there behind seventeen green and this was the putt what a confident putt this was.

VO>> Birdies the two hardest holes on the incoming nine he's got a one shot lead heading the eighteen he air mails the green with his second plays is third to here and then doesn't make it.

VO>> well this was the win and it just touched the lip with that look on his face just under disbelief that that missed.

VO>> And then in the playoff Harrington knocked his to the back part of the green Alker had a perfect number and he hit credible iron shots.

VO>> All day long I mean before he hit every shot and I would say you know he said every shot the whole and then he does it again it's a perfect number because he was swinging so well no bad yard just for Alker

VO>> An Harrington just missed his birdie bought and then Alker

pours it in for the win is PGA TOUR Champions career now in his one hundredth start who picks up his eleventh win Thousand go back to back in Tuscon. Alker in a playoff with Harrington is your winner another strong performance from Zach Johnson this week let's hear from our champion Stephen Alker.

VO>>OC Pretty cool whenever you defend Cookie that's it's nice I

that to do it on the hundredth I was reminded going earlier in the week like I'd no idea hundred events going so quick. Friday I didn't think I had a chance I'm nine behind just trying to get back in the tournament but it all worked out and another great event its been fantastic.

OC>> congratulations defending champion.

OC>> Appreciate it.

VO>> Just a sensational rally by Alker to go back to back at

the Cologuard Classic and slide into fourth in the Charles Shchwab cup standings. Padraig Harrington is right behind him at fifth Zach Johnson's tie for third in Tuscon now places him just behind the leader Stewart

Cink

VO>> Four time PGA TOUR Champions winner Doug Barron return to action in two son after missing the previous event with the flu yet his health problems run much deeper. A high psa level back in December lead to an mri, biopsy, and prostate cancer diagnosis. The good news was early detection and a direct plan for recovery through medication protocol clearly golf has been a good distraction and part of the healing process.

VO>>OC It diverts my mind just to be outside the fresh air

and moving and you don't want to be stagnant and sit around

all done so our bodies are made to move and be outside and fresh
air and there's nothing better to heal you than the sun

VO>> Still even the strongest of mines can circle back to
a cancer diagnosis and yet unknown.

OC>> I'd really like to know but somewhere else I've thought
about going to get a scan but it's like a couple people have told me they
got you'll get eighteen doctors like I'm trying to figure that part out but I'm in a good place I
don't know I'm totally prepared for this week when I'm showing in the club nice I just gotta
get my energy level up a little bit more.

VO>> Barron is around three weeks into his recovery program as he said the main issue is
bounced with fatigue but he leans heavily on wife Leslie and his faith in this process.

OC>> Try not to worry about the cancer part I try to just when I pray out a pray diligently for
you know that he tells you he'll heal you if you ask the right way is I'm not begging or
anything I'm just
pray without seizing and ask to be healed.

VO>> As part of the fraternity PGA Tour Champions and during the second round of the
season opener in Hawaii Doug shared his diagnosis with
Ken Tanigawa who is also recovering from prostate cancer. It was a helpful exchange with
Doug, mostly listening.

OC>> Really what I took from Ken playing with him and
Hawaii has a great man said it seems like he's in a really

good place kind of motivated me to say I need to really work on a mental part. I think our mind can control a lot more than we think, I think we can all know that from golf.

VO>> As it is bearing decided to reveal his health situation in an effort to help others who maybe facing a similar challenge

OC>> But if I could impact one person and you know go get their PSA checked regularly or to explore different treatments I just think there's so much out there in so much new information coming out yeah, do your research.

VO>> Barron is hoping his three month protocol is effective and just a bump in the road to building on back to back impressive seasons on PGA TOUR Champions. We wish Doug Barron in the very best in his recovery.

VO>> This is a very special event for tournament host and thirteen time PGA TOUR Champions winner jerry Kelly as a long time cologuard ambassador Kelly has a strong connection to the patient's survivors and others dealing both past and present with color rectal cancer. As such he feels a strong responsibility to support the events mission to raise awareness and come back the disease.

OC>> Headed to the survivors tent fifteenth Colorguard classic 2026 six favorite place on the planet.

VO>> We caught up with Kelly and round one invited in on the fifteenth hole for a special gathering.

OC>> Probably going to go edge bunker today.

Hooking, that's what you call manufacturing one. I just love the in here with with this community a survivors and care givers and advocates I mean they're just they're special people you know the love every time I get here.

OC>> I don't think i can give him back more than they give to me i mean they go through the hardest times of their lives and they're saying it thank you to me and give it a back it's just very selfless what they're going through wrong me not to ask you okay that not look like my swing I popped a rib out couple weeks ago and I I took some week off trying to let it settle and I came out little early just on Saturday I'll play with coop down in Phoenix and you know just warm it up with wedges it came right back so it's progressively gotten worse and it's in spasming now slowly I can play through some pain but the spasming is grabbin my club in a bunch of different places in my swing.

OC>> All I wanted to do who's come out here and have the type of strength that they've showed me sorry given me so much and they've showed me how strong they are and for me to be out here with a pain in my back I'm going to show them I can be strong too.

OC>> Yeah one thirty four take off six twenty nine just

should not go long left light claps they're there so nice to me. Apparently walking that good give a big shot out to mark rollins he's in home watch and be strong Mark just lost Liz Healey support for me to everybody out there to get screen early smile

OC>> Come on break for 'em break for 'em okay. The first time I haven't made birdie forum in my survivor tent career right there, three of em.

Love you guys love you.

OC>> I was mentioning the the stats before it's if you catch this at the early stages nine out of ten survive you catch it late stage one on

a ten survive. Everybody can do that math you get the forty five years old celebrate the fact that you get to do Cologuard

VO>> Australia's Cameron Percy saw his third season on this tour hit a bit of a delay due to a health issue of his own Percy had surgery on his hip for a bone spur and torn labor thus the Cologuard Classic was his season debut.

VO>> Cameron was understandably excited to build on a strong twenty five campaign that's all in finishing tenth in the Charles Schwab points race he shared his path back.

VO>>OC December one I had a operation on my hip where they cut me three times through my muscle and I had a torn label repaired and a bone spur repaired so I'll have an awful trouble swinging the golf club. problems in a lot of pain and they discovered a bone spur so the only way to fix it was to shaved it down so it's been shaved down um and as a torn labrum as well apparently so that was causing pain and that's all fixed now and talking to the doctor, I've come back way earlier then a normal person would who has a proper job and all that sort've stuff I'm very fortunate I re-hab three days a week with a trainer to say all that sort of stuff I've been very fortunate to do that and then just do all the extra stuff off on the side so may

OC>>I went to a college football game the miami v. Ole Miss game we went to the Chicago Bears v. Green Bay game which was incredible so I did that hopped around on my crutches there was a lot of fun and then just I've been home my son was home from college means playing golf so I got to help him a bit with that and then my fourteen year olds just obsessed with golf spent a lot of time with him

playing golf or not identify I was just in the car driving 'em round watching him and a loves it so I got to do that which was fantastic

VO>> Percy burst on to the tour taking Q school medalist honors by five strokes in late twenty twenty three it was a three time runner up last season and posted a dozen top tents finishing no worse than t eighteen in his final eleven events a healthy Cameron Percy is certainly one to watch as the year unfolds. Welcome back.

VO>>VO W hen learning center returns PGA TOURChampions is a great place to meet people again people like Von Taylor who steps in knowing full well newcomers can make an early impact here and do. Perhaps it's Taylor Made.

VO>> The 2026 PGA TOUR Champions season is only Four events old but it's already become a showcase for familiar faces from the PGA TOUR, fighting fresh success on the senior circle.

VO>> So far we've seen former PGA TOURwinners like Zach Johnson George McNeal, Ben Crane, and Ryan Armor making strong impressions in their early starts. Now add another notable name to the list von Taylor. The three time PGA TOUR champion turn fifty on march ninth and made his highly anticipated PGA Tour Champions debut at the color garden class Cologuard Classic.

OC>> Just enjoying newbie stats really looking forward to playing out here I hear it's a lot of fun very relaxed environment and you know once of all friends and it's just gonna be a good time hopefully.

OC>> You know I just keep here is fun enjoy it and you know i think we get caught up and results and you know the tour life was you know so competitive and it could kind of beat you up so hopefully you know my stay low more relax and and have a good time.

OC>> You have been out of game for a couple years now to three years and you know its been a long long wait but you know finally here.

VO>> Ted Purdy is not a new face to PGA TOUR Champions but he's certainly one we don't see often on the tour the fifty two year old made only his eighth career start last week and as an Arizona guy through and through born and raised in phoenix, Purdy he has wonderful memories of competing here in two song from playing his first PGA TOUR event at the two side Chrysler classic in nineteen ninety eight to back in nineteen ninety six when the outdoor the future legend then playing for Stanford.

OC>> the 96 Ping Intercollegiate here in Tuscon I was up against this guy named Tiger Woods I don't know if you've heard of 'em. It was a great week for me and I ended up beating and by six shots at our Intercollegiate he was playing for Stanford I was playing for Arizona.

OC>> I was on fire I was unconscious with the putter and I end up nippin 'em by six shots and when we got done he shook my hand as you know what it's really hard to be dominant in this game and I go tigers shut the hell up you are dominant you're amazing. I got him once he eases he's beat me like every other time you know I've I've seen tiger hit like a three iron for two fifty over a tree to five feet you know you and you know hit a buckner shat from one foot out flop it up and goes in the hole like tiger did stuff and still does stuff that none of us could even imagine the doing earlier and that that year but a couple years earlier we actually competed in the finals of the junior golf here at La Poloma aga batch play here La Poloma and I think I was three under the turn and three down stuff said the goat got me again here and here in two son but couple years later I was able to get him.

VO>>OC Speaking of going home when learning center continues

a look back at Fred Couples and his last hoorah in Houston

king of cool set that aside on this triumph talks about why that win means so much then and now you know a quick tear jerker and I said I gotta get the hell out of here.

VO>> this week's PGA TOUR event is the Texas Children's Houston

open at Memorial Park Golf Course in Houston Texas. Few wins in this tournament's history carry more emotion than Fred Couples' victory back in two thousand three this last on the PGA TOUR. A Seattle native but long time Houston hero the University of Houston Cougar stands out

became the first UH player to claim the title ending a five year drought with a heart string tugging for shot triumph that left him in tears on the eighteenth green since a great feeling a lot to my wife and

then Bush here's what Fred Couples had to say reflecting on that special win in this edition of the Couples chronicles.

OC>> Anytime you win there's a lot of people show emotion and I'm very soft but you know I've had a teacher for up until that time my whole life and then we were just talking about the other day Paul and I moved to

Butch to try some out and I ended up winning after I started working with them and actually will be so it's just kind of you know to win I mean I never thought I would not win again in my forties but I didn't want after that so you want to win work where you go and I went to UofH

OC>VO Just raised in Seattle but so much started for here in

Houston come back here to kind of a career right down the stretch and he has come full circle.

OC>> and I really felt like I was still a really good tire for

a lot of years not great so five years a long time ago about when I turned I mean I have somebody's on the PGA TOUR you know they're younger and it blows my mind that they have at one and four five years so

that was the stretch and you know I made a putt the last putt I don't think I had to win but I think I still birdied it.

OC>>the first university of huge offer to win the Houston open I didn't enjoy here in that last night applying the band first time and many years I've had this it's a great feeling a lot to my wife and Butch Harman your your entitled ready you work really hard for this you work really hard but again emotions are emotions sometimes it just hits you that me because you know just the questions that were asked and then it was a you know a quick tear jerker and I said I gotta get the hell outta here.

VO>> This week on PGA TOUR Champions the stock is the whole classic

event Paddy Harrington made the first of history winds in twenty twenty four. Some of Paddy's his best performance however come when serving as an instructor here is Harrington on one of the nuances of the game explaining why hitting low drives on tight golf courses like La Paloma

is advantageous well adjusting to this week's layout the more forgiving Newport Beach Country Club.

VO>>OC So yeah we're here Arizona, Tucson, the heat, little bit of attitude, elevation changes. So you're sometimes you get next shorter tighter of course people with his arts of the tear are a fairway wood but if you can hit the fair way it's running out a long way so there is an advantage.

OC>> So what we tend to do with pros this hole is a good example there's out of bounds down the right so if you get one open the air you can go out bounds but if you hit driving you hit it really low even if you miss it it should get in the ground pretty quickly and it's going to catch that rough for not going to too much trouble so you might lose forty yards a distance by hitting it in the rough but you know hit the big wide's so you'll see a lot of pros this week opt not to hit an iron our fair we will put up to hit the low driver to get the benefit of the distance. If they do hit the fairway without the loss of a big wide out in this you know in the ads you think is carrying three forty here if you who for open the air so where yeah keeping it down this is the play this week.

OC>> Next week is my favorite event a year I every bunker's three ten

and once you can carry dash I I am full tails on every tee shot next week I've never played a turn of golf course very fit driver off every tee

and barred the sixteenth I am jumping out my boots at every tee shot you can carry it out to you ten in the air you're gaining big time on the field.

VO>> Thank you professor Paddy and with that we bid you fairwell until next week when our legends have navigated Newport beach a busy march continues when we will have it all. I'm Vince Cellini thank you for tuning in this edition of Learning Center.