PGA Tour champions learning center

VO>> welcome to PGA tour champions learning center I'm Vince Giulini. This week's venue is Warrick hills Country Club in grand blank Michigan. This course hosted the Buick open on the PGA tour forty four times and since 2018 has been the site of the ally challenge on PGA tour champions. At this point on the calendar we thought it would be a good time to assess a fantastic race for the ROY rookie of the year. Starting with Jim Furyk who is the defending champion of the ally challenge, he won in his tour debut last year it was the first back to back wins for Furyk as he took the pure insurance championship in his next start. Furyk also added a major championship to is working resume when he won the U. S. senior open last month. It's full on Furyk now on PGA tour champions. Furyk isn't the only one having a remarkable rookie season Alex Cejka started the year Monday qualifying for PGA tour champions events. Fast forward to August he has two major championships in hand, capturing the region's tradition and the KitchenAid senior PGA championship. Side note Cejka is actually younger than PGA championship winner Phil Mickelson. In this wraparound season which includes events from 2020 the other rookie of the year contenders include Ernie els who has to win both coming in 2020. Els continues to swing it as he always has that enviable making for a strong candidacy and the aforementioned Phil Mickelson is also a two time winner. He claimed the Charles Schwab Cup series at Ozark national and the dominion energy charity classic in his first two starts of 2020. In his only other start on PGA tour champions he finished tied for twenty with nine events left this season we polled the players and asked who they think is the top contender for rookie of the year.

OC>> Rookie of the year might be the hardest year to pick with so many guys to pick from Cejka, Furyk, Weir, it's going to be a battle to the end I think.

OC>> we've had an extremely strong rookie season and there are they all made a great impact they all won right away even majors some of them and it's going to be really tough to vote you know for any single guy because you have Jim Furyk, Ernie els Alex Cejeka and Mike Weir they've all had phenomenal seasons and I'm going to have to look real closely when the vote comes up of who did what because it's going to be very very tight they all deserve it but only one's going to get it.

VO>>Fred Couples earned Rookie of the year honors in 2010 that season he won four times, he also finished runner up four times. Now Freddie still one of the most popular players in the sport is lifting your game with some advice this week's what's your edge.

OC>>I'm looking at the left side of the green even though the pins way to the right and I worked my way further right if that makes sense. So people at home that can't line up that's a hard thing it's a hard thing to teach and I tell people all the time I bet if I hit five hundred nine irons this year on the Champions Tour my stance will be almost within an eighth of an inch on all of them. Whereas a lot of amateurs whether they're six handicaps or twenties their stance will be on here on one shot then it'll be there so the ball position for me it's always in the same spot and that makes it easier for me to hit it solid. Now if I need my

teacher Paul Marchand or you know if I'm not playing well Cheney will say wow looks like the balls too far forward that's that's where I get bad I have the tendency to move it up here and then I picked the club up and I get underneath and go that way so the further I can get it back the more I can get the ball ripping off the club face but then I lose a little bit of feel. So that's that game where if I hit a nine iron really really flush I move it back I might hit 140 but if I'm trying to hit 132 or 135 then I got to move it up a little bit and not be so harsh hard through the ball.

VO>>Back to another tour newbie, Aussie and PGA tour veteran Robert Allenby turned fifty on July twelfth and made his tour debut ten days later at the senior open presented by Rolex. Allenby is another new addition to an already strong roster of players on the PGA tour champions.

VO/OC>>For me this is just like a new beginning really is and I’ve as I said I I've never been so excited to get somewhere to play golf I've just heard nothing but positive vibes about the Champions Tour. The champions tour is just something that when someone gets to it they come back and they tell me they go oh my god it’s the best tour in the world.

VO>>Allenby made his PGA tour debut in 1993 and since then has competed in five hundred twenty-five events, winning four times. His longevity and encore success has placed in the top one hundred in career earnings a huge springboard on this tour now Allenby is making up for lost time. It's all about competition and adding more victories to his resume.

OC>>I'm gonna play in every event. I'm very fortunate that my career money is very high this is going to give me a opportunity as far as I'm aware from what the PGA tour told me at least until I'm sixty. To come out here and and have another opportunity to be successful, to have a chance to win really you are starting another career all over again just a little bit older with a few more aches and pains.

VO>>Allenby has had a decorated career which includes eighteen international victories but away from the course he may also be forever linked with an incident that occurred in January of 2015 when he competed in the Sony open in Hawaii. After missing the cut in the event Allenby went out for dinner on Waikiki beach, it was later that night he was allegedly kidnapped robbed and beaten. The next day he posted a picture of wounds he suffered on his face which went viral. Some have doubted or even directly disputed his story regarding the incident yet one month later Honolulu police arrested the man involved and later that year the man pleaded guilty to using Allenby's credit cards and identification to make purchases including gift cards jewelry and clothing. He was sentenced to five years in prison for Allenby it was a bizarre night that took a long time to process.

OC/VO>> truthfully Hawaii killed me, mentally destroyed me. Took a lot of medication for it just Hawaii was the worst things that’s ever happened to me media killed me. I was to scared to go out on the golf course too scared to see people I took antidepressants for it. My nervous system shut down completely

and it's such a shame because you know I did nothing wrong you know the person that did do something wrong is actually in jail still and that was proven by detectives that was what happened because they have video footage of everywhere and it was an unfortunate situation that some of the media just did me in and and quite frankly they they ruined me.

VO>>Allenby sought help from therapists and admits he went into a state of depression eventually an addiction that could have been devastating.

VO/OC>> there's one thing I understand is that if you take a pain med that you rely on and you can't get off I now have an understanding of of how people get addicted to something and when you have an addiction it's hard to go off it and this particular medication that I was on I ran out of it and I was away and I didn't have access to it and it could be in the worst fourteen or sixteen days of my life and this was actually a recent recent times I feel like I had vertigo everyday couldn't walk upstairs couldn't walk downstairs felt like I was going to fall over it's like you have your brain has a chemical imbalance and the particular drug that I was taking has two components to it the second component that it's very hard to get off and I asked doctors for the last two years how do I get off this and no one had answers so all I could do was just go cold Turkey just lock myself in a room. So that is what I did. I was like I want to better myself and I know I can do it I'm very strong willed person so I was like I gotta do it. So I did it and boy I feel great.

VO>>Allenby now looks forward to playing with a feeling of freedom and with old friends full time on PGA tour champions.

OC>>The one thing that I learned is that I have a lot of supporters out there you know just because you hear of a hundred, two hundred, a thousand or whatever you know people saying bad things about you whether it's on social media or whatever it is it really doesn't matter because I have I have my family and friends and I myself and that's all that really matters you know we we get so caught up in the the silly stuff in life and I think a lot of people can relate to this they worry about what other people think. I think you really need to focus on yourself and your friends and family instead of focusing on other people that don't even know you but they comment on you because they think they know you but I really don't know you. So it's a crazy world we live in and it's it's any fear that you ever have in life is your own beliefs it really is it's your own beliefs and everything is made up inside the six inches between ears. So you know I got a lot of great friends and family that have really helped me so now I'm here with a smile on my face.

VO>>Allenby plans to play full time on PGA tour champions and if he plays in six events then this season will be considered his rookie year. Still to come on PGA tour champions learning center we’ll take you to the Emerald City Seattle Washington the Boeing classic winner is next. This over fifty tour winner takes wing when we come back.

Call him rally Rod Pampling four shots off the lead to start his final round the Boeing classic the fifty one year old Australian posted waited in Won. A Sunday sixty six pushing Pampling to the winner's circle for the first time on PGA tour champions. A front nine thirty one jumpstarted Pamplings run to the top of the leader board a one stroke victory over three others. Pampling finished over an hour before the final group came in and his twelve under total was good enough for the breakthrough victory.

OC>>There was so much pressure get that first win and finally to get it done is it’s great you know obviously getting to Hawaii next year isn't one of the goals I set for myself so yeah it's just you know looking forward to trying to get a Schwab Cup now.

VO>>With the win Pampling becomes the first player from Australia to win on PGA tour champions since Roger Davis did it in 2003. For a recap on how Pampling got the job done let's send it out to the men who called the action from snow Kwame ridge.

VO>>Alrighty thank you Vince, Geroge Savaricas with world golf hall of Famer Lanny Wadkins, what a final round we saw at the Boeing classic here some of the highlights rod Pampling for birdie on the twelfth.

VO>>Yeah put it on the spot that everyone putted from Rod nice bold putt right into the center.

VO>> Pampling making his move on the fourteenth.

VO>>Yeah good shot in here hole high about fifteen feet and just eats this in the edge got the one he needed.

VO>> Pampling would post at twelve under Woody Austin trying to birdie the last to force a playoff.

VO>> Yeah got to the green in two really unlucky break and tried for the great shot just really had nothing in the bunker and then Jim Furyk was in the other bunker blasted past had this twenty two footer to tie Pampling.

VO/OC>>Just runs out of steam looked good from about five feet out so it's Rod Pampling getting the job done for the first time on the PGA tour champions as he’s your winner Jim Furyk, Tim Herron, Billy Mayfair tied for second Woody Austin would bogey the last so he was in a tie for fifth. Steven Alker was a Monday qualifier finished in the top ten so he may have a tee time next week so just meeting meaningful do you think this is a Rod Pampling it was a three time winner on the PGA tour.

OC>>I think very meaningful George, Rod has high expectations coming out here I know him well he's got a lot of game he's the kind of guy that I think should be winning out here if the putter behaves this is a may be a big breakthrough for Rod Pampling.

OC>>Expectations for Rod Pampling going forward now that he is eleventh in the Schwab Cup standing?

OC>>Well you heard him mention the Schwab Cup so he's thinking winning some tournaments to make a run in the playoffs and that's the way you should be thinking.

OC>>Rod Pampling Sunday sixty six a week he will always remember here in Snoqualmie Washington

as he gets the job done. Let’s send it back to Vince.

VO>>Now look at the Charles Schwab Cup standing a Jim furyk victory would have put him on top but as it is Furyks three way tie for second moves him to second in the standings. The overall Schwab leader Jerry Kelly finished tied for eleventh.

The PGA tour champions announced this week a new event to be added on the 2022 schedule it is expected to be held in late April and will take place in Dallas Texas at las Colinas Country Club. The new tournament means golf has been or will be played in the Dallas area in the form of all four professional tours. PGA tour champions president Miller Brady is looking forward to bringing his tour to a big market in big D.

OC>>We're thrilled to bring the Champions Tour back to Dallas it's been a long time but for us to announce a new tournament next year to be played in April the club court classic at las Colinas Country Club we're so excited. We're gonna celebrity component tied to this tournament I mean it's going to be a great event for the community a great event for charity and a great event for PGA tour champions.

VO>>Coming up ageless in appearance and play Bernard Langer takes another trip around the sun. We'll chat with the birthday boy who just might reveal his fountain of youth or at least give us a clue.

VO>>Wire to wire fashion Bernhard Langer break through with a major win on the Champions tour. Finishes in style on one of the most difficult courses in US Senior Open history. Bernhard Langer has won his 3rd major on the Champions tour. What a week that Bernhard Langer will savor forever. Bernhard Langer goes wire to wire. And a new chapter in a hall of fame career for Bernhard Langer, Bernhard Langer becomes the first player to with the constellations senior Players. Langer and Nicklaus, 8 major titles on the PGA Tour Champions. It is Bernhard Langer who stands alone in PGA Tour champions history the first and only player to win all 5 senior majors.

VO>>It's been an incredible career for Bernard Langer and it's not over yet by a long shot eleven major championships on PGA tour champions no player has more. On Friday the timeless one turns a vibrant sixty four so we asked Bernard what do you want for your birthday?

OC>>My wish is to get all our kids together and grandkids and maybe spend the long weekend together and it's not gonna happen on my birthday because I'm going to play golf as usual. The week after Labor Day weekend I think it is we were trying to plan something where we can all be together most of us and if that if that come through then I would be extremely happy.

VO>>Rumor has it some other members of the tour would like to wish Langer an early retirement for his birthday. Here's the reason why, when you look at the all time wins list on PGA tour champions Langer has forty one that puts him second all time behind Hale Irwin. As impressive, finding a path to success his core strategy club selection at this point in his career and the drive to practice and play with the focus remains unmatched. From the German icon to an Arkansas country boy and his music. John Daly is that guy the tunes come from Old Dominion a country music band from Nashville Tennessee that is one the academy of country music awards for best new group, group of the year and song of the year. John Daly also sings country music but is yet to be nominated.

OC>>So guys we are with Old Dominion they have three buses okay most bands have one I mean and they have maybe have a semi truck if you're Pearl Jam or whatever which I love don't get me wrong but to me you guys are legendary I love your music and I'm passionate about music and I'm not very good at it but I'm passionate about it and in the world loves y'all's music so my question is who writes the songs for you guys do you guys write them or do you have outside people to write them or is it a feel thing?

OC>> I mean you know a lot of times it's it's you know Matt, Randy the singer Trevor and I are kind of the core we we have moved to tend to be songwriter so we're involved in most of the songs I mean this latest record we decided to just get everyone involved so the band all five of us are on every song we we wrote them together in the same room and went upstairs and recorded them that same day.

OC>> That is like Hootie and the blowfish that’s what they do

you know dean may write a song Sony may write the song Darius and they all get together so it's more of a family band than anything.

VO/OC>> yeah I mean we've there hasn't been a we haven't cut it outside song yet so it's it's some form you know some of the members but it was cool to do all five numbers on this one. It's kind of like the old school like growing up in high school bands where you just make up songs together in the garage and then go find somebody with a studio.

OC>>So who's the best song writer in the band?

OC>>It’s just like golf man it ebbs and flows we all have it when you get on a roll and then we don't get on a roll.

OC>>Alright now I have watched you both play you both are similar but I got to tell you Trevor kick your ass. Now you Brad you helped a lot but four eagles.

OC>>When the mans, when someone's on fire then and I mean the guy's on fire.

OC>> I played above my talent level today so.

OC>>Okay now you’re a pro today how do you read the putts.

VO>>I had a little help I just need to take you on the road with me you tell me where to putt it and I will putt it.

VO/OC>>Let me tell you something you guys are awesome keep doing what you're doing because it's I think you guys sing from the heart and to me that's what country music is about I don't think there's any other questions I need to ask you all a great thank you for coming here.

OC/VO>>I just want to say dude thank you so much for having us it's an honor to be your friend and what a day you know another lucky day for all.

VO>>We wonder if Old Dominion found any song inspiration in the form of JD PGA tour champions country troubadour. Well that's going to do it for this week I'm Vince Giulini we will see you next time on Learning center.