**2022 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW #7**

VO>> The PGA Tour Champions once again takes us deep in the heart of Texas. Where last week's events set up for a fourteenth consecutive year in the Houston area. Another opportunity to make a move in the standings as we close out yet another month on this circuit.

OC>> Week two of four straight events on the PGA Tour Champions schedule feature the Insperity Invitational and once again the Woodlands Country Club provided the test. As momentum is building toward the first major championship of the season on this over fifty tour. Our Bob Papa and Lanny Wadkins called it and have a recap.

VO>> The eighteenth playing of the Insperity Invitational from the woodlands Country Club in the woodlands Texas. And the final round started with Steven Alker, Brandt Jobe, Steve Stricker all in a share of the lead at twelve under par. Steve Stricker played the front nine even par. Stricker second at the twelfth and Lanny Wadkins Stricker dialed in right here trying to jump start his game a little bit.

VO>> Well he needed to Bob nothing had happened for Strick and he makes birdie there and looks like he's going to go on a run.

VO>> That would get him to thirteen under par his third shot at the par five thirteenth. Had to lay up and was perfect.

VO>> Well you play to the strengths of his game that being wedge game and sticks it to inside a foot.

VO>> Well, that got Stricker to fourteen under. Brandt Jobe trying to hang in there as well his birdie at sixteen and he would get to fifteen under but make a bogey at seventeen. Steven Alker well he birided eleven then he rolls this in at twelve that got to fifteen under par. After a birdie at thirteen his second shot at the par five fifteenth and Lanny he was dialed into these par fives.

VO>> He was, his fairway wood game was absolutely spectacular. This is a great shot with five wood in there to about eighteen twenty feet. Just a gorgeous play.

VO>> And basically Alker putting the stamp on things. He was carrying some pace, but Alker found the center of the cup. Rolls it in for eagle that got him to eighteen under par. And then icing on the cake at the par three sixteenth Lanny.

VO>> Just another great golf swing puts it in there about ten feet, and this goes in perfect pace. Steven Alker really had every single thing working after the rain delay.

VO>> Yeah that got him to nineteen under. His par putt at eighteen just misses but it didn’t really matter as he would tap in for his bogey. He would shoot sixty-six in the final round including coming home in thirty-one and Steven Alker has won for the third time on the PGA Tour Champions. The second time in this calendar year and he’s lost twice in playoffs as well so. Steven Alker is here to stay on the PGA tour champions as he moves to the top of the Schwab Cup standings. A four-shot win over Steve Sticker and Brandt Jobe. How about Steve Stricker coming back from that illness to play the way he did?

VO>> Yeah just incredible Bob. What a great performance by Stricker he waited till his body and his golf game we're ready to come back out here and play looks like he's back for good we certainly hope so.

VO>> Alex Cejka had a good Sunday as well with that sixty six to finish in sole possession of fourth place. Retief Goosen and Ken Duke share fifth place at ten under par.

VO>> Thank you Bob and Lanny. With the victory Steven Alker displaces Miguel Angel Jimenez in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. Goosen Langer, and Parel round out the top five. And look at Alex Cejka making a big move to vault into the top ten. Now more on the striker comeback story Bob Papa just referenced. The U. S. Ryder Cup captain was sidelined by an illness that attacked his body with vicious results. Heart inflammation and liver issues as well as a twenty-five-pound weight loss shortly after the U. S. Ryder Cup win. He missed his chance to participate in the Players Championship and now on this tour it was better late than never. Posting T. two with a fourteen under total. Was his impressive finish a surprise to the men with whom he played in the final round? The answer is yes.

OC>> I said I thought he didn’t feel well. You know it's, Steve's just got, Scott Verplank we're staying together, and we were talking about last night. He's just got his game in the spot where it's just he can turn it on and turn it off and not many people have been able to do that. I mean you know obviously we're very envious of that because I can't do that. But he's got his swing and everything just in a spot where he just he goes out he puts the work in. He comes back and it's like he hadn’t missed a beat.

OC/VO>> His short game is still sharp, and he was hitting some nice iron shots just driving in the fairway as he does so yeah I was kind of surprising but kind of not you know what I mean?

OC>> Overall I'm very pleased you know I didn't I didn't know what to expect coming in here and my game is actually, my mental game and my getting it up and down and putting and all that kind of stuff the strategizing is all pretty good after being off for so long. That's the part that you don't know about you know. And don't get me wrong I've been playing you know in a cart and going around and but you still that's different than coming out here and competing with these guys so. Didn’t know what to expect but very pleased where I'm at.

VO>> Jesper Parnevik made his PGA tour champions season debut last week as well but not this Jesper. It was this Jesper. The twenty sixteen Insperity invitational champion explains the reason for his absence and his new cast away look.

OC/VO>> Where have I been? I mean that's the question I ask myself every day I suppose on a normal week. But now I had a hip replacement, a brand-new hip. I get a new wrist I got a semi new back. And this I don't know what to call it but he’s very new. But it took some months to do this. In the beginning it started by pure laziness home alone nothing else to do. Then after it turned into something. My dad always been given me a lot of crap throughout the years the last twenty-five years because I shave my head, so I was going to give it to him as a Christmas present after. And he was overjoyed when he saw his son's curls were finally back. Then it turned into a bet that I had to not cut my hair until I won a tournament. The bad news is that I haven't played since September so that's why this is.

VO>> Well unfortunately for Jesper and his wife Mia, Parnevik didn't win the Insperity invitational which means the hair will only grow longer. But he will get yet another chance at victory this week in the Mitsubishi Electric Classic in Duluth Georgia. Dicky Pride is the defending champion this week. When we come back, we'll hear why and how that win was such a life changer. From Texas to Georgia the PGA Tour Champions traveling show heads to Duluth for the eighth event of the year, Mitsubishi Electric Classic. A year ago, we observed a peach of a story there. That's when Dicky Pride made it through a Monday qualifier to eventually win the Mitsubishi Electric Classic. He became the eighteenth player to win at least once on the PGA TOUR, PGA Tour Champions, and Korn Ferry Tour. Among the perks were champion on this tour, a trip to Hawaii. Loyal learning center viewers may remember Dicky serving up a fresh meal beach side back in January. But now that the season is in full swing, he's hoping this week he secures another trip to the Big Island by way of a successful title defense.

OC/VO>> Yeah, a lot of friends coming into town. I love being back at Sugarloaf. I love the golf course; the tournament's staff has been unbelievable to me as being the champion. Yeah, I'm just really looking forward to being back seeing a lot of friends and getting to kind of relive some moments. Last year well I knew everyone and everyone's the same yeah, you're also Monday qualified and their exempt so it's been different it's helped a lot. And I think I’m starting to get my game back so hopefully. I can't lie I got tired last year it was a lot more golf than I was expecting to play so. It's done a lot its giving me a lot of opportunities.

VO>> Season after season TPC Sugarloaf the host of this week's Mitsubishi electric classic is one of the toughest non major championship venues on tour. Site of the PGA tour's BellSouth classic from 1997 to 2008 the par seventy-two seven-thousand-yard venue is demanding tee to green. And a perfect test as major season is about to begin.

OC/VO>> The greens tend to be pretty quick. They tend to have some pitch. The course can play very long, and things are quite firm there too so it's hard to get the ball close. And anytime you get on the wrong side of things you can get in real trouble like if you miss a green short side sometimes just virtually impossible to get it close enough to make par. So, it's a really good golf course a great layout Greg Norman designed. You know they’re courses that lend themselves to certain styles of play and anytime you're entering into a major and you play a course like Sugarloaf you're going to be better prepared.

OC>> I think it makes you pay a lot of attention to dialing in your iron game and your short game because that week is a little more demanding. You know our major down and out in Alabama the golf courses kind of totally different and it's a lot flatter around the greens but it's a different set of challenges but. Atlanta is always a good test because it just makes the ball strikers kind of rise to the top and short games always important but that week you got to have everything pretty much on your A game to play well.

OC>> It's a good step yeah. I actually think that Sugarloaf might be a little tougher than the one in Birmingham funny enough. The only difference is there might be that Birmingham you got more rough off the fairways so your second shot or third depending, would be a little tougher. But I think overall they’re very compatible yeah.

OC>> Well it's certainly a tough test of golf. One it's a tough walk I mean it's about a ten mile walk from the first tee to the eighteenth green. And it's a big golf course I mean you've got to hit all the shots it's not just a drive chip and putt type course you got to hit everything. So, it will deftly prepare you for some of the majors. I thought it was a great preparation back in the day right before the masters before Augusta because it's set up very similar so it's a good test.

VO>> Langer's victory one of forty-three on this tour came in the Mitsubishi electric classic back in 2013. The steady methodical march towards the all-time wins mark on PGA tour champions continues for the German legend. And the man he pursues again speaks of Langer with great respect and admiration.

OC/ VO>> If Bernhard breaks the record that you know I'd be the first to applaud it. I think I know what it took to get there, and I know what it takes to do that. Now the only person I could affect that is me but I'm happy doing what I'm doing. I have if you said what's in your bucket list, I have a barrel and I have I need to get in that barrel. And so, I've accepted the fact that I'm not going to compete out here and if I do I have to be willing to accept something less than what I might have accepted yesterday. And that's the decision that everybody it's a fine line. I don't care who you are at what point do you start accepting the fact that you're either going to do it or you're not. And we can fudge it a little bit. Oh, I’ll decide tomorrow and then tomorrow becomes next week and then you finally decide. Well once you make that decision it's almost like there's a burden now. As I said earlier what I do miss, I miss my friendships, I miss the relationships with whomever it is. I miss that's been a part of me for ever and ever but there's also a part of me that is loving now what I'm doing. And you have to be happy with that I'm not going to be unhappy with those decisions. But for him I think he's going to come to those same conclusions that we all do I don't care who you are. And I wish him the best. Bernhard’s he's in good condition he's approaching an advancing age. We're not going to call it old age because he's still very effective, but those effective years are getting shorter and shorter. So, anything that he wants to accomplish from this point forward probably needs to be done with some haste because you can't fight. You know when mother nature and father time conspire you've got no chance and that's what's happening.

VO>> When learning center continues, we'll hear about life on the road and why it's not always as glamorous as you may think. By the time players reach the PGA tour champions they have logged their share of frequent flyer miles. Travel can be tedious and create unforeseen problems at events. It's also the grind of an otherwise glamorous profession. As some veteran players share with us their tales from the road.

OC>> So many years ago when I just turned pro to my mom just sent me down to play in Zimbabwe, Nigeria, and Kenya. And we were traveling from one to the other. Come from Nigeria to Kenya this is a long time ago, this must be, this is over thirty years ago. And we're flying from the place we got there. You know the way you know you get on the plane, and you get your seat and all that sort of stuff, and it became obvious there was too many people on the plane. And there's a couple of chickens in the box there and all sorts of stuff. The flight was about an hour, and I think maybe twenty people stood on the fight with their chickens and stuff and we just travel from one place to another no seats no luggage, but they just stood with their chickens and dogs and whatever on this flight on this commercial flight from one place to the other. That takes a bit to do, doesn’t it?

OC>> I don't think me, and Kyle could beat that one.

OC>> Well I thought it was a bit strange you know they're walking on the boxes chickens and stuff from the and they just set it down and stood there. And this boy right beside me his chicken’s there. He give me an arm just stood there the whole flight.

OC>> We've been down the bus thing for well you a lot longer than me, but I think I’m on my year thirteen now.

OC>> I’ve been doing this since ninety-two yeah.

OC>> Anyway our first bus was a Tiffen Zephyr and I'm a rookie I don't know anything and. I just bought it and learned how to drive it. Hopped in, give you the keys say have fun good luck. So anyway, we get to some RV park, and we need to empty the crapper, so I go around and I'm trying to figure this thing out. And what I didn't know it was upside down it was facing up.

OC>> Oh no.

OC>> Instead of down. So, I screw the thing on you know the hose and I put that into the sewer and I'm like okay I think I'm ready so I go, pull the plug about three seconds later I just get taking a number two bath. And I’m like just getting pelted and my wife is over there, and she is screaming. And she starts running and literally tackles me. Gets me out of the way next thing you know we're both naked standing there hosing each other down. So that was an early rookie mistake. I was just frozen like getting shot. I couldn't move I just didn't it was awful. We learn quick after that.

OC>> Yeah you learn real quick yeah, they don't tell you everything.

OC>> No they don't there's a lot of learning going on in those things.

OC>> I mean the only time I remember when I was going to the BMW. It was from Seattle I think the PJ or VJ won. There's a BMW and I wasn’t able to get on the flight because I had to do something Monday. I don't know where it was flew back, I've caught a red eye somewhere it was it either down here in Texas or somewhere I did a outing that Monday. My flight got canceled so they rerouted me to, I was supposed to go to Boston and then I end up going to varsity C to Amsterdam. So that flight from Washington, Amsterdam was good. So, Monday night I got to play the pro-am at like two thirty or two o'clock or something at BMW. And I get to Amsterdam that flight gets cancelled. So, they found me another flight I literally made my pro-am time by like two minutes. I teed off with no shoes on.

OC>> I think I remember that

PC>> I don't even think I had my slacks; I still had my jeans on.

OC>> And there's only one man on the planet that could get away with it. That would be you Daly.

OC>> Pulling my clubs running to tee cause it’s the same thing if you miss the pro-am, you're done. I don’t want to fly all the over there oh my god I just got there. Your DQ’ed. I can do a DQ a lot better than that.

VO>> PGA Tour Champions sets up in Duluth, Georgia this week for the Mitsubishi Electric Classic followed by Birmingham, Alabama for the first major of the season. We'll be back next week to preview the Region's Tradition. I'm Vince Cellini thanks for watching.