

Champions Learning Center Show #19

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > It's getting early, late on PGA Tour Champions as the legends roll through the month of August with a weekend stop in Canada. The 14th edition of the Rogers Charity Classic at Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club in Calgary, Alberta. Yippee Ki Yay!

VO > It was a scoring stampede to the finish. Challengers aplenty on Sunday, resulting in a playoff for the second week in a row on this tour in extra holes as Y.E. Yang scrambled on the par five 18th, settling for bogey. Steven Alker birdied the hole and celebrated an even dozen wins since turning 50. Capping a stellar weekend and a cowboy up finish with more our team of John Swantek and Peter Jacobsen.

VO > Well Vince, what a Sunday shootout we had in Calgary with no less than 25 players at one point within four shots of the lead, seemingly everybody was in it to win it, including Steven Alker. This is a tee shot at 14.

VO > Yead he birdied the eighth hole. And then just turned it on from here. Started making a bunch of birdies. That was probably the best shot he hit on the back nine to the hardest hole location.

VO > Made birdie there to get to 14 under. Yang up at 17 was applying the pressure.

VO > Yeah, you knew he was coming. Bogey free yesterday in the second round and bogey free again today. And how about that shot right there just to kick in birdie.

VO > Alker back at 15. Difficult par four. That was for a share of the lead.

VO > Yeah this is where he got hot. He made four birdies in five holes to jump right to the lead.

VO > Then came to the 16th playing 175 on Sunday.

VO > Must have got hooked up with his walk up music. They played all week.

VO > Beautiful delivery there. Chance for another birdie. Meanwhile Yang was aboard the par five 18th in two.

VO > Played a smart second shot to the fat of the green. Had this for eagle. Almost gets it.

VO > Birdie at the last for Yang and he would sign for a 63 while Alker was making birdie back at 16.

VO > Yeah, just another one of the string that Alker just started heating up with the putter.

VO > Came to 18 for birdie and a chance to win outright

VO > Yeah, a little sloppy long with his second hit a poor chip par and they head to the first playoff hole.

VO > Back to 18. Both players found the fairway, but Yang did not find the green watch this one.

VO > Ball dove right into the penalty area. Unexpected second shot for Yang.

VO > Yang would make six getting tangled up in the penalty area. Alker had two putts to win it required just one. Thank you.

VO > Second win of the year for Steven Alker.

VO > Both of them coming in playoffs, Peter. He took down Padraig Harrington at the Cologuard Classic in Tucson on the first hole of sudden death and only needed one hole to dispose of Y.E. Yang to secure career victory number 12 on the Champions Tour. Let's hear from this week's champion.

OC / VO > Troy and I made some adjustments down the range of played yesterday shot 61 and we're hitting balls like 45 minutes. Just hit drivers, drivers, drivers started finding the path and and the flight I wanted. So that worked out and I made some putts at the end and it's so cool to win here I love Canada, this is great.

VO > With the victory two-time Charles Schwab Cup champion Alker moves back into the top five in the season standings. Stewart Cink and Zach Johnson remain out front as one and two, Padraig Harrington holding third, so as Cink and super rookie Johnson are separating themselves from the pack. Is this battle for number one considered a rivalry?

VO > With a victory it would be the fourth most lucrative season any player has ever had in Champions Tour history, and still plenty of tournaments ahead for Stewart Cink.

VO / OC > We both want to win. We want to win. We have to beat each other. So there's no question that he wants to beat me every time he's out and I want to beat him.

OC / VO > I don't know if rivalry is the word. I mean, that kind of has to depends on the definition of it. I mean, I think it's if it is, it's a healthy one. One more birdie for Zach Johnson.

VO > He's like the gold standard of the last six months playing out here. He's just been playing so great. And the PGA Tour Champions rookie on his way to his fourth win of the year.

VO / OC > Like in Portugal I had dinner with him that night and they were and I say this I'm not saying it's just because it's the nice thing. They were genuinely happy for me when he won last week. I hope I was one of the first text messages, you know, because I'm genuinely for him and all of his successes.

VO > And Stewart Cink soars high yet again. Victory number five of the season for the Schwab Cup points leader.

VO / OC > I was hoping that it would eventually kind of be this way, at least for some point in my career on the Champions Tour. I could, like, have a really good rivalry with a really good friend.

OC / VO > Obviously we're dear friends on and off the golf course, but the healthy part is, is that, you know, we can make each other better. You know, when I've had valleys and these had valleys, we've been there, you know, and because you're gonna it's this game's hard. And when we have successes and peaks, ideally we're the first ones to congratulate or hug hug the other. So he's a he's a stud.

OC / VO > Zach and I think we're going to be going against each other for a long time. We both love it out here, and I'm glad Zach decided to commit to playing out here.

VO > While at the Rogers Charity Classic Learning Center. Went inside the ropes with Zach Johnson during his Tuesday practice round at Canyon Meadows, mic'd up as he played the course for the first time Zach walked us through what he was seeing, why he added Calgary to his schedule, and why his 56-degree wedge has become a more frequent option around the greens.

OC > Look at this. Nothing. No, it's just what you see is what you get.

OC> (INAUDIBLE WORDS) better because the second shot is a tree up here where the rough.

OC > Okay. (INAUDIBLE WORDS)

OC> Where's the wind? Out of the left a little bit.

OC > Especially the Tuesday

OC > Getting your feet on the ground. I mean for me it's even the nuance of, like, feeling the tee boxes. Like what side of the tee box feels flatter? What side feels more left to right. What's what side feels more right to left? Like I'm all of that. I'm kind of like ingesting.

OC > This place. (INAUDIBLE WORDS) Could not be more in front of you. Maybe a couple dog legs you got to find your carry zone and that kind of thing. But for the most part, what

you appreciate about a place like this is it's good it's not it's not manipulated or doctored up like it's right in front of you, got to hit your shots. Fairways are pretty narrow. So, it's, you know, for me, I feel like considering the greens are pretty receptive and I'm going to have some loft in my hands this week, I feel like it becomes almost a first shot course to some degree. Meaning the more I can get in the fairway, the more aggressive I can be on my approach shots. So therefore I'm really looking at I create a zone. I mean, obviously the fairway is could be the zone, but more than that, it's like the left line. There's a right line and there may be a center line in there or a line that's kind of in between the your ideal target, because sometimes you would rather be in the right rough versus the left side of the, you know, far left side of the fairway, given given angles and given pin placements and given wind and all that so.

OC > You know, I have my stock shot, which is usually a draw. But there's some there's I mean I'm like this hole I cannot hit a draw on this tee shot, even though it's a straight hole. It's not dogleg left. It's not a straight hole. I have to be ideally down the right and the fairway slopes right to left. So you have to hold it into that fairway something, something along those lines. Those are the kind of things that you're kind of always trying to figure out. And that does come with experience. That does come with the more you get on different golf courses, the more you start to understand it. Certainly the ones that we play at the highest level, the majors and some of those are that's enhanced, right and everything kind of goes like this and shrinks.

OC > I got 207, 209 actual. Where's the wind? (INAUDIBLE WORDS) 209 is playing well, especially 200 yards. (INAUDIBLE WORDS) oh I, I agree there's enough wind into me. I can hit it. (INAUDIBLE WORDS) That's what it looks like.

OC > Left. God the wind got it. That's fine.

OC > Those courses I'm impressed. It's in great shape. Greens are spectacular. And I've heard a lot of great things about Roger. So excited to be in Calgary for my first time.

OC > We just got back from Europe. We had an off week, you know, and I don't want to play three in a row necessarily. I don't have to. Fortunately, I've kind of put myself in a position where I don't have to push it. And, you know, I'm going to try to figure out what I'd like to play two weeks in a row. I'm gonna play next week in Grand Blanc at the Ally. And obviously you have Calgary here, and there are some other factors involved too, but all factors that ended up being really positive and sounds good to regenerate and be with your kids. One of my kids back in college, so that was bitter and sweet at the same time. So seasons of life.

OC > Brian grabbed my 60 and my 56. I've been using kind of kind of going back to old school in a lot of respects, based on why using my 56 a lot more around the greens,

bunkers, things of that nature a little more predictable. With the bounce, there's more bounce the less for the most part, the less the last mile off, the more bounce in theory you have. And I don't know with an uphill lie like this, it just seems to go through the turf better. The greens are receptive, so I can open up a little bit. I don't feel like I got to doctorate it. I can just it's pretty predictable. Just arm it down there and landing down grain. That was a bit weak, but I hit the middle of the face. Yeah, I opened it up too much. That kind of thing. Feeling it out.

OC > Feels like it's in a trough. It feels like it's going left early and then straightening. It's going to go a little left. Watch the ball position will you. Should have been closer than that. Kind of got away with all the poor pitch. It's another birdie. Yeah, yeah, something like that. It's only Tuesday as they say. Now I start documenting the greens. I mean, especially in a hole like this where if you don't hit the fairway, you may have to lay up. Where do you hit the wedge? Where do you spin the wedge? Bank boards, things of that nature. Pin placements. (INAUDIBLE WORDS) 4 to 5 pins per hole. We're only going to play three of them. So kind of feeling it out. Where can you miss it? Left. Right. Long short. That's that's keeping the golf course in front of you, if that makes sense.

OC > If I have a day off, I need to go west, get up towards Banff in that area. And I'm a Rockies guy. I love the mountains. It's my happy place. Oh, oh. Saving it. I got a Thursday off, so I may be getting get into my Toyota this week and driving on up, I, I love I'm not much of a beach guy or ocean I know appreciate it, but I love the mountains and they're like North they're there like right over there.

VO > When learning center returns. 12 years after his Ryder Cup heroics, Jamie Donaldson is chasing a new goal at age 50. His push for a golf future in America is next.

VO > 12 years ago, one shot placed Jamie Donaldson into Ryder Cup history. Absolutely wonderful. Well done. Now, at 50 years old, Donaldson is taking another shot, this time at building a second career in America. Since turning 50, the Welshman has found himself competing for trophies again. He won on the Legends Tour twice and has risen to the top of the Tour's Order of Merit. But even with that success in Europe, Donaldson has made no secret of where he ultimately wants to play.

VO / OC > This is somewhere that a lot of guys want to play me, me included. So I'll be doing everything I can to come over here and complete the seven. If not, you know, obviously I'd like to get in more and play over here. You know, next year would be wonderful. You know, I've thoroughly enjoyed playing the tournaments I have over here and it's nice to play in the sun all the time. You know, we went back to Scotland last week and it was freezing. You come back in, it's lovely warm again, so I know I'd rather be.

VO > This year he has been going back and forth across the Atlantic, playing the Legends Tour in Europe while taking every opportunity he can to get on PGA Tour Champions.

And this past week at the Rogers Charity classic, another door open.

VO / OC > I was here today, Monday qualifying this week, and we got a very kind invite at the last minute, which was wonderful and non-expected. So yeah, I knew I know when everybody knows from Europe that we have to come over here and do Mondays and you know, they're on a lot of really nice courses. So, you know, you've got to do at the start of the week or the start of the year. So you just come over, enjoy the sun and get through the Mondays.

VO > Donaldson's exemption into the Rogers charity classic gave him a sixth PGA tour champion start, and for Donaldson, the number of starts matters. As a nonmember, he needs seven official starts in order for his earnings from the season to officially count on the Charles Schwab Cup money list, moving him closer to turning occasional opportunities in the US into something much more permanent. But Donaldson knows if he wants to stay here. There is only one way to do it.

VO / OC > Rules and rules, and that's the only way you can look at it. We have rules in Europe and the rules here, so you know what they are. You know what you have to do at the start of the year. If they were changing as the year went on, then that would be kind of hard work. But but they don't. And this set out at the start of the year. You know I didn't play PGA tour long enough. I played, you know, only a few years. So you know I've no rights to to to be here on all the time money because they didn't earn enough and didn't play enough. So you know what you're going to what you have to do and you just have to come over here and play well. And it's as simple as that.

VO > Still to come on Learning Center Vaughn Taylor is a rookie on PGA Tour Champions, but his body has been through plenty. We go inside the fitness center to see the work, helping him manage the pain and keep him in the game in this second phase of his career. Brace Press out 2 3 4.

VO > Vaughn Taylor may be a rookie on PGA Tour Champions, but rookie life out here comes with a little more mileage. Taylor arrived on this tour with years of experience and a body that has been through plenty, including right hip surgery in his late 40s. Now he is working with Doctor Tyson Marostica to build strength, improve stability and keep in playing pain free. For Taylor, staying competitive starts before he ever gets to the first tee.

OC > So what we have had a chance to go through your technique let's make sure we do it. So let's do our lat stretch right. So we talked about this here and I'll demonstrate it right. So our lats we want to sit back towards the heels stretch out. And then we're going to work

across and feel like we're going to arch the rib cage and sit back towards the heels. Rotated across the arch should give you a big stretch right through here. Good hold for about 10 second count.

OC / VO > Well, I had right hip surgery a few years ago and just kind of struggled with on right side in general since. So so we're just trying to manage everything, get me moving as well as I can, you know, getting a little more golf specific movements, you know, just trying to maintain and keep getting better and keep working and stronger and, you know, hopefully it'll prove my swing where I can, you know, play pain free and just rely on my workouts to allow me to move better.

OC > So 90 90 position one around the ankle and then the trail one is going to be around the knee.

OC > There we go. So it doesn't even have to come up high. Literally just come up to here. Perfect.

OC > Feels tight over here. But this is my hip I had surgery on. And this movement actually goes better on this hip than my left. So we kind of identified, you know, some weakness in my left and a lack of range. So hopefully that's going to help me more learn as well so.

OC > So this is trying to read pattern so that he's not using he's using his glutes to extend the pelvis. Not trying to use this back to arch and bring it up right. So it's kind of a it's a nice way to isolate the glutes. Make sure that the lats aren't the one the lats are trying to you know, we're not extending the low back to get into.

OC > You can see starts to kind of shake. And there's that engagement of the abdominal wall muscles that kind of haven't been there. So you're trying they're called anti rotation drills. And they're great for golfers that have low back pain because it helps engage everything around the spine. And that way it controls the movement a little bit better. Let's go facing a little bit right forward this time.

VO > Last week PGA Tour Champions players teamed up with Rodgers birdies for kids to help make back to school season a little easier for children in Calgary. The focus making sure grad school students who need extra support have the supplies they need to start the year with confidence. This yearly tradition happily continued.

VO / OC > To warm up. So last year it was really cool because I got the stuff lunch bags for all the kids in the community, which was awesome. This year I get to stuff book bags, which is even more awesome because now we get to find some really cool stuff for these kids to play with.

OC > I kind of want that. Oh, I still remember these. Cool, right?

OC > Yeah. So it doesn't get all dirty. Go black right? Just black that way. It's just easy.

OC > Shopping out. Probably got a yellow on the shopping. And we call these rubbers the races. Thank you so much I appreciate you helping.

OC > Sent pencils. And then we're going to go black again. And then the eraser. Yes. Very clean I hope the person who gets this one likes the black. Thank you.

OC > Perfect. Here we go. Perfect. And again that's awesome.

OC > \$164 million raised by the Rogers Charity classic. Just in the 14 years since it's been going. And today I'm lucky enough to give 100 backpacks right to the kids here in Calgary schools starting in two weeks. How cool is that?

VO > And that will do it for us. From the Rogers Charity classic. Congratulations to our champion who leaves Calgary with the trophy and the signature white Stetson cowboy hat. I'm Vince Cellini. We leave you with some of the tour's players, family and friends getting a chance to step away from the course and to take in some of the spectacular sights Calgary and the Canadian Rockies have to offer.