**P. G. A. Tour Champions Learning Center Show #10 Transcript**

OC/VO>> Hi again everyone and welcome to PGA Tour Champions Learning Center. I'm Vince Giulini and as the calendar turns from March to April major season is upon us. The region's tradition in Birmingham Alabama is in five weeks and that's the first major on PGA Tour champions on the PGA tour the first major is next week as the masters will be played for the second time in a five-month span.

VO>> Back in November the world number one Dustin Johnson took advantage of fall conditions and won major number two in record setting fashion. Posting a five shot victory and setting the term and scoring record for seventy-two holes with a twenty under two sixty-eight total. Turns out DJ got some pre-tournament advice from golf legend Greg Norman who may have indirectly exacted some revenge on Augusta national.

OC/VO>> I read an interesting story about you working with Dustin Johnson before the masters and I guess doesn't he play with your son Gregory and so you just spent some time with him and that's going to great detail but was was there a little work involved, what are some of things you touch down with Dustin prior to the masters?

OC/VO>> Well I'll just it was in September I got a call from the DA said “Hey do you mind coming and take a look at my putting?” ended for on and off I've been sending messages through my son to JJ. Hey you know I see what you're doing wrong we mind if if you know if you need some help or advice just let me know and. So it was in September he text me and they said do you mind coming out to the Grove twenty three and watch me put a little bit and I said sure no problem. So I went at them probably spent about an hour hour and a half with him. Because I didn't like he's on these let the right parts he was terrible left like pottery is a swipe putter. And I just told him through a few things and they ask me one thing about DJs very cerebral he's a very smart golfer very intelligent about how these approaches and what he wants to do so I gave him a few of my tips and Walla.

OC/VO>> Was there anything in particular that you saw actually put into place during the course of the tournament?

VO>> Yeah absolutely okay I I watched him during the tour championship and all the left the right putts he was doing exactly what I mentioned to him to do. And during the Masters is exactly the same thing. His left to right putts he started making on Sunday I just under under the gun that was the most important thing, of seeing him do that.

OC>> Look I'm not gonna tell you tell you what I suggested old told DJ that'll be up to him in order to disclose it. But it's I am a big fan of his I've always have been for years and years and years. I don't think he's reached his full potential. I think he's the most athletic golfer on this planet there's no question about it and he just knows how to play his game and he's got a really really good feel for it.

VO>> Dustin Johnson will surely face of faster firmer course in April as he looks to repeat at the masters. Previously, he became the fourth player at world number one to win the green jacket and looks to join Tiger Woods in doing it twice. In the two thousand twenty masters one of the more interesting storylines involve sixty-three-year-old Bernard Langer. Not only playing to the weekend but opening with sixty eight and closing things out to the seventy one Langer average two hundred fifty yards off the tee playing in the same group as bomber Bryson DeChambeau who averaged three hundred fifteen. But Langer actually finished ahead of Bryson in the tournament beating him by a shot and posting at three under par.

OC/VO>> Your performance at the masters drawing great reviews not only the oldest player to make the cut at the masters but then you're forever linked now with Bryson DeChambeau.

VO>> Played alongside so I he's he's driving it past you at fifty yards or so something like that.

OC/VO>> Hundred fifty.

OC/VO>> But yet and still you finish minus three in the tournament tee twenty nine finished the stroke better than him so my question was what is the lesson or the message in all of that and it looks like you were having a great time by the way you have a lot of fun.

VO>> Well it was it was fun playing with Rory McElroy on Saturday and was Bryson on Sunday and it's it's fun playing in the masters period.

OC>> And the tournament this the golf courses so long now for me I think it plays seven thousand four hundred fifty but into the grain because they mow the grass towards us so the ball digs in a little more doesn't release. And and for me I I was hitting three woods into a couple par fours and two hybrid three hybrids four hybrids and it's a challenge but I I like that it's it's different you know so it's almost like a chess game. So for me the monsters especially the golf course hitting those kind of clubs self-down hillside hill lies I really need to always plan like two moves ahead you know so yes yeah like chess. So if you you know if I missed the green here I I can get it up and down or chip it in but if I missed the green there I’m dead. So I I sometimes often played to parts of the green or even off the green just to have a chance to get up and down and then take my chances for birdie where I can on the par fives which I don't reach into anymore so I'm going to have to put myself in a good situation where I can get my wedge close, have a good angle and all of that you know. So I can play the course so many times I know where I can get it up and down from where I can have an easier to putt then you know from other places and and that part is fun for me and it's challenging.

OC/VO>> Not that you need a confidence boost but there must be a great thing to bring into twenty twenty-one for you as well wasn't a lift?

OC/VO>> Yeah it's always fun you know playing well and and being amongst the young guys and I mean the the course really doesn't suit me anymore you know I'm just too short. But you know the lesson we can learn the older guys is you can still shoot a good score even though you may not be long enough you just gotta play smart and put it in the right places. You know I never I never made a double bogey which is pretty cool and didn't make too many bogeys so that's not easy to do when you hit a lot of hybrids since it's (LAUGHS).

OC/VO>> It was an amazing performance so much fun to watch.

VO>> Langer made history in the twenty-twenty masters what age sixty-three years two months eighteen days, he became the oldest player to make the cut in master’s history. Topping the previous mark of sixty-three years one month sixteen days set by Tommy Aaron twenty years prior. Langer did not make a single double bogey all week. And was very competitive finishing tee twenty-nine. He will have a chance to break his own record in this year's event. The honorary starter tradition in the masters began in nineteen sixty-three with Jock Hutchinson and Fred McLeod a pair of major championship winners. This year Lee elder the first African American golfer to compete in the masters in nineteen seventy-five will add his name to the list of honorary starters. He will tee off next Thursday morning alongside Jack Nicklaus and Gary player, with whom Lee has a unique relationship.

VO>> Lee that came to South Africa I wanted him, and I went to my prime minister or my president at that time because we had presidential rights of bread and prime minister.

OC/VO>> And I had to get permission now how sad is that did you go to get permission for a man to come and play. I wanted to put a spoke in the wheel of apartheid. And I honestly, I simply when you come to South Africa man, I tell you get a lot of guts to say yes. They called me a traitor in the south African airport and Lee Elder was put under a lot of pressure. My president because I played golf with him luckily said bring him in. And Lee did a great job and we went to other venues in and went off so well. And I've always thought the athletes are given medals for their athletic prowess, but Lee Elder did something far more important than athletic prowess,

VO>> for the human being and yet he's never been given a medal by any president. But he did get the Bobby Jones award of which he asked me to introduce him. Lee Elder he deserves that he really deserves it to go tee for next Thursday. There are a lot of the people that deserve it as well but life ain't meant to be fair.

VO>> The master’s tradition of honorary starters is a who's who of the game. Gene Sarazen, Byron Nelson, Sam Snead, and Arnold Palmer are among the names who have opened the event. Next Thursday morning Lee elder will stand alongside eighty-five-year-old Gary Player and eighty-one-year-old Jack Nicklaus as the tenth honorary starter in master's tournament history.

After skipping the twenty-twenty playing, Ian Woosman was seen earlier in the show as a former world number one to win the masters, returns to the tournament field on the thirtieth anniversary of his victory at Augusta national. Back surgery in January of last year has been effective and help the Welshman feel strong enough to once again give it a go in this year's edition. This may also lead to a return to PGA tour champions where Woosman last competed in two thousand nineteen.

The masters maybe a week away but this week the PGA tour is off to San Antonio for the Valero Texas open. When learning center returns class is in session as we get advice on playing in windy conditions from two former Texas open champions.

The PGA tour is in San Antonio this week for the Valero Texas open and features PGA tour champions members Phil Mickelson and Jim Furyk. This is the sixth oldest event on the PGA tour having first been played in nineteen twenty-two. And it's the oldest PGA tour event to be held in the same city for its entire existence.

Duffy Waldorf is a two-time winner of the Valero Texas open win number one came in nineteen ninety-five where he took it by six shots to get his first PGA tour victory. Four years later it took more than seventy-two holes to decide the winner. Waldorf and Ted Tryba finished regulation tied at eighteen under. On the first playoff hole Duffy putting from off the green and from forty-five feet away he finds the mark. Equally impressive Duffy showing he had hang time. More from the four-time PGA tour winner in what's your edge.

OC/VO>> Hi am Duffy Waldorf. Nineteen ninety-five I won my first tournament on the PGA tour it was the Valero Texas open. One of the things I remember about that week was the amount of wind Texas is known for its wind we were in San Antonio that week was a particularly windy week. And I want to talk to you about how driving the ball in the wind what are some of the important things I think about to be able to handle windy conditions with a driver. The good news to start with is the drivers probably the best club to hit in the wind because it doesn't have much loft. And so, I can take a pretty good cut out it and I don't hit it high. I always try to think about hitting the ball very solid and as straight as I can when it's windy because especially when you're in crosswinds the ball's going to move a lot in the crosswind wind anyway.

So unless you’re playing a extremely open course and you wanted to get some extra distance, you might have a shot and try to ride the winds turn a shot the same direction as the wind. A lot of times when it's a narrow course, you see this a lot and another courses like where it's very open like an open championship, you have to actually play shot against the wind to keep it from going too far off line. Anyway with the driver I want to think about hitting it as straight as I can, how do I do that? Well I usually set up on the side if if there's any kind of cross wind, I’ll set up aiming down that side and then I actually feel like I hit the almost opposite shot. I’ll hit like it's I’m aiming down the left to the winds from the left to right. I'm gonna aim down the left and I'm gonna make sure I turned over to the left so I get the ball going straight down that line I'm looking. Same thing if its you know the wind off the right I’m aiming down the right. Still want to make sure I release through the shot that gives me the straightest shot.

Most people try to you don't wanna to try to flick the ball or do anything super special. You know mostly younger guys have hit up on the ball that helps keep the ball down but generally speaking they you're not worried about hitting it too low. Just want to hit it solid and straight. If you hit a ball solid the wind won’t affect it nearly as much. This exotic’s club I have here is kind of nice I mean back in those days the technology wasn't quite so great. This ridge back design adds a stabilizing factor which really is going to help me hit the ball straighter. And this diamond face gives you a nice trampoline effect also helping to keep the ball in line. So, this this technology in this exotics really helps when I'm talking about wanting to hit the ball as straight as you can so the wind's gonna affect it not very much. So, let's go ahead and give it a whack. Just focus on trying to hit as solid and straight as you can, and the wind won't be hurting ya’. The wind will be your friend.

VO>> Now that Waldorf has shown us how to find the fairway and windy conditions. Let's bring in nineteen ninety-four Valero Texas open champion, an Austin Texas resident Bob Estes for some advice on controlling your irons in a thick breeze.

OC/VO>> Growing up in West Texas we played a lot of winds, so we had to learn how to keep the ball down. Unless you want the ball, you know ending up off the golf course at times. We spent a lot of time playing in thirty forty fifty mile an hour winds. So obviously a lot of times on those shots back into the wind or cross wind, we had to keep the ball down. And there were two main things that I typically did to to hit a knockdown shot. And that's grip down on the club. You know just slightly you know maybe a you know half an inch or so and that automatically moves the ball back just a little bit further in my stance. And then the the second thing that I do, is maybe pull the left foot back just slightly so that it restricts my hip. Turn slightly because I'm trying to you know hit it about you know three quarter shot so that the ball will launch lower won't have as much spin and hopefully you know more the correct distance so let me try it.

So, to recap there's two main things that I did not down shot the first one is a great down the club just slightly and that was this the ball just a little bit further back in my stance. The second thing that I did was pull my left foot back just a little bit off of the target line and that will restrict my hip turn. And I'll be making less than a full swing because I don't want too much speed and that will help me hit the ball on a lower trajectory and also with less spin and hopefully the correct distance.

VO>> Next on learning center we’ll put the clubs away and go for another favorite hobby among PGA tour champions players. In this case water isn't to be avoided and a hook is essential.

Welcome back and happy anniversary Jack Nicklaus. Thursday is the thirty-one-year anniversary of Jack's first start on PGA tour champions. And as you might expect, it was a success. He won the nineteen ninety regions tradition by four shots over Gary Player.

We still have a couple of events until the twenty twenty-one version of the tradition. But the tour returns in two 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.

Ken Duke started playing a PGA tour champions in two thousand nineteen. He's still searching for his first career win on the fifty and over circuit but has earned six top ten finishes in thirty-six starts. When Duke isn't working on his game he enjoys another activity that also happens to take place on a golf course.

VO>> Just about every time I go into the Floridians which is a wonderful facility that we have. My god my fishing rods or are either in the boat or there in my truck and they're in the golf cart riding around with me cause you know why not if you hit a ball over and by the water and well I should just take a couple casts right? So, you know I do that I and obviously catch a five pound bass and you're like well I don't know if all play the rest of the day I might just fish the rest of the day so.

VO>> Definitely in the fishing community as a guide, been a guide for fifteen years you meet a lot of cool people.

OC/VO>> Especially being in this area the steward area it’s pretty popular having the Floridian out there.

VO>> And there's a lot of sports people to coming come to the area. You just have the opportunity to take them fishing and get to know these people. That's really cool and that's probably one of the coolest parts of my job to have somebody of Ken’s caliber, PGA player on the boat it's an honor for me.

OC/VO>> That is awesome. Knock that thing. You use your fish plugs off your wall too?

VO>> Plugs.

OC/VO>> Definitely wanted that, aggressive here especially this time in the morning.

OC/VO>> Almost swallowed the whole damn thing tried to anyway.

OC/VO>> Careful we don’t, mess up the money makers.

VO>> Got a tournament coming up this weekend. Nice good job.

VO>> That will do it for this edition of PGA tour champions learning center. Next week we'll preview the Masters Tournament and hear from three of its past champions. Bernard Langer, Larry Mize, and Sandy Lyle. Each offering insights into what it takes to where the green jacket. I'm Vince Giulini and we'll see you then.