PGA Tour Champions Learning Center VO= Voice Over OC= On Camera

VO>> Welcome the PGA tour champions learning center. I'm Vince Giulini on a windy Sunday in Tucson it was Kevin Sutherland rallying to win the color guard classic. Grabbing a share of the lead itching and in for birdie on the par three sixteenth as Mike Weir made bogey on that hole, Sutherland went on to win for the fifth time on PGA tour champions with a fifteen under par total.

OC>> There's always been good to me for some reason I've played well in this tournament in the past I played well in the Phoenix open on the tour I don’t know what it is about the air here but it seems I seem to enjoy it. So the Schwab Cup and down and at Phoenix Country Club has been traffic to me and this course has been really good too.

OC>> Another winner this season and another player to don the conquistador helmet one of the most distinctive trophies on this tour and once again on the Tucson national provided an exciting tests throughout. With a look back at the final round let's bring in the men who called the action Bob Papa and Lanny Watkins.

VO>> The seventh consecutive year the PGA tour champions at Omni Tucson national resort for the Cologuard classic. Take a look at some of the highlights, Mike Weir lead after the first round, as well as through thirty six and got off to a fast start Lanny with a birdie on the opening hole.

VO>> Well he did good shot here by Weir buries it from about 18 feet. Both his playing partners Sutherland and Parel also birdied number one.

VO>> Kevin Sutherland with a nice bounce back Sutherland started the day 2 back, made a bogey at the fifth and then this long birdie at the sixth.

VO>> Yeah beautiful putt from forty five feet and then at number seven Mike Weir either missed it or miss judge club wise into the par three left it short. No problems though, look at this beautiful little pitch shot, finds the bottom of the hole.

VO>> Thank got Weir to fifteen under he had a three shot lead then over at the par five eight Weir for birdie again.

VO>> Yeah wasn’t a great wedge shot but leaves it about fifteen feet. Again, he's rolling very nicely at this point in time, looks like he's got things well under control.

VO>> Yeah he had a four shot lead, he bogeyed the ninth so his lead was three as they made the turn and then Kevin Sutherland with his birdie putt at the ten to get within two.

VO>> Yeah that was going to telling Mike Weir look out man I'm not going away.

VO>> Southerland would add another birdie at the twelfth and then at the sixteenth the par three there had been a birdie there all day and the first one comes on a pitch in from Sutherland.

VO>> Yeah it turned things completely around Weir was still in the bunker ended up being a two shot swing when Mike Weir misses this putt and they are tied with two to play.

VO>> Then over at the par five seventeenth Kevin Sutherland just off the back of the green in two and plays a wonderful shot here.

VO>> He did this is tough to judge the pace coming through this much fringe and then back down hill extremely well done by Kevin Sutherland good control his nerves.

OC>> Yeah Mike Weir could not make a birdie over the final ten holes and Kevin Sutherland made four of them in route to the victory. Let's talk about Kevin Sutherland and the fact that he's now one of six players to win in this combined season more than once. He's won twice, his fifth win and the way he drives the golf ball is the key isn’t it?

OC>> It is he's one of the longest straightest hitters on this tour week in week out he's hitting very solid, stays right in his spine angle, great rotation and boy he can hit it right on the numbers every single time. I think it sets up the rest of his game, the other thing I've noticed how much better his putting stroke is now than it used to be.

VO>> Twice now Mike Weir's had the lead going into the final round, hasn't closed it out he's got to get try to get over that hump doesn't he?

VO>> No question he needs to post a win. He's got two seconds looking for the W.

VO>> So Kevin Sutherland with a two shot win over Mike Weir in the seventh playing of the Cologuard classic in Tucson Arizona.

VO>> Thank you gentlemen now look at the updated Charles Schwab Cup standings. Kevin Sutherland is the new leader after his victory. Followed by Bernard Langer who has a slight lead on Ernie Els and Scott Parel is in the mix after tying for third in Tucson.

Jim Furyk and Phil Mickelson both finished top twenty in the colorguard classic. Mickelson was T. twenty, he won the Tucson open thirty years ago as an amateur while playing college golf at nearby Arizona State University Jim Furyk who tied for seventeenth was also back in familiar territory playing in Tucson where he attended the university of Arizona. Both spoke about playing against one another as collegiate rivals in high stakes matches.

OC/VO>> Best memory though was probably on my last day as an Arizona wildcat and and my last day is an amateur golfer, we won the NCAA’s. You had Arizona, Arizona state with number one number two teams in the country and you know Mickelson won the individual title at Arizona state and from Arizona state, and we took the team title at Arizona.

OC/VO>> We had a lot of good matches and both squads were always really good when Jim and I were in college and we had some great matches against each other with each other.

VO>> Our Sophomore years we both kind of played number one for the team so played in a lot of tournaments with ASU, got paired with them a lot, was paired with Phil quite a bit.

OC/VO>> I remember playing with Jim back in junior golf and the one memory that stands out for me was it was raining and he had these white cotton gloves and he had no problems gripping the gripping the club I thought wow i never seen that never heard of that.

OC/VO>> Whoever had Phil we always came back with a couple stores like you won't believe what he tried to do this time and we describe the story are always something interesting.

VO>> I love everything about the game of golf and I love trying to create shots trying to come up with shots.

OC>> Always some shot you know whether he was trying to skip it over a lake or you know just just hitting some crazy amazing shot most of the time pulling them off not always but we all had stories that described him as an ammeter.

OC>> I remember one time we were in McCormick ranch and the last hole is this island fairway then you got to hit over the water to the green and I hit it on the left side of the grass and I was up against like, we used to have like one fifty markers that were trees. So I didn't have a left handed swing had a right handed swing and coach was back there helping the guys three four hundred yards away and I wanted to flip over eight iron and hit right handed and try to knock on the green and so you know I'm kind of half asking him from four of four hundred yards away Hey can I you know, and I see coach go like this, all right. So I stand up over that shot about ready to swing and I I hear “wait” I see him back there four hundred yards, “don’t! what are you doing?” he's he's tell me now to pause he's now I got to wait for him to drive up he says “what are you doing just lay it up. Insure your five we've got the team win you know blah blah and he was he was right. That was the one time I listen to him and you he was right of course he was right there he knew what I was doing that's why I didn't tell him half the time.

VO>> Coming up on learning center some Fresno state love as we will have the winners tip from the Cologuard classic and Tim Petrovic holding pocket aces in Tucson. Petro was perfect not once but twice a look back at this rare feat next.

Tim Petrovic’s wallet took a hit last weekend as he had to buy drinks not once but twice. Thanks to two holes in one in back to back rounds. During Friday's round Petrovic made a hole in one on the par three sixteenth hole with a six iron from a hundred eighty eight yards. Then on Saturday he made his second hole in one of the tournament acing the par three fourteenth with a seven iron from one hundred seventy six yards. It was the second time a player has made two aces in a tournament on PGA tour champions. The last to do it was Graham Marsh 2004 senior Open. Tim finished the week tying for sixth place.

As for Kevin Sutherland his methodical chase of second round leader Mike Weir included rallying from four down with nine holes to play on a windy Sunday in Tucson. Sutherland missed the green on the par three sixteenth but then chipped in for birdie as Weir made bogey to tie for the lead. Sutherland then birdied seventeen and after a spectacular clutch drive on eighteen tapped in for par to card a final round sixty nine and fifteen under total winning his first colorguard classic and fifth overall title on PGA tour champions. Here's Kevin with our John Cook and the winners tip.

OC>> thanks Vince congratulations there Kevin on your fifth PGA tour champions win and the Arizona double.

OC>> I know.

OC>> How about that two in a row Phoenix, Tucson.

OC>> I like Arizona.

OC>> well I gotta ask you you're going to the eighteenth tee what was your mindset on the eighteenth tee. Toughest tee shot we might have on the PGA tour champions.

VO/OC>> It is the toughest tee shot I think for everything, too difficult to qualify it is incredibly difficult tee shot I had driven the ball well . We were kind of deciding three wooden and driver and so we hit a driver and picked out a good line and it just creased it I just hit it just where I was looking and and and that's a good feeling.

OC/VO>> that's a good feeling to hit a pearl like that on the last hole exactly. I think that the shot of the tournament was the pitch shot at sixteen set it up for us?

VO>> I had a pitch t was kind of up the hill a little bit and so I I knew I could be somewhat aggressive with it and I just really picked a good spot I was really focused on what I want to land the ball focused on was just trajectory and land the ball on that spot. I walked up to the green I got my spot and I really just focused on my spot in on so then I'm just looking at that spot and then just seeing the trajectory that it need to hit to get there and just like that.

OC>> It came off perfectly little check little release right up the hill in it goes.

OC>> And then seem to change the tide a little bit.

OC>> Absolutely it did it was a timely pitch shot. We appreciate your time congratulations again the 2021 Cologuard Classic champion Kevin Sutherland that's a wrap from Tucson back to you Vince.

VO>> PGA tour champions will take the rest of the month off but the tour returns in six weeks in Naples Florida for the Chubb classic. Followed by the Insperity invitational which will bridge late April to May on the calendar and then Steve Stricker defends in the first major of the season, the region's tradition at Greystone golf and Country Club.

Still to come on PGA tour champions learning center we turn our attention to this week's PGA tour event the Arnold Palmer invitational. Tom Lehman was runner up the 1999 events and shares a story about the King.

Two time Charles Schwab Cup champion Tom Lehman turned sixty two on Sunday. The Scottsdale resident is familiar with the property at last week's Cologuard classic at Omni Tucson national as he helped design the neighboring Sonoran Desert golf course which opened in 2005. Who better to offer us some course advice then the designer himself in this week's what's your edge.

OC>> Well when you are on a shortish hole maybe a short somewhat drivable hole or at least get close to the green but with a lot of trouble you know how do you know what club to play from the tee you know do I hit a driver and get aggressive do I hit a three wood and play it safe or maybe play it safer and how do I make that choice I simply start from the green and go backwards. I always start with where the pin is. If the pin is in this position where I can get up there somewhere around the green and have a lot of ability to chip close to the hole and there's not a lot of trouble I'll go with the driver you know if there's a couple of pins which are really tough and if you miss it one way or the other I may think about going with a three wood but I would still prefer the driver only because you know to be able to chip usually is a lot better than ever hitting eighty or ninety yard wage, but you have to have a lot of confidence in the driver to do that just like this new seven twenty one tour edge driver with ridge back technology face stabilizing technologies and so if you have a driver in your bag that you really trust in you know the shape it's gonna produce every time it kind of helps make that decision way easier. If I have a driver where I can miss it left and I can miss it right it makes a decision way tougher so it's really important to have something in your bag that you love that you can really trust you know what is going to produce. So again you know if I can get near the grain or I can chip to it I'm gonna try to typically go with a driver and if there is trouble out there a little bit shorter 250, 260 and I get my driver passed it I'm gonna go with the driver. If the trouble is out there thirty yards short and a lot of stuff going out there that I don’t want to be in I I may think about the three wood but but typically I do believe that golf is better played played aggressively and if I can get the driver in my hands that's what I'm gonna do. Works like a charm.

VO>> Arnold Palmer's legacy lives on at this week's PGA tour event the Arnold Palmer invitational presented by MasterCard. A bronze statue of the King greats all of the patrons as they step onto the grounds. More now from Tom Lehman as he shares his connection with Mister Palmer.

OC>> He was such a charismatic person who treated everybody so well but he, the year that he was the president's Cup captain you know it was really a fun week because in all of the opening ceremonies in the closing ceremonies I was seated right next to him so you know he would, on the end I was right next to him and so I hear all of his mutterings about some of the other people on the other side the other team and you know he's a competitive guy Peter Thompson has said that the talk to all the Aussies on the the world team who had come over and and taken all the beautiful American girls and married all the American women. Arnold didn't like that at all he's like he didn't like that at all he's like your son of a gun I'll show you something and you know we're gonna go pound you know just because you said something like that. He is so competitive you know towards someone like him but but it was his birthday that week and so we want to take Arnold out for his birthday yeah I thought I'd just be should be Arnold and the guys and we want to go this little bar restaurant out in the middle of Virginia and and but the the ladies all wanted to go because Arnold's fun to be around so we ended up the whole team going the whole team and all the ladies and and somewhere along the line in the in the course of dinner somebody's you know asked to pass the salt and pepper and Arnold made a big deal about passing the salt and pepper and they got the salt and pepper conversation about how much this person loves salt and pepper and well we end up going back to the hotel and you know go to bed to get the next morning practice, dinner the next night you know hit the sack. About two o'clock in the morning that night Arnold’s walking down the hallway “everybody up everybody up get out here” he is bang on the doors “get out here everybody got out here” he's got a box and he had Arnold Palmer silhouette salt and pepper shakers for everybody and he give everybody at two in the morning salt and pepper shakers. You know I think about that with the fondest of memories just think about how much fun he was.

VO>>2021 will mark the forty second time Bay Hill club and lodge will host the Arnold Palmer invitational. In the tournament's history the event has gone to a playoff only six times the last time it happened was in 1999 when Tim Herron defeated Tom Lahmen. Fast forward and lumpy offers his recollections of that win and a tip on bringing it home at Bay Hill.

OC>> And joining me now is four time PGA tour winner Tim Herron and I I do want to talk about that moment and winning the API and how important maybe that was for you to win at Arnold's place.

OC>> You know at the time it was very important it got me in the top fifty in the world, but now looking back it was important because I got to know all Arnold Palmer. I thought it was really cool to be you know his past champion and to really get to know great one, Arnold Palmer.

OC>> Can you share with us anything about a conversation with Mr Palmer or a good story that maybe.

OC>>Well I I was I was in the locker room one day just playing with some random members and stuff and he goes Tim I'm not feeling very well do you mind sitting down at the table with a couple my guests? I go yeah Mister Palmer I'll do I'll have a drink with them whatever and my went introduced myself and started off colonel, colonel, general, admiral and they go they go do you wanna go play emergency nine we're going up to the White House to see if we're going to war or something like that. I'm like the oh my god I with the guys that are making decisions about you know our country so I thought it was pretty cool that that's a great point of Mister Palmer you know he treats everyone the same but he knew that some of the most influential people in the world. What he's done for the game I just hope the players in this era know what he's done for the for us and for the game.

OC>> I'm sure they do so there's a lesson in there to be learned and I was wondering Tim if you walk us through it and that was the the second playoff hole you beat Tom Lehman back in 1999 and you party like it was 1999.

OC>> yeah exactly yeah yeah.

OC>> So far five sixteen and your second shot, hit five iron what you have in hand, hundred eighty five yards to ten feet. Now that's a it's a risk reward shots and just going for it under pressure I wonder if you could take our viewers through that process.

OC>> Let me tell you the ball wasn't sitting like that so when I walked up it was actually in a divot like that and I was in a playoff with Tom Lehman and he was struggling on the hole I didn't know if he is even gonna make a par so I go to my caddy I go “do you think I should lay up out of there” and he goes “no way man you gotta go for it.” So I actually hit a five iron out of a divot and flushed it on the green and two putted to win that to win the tournament and he he made a par, he made an unbelievable par. I thought he was gonna maybe make a six.

OC>> Well let's get you back to a better lie here and make it a little easier and we're not in a tournament situation but I guess what would be your mindset of the process that you go through under pressure you have to make the shot in it and it's a tough go for winning shot.

VO>> Well what was important is I knew to try to hit a cut or slice try to fade it so I'm making sure that I was hitting down on the ball because is a little bit out of the out of a Divot. So I want to make sure I hit ball ball first I put the ball little farther back in my stanc, made sure I had a nice full complete swing and then just kept my focus on the ball and thank god I flushed it and got it over that water.

OC>>You sure did. So will you give us a whack here?

OC>> Yeah I'll give it a whack.

OC>>What do you think? It's gonna get you home?

OC>> Yeah that might get me home.

OC>>PGA Tour champions will return in April with the Chubb classic. Learning center? We're back each week and next week we'll hear from some past champions of the players as we take a deeper look into TPC sawgrass. That's gonna do it for this week, I’m Vince Giulini, thanks for watching.