VO>> PGA Tour Champions learning center.

OC>> Hi and welcome to learning center, post-Hawaii edition. I'm Vince Cellini. We have one event in the books, but still, we have a long road ahead and we have lots to talk about. Like players and caddies going old school regarding a rules change with yardage books and reading greens. The World Golf Hall of Famer Lanny Wadkins will stop by, he’ll give us his observations on 2022 and you'll get a tip from a former world number one. David Duval joins this tour, but first things first. For the twenty sixth consecutive year, PGA Tour Champions stops in Hawaii, and we have a winner at Hualalai.

VO>> In fact, a multiple winner here. High drama in the season opener. Saturday at the last, Miguel Angel Jimenez needs this to force a playoff with Steven Alker. How about birdie and a back nine thirty-one, we had two extra holes. Both Jimenez and Alker par eighteen on the first playoff hole. Returning there for second time, Miguel putting for birdie and the win, but it does not fall. Alker, a first-time participant here, needs this par putt to force a third playoff hole, it was his only bogey in three days at Hualalai. Miguel Angel Jimenez will hoist the trophy, becoming the second three-time winner of the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai. Afterward, he spoke of his love for the big island.

OC>> “This is amazing you know, a winner here for the third time in Hualalai and you have to play in a playoff. And, well, Steven played very well and a very special player. Very glad to win on Champions Tour here and climb into the last round with me. Winning with him was very special and in the playoff, it’s amazing. It’s a beautiful place, this is my eighth time coming to play here in a row and I really love it and this place. You know it’s, made me feel good and nice golf course, nice people, nice weather. Everything is on your side.”

VO>> Jimenez matched his low score at this event. The 58-year-old wins for an 11th time on this tour. Alker will be a player to watch in ’22, posting a tenth top-10 in 11 starts on PGA Tour Champions. Second round leaders, Vijay Singh and Stephen Ames, tie for third on an exciting day in Hawaii. After the win, Jimenez joined Mark Rolfing on the 18th green. The topic, that clutch birdie putt Jimenez made on the seventy second hole.

OC/VO>> You play with a lot of amateurs in pro-ams, what is the biggest mistake the most amateurs make on a part like this?

VO/OC>> The main thing is, aim, and swing the club, and letting go. Doesn’t matter how you made the swing, if you are too cautious, the ball is always going to go on the low side.

OC>> Can you make the putt again?

OC>> I can make it.

OC>> There it is again folks! I think that putter is here to stay for a while. Congratulations again Miguel. Tremendous Victory. Back to you Vince.

VO>> Thank you Mark and well-done Miguel. Jimenez just started his eighth season on this tour, and he has won at least once in each of those seasons. Meanwhile freshly minted PGA Tour Champions-eligible David Duval, a former top player in the world, made his tour debut in Hawaii. It wasn't the start he hoped for. Duval opened with a two-over seventy-four and shot seventy, seventy-two in his final two rounds finishing even par for the event and tying for thirty fourth. Here's Duval, making your game in what's your edge.

OC>> I have played in hundreds and hundreds of pro-ams throughout my career. I've consistently seen a couple of things that can help the everyday player. One is pay attention to the one of these sticks. And use it for both alignment, and consistency, and ball position. So, you obviously just kind of pick out a target make sure you're aiming it where you're trying to aim at and then you could also put it between your feet like such and monitor the ball position. Two really simple things that'll help the everyday player. And the other piece of advice I've given throughout all my pro-ams is when you get in trouble, get out of trouble. You hit into a bunker, get it out of the bunker. You missed a green, get it onto the green. You’re thirty yards short, just try to get it onto the green. Once you get the putter in hand, you're gonna save lots of strokes as opposed to flubbing those chip shots from around the green and leaving the shots in the bunker. I've watched it progress throughout the course of a round and guys got exponentially better as they did these things. The ball continued to get a little bit closer to the hole, saving shots and that's what this game is all about.

VO>> Thank you double d. When learning center continues, one of the game's all-time greats steps into a new high-profile role. Tom Watson answers the call from Augusta and The Masters. Plus, more of our season preview spotlighting some of the tour’s best and who might be in line to win it all in ’22. But first, this island encounter.

OC>> Hey Steven Dodd! What’s going on buddy?

OC>> Good to see you!

OC>> How are you? Welcome.

OC>> Just taking in the views, what a beautiful, beautiful place aye?

OC>> Spectacular huh?

OC>> I found this.

OC>> What do you got there?

OC>> Looks like mayonnaise to me.

OC>> Oh no, don’t do that. It’s sunblock.

OC>> Oh really.

OC>> Yeah, it’s for your face.

OC>> We don’t get to use this where I come from.

OC>> I was going to say, have you ever been to Hawaii?

OC>> Not before, no. First time.

OC>> Okay, do you know what that shiny object is in the sky?

OC>> Don’t get to see that very much where I come from.

OC>> When’s the last time you saw the sun?

OC>> Oh, that’ll be two or three months ago.

OC>> Okay, you need a coating. We need to protect your skin out here.

OC>> So, this is sun cream obviously then.

OC>> It is. So, you know what, why don’t we uh. Why don’t we start putting some of that stuff on you? And you don’t have shorts. Where are your shorts?

OC>> Don’t need those where I come from. Never wear shorts. So, all over, isn’t it?

OC>> Just really smear that stuff on.

OC>> Hang on to that.

OC>> Yeah. No, we’re gonna have to load you up, Stephen, because of that. We’re gonna protect you. You know what, that’s good. I got some extra stuff. Here.

OC>> How much of this do I need then?

OC>> Well, first of all, close your eyes. Wait a minute.

OC>> What’s that for, mosquitos?

OC>> Yeah, wait a minute. I’m gonna break out the good stuff.

OC>> The expensive stuff.

OC>> Yeah. Open your hand.

OC>> That’s proper there.

OC>> Smear that on. There you go.

OC>> That do the job?

OC>> Little bit here. Underneath. Good. I don’t think anybody’ll even notice. Yeah. That looks great.

OC>> It’s all gone in now, hasn’t it?

OC>> Yeah.

OC>> Nothing on there?

OC>> No, not at all. I don’t think anyone will notice at all. You look- you look really good. You look ready to play.

OC>> You sure now?

OC>> Yeah.

OC>> I trust you, Vince.

OC>> I would never steer you wrong, Stephen. You know, we’re having a lot of fun here, but you should always protect yourself against the dun when you’re on the beach, or you’re on the course. And certainly, if you’re a major champion.

OC>> Wherever you are, take care.

OC>> But remember, if you’re using sunscreen with Stephen Dodd, have him save just a little bit for you.

VO/OC>> So, we're out here today on the eighteenth hole at Hualalai. I have got my friend, Uncle Earl, here. He's going to teach me a song with the ukulele.

OC>> Okay we're gonna play your C chord. Which is one finger on the third fret. Yeah, perfect. We’re gonna strum it four times. Ready begin. One, two, three, four. Okay, G7. Three fingers.

OC>> So there, there and-

OC>> And right there. One, two, three, four. Okay? Yeah. I like it. Then your F chord. You’re gonna pick this up and put that up there.

OC>> That goes up, I leave that where it is.

OC>> Yes, yes. And move this.

OC>> Oh yeah, that goes there-

OC>> Good. Keep strumming. First chord is gonna be right here. Yeah, Doug. Yeah buddy.

OC>> We’re there.

OC>> That’s money.

OC>> I love it.

OC>> And your three fingers, remember-

OC>> Oh lord,

OC>> Almost. There.

OC>> There.

OC>> There.

OC>> There.

OC>> And under.

OC>> And stop. Okay, you already played a song.

OC>> I know that was just phenomenal. Thank you, Uncle Earl.

OC>> Yeah, you’re welcome. You’re welcome.

OC>> My goal was to be the Eddie Van Halen of ukulele when I arrived.

OC>> We got a- we got an Andy for that. Alright? So, what I want you to do, I want you to face Hualalai, which is right up there. And we- nope right up here. And we’re gonna give him one of- these numbers. Yeah! You ready? Okay. The no chord right here. Ready.

OC>> Okay.

OC>> Ready. And on three we’re gonna give it a Van Halen. One, strum, one, two now! Yeah.

OC>> That was awesome.

VO>> Earlier this month Masters Tournament Chairman, Fred Ridley, announced that two-time masters champion, Tom Watson, will be one of the honorary starters disabled alongside Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player. Watson won the 1977 and 1981 Masters tournaments. He also finished runner up three other times. Tom, like all of us, is excited about the new role.

VO>> I got a call from the chairman Fred Ridley the week before the announcement was made and he asked me if I would consider being the honorary starter. I said “really”. I am in, I’m all in. I really appreciate the honor.

VO>> And just being there with Gary and Jack I mean it's always special for us to see. What's it like on the inside?

OC>> Well it you know. Being with Jack and Gary, Especially Jack. I've had such great competitions with him over the years. We’ve become wonderful friends and I always like to be in his company. I learned a lot from Jack, so you know to be on the tee with somebody that was, really helped me to be the player that I am, I really appreciate that.

OC>> From one World Golf Hall of Fame member to another, I'm standing by with Lanny Wadkins. Lanny, we are holding on to Hawaii tight. We don’t want to leave, so we’re spending a little extra time.

OC>> I love it here, Vince. One of my favorite places to come, the coast has been a favorite of mine for a long, long, time.

OC>> Yeah, well I'm loving it too man it's a great place to be. So, let's talk about 2022 and, you know with the influx of talent over the last couple of years, is it fair, Lanny, to say that there's been a rebirth on PGA Tour Champions?

OC/VO>> I think so. I think some guys have come out here and really embrace this tour. Jim Furyk was talking the other day about how much he has really embraced this Tour. He likes the way he plays out here. He enjoys it. I'm looking for Ernie Els to step forward and do what Ernie Els should be doing. Retief Goosen needs more than one win at this point in time. We've got a lot of lot of good storylines this year, Vince. Is Scott McCarron gonna come back and play really well, is Bernard Langer going to be a factor at sixty-four sixty-five. We've got David Duval, Justin Leonard coming out. Guys that have won major championships and had outstanding regular tour career, so I think we're in for a really exciting year.

OC>> It just gets tougher and tougher to win out here.

OC>> Oh it does.

OC>> That's for sure. Are there any particular tournaments that you have your eye on? What you're looking forward to this year?

OC>> I got a lot of tournaments I look forward to. I’m looking forward to Newport Beach. It’s just a special place. Ernie won there. The players really enjoy going there, it’s a fun week and of course I look at Pebble. I love being at Pebble Beach, it’s a special place. And then the majors. Firestone with the Senior Players Championship I think is just such an outstanding venue. We always get a true champion there.

VO>> Yeah that was a great get for the tour that's for sure. You mentioned a lot of names, but as we go into this season, is it the usual suspects? Are those the guys we watch? Maybe the top ten?

OC/VO>> I think that there some. I think that we’ve got about ten players we’re going to be looking at, no question. To see what they're going to do, you know, who's going to make a statement this year? You know, is there going to be you know a couple of guys that haven't won before? Come out and make a mark that, it happened last year about three or four times so that's always interesting to watch and you gotta look at guys coming out he- I really want to see what David Duval and Justin Leonard have in the tank. They both, outstanding players, regular tour career, but they neither one of them has played a lot of golf in a long time. So, it's gonna to be interesting to see how that transitions for them.

OC>> I think the great thing too about PGA Tour Champions is you have all these dark horses. You know these guys they can jump up to win at any time and many of these players, Lanny, are gonna get their first full season on PGA Tour Champions.

OC>> Well you’re talking about guys like Shane Birch, Cameron Beckman. Guys that won last year in the in the last two years. They have made an impact and played some really, really solid golf going forward. So yeah, can they continue that. Is there somebody from the qualifying school that’s going to jump out and make a mark? Yeah, that's always something to look for.

OC>> Alright, on that note, thank you very much Lanny.

OC>> You bet.

OC>> Have a great year and I wish we could take some of this with us year-round.

OC>> This is good as it gets right here.

VO>> Much more ahead on PGA Tour Champions Learning Center including an adjustment during competition for players and caddies. We have the book on that detailing a new rule in place starting this year, when we return.

OC/VO>> Hello I'm Joe Terry PGA tour champions rules official. I'm here today to share with you another model local rule. A modification on the rules of golf that’s in effect for the PGA Tour high level events that was effective January 1, 2022. And that model local rule is model local rule G-11 that deals with green reading materials and a restriction of the amount of materials that are available for the players in reading the line of play on the putting green. Model Local Rule G-11 Rule 4.3A is modified in this way: “during a round the player may use only the yardage book, or books, approved by the committee. This restriction also applies to any other maps of the course, including hole-location sheets. Additional restrictions apply to handwritten notes and any other materials used by the player that could help read the line of play on the putting green.” Now I'd like to mention to you that this rule was put into effect because of demands of the PGA tour players they were concerned about the enormous amount of material that was available to help players read slopes, and variances in the greens, and topography, and using thermal imaging, and computers, and levels, and other devices to get this information. So now this means that the player can use only information that was gained through personal observation and experience. The player can see a ball roll, he can roll balls, he can hit putts during his practice rounds to areas where they think there's going to be a hole location and that's the only information that can be used. If the information that is handwritten and transferred to the book that's been approved is gained by any other source, it's not allowable. That must be personal information that’s through observation and experience. But let's enjoy watching golf for 2022 and I hope that you all have as much fun with it as we do.

OC>> It is very clear that players and caddies will have to rely more on instinct and less on technology. Will this make for a better game and what might be the impact of the new rules change? We spoke with several players about making the adjustment.

OC/VO>> I think in general, for the pace of play of the game and ,you know, being an athlete and using your feels and your senses to pick up the subtleties of the greens; I think that's a real skill that maybe was kind of dulled a little bit by guys using the green books and maybe that's a way to separate guys that are really good green readers and have that intuitive field. And so, I think that's a good thing for the game.

OC/VO>> I was the first player to learn aimpoint from Mark Sweeney. And Mark Sweeney was the first guy to come up with percentage and slope and how to read greens. And then I learned the aimpoint express. We don't get the greens books but, so my caddie and I have been doing it with a level all these years. We put in the time, put in the effort and for the Tour to take that all away and say start over again. Erase your memory basically. You can't write anything down that you've gained any type of information with a device, I think it's absolutely ridiculous and I was with the rules officials and talking to them quite often about what my thoughts were, and they went completely overboard with this thing. I'm really disappointed. I’m disappointed in our board on the PGA Tour, the players that kind of came up with this. This was not something that I thought was an integral decision for the game of golf.

OC/VO>> Obviously we’re going to have to start from scratch, you know, every year you add something into that old yardage book. You know now we have a little bit less information. For some guys it's maybe better, for some guys maybe not, you know, everybody's unique, everybody's different, but you know that's why you play practice rounds. You can make your own notes and you kind of fiddle with that course in your head a little bit. And I think we are all experience enough to adjust very quickly to it.

OC>> On this tour, I know there’s some guys who use-, might do the aimpoint and wanna know all those numbers so, it’s hit or miss. It’s really gonna be individual. I don’t know on the regular tour it might affect them more. They seem to have a lot more going on and a lot more precise on that, but, you know, out here everybody grew up without that stuff.

OC>> I don't like it. Especially- I like that they got rid of the green book. You know the extra book that gives you all the details about measurements from GPS and on and on. I think that's part of golf to read the green yourself and to, you know, if you want to roll a few balls or whatever it takes to get the information and not out of a book, but I'm not a big fan of- we just changed out its books last year now we're changing them again and for me especially it's a lot of work because I play in meters and so do a few other of my colleagues; Jimenez and on. So, I have to change every yard, every yardage, and change it into meters. Which takes me about three hours to do and I’m not looking forward to that every week this whole season. To spend three hours a week, you know, redoing my yardage book, but it is what it is.

VO>> This rule change will require a pivoting period for some players. Here's an example of the detailed information players receiving yardage books last year, versus the information they will receive this year. The image on top is from last year's yardage book and the image on the bottom, the same green in this year's version. Veteran players can fill in the blanks.

VO>> That will do it from the Big Island of Hawaii. The PGA Tour Champions returns next month with the Chubb Classic at Tiburon Golf Club in Naples, Florida. As we leave you, enjoy the dulcet tones of Uncle Earl with support from Doug Behren. And no, they will not be playing Freebird.