The PGA tour champions learning center

VO>> PGA tour champions returns to action this week with the Chubb classic at Tiburon golf club in Naples Florida. This Greg Norman designed also regularly hosts the PGA tour's QBE shoot out and the LPGA CME group tour championship this week it will serve as the third PGA tour champions event of the year.

2021 started with Darren Clark winning in Hawaii. Clark closed with a back nine thirty in this final round including a fifty foot birdie putt on seventeen and he had his best final round score on PGA tour champions. He posted a sixty four and twenty one under total to win the Mitsubishi electric championship at Hualalai. One month later on a windy Sunday in Tucson it was Kevin Sutherland rallying to win the Cologuard classic. Sutherland grabbed a share of the lead pitching up and in for birdie on the par three sixteenth. He went on to victory for the fifth time on PGA tour champions with a fifteen under par total.

Which brings us to the current Charles Schwab Cup standings remember these points carry over from events played in 2020. Kevin Sutherland is the man on top after his victory in Tucson, followed by Bernard Langer who has a slight lead on Ernie Els and Scott Parel who is in the mix after tying for third at the Cologaurd Classic. Speaking of the Georgia Bulldog Scott Parel is the defending champion of the Chubb classic. Parel’s win last year in Naples was his third title on PGA tour champions but it came at a different course that he'll be playing this week. More from Scott Parel now as he empties out his pockets and shows us what's in the bag.

OC>> Hi this is Scott Parel and I just want to give you an idea what I got going on here my golf bag the right side here is my side of the bag, left side is my caddie sides so Perry gets to put whatever he wants and that left side that's all his. My right side I've got you know yardage book usually wallet, keys, sunglasses you know things like that and I've got a couple of different pockets here. This top pocket is where I keep my balls and I'm gonna use when I'm playing you know tees stuff like that especially my a Georgia bulldog tees and then usually have a sharpie in here I have got sharpies all over the place because everybody's always wanting to borrow one so and then down here in this pockets where I've got my gloves kind og in a ziplock bag in case we are getting any rain and then I got like a little secret compartment in here where I keep all my you know my special ball markers in my ball repairs that I use got one here for Jarrod Lyle passed away from leukemia usually only use that one when I'm practicing but in general that's where ball marks things like ball markers are and then you know these bags got so many different pockets up here is gently where I keep my you know my badges I need my masks that we're gonna need you know for COVID. Changing if I need to do anything changing with your club settings you know wipes things like that, I do have kind of an interesting thing here I'm sure TSA probably wonders what this is this is some dirt from the field in Omaha when Georgia won the World Series back in the nineties a guy that volunteers actually at the Dick's tournament was scoring for me a couple years ago and he had his Georgia Bulldogs socks on and I'm like well he has to be doing that for me. Well it turns out he played on the team and that won the national championship and he had had a big bag full of dirt he's like I'm gonna bring you some dirt so lucky dirt I keep with me from that field.

VO>> Just four years ago Scott Parel played his first fully exempt season on PGA tour champions unheralded and with no college golf experience Parel broke through with a two victory season in 2018 and is a high performer on tour with the top fives in the first two events of 2021. Parel looks to once again place his name among the contenders for the Charles Schwab Cup.

On the subject of Chubb winners let's look back on a classic in this event's history twenty one years ago the Chubb classic also served as the tour debut of world golf hall of fame member Lanny Wadkins. A major champion and a fearless Ryder Cup performer Lenny took that impressive resume to PGA tour champions we're at fifty he was a rookie all over again. Albeit a heralded first year man, as we return to the scene it was evident there was tremendous excitement surrounding Linney's first start.

VO>> Last week Tom Kite made his senior tour debut this week at the ace group classic in Naples Florida its Lanny Wadkins turn.

OC/VO>> I think I have got to get into it and get a feel for exactly you know what's going on with me out here and the courses and everything else so I'm not gonna set any early expectations go try to get my game ready if I get my game ready everything will take care of itself.

VO>> Hi boys and girls today's golf is brought to you by the letter W. W stands for Wadkins like in Lanny who's making his senior tour debut this week. Lanny had twenty one W's in his PGA tour career and there should be many bows in the years to come. The letter W also stands for Wake Forest were Lanny went to school along with four other players in one announcer this week.

OC>> From the golden horseshoe area Williamsburg Virginia please help me welcome Lanny Wadkins.

VO>> so Lanny Wadkins, his first hit as a senior.

OC>> And I'm joined now by Lanny Wadkins and Lanny there was a a lot of fanfare about your debut on PGA tour champions back then I wonder what you remember about the hype and how anxious you were to play.

OC>> It was a lot of hype and there were three of us that came out was me Tom Watson and Tom kite all turned fifty the same time. Watsons September and Kite and I are only four days apart so essentially we all came at the same time Tom played a little bit more early there then then Watson did then then Kite and I but it was a big deal to a lot of people and it was a lot of fun. I was really looking forward to it so it was it was a lot of fun and to get off to the start and it was it was just outstanding.

OC/VO>> Well it was and as you know and everyone knows what you won in a four man playoff and it was the first time you had won in a in a while anywhere so what was it like to kind of be back in the mix and win again?

OC/VO>> You know what that is a great question and I'll I was asked that question later that day. I said you know what for me getting back in the mix it was like it was eight years from ninety two my last win at Hartford on the PGA tour to 2000 so once I got in the mix a last day was like I'd never left. So yeah I was right back where I wanted to be I had confidence in the way I was swinging so I didn't find any extra nerves or anything for me it was all good.

OC>> nothing takes the place of winning and that's what guys talk about no matter where you play no matter what the tour anything. That you can't there's no substitute for winning.

OC>> No I mean to me that's why we are out here. I mean I know that the big tour is a lot different today with the amount of money they are playing for they're looking for checks as well as wins but when I came on tour if you didn't win and you weren’t making any money. I mean you barely going to pay expenses because I mean they just really my first winning check was twenty six thousand dollars and I beat Arnold Palmer went to last hole one shot lead over Palmer and Nicklaus so I mean that's the kind of real money different from that then until now.

OC>> And you earned that, you earned that money. So you won competitively obviously World Golf Hall of Fame member. You have won competitively at every level so does anything ever take the place of that feeling of it is is it television is something else in your life it takes the place of.

OC>> No I think winning a golf tournament is is to me the ultimate it you do it yourself. It's it's to me is what you work for from day one is the reason I spent all the hours hitting balls all the rounds of play when I was a kid all the games I play when I was in college with myself playing worse ball type stuff challenging myself to get better and I think that's why sitting where I sit today I'm I'm blown away when guys say they don't want to look at the leader board well they're going to go out and play and have a good time and hope I do well I don't get that. You know sometimes you gotta try and force the win you know because the chances to win don't come along that often so if you're not trying to win making a concerted effort to pay attention to what's going on, personally I really enjoyed seeing my name at the top the leader board it didn't scare me that's where I wanted to be that's what my goal was playing so I wanted that excitement of leading a golf tournament and I was always I'm always surprised to this day when you know when guys are telling me the my sports psychologist said I need to not look at the leader board and play to have a good time. Well obviously the sports psychologist never won a golf tournament.

OC>> That's true so moving on to television I've always wanted to ask you what what shape your broadcasting style it and was it ever a part of that ever what you like to hear from from announcers when when you were playing yourself? How do you get to be where you are?

OC/VO>> I don't know I mean I I don't know that I have a style it's just me being me I I'm gonna tell you what I think on air just like I would if I was playing and I I did very blunt interviews back in the day. When I was Ryder Cup captain and everything else. So it's just the way I did I will say I had yeah I had a couple people help me Billy mcity help me when I first started with CBS. He’d go to the when he and i were doing tournaments instead of me and Jim Nance. Billy would help me with some stuff and Gary McCord gave me some great advice, he said I don't want you reading stats and stuff he said I want you to tell me what these guys are thinking why they're hitting the shots they are hitting and your reaction to what they're doing so it's more about me being me and reacting to what I'm seeing then anything else. The prepared stuff the stats all the stuff that's up to my play by play that’s up to Bob Papa now to do all that not me.

VO>> Long before Watkins provided entertaining analysis of the game on television he built a hall of fame career as younger brother Bobby provided lifelong competition then came the 1970 US ammeter win by one stroke over Tom kite which served as a springboard to professional golf. He won the 1977 PGA championship and twenty one times overall on PGA tour. His final victory there coming in 1992.

When learning center returns a look back at the Masters as we hear from three former masters champions on how winning the green jacket impacted their lives.

Welcome back, nine PGA tour champions players who combined for thirteen green jackets competed in the Masters last week. Of those nine, two made the cut Phil Mickelson finished tied for twenty first, Jose Maria Olazabal tied for fiftieth. For the Spaniard breaking a streak of five consecutive missed cuts. Now for the champion, Hideki Matsuyama won the 2021 masters in historic fashion becoming the first man from Japan to win a major championship. Along with the iconic green jacket the champion receives a replica of the Augusta national clubhouse a gold medal and a lifetime invitation to the masters. Hideki will forever be known as a masters champion learning center recently listened in as three former masters champions discussed how one great we can truly become a life changer.

OC>> how about when you won the the master's tournament was there extra pressure did did did it change your personal life for your professional life in any way?

OC>> You know I I did for a little while I feel like I needed to live up to it and then I put some extra pressure on myself and after a couple of the two years after Augusta my game was still okay but it wasn't quite as good and then once I kind of realized that I don't have to live up to something and you know my Christian faith is very important to me and I need to make sure that that's why I'm significant not because I won not because I won the Masters. That that really helped me to get my life back in order and I started taking the pressure off and playing better but I did put some undue pressure on me and I think that's one thing I've told some of the younger guys that have won you know you you belong here you deserve this you earned it don't put any pressure on you you know you don't have to live up to anything you've done it so but I'd I did I don’t know about you guys.

OC>> Well I know it didn't change you as a person because I've known you ever since and you haven't changed a bit in that regard so didn't get to your head or anything else.

OC>> Well if it does Bonnie will take care that she will make sure

OC>> I think there's always added pressure when you've you've won a major if it's an open championship or as a TPC specially the masters there's always that added pressure that the time you have Jordan's Spieth is having trouble you know all the amount of extra time you have to do off the golf course. If it's press conference is do this do that new contract signing and I think it does play a big part I know when you win a major like the Masters it it's it gets hard and trying to stay as normal as possible out yourself and then we just you take it by a pinch of salt and you you get on with it the best you can, but I think Sevy and a few others older guys a told me years ago it is very hard to say no and you have to sometimes learn how to say no when it when contracts and and cherries are dangled in front of your nose it's it's very easy to go that way so you got to be very careful and and use your business mind or a good manager over a good wife whatever might be at the time to keep you on the on the ground level.

OC>> Yeah well said yeah I would agree I don't think in my case I don't think it's changed me a great deal as a person but but on the golf course you know every time you tee it up wherever you are on the world you going to be introduced as a Masters champion and that just reminds you again you know you're one of the best and then you ought to be playing great golf you know and it doesn't always happen but but it's it's a wonderful achievement and something we're all very proud of I'm very fortunate to have that title to our name.

VO>> Coming up on learning center more with Bernard Langer on the course. The ageless maestro has a game that will not fade but a tee shot that will. He shows us how next.

The first Chubb classic was held in 1988, over the years the event has been played on eleven different courses in the Naples area. Since Bernard Langers tournament debut in 2009 he's won the Chubb classic on three different venues. Following a missed cut at the masters Langer is back in action on PGA tour champions and will go for another win but this time at Tiburon golf club. More from Langer with tips on getting a fade off the tee in what's your edge.

OC>> Welcome if you ever wonder when and how to hit a fade I'm going to tell you how I do it first of all I've been testing this new exotic seven twenty one driver and I love it it's very goes very far distance I can control it has a very good spin and the ball runs quite a bit so those are all positives for me. So I'm going to show you know how I do a fade. First of all I would tee up on the right edge of the tee box, see the tee marker, reason for that is I want to start the ball down the left side and then fade it toward the middle of the fairway toward my target so it's better doing it from over there gives me a better visual and more room. So once a I've aimed my body that say I want to start at the left edge of the fairway just a little bit into the rough you can see on my feet my hips my shoulders are lining down the left side. Now all I do different is I just open the club face a little bit if I want to slice it open it a lot you can see that if I want to just faded a little bit out I opened it very little bit maybe a degree or three somewhere that depends how much you wanna fade it. The good thing about that method I think is I can make a straight swing like I always do like a practice I just don't have to change my swing to make the ball curve. So again aim up aim down the left open the club face a little bit and I'll try and start it down that left side by making a full turn into full release and they're just peels a little bit off and it's in the middle of the fairway. The great thing about doing that is you have a wider target, if you started on the left edge lets say the fairways thirty yards wide you have thirty yards from the left edge to the right edge of the fairway. If you go for straight shot and it's a thirty yard wide fairway fifteen yards right in fifteen yards left so literally it's better to curve the ball one way or another so that was the how. Well the when is also what I just said narrow fairway if you, I am more comfortable hitting a fade than a draw or hook so that would be the shot I would go to under pressure. The other reasons I would go for a fade is probably if there's out of bounds down the right side or water hazard I would tee it up on the side of the trouble which is over here and then shoot away from it in this way you know shoot away from the trouble and fade it a little bit to with the fairway. The only time I would probably go for a draw or hook would be if it's right to left wind and it's a par five and I need extra distance. We all know the hook goes a little further runs a little more but for control to get it on the fairway I always recommend the fade hope it works for you good luck enjoy.

VO>> After a slower than normal start to the PGA tour champions schedule things will pick up beginning this week. Over the next six weeks there will be five events including two major championships.

As always learning center returns each and every week to set up PGA tour champions and with legends to help your game. I'm Vince Giulini thank you for watching, we'll see you next time.