VO>>PGA TOUR Champions Learning Center

VO>> This is Hualalai on the Big Island of Hawaii. A spectacular setting signals the start of the 42nd year of play on PGA tour champions. Honoring past winners and turning the page to a new chapter on the over-fifty circuit. The Mitsubishi electric championship at Haulalai is amazing competition cloaked in breathtaking beauty.

OC>> Hello and welcome to this 2022 PGA tour champions season preview. I'm Vince Giulini. It’s spectacular Haulalai Golf Club on the Big Island of Hawaii. Step one in a new campaign featuring many intriguing story lines. What about the schedule? Twenty-eight events spanning twenty states, including stops in places like northern Africa, Canada, and Scotland. So many familiar faces on the tour legends of the game like Ernie Els, Jim Furyk, and yes, Phil Mickelson will be in the mix. As well as impressive newcomers like rookies David Duval and Justin Leonard. And then there is this tour’s old man river who just keeps rolling along, the defending Charles Schwab Cup champion Bernard Langer seeking his seventh career Charles Schwab Cup and maybe the all-time tour record. Bernard Langer in a word: the standard.

OC>> He just doesn't make mistakes. You know, players like myself will throw in a three-putt here or there or we’ll make a silly bogey from a hundred yards. Bernhard doesn’t seem to do that.

OC/VO>> He’s extremely fit for sixty-four. I think at that age, with anybody and anybody playing golf or any athletic sport, you have to be fit. And he’s definitely the statute of that, for sure.

VO/OC>> He’s a grinder. He works very hard on his game. What I notice over all those years and his thinking on the golf course is great. He doesn’t really make stupid mistakes. He doesn’t short-sight himself.

VO/OC>> He is so consistent with every part of his game. And I guess he must have a mind that’s stronger than anybody else, you know. He doesn’t care about, you know, the previous hole. Whatever he does, he just, he’s like a machine. And I’m all for that.

VO/OC>> He’s a phenomenon in the world of golf. The way he plays, the way he handles himself, the way he practices, he’s doing everything very, very professionally. And also, to get his body to last that long, it’s incredible.

VO/OC>> Bernhard is a wonderful man, both a gentleman and an unbelievable competitor. He’s grinded out through some tough times in his career, but he’s still out there working hard and trying to win.

OC>> It’s not like it’s just out here, like he goes to the Masters and he’s beating the young guys. And so, it’s just truly amazing. I don’t think people understand how hard it is what he’s doing at his age. It’s just, you can’t even put words on it.

OC>> It’s incredible. He’ll win again. He’ll win again at 65 and then we’ll worry about 66 when that comes, but he’ll win again.

OC/VO>>Can you imagine, I mean, at 64 years of age, you still have the desire everyday to get up and work your butt off. Mentally, he is the strongest out there.

VO/OC>> I think he’s reinvented himself three or four times in his career, so, to go through all that just shows the determination he’s got to be where he is with six Schwab titles is, yeah, it’s incredible.

OC>> The way I look at Bernhard is, the hell with the golf, he’s actually better as a person than he is at the game. He’s great at both.

OC/VO>> For someone to win the Charles Schwab Cup at 64 years old, honestly think might never happen again. To have someone come in 14 years into this and still win it, it’s incredible. And it’s been underestimated, his achievements.

VO/OC>>One word to describe Bernhard, I got to use more than one. I think he’s beyond hall of fame. He is golf royalty.

VO>>How has Langer become the face of PGA tour champions? How about the second highest win total in tour history, three behind Hale Irwin. A streak of fifteen consecutive seasons with at least one victory. And racking up top-tens at a remarkable rate. Bernard Langer continues to find a way, pushing onward and adding to an already stellar career.

OC>> And now the man himself. PGA tour champions had a super season and so did Bernard Langer, winning a sixth career Charles Schwab Cup. But Bernie, given that you played in every event, some of the wear and tear and the grind, how tough was that one?

OC/VO>> It was a long season. The two seasons in one, if you understand what I’m saying. And yeah, the way the schedule fell, I just felt like I could play every tournament. I never played more than three in a row, which is about my max. And now the kids are out of the house, so it was good reason to be out here and play golf. I enjoyed every minute of it.

OC>> How about your schedule going into ’22? Will you adjust it some?

OC>>Probably a little bit. I’m planning on playing one tournament in Germany this year, again. So, I’ll probably miss a few. But still trying to play a full schedule. I feel fairly healthy now, after the two months off. And if it stays that way, there’s no reason to not play a full schedule of about 23, 25 events in total. Which means probably somewhere between 20 and 22 out here.

OC>> That sounds better than 39.

OC>> That was for two years. (LAUGHS)

OC>> Right. Can you tell us about the procedure you had in the offseason? What can you share about that?

OC>>I can share everything. I didn’t have an operation, that was false media whatever. I went over there to see my doctor. I got a couple of injections. It’s actually pretty much sugar water to create inflammation. Inflammation turns into scar tissue and the scar tissue is much stronger than what I have right now. It’s getting rid of tendonitis.

OC>> Where was that on your body?

OC/VO>> My left knee. And that’s been bothering me for four years now. It got to the point last year where it was pretty painful, even hitting balls. And all the bending and twisting. It feels better now. I’m excited to go out for the drive and not have to hold back and not wince. It’s a great feeling. So, looking forward to it.

OC/VO>>It’s interesting to realize that you actually feel pain, Bernie. So now we have that on the record. I so admire the fact that you have found a way to navigate through whatever golf throws at you and still find a way to beat players that are younger and longer off the tee. And the challenge of mentally staying in that. What’s your secret to doing that? How do you find a pathway?

VO/OC>> There’s really no secret, I think, Vince. It’s just trying to be the best that I can be. I’m never going to hit it as far as a Vijay Singh or a Scott McCarron or a Darren Clarke or forty other guys out here. They all hit it by me.

OC>> But you beat them!

OC/VO>> Yeah so there’s more to it than distance. I just try to be the best I can be. So, I need to hit more fairways, more greens if possible. Maybe have a better short game. Maybe be mentally as tough as anybody. Have a good game plan to navigate the golf course. All of the above. Be well prepared. There’s a lot that goes into it to have the final result. And I got a great team with my caddie Terry and my coach Willie, who just had a heart attack three days ago. So, that’s very tough news. He’s in a coma. I’ve been working with Jared Isaacs lately. So, we’ll see how that goes. But as I said, I’ve got wonderful people around me. All of those little things create the big picture.

VO>>In a game that really frustrates a lot of people and sort of makes people almost want to walk away from the game, and I know you've had your own setbacks. What's the advice for grinding through and just finding the happiness and the joy that the game can bring?

VO/OC>> I think many, especially amateurs, they take it too serious. You know, it's not you're living. You play this game for fun. It’s a hobby. So, enjoy the environment. I always say, a bad day on the golf course is still better than a day in the office, or a good day in the office. Don't take it too serious. Most of you guys don’t put the time and effort to expect a lot. It’s different with us. We get frustrated because we practice eight hours a day and then when we make simple mistakes and errors, I think we have a right to get frustrated and upset with ourselves. But not the average golfer. So, enjoy the game. You know, we all have a few good shots that’ll bring us back the next day hopefully, or the next week.

VO>>Hale Irwin’s all-time mark of 45 PGA Tour Champions wins, seemed unbreakable. Until Bernard Langer began his relentless pursuit. While he trails Irwin, Langer narrowed the margin last year when he became the oldest winner on this tour, taking the first playoff event. At age 64 there's no reason to believe he can't continue this success for years to come. He has changed the way players view longevity in the game.

VO>> When the 2022 PGA Tour Champions preview show continues, the players give us their favorites to win the Charles Schwab Cup. And some of the answers may surprise you. But certainly not this choice he's a favorite and we'll hear from him. Jim Furyk is next.

VO/OC>>For me, it’s like right at the pinnacle of my career.

VO/OC>> I’ve been second three times. All second to Bernhard Langer, I believe.

VO/OC>The history of the Charles Schwab Cup speaks for itself. You’ve done very well when you lift that trophy.

OC/VO>>To be number one at the end of the year, just you know, you've had a super consistent year which is plenty hard to do.

VO/OC>>Winning a tournament is not nearly what it’s like to win a year. That’s a lot tougher. It means a lot more. It’s more difficult than it’s ever been.

OC/VO>>To get your name on that sure will feel like you’ve done something really well.

VO>>German legend Bernard Langer has a tight grip on the Charles Schwab Cup in recent years. However, others have been able to pry it from his hands. Most recently Scott McCarron and Kevin Sutherland sandwiched around Bernhard’s 2018 achievement. But 2022 is a clean slate. And we ask players who they believe will hoist the hardware at season's end.

OC>>Bernard did something amazing last year. I expect he'll play great; you know, all the players are great out here. They’re all tough to beat I don't know who is going to be there in the end.

OC/VO>> Lee Janzen is probably my dark horse to probably win it. It’s all about putting for him, but he’s a great ball striker. And I’ve played with him enough to know that he’s on the right track.

VO>>Scott McCarron is coming off an injury. Scottie is always tough. Colin Montgomerie is steady.

OC/VO>> You got to stay Bernhard again at 64. You got a lot of good new players out here. You’ve got David Duval. You’ve also got Jerry Kelly and you’ve got a healthy Scott McCarron. There’s so many good players, it’s hard to pick.

VO/OC>> The Langers, the Jim Furyks, Ernie Els, Scott McCarron’s back. Cejka at the PGA. I think anybody could get on a streak and o really well. It’s over the course of a year, but I think there’s going to be ten, 20 guys that can contend for it, for sure

OC>>What a tremendous run Jim Furyk made to the Charles Schwab Cup. Down to the final event, down to the final hole, really. Jim, I know it wasn’t the 2010 TOUR Championship by any stretch, but I just wondered if maybe it kind of stirred up those feelings of you know, big finish in a season. what a tremendous run Jim's uric made to the Charles Schwab

OC/VO>>Absolutely. I mean you go through, for us it was a year and a half long season. Or for me at least a year and a half long season. Starting my champions tour career at Ally. And you play all those events and it basically comes down to one tournament, you know, a chance to win the Schwab Cup. For me, it came down to one round, maybe the back nine. So yeah, it’s exciting. You know, it's exciting, you’re always trying to win golf tournaments but to try to win a season-long championship like the FedExCup or the Schwab Cup, is always exciting.

VO>>Yeah, it was like a game operation when you're on 18 and your ball was in the, was it pine straw?

OC/VO>> It was. It was wood chips. So, I thought, I was walking up there and originally, I was planning, ‘Okay I’m going to drop it over here.’ I was looking at the trees and clear shot. And Joe was saying, “No, no, you don’t get a drop from that.” And I thought I was something man made. And he went, “No, that’s always there.” That’s not good. I didn’t really have a choice and it was going to be hard to get that third shot on the green, let alone get a chance to go in. But might as well, if I take the penalty, it doesn’t matter. I got to try to get a clean lie, the best lie I can.

VO/OC>>It was super finish to a very entertaining super season. So, having said that all the stuff that's under your belt now, with the wins and getting the tournament underway, I would imagine you’re very excited to go out there and take care of what you need to take care of.

OC/VO>> Yeah and it starts up quick. You know I kind of like the idea that in the past on the PGA tour I'd take, the last ten years of my career, I’d take three plus months off and kind of recharge and get ready. The Champions Tour ends a little later in mid-November and then we’re right back in Hawaii. You get about a six, seven-week break and then you’re right back in Hawaii in January. And then we just kind of sprinkle some tournaments in there early. They kind of let you slowly, slowly ease into the season. But by the time April, May gets around, it’s one after the other. And we have a very full schedule. I’ll enjoy the spring a little bit. There’s some things in my game that I really want to work on. That I really want to improve on. I think our schedule gives me the opportunity to do that like it did in the past. But I’m excited. I feel, for one reason or another, I was pretty healthy this last year. The end of the year came, and I wasn’t exhausted. My body wasn’t killing me like it had maybe in some other years. So, the idea of kind of getting right back after it is exciting. I feel good. I was playing pretty well at the end of the season, so I want to get back out there.

OC/VO>>You’ve had many accomplishments. I'd like to talk about one in particular. It's been over five years since you shot 58 at the 2016 Travelers. With the ball going farther and with technology changing now, no player has matched that. A, what does it take? And B, do you think that will happen?

VO/OC>> Oh, absolutely. There aren’t many records that are ever going to stand. As you mentioned, the golf courses are going to get that much longer. They're going to run out of room, right? And the technology, guys hit the ball farther. The athletes are getting bigger, stronger, faster. Techniques getting better. So yeah, and records are made to be broken. Mr. Geiberger kind of held on to it for, I think, 39 years. I want to say that he, you know, had the lowest score, or tied for the lowest score. It’d be really cool if 58 can hang on for 39 years. I don’t think it will, but it’d be really cool. and be really cool

OC>> I think that’d be fantastic. A couple questions as we finish up here. We're asking everyone. You saw it firsthand. To see Bernhard Langer, perform the way he did it at age sixty-four and go out there and grind his way through and finish. I mean, it’s something to be admired. I just wanted to get your thoughts on it.

OC/VO>>It is. It’s interesting how, my son and I are watching the Lakers last night on TV and every time Lebron does something they have to mention that he's a 38-year-old man. You know and I almost won the Players in, I think ’18 or ’19. I think ’19, at the time I was 48. So, I was never Jim Furyk, I was 48-year-old Jim Furyk. It’s amazing how we put an age on things. How about first three say what Bernard accomplished last year was amazing. I think he’s won the Schwab Cup now six times. Now, the fact that he's been able to do that for fourteen years is even more incredible. To have that longevity. Really only he and Hale Irwin have had that kind of impact on the Champions Tour and have that longevity or at least that elite level for that long. And the records that they’ve set, I’m not sure anyone’s going to touch to be honest with you. They’re more unreachable, in my opinion, than say the 58 that we talked about earlier. They’re going to be tough to do. I guess now at the end, you can say he is 64, so the fact that he stayed healthy, the fact that he stayed hungry, that he worked so hard at it. He’s so talented. Let’s put that first and foremost. It’s been pretty amazing. I’m disappointed that I wasn’t able to win, but I also tip my cap to Bernhard and how well he played. And, you know, he’s been the force. Until you beat him, I don’t think you’re going to win a Schwab Cup. That’s the bar he’s set for the last ten to 15 years.

VO>> Jim Furyk remains on top of his game as evidenced by the numbers during his spectacular rookie campaign. Furyk’s game travels and tee-to-green, he almost always gives himself a chance to score. Furyk is certainly on everyone's list as a contender to bring home the Charles Schwab Cup. And we are so glad he has made PGA tour champions his home.

VO>>While Furyk put a stellar first-year season in the books, it's time to meet some of the incoming talent from the rookie class of 2022. Folks, this tour just gets better and better.

VO/OC>>The first rule of over-fifty golf is do not talk about over-fifty golf unless you know the strategy. Players making their way to PGA tour champions understand that it's a sprint. You have to score early and put the pedal down. And most recently those players joining PGA tour champions have made an instant impact. Which begs the question, for them why so much success so soon?

OC/VO>> Starting right around my age let's say, Tiger came in on to the scene and we've had players that are fitness driven like Gary Player and so forth, but nobody like Tiger who's really pushed everybody to a different level. Now the guys have been involved with functional movement and working out golf specific exercises where they're able to elongate their careers and get their body functioning well even at older age, they're still able to perform and hit the shots that they’ve always hit. Maybe not with the same speed, but with the same precision. And so, you look at a guy like Jim Furyk, who is one of the most precise strikers of the ball, great putter, great chipper. But just only lacks the speed to compete on the regular tour. You put him out here on golf courses are fractionally shorter and he's deadly, like he can really play. So, he's an obvious answer as to why the young players are having success out here on the Champions Tour.

VO/OC>> The play is really deep right now. It really is. You’ve got to play really well to win. I think at times in the past you could kind of have one mediocre round it just doesn't seem like you can do that anymore. You've got to play really well every day.

VO/OC>>The winners win in high school. They win in college. They win on the Korn Ferry Tour. Then they get on the PGA TOUR, if you notice, a lot of those guys are winning. So, the best players play well out here. Then when they win, you go “Oh my god, yeah Mike Weir was supposed to win.” The younger guys, 50, 51, 52, they don’t really know how easy or hard it’s going to be. But they figure it out pretty fast. We have a great tour. Brian Gay is coming out soon. Brian Gay will do very well, very well. It’ll be a huge bonus for us. And he’ll do very well.

VO>>Speaking of Brian Gay, the December baby is tour ready. As is this impressive list of newbies, featuring a sprinkling of major champions. Keep an eye on the calendar as to when they hit the big five-oh and come aboard. I spoke with a player who once rose to the best on the planet. Bringing his brilliant background to PGA tour champions. Stand by for Double-D.

OC>>David Duval needs no introduction He has an amazing resume. Turned fifty back in November. Thirteen-time winner on the PGA TOUR, major champion, author of a 59. What a resume! And what an intro as you’re bringing that to PGA Tour Champions. So, what are your expectations for playing?

OC/VO>>You know, I expect to succeed. I've been practicing and playing. Working at it. You know, getting over some little injuries, problems I had the last couple years. And that's all behind me now. You know but I'm sure there will be some nerves and some anxiety and rust. You know, because I don’t know, I haven’t counted it up, but I haven’t played 50 golf tournaments in the last decade. You know, and so I’m patient and I’ll give myself time to kind of get my feet under myself again. But we're, my wife and I Susie, we're so excited about the opportunity and we’re so looking forward to it. This is something that I've done all my life the guys out there have done all their lives. They know what to do. They know what they're trying to accomplish. As long as your kind of intentional what you're doing and not just messing around. It’s just like it’s always been. I will be at Haulalai. Then I guess the best way to put it, I’m going to play a full schedule. I would imagine, when I say a full schedule, it’ll be in the neighborhood of 20 for sure.

OC>>So, doing the television work, a lot of times for NBA past coaches and players or NFL players it's beneficial in them to step back and look at the game. Do you take any benefits out of working in television and watching the game all those years?

OC/VO>> You know what, I started, I did it for what? I’ve done it for seven years. Did a little bit in ’13 for ESPN for the US Open, I think the Open. Um, the answer is yes, and the answer is no. Certainly the competitiveness of it. Watching how the guys go about it. But the no answer would be, it’s a different game than when I was on top of the world. Certainly, you know, I was a long hitter, but I played, I play this game in a straight line. These guys, they, they move it everywhere. I don’t like bomb and gauge. It is built around distance. The guys using stats and they learn from it. They know that. That’s just not how I played. Not really how my generation played the game. It’s a new game. It’s been a thrill to be a part of it. And a thrill to watch. I love it, I really do. I think it’s great. But it’s kind of a different skill set than what was required 25 years ago.

OC>>Yeah and I think you know in talking to you guys that are already on the tour you can't start slowly on PGA tour champions. You got to get out there and go.

OC>> Yeah right.

OC>> Day One, you know that?

OC>> No kidding. it is going to be so much fun just you know again being a back around a lot of my peers that I play with for so so long. And then we hear the stories of the camaraderie. I know it’s overly, incredibly competitive, for sure. But it’s also kind of a thing, I think, I kind of I know it is maybe kind of reflective of when I played what is now the Korn ferry tour, the Nike tour, back in the early nineties. And I feel like it's kind of kind of that approach

OC>> That’s a good comparison. We’re looking forward to seeing you out there.

OC>> Thank you.

OC>> Thank you so much for spending time with us.

OC>> Again, Susie and I are so excited. We can’t wait.

VO>> You might recall David Duval's quick rise to success on the PGA tour. A thirteen- time winner, former Open champion and holder of the world number one golfer ranking. He also fashioned the final round fifty-nine in 1999. David Duval is on his way and the rest of the guys know it.

VO/OC>> You know, number one in the world, he won so many great tournaments. I remember watching him before I actually came to America. I watched him on TV. I watched him to shoot the 59 in La Quinta to win the first one. To have in the 50s, plus winning the tournament. Obviously winning the British Open. Great player. He’s been, I don’t want to say out of the game for a couple years, commentating. Doing some stuff. But it’s nice to see him back out there. We need names. We need players like this out here. I think he fits right in it.

OC/VO>> I’m rooting for him. I hope he plays very well. He’d be a great addition to the tour. He’s been such a great player for such a long time. The more guys we can get like that to come out and support the Champions Tour, the better.

OC/VO>> I know he’s been working hard with Greg Rush back at home and getting his body in shape. I think he’s pretty hungry. It’s going to be fun to see.

VO/OC>> I think David will do very well. Simply because he’s a major championship winner. He’s been number one in the world. He knows what it takes to get there. Now, does he still have those skills? We don’t know. They’ve been sort of in a rest mode for a long time. I think he knows. He’s been around the game. He’s been announcing. It’s not like he separated himself and gone off walking on the beach somewhere. He’s been around the game, so I suspect it’ll take him a little while, but not very long.

VO>> We’ve seen David play the game, talk the game and now it’s time for his second act. And speaking of returns, the only player other than Langer to win the Charles Schwab Cup since 2018, is Scott McCarron. But Scottie wasn’t able to defend is victory last season due to an ankle injury. However, this year he’s feeling better and in this week’s field. We’ll catch up with McCarron after this.

VO>>Scott McCarron loves to compete on the PGA tour champions. So, when the 2019 Charles Schwab Cup winner could no longer play through the pain of a left ankle injury, he made the difficult choice to opt out for surgery back in August to repair to torn tendons while having his left heel surgically broken and his foot realigned. Now that's a lot of work and a lot of work to return to competition. But there he was in Hualalai excited to be back.

OC>>Honey, good to be back

VO>>For most of us, Hawaii is a vacation destination. For Scott McCarron, the island was motivation.

OC/VO>>The last six months, especially the first two months where I couldn't put weight on my ankle and I was hoping around, was very difficult. And so, I always had that sight of Hualalai. My first time coming back and playing in competition. And to actually be here, it kind of feels a little bit surreal.

VO>>For nearly a year and a half, McCarron gutted through the injury not knowing how bad it really was. The tendons in his left foot were reattached and hardware re-installed.

OC/VO>>We kind of attached one tendon on the other. I didn’t even know that I was going to have the big screws going in the heel. After he put them in, I thought, “Am I getting them removed?” He said, “Nope, those are permanent.” It was a long process of healing. But I kind of pushed it so I could get back here this week.

VO>>McCarron’s was an elaborate procedure, but necessary for the long haul.

VO/OC>>My doctor, Dr. Harold Jones said, “listen, we can fix the tendons and you might have two or three years and be okay, but because of the way your foot has such a high arch, you’re probably going to tear it again. Or we can go ahead and do this whole surgery and break the foot, break the ankle and re-align the foot and you could have ten or twelve years.” I said, “I want ten or twelve years.” So, we did that surgery. It took a little longer in recovery, but I’m back.

VO>> The plan is for Scott to both ride and walk in tournaments until one hundred percent. Either way, McCarron is back in step, as promised.

VO>>The left heel and foot so important in the right-handed swing. And clearly McCarron, despite his best efforts, was not able to play at the level he was accustomed to. Here’s hoping for a return to the Scott McCarron we know and love in 2022. But beyond his own play, Scott has been a wonderful instructor for viewers of Learning Center.

VO>> One of the last seasons feel good stories was when Dicky Pride open qualified for the Mitsubishi Electric Classic at TPC Sugarloaf and then won it. He became the 18th player to win on the Korn Ferry Tour, PGA TOUR, and PGA Tour Champions. And now it’s roll tide for this Alabama fan.

VO>>At the beginning of last year, Dicky Pride was fighting to get into events on the PGA Tour Champions. In May, he competed in an open qualifier in Duluth, Georgia, with hopes of getting into the field at the Mitsubishi Electric Classic. He did just that. And by the end of the week, he was lifting the trophy for his first career tour win. Now, Pride has full status. And one of the perks of being a winner the previous season, a spot in the field at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai.

OC>> Hi, we’re here at the Four Seasons Resorts in Hualalai at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai. I’m with executive chef Michael Lishchynsky and he’s going to help us with some of the local cuisine. Mike, first I want to know, what are you going to show us? Two, what do I have to do? Because at my house, I let her do all the prep, then I go to the grill and take credit. So, I’m hoping that you’ll let me do something so I can take credit.

OC>> Absolutely, yeah. So, today we’re going to do a traditional Ahi Poke. Then we’re going to do a nice little pasta dish. We’re going to make cavatelli and some lobster. A nice little spicy, red sauce. Here we have our tuna. It’s our local tuna. Out of the water, probably two days.

OC>>Mmm, Delicious

OC>> So what are we going to do now?

OC>> We’re going to make ricotta cavatelli with ? lobster, a spicy marinara with basil, garlic, Calabrian chiles, a little lemon zest, and a nice white wine.

OC>> Never felt better about my golf game in my life than me trying to cook.

VO>> that is amazing. You think you can do this?

OC>>No, I don’t but I’m going to try it anyway.

OC>> Nice! Great job.

OC>> A phenomenal chef.

OC>> Two men cooking for me, who could ask for more?

VO>>We’re going to add a little bit of white wine.

VO>> That is a beautiful dish.

OC>> Ladies first.

OC>> I will dig in for sure. Mmm, wonderful. What a treat!

OC>> Michael, let’s go eat. Cheers. Thank you so much

OC>> Thank you for such a wonderful experience. Cheers.

VO>> Dicky is hoping to join this list at week’s end. These are the last six players to win at Hualalai in their tournament debut since 1997. Darren Clarke did it last year in dramatic fashion. That would make for quite an island celebration.

VO>>When we come back, we will take a deeper look into the 2022 schedule and highlight some of the biggest weeks on the calendar. PGA Tour Champions is returning bigger and better.

OC>>Aloha, I’m Joe Terry, PGA Tour Champions Rules Official. And here today I want to share with you some rules of golf modifications that are effective January 1, 2022. So, a couple weeks into the season, we’ve seen some of these modifications already in play. The first one is model local rule G10. It’s approved by the R&A and the USGA for high level and elite player events, but it’s a restriction on the length of a golf club other than a putter that may be used in events. The maximum length for any club that can be used in an event, other than a putter of course, is 46 inches. 46 inches is measured from the butt of the club to the bottom of the golf club. Now, because all golf clubs have a different sole configuration, some have different entry points for where the shaft enters the heel of the club and so forth. The United States Golf Association as built a template. It’s simply a small box that you set the club into. It measures all the clubs the same and at the end of it, it tells us whether or not that club fits the 46-inch maximum or not. It’s very important for the players to check their golf clubs like this because the penalty for using a club that exceeds the 46 inches is pretty severe. That penalty is disqualification for using a club during that competition. Again, this is not going to affect many of you out there that are playing in your local club events, your state championships, your so forth. This is an extreme high-level event, the US Open, the US Amateur, possibly. All of the events in the PGA TOUR family events will be included.

OC>> So we’ve gone over some of the rule changes for this year, some of the favorites to win it all. And now we have the man in charge of the bigger picture, PGA TOUR Champions President, Miller Brady is with us. Miller, it’s great to see you.

OC>> Great to see you. Happy New Year.

OC>> So we’re coming off the super season which was two seasons combined in one. Do you feel like things are sort of settling down, is it more normal at this time as we head into 2022?

OC>> Well we ended on such a great note last year. So, we want to continue. We want to have normalcy as we head into 2022. And we feel great about that.

VO>> So, we have a 28-event schedule. Are you pleased with how things have shaken out for ’22?

VO/OC>> Oh, sure full schedule. 28-events which is really more events than we’ve had in the past few years. And the highest prize money that we will have ever played for on this tour. Like I said before, we just want to continue that momentum in 2022.

OC>> Can we talk about some of the place that you’re looking forward to stopping this year as part of the schedule?

OC/VO>> Sure, well we have a brand-new event in Dallas with Club Corp, so we’re looking forward to that. We’re looking forward to getting back to the Hoag where we haven’t been this past year. So, Newport Beach Country Club. Obviously, starting our season here at Hualalai, it can’t get any better than that. Then we have a couple great majors on our schedule. Especially to play Firestone, a historic venue. There is always great.

OC>>I’d like to talk about two of the majors in particular and the venues they’re being played. The US Senior Open and the Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex.

OC/VO>>Yeah so you have the US Senior Open at Saucon Valley. A fantastic golf course. I know Hale Irwin has done some work to help promote and represent it. So, that’s going to be fantastic. Then you look at the Senior Open presented by Rolex at Glen Eagles, a fantastic historical venue that our players have played at in the past and are really looking forward to getting back there and having a great championship.

VO/OC>> They are. Many of them have told me how excited they are to do that. We talked about the finish of last year and just how exciting it was. I don’t think after this long grind and 39 events you could ask for a better final chapter than what we saw in Phoenix.

OC/VO>>It came down to the last event of the year, the last round of the year, the last hole of the year between Furyk and Langer. It really doesn’t get any better and I think hopefully we can see the same this year at the end of our season.

VO/OC>> What do you think in your time in your position with the PGA Tour Champions that you’ve seen as really the selling point of the growth of what this tour really is?

OC>> Well, look at the end of the day, this tour is, we have great competition. And the competition gets better and better every year, but it’s really about our sponsors and the B to B entertaining. It’s the pro-am experience. It’s really just what the guys do. They turn 50 and they’re so great with the sponsors, we could ask for them to do any more than they do.

VO>>Coming up, the defending champion of the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai joining us. Looking back and looking ahead to another tour season.

VO>> Last year the Mitsubishi Electric Championship was a brilliant tournament debut for Darren Clarke. He closed with a back nine 30 in his final round, including a 50-foot birdie putt on 17 that increased his lead to two. Clarke one putted six of his final eight holes, posted a 64 and 21-under total to win the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai. It was his first of two wins in 2021.

OC/VO>>He’s reinvented himself. I think he’s sat back, looked at the first 18 months, the way he played and realized I’ve got to put some work into it to compete with these guys.

VO/OC>>He’s got a fantastic asset in this game, his length. He’s probably the longest through the air on our tour. And these courses aren’t getting any shorter that we’re playing, so that’s a fantastic asset to have. And if he does drive the ball straight, he’s hitting wedges in. So, he’s going to win again and again

VO/OC>> The thing that stands out with Darren is just how hard he works. There’s no one out here who works as hard as he does. Maybe Bernhard and him are right neck and neck. But that’s the thing that stands out the most to me. Everything he has earned out here, he’s deserved. It’s been because of hard work and that’s what’s most impressive about that.

OC>> He’s always been a big, big part, big personality on the European Tour. And very liked on the European Tour and very liked over here as well. Great guy. Very happy for his success.

VO>>Clarkey had a new man on the bag in Sandy Armor, a new attitude, and certainly new results. He was a force with three victories in the super season and some of the best shot-making on this tour.

VO/OC>>The grass we have here at the Abaco Club is called Paspalum. It’s a very strong grass, very thick grass which is very easy to catch your clubs. Very strong grass, so it’s very easy for it, when you’re hitting shots, everyone, especially around the greens, for it to grab the club. So, when you’re hitting shots like this, I practice this a lot when I’m here. Especially for Hualalai where I’m defending, same sort of grass over there in Hawaii. When I play with my friends and around here with guests, I see a lot of amateurs that there’s a couple things they do wrong. They try and scoop the ball. They flick at it with their wrists. When they do that on this type of grass, it’s very easy for them to do that sort of shot. The ball won’t go anywhere, they won’t get a strike on it. So, in order to fix that, to help strike the ball better on this grass. There’s a couple things that I do. Number one is that my sternum is always ahead. The ball is a little bit farther back to start off with. But my sternum is always ahead of the golf ball so therefore there’s no chance of coming back and scooping at it, flipping at it. So, the ball is further back, my sternum is ahead of the golf ball at address. And I keep on, everything is keeping on turning. I see so many amateurs just stop and flick at it to try and help the ball. Watch the pros, you’ll see their bodies keep on turning. So, let me see if I can hit one here. Do it right. Sternum ahead of the ball. Turn through it. Hit is a little bit harder to have a chance, but not bad. So, sternum ahead of the golf ball, pull that right wrist a little bit and keep turning.

OC>> With that, we say Aloha from the big Island of Hawaii. We hope you enjoyed our 2022 PGA Tour Champions season preview. We certainly look forward to bringing you more great golf and instruction from legends of the game. But first things first, and that’s crowning a champion at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai, and they will do so this week. From the paradise of the Pacific, I’m Vince Giulini. So long.