**PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW 23**

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > Jacksonville was fortunate they didn't face the full wrath of Hurricane Ian. Yet and still the mindset is, let's move forward. And part of that is the escape in sports, in particular the second playing of the constellation Furyk and Friends.

OC > Hi, everyone, and welcome to the PGA Tour Champions Learning Center. I'm Vince Cellini. Last year's debut, a smash. And now it was back to Timuquana Country Club for year two of the playing. And once again, the winners were golf, music and of course, charity. George Savaricas have more, including the winning moment.

VO > Thank you, Vince. One way to describe the performance that we saw, the constellation Furyk and Friends. It was a hard charging Jim Furyk making a run on the 12th. His birdie run began right here, stiffs. It was over par on his round to this point, but then was trying to close the gap on Steve Stricker. Vintage Steve Stricker on the 13th birdies the par five that was his third birdie on the day clean card to that point Furyk had birdie 12 13 14 this for eagle on the 15th oh comes up inches short that would end in his birdie run with his fourth straight birdie. Steve Stricker for eagle on 15. Great lag Stricker birdied all four par fives at Timuquana Country Club that gave him a nice stroll up the 18th fairway with a three shot lead. His only bogey on the day coming on the last day didn't matter. The final round 69 as Steve Stricker wins for the fourth time this season on the PGA Tour champions. That's a new career high for Stricker out here on the PGA Tour champions. He is also now leading the tour in wins this season. Harrison Frazar with the solo second. Let's send it back to Vince.

VO > Fine week the Schwab Cup standings now and look at this race. It's extremely tight at the top. Steven Alker continues to lead and Stricker’s win puts him within striking distance clearly. Padraig Harrington finishes sixth and remains second in the standings. And while solo sixth is a solid week, Harrington will tell you that is not good enough. Paddy is here to tilt the tour.

OC > I just want to win. I think. Honestly, I prefer I. I'm not joking with this. I prefer to win here than from the second on a PGA Tour event. You know, winning is winning. It's just something about this round. Okay. It's a smaller parallel here. And, you know, you can look at it like that. But the fact of the matter is, putting yourself on the pressure and out there and having to hit the shots when people are watching, when it counts is what's exciting. No amount of you know, no amount of finish and top ten and somebody pat me in the back with you any I couldn't tell you when I you know I wouldn't remember a top ten but I remember a win out here in the Champions Tour.

VO > Jim Furyk came close to winning the Charles Schwab Cup last year, finishing second to Bernhard Langer. But this past week, he not only competed, his name is on the event as host. And part of the duties included helping country music star Jake Owen's golf game. It's this week's What's Your Edge?

OC > Jake has a very athletic set up a certain self up in a very strong position. He's got the little Patrick Cantlay kind of back and forth bounce on his toes. But I see kind of a nice high hands up, maybe not quite Davis alive, but high hands at the top generates a ton of power and quite honestly, I'm a little pissed off he's knocking it by me all day.

OC > A lot of the fairway this doesn’t matter. I get all the power I want. I can power it out of the little fairway. Breaking down the great Jim Furyk. Interesting set up he’s been doing all day. I ‘ve not understood, but I will ask that question. n a thread right down the middle of the fairway, as probably you would assume. It's kind of hard to break that down, although I do have a question like a lot of people say, you want a wide base to get a lot of you know, and I've noticed throughout your whole career and even right there, like your feet are rather narrow?

VO > It helps two things. One, that's really helped me in my setup. So your ball position is a big part of your aim and it's really easy for me to one, easier for me to get square with my feet narrow and get the ball in a pretty good ball position. When I start getting my feet wide, it's tougher to figure out my ball position and I start to get left right. I don't aim as well.

OC > So that's kind of the same. When my feet are a little more narrow I feel more balanced and you know, I may give up a couple of yards that way, but hopefully it's a fairway.

OC > That's good.

OC > But yeah, I’m going to try that. I've got a pretty good Arnold swing as a kid, I, I would spend time on the range of this. All right, Ernie Els, make a Ernie Els swing. Nice like Freddy Couples swing. The Arnold though square That's when I got it It's really the through the finish you know he sets up here, he sets up here. Yeah that's the that's the Arnold.

VO > Still to come on Learning Center another familiar face joining the tour Notah Begay goes from broadcasting the game to once again competing. He shares his experience next.

VO > Notah Begay made his PGA Tour Champions debut last week, finishing with a six over total and T67. He did have his best round of the week on Sunday in his very first event on this tour. Now that Notah is a PGA Tour, champions member, he's often asked, could we one day see his buddy Tiger Woods out here as well?

OC > I'm going to scout it out and then get back to him with all the intel. And I'm sure it's something that he he may want to do down the road. I'm I'm going to speak very highly of it. It'd be great. He'd be great for this tour.

VO > That's an understatement. Notah will be in next week's SAS championship field and the defending champion of that event is Lee Jansen. Tight look at this putt by Lee Janzen. It's took Lee one extra hole to get the job done and score his second win on this tour first since 2015, the two time U.S. Open champion had been working hard to finish on top.

OC > What was the turning point in winning the SAS championship last year? I feel like it was something that happened at the Furyk and Friends Consolation.

VO > I was going along not so great and I was trying to find something that would work better than what I was doing.

OC > I had a bad pattern of not shooting the good scores the first day and playing catch up and not catching up at all. Not making enough birdies, not getting it near the hole, not making enough putts.

VO OC > But I felt something in my swing, so I decided to just go ahead and try something new well I was on the golf course at the tournament and I started hitting a lot better shots, start getting more comfortable with it and went to SAS feeling a little bit better about my game and then got off to a great start the first day at SAS, which I had not done very much of last year, and I was on the hunt, which was great.

VO > And then on Sunday I was really paying attention to the lead, but I was focused on repeating that same swing thought over and over again. It wasn't always pretty, but I stuck with it and in the end it worked out pretty good.

VO > It's the last event before the playoffs. The SAS championship. First round coverage can be seen live on Friday at 2 p.m. Eastern right here on Golf Channel. The season began at a Hualala in January with high expectations for rookie David Duvall. But things haven't gone as well as the former number one player had hoped. He had 20 events this season Duvall has yet to record a top 25 finish, not the type of Duvall performance we remember. David spoke about his frustrations.

OC > I don't know necessarily what I expected for the year, but I tried to be patient and sit down and and watch it. I mean, everything's gotten progressively better, but the scores have reflected for the most part how I've been playing, certainly for the last three or four months, you know, even Sunday out at the Pure Insurance tournament at Pebble. I mean, you've been out there how many times? 15 greens on Sunday. You don't hit 15 greens at Pebble. I mean, that's good hitting, right. And shot even par somehow. You know, a friend of mine was like, I just watched you basically piss away a 64, 65. I mean, with everything where you hit it, you should have, you know.

VO > When Learning Center returns from the diamond to the links, three World Series Champions Discuss Their Journey in golf Derek Lowe, John Smoltz and Joe Carter. Step up to the plate. Yeah, the tee.

VO > The playoffs are upon us on the PGA Tour champions while in Major League Baseball, the American League and National League are now in the Division Series. While at the Club Corp. Classic in Dallas, I spoke with some ex major leaguers now in full swing on the course.

OC > Well, we are sitting here with three of baseball's all time best and they play a little golf as well. Let's introduce two gentlemen. Derek Lowe is a World Series champion, author of a no Hitter. He helped the Red Sox in The Curse of the Bambino. John Smoltz is a baseball hall of famer and a World Series champion as well. And Joe Carter, back to back, World Series champion, and also ended the 93 series for the Toronto Blue Jays with a home run, just the second player all time to do that and a world Series with a homer. So, guys, let's talk golf. You make the shift to do that and you've had so much success in your careers. But baseball is a game of failure. Golf is to a certain extent as it is a game, a failure as well, or at least managing some of that failure. Joe Right.

OC VO > Golf is a game of perfection that you're trying to achieve that you will never achieve. And when you do achieve it, you've got to go out there and play the game the next day, so you're never going to achieve it. But for me, my motto is I've never had a bad day on the golf course and baseball was the same way. It's how you look at things, and I look at golf as a relaxation sport. You're going to go out there, you're going to hit great shot, you're going to hit bad shots, but no matter what you do, you've got to go out there and find the ball and hit it again. So you make it as easy as possible and you have a short memory, but it's a lot of fun.

OC > Yeah, well, John, that's all fine and good until you're actually playing on the Champions Tour and events and you know, it's a little different.

OC > It is way different. You know, eight teammates behind us as a pitcher, we can get taken care of. You can hide some of your weaknesses. You don't get exposed as much. Go on a golf course, play in a tournament with the boys and you're going to get exposed. And it's just a matter of when. So I've never felt more pressure in my life than in some of the first team moments and just trying to get off to a good start. I love the pressure, love it, but I loved it in my sport, in baseball. Oh yeah, golf. I there's a if there's a time limit, if it's about how fast you can play, I don't think anyone can beat me, but it's not about how fast you can play. And I have to learn how to play slower.

OC > Right. Derek I know you have a little background in golf right? You were you played golf in high school. Many sports. I know you guys all played different sports.

OC > And we'll talk about that.

OC > That's why you did. That’s why you started golf.

OC > But but but go ahead. I mean, what how how have you applied that now if you basically you golf.

OC > They're kind of similar in the aspect, you got to forget what you did, good or bad, from pitch to pitch to swing to swing. What I've loved about golf is the places I've been able to go, the people I've been able to meet. Like this guy got a black book that we all envy, you know? And without golf to go play, you know, you can name these beautiful golf courses and tournaments like this. You get to, you know, we get to meet up two or three times a year. But I think all of us as competitors, we love the challenge, but most importantly is just to try to enjoy it. And again, we were able to see a lot of beautiful places.

OC > You know, I think in some sports, like maybe football, you have to really bear down here at your most intense, at tough moments. But baseball, to a certain extent, you have to find that Zen like golf, right, Joe? I mean, you know, when everything's around you seems like mayhem and the pressures really on.

OC > Well, the thing is, Vince, you're going to fail seven out of ten times when you're a player, you know? And for these guys who are pitchers, I mean, it's really unfair because like you said, they've got eight guys behind them that can help them out, you know, and but as a hitter, you're up there, you're on your own. And so it's like getting into a fight, you know, nine guys against one. So they're supposed to win.

VO OC > But but you've got to have that Zen like, feeling that the great players, they have a short memory so that you don't take a a bad game or a bad at bat and take it to the next at bat and the very next to bat.And I've seen a lot of guys who are great athletes and they're worried about what what is already a chance transpired. And I'm like I'm like, you can't change that. You know, if they tell me I was 0 my last ten, I go, no, when I get to the plate, I'm 0 for 0 because I can't do anything about that. So let me focus on this at bat this time. And that's it. Forget about what's behind me and the guys who are who are able to differentiate that are the ones who stay or stay around the longest.

OC > Well, we mentioned PGA Tour Champions playing there, but what have you gleaned from the likes of Tiger Woods? Annika Sorenstam, and just being around players like that?

OC VO > Yeah, I'm self-taught. So that's there's a problem in that, you know, because I'm self-taught. Everything I've ever done. So I have a feel factor. If I feel good at watching them, I try to emulate. And that's how I watch great players and I try to see what they do and then try to emulate it. Now obviously they have the techniques down, like we would have our mechanics down and pitching. But when you've got mechanical feel and you've got the fundamentals, it's a lot more fun. And I say this all the time as a great complement to Tiger and is a great compliment to my former teammate Greg Maddux. I said, How hard is it to pitch when it's oh two on every hitter? Well, he had to get two for it to happen. And I used to tell Tiger, how hard is it to play golf when you know what club to hit every time? Because really, you know, you think about how great he is to know the distances and to know where the misses. That's the difference. I mean, we can hit similar shots, just not as many consistency. Oh, sure. Yeah, we have we all have the capability, you know, but we don't have that capacity, you know, like that's their office and it's just like our mound or the batter's box or the field. And I just loved every minute. TV doesn't do it justice. I tell average players who sit at home thinking they can do X, Y, Z. You have no idea what it's like when you see it up close.

OC > It's true.

OC > We talked about playing multiple sports. You had to we had a conversation Derek. And I'm just wondering how, you know, that that has been applicable to what we see in golf now. Where you know, the golf guys, when I was in high school, the golf guys didn't make other teams. They kind of play golf. Now athletes are turning to golf.

VO > Yeah,

OC > That's that's their road.

OC > Yeah. And I think, you know, the obvious I think you'd probably say Tiger had a biggest influence on that. But it's interesting, we were talking earlier on the range, if you ask the majority of the people here, you'd probably say 90% of us played multiple sports. When you're young. And, you know, I'm a huge advocate of it. I know that's not what people want to hear these these days. You know, we're kind of one track mind pick at age ten don't know I got you know I was trying to play college basketball. That was my path. And then I ended playing baseball and very similar to probably us to a bunch of other people. Now you use your athletic ability to find out what your best sport is. You know, I'm you know, not necessarily when you're young and but golf, again, was one of those sports I just played because it was the season growing up in Michigan like John did. Like you can't just play baseball year round, you got to find other sports. And so, yeah, I'm a huge advocate of being athletic and play as many sports as you can.

OC > But Joe, is it unfair that these pitchers, you know, they have more time to focus on their golf game during their careers?

OC > I mean, like you say, he's got the black book that is that everybody envies. And so, you know, we're playing I'm playing 162 ballgames. You know, when he was a starter, when he was a starter, he would get in 35 games at the most. Now, when he became a closer, I respected him more because, you know, he he had to go play, but then he had to I got to be ready because I may pitch tonight.

OC VO > So here’s what I told Chipper Jones. All right. Everyone knows some of the best athletes on the team are pitchers and they know that. And here's the reason. We all we all had a choice to make when we were young. And I admire someone wanting to play every day. I can. We could have probably played every day. But here's the deal. I said to Chipper, I said, here's the deal. You field, I field, you hit, I hit, you throw and I throw. The only thing you don't do that I do is pitch, so I don't want to hear it.

OC > Oh, you could have played.

OC> How did that go over?

OC > Well, you can actually say that you hit.

OC > We did. Yeah. Well, I mean, know we did start at the plate, but I didn't say I was a great hitter. I just said we hit. We hit. Yeah, it's the greatest job in the world. If you do it, there's hands down. There's no better job in the world if you do it.

OC > Have you ever thought of a career in law before you entered baseball? Because I could see in the clubhouse you would be that guy.

OC > But here's the thing. Being competitive, does it really hurt you guys when you guys were on the bench and you can't do anything about the game and you're sitting there?

OC > Yeah, but and I'm sure, Derek, to tell you same thing, you know, it's different, right? Today, they're not throwing 250 innings. It's a whole different thing. And when you know it's your day, you pour every bit of that energy in for that day and then everything else is stored up to do what you're geared to do. And when you mentioned going to closure, oh my. I've thrown combined 300 innings playoffs and regular season. I was not as tired that year as I was as a closer because of the empty the tank every single time you go out but but I had I used to feel somewhat of an athlete we would be we'd go on the road, you know, we'd pitch on Monday and then it was golf Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday pitch on Saturday. But at home, we didn't do that, you know, because of the farm family. The family, yeah. On the road we played all day.

OC > You've really embraced the game to the point where I saw you renovated your backyard, right, too.

OC > Yes. You know, I am. I'm an empty nester, me and my wife. And so my tennis court, basketball court, it hasn't been getting used. And so I celebrated my 62nd birthday in March and I said and, you know, my wife said, well, what do you want for your for for your birthday? And I said, You know what? I think I want to redo the tennis court. So it was 110 feet. So I've got a a short game area chipping, putting six holes with the sand trap and it's all artificial sand lawn turf and it is phenomenal. So now I can tell my wife, Honey, I'm going outside, I'm going to be working in the backyard. Yeah, yeah. So she wants me at home now. So now I'll be at home, you know, chipping in. And every day I'm working out some more. Yeah. Yes.

OC > Because it's going to be tough.

OC > And Smoltz I ask you this all the time. Yeah. You know, we going to see out here on PGA Tour Champions?

OC VO > Well, my schedule did get lighter, thankfully, I still got a lot of work to do with Fox. But, you know, I wish I wish we could

VO > You’re a competitor.

OC> I wish I could use golf carts a little more. But

OC > But wait a minute. You were athletes all that running you did as the pitcher.

OC > Yeah,

OC > You should be in great shape.

OC > Honestly, all the homers I hit in bp, all the torque has definitely caught up to me.

OC > But, you know, with him, I applaud him because I know the work ethic that he has and how much he put into the game and to go out there and to qualify for an event like you did. I mean, I was like, I tip my hat to him because it's a different game and people will talk to me and they go, Man, you hit the ball great. You should be on the tour. I go, No, those guys have been practicing since they were seven years old. You know, for the senior tour, I'm like, That's a different game. I like to have fun, you know, competition is great, love to compete, but for me it's about having fun and go out there and keeping your livelihood and and having a great time.

OC > Well, the beauty of the game for guys like me is being able to see you guys again and watch you compete in golf. It's been a lot of fun. Thank you for the time.

OC > Thank you, guys. Thank you.

VO > pecial thanks to those gentlemen making their game and golf even better. And that will do it for this edition of Learning Center, I'm Vince Cellini. As always, we thank you for watching

OC > What a special week it has it’s a lot.