VO: PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO: PGA Tour Champions is where legends play, and it turns out it’s where former professional athletes and entertainers play as well. Thanks to the inaugural ClubCorp Classic which debuted as Las Colinas Country Club.

OC: So, celebrities, PGA TOUR Champions players, first time fun for everyone. With a recap, the gentlemen who called it, George Savaricas and Lanny Wadkins.

VO: Fitting that both the celebrity and professional divisions here at the ClubCorp Classic had to go to playoffs. Marty Fish and Scott Parel, your two winners here at the debut of this event in Irving, Texas. PGA TOUR Champions returning to the Dallas market for the first time in more than two decades. What a show they put on this week. What a win for Scott Parel and what a final round with that 65. The shot of the tournament, this from ClubCorp and it was the eagle at three. And that’s when he really inserted himself in the conversation

VO: Yeah, two big shots to get on this green in two, then about 25-feet for eagle. And this really got his day rolling. Boy, he played some great golf outside of the one hole today. Just spectacular for Scott Parel.

VO: Amazing what he’s been able to do. Let’s send it down to Mark Wilson.

OC: I’m here with a guy who dominated the par-5s this week, but he took just a par on this final hole to get the win. Can you tell us how you’re feeling right now?

OC/VO: I’m glad to finally win a playoff. I’m oh-and-three in these things on this tour. I’m fortunate both the guys probably didn’t hit their best second shots there. And I was just trying to get it over there dry which in the end turned out to be a good play.

VO: Lanny, your biggest takeaway from the week here?

VO: Well, it was successful week. I thought the golf course held up really nicely. I thought the players enjoyed the format. The hospitality here by ClubCorp was outstanding. I can’t wait to see this golf course as it matures. I think the celebrity component worked very nicely. It was a nice change for PGA TOUR Champions. I think it’s very nice. They have some good guys that played some very high-quality golf. It was fun to watch.

VO: How about Scott Parel

VO: Scott Parel has been so close, and you heard him say he’s lost a lot of playoffs, three that I can think of. Two last year. So, he was due for a win and due to get one.

VO: Some redemption for Scott Parel. He’s a winner here at the ClubCorp classic.

VO: Thank you gents, a quick check of the Charles Schwab Cup standings now. Steven Alker faltered in the playoff but moves into second place behind Miguel Angel Jimenez. With the win, Scott Parel moves up seven spots into the top-five into the race for the Charles Schwab Cup. Lee Janzen also steps into the top-ten.

VO: Cole Swindell is a chart-topping country music star. He kicked off last week’s ClubCorp Classic with a fantastic concert and the following day played in the pro-am alongside John Daly, who by the way has a new country album of his own. And curtesy of Learning Center, here is your hard-driving, pure-country, VIP pass to both Cole and John singing and swinging.

OC: Good ball, Cole. Right there

OC: Woah

OC: Wow

OC: What a day buddy. Great day, buddy. That’s awesome. How about last night

OC: You were awesome.

VO: Whatever. They were chanting your name. Finally, I said we gotta give the people what they want. Gotta go get JD baby.

OC: Question of the day is why do we golfers want to be singers? And you singers wanna be golfers.

VO/OC: I don’t know. I think when you’re competitive you want to be good at everything. When you grow up doing something, my dad taught me how to play golf. We always watched you. To get to play golf with you, but also know that now you’ve gotten into music over the years. But you’ve always loved it. I’ve always loved golf. It’s crazy man. We’re playing golf together.

OC: You know why I wanted to be a musician? Only have to work like two or three nights a week. In golf we have to stay the whole week.

OC: If y’all hit, if you hit a bad shot, you’re gonna see it. Me, I might miss a note here and there but everybody’s just having a good time. So, it’s a different world. But also, you’re one of the best people I’ve ever met right here and hey, you love everybody, man. That’s how it should be.

VO: This week, the PGA TOUR Champions takes a Texas two-step to Houston for the Insperity Invitational. One year ago, the event featured a showdown between John Daly and Mike Weir. With the left-handed Canadian ultimately ending a 13-and-a-half-year winless drought. In this week’s What’s Your Edge, Weir dictates how he pulled off the shot of the tournament.

VO: Last year on TPC Woodlands on the 13th hole, I was standing in the middle of the fairway watching John Daly roll in a big putt for eagle. He had a lot of momentum going. I stood over a shot of I think 185-yards or something like that, maybe a little bit longer with the wind helping. I was aiming maybe a little slightly right of the hole, but this 7-iron I hit came off great. I knew I needed at least a birdie to keep pace. This thing came off a little bit left but very solid and cozied up right next to the hole. So, it was one of the better shots I hit during the tournament.

OC: SO, kind of what I was thinking. It’s a bit of an island green, the pin was front left. There was a lot of green to the right of the hole. I was taking a look maybe ten feet right of the hole so, I kind of went through my routine. Picking out a target, just like I said, just left of the hole or just right of the hole. I’m kind of known for doing this waggle but I like to get my base nice and stable. My last look at the target. I’m trying to just eyeball that spot that I’m looking at, then don’t waste too much time after that waggle. Then I go. Just like that one, came off slightly left. Was right on line with the pin and came up close. So, that helped me win the tournament.

VO: You might remember Weirsy cliff-diving back in Hawaii and the week after the Masters wore a different green and yellow jacket for some skiing in the Alta ski area in Utah. As you can see, Weirsy is quite at home whether in golf shoes or ski boots. Getting in some final runs of the season in this classic ski area, nestled in the Wasatch Mountains.

VO: At long last, Steve Stricker will make his season debut in this week’s Insperity Invitational. He was hospitalized shortly after successfully captaining the US Ryder Cup team when he was body gripped with a strange illness which led to Jaundice and inflammation around his heard. In the process, he lost 25 pounds. Fortunately, Sticker feels stronger. To the point where the seven-time winner on PGA TOUR Champions is ready to return to competition.

OC/VO: I’ve had a couple other comebacks. And I’ve labeled this one comeback number three. My family wants it too. Nikki’s excited for us to get back out there. My kids are antsy for me to play events again. So, it’s a family thing. They’re excited for me to get back after it.

VO: Still to come on PGA TOUR Champions learning center. We’ll here from the newest member of the one-thousand club, some exclusive company. Larry and Lumpy work on proper alignment as only they can. And you’ll find out more about a new event headed to Mission Hills in Rancho Mirage, California. All when we come back.

VO: Last week in the ClubCorp Classic, Marc Calcavecchia was batting a thousand. Calc, who joined the PGA TOUR in 1982, became the 23rd player to make one thousand starts across the PGA TOUR and PGA TOUR Champions, a salute to his talent and longevity. We caught up with Calc on this milestone achievement.

OC/VO: I’ve been very blessed, of course winning the Open in ’89 was right at the top of the list. And 13 wins and some other wins around the world. I’ve been lucky to win as much as I have. The thing I can say I’m most proud of is not necessarily a thousand, but my consistency throughout those thousand. I had very few spells where I missed more a couple cuts in a row before I figured it out. And had a lot of spells where I made 10, 12, 15 cuts in a row on the PGA TOUR. I’ve played well out here in my early days. But here we are at a thousand so it’s kind of cool.

VO: Tim Herron is also seen his share of success during his 606 combined starts between the PGA tour and PGA tour champions. As part of last week's celebrity field as the ClubCorp Classic, Herron enjoyed a pro-am hearing with comedian Larry the cable guy. But it was Larry who was giving Lumpy advice on swing and style. Take a look:

OC: Hey, Larry. Do you mind checking to see where I’m lined up?

OC: Well, you’re right here, let me see where you’ve got the tee down. Got the tee lower.

OC: I need the tee lower?

OC: You got a lot of wind. You got a lot of wind. Now is the wind swirling or is it coming at us?

OC: I feel like the wind is pretty windy.

OC: I can’t tell if it’s swirling or what it’s doing. All right.

OC: Check out my swing, check out my swing.

OC: Last hole, you are in a playoff. Tim Herron

OC: Do we really have to get that involved?

OC: Tim Herron, he’s a wonderful player I don’t know why he tucks his shirt in though. Larger people should have the shirt untucked and black. It makes you look much thinner. Don’t talk in anyone’s backswing. You know what I’ll be honest with you. You have soft hands for a large man.

OC: Yeah, thanks.

OC: I don’t think people know that you were I were engaged back in ’86.

OC: Come on, let’s see you hit. Yeah, those were the good years, weren’t they?

OC: Honestly, Timmy Herron. I thought your alignment was good. Here’s the deal, you’re a professional golfer so obviously your alignment is pretty good. But here’s the thing, I don’t tuck. You like to tuck. I don’t like to tuck. No, I don’t like to tuck.

OC: Keep it untucked. It keeps the air through there, ventilation?

OC: I keep people guessing. But it doesn’t really matter. They only have us out here anyway for eye candy for the ladies. So that’s why were. Now listen, my club selection is a hybrid.

OC: Yeah, it’s perfect. You’re aimed at that left bunker at the green side, so move a little more that way.

OC: I feel like I come over more.

OC: The more left you aim, the more over you’re going to come. So, aim a little farther to the right and swing out at it.

OC: How are we looking?

OC: You’re looking awesome. Eye candy.

OC: We might want to move the camera

OC: Eye candy. Yeah, Geterdone!

OC: Always nice to spend time with PGA tour champions president

Miller Brady and Miller, it's early in the season

obviously but so far so good. You like what you see as we get started into ’22?

OC: Yeah, great start to the season. We wanted

to carry the momentum from last year into this year and so far,

we've done just that.

OC: Yeah, and we're kind of spreading the wealth. We’re seeing some people jump in there. The veteran PGA TOUR Champion players and then you know some of the new faces as well. So,

that mix is always very interesting, right? The contention mix?

OC/VO: It is, but you have you know, Jimenez start of very well, continuing to win events out here. Bernhard playing well and clearly Steven Alker. I mean what he did at the end of the last year and the beginning of this year is amazing

OC/VO:Yeah, that story continues. Um, speaking of stories continuing or at least adding a new chapter, we have a new event to talk about for next year on the calendar. How excited are you about that?

OC/VO: Well, I'm tremendously excited you know for many reasons. You add new event that’s good for everybody, but to add a new event early in the season for us, fills a void that we needed in the first quarter of our schedule but to add an event and a market that our players have a strong desire to play in and is even better. And to go play a golf course like Mission Hills makes it that much better. So, earlier in the week we announced Gallery Classic, our new sponsor in Rancho Mirage California. Mission Hills, we're gonna play the tournament course where it has a great history. The ladies played there for you know fifty years.

OC/VO: Well not only that just that whole area, the Coachella Valley

down there. I think of the Bob Hope classic in Palm Springs. Just that hotbed for golf. And being able to go back in there. And again, I think it represents symbolically what PGA tour champions is about and that's you know bridging that classic with the current times here too.

OC: Right, I mean clearly all of our players played in the Hope over

the years. Many of them won, whether it was John Cook I think one twice there, Corey Pavin won. David Duval shot 59 to win. So, there is history there. Strong sentiment and

and a great desire to return.

OC: I asked you this before the season began, how much have you had a chance to take a breath because of the the combined seasons from before? Has it kind of slowed down a little bit?

OC: Oh, no no no. If anything, it’s picked up. The momentum, the steam, it’s better than ever. Which is great. I don’t want to slow down. I want to continue to help build this tour, make it stronger, make it better. And that doesn't necessarily mean adding more events to our schedule, but it means adding events where we need to add them. Strengthening the current events that are on our schedule and making them better.

OC: Yeah, better than ever. Thank you, Miller. Appreciate it. Always great to spend time with you.

VO: When PGA tour champions learning center returns

a sneak peek at the latest edition of Golf Pass’s My Roots,

a series featuring Ernie Els.

OC: April is autism awareness month. Ernie Els is quite aware of the disorder each and every day, as his son Ben is autistic. In searching for a better life for Ben and others like him, Ernie, and wife Liesl set forth to create a place where the path didn't end, but instead led to hope and happiness. In this My Roots, seen exclusively on Golf Pass, we chronicle that journey.

VO/OC: We all have things that we have to deal with in life, but in our case, it was our son, Ben.

VO/OC: To really see Ben being that slow crawling or making eye contact, all of that stuff. We knew, as parents, there was something going on. Then our process started, living in England, going to different doctors. Going to different people. We even had a guy saying, no it’s just a flow problem. It’s in the neck here. And he’s bracing and he’s going through agony. Ben’s looking at me and Liesl like “What are you trying to freaking hurt me?” We didn’t quite know what the heck to do. Every autistic kid is different. They’re needs are different. What they’re good at is different. For Ben’s sake, we wanted to have him taken care of. Get him what he needs. He had an absolute crappy time for the first four or five years of his life. Until we decided, listen, we gotta find out what’s going to make him happy. How are we going to get this kid happy in his world? Cause he’s not happy in our world. That’s when we moved to the US. We had to take Samantha out of school. She had to start a new life over here. That was difficult. The whole thing changed for her when she was eight years of age. She came through it very well. I gotta give her so much credit. Today, she’s got Sam’s sibs, where she helps other siblings go through whatever they’re going through with their families with autistic siblings. It’s truly special. We found a place on 45th street, very rural, very basic. But much better than anything we’ve seen. They actually were schooling autistic kids. That’s when the penny dropped with Liesl. She really got involved with the school. She says, well we gotta build something that’s going to absolutely serve autistic kids. When Liesl’s done throwing her weight behind it, it was like a calling.

OC/VO: They were already fundraising to move to a larger facility. And we got involved in that. And we took what was going to be a move to a 10-acre facility to a move to a 26-acre facility. We started the foundation and just went from there from strength to strength. The dream grew from there. But it wouldn’t have happened without those people that were already working on it when we came here and were already doing great work.

VO/OC: We want to create these adult services building where we can serve these kids and these people. It’s just unwritten rule kind of, at 21 the show stops. As an autistic person, you either join, you know, the population, get a job like everyone else or you go home. We feel they need to still be comfortable, still be around the people they feel comfortable with and do things they feel comfortable with to live product6ive and great lives. So that’s our next project.

OC/VO: I’m extremely proud of that program. Just seeing those adults and knowing that they’ll have a designated building where they can work and serve and learn and hone their skills to then take it somewhere else. And we’re lucky there’s many opportunities on our 26-acre campus for people to get work experience and then go out in the community.

OC/VO: When I go in there and whatever mood I’m in, whether it’s a good or bad mood, I come out just saying wow. You know, that’s so uplifting. To see that center from where we started to where it is today. The kids that have come through there and what’s happening in their lives, how the communities have come around here in Jupiter. It’s incredible.

OC: It’s a great cause, but you know, we have so much respect and admiration for Ernie. That’s why we’re here. I’m glad to be a little piece to the puzzle.

VO/OC: The fortune that we’ve had with autism, it’s like another force has helped out all see here. Bang. Million dollars comes in from Rickie’s wedge and the million dollars helped us build the upper school, started to finance that. We’ve had a lot of unbelievable miracles happen. It happens when you’re working with God’s children, there’s a special force that’s giving a helping hand, that’s for sure.

OC: Many thanks to Ernie and his family for sharing with us that story and all of the hard work behind it. Well, that’s going to do it for this week, but next week Learning Center is also in the Lone Star state, as it’s the Insperity Invitational at Woodlands Country Club next on the PGA TOUR Champions schedule. I’m Vince Cellini, and we’ll see you next time.