PGA TOUR Champions Learning Center

VO>> The Chubb Classic in Naples Florida went down to the wire with plenty of big names in the mix but with shots like this his second on sixteen in the final round Steve Stricker showed the way he made birdie to get to sixteen under then on the par four seventeenth with the ball below his feet greenside bunker a delegate up and down for par making his third start in this event Stricker goes sixty six sixty seven sixty seven to win by one over Robert Carlson and Alex Cejka the fifty four year old Stricker a sixth victory on PGA TOUR Champions more from our winner now in what’s your edge?

VO/OC>> The shot at seventeen today was probably the key to the win really getting that up and down I had a should have been in the bunker in the first place but I had a bad stance I was able to get one foot in the bunker fortunately I didn't have that far to go so I just felt like if I could just get the club had going down and splash it out get a role and you know on the fringe it should roll up there next to the hole and and which it did thankfully made the putt got got my four and got out of there either I was able to play the last hole pretty conservatively but yeah that shot at seventeen was probably the one that I'll remember the most that you know help me to victory today when you get in that position as an amateur I think you just you just try to get it on the green or just out of the bunker you know on that fringe there wouldn’t even been bad but you know I'm trying to get up and down but I think for the most part amateurs lose a lot of strokes by just not getting it out of the bunker you know or blading it over the green so just do your best to get it out of the bunker on the putting surface would be best even if it was on the fringe here we can use our putter again to make a five and

get out of there.

OC>> Hello and welcome to PGA TOUR Champions Learning Center I'm Vince Cellini and after a six week break in the schedule the over fifty tour was back going from Tucson Arizona to Florida's Gulf coast the third event of the year the Chubb Classic wrapped up an exciting week and for a look back at the final round let's bring in the gentleman who call the action Bob Papa and Larry Wadkins.

OC>> The PGA TOUR champions thirty four years coming to Naples Florida and Lanny a stacked leaderboard going into Sunday's final round.

OC>> It really was Hall of Famers major winners guys that have played very well all year and not surprised to see Steve Stricker get it done Bob.

OC/VO>> Bernard Langer was right in contention he is the only person to ever win the Chubb Classic on three different occasions and at the par four twelfth Langer putting themselves right in contention

VO>> Yeah he did this is the putt he needed to make at this point in time I thought it would put him in position to make a run a couple of un-Langer like mistakes sidetracked him.

VO>> Fred Couples a two time winner of this event hasn't won since 2017 and he rolls in this birdie putt and Fred is right in the mix.

VO>> Yeah and with the par five fifteenth coming up you're expecting big things from Fred that point.

VO>> Couples would make bogey at fifteen Steve Stricker did not make birdie at the reachable par five fifteenth but the second in the sixteen helped seal the deal.

VO>> Yeah, this one made up for the three putt par at the fifteen no question hit it there about eighteen inches and a simple birdie for Stricker.

VO>> Alex Cejka had to Monday qualify and just wanted to have a good finish well not only that, but when he rolls in this eagle putt at fifteen Cejka is in contention to win.

VO>> Yeah, he had a legitimate chance and we give him credit for fighting back and fighting back hard.

VO>> Robert Karlsson started the final round in the share of the lead with Fred Couples and a couple wobbly moments but this was a good one at sixteen.

VO>> He played a lot of good golf hit some quality shots I think there's still room for improvement for Robert nice shot there at sixteen and he gets close but I thought some mistakes by Robert down the stretch.

VO>> Seventeenth one of the hardest holes on the golf course Steve Stricker missed his second shot left and this is a great save.

VO>> It was a great save because of very you know un-Stricker like mistake with the second and had all the green in the world out to the right and saved a great par here at seventeen.

VO/OC>> That would keep him at sixteen under and he would maintain a two shot lead and eventually winds up winning by one and Steve Stricker has won now six times on the PGA TOUR Champions. He’s made four of six cuts on the PGA TOUR since the start of 2021 his game certainly travels

OC>> It travels very well he has played a lot of terrific golf Bob he has played well on both tours he's played well all around the country he performed admirably today really nice solid tidy round of golf the the mistakes with the par fives on the second nine that he did not birdie when he had chances and I think that open the door somewhat I thought a couple mental mistakes about Carlson the one tee shot mistake by Fred and that enable Stricker to have a two shot win.

OC/VO>> Yeah and Bernard Langer made bogeys at thirteen and sixteen which completely derailed his chances but Steve Stricker shooting a final round sixty seven and it was bogey free Robert Carlson and Alex Cejka birdied eighteen so they share second place Kevin Sutherland who leads in the Schwab Cup standings another strong showing in a tie for fourth always fun in Naples at the Chubb Classic where Steve Stricker is your winner.

VO>> Thank you gentlemen here are the updated Charles Schwab Cup standings Kevin Sutherland remains out in front with Langer Els Parel and Miguel Angel Jimenez as your top five. With a share of second Carlson moves into the top ten and with the victory in Naples Stricker moved up eleven spots to thirteen. Jose Maria Olazabal competed in the Chubb classic last week his first PGA TOUR Champions event of 2021 and just his third start on Tour in the past year. Olazabal was feeling confident in Naples coming off a tie for fiftieth in the Masters one week prior.

Making the cut in that tournament for the first time since 2014 the two time Masters champ dedicated his performance to his long time manager Sergio Gomes who passed away last year and to his friend and countryman the legendary Seve Ballesteros.

OC>> It was great to make there the weekend and especially on the Friday that it was it would of been Seve’s birthday and it was a bit emotional in that regard plus all the things but it was it was really nice I felt proud.

VO>> When Learning Center continues more from the Masters the impact of Hideki Matsuyama’s historic win both in Japan and worldwide plus Vijay Singh got an up close look at Bryson DeChambeau’s golf transformation wait until you hear Vijay's take on Bryson's big change.

VO>> Welcome back to PGA TOUR Champions Learning Center the Masters happened just over a week ago but the buzz surrounding Hideki Matsuyama’s win at Augusta National is still very much in the present. History was made as Hideki Matsuyama became the first professional male golfer from Japan to win a men's major in one weekend he changed the landscape of golf in Japan and around the globe.

OC>> It was great for for golf Hideki winning you know I think it's great for Asian golf great for him great for Japan great for the Tour I think everybody at Augusta was very happy for Hideki.

OC>> I think it's great he played well it was the best player that played the you know on Saturday and Sunday and I'm really happy for him and I was you know actually rooting for him.

OC>> Obviously is going to be huge for him huge for Japan hopefully he won't change his life all that much obviously it will change his career.

OC>> I don't think anybody can have any idea you know what Hideki winning the Masters means to that country you know to the golfing community to him personally I mean just in every which way you want to look at it is such a historic win so I'm super pleased for him but having played so much in Asia and having you know so many great relationships with Japanese professionals and media people and everybody I'm just so happy that they have something like this to celebrate it and they get makes me feel good I think the whole golfing world feels good.

OC>> When Hideki gets back to Japan I'm sure he's going to be absolutely mauled done rightly so the first Japanese winner of the Masters after so many great players coming from Japan for him to actually get across the line is huge for them. I think it is huge for golf in Japan huge for golf in Asia and it is huge for international golf all that thing to make the game bigger around the world Hideki’s win is just massive for everybody so you know fair play to him he played wonderful golf and it was great to see him you know how almost get very emotional a few times but he got the job done so a wonderful winner.

OC>> Hopefully inspires other young kids to say Hey you know because Japan the culture is not really it doesn't push golf it's it's traditionally culturally kind of like a a place where business is done adults play it's not you know make the game bigger it's not you know a junior golf push it its it's it's it's just not really traditionally that environment so hopefully this would kind of help open the door for that Vincent and get more young kids involved in and and really push the game to grow the game there and and shoot I mean what an inspiration I think it's just terrific.

VO/OC>> So as far as you know his heritage in coming out of Japan like everyone on this Tour I've played over there and he is going to be a king over there he already was but it's just kind of cool to see in the big news is you know when his caddie who I don't know his name took the flag off on 18 put the pen in and bowed showing respect I felt like every Instagrammer every tweet that I read I thought that was as impressive as the win so it's kind of a cool day.

VO>> More from our Fred file this time Fred Funk putting is high energy personality into a podcast which started in March it's called Terps on the Tee and features fellow Maryland product in sportscaster Chick Hernandez talking all things golf an insider view to tournament play so hold on here's Fred on the 2021 Masters.

OC/VO>> They put that golf course so close to the edge on my on Thursday's first round that the although you know at Justin Rose shot sixty five so you know somebody's always going to be hot but it it was amazing to watch how many big names missed the cut didn't play well Dustin Johnson for one really shocked me that he didn't even make the cut and then it didn't surprise me that Spieth I was really really picking Spieth watching Hideki hold on and play really well coming down the stretch but then shocked me that Schauffele hit it into the water on sixteen when he had all the momentum from fifteen and and thirteen well not thirteen because Hideki birdied that but Hideki bogeyed fifteen sixteen eighteen so you know you gave kind of open the door a little bit but Zalatoris great great performance he just held it together all week you seem so mentally into it at hitting great shots if made a lot of those putts coming in they might have a different champion right now but he was something else so Augusta is still Augusta though it's still the Masters it's just special always fun to watch that's the one tournament I want to really watch when it comes around the Masters time.

VO>> With his Masters victory Hideki becomes the third major champion in the men's and women's games from the country of Japan at age twenty nine Matsuyama is in his prime and will likely factor into many major championships moving forward he's already been ranked as high as number two in the world and climbed a mountain of expectations in his homeland.

VO>> Bryson DeChambeau came into the Masters with tremendous hype after he bludgeoned Winged Foot at the U. S. Open and won at Bay Hill with one of the signature moments of the year the drive over the lake at number six still his was a T-46 finish in Augusta the 2000 Masters champion Vijay Singh got up close look at Bryson going full speed in the tournament practice area and came away with this on Bryson's transformation.

OC>> I think it's good for golf good for Bryson he’s bringing out something else that people you know I have not seen before and and you know I hope everybody gives him you know it you know wish him luck for what he's doing and I wish him well instead of pushing him down so I I you know I I love Bryson and I love his golf swing and you know good luck to him.

VO>> One of Vijay Singh's thirty four career PGA TOUR wins came in New Orleans site of this week's PGA TOUR stop. Next on Learning Center we'll hear from two more Zurich Classic champion one discusses food options in the big easy the other an ace investment opportunity among his fellow players.

VO>> The PGA TOUR is in New Orleans this week for the Zurich Classic the event will feature two man teams for the fourth time. Of course there is a golf menu and then there is the idea of New Orleans cuisine fine dining choices in a city that prides itself on great food from po boys to jambalaya to beignets for those players competing this week listen up. 03 champion Steve Flesch goes full on French Quarter and beyond.

OC/VO>> Back in 2003 I somehow won my first tour event in a playoff with Bob Estes in New Orleans but take it from the defending champ there's three things you got to eat when you're in New Orleans you gotta go to the Acme oyster bar and get the char grilled charbroiled oysters the only way I can eat them oysters make me sick otherwise but they're phenomenal you got to get some shrimp etouffee doesn’t have to be a meal sometimes it's an appetizer you can split with table spread around it's great everybody will love it but then you got to cap it all off with a beignet from Cafe du Monde get a little cup of coffee too buy a dozen of them bring them to your room powdered sugar in the bag they make a mess but it's totally worth it so make sure you do that when you're in New Orleans guys take it from defending champ.

OC>> Great to spend some time with Tim ace Petrovic and we will talk about what happened at the Cologuard Classic back in February when he picked up a couple holes in one but I do want to start with going back in the time machine a little bit and your win at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans in 2005. How big was that for you and would we be standing talking now if that win had not happened for you do you think?

OC/VO>> Yeah I think we'd still be talking but you know any any win on the PGA TOUR at this level you could say you know you hear it often for the majors but you know life changing for sure it was a weird week Jelly Richard Hansberry couldn’t make it because he had a bad back my brother stepped in and he had a baby due two weeks down the line he shows up we win so it's a little bittersweet because you know jelly wasn't there but yeah it's definitely a life changing event for sure who's just seems like all the all the gears clicked and everything all the planets were lined up that week and you know there have it.

OC>> Do you feel different about yourself after something like that happens and that's kind of cliche but I mean do you feel like you're a mentally look at yourself a little differently?

OC>> No I knew I could I had been playing decently my first couple years I knew I could get I could you know compete with the big boys so to speak and I put myself in position I think Memphis my rookie year almost won there and then you know like you said you know even like with the hole in ones you just know what we don't know what's gonna happen you know you're playing well out here the same way you know I've come close in a few majors the last couple years and I was asked if I was surprised I said no I've been playing really good so I've been knocking on the door and

it's just a matter you just need a few things to happen for it to kind of click.

OC/VO>> It is interesting that that year later in the summer hurricane Katrina just ravages New Orleans and I wanted to ask you how that affected you not only as the defending champion maybe as a person as well?

VO/OC>> yeah I mean that was just a just a horrible tragedy for you know not just for New Orleans for the whole you know southeast coast the devastation you know I went back there after the after the hurricane went through and they wanted me to you know make a putt on the eighteenth and that but we drove around town and you just see blue roofs I just remember seeing blue roofs everywhere in blue roof means no roof and they basically the roofs are ripped off and a tarp down and they just don't have the manpower to put the roof back on quickly enough and you saw a blue roofs two three years after in some areas of town city park got really hit I think the ninth ward got really I mean just under water and I guess there is an issue the pumps failed or you can you can point fingers all over the place but it was such a big storm that I don't think they could have prevented you know most of the because the damage that was done to the city we try to do everything we could for the community I think the wives went out and you know tried to help with you know the rebuilding houses whatever you know putting one nail in you know it just it just to get something going but yeah I was definitely definitely a tragedy and it was bitter sweet for me but you know I tried to not make it up there it wasn't about me the second year when I came back it was more about the community just kind of get everybody going but you went downtown the restaurants were open and you you you wouldn't know it because the people in town you know they do have such a great attitude about everything.

OC>> It was kind of about you at the Cologuard Classic in the first

and second rounds because you have holes in one in in both of those rounds is the first time that that's happened in a PGA TOUR sanctioned event in almost thirty years so I guess I was gonna ask so how do how do you make an ace but that's such a ridiculous question you does it even enter your mind?

OC>> I don't know I I don't know

OC>> How does it happen?

OC/VO>> You know it's funny because I was playing with Steve Pate and we walked off ten it was early in the morning and relative for us ten AM we don't tee off too early but anyway came up somehow he was telling me how he made ten hole in ones in three years and then you know five holes later I'm standing on the tee on the hardest pin on sixteen to the right you know you just hit it over there and it went up and went into the hole and I turned around I said you gotta be kidding me right and then the next day with Phil on I think on fourteen another one right I'm like that's why I fell on the ground I was just I I got some I got some tweets in some social media stuff hey hamming it up over actor whatever but I don't think they realize that I had one the day before because no one saw that one so I was just no one was on the tee to high five me because I was a third guy to hit so I hit it and it went in and Phil and the other guys are up there so I just kind of flopped on the ground and I had nothing else to do.

VO>> I thought it was beautiful. That’s awesome.

VO/OC>> But yeah they come they come when they come you just don't you just don't know it you know so the odds of me probably getting one at this tournament the next tournament probably not good so I would bet against that one.

OC>> What kind of reaction did you get within the Tour what did the guys say to you were they busting on you a little bit?

OC>> Oh the reason why they're busting I mean the only thing they're worried about is if you know if I was in the hole in one club you know the hole in one club if you're in the hole one club you get a hundred bucks from all the guys that are in it if you get on a hole in one well I've been forking out hundreds for the you know for like two years now I'm in over a thousand dollars I said forget this I'm out here I'm out of this right guess what happens you know that what I said was I said I will gladly get out of the hole in one club to get to to get a hole in one and I knew I had a feeling might happen like soon as I got out and basically did Chris DiMarco looked at me from across the fairway on the first one he didn’t give me a thumbs up first thing he said Hey you in a the hole in one club I said no he goes yes I mean that's that's that's yeah that's what I'm getting.

VO>> Following a brief pause PGA TOUR Champions returns next week with the Insperity Invitational in Houston Texas where Scott McCarron is the defending champion. Until next time I’m Vince Cellini thank you for watching.