PGA TOUR Champions Learning Center

VO/OC>> Naples, Florida is stop number two on PGA TOUR Champions. The 35th annual Chubb classic, the longest running event on PGA TOUR Champions in one metropolitan area. Welcome to Learning Center. I'm Vince Cellini. After opening in Hawaii the over 50 tour moved on with another star studded field and exciting weekend here on Florida's West Coast. Our Bob Poppa and Peter Jacobson called it and offer this recap.

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VO>> The 35th playing of the Chubb classic at Tiburon golf club, the Black Horse Bernhard Langer going wire to wire for the third time in his career at this event after a bogey at one Peter Jacobson like a really good on the Greens this week and at the third has a good look at birdie

it's hard to think that this guy ever had a problem with the yips but he did a few times but take a look at that beautiful rhythmic stroke

then his third at the par five sixth peter after making a nice save at five

and he used this putter from off the green all week long and he did things like this he saved his par and he had a lot of two putt birdies like he did here at the par five sixth

that got him to 13 under par and then at the ninth there's some trouble around this green at the par 5 ninth but langer not backing down.

I think this was the shot of the tournament he had a two shot lead he had to carry the water and I questioned whether he should go for it but take a look at this. He puts it up there within Eagle range. He missed that eagle but he picked up another Birdie and went one shot further in the lead

and then at the par 3 13th. Just judging the break and the speed perfectly.

Almost shut the door right there. That was the unexpected birdie at the long difficult par three

birdied 15 bogeyed 17 And then his second at the 18th and Peter, he hit 39 of 42 fairways this week.

Well his swing was under control. He hit it so straight his iron play was as good as I've seen it in a couple of tournaments and he finished like a champion.

And here's Langer tapping in for birdie to finish at 16 under and a three shot victory. As his march to history continues. Bernhard Langer winning the Chubb classic for a fourth time his 43rd win on the PGA TOUR Champions up next the cologuard classic next week in Arizona.

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VO>> Gentlemen, thank you Langer extends his streak of 16 straight years with at least one victory. He also extends his own record as the oldest winner on this tour at 64 years, five months 24 days as he continues to stare down father time. So who better to take us to school? more from Langer who spoke to Billy Ray Brown. And this week's winners tip presented by tour edge

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OC>> is this some of the best player you’ve had in recent years coming down the stretch?

It's been good. It's been good all week really, had a terrible three putt there on number one. When I started off, the greens were a little faster today than I expected. But then gathered myself and had a lot of good ball striking and when I missed a couple of greens, I seemed to get it up and down with some good touch. And I just feel good around this golf course.

I think so you've won wire to wire once again here at the chubb classic. Speaking of ball striking, incredible performance driving you hit 39 of 42 fairways, can you look back and think okay, that's the best week I've ever had driving the golf ball.

Certainly in the top three of driving. That's very important around here. There's so much trouble left and right and it's great to have Terry back my caddy and I have my family with me my two grandsons my two daughters so we had a blast. This is almost like a home game for me just living two hours east of here.

I don't need the generic answer right here 43 wins your two off hale. It's got to be in the front of your mind not in the back of your mind in the front of your mind, is it?

More and more some coming after your hale

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VO>> The all time win mark On this tour seemed ungettable until Bernhard Langer began his relentless pursuit of the record. Langer is now just two victories away from tying the great Hale Irwin at 45. It has been a wonderful example of consistency and attention to detail, as well as the competitive fire within.

Brian Gay turned 50 on December 14, made his first start on his tour this past weekend in Naples. an impressive fourth place finish at 10 under par, which included many putts burning the edges, a steady performer and owner of 14 Professional wins in his career. Brian brings new energy and new perspective to PGA TOUR Champions. Here's more from Brian gay in what's your edge presented by tour edge exotics.

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VO/OC>> Brian gay came rolling into PGA TOUR Champions at the Chubb classic. And speaking of rolling, he's going to offer a putting tip in just a moment. But Brian, first of all welcome and tell me what you've heard or what you've experienced so far on PGA TOUR Champions.

Yeah. Thanks. Thanks, Vince. It's great to be out here. I've heard nothing but positive great things about this tour. And everybody says, how much fun it is. It's just more relaxed and everybody's just out enjoying a second chance, you know, or another to keep to keep playing out here on another tour. So everything's been positive.

Yeah. And you know, you got to go out here. There's no laying back, you got to go get it right.

Yeah I see that every week. These guys are obviously really good players for a long, long time. And they shoot great scores out here. And yeah, it's only three days instead of four. So I think it's foot on the pedal.

Alright, well, they're happy you're out here too, because you're our latest victim when it comes to getting a lesson here. So why don't you take us through a putting tip because on any tour or wherever you play, putting is going to be key.

Yeah, absolutely. One of the drills I like to do is I'll work on my starting line with the ball aside from after you read the putt and do all your calculations, you're gonna need to be able to start the ball where you want it on the line you want to start it on. So I usually get a chalk line, put two tees just wider than the golf ball. And I'll do a little right to left and a left or right putt and I'll practice getting the ball between the tees and rolling it in the hole from two different breaks to see that I'm hitting the ball starting the ball on line

Brian, would you say this is an advanced drill? Or is this something that you can just come out and start doing right away

it's pretty easy, I mean, as long as you just need a stick and a Sharpie get your line just a small break both ways and just stick the tee's just wider than the ball so it gives you a reference

so you get another angle

and then we go to the other side do a left to righter, so then you get a feel for starting it right and left of the hole on the two different slopes.

And this is part of your everyday routine.

Yeah, this is thing I do the most and then I do you know speeds also maybe the, besides starting on line, you got to have the correct speed.

Right. So some of those speed things that you do is just that just a matter of feel and just repetition.

Yeah, I'll set up just putt to different distances practice rolling the ball a certain distance to get used to the speed.

All right. Well, again, welcome to PGA TOUR Champions. This guy looks exactly the same he has not, he's gone unchanged. You and Langer both. He's got the picture in the attic as well. Anyway, great to see you. Thank you so much for that. Remember the tees, line, Go get it.

**0:08:40**

VO>> The youthful Brian gay has had an impressive PGA Tour career. All signs point to him being very effective in this new age group, a five time winner who went nearly 300 events before his first PGA Tour victory. Gay is still formulating his schedule between the PGA Tour and PGA TOUR Champions. But we certainly hope we see a lot of it.

Another player making his first PGA Tour champion start is q school medalist rob labritz. he shot one under for the event posted at T 26. Rob has the game and the attitude slash gratitude to make it work.

OC>> Players like labritz are what makes PGA TOUR Champions so entertaining and unique. It's a tour with a heart where a guy can chase his dream and eventually catch it at the age of 50. Learning Center was on hand back in December for the final day of this tours qualifying tournament. And there labritz stood up and out played them all.

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VO/OC>> I'm a club Pro. I've been a club pro since I've been 19 years old. I've always kept my game somewhat sharp. But I run a golf club. So my golf games always come second. I'm a part time player But the last few weeks this was coming up and, and I, I've been envisioning this happening. And it did, which is crazy shows the power of the mind. I played the Canadian Tour for a few years, I was playing pretty well I think I made it up to like 600 in the world or 500 in the world at some point I was playing pretty good. I went through a divorce and I had a son and I didn't, I was traveling so much. I didn't want to go through the divorce and just leave him. So I decided to take a club job. I've been teaching, I was the Teacher of the Year this year up in the met section. I've been just doing my golf thing. I teach eight nine hours in a day and have meetings and then go practice I mean I'm and workout I've been working on 15, 16 hour days, my wife always has a meal for me. She's always there to take care of the kids. She's my support. And I couldn't do without her. I've got such a great fabulous team over at Glen Arbor that's allowed me to, to do this without any worries. I mean, I play events. I play majors I play tournaments. I never worry about the club because I have such a talented team around me. I'm hoping to stay healthy. Stay strong, do the right things. Work on my game, spend way more time with my family. I'm going to just go out there and work my tail off and see if we can maybe snag a couple senior majors before it's over.

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OC/VO>> Rob Labritz proving that hard work, desire and passion for the game never ages. And we're so excited to welcome him to PGA TOUR Champions and look forward to bringing his story to you during the course of the season.

Still to come on Learning Center your exclusive pass to a clinic featuring reigning PGA TOUR Champions Rookie of the Year and major champion Jim Furyk. tips from one of the most consistent players in the world.

That's really high right.

And that's next.

Last week ahead of the chubb classic it was the second annual legends of golf Day at Black Diamond Ranch in Lecanto, Florida. The event was hosted by Ernie els and helped raise money for autism research. Ernie and wife Liezl have dedicated their lives to helping son Ben, who is impacted by autism. This led to the establishment of the ELS for Autism Foundation, and the els center for excellence. A school designated to create a learning environment for children on the spectrum. The ELS family has had a profound impact.

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OC/VO>> What Ernie and Liezl have done which obviously is very personal to them with their son, Ben. But the foundation that they've created the ELS for Autism Foundation, building a school, they're changing lives. And that's more important than any major championships you could win. The fact that they touched these people's lives, they, they changed the direction of their lives. That is one of the most important things we can do in society. And that's what golf does for us. And I'm just, I know Ernie and Liezel very well, but I just admire them so much and love them for the contributions they make.

It's incredible what they've done. It's not only that, but incredible what they've done with their son. You know, I've got a lot of friends with children with autism, you know, it's, it's not easy. It's just a tough thing that people got to go through, and Ernie and Liezel have just done a wonderful job not just with their son, but now they've got awareness to do for others.

they dedicated their lives to making things better for people with autism. So I commend them on that. It's just one of those things that players do outside of our normal golf tournaments, and all the different charity events that people have. And that's what we're doing here today is raising money raising awareness of what they're doing with their life to make things better for people.

It's an ongoing fundraising endeavor. You know, we started the foundation in 2009. And it's an ongoing thing, you know, and that's why having friends like these, like the pros, you know, giving up their time flying from all over the country driving from everywhere, to come and join us here with the community at Black Diamond. It's just so nice, and we're gonna raise some good money and every dollar that we earn, yeah, will be going right into that center and helping these kids so it's a good one for everybody.

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VO>> Jim Furyk was one of the PGA TOUR Champions players in attendance last week. He provided guests with lessons during a pre round clinic, which included advice on grip, club selection and proper stance. Jim's full swing remains his own

OC>> I probably do have one of the most narrow stances in all of golf. There's a couple of reasons I used to do a drill, my dad used to make me hit a lot of balls as a kid with kind of my feet together to kind of get a feel for, again, upper body lower body together. For me, it's easy, one to get my alignment, the wider my stance gets, the harder it is, for me to get lined up. Two it's a lot easier for me to figure out where my ball position is. Nancy talked about ball position and how you know kind of middle of stance or just left a middle for short irons and such. And I kind of think about my ball position off kind of like the center of my body or my sternum as well. So you know, the wider I get, you got to think like if I'm going to go driver, you know, just inside my left toe, well, here's the middle of my body, and if I have a wide stance, it's just changed so it's just easier for me to figure out with that narrow stance to be more consistent ball position wise. and then the wider my stance gets, I tend to hang back a little bit I have a harder time getting through the ball and up on my left side so maybe three different reasons why but I'm just more comfortable that way. You know again, maybe I could generate a little bit more power maybe I could try to hit a little farther but I tend to miss the golf course a lot. If I have a wide stance so a narrow stance kind of keeps me balanced and through the ball and it just makes my setup a lot easier

you got to interlock you got overlap and I have a double overlap. It was a drill I did as a kid so a lot of young players you know, they create a lot of lag in their swing and also you see a lot of you know, just a lot of movement at the top and it was a drill that my dad had me do to kind of make my swing a lot more solid and together at the top for transition. And I just hit it so well doing the drill I just kind of continued to that's what I've done. I changed right in the middle of either my rookie or second year on tour it was a drill I was doing I was hitting it better that way so I just continued to do it.

Does anybody else do that?

Gene sours told me he used to mess around with it a long.. I think it was Gene, someone told me a long time ago they used to mess with it or some someone that used to mess around a little bit. But it was just a drill. My dad was a teaching pro it was a drill that he gave me when I was a kid and used to do it a little bit to really work on my transition the top to kind of get everything stopped and moving in the same direction and not feel like I was we used to call it like a buggy whip at the top and wouldn't get back to the ball. Square solid. So just worked. It probably cost me a little bit of distance. But I'd hit more fairways that way than I would have otherwise.

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VO>> When PGA TOUR Champions Learning Center returns, we check in with Jerry Kelly, his charitable contributions, and an update on a family health crisis.

This week, the PGA Tour is in Tucson Arizona, for the cologuard classic an event that reaches beyond golf, with a message ringing loud and clear through a player who has made it his mission.

OC>> If it's cologuard, classic week then Jerry Kelly is front and center. And I've got you since 2017. Right? Ambassador with exact sciences. Did you ever imagine it would have this type of impact all these years?

No, I mean, you know, Kevin and I, Kevin Conroy, the CEO, I mean, the way he started and portrayed this company what they're doing, and to be able to take a golf tournament, and actually morph it into a cause. It's been fantastic. I mean, it really gets the hair standing up on the back of your head when you meet all the survivors. And, you know, there's some, there's some tough stories out there, too. But this is what we have to highlight. This is what this tournament is all about. The players have absolutely gotten behind it. Fantastic. Wearing ribbons for, for survivors. I mean, I can't say enough for these guys. But you know, what that company does is far beyond what we do in golf.

You helped so many people with their game and pro ams and so on. But on a personal note, we talked to you about back in the fall when your wife Cara was going through her problems, medical problems. I wonder if you can update us on that situation and sort of where we’re all at right now.

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Yeah, I mean, that's another thing that brings Tucson, you know, into focus. You know, a colon cancer is an extremely deadly cancer, but if it's caught early, you know, it's actually preventable. Kidney Cancer, which, which my wife had, if you catch that early, you can actually be in good shape. You know, you're always hoping that other shoe doesn't drop. You know, there's always that percentage, but you do everything you can. And the Mayo Clinic is doing a fantastic job of, of keeping her up on all of the options. She doesn't have to go through chemo, she doesn't have to go through radiation. But you know, there are other things that we can do to actually keep it at bay. I would say or, you know, I don't think anybody with cancer ever thinks they're completely cured, because you never, never know what it holds. But you do everything you can to maximize your chances going forward. And she's doing that she's got an awesome attitude. And they, you know, it's kind of amazing. You're, you're in a position where you're talking about this with colon cancer, but it doesn't matter what type of cancer it is early detection, screening, we have to get that done no better time than during Omicron and COVID. And all this kind of stuff sitting at home. It's easy, just have them send it to you. You can do it on Tella, Doc. I mean, it's so easy to do and people are not going to the doctors and not getting checked. And it's our job to say no now's the time to actually get checked. It's easy from home. Please do

well, thank you for everything, we’re praying for, you know, you got tons of support out here, and it's good to see you all in good spirits.

Thanks.

Alright. Don't stop gyrating completely, we need a little Jerry Kelly.

VO>> and that will do it for this edition of Learning Center. I'm Vince Cellini. As always we thank you for watching