**P. G. A. Tour Champions Learning Center Show 39 Transcript**

VO>> What a way to close out this wraparound season on the PGA tour champions. Making it a bit longer the playoff at the SAS championship. And their Lee Janzen who had not had a top ten finish since the color guard classic in March of 2020. Coolly rolls home a birdie putt on eighteen the first playoff hole to score his second win on this tour first since 2015. Perhaps Lee knew something we didn't. Finding progress in his game and now a trophy in his hands.

OC>> if you look at my performance you would say well, he's, I'm not going to pick him this week, but I saw progress lately you know. Who knew it was going to turn into a win? That’s crazy.

OC>> Hello and welcome to learning center. I'm Vince Cellini and Prestonwood Country Club staging another playing of the SAS championship. Which dates back to 2001 and inaugural winner Bruce Lipsky. Fast forward to a Sunday showdown in Kerry North Carolina. And with a look at the final round let's go to the man who called the action Whit Watson and Lanny Wadkins.

OC>> Well Vince in the twenty-one-year history of this SAS championship we had never had a playoff, so we were about due in 2021. Miguel on L. Jimenez and Lee Janzen who takes just one playoff hole to win for the second time. It had been six years between wins for Janzen and talking to Billy Ray Brown afterwards Lanny he got a little emotional about it.

OC>> He did I I'd think he'd been working on some stuff in his game he felt like he was coming around. I don't think he expected to be in the winner's circle but when you take a guy that has won what Lee Janzen has won. Two US Opens, Players Championship. When a player of that caliber finds something, they can pose to win.

OC/VO>> Certainly found it here on Sunday in Kerry North Carolina let's take a look at the highlights from the final round. This was Janzen at eighteen in regulation to post at minus twelve.

VO>> Yeah just off the edge and the pace is what got that in the hole I thought he lost it right, but great pace got it in for a birdie three at eighteen.

VO>> Now keep that in mind as we go to the Miguel Jimenez. Third shot at seventeen.

VO>> Just over the back into a wonderful little chip for eagle down the slope gets it up there to about two feet for a tap in birdie.

VO>> That got him to twelve under par and they were tied. Jimenez had this for birdie at the eighteenth to win the tournament.

VO>> Yeah not a great look there at all by Miguel got it way too high not sure it was a solid strike.

VO>> So they go to a playoff its back to eighteen. Jimenez missed the green chipped up to within par range. Janzen has almost the exact same putt.

VO>> Puts it even more in the center this time that was an incredible putt by Lee Janzen.

VO/OC>> Janzen winning for the first time in six years knocking off Miguel Angel Jimenez in the playoff. You see Jim Furyk. Bernard Langer right there in the top five as we head towards the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs. He's playing well he's going to a golf course where he's played well in the past Janzsen's got a little bit of momentum now as he moves up the top seventy-two on the money list now moving to the playoffs next week. What kind of player does well at the Country Club of Virginia?

OC>> Usually a very good player. We've got history of really outstanding winners at the country club of Virginia. It's a great William Plen designed golf course. I think probably the best lay out in the state of Virginia. Langer has played well there. Jimenez has played well. Jimenez by finishing ahead of Langer this week has moved up to within seventy just over seventy thousand dollars behind Langer this thing is wide open heading into the playoffs.

OC>> Looking forward to the Dominion Energy Charity Classic to start the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs next week. Vince back to you.

VO>> Here are the final Charles Schwab Cup standings were five-time Schwab Cup winner Bernard Langer finishes on top, but Jim Furyk closed the gap considerably with his tie for third in North Carolina. Jimenez works his way into the top five topping Ernie Els’s spot as we gear up for the final push starting very soon.

VO>> Now with the thirty-six-event regular season behind us it's time to turn our focus to the playoffs. Pay attention because it moves quickly, and a lot can change. This week is the Dominion energy charity classic at the Country Club of Virginia.

VO>> Phil Mickelson is the defending champion and will be making his first start since winning the Constellation Furyk and Friends a little over a week ago. With that victory in Jacksonville the reigning PGA champion became the fourth player to win on the PGA tour and PGA tour champions in the same calendar year joining Raymond Floyd Craig Stadler and Fred Funk. Is Phil set to become the next dominant player on the PGA tour champions? It sure looks that way.

OC/VO>> If he stays that kind of focus with his work ethic now and his diet and everything else that he's doing work out. He's in great shape, he's always been confident. Cocky you can even throw cocky out there. And he's doing it especially where he started. He's three in one and the one wasn’t bad.

OC>> You know Phil still has the length to adopt to overpower a golf course. He still has the touch around the greens he's got it all so he can be as dominant as he wants but I still think he wants to do a little bit more on the PGA tour, but we love him coming out and he's great to come out here for us.

OC>> Out here it's chipping and putting. You don't have to hit that far we don't play long long golf courses so everybody's can that's playing on this tour can win and. Phil’s just in a good, he's in a good state of mind where he is. He's got confidence he's playing great golf and he expects to win probably.

OC>> I need to be very dominant if he chooses to play but it's good that he's stays out there on the regular tour a little longer.

OC>> Phil is amazing I mean he is one of the best players ever that’s ever played the game. He comes out here, really enjoys himself. And he plays fabulous so for us as a tour to see Phil competing it’s a huge bonus. It brings more attention to the Champions Tour and you know these guys that'll be trying to catch him and trying to beat him. So, I'm sure he’s going to win an awful lot as we see him out more, but they’ll be other guys trying to beat him as well.

OC>> One player Mickelson will face off against this week is Bernard Langer or shall I say Hans. Recently Langer went into full make up and disguised himself as Hans the maintenance worker whose work duties were intentionally intrusive. No one was safe from getting punked including Mickelson.

VO>> I think you noticed that Phil is the biggest snack chomper in golf by far.

OC>> So how I make it? Push here right?

OC>> Zach don’t even turn off the blower. Keep the blower on and he’ll talk louder.

OC>> How’s it going?

VO>> The caddie’s signaling you.

OC>> I heard you're one of the best out here.

OC>> Bern? Good to see you man. Thanks for keeping the course nice you look good.

OC>> You got me meeting you. Tried to play a prank on you.

OC>> How have you been?

OC>> You’ve got some concentration.

OC>> Well you got to get this course ready for us. I appreciate the hard work you are doing. Looks great.

OC>> Anything for you man.

OC>> Bern its good to see you man.

VO>> Coming up an incredible story of survival and a reminder of just how precious life is. Mike Goodess suffered cardiac arrest and was all but gone but lived to tell about it and return to the game and the friends he loves.

OC>> In the heat of competition or drive for success we can easily lose sight of the fact that golf in its essence is just a game. It's not life or death. Mike Goodess knows this firsthand because we nearly lost him four months ago when a friendly round of golf turned into a fight for survival.

VO>> Mike Saturday morning June twelfth tell me what your recollections are.

VO/OC>> Saturday went out playing golf with my buddies and I don't remember waking up, so everything is me retelling the story other people have told me.

VO/OC>> I had my phone which I usually don't do. We all hit I get back in my cart and there’s a text. Mike just had a heart attack and I about had a heart attack when I saw that I’m like you got to be kidding me.

OC/VO>> A friend of mine Kevin Greene was walking in the group we will usually walk and carry our bags and he was in the group with me, and he had taken a CPR class a few years earlier. He said I just knew what to do immediately. Was to yell out somebody call 911 and then he immediately started doing CPR. He did it. Another good friend of mine who's on the tee box at ten came down. He’s had some heart issues and he knew CPR and he took over for Kevin and after that Doctor Van Trite came and saved the day. But they all had an enormous part in saving my life.

VO/OC>> Jeanine called me and she's just bawling and I’m like what happened? She says Mike's heart stopped and I’m losing Mike and I can't lose Mike. I thought I was flying to Greensboro to say goodbye. I got to the TSA line at Madison and my phone rang and it was Tony's best friend Tony Nichols and he's bawling his eyes out. Crying in happiness he woke up and he recognized Jeanine. And I was so elated. I hopped out of the security line. Went to you know back in the corner and I was just like yes, he’s awake. So, the next day Jeanine stuck me in a hospital room as his brother and I go in between the curtain he goes what the hell you doing here? And I go Mike long story and I gave him a hug and I literally drench the bed and drenched him. I cried for five minutes and in happiness and. You know he was back. It’s a gift to have a friend that's as close as Mike and I are.

VO>> The doctors told my wife when they put me in a coma that I have a ten percent chance of waking up and a one percent chance to have brain function. So now I'm out of it. I don't know any of this but she went through that. You know dealing with all the possibilities which weren’t real good.

VO/OC>> You know coincidences aren’t coincidences a lot of times and the fact that that doctor happened to be there. So close so quick and got on him and took over that. If he weren’t there Mike wouldn’t be here.

OC/VO>> I know you that I was saved for a reason and I don't know the reason. And I pray all the time I won't let that slip by me. That God left me here for a reason and you know you look at life a little different. Obviously whenever we have some type of almost catastrophes, we look at life a little differently.

OC/VO>> The brotherhood we have here is the close relationships we have. Everybody loves Mikey you know it it's it's just shows what are tour’s about.

VO>> It’s a homecoming. To be quite it feels like I'm coming back to see my family but to come out and look down the range and see these people that seem to you know. Show me so much care and love and pray for me and I had so many people praying for me. It feels like it's a big family it's a great feeling.

VO>> it's not all about numbers. Goodess was the inspirational figure of the week at the SAS Championship. He tied for sixty seventh with an impressive three under par round of sixty-nine on Sunday at Prestonwood. The emotional number one however and he gave us all some perspective with his triumphant return. When PGA tour champions learning center returns enter the mind of Steve Flesch. A brutally honest player perspective on competition and the never-ending push to improve also putting for dough. Steve Flesch has one PGA tour champions win which came in 2018 in the Mitsubishi electric classic. Shortly after that win Flesch had to shut things down due to an injury to the base of his neck which required surgery. The left hander is back to full strength and has been playing some of the best golf of his Champions Tour career including a final round grouping with another lefty at the Constellation Furyk and Friends. Steve Flesch is the focus of this week's what's your edge.

OC>> All right Steve Flesch you are down to brass tacks here.

OC>> Okay.

OC>> During the season but you have to feel pretty good right? I mean you're playing well are you happy with where you are right now?

OC/VO>> Vince I've had a tremendous what is it now eight week run since Calgary. I played okay early in the year not great but man something clicked at Calgary I changed irons I changed putters you know which is nothing uncommon for me. But I just got on a roll and I've been playing great and I'm not working too hard. I'm just playing golf and kind of trying to stay out of my head and that's how I always play best I've always been a feel player. I like reactionary sports. Baseball basketball. When you start kind of trying to make everything too perfect is when I think anyone struggles but especially myself so I'm I've just been kind of letting it roll and playing well.

VO>> That’s good advice because so many of us at every level we over think it don't we? I mean and and that could be some some real trouble it just it starts to snowball for you. So, did you just kind of free yourself mentally and say look I'm going to trust what I do?

OC/VO>> Everybody out here has had a good career already. We really don't have anything to lose I'm I think I kind of took the approach like I'm over fifty years old and I'm still getting paid to play golf which is what I love doing so just enjoy it and I have been. I mean obviously playing well makes it more fun but I'm just not as hard on myself like I used to be and I'm just kind of in letting it go. I'm not beating myself up. My Mondays and Tuesdays are super light. I'm not like wearing myself out practicing and you know I just want to be enthusiastic and ready to play on Friday for the first round so. In doing in not working too hard early in the week I'm really excited to play on Friday.

VO>> And that bodes well for you as we said as we get toward the playoffs because being there's nothing that replaces being in the hunt in tournament’s right? To get that feel back for you as we get to playoffs.

VO/OC>> Being in the hunt I've learned a lot in the last couple weeks you know. I screwed up Sioux falls. I had a lead going to the fifty-four hole. Made a bogey and then didn't win the playoffs but got a third and another second in the last couple weeks so man its fun being on a roll it really is but you know you learn a lot you know. Played with Phil this past Sunday when I didn't you know I wasn't able to catch him in Jacksonville, but I learned a lot. You know I didn't handle my nerves very well. I tried to press because he birdied the first three holes right out the gate so naturally now I'm five back and I got a push to beat him I mean it's Phil Mickelson right? So, I fell out of my game a little bit but then calmed down I just didn't have anything going in but you'll learn a lot you know. And it's fun even though I'm fifty-four. I've never stopped learning what makes you tick how your body feels when you're under the gun and what you got to do to maybe sometimes win it. And a lot of times you don't have to do anything spectacular you just got to stick to what you've been doing.

VO>> Speaking of Phil I'm just wondering like where you stand now. Where in the pecking order of the lefties are you on the PGA tour champions now? Where are you in this mix?

OC>> Well I mean he shows up and I mean what's he won? Five or six or six to seven it's kind of annoying really but I mean he's a hall of fame the guy's phenomenal, but you know.

VO>> We got Weirzy out there.

OC>> I know I mean I think I’m third behind Weirzy and Phil. But that's okay hey there's plenty there's plenty for me out here-

OC>> Not to me buddy you’re my top lefty.

OC>> Well that’s nice.

OC>> You’re my top lefty.

OC>> But man he’s so annoying to play with because he's so good and if I had his short game I’d swing for the fences too but. You know it's fun to watch. I mean he's creative he's confident, but I was thrilled to death to be paired with him Sunday because I wanted to see what all the hype was about. It's not hype I mean it's a real deal and I hadn’t played with him in years since back probably maybe ten years ago on the on the PGA tour and he's changed how he plays but he's done it to kind of play better on the regular tour. But out here it just translates into being forty, fifty, yards ahead of everybody so there's no par fives out here for Phil Mickelson. Which is you know a pretty cool way to play because you figure you're going to shoot for five under every round and he can afford to drive it here a little wayward every now and then but man it's fun. But damn it I wanted to beat him on Sunday.

VO/OC>> You did. Alright so you have putter in hand. Tell me where this change the anchor change came for you this year and how it's benefited you throughout the course of the season?

OC>> Going back years I mean I obviously tried a lot of different putting strokes and methods and what not. I’ve used long potter before and the claw but my main problem I always fought was I kind of floated the grip a little bit. What I mean that when I take it back, I would have my wrist and everything set like this but then I take it back. I load the putter and then I would drag it. So, I'm basically floating the end of the grip through. And I would push a lot of putts. So, what the arm lock does for me is it kind of presets me in that floated forward position, so it just keeps everything more in one piece. And I actually practice like that. And the end of the grip is you know is basically anchored on my on my forearm. And you know thankfully the USGA says that’s legal. But you know I basically have it pressed against my forearm here. So, there's no really break down or a float in the grip to open the putter. So then when I'm all locked in I really just feel like I have a hook on my back and I'm just rotating around that hook. Just one spot I get locked in. I hover the putter just a little bit off the ground behind the ball and I just basically work around one spot just like you know if you're at home you can have somebody just kind of put their finger right at the base of your neck and you feel like your shoulders are just working underneath that pressure. And that's all my putting stroke is. That's what I even with the short putter that's what I was kind of working on but with it with the arm lock and the putter locked against my front arm the putter grip doesn't waver as much so.

VO>> Sure.

OC>> I've been on a good roll and you know what once this thing goes bad, I'll find another way.

OC>> It'll be another path for you.

OC>> Because believe me it will go bad it's just it's the nature of the game.

OC>> Can we get you to just roll one for us. Maybe take us through your process.

OC>> Okay so you know I usually get down I line up the ball. According to the line I intend you know I'm tending to putt it on. And the other change I make is I'm not taking practice strokes next to the ball now. I'm kind of getting in behind the ball looking at my line and I just kind of I'm looking down my line making like what I feel would be the proper you know amount of pace. And then I walk in I'm just kind of looking down my line. Wind it up and I take no time I basically get locked in. Take one look and I go.

OC>> Beautiful.

OC>> And somehow that went in.

OC>> Beautiful.

OC>> But I'm try it like it goes back to being reactionary. I'm trying to make one look like you're passing me the ball in basketball and I'm going. I'm trying not to clutter this dumb bean of mine up. Because I mean I get in my head and I think about what sometimes how I can’t miss it or what I'm working on. Where I'm better off just pulling the trigger and you know I can think after the balls gone-

OC>> Sure.

OC>> But let's not think while I'm over the ball so hey sometimes it works sometimes it doesn’t, but this last eight weeks been a lot of fun.

OC>> It’s been cranking. Thanks, Flesch its good to see you man. Best of luck down the stretch.

OC>> I appreciate it.

VO>> The only thing missing in Steve Flesch’s experimenting is a lab coat. But at any age the goal is to improve, and professor Fleschy has done just that. And with that we close this week's edition of learning center. It's on to the playoffs. I’m Vince Cellini and we thank you for watching.