

PGA TOUR Champions Learning Center Show #18

VO > PGA TOUR Champions Learning Center.

VO > The sky was the limit on PGA TOUR Champions, with a return to the States and the Pacific Northwest for the 21st Boeing Classic. The Club at Snoqualmie Ridge with a star-studded field and big-time play. And there we witnessed a wild final round. 2022 Boeing champ Miguel Angel Jimenez roaring from behind to post a closing 64, including eight birdies in his final nine holes. Stewart Cink also impressive. A Sunday 65 and like Jimenez, finishing 12 under par. So many players had a fighting chance over the final 18 holes, yet one star emerged from the pack. With more, our crew of John Swantek and Peter Jacobsen.

VO > Well, Vince, we saw a lot of great approaches at the Club at Snoqualmie this week, but not any as dramatic as that Boeing 737 on Sunday. The tail end of what was a dramatic final round. Plenty of highlights. Peter Jacobsen and Stewart Cink got into the picture here with a birdie at 11.

VO > He made four bogeys on his round yesterday, something we don't normally see. And he got it started right here with this hole out from off the green. I think he was having a discussion with Chris Jones' caddie.

VO > What a furious charge it was over the final nine on Sunday from Miguel Angel Jimenez.

VO > It was an amazing finish. He played his last 11 holes nine under, including this amazing shot here at the 17th.

VO > Perfection. And he would brush that one in for a birdie two. Cink, one of the later groups, with the reply here at 17.

VO > Yeah, he had a nine iron here. He thought, I'm not going to use the slope like Jimenez, I'm just going to go right at it. Takes a look, and he's got a short one for birdie as well.

VO > Well Jimenez was not finished yet. 28 on the back nine. He birdied eight on the way to a 64.

VO > He was in a tie at this point and that's put him to 12 under and one ahead at that point.

VO > He would have to hang around and wait. It was a little more than an hour after he posted 12 under, they went back to 18 to start the sudden death playoff. And Cink had 218 yards in.

VO > Yeah smart play. He was first to play to the green. Good angle. And he just said I'm going to put it on the green and put the pressure on Jimenez.

VO > Miguel hit his second shot into the front bunker then hit one over the green and made five. So Cink had two putts from about 30ft to win and nudged that one in for victory number five of the season. Dominant 2026 from Stewart Sink, who's got \$1 million lead in the season long Charles Schwab Cup standings after taking down Jimenez in a sudden death playoff. Let's hear from our champion.

OC / VO > Of the five wins this year, I've played by far the worst this week, and still won which I'm really proud of. It was enough today, but I mean, God these guys just play so good and you can't, you can't give them an inch because they're going to take from you. You know, I'm going to probably take off about three of the rest of the events this year just because we got stuff going on at home. But yeah, life happens. I'll look forward to coming back out at Ally in Flint again and I'm two-time defending champion there, so fun.

VO > Yes, five wins and counting for the Charles Schwab Cup points leader Stewart Cink, building a lead of a million plus over second place Zach Johnson. Padraig Harrington, Boo Weekly, George McNeil round out the top five and Jimenez enters the top ten by virtue of his runner up in Washington state. Cameron Percy has tee'd it up 13 times this season, five top ten finishes, including three straight in his last three starts. He currently sits 16th in the Charles Schwab Cup standings but now faces another physical setback. Percy says the issue started the Saturday of the Senior Open. While warming up with planks on a Swiss ball. He felt pain in his stomach and it got worse the following week in Portugal. When he returned home, doctors found a ventral hernia. Percy, requiring a laparoscopic repair with mesh to reinforce the abdominal wall. He says he could be out a month while he recovers. You may recall Percy also underwent hip surgery last December to address a bone spur and torn labrum. As we near the close of the season. A new twist will add excitement to the tour's finish. Earlier this month, PGA TOUR Champions announced the Sprint to Saint Louis, spanning the final five regular season events and first playoff contest. Hang on, it's going to be a game within the game. Here's tour president Miller Brady with more.

OC / VO > We have an exciting enhancement to sort of end our season leading into the playoffs. We're calling it the Sprint to Saint Louis presented by Compliance Solution. It's going to be a race where guys earn points amongst the five finale events before the Stifel Charity Classic and the top three entering the Stifel Charity Classic will all have a chance to be the winner that week to earn a \$200,000 bonus. So look, we feel like it's a nice way to help end the regular season, provides an enhanced exposure for the Stifel Charity Classic, and is going to be a fun element here ending our year.

VO > The Big Easy's week got better on Wednesday when handed a big check. Very big. Arcis Golf came through again. Each year, Arcis sponsors the Round Up 4 Els for Autism Campaign. The various Arcis golf courses encourage members and customers to round up

purchases of merchandise, food and beverage, or greens fees to the nearest dollar as a donation to the charity. The company's total is now at \$1.3 million and counting. Ernie and Arcis Golf founder, chairman and CEO Blake Walker on the impact of this initiative.

OC > Its first and foremost a huge honor. Obviously, Ernie and I both have kids in the spectrum, and to be able to support what he's doing has just been one of the most fulfilling things that we do at Arcis.

VO / OC > Amazing. I mean, it's just amazing what Blake and his team has done at Arcis, the whole company, to get behind us like this, it's just been incredible. It's been eight years, 1.3 million, another 225,000 today. The checks are just getting bigger. We at the center are so thankful and grateful to have partners like these. They in the trenches with us. To have this keep happening to us is quite unbelievable.

VO > When Learning Center returns, past Charles Schwab Cup champion and tour favorite Scott McCarron back on course after battling cancer. The ageless Vijay Singh on keeping that swing long and loose, Vijay's secrets to longevity in golf. And speaking of swings, Seattle native and golf legend Fred Couples pondering his future in the sport. How long can we enjoy that beautiful move? Freddie with the inside word next.

OC > Here we go.

VO > It was a welcome back celebration last week for 11-time PGA TOUR Champions winner Scott McCarron. Scott discovered in late March he was dealing with throat cancer. His stage two diffuse large B-cell lymphoma resulted in chemotherapy treatment the week of the Mitsubishi Electric Classic. The 2019 Charles Schwab Cup winner is attacking it head on with his medical team, wife Jenny, family and friends.

OC / VO > When we first talked in Atlanta, I had just had my first chemotherapy and was still not sure how everything was going to go. Believe me, it was hard. The chemo was difficult, the radiation was difficult. Not knowing, you know, how I was going to handle all of it, how my body was going to handle all of it, you know, believing that you're going to be cancer free, but not really knowing for sure. That was weighing in the back of my mind as well. So to go from Atlanta to now, to be cancer free, I mean, it's a huge relief. And also to know that I don't have to go to the hospital and go to the doctor's offices. I mean, I've, in those five months, I probably went to the doctor 40, 50 times for CAT scans and bloodwork and treatments. And it's a lot. It takes up a lot of your life when you're trying to also play golf and then work all your doctor's appointments around that. So I didn't have a lot of free time other than golfing and going to doctor's office. So right now I've got a three-month hiatus. I just got my port out on Monday from where they did all the chemotherapy, and so I don't have to go to the doctor for three months, which is, that's a nice relief.

VO > As it turns out, during this time, McCarron firmly believed his sport was also a part of the path to wellness.

OC / VO > Golf was definitely my escape. You know, I thought long and hard about it, whether to keep playing or to kind of stay home and just go through the treatment and then come back when I felt ready. But I wanted to be distracted and getting inside the ropes, practicing, playing, teeing off in a tournament, preparing for a tournament, it kept my mind off of all the things that I had to deal with at the time. So it really was therapy. And to be out here with my friends and really family. I mean, we've been together for 30 years, all the players and you and, and Miller Brady and we feel like family out here and some great support and a lot of people with thoughts and prayers and always in my corner. Made you feel pretty good and helped me tremendously get through this.

VO > A cancer diagnosis can send a person reeling, and Scott was no exception, but the dark outlook soon lifted. He found direction, read extensively about the disease and different treatments, all helping him arrive at this point months later. This experience allows him to help others moving forward.

VO / OC > My message is one, early detection. My goodness, it saved my life. If you feel something's wrong, make sure you call your doctor, go to your doctor, get a second opinion if it's not what you're looking for. And then stay positive, have a positive attitude because you can beat this, but you got to detect it early and you got to have a good attitude and you got to put a good team together. And don't be afraid to get a second opinion, because there's a lot of other alternative medicines out there that can help.

VO > History, even recent golf history, tends to be blurred. In what was golf's Tiger Woods slash Phil Mickelson era, Vijay Singh casts a giant shadow. The Fijian is a 34-time winner on the PGA TOUR, only non-American with more wins than Rory McIlroy or Gary Player, and nine in a single season in 2004. 22 of those victories came after the age of 40. Vijay doesn't do a lot of media, so when he does, it's a good time to listen. And at age 63 years old, the Singh Grind continues. He tells us about his summer, why he's feeling healthier and outlook on the rest of the season.

VO / OC > Well, I took, played what, two events in ten weeks. So that's, that's new to me. Took some time off. I was in Hawaii and got a stomach virus when I needed to practice. So, you know, the last week of my three weeks in Hawaii, so that kind of threw that out of the window. And played in the U.S. Open. When I played the U.S. Open, I played one round of golf before that. So for three weeks and I, you know, I was happy to be around for the weekend. And I played decent in Firestone and then took another four weeks off, you know, going to Europe. I didn't like walking Gleneagles, you know, not good for my foot, but it paid

dividends for me to stay home. You know, I saw this great doctor. I've been seeing him for a while, Doctor Yass, and he's been unbelievable. Been doing wonders for my back, wonders for my ankle, my knee, you know, my shoulder. So I recommend anybody that has any kind of injuries or, you know, is going for an operation, you know, knee, hip, whatever, he can fix you up. I mean, he's, he's a genius, but he does the trick. I'm going to play a lot more. I'm playing the next, I think we got 10 or 11 tournaments left, I'm going to only miss one, so I'm playing a lot. I feel like playing again. You know, I did some work last week, which was all positive. Starting to hit the ball a little better the way I want to. So I'm looking forward to you know, it's been a while where I look forward to a tournament. You know, instead of being in pain all the time, I kind of, you know, my pain is down 80%, you know, which is a big thing to say. So, you know, not that I wake up with, you know, jump up and start running. You know, I still have niggling pains here and there, but, you know, but it's getting better. So and I'm looking forward to playing this week, next week and in Detroit or Flint. And then we'll go from there.

VO > Now a two-part story revisited. On February 1st, 2024, Trevor Drummond's life changed in an instant while on his motorcycle. He was hit by a driver making an illegal turn, a crash so severe, he was pronounced dead at the scene. But Trevor survived. Initially in a vegetative state, he faced a long road back from broken bones, a collapsed lung and traumatic brain injuries. Doctors didn't know if he would walk or speak again. Before the crash, Trevor was a high school golfer, and during his recovery he set a list of goals: feed himself, walk again, swing a club.

OC > Whoa, birdie.

OC > Haha, got it.

VO > And meet his favorite golfer, Fred Couples. Well, that dream came true at the Boeing Classic in 2025. And this week, back at the Boeing Classic, Trevor and Couples again reunited on the practice range.

OC > Hey.

OC > Hi.

OC > How the hell are you?

OC > I'm good. How are you?

OC > Good to see you.

OC > Good to see you too.

OC > What's up?

OC > How are you? Good to see you.

OC > How about this weather?

OC > Amazing.

OC > Typical Seattle.

OC > Yeah, that's what everyone says. That's what I say to all these- my buddies. All right, so tell me what, give me the good things. Good operation?

OC > Last night I just hit a big ass putt.

OC > Let me see the operation. How is it- Wow.

OC > Yeah, yeah.

OC > Wow.

OC > And, I have a present for you.

OC > Yeah?

OC > Yeah. A present, so whenever you're ready, I'll bring it.

OC > How about 11 birdies in the next three rounds, and then I'll worry about the other ones.

OC > Oh, jeez. Oh, jeez.

VO > For Trevor Drummond, a few minutes with Fred Couples meant the world. And for Fred, moments like that have a way of putting the game in perspective. A Masters champion, 15-time PGA TOUR winner, a World Golf Hall of Famer, Couples has spent a lifetime making the world's most difficult game look easy, with one of the most recognizable swings in the sport. But now, as he gets closer to the end of his competitive days, Fred is looking at life a little differently.

OC / VO > You know, I love golf. I practiced, for me, pretty hard the last two weeks just so I could come here and play, you know? What have I told you for eight years? I'm not going to do this if I'm finishing 40th to 50th. And I'm not saying, I've said the same thing, it's not a slight on anybody. It's, what is a slight is, is if I played several weeks, which I haven't played much and I can't play the way I want, why would I continue to do that? Because I don't try to go to tournaments where I'm not prepared. There comes a time when I just, you know, I just hit five-wood there. I'm used to it going where I have a solid wedge. I mean, I smoked that five wood and I had 140 instead of 125. You know, and I hit a not a very good second shot. But you can't be going to these greens, these small, teeny greens on holes that you

can attack with nines and eights. But it is what it is. But I still love to play. I have a great pairing tomorrow with Clark and Cink, and that's really kind of my deal. I love the pairings out here, I've said that for 16 years too, but my game is so, so at best.

VO > Would you rather be playing now as a 25-year-old back on the TOUR with everything going on out there and what they got, or would you rather be where you're at?

OC > I'd rather be 25 years old and be mediocre. This 67, there are so many people passing away and some nights I kind of, you know, I'm a weird guy. I kind of sit and I make myself think, am I going to get to 70? Am I going to keep breathing, you know? And then I have friends like Sam Reeves, who's 92, and he's a machine. So as long as I can keep feeling okay. But it's a great question, but I'd rather be 25 and mediocre. Put me 75th to 120, but that gives me another 50 years to live. Right now, I may have three to five to 10. Who knows what I'm going to do.

VO > Still to come on learning center. O Canada, the upcoming Rogers Charity classic will have a ballpark feel. Talk about birdies, we'll throw in some Blue Jays and we'll explain. But before we go to break, Ben Crane with a golf tip on how to properly aim at the target when the ball is above or below your feet.

OC > Okay, so we're talking today about uneven lies on the golf course. Most people mess these up because they don't get set up properly. So when the face is, when it's, when the lie is more upright, you want to make sure that you understand that the face is projected more to the right. So if the if the ball is above the feet, you can see the face would project more to the left. So I think the simplest answer is, just understand where your face is actually aimed. Now this is a ball that's below the feet here. So this face is going to be projected about, you know, it's a slight ball below the feet about five yards to the right. So you can see there's a scoreboard back there in the distance, whatever. I'll be putting my face about five yards left here, which is actually pointing the face pretty close to the hole. I don't think you're going to change your path at all, but you do want to change the face. So, I just put that face a little left, aim over there properly, and then go ahead and just hit your shot. So that's, that's what you need to do. So if the ball is above your feet, you have to project everything to the right because the face will be aimed more left than you think. The ball is below your feet, project everything a little more to the left.

VO > This week, the PGA TOUR Champions takes us to scenic Calgary, Alberta, Canada for the Rogers Charity classic. Once again, Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club is the venue taking us through the 19th event of the tour season. This year, Aussie left hander Richard Green returns to Calgary as the defending champion. A year ago, Green came roaring from behind to earn his breakthrough win on PGA TOUR Champions, playing the

final two rounds in 13 under par, finishing 18 under to capture the title. After knocking on the door all of 2024, five times a runner up, Green finally kicked it in. A champion in his 71st start on the over 50 tour. Now he's back at Canyon Meadows, no longer chasing that first one, but trying to go back-to-back.

OC VO > I've been thinking about it, you know, probably ever since I left Calgary. You know, coming back again. You know, I just I really enjoy the course and the people and the tournament, the way it's run and everything up there just seems to sort of suit my game. And so you know, got a good feeling about it, you know. So but it's always layered with some level of expectation after winning last year, you know, I'd love to do well again and defend well. But you know, ultimately this game of golf, you've just got to go out there and work with what you got, you know, and you know, hopefully it'll be enough and hopefully I'll have, have a good game and I can put himself in contention again.

VO > Title sponsor Rogers Communications, owners of the Toronto Blue Jays, are bringing some baseball to golf. To celebrate the Blue Jays 50th season, the 16th hole at Canyon Meadows will have a ballpark motif. Blue Jays alumni will attend for photo ops, and fans can grab ballpark snacks, hear walk up music, while each birdie in the tournament at the par three will mean \$1,000 donation to Jays Care Foundation, building on Rogers Youth Charities donations. Unfortunately, athletes here have to play their foul balls. And with that, we bid farewell to the great state of Washington and congratulate our Boeing Classic champion dressed in his signature jacket and earning his wings. I'm Vince Giuliani. Thank you for being with us on this week's Learning Center.