**P. G. A. Tour Champions Learning Center Show 8/9/2021 Transcript**

VO>> This week PGA tour champions is in Calgary Alberta, Canada. In the breathtaking eastern foothills of the Rocky Mountains for the Shaw Charity Classic. Canyon Meadows golf and Country Club opened on July 2nd, 1957 as Calgary seventh golf course. It's a par seventy parkland style layout that measures just over seven thousand yards. And certainly, has an exciting history on the over fifty tour. Case in point, two years ago Wes Short Jr. needed every inch and then some to reach the eighteenth green in the final round. Needing a birdie on the par five finishing hole to avoid a playoff against Scott McCarron. Short hit a 3-Wood from two hundred fifty-eight yards out. His approach just barely cleared the water bounce off a rock in the penalty area and landed on the green. From there the fifty-five-year-old Texan two putted for the win. That lucky break is not been forgotten by his playing competitors and the winner himself

OC/VO>> Come into eighteen you know he needed to make birdie to win, and he hit another perfect drive right down the center of the fairway.

OC/VO>> Wes Short was out there trying to go for the green in two I was thinking maybe you know make a playoff if he makes par.

OC/VO>> And he was waiting to go for it for the green in front of us to clear and I watched him hit it it look good but it started drifting right. It was a long shot too.

VO>> I was kind of surprised he was going to go.

OC>> I've already laid up. I drove it in the right rough and so I watched him. I was ahead of him probably a hundred yards.

VO>> I watch the ball fly over and I'm like man that's out to the right and I’m like that’s going to be wet. It look good but it started drifting right and I'm thinking oh shoot you know this is this isn’t good, but he got the best kick right of this nice rock in the hazard popped out on the left side of the green and hit that rock.

OC>> Went up on the green and I was like man get a shot and all I heard was the crowd go “Ohhh” and then all of a sudden, I heard a cheer, and I didn't quite see the shot till I got back inside, and I saw it land the middle of the leg. Hit some type of rock. Bounce on the green probably the luckiest break I think I've ever seen.

VO>> And then he wiggled it down there about two feet made the putt for birdie and win but you know those are the kind of breaks you need. You know Wes played beautifully all day.

OC/VO>> He did what he needed to do to put himself in position and sometimes you need a great break to win, and that rock was the break he needed.

OC>> And I'm joined by the author of one of the most memorable moments from 2019 Wes Short Jr. So take us through that seventy second hole, how important shot that was in and from your vantage point what you saw.

OC>> Yeah yeah. I knew McCarron was one shot. Well, we were tied going to the last hole. And when I got there, I mean I knew I was going for as soon as I got there. And I hit the I thought was a pretty good shot. Little farther right than I wanted.

OC>> You hit 3-Wood there?

OC>> I did. And we started kind of curving a little right and I was going “Uh oh”. And when it hit the rock it bounced way up in the air and we couldn't tell from my vantage point which way it was going till it landed on the ground. And then I was thinking all right now all we got to do is two putt to have a chance to probably win. I mean Tom had laid up we're all tied going into the last hole but then he kind of chunked one. Hit it in the water and then I knew he was over. And so then how about a forty-five-footer to two putt to win the tournament.

OC>> You know a fortuitous bounce for you but I'm sure you've been on the other side of that too.

VO>> Yeah, I mean I think in this game you probably get more bad breaks than you do good breaks unless your Tiger Woods of course.

VO>> Right right.

VO>> One man looking to get the brakes needed to win this week in Canada is countrymen Mike Weir. One earlier this year in the Insperity Invitational. Settling into this tour nicely and playing solid golf. Weir talks about competing in the great white north and helps you navigate those pesky fairway bunkers.

OC>> Standing by with the pride of Sarnia Ontario Canada Mike Weir. And you're returning to your home country to play in the Shaw Charity Classic. I want to get your thoughts on that first of all.

OC>> Yeah, I was excited to have a champions event up there my first time playing a Champions Tour event in Canada. I’ve heard great things about the event up there. Obviously, it's a great city we all know it's wonderful city but the golf course is really good and Shaw’s really got behind the event so it’s I think one of the upper echelon events on the Champions Tour.

OC>> Playing really well on your rookie season and but I wonder how did you arrive here when we talked earlier in the season in the year about sort of the slow time before you got to the PGA tour champions tell me about that journey here.

OC/VO>> Yeah, I mean it was it was a tough time in my forties and happy to be in my fifties and you know a lot of injuries and some other things that held me back a lot. And as I you know was preparing for the Champions Tour kind of in my late forties, I felt the sense of rejuvenation in my game. I changed coaches you know, and I've got a really good team behind me and they believed in me and I just kind of put the work in the last couple years even though I wasn't playing a lot. I was playing some on the Korn Ferry tour. Sprinkled in a couple PGA tour events. I was seeing good signs leading out to the Champions tour.

OC>> You're only winning and you’re not only in line for rookie of the year and a great rookie class but you're in the mix for this whole thing how much do you think about the Charles Schwab Cup?

OC>> Quite a bit now I mean at the beginning of the year when I started you know my birthday was in May and we had the Covid stop so I didn't start until Michigan last year, so I was. I felt like I was you know quite a bit behind which I was you know starting this this whole process and. You know long behold I’ve got a nice little run here and I found myself in the mix with you know a dozen or so fifteen events left so if I continue to play well you never know.

OC>> Yeah, it's no accident when you see those names on that list the guys are in contention. So, we placed Mike Weir in a fairway bunker he did not place himself here but so many times amateurs like myself find ourselves here so I was wondering if you could maybe give us some tips on how to play this to make sure that you know you can salvage your hole and how you can get yourself out of trouble.

OC>> Sure Vince, I think the big thing with fairway bunker shots is contact. You know we're out of the out of the fairway on some more stable ground we can move our feet around a little bit as we get a little older, I encourage the amateurs I play with to move their weight into their back foot even let that heel come off the ground. In the bunker we don't want that we want to stay pretty stable and we're really trying to you know kind of pick the ball off the sand. So, a drill my caddie and I do, he'll stand there put a club against my ear and I’ll just hit shots because I don't want my head to back up. That's what I see a lot of amateurs do. Try to help the ball into the air. Head backs up and then they use their hands. So, we want to stay steady over the ball and just kind of collect the ball. So, my caddie will put that club there and I'll feel like I don't bounce into it so even when I'm in a in a term or playing I still have that image of the shaft being here. Me being nice and stable. I kind of want to as I come into the ball feel like I'm pushing a little bit more forward. So, I'll go ahead and hit one here and it's nice to have nice tempo too. You don’t have to hit it too hard.

OC>> Oh that was great.

OC>> You just kind of pick it off there.

OC>> That was great that was excellent.

OC>> Thanks.

OC>> And part of the reason Mike Weir is being Mike Weir on PGA tour champions. Thank you so much for the tips and great to see you.

OC>> Yeah you too.

VO>> Coming up next house of PGA tour champions members could be spending their downtime this week. When north of the border make sure you don't miss any of the fun.

VO>> The 1988 winter Olympics were held in Calgary. One of the more memorable story lines from those games was the first appearance of the Jamaican bobsled team. Which was loosely portrayed in the 1993 hit comedy film Cool Runnings. Well, if you thought that was cool how about a sequel sort of. Wherever they travel PGA tour champions players always seem to immerse themselves into the local culture. For Glen Day and Carlos Franco during a previous visit to Canada that meant a once in a lifetime experience at the Canadian Olympic bobsled training facility.

OC>> Being from Arkansas we've never done anything like bobsledding. We've fallen off a couple hills before, but it would not controlled like that.

OC>> A little nervous before start but I finished good I’m happy.

VO>> It was incredible I was up front I got to see where we were going, and I still couldn’t keep my head still.

OC/VO>> It's not often that I bring down people of high profile and so I want to make sure I gave them a smooth run. I knew that they were going to have a good time in there and you could tell by their smile when we got to the bottom.

VO>> Mark O’Meara is no stranger to America's neighbor to the north. He played in the RBC Canadian Open sixteen times and one in 1995. He's also played in the Shaw charity classic seven times but when he's not on the course Mark has another hobby, fly fishing.

VO>> It's a passion for me because like anything everybody needs a little escape right and for me fly fishing whether it's for trout or for steel head. Throwing a single hand rod or a two-handed rod when I'm in the river I don't think about anything else. You know I think about the water I think about the incredible environment that I'm in and I'm thinking about the possibility of this next cast getting the tug.

OC/VO>> You know which you know you got to pull on your line and if you hook a steelhead it's hard to explain to somebody the adrenaline because everyone's different. It's like a golf shot you know every golf shot you hit it's different. Every take when you're fishing for steelhead swinging a fly through steelhead water is different. The whole key is the set up like anything else good fundamentals so for throwing a two-hander. Rod you want to its kind of about how you set the lineup. Up you got all the line out of the water you dump it in front of you just to the right and you make your cast. Let's say the winds blowing down river and you don't want to fly to get to close to you. You can almost do a basically a circle cast roll. Roll cast where you lay it down that way and then you cast it. So, it’s almost like you're drawn to the tip your rod. That little “E” in the sky and that picks the lineup gets it all out of the water and then it sets an anchor down river and then you can just make the roll cast. But you got to be very patient and most of the time when people come out and steel head fish this type of fishing, they usually miss the first few fish. Because your natural reaction as soon as you feel a pull on your line you want to set the hook but that's not what you want to do in this type position you got to be very patient. It's like almost when you're putting you know you got to keep your your head steady if you look up or move on all you know you missed the putt.

VO>> When learning center continues Hollywood meets golf in the film Tin Cup celebrating an anniversary as players look back at being a part of Roy McAvoy’s amazing U. S. open journey stay with us.

OC>> We are here to discuss perhaps the most fickle component of golf and that is putting with world golf hall of fame member Ernie Els. And I would imagine Ernie even a great player like yourself maybe a little bit out of whack your laughing because I guess it happens to the best right?

OC>> Through the history of my game I've always been a really good putter. And then kind of when I turn forty something went off in my in my head a little bit and I really started getting really conscience of short putts. And over time it really festered into something bigger and then I really started having some problems. But I've kind of overcome it. I was you know everybody still misses short putts but like in anything in the golf in in the game of golf we have all kinds of different disciplines. And putting is one of the disciplines you have to master. I mean if you don’t putt well you are not going to play, you are not going to score very well. So, putting is very very important especially holing out. You know if you lag up to three four feet you want to make those putts. But what I'm trying to say is that your like in the full swing your basic fundamentals have to be in place you know. And again, like a golf swing there's many different ways of putting but the conventional way that I try and use with the thirty-five-inch shaft putter. Four degrees of loft and good seventy-one degrees of angle in in my shaft. There's a certain things that you have to do very well, and those basic fundamentals is posture. You know I’m kind of a tall guy, so this is thirty-five-and-a-half-inch shaft. And this putter wallah. It stands by its own. So, I've got this putter at seventy-one degrees at lie angle. So, with this putter that stands up I could really get my left eye which my dominant eye. I want to get my left eye right on to the back of the ball. And feel really comfortable that I'm going to be in this position every single time. So, I come back to alignment and posture. So, this is my posture. I use the left-hand low method. My right hand, my left eye is my dominant eye, but my right hand is my dominant hand. Figure that one out. So, I really grip really tight with my right hand. And this left hand is the one that guides it for me. But my left eye is right on the ball. I've got my posture set and now I'm just got to keep repeating the same stroke over and over and over and is really becomes a-

VO>> Muscle memory?

OC>> It becomes muscle memory. You know you have to do things over and over and then you become comfortable with that kind of method.

OC>> And you mentioned the mindset that you had after turning forty. That's interesting I remember Johnny Miller saying when you watch a kid putt, they're not thinking they're not over thinking anything their mind is clear. Not that they will ever be able to capture that again but-

OC>> You’ve got to be, it’s got to be quiet. So, the only way you can get quiet is if you do a lot of work on the putting green and working on the right stuff. So, it's the things that make you feel comfortable and if you feel comfortable standing a bit more open to the putt you know where it's going to free you up releasing the putter down the line. That's a way of putting. Ben Crenshaw one of the greatest players ever he was a little open. And he left his left shoulder really led to stroke. Jack Nicklaus and he was all the way down here. And he was right eye dominant, and he had his right eye behind the ball but that was the way you feel comfortable up to putts. So, find your comfortable spot and really work on that.

OC>> And get that repetition so there isn't a thinking process once once you are in these situations to finish.

OC>> Exactly because when you get into a real situation you just revert back to exactly what you've done here. This little line leads you to the to the hole. Come back into your posture get your eye over the ball and just do exactly what you're doing on the putting greens.

OC>> Yeah because nothing I would imagine infuriates a player more than, you'll hold on of those maybe more than another errand shot.

OC>> And you know that’s going to happen. You know you are going to misread. Sometimes you feel a little uneasy and listen we all humans you know these things kind of happen. But you keep doing these kinds of drills and you keep on it and you keep on it every single day you have to get better you got to believe that you're going to get better.

OC>> Well the work never stops thank you Ernie so much.

OC>> Thanks my man.

VO>> Kevin Costner starred in the film Tin Cup which celebrates its 25th anniversary this week. The movie is about a golf pro with lots of talent but whose rebellious nature and bad attitude cost him everything or did it? I won’t give it away if you haven't seen it you are the one person who hasn't seen it. But filming alongside Costner were many of golf's elite talents. Who reflect back on what it was like being in a Hollywood blockbuster.

OC>> I had just won the open, so they asked me to do it and we did a couple scenes that were staged which were kind of tricky. Ron Shelton the director just said you know you and Freddie go over there and just walk this is what happened in the tournament. It was almost dark just make up whatever you want what you'd be saying in a tournament.

OC>> I did have a speaking line I remembered as McAvoy McAvoy. Who is this guy? And so that's why I make a little money per month because I spoke in it.

OC>> So, we just made-up lines and said it and he goes cut and then they use that in the movies.

OC>> I think I spent a lot of time with Cory Paving and John Cook and we didn't have a feel that it would become this iconic movie in twenty five years later when it's on TV. I can't go past that you know I got to watch it if it's five minutes into it or an hour into it I got to watch the things.

OC>> Well they had a lot of outtakes and all that stuff. And the one scene that I was supposed to be in when they're in the shootout tournament. Don Johnson and those guys when they before they head up to the green, I'm supposed to make a putt there. So, the camera guy had me up on the green and give me about a ten-footer to try to make and for some reason just couldn't make it. And I think we had thirty-two takes at about a thousand dollars a take. And finally, I asked him I said, “Can I just move over a foot one way or the other way because I think I'm in a groove here?” and sure as anything I made the second one and all that. So, the funny part about that was when we went to the showing and they did all the outtakes and all that through the whole thing they kept showing me missing putts and all that and I go “I don’t like that!” but you know it was a unique experience. It was a lot of fun and as I tell my son you know I'm always in a movie for the rest of my life so it’s kind of neat.

OC>> It took a whole day to shoot the range scene to give you an idea how long it takes to shoot a movie. Takes a while. We were there for three days and mostly we just cut up and hit balls and we were in the way so at some point Ron Shelton told a few of his cameramen to take players out on the golf course and shoot b-roll. So, they would just show while they were talking over it whatever. So, Tom Perch and I are playing, and I hole a shot from the fairway, and we act like it’s really a tournament and high five and were all excited. He says, “Did you get that on film?” he goes we don't have any film we were just trying to get you guys out of their hair.

OC>> I had a line that got cut unfortunately but it was fun. The one part I remember is you know all the shots at the end that he hits in the water. I cut all those hitting a pitching wedge from like eighty-five yards, and they had a crowd reaction and cameras following the ball, my reaction. You know I chucked a couple in the water. I spun some back got one actually to go in the hole. But it was all on film so I didn't get a technical advisor role, but it was great fun I'll never forget it every time it comes on I text a big chain of people there's another nine dollars dinner's on me.

OC>> I was amazed at how much got film and didn't really know they were filming. We were on the range joking around messing around and a lot of those little interactions wound up in the movie so that was kind of interesting to me.

OC>> It’s funny Kevin really got into the part he talked to a lot of us. He wanted to know about the trait. He wanted to know things to make him look very natural out there.

VO>> So I was always impressed how those guys are always learning and they're and they're not scared to come to the professionals and ask you how does it feel what do you do so they can look natural on film, so they look good.

OC>> I hope they come out with a senior U.S, U. S. senior open sequel to that. Now that would be very interesting, all of us look a little different. We all still have a lot of game.

VO>> Tin Cup made ten million dollars in its opening week it went on to become the highest grossing movie of all time that's not too shabby. That's our show. I’m Vince Guilini we'll be back next week with an all-new learning center.