**PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW 24**

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > The PGA Tour champions regular season came to a close at the Stars championship, and Fred Couples authored a feel good story. Fred was nothing short of brilliant in closing the curtain. Couples was a maestro on Sunday, stringing together stretches of birdies on both nines, including seven in a row to close out his round of a career low in tournament record 60 and 20 under total ending his victory drought. George Savaricas and Peter Jacobson were on the call and provide the winning moment.

VO > Thank you, Vince. What a final round we got to see here at the SAS championship George Savaricas and Peter Jacobson. And it was the Fred Couples Show at Preston Wood Country Club. Let’s check out the highlights. And Fred Couples said this was the turning point, this putt for par on ten.

VO > Sometimes good. But the bogeys you don't make are more important than the birdies you do make. And that was huge for couples right there at ten

VO > Couples with birdie 12, 13 and then this on 14.

VO > They were just all going in from everywhere. George It was just an incredible show.

VO > How about this second shot to the 15th?

VO > I think in this situation, it's unpredictable coming out of the rough. Will it jump? Will it not? It carries the bunker by about a foot, rolls up to about five feet, leads to another birdie

VO > At five birdies in a row. At one point on that front, nine, he's had now four in a row on the back, nine playing the 16th.

VO > His front hole location is really hard to get close to and he puts it in there about eight feet, boom, another birdie.

VO > Now on the 17th couples to make it six straight back nine birdies Yeah he had a really bad first putt from Eagle to that point but automatic.

VO > Fred couples soaking it in on the 18th. Had Steve Flesch’s his son Griffin Flesch on the bag this week for a round of 12 under 60 lowest round in tournament history. Fred's lowest round on the PGA Tour or PGA Tour Championship.

VO > Well, Fred doesn't play just to play. He plays to win. And he knew he had something coming in to this week. And he proved it right there with that 60 today to win by six.

VO > Fred couples snapping a victory drought of more than five years that it stretch to the 2017 American Family Insurance Championship. Couples trailed by three at one point on the front, nine on the fifth hole. Then birdied 12 of his last 14 to win by six. Let's send it back to Vince.

VO > Thank you, gentlemen. The Schwab Cup money list where the top five is as tight as ever heading into the playoffs. Steven Alker is OUTFRONT. But we are headed to an anything can happen post-season where the stakes are higher in the remaining trio still on the table.

VO > Let's take a look now at the three event playoff schedule. The top 72 players open things this week in Richmond, Virginia. From there, 54 players will advance to Boca Raton. And finally, a field of 36 will decide things in Phenix at the finale. The Schwab Cup is the goal for many, but can't a full schedule without a chance at the season long prize still be considered a success?

OC > The goal is to try to make the playoffs one at a time. It's nice to be inside right now, barely. But I know I got to keep playing and go make some more money cause I'd love to get the temperature. And then ultimately to Phenix, unless I'm in the top 36, I plan on right now being a Q score.

OC > It's a successful year if I get into the Schwab Cup, you know, yeah, I'm trying to get into to TimberTech, but I'm also trying to get into Schwab Cuo. And I can't if I play well the next few weeks. I've won at Richmond, so that'll be good double points. And I still am trying to grind away as much as I can until the season's over, whether it's after next week or whether it's after timber check or make it all the Schwab Cup. So, you know, I'm still trying.

OC VO > You know, I played all, all year. It was tough year, but I feel like I'm trending, you know, just if I can be patient with myself, I think I can do all right. But if I notice, the list is pretty cramped in there. So you got to play. But, you know, I've been in that position, been doing it my whole life. You know, it is what it is.

VO > When Learning Center returns, learn from one of the best instructors on tour. He's not bad as a player, right? Padgraig Harrington with some swing thoughts to lower your scores. Stay with us.

VO > Padraig Harrington is in his first full season on PGA Tour champions. And what a season it's been. His talent has been well documented, but he's also a natural as a golf instructor. And with that in mind, we bring you some of the best of Paddy's tips in this week's. What's Your Read?

OC > I'm going to show you a couple of my more popular tips on Paddy's Golf tips on YouTube. I do. So these are the ones that are, I suppose, the easiest or most well received. First one, how to draw the ball. Majority of golfers want to draw a heel a little further. Very simple. So when I turned pro, I used to hit a fade. And John Jacob said, An old pro taught me how to draw just like that in 10 minutes. And he said straightforward, If you imagine a door, you open the door. And with that amateur golfer who's cutting it, he tends to be closing the door. This side of the ball, whereas if you want to draw it, you've got to close the door this side. So you've got to take get the door closed. At this point here, you know, six inches before the ball so that the club will release and draw it. There's a very easy way of doing it that you don't even have to think that much about it. Just find yourself inside. Stop where the ball is, both of your feet. That will make the swing a little bit more rounded. That would give you the confidence to swing away from your body. And when you do that, you swing away. You can see how the club will turn down and you'll get a nice draw. So all you have to do is probably take 20 shots off a side slope for you to get that confidence, to swing away and draw, to get you to release the club before impact, to get you to close that door before impact, just practice off off a side slope. I'll hit one off a flap in here. So I've got the luxury. I'm out here in the ninth fairway Grind Bear at the Rapidscan Systems Classic. I've got the luxury of being able to practice on the golf course. You might need to find the slopes on the range. So my normal shot here it is a strong left to right wind. So this should be it. A nice little fade now without me thinking what you would have seen, the club really went back nicely. I'm playing even. Even a little bit outside the line. Maybe there. Whereas when I go up onto this slope here, balls of my feet without having to do much, I'm going to aim right because I know it's coming back and I've got a nice big singing draw now that will get into feeling it. That will get into your swing. So you just hit shots maybe 20 to 50 balls three times over a couple of days and the feeling will get into your normal swing that when you're on a level ground, you'll have that feeling and timing of the club releasing and drawing it. Like all tips. This can be overdone. So if you've got a hook, stop doing it. It can make your shoulders because it's up here. It can make you swing flat with your shoulders. Obviously, we want to swing up with our shoulders and have a little bit of side bend here. This does make you turn flat, but if you want to draw the ball, this is the quickest way to get the feeling. And once you have the feeling, you'll always know what to go back to. So at the start you can do it quite a bit, but after a while use it quite sparingly. Okay. My most popular tip on Paddy's golf tips on YouTube is my chipping tip. A Essentially every time I see a bad chip where they are doing the same thing wrong. So a lot of times people who struggle with chipping, they're trying to get the ball in the air. So as they're going to hit it, they try and lift it in the air. And as you can see, if I try and lift my weight, it's going to go back into my right side and kind of kind of pinch here. And I'm going to lift. So watch where I hit the ground. If my weight goes backwards, watch where I hit the ground. I hit eight inches behind the ball. I get that double sound ground golf ball. I get all sorts of funny strikes. The ground is firm enough that I hit the ball. If that grounds are soft, I might have to stock the club on the ground. And then obviously then people to compensate. All of a sudden they're playing. I've got a 58 degree wedge here. They're playing the 58 degree wedge off their back foot. They're still trying to get the ball in the air. The trick with chipping is make sure that your weight is left. Make sure that your strike point is actually left to the golf ball. So whenever I take a practicing, you can see I'm pushing the ball forward in practice and my practice swing is left at a golf ball. I stroke the ground there, do not practicing as I see a lot of people practicing hit an eight inches again behind you're practicing and look the club is turning over all sorts of funny things are happening. Get your weight forward on the left side, push the ball forward. Keep the last on the club. If you're going to use a 58 degree, keep 58 degrees on. If we want to play a pitch and wrong, we'll use a nine iron from there. Keep the ball forward, your weight forward, and make sure all your practice swings are left at the golf ball so that when you get over the ball, you pick the ball first and then the turf afterwards, just like so, oh, I hold npe. So that was can't do any better than that one. So that was ball turf. Very simple. Never. You don't want to bounce that club into the into the ball because like that you get all sorts of inconsistent strikes. Now, a little way of forcing you to do is getting an alignment rods don't get a shaft of your golf club because you'll break it and put it as tight as you can risk it to the ball. So now with that being behind us, I'm going to have to make sure I come in quite steep, keep my weight forward like so. Okay. Whereas a bad golfer a bad chipper. He would try and lift it and you get this motion. Okay, so put an alignment stick tight behind this. Well, I probably had a four inches. For you more elite players who actually want to know what's going on. So essentially you're trying to get your arms to go steep, to get the contact on the ball and then you're going to use your hands. No, you don't have to use your hands to do this. So I'm trying to get steep with my heart, with my arms and my body, and then I'm using my hands to shallow the clubhead underneath the ball to get it up in the air. For most people, just keep it nice and neutral. Just nice and neutral left of the golf ball. See those divots are there. Okay, but then you can always advance it and throw your hands on the knees to get a bit more height and skid and spin like that one. Okay, so that's all there is to chipping once you get your body in the right place, once you get your sternum over the ball, you're going to start making good strikes. You never. I practiced quite a lot with my heel off the ground like so I never want to see this situation. As you can see, I hit the I never want to be backing up. Okay. Because of a back up, I'm going to throw the club and all sorts of I'm probably going to get the knees going to fight back off, stay left and everything will start working itself out. You can practice this at home by getting a yeah, this would be popular. Get a hardwood floor and a carpet and put your foot on the edge of the hardwood carpet. Or if it's a, you know, the wooden. Once it's hard one side and soft the other and just make sure you're hitting on the south side all the time with the base of the club. This part of the club hits the ground up here. Okay? Just like. So that's the exaggeration. Always make sure it's left and you're good to go. Once you have that, you'll be fine. Welcome back to Paddy's Golf Tips on the Golf Channel. And this is definitely one of my more popular tips on my YouTube channel. So pretty much straight forward with bunker shots similar to tips that you want to get your sternum left on top of the ball. So you want to get like 90% of your weight onto your left side. Okay. It's a good shot. You're actually not trying to hit the ball. You're trying to slide the club. The whole idea is you're trying to slide the club under the ball. It's nearly like fresh airing the ball by sliding on the knee. So to do this, we want to be on the left side and watch. We're trying to hit about two inches behind. That's not okay. If you try and hit two inches, you'll often hit four or five inches behind. So we want to see the club entering two inches behind the ball. It's one of those things. A lot of people will try and hit two inches and it really does end up hitting back here. But most people are trying to lift the ball in bunkers. So if I can if I'm set up nicely on my left hand side, sternum over two fold ball position is quite a bit forward. I don't open up my stance. I'll talk about that little later. I do open up the club face. Now you guys don't have to open up the club face to start off, but you can keep a reasonably square face. The key here is as we're coming in, we don't want to try and help it in the air because again, if you're trying to help it in the air, you're going to back up onto this right side. You're going to squeeze in here and watch. If that's two inches behind, watch what would happen. All of a sudden you're hitting eight inches behind. I think you've run to be an Arnold Schwarzenegger, left eight inches of sand on the ball. I'll show you. This is what you guys look like if you back off all that effort and the golf ball is gone nowhere, whereas when a pro hits it, he sits on his left hand side, he stays left and watch how how easy I hit that to get it to go all the 15 yards or so to the hole. It's not you don't have to hit the ball hard in the bunker because I'm only taking a little bit of sand, whereas amateurs take taking this big heap of sand and you just physically nobody's strong enough to do that. So got to stay left again. If you've got the beauty of practice, swing and make sure your practice swings are well forward when you're practice swinging. Obviously not in competition. Now, the last thing that I do in bunkers, which is a little bit different, I we all want to cut across the bunker shots to create a bit of spin, get a good strike. We were told when I was growing up that you stand there with an open stance, open club face, and what you find if you do this and a lot of good players will do this, I can tell you if you're usually their low handicappers may be five handicap below. And if you get a really bad strike, you get shanks in the bunker. This is what you're doing. You're opening up your stance, you're opening up your face, and then you say, well, I've got to cut across it. And you take the club outside, you're already open bodyline and watch what'll happen if I take the club outside an already open line? I'm going to drop it inside and present a hossel. I'm going to hit here and duff it to not shank it. And if I make a good effort, I'm actually going to shank it. So if I go out, you can see I have nothing. So if you go out, you're going to drop it. I practice my bunker shots the opposite. So go into a bunker and I will air myself and I will actually go shot when I'm practicing. I'll probably be square when I'm playing in turn I'll go shot to make me safe. Take the club at the inside and then come over the top so you can see I've got a lovely strike at lots of spin there by doing the opposite. That's my practice. I kind of do that a lot in practice and when I'm playing, I kind of just go for a pretty square open club face, make sure I stay left. Oh, I got that a little heavy for me. Finish it in the same place. That's the beauty of bunker shots. Once you get good at bunker shots, it's a little thin or a little flat are just right all finish in the same place because your little thin will carry further and spin more and little fat will carry shorter and run out more. So bunker shots genuinely are a lot easier for good players than than any other shot because there's room for error. Sit in your left hand side like so ball forward face open stance pretty square. Get in and there's no more to paddy golf tips then that.

VO > When we return. Fred Couples shares another classic story from his world travels this morning, pulls a private plane over sleeping and a top tee shot. That's next. This is PGA Tour champions Learning Center.

VO > Davis Love the Third and Fred Couples teamed up last month to help lead the United States to another presidents Cup victory. Their friendship goes back decades. They came together after the two went head to head in 1992 at Riviera Country Club. It was later that year Freddie and Davis reunited on the world stage. And that's where we pick up this edition of Couples Chronicles.

OC > We Want Stories. I got another story for you. Early nineties, my partner Davis Love and I have been chosen to play some World Cup events. We got on a nice little roll. We won a couple and then we fly to Spain to play. And I wasn't feeling all that good and it was so nice because we flew on a big old private plane there. They took care of us. And then we had got we were able to bring some PGA Tour trainers with us. There were two of them. I won't say their names because it's kind of irrelevant in my opinion. So I thought he gave me a anti-inflammatory. He gave me a sleeping pill. The next morning we play first round early in the morning and we're in a bet and we were in a suite. All four of us. And Davis is knocking on my door and he. It's not locked, but he has to break it in. I'm sound asleep. Get up, get to the course I double bogey the first hole par off the second, the third hole. I top it right into a pond and in front of me. So I'm hitting my face trying to wake up. We're kind of laughing and I don't really know what I'm doing. Follow it up. I want to say I shot 73 or 75, but three days later we made one of the biggest comebacks ever. Davis and I won the World Cup, but that's just another story. I've been playing a lot with Davis. I was just an assistant for him, so I thought I'd throw this story out there with Davis and I.

VO > What a team. Couples and Love won four consecutive World Cup of golf titles, beginning with that 1992 victory in Madrid, Spain. And they remain a power pair. And that'll do it for this week's learning center. I’m Vinci Cellini. And we'll see you in the playoffs.