**PGA Tour Champions Learning Center Show 22**

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > On a cool, overcast Sunday along the Pacific Shore. The Pure Insurance Championship was high drama right to the finish. Lefty Steve Flesch drained a clutch birdie putt on the iconic 18th hole at Pebble Beach to score his second victory of the season. Flesch fashioned a final round 68 to finish 11 under and pick up his second win of the season. With more, here's George Savaricas and Hall of Famer Lanny Watkins, including this week's winning moment.

VO > Thank you, Vince. A memorable final round and a lot of ways at the Pure Insurance Championship at Pebble Beach. George Savaricas with world golf hall of famer famer Lanny Watkins. Early on in this final round, it was the Steve Flesch show , opening hole.

VO > Yeah, he hit a good tee shot in one and then a beautiful second. This is a sign of things to come for Steve Flesch. Right back down there to about three feet. No problem.

VO > Flesch started the final round in the second to last group. One shot back birdied the first, then his third on the par 5 2nd.

VO > Yet drove it out of position it to had the lay up short of the crossed bunkers plays a wonderful short iron into here to the second hole in there to about a foot and a half.

VO > After birdieing the second FLesch to make it three in a row. It's tough putt to read and he buries birdie birdie birdie. What an electric start for Steve Flesch five under his first seven but didn't make another birdie until the closing hole par 5 18 his third needed birdie to take care of business laid up with a shot he might have been able to reach the green and played another wonderful wedge to about 10 11 feet. And this is just a thing of beauty goes in perfect pace for birdie in the win and he knew it right off the blade. A final round 68 for Steve Flesch birdies the last and gets his second win this season on the PGA Tour Champions capturing the Pure Insurance Championship. Now let's send it back to Vince.

VO > Steven Alker helped himself in the Charles Schwab Cup standings by tying for second. The top five remains unchanged, with Ernie Els moving up two spots to sixth. Els fired a final round 64 and finished T2 in the Pure Insurance Championship. His last win came just under two years ago in the 2020 SAS championship. But the Big Easy says his game is peaking and just in time for the playoffs.

OC VO > You I'm starting to do things properly. My games as a whole, all aspects of my game, all the disciplines are getting better, my putting is better, driving a little straighter. So those are the two things you have to do in the championship. You got to drive and putt and make birdies, making birdies. So, you know, I've changed caddies, you know, and you know, Martin has been with me for about a month now We have a lot of fun on the course. And, you know, he likes to talk with me and I just feel it's coming around for me. I can really feel that my demeanor is different and my outlook into the event is a lot more positive. So I feel it's coming.

VO > Mark O'Mara returned to familiar territory last week and when it comes to taming Pebble Beach, no one has done it better. Nearly a third of his 16 PGA Tour victories have come at this Northern California jewel. O'Mara's friend, Tiger Woods, has two professional wins at Pebble Beach. And last week, while meeting with some members of the first tee. O'Meara shared some advice. He gave a teenage Tiger still relevant today.

OC VO > I played golf the first time with Tiger when he was 17. He came through Orlando and I play with he and his father, Earl. And then when he turned pro at 19, he moved into my development there in Orlando and we started practicing and playing together. And I remember telling Tiger, I said, this is before he got his card, before he won his first professional tournament. I said, you know, TWs in all the things that I've witnessed by playing with the best golfers in the world, because I grew up obviously playing with the best players, you know, Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, you name it, all of them Trevino, Floyd, Watson, Ballesteros, all of them. I said the thing that I learned by watching the best players in the world, if you really want to be good, there's two things that you have to do to become better and really be consistent and possibly win whatever level it is that you want to win. At number one. You got to learn to hit the ball pin high with a miss left and right. But if you're always around pin high, you're going to play well. And what that means is good distance control, controlling your distance. Doesn't matter whether it’s your 8 iron 180 yards or you hit your 8 iron 110 yards. You just want to be around pin high and then see what's number two. I said number two is you've got to have good speed on the greens because if you have good speed on the greens, you're going to eliminate three putts and you're going to make more putts.

OC > So putting is all about speed. And Lord knows that I wasn't that great a ball striker. I didn't hit the ball that great. But you know what? I was always a pretty good putter. And you don't win tournaments or win major championships if you don't putt well.

VO > There was no barking about the golf course last week. And you'll get no complaints from Paige who's living the dog's life on one of America's legendary grounds. For the last decade Paige has been as much a part of Pebble Beach as the waves crashing onto the shore.

VO > Oh, yeah. She's definitely the hardest worker out here. I've had her ten years. Got her when she was five weeks old. There's nothing better than coming to work with your dog. That's for sure. She is one lucky dog. I'm out here every morning and I'm on this beautiful property. I've been doing this pretty much my entire life. My father and grandfather were both golf course

OC > superintendents, so it's in the it's in the family.

VO > Started coming out of probably four months great golf course, as its run through bunkers.

VO > And still to come on Learning Center, from the broadcast booth to the course hear why Notah Begay is ready to make his PGA Tour Champions debut in the 2022.

VO > The 2022 Presidents Cup was a fun and exciting ride last week at Quail Hollow in Charlotte, North Carolina. Sure, the U.S. won a ninth straight 17 and a half to 12 and a half, but some late electricity from the internationals like Sebastian Munoz and Tom Kim certainly had the American's attention. However, in the end, the U.S. team was just too strong and too deep. But applause to both squads on the show. US Captain Davis Love the third had this to say about his team during the closing ceremony.

OC > I'd like to thank Jay Monahan for giving me the best golf team I've ever been around. They not only did not only play great, they did everything we asked them, even when they disagreed with it and probably I was wrong. But they went out there and played hard every day. And what a great attitude. What great preparation. And Trevor’s team, put up an incredible fight. They made tons of birdies. And our teams always seemed to come out on top.

VO > The Americans improved to 12 one and one in the series that began in 1994. And of All the President's Men, it was three time major champion Jordan Spieth, with a sparkling five and oh Mark Fiery Maxima was also perfect in his first appearance on the team. Only SI Woo Kim’s birdie at the last in Sunday's singles kept Justin Thomas from a spotless mark. Kudos to both squads for this wonderful exhibition. PGA Tour Champions returns next week with the constellation Furyk and France, which was a smashing success in its debut last year. A star studded field put on a show at Timuquana Country Club in Jacksonville with Phil Mickelson winning his third event on this tour. First class presentation all around. And the Jim and Tabitha Furyk Foundation leading the way to benefit Northeast Florida charities. Here's the tournament host on the second go round of this official PGA Tour champions event.

VO > It's like any event, it's kind of the unknown that first year tough.

OC > It was three years in the making, hiring a staff, kind of doing everything for the first time and then reassessing. You know? All right, great. Everything was a success. It went well. But where can we make some improvements? Where can we nip and tuck? Where can we what do we need to add to?

VO > So, you know, I'm excited for year two, I think I'm not going to say it's easier because that's the wrong word, but maybe less difficult. You know, we have a foundation.

OC > Our ops team has come in. They understand the golf course, how we're going to put up concessions and stands and hospitality, working with a lot of the same companies again. So I think the second time around, you know what to expect. And so but we're still you know, you're still on edge. You still want it to come off and and be perfect.

VO > And, you know, I really credit we have a great team that that works for us. Tabitha's working hard, but Constellation, our title sponsor, has been amazing. Circle Care presenting sponsor. All of our founding friends and and sponsors are with us and have done a great job.

OC > And and I think really it's always been the same idea for us. We want to kind of bring our community together. We have the best players in the world over 50 years old, a lot of Hall of Famers. There's a lot of great golf on the golf course.

VO > But really it's more about the atmosphere and fun. And we're going to some great chefs, some great food, drinks, super hospitality. And there's three real places around the golf course that we've built for our folks to have a good time. So Circle K’s got their party porch. It's exciting. It's a lot of fun. You know.

OC > We're nip and tuck and we're getting ready. But like I said, it's crunch time and I'm excited for for everything to start.

VO > PGA Tour Champions is a great way to renew old friendships. As Notah Begay will make his tour debut next week after turning 50 back on September 14th. A four time winner on the PGA Tour, Notah has been staying close to the game with his commentary on Golf Channel. Last week in Charlotte, while working on Live from the President's Cup, Begay spoke of his expectations soon trading suits for golf attire.

OC > Well, I think everybody looks forward to a chance to compete again. And that was just something that I really wanted to experience.

VO > I've been now ten plus years in television and to have a chance to go out there and compete against a lot of the players that I had to compete against while on the PGA Tour, I think is something that an athlete never really gets to do, so I'm really looking forward to it. I'm most excited about seeing if my nerve holds up. I mean, that's one of the thing that I think we overlook as athletes. You spend so much time refining your craft, working on your game, trying to strengthen certain aspects

OC > Of the things that you think will work for you. And you play at a high level and then you walk away for a while and some of the things go away. So I'm just kind of curious to see if it'll actually all come back when I need it. So I'm looking forward to that part of it.

VO > The full season probably going to be about 12 to 15 events. Hopefully I can make the playoffs next season. That's the primary goal of mine and my focus is and always will be on winning.

OC > So I'm going to try and work on my game to get get it to a point where I can compete with the Angel Jimenez’s, the Steven Alker’s, and the Steve Stricker’s cause those guys are certainly putting up good numbers every week.

VO > Still to come, a couple of field generals from football and baseball on their love of golf world champions, both on the challenges of their new sport.

VO > Late September, what a great time of year on the sports calendar. The NFL is three weeks in and the Major League Baseball playoff picture is starting to take form. During a celebrity filled Clubcorp Classic learning center sat down with two of the greats in these respective sports.

OC > We’re spending time with a couple of champions here, actually, two time Super Bowl champion, Mark Rypien of the Washington Redskins and Pudge Rodriguez, one of the greatest defensive catchers in the history of Major League Baseball, 13 time Gold Glover as well. Great to see you here. Playing some golf. And both of you guys played sort of a command position, you know, and I'm wondering how that is translated to your golf at all. Mark, I’ll start with you is can you take in all of the aspects of every hole and every shot because of that?

OC > Well, I mean, you have imagination. Pudge was probably had more imagination as a catcher than anyone I've ever seen. I mean, he'd see a guy sneaking off first base a little bit there and he'd get a kind of a grin on his and he'd come and throw that thing. So you have to have an imagination as an athlete adlib. I mean, you see Patrick Mahomes and a lot of these guys do it as quarterbacks and but he did it as a catcher, which was amazing. And then when you play golf, the same imagination. I mean, we look at maybe a couple of the greatest imagination guys in golf and innovators is Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson. You know what they did for seeing things that other guys are like, I'm just trying to get it on the green and they're trying to get it in the hole and close.

VO > And that's kind of the I think what the position quarterback does and and you know Pudge will answer for for being the catcher so.

OC VO > Well for me he's more invisible to me when I when I play the game, I’m visible, when you started the game a lot, obviously, because my position demands a lot of study. I got to go and watch and see a lot of videos. Lot of it can be bored. Just go right there around 1:00 and you start reading every hitter, right? And then go to the video and do my own basically my own, my own report so I can communicate that to the pitcher, that pitch that night and also the bullpen, basically the pitcher that we're going to that we're going to use in the bullpen. But for me, I play I play the anticipate the game a lot. Basically like Mark said, you know, I always I was always ready to to throw the ball to second base block basically

OC VO > try to call a good game, probably thinking a little bit ahead of the game a little bit. But in golf, same way I am trying and trying to be as simple as possible obviously. I'm not like professional, like, you know, like what we're going to see this weekend that they're going to they're going to go for the flag. And I'm going to try to to land the ball at least somewhere on the green. I don't care if it’ a fifty putt. I mean, fifty-foot putt at least I'm on the green. So that's the goal that I like to play. But the most important for me, I'm enjoy I'm enjoy the game of golf. It's not my my sport. I'm already did mine. I'm trying. He is. But we're here just for to support. We're here just to have fun, just to be able to spend time with the fans and time with this great golfers. And there's nothing better just to be right next to them and and play three rounds and see all these guys hearing these great shots.

OC > How did your game translate to golf? Through the baseball swing or whatever? Have you played golf like your whole life?

OC > Well, I start for the first time to play golf in 2013 when I retired. So not too long ago.

OC > So you didn't play when you were a player?

OC >No, I don't even know. Not even one hit a golf ball, none . Obvious because of as catchers always have a lot of work during the season.

VO OC > Not like those pitchers. They're not the real. They're not real athletes. They take their golf clubs with them.

OC VO > Well, I don't I don't want to say that. But the starting pitcher are the guys that plays the most golf during baseball. And that's why they so good today, right? Exactly. Because a lot of them, they're always in the top five Smoltz Glavine molder you know all those guys. But but anyways that's great golfers anyway but the but no I started playing not too long ago. The baseball swing is totally different than golf looks very much the same, but really not because I was an inside out hitter when I played baseball. So if I keep doing the inside out, swing the golf ball goes out of bounds. Right. So, you know, my then the golf swing is is pretty much the same. But at the end, you have to feel that you're pulling where you're pulling the golf ball, over third base line. And that's sometimes for me, it's difficult because my whole career I was hitting the ball the other ways. You know, I still doing the left to right shots, but sometimes if I do it, if I have it like really bad, I just move my a little to the left and try to keep it in play. Whatever it takes whatever it takes.

OC > And Mark you took this game up but late right lately?

OC VO > Well, I know we played back in college. I had a set of clubs and maybe played once or twice in high school. In college we play we had a really a at Washington State, which we have one of the best courses now in the in the country, Palouse Ridge. But back then we had like a goat ranch out there. And so my buddies and I basically our handicap was how many adult beverages we could consume minus the score that we had was our, was our net score, you know, so anyways, and then I got to, to Washington, the Redskins at the time, commanders now and I was like a 25 handicap. I, when I first got there, I didn't know anyone. So I got set up at a at a golf course was about two, two blocks from the apartment. I was out, I got a season's pass. I went every day, which for a couple of reasons, wanted to chance to meet people, you know, because golf is that great, you know, ambassador for to meet and people and to see if I can get my game and I got my game for 25 to a single digit in one summer. I played like 52 straight days and just the merry mex, Lee Trevino is I remember watching him 40 years ago and one of the things Texas Legends. I want a Texas legend here and one of the things that he said is, hey, if you can take one side out of the golf course, open your hips, aim a little bit left and hit the ball right. And that's I've done that from day one and I'll continue to do that. Probably the rest of my life, you know, because if I change now and try to hit a draw, it's not going to happen.

OC > Gents it's great to spend time with you and see you again. And I'm glad you're on the golf course here. All right. And listen anybody gets out of line, just, you know, this.

OC > trust me, I have if I have a 50 yard shot, I will throw it.

OC Pudge Rodriguez, Mark Rypien, great to see you guys. Thank you.

VO > And that's our show. I'm Vince Cellini. And as always, we thank you for watching. I'll see you next time on learning center.