**PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW 25**

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > Fall colors blanket the Richmond, Virginia, area, serving as a backdrop for the first PGA Tour Champions playoff event, the Dominion Energy Charity Classic at the Country Club of Virginia.

OC > Hello and welcome to Learning Center. I'm Vince Cellini. Well, the playoffs are a three-event sprint, and we had a full throttle race on the James River course where the average winning score over the last six playing has been 15 under par. So what about this year? Let's go to George Savaricas and World Golf Hall of Famer Lanny Watkins for a recap, including winning moments presented by golf pass.

VO > About the start we had to the Schwab Cup playoffs. First stop Richmond Virginia Virginia the Dominion Energy Charity Classic. We were wondering. All right. Steven Alker had the Schwab Cup points lead coming into this week. How would he fare at the Country Club of Virginia? I'm George Savaricas with World Golf Hall of Famer, Lanny Watkins. The highlights Alker On the 10th.

VO > Beautiful shot into the 10th and this is center cut and all of a sudden Steven Alker is feeling it.

VO > Quite the finishing kick from Steven Alker on 15 for Birdie.

VO > He had a beautiful wedge in here and they controlled the pace down the slope. Again good touch by Stephen Alker.

VO > Ahead on 16, Lanny said how important this birdie putt was for Alker.

VO > He was away. He had the but the other two were coming in. Watch it. He buries it. Take that, boys.

VO > Alker will take the lead at that point and wouldn't let up.

VO > Maybe the most solid strike of an iron all day by anyone that we saw. Nobody had gotten around this hole near this hole location at 224. Just a huge shot. Great play by Alker there at 17.

VO > And you got to pay it off after birdieing 15 and 16 to make it three in a row.

VO > Yeah. This takes care of business right here. Watch this, goes in, perfect pace just over the front edge. Alker at 14 under. At that point, Alker just needed to par the 18th to win by one. That is his fourth victory this season on the PGA Tour Champions. Tied with Steve Stricker for the lead, the final leaderboard. Alker With that one shot win over K.J. Choi, Padraig Harrington, Jerry Kelley, who were in that final group, have a share of third at 12 under par. Joined by Doug Barron Alker, now with a sizable advantage in those Schwab Cup points standings. Remember the all-important number this week as well. Went from 72 to only 54 make it to the TimberTech Championship. That's the second leg of the Schwab Cup playoff. Scott McCarron, the last man in.

VO > Yeah, right on the buzz bubble in a good spot for the Harris fundraiser who has no status looking to move up even more in the next event.

VO > But it is Steven Alker with a state big victory in Richmond, Virginia. Impressive stuff.

OC > Thank you, George. Steven Alker's remarkable season continues. Joining this tour with no status, now four wins, winning the first playoff event, padding your Charles Schwab Cup points lead. How did you get here?

OC > just a culmination of everything, Vince. Just hard work, guys. Supporting the family. Yeah, you know, just. Just small things. Big things, you know? And I think the biggest thing, Vince was just, like, wanting to play out here with these guys. You know, talked to a bunch of guys before, come out and just pick their brains. And it sounds like a lot of fun, and it has been great.

VO > Yeah. Part of your success this year is being able to lean on the putter, and you did that down the stretch with those birdies, the three great 15, 16 and 17. How comforting is that in a big situation?

VO > Yeah, it's huge. And especially the Greens, we put it this way to so good. And yeah, that was this one thing I've been working really hard on the last like three or four weeks, just really kind of just trying to soften things up, make it, make it to where I'm just really comfortable over the ball and just just start bowling it.

VO > Yeah. Well, one of the things for you is not really having a historic attachment to a lot of these players, whether they're World Golf, Hall of Famers or whatever. Does that work in your favor, just being able to play your game without any history?

VO OC > Yeah, maybe a little bit. I mean, I got to know the guys a little bit and they're all rooting for you. That's that's the great thing about this tour. You know, it's just a little bit more laid back and and guys are rooting for you like Jerry today were chatting on the way around and he couldn't have been happier. So yeah, it's I'm just having a great time Vince.

OC > It's been so much fun to watch you. How much are you looking forward to going to Boca and TimberTech and trying to keep this going?

OC > Yeah. Yeah. Well, I'm defending Champ. You know, it's always nice to go back to a place it's not the same golf course, but to go to a tournament and say, Yeah, I'm defending champ. You know, there might be some stuff, media stuff to do, but I'm just going to still got a job to do with two events. Long way to go. So just keep keep trucking.

VO > All right. Couldn't have it to a nicer player. Thank you. Thanks to the Schwab Cup standings shake out this way. Al Gore again on top with Harrington at two. Stricker was Idol. He's third then Jerry Kelly and Miguel Angel Jimenez at five. The top seven go unchanged. The double points in playoff competition made things fun. As for the Bubble Boys, Scott McCarron, a Past Schwab Cup champion, was in, out and back in on the number at 54. Harrison Fraser finish strong to reach 53. But one of the outsiders is David Bradshaw, whose bogey at the last set him dropping to 55. It was part frustration, part relief for survivors.

OC VO > That Birdie, I guess, took me from 54th to 53rd. You know that scoreboards right there flashing and I saw them go to projected and I did not want to look. I looked down I did not want to know where it was, When that putt went in, my my caddie told me it looked like I just moved up a spot. So, yeah, it's it's I'm too old for this, so.

OC > Season for me was just coming back after the surgery. I wasn't quite ready to play, but I tried to play through it and didn't play very well at all this year. In the last month or so, it's starting to feel pretty good and start to feel a little better. My father passed away this year. You know, it's just been a tough year, has not been a lot of fun the whole time. So I couldn't play Canada. You know, some events that I really enjoy playing, I wasn't able to go up there, you know, those type of things, you know, make a difference coming down the stretch.

VO > Next up, find out how Steven Volker's career could have dramatically changed if not for one fateful week nine years ago. He shares that story with us. And actor and comedian Anthony Anderson joins the show and explains why he's afraid of nine irons. Stay with us.

VO > The second of three playoff events begins next week in Boca Raton, Florida. It's the TimerTech championship, but it will be played at Royal Palm Yacht and Country Club because the event's longtime host Broken Sounds Old course is undergoing renovations.

VO > Let's look back at some recent winners of the timber check starting in 2017. Scott McCarron won with an eagle at 18 for his third career win. In 2018, Mark Calcavecchia won in wire to wire fashion by two strokes for his fourth career win and what currently stands as his most recent victory. Three years ago, Bernhard Langer fired a bogey free final round 65 to win by five strokes. His 19 under 197 total remains a tournament record. Darren Clarke won in 2020, although the event was not a part of the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs. It was Clarke's first career win on the Senior Circuit.

VO > Last year in Boca Raton, Steven Alker broke through to win for the first time. With the victory, the New Zealand native earned full playing privileges on tour. He's gone on to add three more wins this season. But career highs like this almost never happen as Steven and his wife Tonya share with us. One week, nine years ago changed everything.

OC VO > Due to 2013, 13 years ago. That was a pretty big tournament and it was a very big tournament indeed. I tell the story because she's going to cry, probably suck. But you'll remember 13 because 2010 had been a rough year. I mean, I think we talked about the 21 missed cuts and all that stuff in one year and then. But 11 and 12 were pretty lame too. Just trying to keep my card, keep going. But what did I have like two or three tournaments left and yeah, 13. On the Korn Ferry Tour and I, you know, was like my card up. I wasn't secure.

OC > About 27th on the money list.

OC VO >Yeah, I was, you know, and then I won Utah and you know, it was it was, you know, it changed things obviously at the time. But we're on the we're at the point where we were like, well, if this doesn't happen this year, we're we're moving somewhere else. We're doing something different or I'm playing somewhere else. I don't know where it was just we were so up in the air. It was just.

VO > We were looking at crunch time having to go to which continent I can work obviously in the UK and Steven can work in New Zealand, but we don't actually have reciprocal rights. So we didn't instantly to go into each other's countries. So we literally were where are we going to go? And there was it was like three weeks left. We came to he he qualified for the British Open the previous year. We planned to go back and try and do the same. But we weren't in this situation could

VO > I’d take it.

VO > So we then he said, let's, let's do this road trip. And we drove up to Utah and.

VO > The rest is history.

VO OC > Life changed. Life changed in a phenomenally marvelous way. We had insurance hurray.

OC > But she's my rock. She's my rock.

OC > Like. So we make it work. We're a team. And I'm so grateful.

OC > Team Alker. That is what is on my bag team Alker.

VO > Team Alker has been on quite a run in his last 21 starts, Steven has won four times, finished runner up four times and has a total of 16 top ten finishes. Simply remarkable play for a man who had no PGA Tour champion status when he turned 50 last July. Celebrities and golf go hand in hand. And so, too, with Anthony Anderson, a long time star of film and television. Anderson is a regular on the celeb circuit and was on hand at the Club Cork Classic earlier this year in Dallas. While there, I sat down with the Emmy nominated actor and we spoke about his career is difficult upbringing and his love for the game of golf.

OC > Please do spend time with Anthony Anderson, star film and television, most recently Blackish, which had a successful run. And now we say goodbye to that. And I guess let's let's start there. So you're kind of moving on past that, but you never really move on because it's family.

OC > Yeah. No, it's family, man. We had a nice little eight year run in the climate of broadcast television right now. That is truly an accomplishment. So I am happy for the work that we did for the last eight years on ABC.

OC > Yeah, well, now you can concentrate more fully on the game of golf, which I know you love. VO > Yes.

OC > And I know when I first saw you and we talked about this was at the Bob Hope Classic many years ago, you were just taking up the game, but you were working so hard to get better. And that showed me the passion that you have for it.

OC VO > Well, as I said to you earlier, before the cameras were rolling, I was working so hard at the wrong things. Now I'm working smarter. I figured out the error of my ways. But yeah, a game that I'm passionate about and that I love playing, no matter where I am. I take a set of clubs with me wherever I go, when I travel, whether I have a tee time or not, because you never know when you might get that call or where you might get that urge to just go play.

VO OC > What is it about the game that grabbed you and has held on to you?

OC VO > It's a game that you're playing against yourself and the course. And I just love the game that, you know, you call penalties on yourself because that's the only way you're going to get better. You know, the handicap system is an equalizing system where it makes the game fair for whoever you're playing against no matter what skill level you're at. And that's what I enjoy.

OC > You know, it's interesting. You're born in Compton, California, and you think about your life and where it's taking you. And it's been a pretty interesting journey, hasn't it? Including now. Now golf has all your successes.

VO OC > Yeah, it has. It has. You know, that's why on Instagram, my hashtag is just a kid from Compton. You know, I was just a kid with a dream. I get to live my dream every day doing what I do and doing what I love to do. And I've got to meet some interesting people kings, queens, presidents and have traveled the world and oh, can't forget some princes. So it's pretty amazing growing up in Compton to to be where I am today, sitting here having a conversation with you about golf. Honestly, if I if I saw somebody with a golf club growing up in my neighborhood, I ran the other way. Nothing good was about to happen if I saw somebody with a 9 iron. But there were no golf courses in Compton, Vince.

OC > So maybe use for other purpose.

OC > Yeah. If you saw somebody with a nine iron walking down your street and got he's like, what are really going on? What is here about it too?

OC > But the great part too is that you've been able to use golf to give back to some foundations that I know are close to your heart too. To help make a difference healthwise for people.

Oc > Yeah, that that too. You know, it's it's no secret that I'm a type two diabetic. You know, I have my own foundation, the Anderson Family Foundation, and we've had a successful golf tournament for the last four years that that's raised, uh, in excess of two and a half million dollars for various charities children's hospital, diabetes, little grassroots organizations in the inner city, in Compton, in South Los Angeles. So I'm happy with the work that we're doing with my foundation.

OC > And lastly, where is your game right now? How's your game? Game is pretty nonexistent, but that doesn't stop me from playing, you know?

OC VO > You know, I film eight and a half months out of the year and this is my time to play golf now, from from now until early July. So I try to get as much as I can in and this is when I get good and as soon as I get good, the director yells, Action. Yeah, that takes me out of action.

OC > Well, you know, golf game aside, your big games always strong, I think. Always strong.

OC > Thank you.

OC > One of the strongest in the business. I appreciate that, Vince. It's great seeing you.

OC > Always a pleasure, my friend.

OC > Thank you for the talk. You got it.

VO > From one movie star to another, is a John Daley movie coming to a theater. Near you. JD provides the latest information. Plus, master storyteller Fred Couples is back to explain an unusual sleeping arrangement.

VO > We have long considered John Daly's life to be like a country song. Well, how about a movie? Actor Jonah Hill is reportedly set to produce and star in a biopic about Daly's extraordinary life. A production team is being assembled and the film is currently said to be in the script writing phase. Golf's unique bad boy is still living that life on PGA Tour champions, but the two time major champion may have packed in two lives in his 56 years. Last week, John spoke about the report.

OC > We think that was kind of a leak. We've been working on it for almost two years now and we thought we had it. But there's some things we've got to work out. So I don't know if that was a leak or I think it was a leak So we're still working on it, but hopefully soon we'll get something done.

VO > Do you are you in favor of Jonah Hill playing you.

OC VO > He wants it really bad and the way me and him in fluctuated with weight in our lives. And no disrespect to him because I love him. I love him as an actor, but I'm sure I'm I love him as a friend, too. If we get this job but he wants it bad and I think he'd be great. I'm going to have to get him on the driving range and see how far he can take the club back. And if he can do that, then he's all set.

VO > Speaking of film, Fred Couples, who had a cameo in the movie Tin Cup, scripted this end to his 2022 season with a career low round of 60 in the SAS championship going on to win for the first time in five years. Couples had Steve Flesch’s son Griffin on the bag that week. He's had a variety of caddies look for him over his outstanding career, including Casey Kerr, who provided couples with an interesting sleeping arrangement. As you'll hear in this week's Couples Chronicles. But let's go back.

VO OC > So we all know I had Joe LaCava for 22 years and then in Joe Caddy for me one year on the Champions Tour, he saw what this is all about. And then he went on to caddie for Dustin Johnson a little bit and Tiger Woods. So we all know that story. Who did I have after that? I had a guy, Casey Kerr, one of the greatest guys out here.

VO > We hit it off. I never thought he'd be a great caddie for me just because he's kind of antsy. But he was maybe one of the better caddies getting me to and from the golf course. When I say that, I mean, he had this van. I think he's got 400,000 miles on it. But for instance, if we were playing this week and we were going 5 hours drive, I'd hop in the back of his van.

OC VO > I would just lay on mattress, I'd lay down and sleep, I'd wake up and we'd be there. And other things he's done was because his van runs so well, he'd get the oil change. I actually sat with him three or four or five times changing his oil because that was part of his life. That was his go to Monday thing is to get his oil changed.

VO > Just a little more insight into what it's been like to be Fred Couples. The PGA Tour Champions drives on to the second stop of the playoffs next week. And Learning Center will be there as the season comes nearer to the finish line. And that will do it for this week. I'm Vince Cellini. As always, we thank you for watching.