VO>> PGA TOUR Champions Learning Center

VO>> Sunday met another major championship on the over fifty tour and Steve Stricker made sure the Bridgestone senior players was devoid of drama. After opening with a sixty three on Firestone Country Club south course, Stricker was a wire to wire winner, the third in the history of this event. Stricker came back to the field over the weekend but still managed a closing even par seventy, a seven under par total and a six shot victory over Jerry Kelly. It’s Stricker seventh career win on PGA tour champions and his second victory in this combined season.

OC>> It’s so hard to to have a lead and and then to play with a friend Jerry out there and basically it's his home course I mean this is exactly what he grew up on in Madison Wisconsin, he plays well here and I could tell that he was playing well and I'm just trying to hang on you know and and it's tough to play when you're not you know that aggressive and and but I I'm happy it was a tough fight.

VO>> Stricker does indeed close a major deal. He had held the solo lead entering the final round it all three senior majors this season but was 0-2 in converting those leads into victories, that is until Sunday. This is also Stricker's third major championship on PGA tour champions and as an added bonus Stricker also earns an exemption into the twenty twenty two players championship at TPC sawgrass. Bob Papa and Lanny Wadkins called it and offer a recap.

OC>>Firestone played as a tough test for the field but Steve Stricker was dominant landing from start to finish you becomes only the third player in the history of this event joining Arnold Palmer and Bernhard Langer going wire to wire and although it got loose on the weekend he was able to keep it together.

OC>> Well he really was he fought the driver off the tee on the weekend I think Bob as much as anything else but his putting saved him. His irons at that certain time saved him. He was just able to do what it took to get the job done but really impressive start to the tournament for Stricker. That's really where he won this thing.

OC/VO>> Third major for Steve Stricker on the PGA tour champions. We take a look at some of the highlights after a bogey at the fourth, Stricker's lead was down to three and then he made a birdie at the sixth. Then, Lanny, the seventh one of the more difficult holes on the golf course and he hits a beauty.

VO>> Yeah, probably his best iron swing of the day, at least to this point. Just a gorgeous shot, in there to about three and a half feet. That would lead to a birdie two for Stricker.

VO>> yes and now he opened up a five shot lead and then he did hit the fairway at nine and then his second with just a short iron in hand

VO>> Yeah, massive tee shot, just a wedge in here. Can’t imagine such a thing. And then a quality iron shot in there to two feet. And that would lead to birdie at the ninth.

VO>> Yeah, that would get him to nine under. So Jerry Kelly, the defending champion feeling some heat. What does he do with the ninth? Knocks it in.

VO>> Well almost had to at this point with Stricker up there for tap in birdie so great shot there for Kelly to stay in it.

VO>> Fred couples didn't do a lot this week but got hot late, Lanny, his birdie at the thirteenth.

VO>> yeah he started hitting quality shots. And the putter got a little warm towards the end For Freddy as he he made some down the stretch.

VO>>Jerry Kelly made birdie at thirteen and this would get him to five under par.

VO>> And that is the point that we thought, okay game on here we go but Stricker really was solid all the way down the stretch and Kelly made mistakes particularly here at sixteen. He does not hit asolid iron shot. It fails to carry the penalty area and ends up in the water. And he would go on to make bogey there at 16.

VO>> And Jerry Kelly would bogey four of his last five holes. Steve Stricker tapping in for par. Even par seventy in the final round and Steve Stricker winds up winning by six here at Firestone defeating Jerry Kelly and the rest of the field. Lanny, only two players under par once again.

VO>> Yeah two guys playing some quality golf right now, those two. So look forward to watching them go head to get a plan some quality golf right now those to look forward to watching them going ahead.

VO>> The PGA tour champions heading to Endicott New York next week for the Dick's sporting goods open.

VO>>Thank you Bob and Lanny. The updated Charles Schwab Cup standings go this way. With a runner up finish Jerry Kelly holding steady at the top. Ernie Els bumps Bernard Langer from the number two position, finishing top five in Akron. And winner Steve Stricker vaults into the top ten after his victory at Firestone.

VO>>Now a comeback story we can all celebrate. Just over two weeks ago PGA tour champions veteran, Mike Goodes suffered a heart attack during a round of golf at Greensboro Country Club. The sixty four year old Greensboro resident was playing his first hole and went into cardiac arrest. Miraculously, one of the area's top cardiac surgeons was also playing nearby and rushed over to perform CPR and aid until paramedics arrived. Goodes this was hospitalized for a week while undergoing tests and has since returned home to recover. For the tour family much concern for one of their own.

OC>> it's amazing that he still has his mental, he's mentally still good and physically as hearts good so it's just really just a miracle. And we’re thankful to god that he's back. And we're going to continue to lift him up in prayer for a complete recovery.

OC>> Doctor just said he’s a miracle. His heart just stopped. They don’t know why yet. They didn’t really come up with a reason. They put a defibrillator in in case it happens again. he got home on Saturday and supposedly he's got a good shot at the complete recovery which is absolutely odds, impossible odds almost ninety percent of people die. And ninety eight percent of the people that come out of that alive or vegetables he said, the doctor said. Mike's truly, I call him Miracle Mikey now. Insteadof Might Mike, he’s Miracle Mike. miracle Mike. So I got my best buddy back. He's awesome. Everybody loves Mike out here. He just gives so much love and he’s so fun to be around. it just give so much love him. Just a great, great guy, human being. I'm just so proud of him. The inner fortitude, there’s something there besides a god given thing. He fought to come back. He had to of, or he just wouldn’t be here. He’s truly a miracle.

VO>> It wasn't just players but furry friends Piper and boomer so glad to see Goodes feeling better. Now that’s support! In a statement Mike said in part “I don't know how I'll ever be able to show my true appreciation for the prayers, calls, texts and emails. The Champions Tour has become such a family to me over the last fourteen to fifteen years. It is an exceptional group of men and women and I am more proud to call them friends than for anything I ever did in a tournament. God bless them all.

VO>> Still ahead, a golden anniversary to a western New York gem. The Dick’s Sporting Goods open celebrates the fiftieth year of area golf and players including past winners share some fond memories from that event.

VO>> The PGA tour champions moves from Akron Ohio to Endicott New York, just over an hour south of Syracuse for this week's Dick's Sporting Goods Open. The tournament is back after being canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic. This year attendance is capped at five thousand fans a day, but the spirit of the event is as strong as ever and celebrating a half century of professional play in the area.

OC>> The village of Endicott New York has an estimated population of around thirteen thousand residents but this small community has long been a golf stronghold, supporting the professional game for the last fifty years. Enjoie golf club was home to the PGA tour's BC Open from ’71 to ’05. And then PGA tour champions continued the tradition of high level competition. This week at the Dick’s Sporting Goods Open, it's a time to celebrate and reflect on some amazing moments.

OC/VO>> I think for a lot of guys it’s a very underrated golf course, a very underrated tournament. We have a great time. The golf course seems to get better and better every year.

OC>> You better hit it straight. And I was hitting the ball really good off the tee that week and made some putts down the stretch. It changed things for me.

OC>>I’ve played there seven or eight times. And I love the community. Always liked the golf course. I had a couple top tens there on tour.

OC/VO>> I missed going up there. The fans loved the golf up there. And Dick’s has been a fantastic sponsor. It’s a great part of the world.

OC>> The Dick’s Sporting Goods Open, the BC Open, defined golf as a young kid and the way through my career for us. I mean an hour from home, it was our chance to see the big name players come to town. The condition of the golf course, right from the beginning, I’m thinking even late 70s was like nothing else we ever saw.

VO>> Joey Sindelar. became the first of three players to win the BC open twice but he is the only player to win the event in wire to wire fashion. And reflects on his ride.

OC>>There's nothing like that in front of the home crowd, playing every year in front of the home crowd and then to win and win the way it happened. Won then again with my dad carrying the bag. some guys don't do well at home. For some reason I have And every darn one of them were awesome.

VO>>Fred Funk will be making his twenty fifth career start at En-Joie this week. The nineteen ninety six BC open winner has a relationship with the Broome county community that goes far beyond golf.

OC/VO>>I stay with a family since my second year on tour I’ve stayed with them ever since and is like coming back home it's a second third home for me, it’s the same thing in Houston stay with a family there every year. So it's been really neat that we rolled over from the regular tour Champions tour playing these same venues.

VO>> In twenty nineteen Doug Barron won the Dick's sporting goods open by two strokes over Fred couples to secure his first title on PGA tour champions. Barron became the first open qualifier to win since Willie Wood accomplished the feat at the two thousand twelve Dick's sporting goods open.

OC>> I turned fifty two weeks before at the senior British and finished fifth and it really didn't do anything for but I knew that going over there but literally to go win your very first tournament when you turn fifty and not have any status I mean now been fully exempt and taking advantage of that pretty well and yeah so I have a schedule every week and it has been life changing you know instead of going out and having to chase the tour everywhere so I had planned on before that tournament the Monday qualify for three weeks in a row so yes it was it was a great life changer.

VO>>Tournament director John Karedes is preparing for an event unlike any previous PGA tour sanctioned tournament staged in this golf stronghold.

OC/VO>> On Saturday we're gonna do a big family night kind of like the old BC open family night. Rolling back the prices to nineteen seventy-one we're gonna do a family movie up on the big jumbotron overlooking the eighteenth green and then as soon as that movie is done we’re gonna have the biggest fireworks display Endicott has ever seen.

OC/VO>>The people are great up there the community supports the tournament so well so I mean it's not a whole lot not to like about I think it's one of the best Champions Tour events we have out there.

OC/VO>> What's so great about this is is the history and if you look to where we came from to where we are today the great history of the the winners the players the experience of the players have each and every year when you look at what it means for the community year in and year out the community really leans into the event from the number of volunteers that they have to the spectator attendance to the concert the money raised for charity you know it doesn't really get any better than that.

VO>>one of the best performances in PGA tour champions history came in the second round of the two thousand fourteen Dick's sporting goods open when Kevin Sutherland carded the first fifty nine in tour history making his first start in the event Sutherland birdied or eagled each of his first eight holes in his first nine twenty eight, Sutherland had a par putt at eighteen for fifty eight but missed. That day he made one eagle, twelve birdies, four pars and a single bogey. He hit ten of fourteen fairways, fifteen out of eighteen greens in regulation, and needed just twenty-two putts.

OC>> It's always great to have a round like that I mean it but the way that was treated by the people and the, the way they made me feel walking up eighteen and it was a a moment that I'll never forget about up and above the fifty nine is this the the gratitude in the in the response that I was given there and it feels like I get the response time I go back so it’s always a special place to go. I haven’t won there but they they they treat me really special there so it's a lot of fun/

VO>> That fifty nine from Sutherland is the lowest score in PGA tour champions history, but there have been many flirtations as well. Sixty has been carded fourteen times overall on tour. One of those was authored by Kevin Sutherland three years ago in the Boeing classic. Another came in twenty fifteen when Duffy Waldorf shot a sixty in the Toshiba classic. And right now on learning center, Waldorf helps lower your scores and offers some short game advice, in this week's what's your edge.

OC>> Hi. I am here today to talk about hybrids, and I have my EXS pro hybrid, I've had it for many years it's a great club out of the fairway, that's what I always thought I'd be using it for I can hit a hard, hard draw with it and if I need a soft fade I hit that into the par five green to make it stick. But it also comes in handy around the green sometimes and I'm gonna talk about that today and what what's kind of situation we can use it in. I'm here just off the green I have quite a bit of distance to the flag but this rough this dormant Bermuda rough can be quite inconsistent as far as how you hit it with the wedge so traditionally I might just hit my wedge and try to chip it but with this long a shot there's a slight upslope. I'm gonna have trouble getting the contact just right because it might hit, that one particular particular had a quite a bit of spin so to stop on a dime, and I want to get be able to get a ball that has a little more speed to it but I'm chipping out of these tough lies. So when I was younger person one of the shots I learned was with this club and I try to like basically putt it with this club which was fairly effective but you better be pretty close to this because if I try it from here it puts the ball in the air a little bit but if I don't get it just right I might not get enough distance. So here's the option I'm going to recommend the day we're gonna use the hybrid instead and the thing with the hybrid is it has the loft in there, so what I can do with the hybrid it's I’ll use a putting stroke try to sweep it but because I have the loft and actually you know because these are designed so will hit the ball solid I get a nice solid contact and I should get a little more run with this and I don't have the worry about the contact because all I gotta do is just hit sweep it right in the middle the ball with the putting stroke. Notice the ball starts in the air and then it starts rolling so I get the benefit of it launching over the grass and then continuing to roll nicely. Let's try another why not. The thing is the thing about the shots around the greens you get such a variety of lies, sometimes it's standing up just like that. Heck, you might even putt that one. A lot of times you get one that kind of gets in a little bit of nestle down in a hole and now that contact’s tough so the hybrid comes in real handy because the contact is guaranteed with the hybrid. And so you get a nice run with it and you don't worry about leaving it in the grass with the wedge. I recommend using the hybrid if you have any doubts in these tough flies around the greens.

VO>> Coming up on learning center your backstage pass to a concert from country music star Jake Owen. And John Daly is your player slash performer and guide.

VO>> Last week in Akron country singer Jake Owen performed a concert which also served as a fundraiser for the John Daly Major Ed Heart of a Lion foundation. Their mission is to provide mental physical and wellness support to children, first responders, and America's veterans. Prior to the concert Daly and Owen discussed the passion they both share, what else, golf.

OC>> How's your golf game?

OC>> It’s pretty good, it’s actually the best it’s ever been in my life, honestly, but I’ve never had a whole year to do nothing but play golf. Last year I played golf every day.

OC>> So you and your probably going to win the AT&T

OC>> I don’t get enough shots. That’s the problem.

OC>> That’s your fault. Go to Old Hickory, get your handicap up, and then you’ll get plenty of shots.

OC>> I’m, the handicap system, I shouldn’t say this on TV.

OC>> Oh, it changes every day.

OC>> The handicap system, the way people can manipulate it in different ways is just not good for the game of golf. It really isn’t.

OC>> It's a one day thing right now you go out, you shoot it, you post it? So you handicap changes every day. Let's get you some left handed clubs, start over, you’ll be a forty two and you get to the tournament, you go right handed, and we win.

OC/VO>> That’s actually not a bad idea. Do you guys play, you and little John play ten times in a row, how many times does he beat you, like straight up?

OC/VO>> Oh, if I get fired up, he ain’t beating me. I will not let him beat me. He’s my son, I can get in his head. I can get in his head, see daddies can still get in their heads.

OC>> So he hasn’t beaten you yet just straight up?

OC>> Oh, no, he has beaten me. Yeah. And let me tell you, he’ll tell you every time he has. Every time.

OC>> Does he hit it farther than you?

OC>> Oh yeah. Flies it twenty past me.

OC>> Flies it twenty past you?

OC>> I tried I can’t even get close. I mean his 6 iron is my 2 iron, 3 iron, hybrid. See how I said hybrid? His is a blade 2 iron that hits it 272 on the fly.

VO>> As for the next generation, Little John Daly will follow in his father's footsteps, as he signed a letter of intent to play golf collegiately for the university of Arkansas. Now that's something to sing about, y’all. Thanks for watching I'm Vince Giulini we'll see you next week with a preview of the forty first U. S. Senior Open Championship.