

PGA TOUR Champions Learning Center Show #22

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > The Monterey Peninsula has long been a golf destination, and so it was again for the over 50 tour. Pebble Beach Golf Links is a show in itself, the Pure Insurance Championship, the latest chapter in its legendary history.

OC > Hello everyone, and welcome to Learning Center. I'm Vince Cellini and this of course, is 18 at iconic Pebble Beach Golf Links. Simply standing here is exciting. Standing here with a chance to win the Pure Insurance Championship, well that's the next level. Once again, amateurs from First Tee chapters across the country played right alongside the pros with a Sunday conclusion at Pebble that never disappoints. With a look back, here's John Swantek and Paul Azinger.

OC > Okay thank you Vince. Always a magical week at Pebble Beach, regardless of the outcome. A really cool week with all the First Tee kids participating this week, but among the professionals, Zinger, no one was better than Zach Johnson. We've said that a lot this year.

OC> Yeah we have. He's got his sixth win under his belt. Now he got off to a hot start. One shot off the lead at the start of the round. And he eagled the second hole here at Pebble Beach. And then birdied the difficult fifth. And it was like here we go.

OC / VO > Yeah plenty of highlights from Zach Johnson on the way to victory number six including this birdie early in the round at the fifth to get to ten under.

VO > Well yeah after the great Eagle at number two, this probably the hardest hole in the front nine, number five. Six he got in a little bit of trouble. But just hit a perfect chip shot. That would be an easy birdie for Zach.

VO > Really took care of the par fives this week. And then this one at the ninth was pretty nifty.

VO > It really was. Nine played the most difficult hole on the course all day. But Zach was able to make a three and that was like a two shot jump on a lot of players.

VO > 32 on the front side. Beautiful strike into the 11th here.

VO > This is what he does best. Just wedges it, it's like lawn darts. Oh.

VO > Got it to 12 under par. And then at 13 this was the moment that kind of turned the tide of the whole day.

VO > It really was. 17 he posted 12 under. This is when Zach got to 13. That long uphill, slow putt. That was to take the solo lead. Then when he did get in any kind of trouble at all, he just made great saves. A stressless par for Zach here and played two brave shots down the 18th and just had this to close it out.

VO > Yeah. Just had a one shot lead which he protected down the finishing stretch. Blasted a driver off the tee. Certainly didn't need to but the pedal was pushed to the floor. When Zach Johnson saw victory number six within his sights, he went out and grabbed it by the throat. He adds victories at Augusta National and Saint Andrews and one at Pebble Beach to the career resume. Congratulations. Zach Johnson, six times a winner in his rookie season. Vince, let's hear from our champion.

OC > Augusta National, Saint Andrews and now Pebble Beach. How important is that? How do you feel about all that?

OC / VO > Yeah, I think I've told you before, I feel like I've already won out here. That being said, to add this majestic spot to the list of, of wins is again, my dreams never got that far. I mean, that's just, let's just be blunt. I got an attitude of gratitude right now. I never thought I'd ever amount to this, but, that's the beauty of this, of this game and the beauty of, like I said, surrounding yourself around like-minded, good people. I'm a product of them, so I'm- Pebble Beach. It's, It's amazing. I'm, never in my wildest dreams I think we'd be here.

VO > Make it a half dozen wins for Johnson and reconfiguring the Charles Schwab Cup standings, at least money wise. Cutting into Stewart Cink's lead again and now less than \$400,000 behind the front runner. Alker and Harrington switched places. And what a race we have as we set up for a huge October run to the playoffs.

VO > In the early morning hours, days before the start of the Pure Insurance Championship, Tim O'Neal and select First Tee participants set out on Pebble Beach to play the iconic finishing holes. 17 and 18 were a magical turn for the amateurs, who soaked in the knowledge provided by a PGA Tour Champions winner. And it all clicked.

OC > How are you doing, guys? I'm Tim O'Neal.

OC > Gavin.

OC > Gavin.

OC > Jack.

OC > Jack.

OC > Ashley.

OC > It's your first time here at Pebble?

OC > Yes, sir.

OC > Nice, nice. Are you guys ready to have some fun this week?

OC > Yes.

OC > How far we got here?

OC > I think I got 160 the last time.

OC > 160? So you said 160?

OC > Yeah.

OC > So it's probably playing a little longer than 160. I'd probably play it about 170. Heavier air, it's early, cool. So, like your 170 club probably would be ideal. Nice. I don't even want to hit now. I got a little lucky. Look at that. Nice. Okay, so you see the white tent?

OC > Yeah.

OC > I'd probably go ten yards inside of that. Just hit a bleeder out there.

OC > All right. Ready? Whenever you're ready. One, two, go!

OC > Yeah. Nice job. Wow.

OC > Look at that. Oh. Nice putt. It was awesome playing with you guys and I enjoyed it. Enjoyed it. I hope you guys have fun this week. And then soak, soak it all in, soak it all in.

VO > As if the peninsula needed a spike in fun, it was year two of Peter Jacobsen's The Golf Party Monterey, a star studded get together at Monterey Peninsula Country Club that creates life opportunities while raising funds for three nonprofits. The party has grown in just one year, and Jake talks about the possibilities moving forward for this dazzling event.

VO / OC > We're in a magnificent club, Monterey Peninsula, probably one of the finest clubs in the country, maybe in the world. So when you have an iconic venue like Monterey Peninsula and you combine it with some great professionals that are playing this week in the Pure Insurance Championship, and you bring in celebrities, actors, entertainers, it's a can't miss, it's a win win. And I don't know if it can get any bigger, but I know it's going to

continue to evolve and get better. And my goal is to just raise as much money as we can and have as much fun as we can.

VO > So far, so good, Jake. When Learning Center returns, conversations with some of your favorite stars from sports and entertainment. NFL Hall of Famer Steve Young says it might be time for a dramatic change in his game. Rob Riggle on finding comedy and golf after a decorated Marine Corps career. And A-list actor Andy Garcia on his lifelong love of the game and how acting relates to golf.

OC > Hey, guys, Brett Quigley here. You probably don't know who I am, but you might know where I am. I'm at Pebble Beach, probably the most iconic golf course on the planet. Certainly one we love to come play. Today I'm going to talk a little bit about compressing the golf ball. Everybody wants to know how you compress a golf ball and how you hold the angle and download, down all this stuff. I don't ever think anything about that. I like to get the ball a little bit farther back in my stance, keep my hands just a little bit forward, and I really try to slow my swing down. So the first takeaway just a little bit slower than normal. And then what I feel, what I try to feel like is hold the angle all the way through. See if I can do it and get it over the ravine and somewhat near the green here. So again, I like to feel just a little bit farther back in my stance. Just have the hands just a little bit forward of the golf ball so there's a little bit of shaft lean. And then I just try to feel like I take it a little bit slower going back, and that's as good as I can do. I hope you got that one. It's getting better. Oh, no, don't go in. Oh, I hope you can zoom in on that. It's about that far. It's as good as I could possibly do. So I hope you got that take. But it's really easy. Just a little further back. Hands a little forward. Slow the swing down and you can compress the golf ball finally.

OC > Well, Steve Young is very likely the most accomplished left-handed passer in NFL history, most decorated anyway. But what, what few knew, and what I didn't know is you play golf right-handed.

OC / VO > So my dad, when I was, I grew up in Greenwich, Connecticut, where golf was like the, I mean, golf courses everywhere. I caddied, but I, I played football, basketball and baseball, I never really played golf. And at my high school kids are like, let's go play golf. So I grabbed my dad's clubs, were a righty and I'd go play. That's how I like, there's no lefty clubs. There's no, like if you said, hey, give me a lefty club, you have to, no one made them. So that's how I learned and that's my that's my handicap. That's my that's my big story.

VO > I was ready to place you in the pantheon of left-handed golfers.

VO > So sad.

VO > Throw you right out of there.

VO / OC > So sad. But I play righty and it seems antithetical because I do, Vince, I do everything left-handed. I mean, I'm a lefty. And so fellow lefties out there, we band together

because there's not a lot of us. And the fact, and they probably feel like, how could you let us down playing golf righty. I feel like I let down the lefties.

OC / VO > I wonder how much patience works into your golf game, because I know in football, few people remember that you had to really bide your time to become a full-time NFL starter with the 49ers, right?

VO > Of course.

VO > So you had to learn patience-

VO / OC > But it's a different kind of patience. Patience in golf, golf is too- think about it this way. Football was great for me because snap the ball, react, react, react, react. No time for anything. Golf, the difference between the length of the swing, Johnny Miller used to say Cindy Crawford. That's how he kind of tried to time up. I don't know why, it's just some funny thing. But that time is way too much time for me Vince, that I'm not patient enough to deal with that much time to perform, I need to react.

OC / VO > And going back to football once again, Bill Walsh, your coach there, was a stickler for detail, right? I mean, down to every throw it to the right number on-

VO > It was all timing.

VO > So, so how about timing and detail when it comes to you in golf?

VO / OC > Fascinating, fascinating that Bill was the first one that thought about connecting the quarterback's legs, his feet, to the route so that as you timed it up, that meant that the if you timed up right, the receiver, Jerry Rice would come open right when your feet tell you it's time. So he was the first one to do that. In golf, timing is so, it's subtle. It's so subtle that the, and you know what so many things you have to learn golf as a kid. Because as a kid you can't control the club and you learn to swing it.

OC > Freely.

OC / VO > Freely. If you learn golf, even in high schools too late because you're now strong enough to grab the club and tell it what to do and you never truly swing it. And so to unravel that, that's why I say anyone who learns golf past when they're a little kid will never make money at it. You can't, because you haven't learned that patience of allowing the club to do the work. You always hear, let the club do the work. Oh yeah, nice thought. But like to actually be able to control the club. And so it's really hard to unravel the adulthood learning golf.

OC > What I would love to see is if it's not going well, for you to just go completely lefty at the turn.

OC > So my wife, Barb, she told me, because she comes out to watch me play Tahoe or whatever, says you suck so much. Why don't you play lefty? And I'm like, because I'm, I'm getting better, you know? She goes, if you don't, I don't know but she said one year, she's like, if you don't get in the top half this year, you're going to turn lefty. So that was last year I got, I made it in the top half, but I did get lefty clubs.

OC > Nice.

OC > Because now that I realized, I'm learning how to reconstruct the swing to a to what you'd learn as a kid, I'm trying, and it's so much natural, with your natural turn. To turn your body to other directions, never, it's not natural. Yeah. And so I love Phil Mickelson to be able to prove that, that he's able to do that. But for me as an amateur I think lefty might be the answer for. I'll let you know.

OC > Keep us posted. Steve good seeing you man.

OC > Good to see you too. I love all your stuff that you do.

OC > Thank you.

VO > Steve Young was just one of the celebrities taking part in Monterey. Among the many others, country star Jake Owen, rocker Huey Lewis, as well as Rob Riggle, whose journey to comedy and acting came following a stint in the Marines, and longtime Peninsula participant and award-winning film and television star Andy Garcia. I had the chance to speak with both Rob and Andy on Life and Golf.

OC > Where does golf fall into all those accomplishments you have on your resume?

OC > Wherever there's a gap, I've tried to fill it in with golf. If there's a free minute, I try to fill it in with golf.

OC > How much golf do you play?

VO > Not nearly enough. I pay a lot in membership dues, and I don't play much golf. I'm a really good member.

VO > It's not bad to play on a peninsula here either. I know you play at a lot of places, but is this is a special place for you?

OC > This is a sublime experience always, the mystical element of this peninsula.

OC > I'll play five times in a month, and then I won't play for two months. And so I can't get any consistency going. That's my excuse. I've got a bunch more excuses too, but that's one of them.

OC > We'll save them for, for the course.

OC > Yeah.

OC / VO > We first played in 97 and won the tournament, which is you know, it's a ridiculous thing to happen when you play out here as an amateur. Paul Stankowski and this is the first time we play and I hadn't seen him in over a decade. And so, I saw he was coming out and I said, I want to be paired with Paul. You know, we were having a good time.

OC > He's a great guy.

OC > I want to play in the 70s. Right now I'm pretty consistently in the 80s and I can't break the barrier. I can't get below 80. Even if I'm playing great, I'll melt down for two holes and that's it. I'm out. You know, so I, I would love to play golf in the 70s.

OC / VO > That's why we come out here. So every so often you go like that and you pull off a shot or it comes off the club a certain way. So it's a, there's a sort of a Zen quality about the game that, that is really precious. You know, some people who don't play, they don't understand what's, why these people, when they're at home, they're practicing, they're putting, putting in their living room, you know, and you go, you really are putting? You go, yeah you don't understand, I'm trying to get the right little thing here, you know.

OC > I understand 23 years in the U.S. Marine Corps and you were a lieutenant colonel. You were deployed in places like Afghanistan, Kosovo. So my question is, which is more difficult, international conflict or show business?

OC > Oh, wow. That's a good one. I'm going to say they're very similar. They, they, they, they, they both have their setbacks for sure. But, yeah, no, they're, they're a neck in neck race. It depends on the day.

OC > I would say most actors, admire their- everything comes back to finding sort of like personalizing the aspects of the character that might be in you. And sometimes you'll play a killer. But I'm not a killer. But they'll, they'll, you try to understand why he's a killer. And then if you have to take somebody out and you have to figure out, well, is there someone that I would like to take out? Okay.

OC > When folks meet you, do they ever quote a movie line or something that you said on TV? What's, what's the most common?

OC > I get a lot of Pal...

OC / VO > Hackman, one of my favorites, as is the late Sean Connery, who I know you've costared with. Can you share with us, did you have a chance to play with Sean?

VO > I never played with Sean.

VO > But he had a tremendous passion for the game.

VO > Oh he loved the game of golf.

OC > Pow. Pow.

OC > From Stepbrothers.

OC > From Stepbrothers. And then I get a lot of, in the face from Hangover. Not up in here, not you, fat Jesus, a lot of fun things like that.

OC > He would always go play golf after he finished work or if he worked half a day. One time he did his close up, he was from here up he was dressed as Malone, and he had his golf pants on below.

OC > He's out the door.

OC > He goes, it's not my first barbecue.

OC > On that note, that's beautiful. Andy, great to see you.

OC > Likewise, man.

OC > And congratulations with the series Landman. Can't wait to see it.

OC > Thank you man, we're having a good time with that. It's a privilege.

OC > You know, I had this marine mindset. You know, you don't show any vulnerability. You don't show any weaknesses. Drama sometimes requires that. Now, on the other hand, comedy requires you to be to be willing to look foolish. I got no problem with that. I do it all the time, just watch me play golf.

OC > Yeah, right. Well, join the club. Thank you for the interview, your service.

OC > Oh, thank you.

OC > And all the laughs.

OC > I appreciate it. Thank you very much.

VO > Still to come on learning center, it's President's Cup week. We'll look back on some history in this event. This chapter brought to you by Haas and Haas, handling all of your international golf needs.

VO > Its President's Cup week as this high-profile event continues a tradition that began in 1994. The United States versus the international squad, excluding Europe. 12-man teams and the U.S. looking to add to a streak of ten straight wins in the biannual event contested this year at Medina Country Club. The four-day event begins Thursday with fourball, foursomes Friday, a combination of both on Saturday, and then a final day singles. Back in 2015, the Presidents Cup made its first trip to South Korea and delivered a thriller. With a cup hanging in the balance, Bill Haas won the final match on the 18th hole, giving his father U.S. captain Jay Haas a 15.5 to 14.5 victory. Here's pops with more on that special week.

VO / OC > The highlight of my golfing career is being the captain in 2015 in South Korea and my son Bill was on the team. Long story short, he was number 12 guy on Sunday and it came down to his match with Sang-Moon Bae. And Bill ended up winning two up, won the last hole, and we won by a point. So prior to that coming in, we were tied. And it was, I get chills thinking about it. But again, the highlight of my, my, my golfing career without question, and I don't think I'll ever forget it.

VO > Before Jay Haas took the reins in 2015, Fred Couples guided the U.S. to three straight Presidents Cup victories in 2009, 2011 and 2013. Tiger woods played on all three of those teams and Couples reflects on what it was like to captain one of the game's great clutch players.

VO / OC > Tiger Woods, greatest player I've ever been around, each time I was captain won the deciding or clinching point. So that was kind of amazing. Every year that we won, he was the one putting out that won the Presidents Cup. So that is a treat in itself. But being around the guys watching them play, you've heard me talk about it a million times, it was more fun, more fun than playing. I love playing for USA, but being a captain for those 12 guys and the wives and the caddies was truly an honor. And I wish them all the best in Chicago. It's going to be a great week.

VO > And speaking of memorable Presidents Cup moments, Woody Austin made quite a splash in his only appearance. At Royal Montreal in 2007, Austin lost his balance trying to play from the water at the 14th hole, then returned on the final day wearing swim goggles, earning the nickname Aquaman. Nearly two decades later, Austin was back inside the ropes in team golf, serving as a support figure for Angela Stanford's U.S. Solheim Cup team. Woody reflected on the experience and offered his usual unfiltered perspective on the week.

VO / OC > Absolutely had a blast. I would do it in a heartbeat if given another chance. It was, it was really fun to be inside the ropes. Met a bunch of wonderful ladies, obviously some really talented players. If I had a drawback, me being me and being unapologetically honest, I think the golf community and the powers that be need to be a lot more hands on and helpful to the women. I feel like the women deserve a lot more than they got. Especially the fact that I've played in one as a guy and what have you. I feel as though

they're still being short sighted, so to speak. They deserve more. They really do. They're all such good people and great players, and they deserve more from the golf community.

VO > And with that, we come up for air to say goodbye. I'm Vince Cellini thanking you for joining us on Learning Center. Until next time, congratulations to our Pure Insurance Championship winner from spectacular Pebble Beach Golf Links.