**P. G. A. Tour Champions Learning Center Show 9/20/2021 Transcript**

**VO>>** This week the PGA Tour Champions is playing one of the world's most breathtaking golf courses. Pebble Beach Golf Links for the Pure Insurance Championship. But this event has a twist. Eighty-one teams from first tee chapters were selected to compete alongside the professionals and some of this week's competitors were given the good news in an unexpected way amazing.

**OC>>** I really want to play Pebble Beach.

**OC>>** Find out next week if I get in so fingers crossed on that one.

**OC>>** I just thought I was coming for a tour.

**OC>>** Were really proud of you and all you represent and how you represent the first tee. Your all three in you're going to pebble beach so.

**OC>>** Like this can't be happening right now I just burst into tears and I it was like the best news of the week.

**OC/VO>>** Thought I’d give you a hat just to prepare you this is one of the many tokens and gifts that you guys receive. It’s a phenomenal week you are going to get to play Pebble Beach.

**OC>>** Man I was definitely surprised. The first thing I thought was I need to go practice.

**OC/VO>>** It’s like the pinnacle of golf. It’s the farthest course that I’ve ever gone.

**OC>>** I think I’m going to practice on the PGA Tour 2K game. You know get used to the course.

**OC>>** I can’t wait to meet new people. Meet new amateurs and hopefully some awesome PGA tour champions as well.

**OC>>** Get to the range (LAUGHS).

**VO>>** When it comes to taming this American golf treasure no one has done it better than Mark O’Meara. His professional wins on Monterey Peninsula span from the final Bing Crosby national pro-am in 1985 to a fifth trophy there in the 1997 edition. Nearly a third of the sixteen PGA Tour victories have come at this Northern California gem.

**OC/VO>>** What an amazing Pebble Beach resume for this man Mark O’Meara and I I know that it's not just wins the connection there must go deeper for you.

**OC>>** It does Vince I mean I was fortunate in 79 to win the California state amateur there at Pebble Beach. And then you know the opportunities of winning five times as a professional and then certainly one of those years playing alongside my father having him as my amateur partner. And I went on to win the tournament that year. There’s not many things you can do a professional golf that gives you that experience.

**OC/VO>>** Well it's so unique and has some unique aspects as you know I don't have to tell you and one of them is after the beautiful par three seventh. You go to eight and the second shot on eight is that carry over that chasm by the ocean so I wonder if you would take us through sort of a forced carry situation and how we might kind of navigate through that.

**VO/OC>>** Yeah you know when you're playing a hole like number eight at Pebble Beach it's so intimidating right? I mean it get the ball in the fairway up on top of the hill and now you're looking at that dramatic second shot. We're you’re hitting it across the force carry. The Pacific Ocean, the cliffs are all shortened to the right of you. I think the most important thing there is what I usually would try to do is even though it's a downhill shot you have to take the wind into consideration because the wind is a little bit heavier there at Pebble Beach, so it'll tend to move the ball little bit more. And look I mean you got to play a little bit more club. Take maybe instead hitting a five iron you hit your four iron. Instead of a six you hit your five. And my preference to that shot is to make sure that you really stay in your posture coming into the ball. And certainly, you're miss should be to the left cause you can still play. You don't want to leave it out to the right and next thing you know you're down in the ocean you have to re hit from the top of the cliff again. So, when I'm over the ball I'm just trying to make sure I make once again a good turn and try to stay in my spine angle come into the ball because that way hopefully, I can hit the ball a little bit more solid and hit it in the middle of face. And if I do that you know it's going to stay in the air, and it’ll carry and will get somewhere up around the green and if you hit the green on eight in two, you’re a happy camper.

**OC>>** Thank you, thanks so much that was beautiful.

**OC>>** Thank you Vince.

**OC>>** So need some information on how to play Pebble Beach? I know a guy right here thanks.

**OC>>** Thanks Vince.

**VO>>** Two-time AT&T Pebble Beach pro-am winner Davis Love III received a fortuitous break in the final round in 2003. Up by one stroke he hit a five iron on the 203-yard par three twelfth hole. His tee shot missed the green and as the ball came down it bounced off the foot of a greenside photographer and back toward the hole stopping four feet away. Love made the birdie and ended up winning the tournament by one shot.

**OC>>** You got to get lucky every once in a while, but how we're going to hit more greens especially on small greens like Pebble Beach things I try to do with a long iron is first of all try to make sure I have a game plan. I'm not just standing up there and hitting a five iron as hard as I can like I would a a driver. I come up with a shot that I'm going to hit. Small greens lets pick out a target in the middle of the green and decide if we're going to hit a high cut, we're or if we’re going to hit a low runner. But most importantly make the decision, pick a target, and make a practice swing. I'm going to hit it three quarters I make a three-quarter practice swing. And then I copy it. So, I'm going up there with a game plan. And then second of all, you want to make sure that were letting the club do the work. We got a middle to a long iron. The club has loft on it. See a lot of amateurs trying to help the ball up in the air. My five iron has roughly thirty degrees of loft. We want to make sure we swing nice and level. On a par three we've got the ball teed up just a little bit. Swing nice and level and let the club hit it up in the air. Don't try to help the ball up in the air. We just want good clean contact and hit it in the middle of the green so nice and smooth maybe just a tiny bit of a divot. And pick it clean. So, let’s hit more greens by coming up with a game plan, picking a good target, and letting the club do the work.

**VO>>** The Sanford International gave us quite a show back on Sunday, a star-studded playoff finish. With more on the event and where it all shakes out, the man who called this one George Savaricas and Lanny Wadkins.

**VO>>** Alrighty thank you Vince. Fhe final round highlights what drama we had on the eighteenth. Darren Clarke in regulation for birdie to post twelve under.

**VO>>** Yeah from about fifty feet down below when it gets in and post twelve. Now they have to come get him.

**VO>>** Steve Flesch to bogey the eighteenth and get in at twelve under as well.

**VO>>** Had a chance to win by making par at eighteen and just butchered the hole.

**VO>>** K. J. Choi’s third.

**VO>>** This goes in he wins.

**VO>>** So he would par the eighteenth. Three-man playoff at twelve under. Flesch eliminated after the first playoff hole. Darren Clarke ripped his tee shot, chose putter for his second.

**VO>>** He hit three straight shots there and hit three times to pull this shot off. He finally did on the second playoff hole. Got it to about six feet.

**VO>>** Clarke for birdie and the win. Somehow sneaks in Lanny!

**VO>>** I did not think that was going down nor did I think he make the one on the first hole of sudden death, but that eighteenth hole was very kind to Darren Clarke.

**VO>>** Darren Clarke tops K. J. Choi. His third win this season on the PGA Tour Champions any final thoughts?

**VO>>** Well it's great to see all three of these guys in the mix. They played excellent golf recently. K. J. Choi nice to see him show up finally and Steve Flesch is going to get one very soon.

**VO>>** Darren Clarke now inside the top ten in the Schwab Cup standings season nine. A change at the top Jim Furyk, Jerry Kelly one two. Bernard Langer now slides to third. Lanny Wadkins, I’m George Savaricas, lets send it back to Vince.

**VO>>** Coming up we will hear from the European Ryder Cup captain Padraig Harrington who turned fifty last month. It’s an exclusive paddy's golf tips just for you. And to be fair and balanced we will also hear from the U. S. Ryder Cup captain Steve Stricker on how he's bringing a young and eager team together for the big event. Stay with us.

**VO>>** This week Padraig Harrington will captain the European Ryder Cup team at Whistling Straits. A couple of weeks later he will make his debut on PGA Tour Champions. When not commanding an international squad the three-time major winner posted some very popular golf instructional videos. A YouTube favorite. He shared some of that knowledge with us here on what's your edge.

**OC>>** As promised Patties golf tips come to you here are learning center so what's a basic lesson better you could share with us Padraig.

**OC>>** Hey you know I've covered these out as I said on Instagram. I put them on YouTube. I’ve done this one on YouTube. This is for all you guys who struggle with chipping okay. So very simple trail. You set up whatever you set up. When I'm practicing, I’ll always set up for chipping with the ball forward. If you practice with the ball forward you can play all the other chip shots. If you practice with the ball back your stock with that you very rarely you never see somebody who can chip here who can move the ball forward. So always practice with it forward for starters. You lean in as usual but what I would recommend to people is put an alignment stick six inches behind the ball. So, you got a chip hitting that golf ball without hitting the stick. So, it's just a simple little thing there sorry that's not too, not the end of the world from my practice. So, I’ll give myself, like so. Okay.

**OC>>** Sure.

**OC>>** Not my best chip but you can see what you want to avoid is you backing up which most people do is they back open. They side bend in here and of course if I do that, I'm going to hit the stick. So, the key is I didn't make great strikes. The key is on this is put something six inches behind. Now I have a variation of this because most people won't bring the alignment sticks. So instead of doing that they simply put a line in the ground. You can use a tee peg or something this is obviously; I’ve put the ball at the front of the line and just make sure that your divot is after the line. Now that's good for chip shots, pitch shots, wedge shots, and iron shots. Just put a simple line on the ground and make sure your divot is always left of that ball. We never ever really want on a chip shot or pitch shot particularly we never ever want you squeezing back here because you're going to to hit way behind the ball. Very simple to stay forward and if you're in the right but if your bodies in the right position your hands and arms will work properly. Whereas most people tend to get they worry about the hands and arms when they’re chipping but it's this position. Like you cannot get to that golf ball if you're back here. You've got to be sitting in on top of it and then your hands and arms will come back into line, but you must lean in and stay ahead of the line always like so.

**OC>>** Wonderful thanks for uncomplicating this very complicated game, thank you so much for your time.

**OC>>** There's a longer version that’s out on Youtube where I go into a bit more detail maybe a little clearer.

**OC>>** Well I tell you what do yourself a favor too check it out Pattie’s tips on YouTube. We have the real thing right here thank you so much its great seeing you Padraig.

**OC>>** Thank you.

**VO>>** Postponed in 2020 the Ryder Cup will be worth the wait. An international competition dating back to 1927. The home field is Whistling Straits in Kohler, Wisconsin which will favor the Americans more so than did the tight driving setting near Paris where Europe dominated in 2018. I spoke with a European team member about their chances this week.

**OC/VO>>** Spending time with one of the vice captains from the European Ryder Cup team Robert Karlsson and Robert you've been around a lot of these teams as a player as a vice captain. It's an interesting mix with some star power, veteran players, sprinkled in rookies how would you describe the squad?

**OC/VO>>** Its very good it’s a very well-balanced squad. We’ll have three rookies. None of that I really look at as rookies. We have Viktor Hovland who's already won a few times on the European tour a very very strong player. We have Shane Lowry major winner a few years ago and Bernd Wiesberger who has been up here. He hasn’t won yet I think on the PGA Tour but he’s won eight tournaments on the European tour though. So, a very very strong player and there’s nothing to worry about on the other side of the road. We’ve got some really real experienced team. Sergio Garcia has been biggest points has got the most points on a player ever. Lee Westwood is playing his eleventh Ryder Cup and has also been on the vice-captain side last time in Paris so he's doing his twelfth Ryder Cup which is the same amount as the whole American team has together (LAUGHS). Well the American team is always way way better than us higher ranked and were going to have our work cut out for us but as always we will try to maximize what we have in our team room and the friendships we have and building on those and trying to build a very strong pairings for the first, for the first few days.

**VO>>** You mentioned Lee Westwood but I’d like to talk about another player. Who his seventh appearance in the Ryder Cup and that’s Ian Poulter. Who I'm sure will relish once again sort of that role that he always plays tell me what he brings to the squad.

**VO/OC >>** He just thrives off the whole situation. The whole team spirit, environment, and to be that kind of outgoing guy who's-

**VO>>** He doesn’t mind being the villain, does he?

**OC>>** He doesn’t-

**VO>>** He likes it?

**OC/VO>>** Yeah, he's also very very good putter. When he gets a putter going in that environment as well it frees him up and he’s just a very very good. You just get the most out of himself.

**VO>>** As a vice captain how do you see your role?

**VO>>** Yeah, I mean we do everything. We have stats, we have personality profiles we got everything on the players to see how we are going to do everything from relate to them in the team room or if it’s their weaknesses and strengths. So, I’m a bit more involved in the statistical part of it. Look at all this a bit more with a personality profile so we each have our little specialties.

**VO>>** Whistling Straits that as playing field so to speak.

**VO/OC>>** The course is what it is. In Paris we want to make fairways narrow the way we played it. But here historically the American team wants to have more wider fairways, but you can’t really do it at Whistling Straits because it's about a million bunkers off the fairway, so it is what it is. We spent the same amount of play on the course from our team and tournament conditions also has been from the American team which kind of in a fair playing field. The way they're going to set it up we assume it's going to be quick greens and wide fairways and well-manicured and it’s a fantastic golf course.

**VO>>** Europe never seems to be the favorite on paper yet has dominated this event winning nine of the last twelve competitions. However, all three of the U. S. wins happened on home soil. Europe seems to relish the underdog role and will again bring a solid group to whistling straits as a tight knit confident squad. When learning center returns a word from United States Ryder Cup captain Steve Stricker talking about team chemistry. A squad that includes six rookies and a certain major champion who may have sent out mixed messages prior to play.

**OC/VO>>** Joined by United States Ryder Cup captain Steve Stricker and Steve the teams in place it appears to be young and eager it's exciting. With six first time Ryder Cup players. When you selected these guys what are the positives of having a young team like that and what might be some possible bumps in the road?

**VO>>** Sure the positive is that these guys come with a lot of energy, a lot of enthusiasm. And when you have six picks you know as I was thinking about this those guys those six guys that you pick feel like they should do anything for the team right? I mean everybody showed up except for Brooks at the practice round. Everybody was super excited to be there. These young guys they'll come with a ton of game and a great attitude, a willing to do anything attitude, and they’re great in the team room. That's the most impressive part to me is that these guys were all in and got along great with one another.

**VO>>** I've covered super bowls and there's always that little, tiny story that’s a bigger story that week. For you I wonder about Brooks Koepka’s health and be his recent interview where I'm wondering if some of that could be, I don't want to say damaging but some of that could be counterproductive for what you're trying to do is Brooks in? Is he onboard?

**VO/OC>>** Brooks is all in and he's healthy too from what he tells me and what has been reported too but I talked to him yesterday and he's all in physically emotionally. It's actually two different things that I read and what and from what I hear. So, I know what he says to me I know what the text messaging is to me it's actually quite different than what I'm reading. So that's the good part and he's all in he's ready to go he said he'll do anything for this team, and I believe him.

**VO>>** So with six first year players on Ryder Cup is it easier to do pairings or does that make it more of a challenge to do the pairings together?

**VO/OC>>** The lowest rank player is twenty-one in the world, so we've got a lot of top-notch players that are playing really well. So, there's a lot of options there so we got to decipher get through all the stats. Rely on some of that rely on some of your gut too you know to make sure that things are going to be right. Ask them a lot of questions I think communications been a big part of what I've done so far. I think the caddies are a huge part of this deal. They know their player the best, so I've been tapping into them to see what's on their mind, and we'll meet again with them during the week.

**VO>>** And lastly Whistling Straits what does that mean for the home team?

**OC/VO>>** Well its home you know that's the nice part. We're going to get a lot of support. It's going to be loud it's going to be boisterous you know. Just hopefully they don't cross the line you know which it can sometime in this Ryder Cup but it's going to be pro USA all the way. Were definitely need it and we're looking forward to it.

**VO/OC>>** Take a look at the twelve-man American squad. As usual the United States brings a stacked team to the competition with eight of the top ten players in the world ranking included. The question now is can they translate that into team play on a cliffside course with bunkers seemingly everywhere. We'll find out very soon. Get ready for another emotional likely very windy ride at Whistling Straits. That's our show for this week I'm Vince Giulini we’ll see you next time I'm on Learning Center.