VO>> PGA TOUR Champions Learning Center

VO>> in his first time leading or CO leading entering the final round of the PGA TOUR Champions event, Thongchai Jaidee held on to win for the first time on this tool, a 14 under finish propels the 52 year old to the American Family Insurance championship title. It's Jaidee first official individual tournament victory since 2016. What a day in Madison our George Savaricas and Peter Jacobsen wrap it up.

VO>> Thank You Vince, with Peter Jacobson and what a final round we saw at the American Family Insurance championship for the sixth edition of this event at university rich golf course in Madison final round, Tongchai Jaidee this for birdie on the 10th

VO>> The third hardest hole on the course today they had a wind change. So some of these holes played much different differently than they did the first two days.

VO>> Jaidee birdie the ninth birdie the 10th on the par 5, 11. His third

VO>> Drove it and trouble on this easy par five and does that with this third leads to a tap in birdie.

VO>> So Jaidee in the lead Tom Pernice for birdie and a share on the 16th

VO>> Tom Pernice one of the best short games out here on champions story hung in all day long.

VO>> So Pernice was in the house at 13 under. Tongchai Jaidee at 13 under for birdie and the outright lead on the 17th

VO>> And that's one of the most difficult punch to read any finds the bottom

VO>> How clutch is that and then on the 18th that left for par and the win. And it's his breakthrough moment on the PGA TOUR Champions Tongchai Jaidee winning for the first time on American soil. Miguel Angel Jimenez had been in the mix has some issues on the back nine winds up finishing in a tie for third. Now let's send it back to Vince.

VO>> Thank you gentlemen. An updated picture of the Charles Schwab Cup standings now, Steven Alker continues to lead a top four which goes unchanged. Jerry Kelly moves into the five spot and Jaidee jumps 31 spots to number 12 Following his breakthrough victory in Wisconsin. When the PGA TOUR Champions returns next week, Jim Furyk will be defending his US Senior Open title at Saucon Valley. Europe did a little reconnaissance in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania last month, which is about an hour north of your hometown of Westchester. He spoke about the challenge the field should expect next week.

OC>> I thought it was a beautiful golf course from tee to green. The bunkers are defining the holes and we played it for the first time and I had kind of a good idea of where I should hit it almost every hole. But the difficulty really is on the greens, the greens really have some teeth. There could be some really interesting pin placements out here and some very and a lot of times some of the holes on the redesign some of the holes or some there's some really long par fours like I was joking I think we played for par fives on the front nine because I hit wood into two par fours today on the front and some of those greens looked like par five greens even though they weren't they were shorter holes at one time they were 410, 420. Now they're 480 but the Greens had a par five look so you're gonna go into those with some mid to long irons at times but with a par five green where you can get some extremely difficult and so there's definitely some some tough holes and there's not a lot of holes out there where I'm looking at like licking my chops like okay, this is where you can attack because the greens on the short holes are extremely difficult as well.

VO>> With a victory last year if you record a spot into this week's US Open field at Brookline. Jim has good memories of Brookline. Prior to this week he had an I've been back on the ground since the 1999. US Ryder Cup team defeated Europe in dramatic fashion 14 to 12. The 2003 US Open champion spoke about what it takes to win our national championship.

OC>> It's always been a power dominant game, I mean, Nicolas dominated the game, the 60s 70s 80s with power, Norman dominated with power, Tiger dominate with power. And maybe even more so today. But it's still that long, heavy rough. If you can get the ball in the fairway, you have such an advantage at the US Open. And so even though the guys hit it a lot farther, right now they're hitting maybe different clubs in the Greens than what we saw in the 70s. Still, I know the power is dominant, but in the US Open, I don't care, it's important to get the ball in the fairway as much as you possibly can.

VO>> This is just what golf needs a feel good story. And Fran Quinn delivered. When made his first US Open start 30 years ago in 1992. at Pebble Beach, the year Tom Kite won. This week, after advancing out of the final stage of US Open qualifying and a playoff win will compete at Brookline, just 45 minutes from his own. At 57 years old. He is the oldest player to advance through both stages of US Open qualifying in the last 25 years. But that's just part of the story.

OC>> I wasn't even going to try. And I'm sitting there on the phone I'm in. I think I was wherever I was, I was on the road playing. And I talked to my son who said he just signed up for [UNKNOWN]. And so I said, You know what? Oh, that'd be pretty cool. Let's both get it. I said sign me up to had no intention. And so he signed me up, we both get him we both finished second at [UNKNOWN]. And then we both go there and first round I shoot 690 shoots 70. So we're in good shape, you know, and he was even par through 27 holes. And then, you know, had a couple of miscues coming in. But yeah, it was great.

VO>> Franny Quinn it's the greatest story of golf this year, I think, absolutely amazing. And certainly the Quinn, family name and Massachusetts and New England is such a big name. Probably the biggest language for golf,

OC>> It's gonna be a raucous the crowd would be great. I'm hoping the USGA gives them 500 tickets. So Fran, if you need me to ask them for more, I'll be happy to call it in. Yeah, it's gonna be great. Everybody up there will know the story of knowing the name and certainly be pulling really hard for him and I know he'll use that as a great advantage.

OC>> You know, I've grown up in mass my family's had, you know, through my dad was a New England amateur champ you know, we had three brothers win the state open, Brian, Kevin and myself. The only other family to do that was the Ross family. You know, kind of cool and in so, you know, we the last time I was at the country club, I won the metal portion of the state amateur back in 87, prior to 88 And then Kevin Johnson, who's now a rules official out here on Champions Tour is you know, he beat me in the final so it was really you know, I honestly, I'm thoroughly excited I've played opens before, but this is probably one that's going to be really special.

OC>> I saw him talking about and how special it was for those guys to try to qualify so the fact that he got out I'm happy for him.

OC>> So happy for you. I appreciate you kidding me. A lot of fun. So I played in the '88 US Open. I was there

OC>> I just remember being so cool. Being local. You know, so you're gonna get a great I would assume awesome perception? Yeah, um, I wish you guys was around.

OC>> I know. And you know, what's funny is I was telling our story is that back in 88, I tried I misspoke one I believe at purchase. We go to the open on Thursday, and he put his arm around. Because you'll get to know you'll get here. And, and I know he meant an open and God rest his soul. Smiling down right now. 34 years later, baby. We're going back to Brookline.

OC>> That's so great. Yeah. All right. Love you, buddy. Love you too.

VO>> Not too shabby for someone who returned to competition last year after undergoing major shoulder surgery following a freak accident. As golf comeback stories go. This is of major impact. A career grinder. Quinn estimates he's played the Country Club in Brookline 15 times including a State amateur. He'll make the short commute from home and then try to make more history. When Learning Center continues, we will hear from three US Open champions, Ernie Els. Retief Goosen and Lee Jansen. The trio discussing the future of this championship as well as their best shots in the competition and much more.

OC>> The United States Open Championship has long been considered golf's toughest test for grueling days in playing conditions that have players talking to themselves in language not suitable here. Recently, US Open winners Lee Jansen, Ernie Els and Retief Goosen sat down to discuss their victories in this event, their best shots, memories and it included those off mentioned words Course setup

VO>> it's good to see that the USGA is going back to the proper us open setups I see they've I don't know if you guys have read but I see they they got some really good setups now you know, the classic setups, you know,

OC>> And then they went off a little bit they went to some weird places for a while and not quite US Open type of courses, but it's good

OC>> like changing a lot of these old style courses now into like a modern course. Right like Southern Hills used to be, like, really narrow and tight. And now it's the fairways are 50 yards wide. And I remember the tenthe hole at Southern, you know, used to if you hit the fairway of iron off the tee, it was a great shot. Now, it's like a 50 yard wide fairway. It's be interesting to see how to change all these courses. He's going back to modern modern game, it's everything everybody seems to where you want. You got to hit a 350 off the tee.

VO>> Now when you want to afford Shinnecock? Yes, they still had narrow fairways, and I think the last time they just played there the fairways were much

VO,OC>> bigger. I had completely changed it to end. Fairway around the greens and not wider fairways long at all has been lengthened. Yeah it's a shame that the old style courses you know really narrow fairways thick rough is now sort of gone everything is this runoff stuff get it away as far away from the green as possible I mean we played southern Hills the other day on the senior tour and you know you sell I'm actually change that because the way war could run 50 yards away for an agree. Yeah, we

OC>> want to see the toughest setup again. I mean, the US Open was just the was it was almost unfair. Yeah, I'm fairly tough, you know, but that's

OC>> one of the hardest tests I'd ever seen was Oakmont

OC>> Yeah, yeah.

OC>> So you have to talk a little bit you've had some adversity start in the last round. Yeah, well,

OC>> just about the weather last night and the playoffs

OC>> What'd you make on one on Sunday

OC>> Sunday I hit it way left and then the rules official gave me the wrong ruling. Well yeah, I mean, who knew that yeah, the the TV thing was movable and he deemed it as an immovable obstruction so I got a nice drop. I think I felt very guilty so I still made bogey, such a good break because I was dead. I was gonna just be taken unplayable and maybe make six

OC>> We can hear the whole conversation about how was immovable and after you hit the start it up drove off so

OC>> You know I I'm not really good with the rules in any case, but I try to explain to all the journalists you know, that think believe I was in the wrong it was the rules official and he was I think he always got fired from the USGA

VO>> But two time us open, two time us open, your three times your most memorable shots. I mean, you might as well tell the viewers bad or you know the memorable ones?

VO>> Or when that shot you hit if you Yeah,

OC>> Well, I would say at Southern Hills probably my second shot on 18th in on the 72nd hole I absolutely murdered a six iron up the hill there to get it to about 12 feet and then obviously proceeded to three and i did come back to following day a really hard shot I'm trying to forget the three but yeah, that I remember the six iron shot I hit up there was was was pretty good and lucky I pulled it off the following day and.

CO>> Well that's championship quality work to overcome you because you knew you had the tournament one and then now you've got to go play another day.

OC>> Yeah, and I you know, I was fairly confident to find out I knew my game was good I'm mentally I wasn't strong enough and then second 72nd I've never been in that situation and just lost my focusing and and then yet if Find out was an easy you know Mark Brooks he's a PGA champion so it was a tough playoff and I made a good couple up and downs in the first few holes and then from now on I cruised played solid but

OC>> you just wanted to play one more round

OC>> you won in a playoff also three yeah

OC>> In Oakmont yeah very memorable you know obviously I'd make a little five foot on 18 for to get into the playoff I mean I lead for most of the the last few rounds and then started faltering a little bit like Retief said was going through your first major you know there's all kinds of different things going on but I made a really tough putt on 18 for bogey. Then the next day survived the playoff and then a sudden death playoff you know played 90 holes and then 97 You know I really really played a very good back nine. You know it's amazing I mean you get a bit of experience you've been in a position was comfortable on the back nine and played a really good back nine, chipped in on the tenth hole back then congressional and I had a really good five I need to 17 foot par everybody was.

OC>> Also hard to hold on now the 18 tall so do you think it's harder to stay in the moment at A US Open than it is any other than

OC>> Yeah, because there's so much going on. I mean, there's on every hole is given this given you can make a double bogey he's making too many mistakes. Yeah, but what about your memorable shots? You remember that like I mean Yeah.

OC>> My 71st hole at the Olympic. I hit the fairway Friday and Saturday 17 was extremely hard I doubled the hole both times you know the fairway and a fairway it was almost impossible to hit. And I hit the fairway again Sunday. Now I'm gonna hit the best three iron in my life in the middle of the green I had to hit everything I had to get it to the front of the green side hill lie left to right and then it's probably like 205 to the front or something that cold wind so knowing that I already doubled to two days in a row from the middle of the fairway that just added to the pressure of the shot so

OC>> And Baltheresal I mean there was low scoring was

OC,VO>> Yeah eight under eight under par doesn't that doesn't seem like low scoring now but yeah at the time that was tied the lowest total in history but it was more like a tour event that year you remember the the heat burn the rough up a little bit so we could play out of the rough some but I think there was still only a handful of guys under par I made a ton of birdies that week so I just every time I make a bogey and make a birdie so I was able to bounce back immediately where some US opens that's really hard to do.

OC>> I remember when you won in '04 played with you in the final day? Yeah, so I went the other way the one way you in the good way.

OC>> Yeah I birdied the first and you doubled the first.

OC>> Were you as shocked as I was when you saw the greens on the final day?

OC>> I mean from Friday to Saturday that of course changed yeah

OC>> I remember then

OC>> They had started watering the green especially seven so I remember.

OC>> That shot on seven it was probably the shot of the tournament.

OC>> That week. That hole I hit four perfect high cuts up against that right to left wind. Yeah, I hit the green every day so it was.

OC>> And how you holed six footers all day long because you couldn't you couldn't get it closer than five or six. Yeah, the whole day.

OC>> Obviously the big turnaround for me was in 17 me and Mickelson both hit it in that bunk although he was severe. And we he blasted it out five feet above the hole and I blasted it about four feet above the hole and he three putted and I made mine and that's where the two shot swing came. And 18 You know, I didn't want to I didn't feel like playing safe I just get it down in a perfect drive and Chip a nine up and down.

VO>> And Retied Goosen is a US Open champion for the second time.

VO>> US Open news and live coverage can be seen all week long across Golf Channel, Peacock, USA Network and NBC. That will do it for this edition of Learning Center. I'm Vince Cellini and we thank you for watching

Transcribed by https://otter.ai