PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER

VO -- PGA TOUR Champions Learning Center. What a finish at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship as Phil Mickelson tilted this tour with his very presence. It was Phil’s day winning the event but it was Bernard Langer’s super season. Langer again did the improbable. At age sixty-four and fighting through a back injury Langer gutted through the weekend including a Saturday sixty-three to earn a record six Charles Schwab Cup. Jim Furyk saw the possibility of taking the Cup simply slip through his fingers. Furyk needing to win the event but instead tying for fifth meaning the German legend again stands alone on top in the points race. A seventeenth-place finish for Langer good enough to raise the Cup.

OC –- I'm literally overwhelmed with emotion. It was an up-and-down week for me. I had back issues earlier in the week, could barely swing the club. I was this close to pulling out and ground through it and made it and started playing a little better, so that that was just incredible.

Then the last few holes with Jim being right there, it was very emotional nonetheless. It was still an incredible finish for me.

OC -- I think the same could be said of Phil, you've been an inspiration to a lot of people. What advice would you have for people over the age of 50, over the age of 60 who still aspire to do great things in whatever it is they're passionate about?

OC/VO -- Well, that's the key. I think whatever you're passionate about, do it, and whatever you love doing, keep doing it. If you love the game of golf, which is a great game, keep playing. You can still get better. I think we're living examples of that if you're in your 50s and 60s, you can still get better and improve the game and have fun living and staying healthy and all that is wonderful. And the game of golf has grown so much the last couple years, it's great to see.

VO -- Perhaps someday Bernard Langer’s name will be engraved on

the Charles Schwab Cup. As a six-time winner he’s head and shoulders above his peers. No other player has won more than two.

Certainly, he’s an inspiration for anyone in the game.

VO -- Here is the super season by the number in the Charles Schwab Cup

Standings. Langer in that familiar spot on top. Jim Furyk had a marvelous year three wins including a major championship. Miguel Angel Jimenez a constant contender as was Ernie Els. Congratulations to all the players

and their commitment to this tour.

VO -- Now to the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. Leftie left no doubt on Sunday closing with a bogey free sixty-five. A clutch par save on 17 and birdies on three of his final four holes. Mickelson earns a fourth win on PGA TOUR Champions. As the Arizona state product finished strong in

Phoenix. He was a super addition in the super season on PGA TOUR

Champions.

VO/OC/VO –- it's fun to come out on top, and to get back and play here in

Phoenix is a special feeling. Amy and I have had so many great years here the birth of our first two children were here, we met here over at Arizona State and spent so many great years here. It's so fun for us to come back and play in front of everybody one. And then to come out on top here was a special week. I want to congratulate Bernhard because he really is the gold standard for work ethic, discipline as well as talent and a great golf game. At 64, to win the season-long championship, that's pretty impressive, pretty inspiring.

VO -- Mickelson joining Jack Nicklaus as the fastest to four wins in

PGA TOUR Champions history. Both got there in six starts. Like Jack Phil brought star power and attention to the over fifty tour. Seventeen of his nineteen rounds played were par or better and we hope to see even more of him on PGA TOUR Champions in 2022.

VO -- With more our Bob Papa and Lanny Wadkins with some observations from the booth in Phoenix.

OC – The long strange journey of the super season for the PGA TOUR

Champions has come to its conclusion. 39 events wrapping up in Phoenix with the Charles Schwab Cup Championship and Lanny Jim Furyk had the lead going into the final round but didn't get off to a fast start and that opened the door for a guy like Phil Mickelson who shoots a bogey free sixty-five to win for the fourth time in only his sixth start.

OC/VO -- Yeah I I think Furyk’s mistake was he just wasn't aggressive in the beginning Bob he didn't take advantage of one five or four getting off start didn’t make a birdie until seven uh look like he was trying to get aggressive later but it's so hard to do if you don't start off aggressive it's hard to turn it on later Furyk was trying it just was not working it just wasn't his day.

VO/OC -- Yeah and the same thing happen to Kirk Triplett who is just

a shot off the lead going into the final round it's not like Mickelson went out guns blazing but he got hot on his second nine and Lanny you know his score could have been a lot better if the putter cooperated over Thursday Friday and Saturday and it did on

Sunday when he needed it.

OC/VO/OC -- Yeah it did it even did somewhat in the third round he he fought the putter early this week then all of a sudden he found something halfway through the round on it looks like Saturday and from then on he was pretty solid with the putter it it didn't look pretty but he got them in the hole he didn’t look comfortable putting he made the putts he needed to make uh his ball striking was actually outstanding he hit a lot of fairways played a lot of really high quality iron shots and his short game around the greens was spectacular.

OC/VO – Yeah when we came into this weekend uh there were four

players that could win the Charles Schwab Cup Bernard Langer who was atop the leaderboard Jim Furyk even Miguel Angel Jimenez and Ernie Els mathematically had shots. So that made it fun it wasn't the weekend for Jimenez and Els that they were looking for although Jimenez finished strong with a sixty four on Sunday to get himself a top ten but it came down to a last shot Jim Furyk needed to eagle eighteen to win the Charles Schwab Cup didn’t hit a good second shot Bernard Langer wins for an unprecedented sixth time at sixty four years of age.

VO/OC/VO -- Just incredible what Bernard keeps doing I think more than anything else it wasn’t the wins that really won the Schwab Cup for for Bernhard he played every event over this these two years and then all the top tens he had he was relentless week in week out always fighting for every single thing he could and in the end that was the difference. I think he just fought harder than anyone else.

VO/OC -- Twenty-four top tens in those 39 starts for Bernard Langer absolutely amazing to go along with two wins and four second place finishes. Sn the PGA TOUR Champions will take a deep breath they’ll enjoy the holidays and they will reconvene to start the 2022 season in Kona at

the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai.

VO -- Now with the 2021 Charles Schwab Cup Champion crowned. It's time to reflect back on the season and we will look ahead to 2022 when learning center returns. Two men in very different stages of their careers. World Golf Hall of Fame member Fred couples and TimberTech Champion and TOUR newcomer Steven Alker.

VO -- Fred couples made his first and only started of the playoffs last week in the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. Couples remains one of the most accomplished and popular players in the sport. Yet he believes there’s unfinished business at this stage of his career. He discussed that and the art of golf.

OC -- Self-evaluation varies among players but if you're 13-time winner on PGA TOUR Champions World Golf Hall of Famer and you’re one of most popular players in the game. I imagine Fred Couples that going a stretch without maybe picking up a trophy can be a little frustrating is it not?

OC -- It is um you know and and I don't tell many people my age I know how old I am.

OC -- I know how old you are.

OC/VO -- But it doesn't matter because I still can play um I would say towards the end well what do we call this the roll around year when we played last year a few times I played pretty well and I was on a roll this year and in the frustrating part is uh not winning but but knowing you can and not doing it so I keep doing it once I win again and then we'll see if I want to keep doing this because I want to win one more time.

VO -- Yeah

VO – For sure

VO -- So so that's the motivation that keeps you keeps

you going out here?

VO/OC -- Yeah and and and again I was playing pretty well I slipped

and fell off the first tee at Sioux Falls and I haven't played any real golf since and I practiced fairly hard this last week but that threw me for a loop I was gonna to play one of the playoffs and I just couldn't move and the Ryder Cup was fun to be around.

OC -- But I can't see you maybe winning and then just go goodnight everybody and then walk away so

OC/VO -- Well I won't do that but but I will say Vince you know one of the greatest bad things that happen was Covid I played like eighty days out of ninety-five down in the desert we just play golf every day I wasn't playing on real golf but I was swinging my back didn't hurt I had a great time and then that led to when we started coming back I think we started maybe in July or August and I played pretty darn well and I really enjoyed it and uh you know I am sixty two now but um at sixty-one I was competing at sixty-two I competed in the tournaments that I play this year and what I don't want are these forty place finishes I don't want to come uh to a tournament and then go the next week and do the same I would struggle with that big time.

OC/VO -- This is interesting because I think people see your demeanor on the course you know and sort of how you carry yourself but they don't really see the the fire and the competitor inside you're much more competitive than I think you know people outwardly may see with you right?

OC/VO -- That that's a great point I think when I was younger and playing really well for several years I got more angry I got more angry at myself um and I think that's not a very good thing to do and as I look back when I was thirty to forty um I know a lot of tournaments where I got mad and it stretches on now I'm not going to say I feel like I play better but when you come out here and playing you beat the guys in these tournaments you're beating a pretty darn good field of fifty year olds who have won on every tour they've ever played so you still got (INAUDIBLE WORDS) I'm not gonna say you know I can compete with uh anyone on the regular tour but I can promise you when they get out here they they then look and say wow this is not so easy.

VO/OC -- I know that you’re uh interested in art you collect art and you're quite familiar with different styles. So if someone were to uh

do a painting of of you or your swing. How would it be would it be modern art would it be classical help me I don't have a lot of arts terms so

what would it be done in colors or?

VO/OC/VO/OC –- So you know there are some great artists that just slap paint on the canvas and if they could get not a stick man but you know like there's some pictures of Sam Snead that I've seen at the top of the swing I just go I could stare at him all day. Kyle Berkshire who is a long drive guy I have a video on on my phone that I look at all the time I love his swing I love the click of the ball. So those are weird things but if you're talking about a painting it probably be you know obviously the way the swooshes are going in the lines in the background you know might be just you just slap paint on some guy and I believe as long as there's no glove on their most people would probably know was me at the top of my swing um but the art part that I have uh well when we did it the thing um at the World Series they gave me a nice piece of art with Joey um and then myself swinging and I have that hanging but I don't believe I have any other art piece uh of myself I don’t want to even look at myself.

OC -- We love looking at you out here. So stay out as long as you can.

I will the comment about winning would be I might just take a deep breath and and maybe not worry about winning but everyone wants to win uh

OC— Sure.

OC-- And I want to be that guy to do it one more time.

VO — Couples’ last win came in 2017 in the American Family Insurance Championship. So the count is now 44 events played on PGA TOUR Champions since his last victory. But Fred Couples is still a threat in his twenty events play this past season he finished in the top ten twelve times

he is ever the golf artist.

VO -- Now to the player who finished second in Phoenix and tasted victory the week prior. When Steven Alker won the TimberTech championship a couple of weeks ago he became the second man from New Zealand to win on PGA TOUR Champions. Now he still has some work ahead of him to catch fellow countrymen and the legend Bob Charles who posted twenty-five wins. Still Alker’s win has helped him reawaken the attention of golf fans in his home country.

OC -- We've had uh we’ve had a bunch of Kiwis around the world not really playing that great we’ve had Grant Fox I'm sorry um Ryan Fox and the European Tour Lydia is starting to come back and play well I'm playing well so now I guess it works in cycles I don’t know but we’ve all just started playing well again Danny Lee has played well the last few weeks

OC – Sure sure.

OC -So um yeah it's different to stir things up and I think we haven't had a Champions Tour player for a while so Grant Waite has played here and there and um but yeah to actually do what I've done and be the in position and win and that's pretty neat but yeah a long way to go to catch up to Bob.

OC -- Steven what has the great Bob Charles meant to you even in this stretch and beyond?

OC/VO -- Yeah I mean huge respect for the guy I mean you've got he’s won the British open he’s won senior British open uh twenty-five Champion Tour victories out here I think so um and this is probably a little bit of my success has come about because just talking to Bob. I’ve had a contact within the last six months just kind of picking his brain here and there um you know what to expect the scheduling and all that sort of stuff but I read his biography as well and uh pretty amazing just how he went about the game and we traveled in support from family and things like that so uh there was a real um inspiration I guess you'd say.

VO/OC -- You're a low-key guy I call you the quiet storm because you kind of come rolling in and then you know all of a sudden it's on. But how pumped up are you for 2022 and really going out there and showing what you can do next season?

OC -- Well really pumped up and and the thing is Vince I've still got uh I still haven't played like two thirds of the schedule I’ve really only played two thirds of a year one third of the year so I’ve got all these tournaments and places to go to and play that I haven't played it so that's really exciting um hopefully play in some majors you know you know um that’s I’m looking forward to that something to build up to. So there's lots of cool stuff going on there yeah that’s neat.

VO -- Steven Alker has one win in first season. Miguel Angel Jimenez has won at least once in each of his seven seasons on PGA TOUR Champions. Still to come some valuable information from the ten-time winner that can help your game. Plus Steve Flesch hoping 2022 will be where he lifts some hardware again. Coming up Fleshy talks about what he's learned from his recent near misses.

OC – Spending some time with Steven Flesch uh Steve played some outstanding golf from about August on closing the season here. How would you assess uh your finish to this wraparound season?

OC/VO/OC – Uh you know you hit the nail on the head in August I changed golf balls just to a different version of the ball I've been using and uh and I kind of became more patient with my game and that certainly translated into a lot of good play especially in the first couple rounds um but I'm happy I let Sioux Falls get away from me um just bogeying the last hole leaves a very bad taste in my mouth but you know the other ones not holding the lead it's okay I mean I did I learned a lot from it so going forward you know maybe I can maybe I can play a little differently but um I had some chances at the end of this year but it's all positive things going forward but I know I need to work on.

OC/VO -- You're one of the most honest guys out here I mean you kind

of bare your soul to us about your game and who you are and one of the things you said after the uh Constellation FURYK AND FRIENDS was that final round you said maybe your nerves got to you a little bit um have you worked on that is that something that you addressed moving forward?

VO/OC/VO -- I should have learned it by now my goodness I've been out here four years the final round you gonna let it go just like the first three and you're not going to protect the lead out here yeah maybe you can with a couple holes left but when you're standing on the first tee in the final round you can't protect anything on this TOUR and I tried doing that it uh at the Constellation and that was just such a wrong strategy even though I went out trying to be aggressive my inherent nature even when I played the PGA TOUR was to play kinda middle of the greens take my opportunities when I get them and you can't play like that on this Tour there's way too many good players and it's designed around guys making birdies.

VO -- How about some goals for for 2022 looking ahead because you look at this a couple of ways you can say well Sioux Falls or here a couple of playoff events but it's very encouraging to be in the mix you know so let's carry that over to 2022?

VO/OC/VO/OC – Um yeah and honestly I've got the like I was saying I've gotten to those final rounds and have a chance to win by just executing and playing you know good golf not trying to do anything to aggressively I've aired in how I played the final rounds but learning from that going to 22 I'm encouraged because I'm really playing good golf I just I just not finished it off so um I don't want that to become a trend obviously but um I kind of wish we're starting 22 next week you know I I just want to keep playing I've been in a good groove and it's been fun and I'm having more fun playing golf so um it's all good stuff but in terms of my game my swing everything else it's good you know I don't want to mess with it but um sometimes my strategy needs to change a little bit and that's the hardest part of changing your DNA when you play.

VO – Miguel Angel Jimenez had two wins last season both came in 2020. Overall Miguel finished in the top ten in 17 of his 32 starts adding another in Phoenix with a T-7 in the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. We can learn a lot from the mechanic and that's what we will do right now. He explains his technique to hit a knock down shot in this week's what's your edge?

OC -- The first thing you got to do to to hit uh a low shot is take spin out of the ball and we are gonna do that. Is to hit a hundred percent you are going to make ninety percent of (INAUDIBLE WORDS) the swing like this we're going to give a little less resolution on the golf ball no but uh the main thing is you see here we are in normal position we are not going to change the position of the ball the only thing we are going to do is leave one finger short of the club and bring your right foot to the left foot a little bit narrow your stance a little bit like that you are going to be more in front of the ball all the time and the swing is going to be more direct to the ball and more longer through ball and then allow you to hit the ball low make it simple don’t put the ball back in your stance no no no that’s changing the lines and everything no the only thing is from normal position and just take a little bit shorter a little closer right foot to the left foot and swing the club.

OC -- Normal position a little shorter right foot close to the left foot and now a nasty shot

OC – Oh that was beautiful

OC – Yeah that ball in one of the least course that ball probably going to fly like uh 30 or 40 yards short but it is going to run another 40 or 50 yards I’m going to make the same distance

VO -- Those knock down shots could come in handy with the PGA TOUR Champions begins a new season next year in Hawaii. It all begins January 20th with the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai.

OC/VO -- We hope you enjoy the PGA TOUR Champions season volumes one and two. For all of us to bring you learning center we thank you for watching and to the players the best of the best we thank you for your stories and for your generosity in helping to improve everyone's game. And that's going to do it for our show and for the season. We will see you all in January in a Hualalai.