PGA Tour champions Learning Center

VO>> Welcome to PGA Tour champions Learning Center with the 50 and over tour off this week our focus shifts to Torrey Pines golf course in beautiful La Jolla, California. Once again, it is the site of this week's 121st US Open Championship. The last time our national championship was staged here, Tiger Woods and Rocco mediate were locked in an epic duel as Woods made an incredible putt to force a Monday playoff, eventually winning his third US Open Championship. Rocco reminisced with us on those final two days in 2008. Starting with the previously untold story of the shot that led to Woods final birdie on the 72nd hole.

OC/VO>> I'm done I finished the 72nd hole and I kind of had a feeling it wasn't enough. I said to Matthew, who was caddying for me I said well we'll see and I'm thinking you got to the really good players right behind me someone's making birdie so we're going to be, there is gonna be a playoff no problem. Okay, fine. And I figured one of them or both would make birdie and that’s whatever. Whatever I played my ass off. I don't know what else I can say. Then leave hits it lays up it's pretty nice shot to about 10 or whatever feet and Tiger lays up in the rough. So I'm thinking now he's put himself in an interesting cause I'm watching it on the thing. As I'm watching, I'm going god this is a hard shot right here. No, I don't want it. Right. He hits it. It hits out of the cocoon, which is Brillo pad. Basically, it looks green. And it hits one stops and doesn't really spin back what stops and then trundles to the right I'm going with the hell. How do that, year later, so we're at the Buick open and I asked him about it. So what the hell did you do on 18? How did it stop? It goes I was in an old divot. Of course you were. Of course you could get the club on the back of it out of a lie that no one else could play. Not that he couldn't hit it close to the hole if it was a crappy lie. I mean could have been you never know it could have bumped it up there stuff you don't know. But my point is really you were in a divot Come on. It's hard enough to beat you. It was so much fun. But some of the comments some of the guys at the beginning saying like you have a chance and no and understandably but dumb comments. Well there's no chance he how is he even here? Who did something? What what? How? I got done first dude. But this do you think this is an accident? You think I'm afraid tomorrow? I can't wait for tomorrow Monday. Not afraid at all nervous not afraid.

VO>> Rocco will not be in the field this week. But one PGA Tour champions member is reigning PGA champion Phil Mickelson, who has finished runner up in the US Open a record six times accepted a special exemption to play. should Mickelson somehow pull off another stunning major win he would end his quest and join Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player, jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods as the only players to complete the career Grand Slam.

Still ahead mad good in Madison. The American family insurance championship was back in business And we will recap another fun weekend in the Badger State, complete with the first word from the winner.

At the American family insurance championship hometown boy Jerry Kelly did it again. Kelly won the 2019 edition rallying from two shots down in the final round with a closing 66. back on Sunday, once again rallying from two back with a closing 66 and 14 under total. Kelly had birdies at 11,12 and a great second shot on 14 to cart another birdie moving to 13 under. At 16 Jerry's third To the par five, and it results in his final birdie of the day, but there was still some drama. At 18 Kelly had to get up and down for par and makes a clutch roll to finish his day and hold off an all star field for his eighth PGA Tour champions win. And second straight at the American family insurance championship. Our Billy Ray brown spoke to the winner

VO>> Jerry back to back wins Hometown can it get any better than this right now?

OC>> Can’t any better than this. Really Ray you know after doubling the 18th hole yesterday and bogeying the first hole I was I was reeling a little bit and those two birdies settled me down and just tried to grind as hard as I could so it means so much you know for me to win around here and now twice as well over the moon

VO>> after the double bogey yesterday at 18. You went to the to the 18 tee today What was your mindset there knowing that you need to have a good drive?

VO/OC>> Right of bunker Yeah, I don't care what I had in and I'd say I had probably the best shot of the day. For me I'm a second shot. Cut five iron is just a you know, it just doesn't spin up there for anybody. So we didn't know that. We see it now. Yeah, I was I was happy with my performance and really proud.

VO>> Kelly was surrounded literally by friends and family in his hometown of Madison, Wisconsin, receiving congratulations for the victory. His second win this carry over combined season and fifth top 10 in his last six starts with more of the am fam the men who called the action bob Papa and Lanny wadkins

OC>> there's always thrills in Madison, Wisconsin at the American family insurance championship and we got a star studded leaderboard. Lanny and at the end of the day, Jerry Kelly the Madison native wins this event and back to back times.

OC>> Yeah, he played outstanding golf a double bogey at 18 in his second round a bogey at one in his third round other than that flawless golf. He just made every shot you're supposed to make to get it done

OC/VO>> Startedthe day to behind Miguel Jimenez but then got things rolling and Jerry Kelly with a birdie putt at the par 5, 16 to open up a two shot lead.

VO>> Yeah,nice little wedge in here and a downhill putt and that is right in the center. Great pace.

VO>> Fred couples though after some poor wedges at 13,14 and 15 at the par 5, 16 plays a beautiful second shot into this green

VO>> well it calls for a high fade and that's what Fred dials up just a gorgeous shot. I think a bit unlucky that this doesn't stop close. It just continued to go away down the slope here. He would leave the putt right in the middle short for eagle and walk off with a pretty simple birdie.

VO>> That got couples to within one and Lanny the par 3, 17 only 158 yards but this is a difficult hole and couples dialed in.

VO>> He really did undercut an eight iron and I'm really probably the best shot we saw on here by far today. Just great strike there by Fred couples.

VO>> He'd go on to tie Jerry Kelly at 14 under than Jerry Kelly missed the green to the right. And had this for par to post 14 under

VO>> yeah actually hit a good second shot and just hit hard went over, put it down there and clutch 10 footer and then Fred couples miss the fairway. Then from the rough put it over the back of the green chipped it past to about eight feet, puts it on the high side. It does not move.

VO>> couples with bogey the final hole is only bogey of the day and the 2017 champion comes up short and Jerry Kelly in his hometown of Madison, Wisconsin is the winner for the second time in a row, he won in 2019. The event was in held last year and wins in 2021 and he's the defending champion and the next PGA Tour champions event which is the Bridgestone senior players in acron.

VO>> yeah and Firestone where he hit a hole in one last time out. So looking to Jerry Kelly to try and go back to back defending

VO>> Jerry Kelly takes down some Hall of Famers in winning the American family insurance championship.

VO>> Bob, Lanny Thank you. But wait, there's more. Kelly's efforts move him up three spots to the top of the Charles Schwab cup standings. Overtaking Bernard Langer at number one. It is getting more interesting by the week as we head into summer and more majors on PGA Tour champions.

Coming up on learning center the best players in the game set up for another test at Torrey Pines. We'll have expert advice on what to expect and how to tackle Torrey.

Torrey Pines will play host to its second US Open this week. But since 1968, Torrey has been the venue for the PGA tours Farmers Insurance open, an event with special moments of its own.

Mark O’Meara won the 1997 edition of the Farmers Insurance open by two strokes. It was his second win and as many weeks that season seven days prior he beat Tiger Woods and David Duvall by a stroke at Pebble Beach for O'Meara. The winner in San Diego was his 14th out of 16 wins in his PGA Tour career. Here's mark with keys to success there.

OC>> We played Junior World when we were juniors there at Torrey Pines on the south course. So the fond memories of growing up in Southern California and playing golf courses like that, you know Mission Viejo Country Club, Torrey Pines, poana grass on the greens were a lot of people struggle with, you know, it became second nature for us.

Oc>> Did you even once work the tournament?

OC>> I actually did. I worked. I worked. It was the Andy Williams open. And I was a runner for ABC, I believe. And they asked me to go out to the ninth hole, which was a finishing holes for players that teed off on the 10th hole. And it was Tom Watson had shot 64 and moved within one shot of the lead. And they asked me to go out and get in the car and ride with Mr. Watson back to the press tent, and then bring him back to the 17th tower to be interviewed by Frank Gifford. And so those are a long time ago. But those are great memories. Because, you know, at the time, I was like a 15 year old kid and Tom couldn't have been nicer in the car. And then we walked from the clubhouse basically 18th Green, back to the 17th Tower. And he did his interview with Frank Gifford.

OC>> What a great learning experience.

OC>> Amazing.

OC>> Let's learn some more. So in your victory there at Torrey Pines, you hit all your greens and regulation over the final nine holes. And the South course is a beast over 7700 yards. So we know how important it is to be accurate with your long irons. And so I think that's what you're going to demonstrate for our viewers.

OC>> Right, right, I think what's important is to realize, for everybody at home is that, you know, with a longer iron, you don't you want to really have more of a sweeping motion, there's not a big descending blow on long irons. So for me, it's a little bit about ball position, I play the ball a little bit further forward, maybe with a short iron, you've got it more in the middle of your stance with a long iron, you know, I'm playing it just inside my left heel. And I'm going to try to make a bigger turn with my upper body to make sure that I get turned behind it. And then coming down. It's more of not a steep descent, but more of a sweeping motion with a long iron. So let me try to demonstrate this is a four iron. Good turn behind the ball. And as you can see there's more of a sweeping motion when I finish. You know I'm well over to my left side, instead of trying to feel like I'm hanging back to get the ball elevated into the air.

VO>> Seven years after a O’Meara’s win at Torrey Pines john Daly won for the fifth and final time on the PGA Tour. In 2004, Daly entered the final round with a one shot lead. Despite shooting 75 over the final 18 holes. He made it into a three man playoff with Luke Donald and Chris Riley. On the first playoff hole daly had a gorgeous Greenside bunker shot and the par 5, 18 hole. His third shot finished less than a foot away from the flagstick daly would tap in for birdie, and that would be good enough for the victory. Johnrelives that moment in what's your edge?

OC>> What a win and what a shot under pressure by john Daly, who joins us now. JD. Before we get to the shot, I wonder if you could take me back to 2004 your recollections of that win at Torrey and kind of what it meant to you?

OC>> Well, it was a brutal day. I mean, it's tough for everybody. I mean, I think I shot 76 and I was leading the tournament and got in the playoff but 18 I ripped the two aren't I think off the back fringe into the back bunker and I told Peter I said you know what, we got to get it there. Let's just go and try and get it there and I flushed it and hit it too long and stepped off 37 yards for that shot. And I figured you know, they both hit pretty decent third shots in and I think Rouse had maybe a four footer I can't really remember and McDonald had probably Donald had maybe a six footer so I'm thinking I gotta get up and down you know at least one of them will make it so now I just got over it you know it's something I've always done in bunker shots I've got you know how the pros always have a yardages with their you know, their wedges or nines, eight sevens and all that so 30 to 40 yards is always my 50 but I blasted you know 86 yards is an eight iron, you know and on up if I blast them. A lot of people don't want to do that but it's just something that I've practiced all my life and I felt like you know, just play everything like a bunker shot and because you know you get into picking it, you don't know what the sand is gonna do. At least if you blast it. You can get it in The air and that's what most amateurs need to do blast it, getting in the air. That's the most important thing. So I did is I took my 50 and you know, I just don't really, I don't really open it up too much. I just kind of it's open but it's not like a like that it's just kind of open. And I just aim way left and I put cut spin on it.

OC>> You just want to flush it

OC>> and then boom, it went up there like that, put the pressure on them.

VO>> you're so good at that. Yeah, great hands. And before I let you go, just emotionally kind of what that that tour win meant for you that?

VO>> Well, I mean, for me, it was like I think I'm pretty sure I told everybody you just didn't know if you if I could ever win again. And you know, it was nine years after the British Open from that 95 to 2004 for a lot of crap went on in my life and it was just great to win on one of my favorite golf courses ever Torrey Pines and St. Andrews those two are way up there on my list. Probably top two and I've always loved playing the South course and it was a great win for my sponsor. You know Mark crisper, he's right there. I mean, it was just it was just a great week for everybody involved in the life.

OV>> Hi this is Davis Love III out on tour everybody's interested in what we have in the bag. And we all have clubs, putters, umbrella, but what we really obsess about is the little stuff, you know, sunscreen, got to have Sharpies for autographs and marking balls. But then you have to have the special stuff like matching Scotty Cameron, not divot, fixers pivot tools, put in your pocket to fix ball marks. Hopefully we hit a hit a lot of greens. Key, yardage book, this is something we don't show up without our yardage book, you have to have some lucky ball markers from home at Sea Island. Maybe you have a penny that worked for one day and maybe it'll work another day. And then as you get older, gotta have some Advil and then lots of extra gloves. You never know when it's gonna rain. Trick from some of the veterans, put your gloves in a Ziploc bag so they don't get messed up. And then rain jacket. Pretty much everything the caddy wants out on a nice day. We keep stuffing back in there but gotta have all the the lucky stuff and then you gotta have some tools. Scotty Cameron, cool, an extra hole for practice rounds. We can throw it out there on the green, and then it's a nice do dad on your bag. So it's a lot more stuff in our tour bags than just clubs and golf balls.

VO>> The US Open from Torrey Pines is available this week on peacock Golf Channel and NBC with coverage beginning Thursday morning. The PGA Tour champions returns next week with a major of their own as Jerry Kelly defends the Bridgestone senior Players Championship. I'm Vince Giulini and we'll see you next week.