PGA Tour Champions Learning Center

VO>> Another fantastic story on PGA tour champions. Dicky Pride was an open qualifier for the Mitsubishi electric classic and walked away a Sunday winner. Rallying from two back to start the day Pride scores his first victory on this tour with a closing sixty seven and eleven under par total. His first victory anywhere since 2015 on the Korn Ferry Tour. Dicky Pride sets himself up for the remainder of this rollover season and 2022 shout it. Dicky Pride is the Mitsubishi electric classic champion.

VO>> It's huge, I have now won on all three tours which is something I always wanted to do and always wanted to say. I have put in a lot of hard work I really am appreciative of all the people that help me Warren Stephenson, Stevens incorporated Terry Pollock and Curtis Jefferies over there first and foremost my wife Kim and our kids Isabella and Fletcher, Danny Snyder just in the list goes on and on John O’Leary, Bryan corn, Wayne flint, just Bob Rotella so many people help me.

VO>> How do you handle your internal emotions over the last few holes?

OC>> Oh that was a tough part was handling the internal dialogue and staying in the present moment and just trying to execute the shot I had, because All I Wanted to do is think about these interviews and calling my family in talking to them and and you start thinking about that and there's no telling what the golf balls gonna go so that was the biggest struggle for me especially coming in.

VO>> Okay in the birdie on number eight putting off the green what would you tell the viewers at home like how to execute that shot?

VO/OC>> The biggest thing when you're putting off the green and you have to putt through the fringe is you need to keep the loft on the putter instead of like hitting down and shutting the face down and delofting the putter you wanna make sure it keeps a little loft to go ahead and get on top of that rough and start running. I I do a lot with that with the hybrid club as well because it has more loft but that particular one is really down grain you could see the grain and I knew it was going to run through. The nice part was it was going to be a tap in if it didn't go in but it happened to go and so I was pretty happy about that.

OC>> Once again TPC Sugarloaf did not disappoint and provided another strong test at the Mitsubishi electric classic. Hello and welcome to learning center I'm Vince Giulini. Historically an April event it was held in the month of May and certainly worth the wait. With a recap the men who call the action Bob Papa and Larry Wadkins.

OC>> It was anybody's game going into the final round of the Mitsubishi electric classic and Lanny TPC Sugarloaf is a tough golf course and it proved that not only in the final round on Sunday but throughout the course of the week.

OC>> Well it really did Bob they regressed the golf course they now have tifeagle greens in zoysia grass fairways. The zoysia grass fairways made this course play longer than ever, the greens were firmer tough to get the ball close to the hole thus the scores were higher. It was a challenge for all the players all week long.

OC/VO>> Paul Gordo's started the final round with a one shot lead over Billy Andrade and 2 over a host including the Dicky Pride and Dicky Pride at the eighth one of the hardest holes on the golf course Lanny he misses the green and he's picking up shots on the field by making this birdie.

VO>> Yeah just trying to get this down close and this was a big momentum switch for Dickey making the birdie there at 8

VO>> At the par five tenth played up to the right spot then played his third in.

VO>> Yeah you do not want any part of over this green with your third Dickey had a really control wedge in there to get birdie at number ten.

VO>> That was his fourth birdie of the day that got him at ten under after a birdie at the short thirteen left in the right spot at the par four fourteenth.

VO>> couldn’t short sight himself to the right, thirty feet left of the flag and just buries that uphill putt.

VO>> When he stepped on the tee at the par five eighteenth he had a three shot lead played it conservatively played it smart and wound up making his par.

VO>> He did and just like his playing partner said he played the best golf all day long.

VO/OC>> Dicky Pride basking in the glow of the win yeah roll tide roll Pride for Dicky Pride. He had open qualify he won open qualifying on Monday he's the fifth player since 2000 to be an open qualifier and win on the PGA tour champions and Lanny this opens up a door he played well the regions tradition on a sponsor's exemption now he has status and a place to play.

OC>> Yeah it really is it is life changing for Dicky Pride second week in a row we've had a life changing experience out here Alex Cheika last week a tradition, Dicky Pride this week here in Atlanta and just great stuff for both those guys a win really solidifies their careers going forward on PGA tour champions.

OC>> And he mention after the winning putt how important it was a PGA tour win a Korn ferry tour win and now win on the PGA tour champions joining a group of only eighteen who have done that.

OC/VO>> Yeah not a lot of guys have done that not a lot of guys who played for starters Korn ferry tour or those tours that weren't wasn't around when I came up so a lot of guys have not had that experience I think Tom Lehman has the of the current players that I can think of.

VO>> Yeah and it also shows his perseverance and hanging in there hanging in there and hanging in there.

VO>> Thank you Bob and Lanny, Dicky Pride three tour journey includes a win his rookie year on PGA tour in 1994 and then another on the Korn ferry tour six years ago. Prior to Sunday Prides best PGA tour champions finish was a tie for twelfth but now he's thirty first in the Charles Schwab Cup standings otherwise not much movement in the top ten as Bernard Langer continues to lead the way, Jim Furyk did move up a spot and Mike weir who didn't play in Duluth Georgia moves down to the ten spot.

Meanwhile back on Wednesday at TPC Sugarloaf Charles Barkley continued his renewed love of golf. For a second straight week Sir Charles playing a pro-am on PGA tour champions. Chuck team with John Daly to break the cold damp Georgia day no need to put this group on the clock they were cranky and JD just gushed about what he called Barkley’s new miracle move.

OC>> look at that you ever thought you would see the day the hitch is gone? how good is that? I haven’t asked him I haven’t played with him in so long I don't know if he I want to find out who got rid of his hitch maybe that guy can help me with mine. that's right good job Stan you are the best buddy that's a miracle get rid of Charles Barkley’s hitch that's big time.

VO>> Charles's swing transformation is remarkable on the left is the old Barkley swing from 2010 and on the right is Chuck's new action Barkley is quick to credit Stan Utley for his improvement, Utley insists it wasn't a mental block that created the old hitch instead he was able to break Barkley’s bad habit by telling him to feel like his wrists were throwing the clubhead backwards to start the downswing. Charles says he's closing in on being a single digit handicap but more importantly he's back participating and enjoying the game.

As Charles found his swing Thongchai Jaidee found his way back to this tour. The word to describe that journey back his patience, Jaidee finished in the top five in the tour's qualifying tournament in 2019 but then due to the COVID nineteen pandemic he was only able to play two events in the early part of 2020 after a fourteen month hiatus Jaidee competed last week in the Mitsubishi electric classic and said he feels happy to be back in the mix against some of his peers.

OC>> is very good very good time to be here that's you know I'm I'm feeling very comfortable to play all the legends Ernie Els here Bernhard Langer, Retief Goosen, Miguel Angel Jimenez here a lot Vijay a couple of times you see him Phil here you know a lot of top players I very enjoy being here the more important thing is enjoy the tour I would really love to play any tour but this is a good time to be here.

VO>> The 2019 Mitsubishi electric champion is Scott McCarron he's been rehabbing a tear in his left ankle but said at the region's tradition he was able to swing pain free for the first time. his solid play evidence at TPC Sugarloaf finishing T. ten which is his best result since a T9 in January's Mitsubishi electric championship at Hualalai. In this week's what your edge, McCarron with a tip on how to add distance off the tee.

OC>> Who doesn't want more distance? today I've got the tour edge exotics the C721 so this one has the ridge back and it's got the diamond face diamond faces great for off center hits so you can hit on the toe on the heel ball still gonna come off extremely fast. When I'm out on the PGA tour champions and I want a little more distance I'm one of the things I do is I'm a relaxed my hands and arms as I get in here I don't want to be really tight holding on trying to really hit as hard as I can I want to be nice and loose as I come in there okay I want to set up I might be a little bit wider with my stance I want to go a little bit harder at it and I want to make sure I turn behind it as much as I can meaning I want my sternum to get behind the golf ball and I might even lift my heel a little bit up but I want my hip to be going toward the target a little bit this way as I'm turning behind it I don't want to get this type of shift that would decrease the speed. So I'm gonna step there nice and relaxed with my hands and arms a little bit wider with my stance. And go at it now again this driver you can hit all over the face you're gonna get a lot of distance, this new tour edge exotics C721 driver is one of the longest drivers out on the PGA tour champions.

VO>> This week the strongest international field in golf will return to the ocean course at Kiawah island golf resort for the 2021 PGA championship. This venue also served as host back in 2012 when Rory McIlroy won the first of his two wanna maker trophies. This year marks the twenty year anniversary of David toms winning his lone major championship. Using a pinpoint strategy at the seventy second hole to hold off Phil Mickelson for a one stroke victory at Atlanta athletic club. Sealing the win with a twelve foot putt for par it was a banner year for Toms who took time to reflect back on his greatest performance.

OC>> Certainly it was a fabulous week for me and played really solid golf had some good things happen with a hole in one and then the we finished with a layup on the last hole, beat Phil Mickelson he hadn’t won a major yet so that was a big deal for me and just incredible week. Certainly put me on the map at that time as far as you know world ranking goes making the Ryder Cup team a lot of things went along with winning that you know I didn't realize at the time that within days after that you know all these things are happening.

VO>> I want to get up to the year in just a moment but that particular event and of course we always talk about the seventy second hole you mention the hole in one but you know at the last and everything that transpired there the laying up and then making your par putt what is the most vivid memory for you of of that final holes that that sort of that sequence?

OC>> Well really it was I was proud of our preparation, between Scott and I we'd work together for a few years at that point so we knew each other, talked about in the in the practice round that it's normally a par five for members first par 4 in major championship history over five hundred yards and so it was really a three shot hole in most circumstances unless you just really piped it down there I was like if I miss the fairway you know we're probably gonna lay up but we need to get a good number a good layout number so I have a full shot and we went through that whole routine he stayed the present with me. I laid up with a pitching wedge of all things and then I had a full lob wedge in and it worked out perfect.

VO>> Sure did I would say so ’01 is a good year for you overall like you said it was a three win year too right?

VO/OC>> Yeah it was I won in New Orleans early in the year which is kind of a home town home state type situation everybody was pulling for me and I've never really had that many people wanting me to win ever and so that meant a lot to me and then to go win the PGA and then I won at kings mill later in the year just kind of capped off one of those years and where everything seemed to go right when it needed to go right in order to win and you know to win three times on tour at that time you know Tiger was the only one that was winning a bunch maybe Vijay guys like that and for a guy like me to do that I mean it was pretty special year.

VO>> Have you changed that much in this twenty year period how much have you changed as far as your game or your style or strategy?

OC/VO>> Right I still have to play the same type of game I mean I still get out hit twenty five and thirty yards but some of the guys out here but then I out hit some of the shorter players so it's kind where i always was when I played on tour and I'm there again now you know twenty five thirty years later playing the Champions Tour but it's a lot of fun I mean I really respect all these guys I think they respect my game it's just a matter of you know who's hot any given week and you just try to put yourself in the mix and that's what makes it fun to still be playing golf at age fifty four still want to prepare I mean I was here on Monday hitting balls and trying to get ready for another week in the other guys are doing the same thing and it's just really about enjoying the game giving yourself a chance and that's what we all play for it to try to win golf tournaments.

VO>> This proud LSU product has won a lot of golf tournaments in a fine career including a major twenty years ago at the PGA Tom's won thirteen times on the PGA tour his three wins in 2001 a career best for one season. On PGA tour champions Toms has one victory the 2018 U. S. senior open.

Coming up on PGA tour champions learning center guess who's going back to the PGA championship? The legend of crooked stick will compete at Kiawah. John Daly talks to us about his game and his expectations.

Steve Stricker the U. S. Ryder Cup captain is in the field this week at the PGA championship due to the COVID 19 pandemic the Ryder Cup was postponed from 2020 to 2021 now that most of the preparation is taken care of Stricker plans to spend the next few months getting to know possible members of his team and drop some names that might be in the mix.

OC>> Now I can kinda watch these guys play get to know some of these players young players that I a I think that could make this team you know like a Colin Morikawa or Will Zalatoris who has played great never met the kid I've talked to him through text messaging probably get to play a practice round with him at the PGA championship but you know it just I'm trying to trying to get in and get to know these guys basically just because we've had so much time and some of these kids are playing their way on to the team that I want to make sure that I know who they are their personalities and how they're gonna fit in this team.

OC>> Yeah because you can't make your mind up too early right you can get these guys it can be game changers right till till late in the game.

OC>> Yeah we've got a ton of points yet to be yet to be earned and yeah we got three majors yet the playoffs the whole summer of golf I mean somebody could get on a hot run come from you know twenty fifth or thirtieth position and and end up making the team but yeah that's that's what's fun to watch you know I watch a lot of golf I enjoy watching these guys even when I'm not playing.

VO>> Thirty years ago John Patrick Daly was one of those young guys just twenty five years old and about to turn the sports world upside down. Armed with a wispy blonde mustache a mullet haircut and a go for broke style that somehow magically made its way into the PGA championship field at crooked stick as the night alternate no less. But the story didn't end there daily was the only player to shoot under par every round and walked away with a Wanamaker trophy winning by three.

OC>> Can it be thirty years ago thirty you shocked the world?

OC>> Unbelievable isn’t it? I am shocking myself waking up every morning.

OC>> So tell me about that guy that that John Daly what was he like that guy?

OC>> Young, immature, dumb didn’t know what the hell he's doing never really knew what money was until all that came in. I don't know it's just a totally different I wasn't prepared for it let's put it that way.

VO>> I want to get to that did you enjoy that week was a fun week for you or was it just like wow this is all unfolding in front of me?

OC>>Well luckily for me I didn’t play a practice round so it's kind of like a blur so just another golf tournament for me I mean it was like I was so happy to be there but yeah I just went out and played and had one of the greatest caddies ever squeaky that got me through it once we got done with that second hole and we had 202 to the pin and he goes what do you think that's a what's probably an 8 iron for me he goes okay now I know you're 4 clubs longer than Nick so we are good and he clubbed me that way the whole week and I couldn’t have done it without squeak though he was the best.

VO>> Few players change their support and I'm not blowing smoke you did when we saw that the power game came you won all the driving titles and and you made an impact I mean you really reshaped golf when you look back at it now you realize that right?

OC>> I don't know I didn't change golf courses it didn't change you know a lot at that time because me and Freddie and Davis were about the only three that really were long and now you got sixty guys that hit over three fifty now on a regular tour in it and it has made an impact on that way but you know I think those guys like Bryson DeChambeau and Dustin Johnson Kokrak to me is still longer than anybody I've ever played with yeah I I would almost put Kokrak with Bryson DeChambeau I really would I would love to see a long drive between those two.

VO>> We might have to arrange that so this is all pre social media but your life changes overnight we talk about your life changing overnight and it's it's over used but literally it did right for you?

VO>> Oh yeah I didn't realize the fact that I did what I did until I got to Colorado the next week and there's 8 thousand people the clubhouse couldn’t hold that many people. then it kind of hit me and then then I figure out I guess find I get a ten year exemption and all the majors and you told me that during the week out of probably choked.

VO>> So what's it like to be going back and playing at Kiawah?

OC/VO>> It's great because if I mean I haven't had a lot of good finishes on the PGA in the past few years and honestly that was the last one I had a decent finish. I love the golf course you know I played really well on that Sunday moved up a bunch of spots finish in the top twenty and it's a good golf course you know if you hit the fairways they are somewhat generous and the par threes are just absolutely brutal you can play those even par I mean you can have a good shot at it.

VO>> John you are playing well these last couple times what did you find what's going on with you?

OC>> I just I don't know I went to this old golo six putter and start to make a lot eight footers that I haven't been making in a long time I'm not saying it's still gonna happen but the last two weeks it's been working so I'm excited about the putter and that's you know if you get some confidence in your putter and you miss a few greens you don't worry too much.

VO>> With solid performances of late on PGA tour champions the fifty five year old Daly brings a sharper game and ever present popularity back to this major championship. The next event on PGA tour champions is the KitchenAid senior PGA championship being played at southern hills in Tulsa Oklahoma. Next time I learning center we will hear from the defending champion Ken Tanigawa who had a clutch finish of his own. As well as get a preview of southern hills from the man who won the 2001 U. S. open there Retief Goosen. I'm Vince Giulini thank you for watching.