**PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW 27**

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > A season long points race on PGA Tour. Champions came down to a final week duel in the Arizona Sun. What a finish off the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. Padraig Harrington made this a two man race with a play on full court press all the way to a record setting performance at Phoenix Country Club. Harrington fired a blistering 62 65 over the weekend to capture the championship, shattering the tournament record with a 27 under par total. A win was the only way he could take the Charles Schwab Cup from Points leader Steven Alker. But despite that amazing performance by Harrington, Alker stood his ground. A Monday qualifier in 2021. Alker needed a top five finish to earn the Schwab Cup and got it, grabbing a solo third with his 19 under par total. Alker authored a fairy tale story to the top of PGA Tour champions. George Savaricas and Lanny Wadkins. Now, with the winning moment.

VO > Now given George Savaricas World Golf Hall of Famer Lanny Wadkins, it's fear. We're wondering at all would Padraig Harrington let up in this final round. At birdie the first.

VO > Yeah headed to putt birdie at the first after an excellent iron shot an even better iron shot at the par 4/3 just great start for Harrington.

VO > Let's head to the back side. Padraig Harrington, 24 under at this point playing 12.

VO > Yeah been leading all day. Very comfortable. Nobody really coming after him and he's staying aggressive. Good shot here too. About four feet as the 12th.

VO > Padraig leading in a big way. Here's where we started thinking, hey, maybe a record could be broken today.

VO > Well, just trying to stay in front. Good putt here from 45. Wonderful pace and it finds the bottom.

VO > Padraig Harrington to 26 under par and it wasn't done yet.

VO > No, just a so-so wedge shot in here at 16. But the putts beautiful dead center again and again perfect pace.

VO > That was so pure. Stephen Alker, just need a top five finish this week at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship to win the season long Charles Schwab Cup, capping off a dream season. Padraig Harrington setting a new 72 hole PGA Tour champion scoring record 257 27 under for the week and winning the Charles Schwab Cup Championship Post Guys with four wins this season Steven Alker winning the season long hardware Padraig Harrington record setting fashion in the Arizona desert at 27 under par. Alex Cejka solid final round. He gets solo second his best finish this season on the PGA Tour champions. Congratulations to Steven Alker what a run and what a year. Now let's send it back to Vince.

VO > Thank you, gentlemen. Here are the final numbers in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. Alker on top, Harrington with a tremendous run down the stretch for second. Followed by Jerry Kelly, Steve Stricker and in the end, Miguel Angel Jimenez bumping Bernhard Langer for fifth. More now with Schwab Cup champion Steven Alker.

OC > Yeah, amazing. You know, honestly really just having friends and family and your support here this week has been amazing. So yeah, just trying to oh, come on out. It'll come out tomorrow some time but yeah amazing. And just playing with Padraig today was kind of difficult because do I chase him, do I protect, I'm just trying to play my game as good as I could, so. But he played amazing and just glad to be champion.

VO > I think you kind of laughed at me. Oh, no, no, no. That's early. Yes. No, sir.

VO > Then we'll get each other. And that's what you did. What was that.

OC > It was just a okay. It’s done. Let's let's go to number two. Let's, let's get going. And it was just a okay, you know, magnified. Let’s go and it was just kind of and after that I was I was like, you know, I played pretty solid, but, yeah, it was just one of those moments like, okay, we've got number one done and we're okay.

VO > Was there nerve?

OC VO > A little bit. You know, especially, you know, as I said, you know, just trying to chase and win the tournament, but trying to win the Schwab cup as well. So there was all these scenarios and and you know, what what ifs and so it's just it was hard to keep focus on on me and what I was doing so but it just played close to the finish. I did a couple of birdies the last five there so was good.

VO > When did it start Paddy could win the Schwab Cup?

OC > Well, there's still five in it with Thru 11 and then 12 he birdie, you know, I bogeyed. So it was kind of all over. So I think I asked Sam coming up 17 or 16, if we're okay, you know, so I got the thumbs up, so we're all good. So

VO > Did you have any specific goals coming into this year? Did you perform week?

VO > Just give myself as many chances as I could to win golf tournaments, win a major, which I did and that was really cool, you know. And then it's time of the year. It's kind of hard to go, Well, yeah, I'm going to focus on the Schwab Cup and it's it's a long year. So it started being one of my goals kind of during the year and it worked out.

VO > You started playing at St Andrew's and did you imagine that.

OC > No not at 50, you know, I've been a rookie at 50 and then flying out here with these guys pretty special.

VO > What what did it take. To go from there to. where you are now?

VO OC > I've played everywhere. I've played everywhere. And I think that kind of helped today in a way, you know, just playing PGA Tour and Australasia and Asia and Korn Ferry and just yeah, I mean, I've played everywhere. So it's been it's been amazing journey and just to be here and have this opportunity has been my amazing.

VO > Hey Steve the calmness and the coolness you have shown here tonight it's like you did all year long how does it feel to be doing in front of your family here in Phoenix? How special?

OC VO > Yeah, so cool, so cool I mean, I can't emphasize enough how much support I've had and it's, it's special to see it and do it and have them here. That's that's the coolest that’s the greatest.

VO > It's great.

VO > How are you going to celebrate?

OC VO > I like red wine, you know. Yeah, I don't want to mix drinks tonight that’s not a good idea, but you will have a couple or it was probably sink in a bit more tomorrow but yeah this is neat so cool.

VO > Alker was sensational in 2022, posting four wins in his first full season on PGA Tour champions, also four times a runner up and 18 top tens. In 23 events, the New Zealand native was rewarded for an incredibly consistent performance week after week. A four time winner on the Korn Ferry Tour, that's where he kept his game and his competitive edge sharp before this year's breakthrough, Harrington made this a thrilling chase. Given his season long and final week performances. A sizzling Saturday 62 in Phoenix and a fourth victory his overall body of work quite impressive. But more than this, he has been a sensational spokesman for this tour in his first full season. Here are Patrick's final thoughts on the week.

VO > Shot 27 under matching the lowest ever on PGA Tour champions. Talk us through that.

OC > Yeah, that's I didn't realize that. Hey, it's nice to hold the record with Jack Nicklaus. I believe he's done it as well. So I'm kind of glad I didn't beat him.

VO > And then winning the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. What does that mean?

VO OC >I it's very nice to come here under pressure. You know, I came into this event knowing I had to win to give myself a chance in the Charles Schwab Cup. So, you know, that brings a certain amount of stress and focus and to go out and win the tournament from that position that I'm happy about that that brings a bit of confidence going forward there. It's nice to win for a fourth time during the year. There have been several of us have won four times. So yeah it caps off a great year.

VO > What is it about this course, that sort of suits your game?

OC VO > It just. You know, it's not huge. There's only a couple of holes with a lot of holes with 300 yard carries and bunkers. So the player or the players have to go around that I can carry it. So I'm I've got an advantage after today I can use here. I, you know, I feel comfortable on the course. I did a lot of work on Tuesday and Wednesday to get good in the Greens and, and I put it well off the back of that. So you know both sides have it just a bit of momentum during the week from good things happening but also a golf course that that sets up well to my eye..

VO> How unique is an event like this when two guys are able to walk away winners?

VO OC > At the start of the week I was very focused on the fact that I'm competing against Steve for that. The chance for I've come up and I'm trying to win the tournament and it just kind of got in the way. But by the end of the week he was playing so well. I kind of went out there today and said, Look, I focus on trying to win this event, do my own thing, play my own game. He looks like he's going to be the winner. And I'm not a person when I'm on the golf course. I hate watching my opposition and wishing the bad. I much prefer a rising tide lifts all ships. So, you know, I just didn't want to get involved in what Steve needed to do and just focused on what I needed to do. And is there I think we all played well the three days we played together and we both played well every day. Steve is probably in the same physical shape he is now as he was 20 years ago. He's probably hitting the ball every bit as far further than he did 20 years ago, so he is not at a disadvantage now. He would have been on the regular terms. He's always been a fine player. It's just, you know, it's tough on the regular tour. There's a lot of a lot of guys and you can't really afford to give up, you know, an advantage off the tee like Steve would have during his career. So, you know, coming out here, it's ideal and he's he's gained confidence here and kept himself in contention but he's a truly deserved winner this year because it's not like he's just come flash in the pan at the end of the year and won a couple of events and all of a sudden won the Schwab Cup. Pressure has been on him from right from the start of the year, all the way through. He had a lead. And, you know, several of us were catching him all year. So, you know, he very impressive day. He's not just held down, but he's won in style.

VO > Once again, Harrington's fourth win of the season came in record setting fashion. He finishes 27 under to break the 72 hole scoring record in Phoenix and tying the overall low 72 hole total on tour. In his first full season, Harrington scored a major and a Charles Schwab Cup Championship, also four times a runner up and 13 Top Ten's overall. Harrington devoted himself to success on this tour and certainly check that box. When PGA Tour Champions Learning Center returns. More with our Charles Schwab Cup champion. Steven Alker got loose and got busy in 22, bursting onto the scene and turning heads as he shares kind words from his admirers next.

VO > It's quite impressive, really. Steven Alker went from PGA Tour champions hopeful to its overall champion, and he did so this season by playing 71 competitive rounds and hitting just over 5000 shots, all while carrying the weight of Schwab Cup frontrunner. How does the 51 year old keep his body from breaking down? Well, it takes a little help. Find out one of the secrets to his success in this week's What's Your Edge?

OC > In and maybe just to work on the neck. It needs just kind of just a stretch I mean working together Tyson as a couple is now two years. Around two years. He's the man. Tyson just left like a pamphlet with the Outlaw tou, which is like a mini tour in Arizona. Play in it at the time, just trying to play golf. But I picked it up. I thought, Oh, I'll check him out. Googled with him. Okay. So if he's larger and it was just a and, you know, couple of years ago and he wasn't so extreme, just really, you know, in shape and doing stuff. So he's been great in his foot on stability and mobility and his it has been huge. So I feel as good now as I do back in general and the body's pretty much hasn't changed too much, you know. So I haven't lost since then, which is great.

OC VO > You know, he showed up and we started, you know, working together, you know, assessing his mobility and his his strength and kind of where he was at found some, you know, limitations in his movement and is, you know, what he was capable of. And so we we worked pretty hard on correcting, you know, his movement for for a next couple of months as he was getting ready.

OC Once when we started to know. it's a bit not in the sense that, you know, I didn’t move as well as I wanted but I had pretty solid quite had through the day quite a bit.

OC > Since not to match today's of torture it's more of just are good in nice easy stretch and crazy and.

OC > Some days some days was a little more tortured. I little see in the action range pretty good you know you see actually get open sot that’s not bad. You also have a fitness level as a through the ladder here you have that sort of.

OC > SO when you’re on your back.

OC > You know it's his work ethic that really is paying off, you know? You know, yeah, he has his range of motion has improved, his fitness has improved. You can tell out there he's you know, he is body's ready, body's in good shape, you know. But it's it's all, you know, because he he puts in the work, you know he does the workouts that ask if he does you know he puts in the time.

VO > 2022 was Alker’s first full season on PGA Tour champions, but his true coming out party came when he won the TimberTech Championship last year.

VO > Steven Alker a first time winner on the PGA Tour champions.

VO > That victory was part of a stretch of finishing in the top ten. Nine of his first ten starts on this tour, and he made the golf world take notice.

VO OC> I'm just trying to read the bloody thing. Yeah, there we go. As you saw, they are better than yours mate. Sorry, my man. I think I look better in these. And the Jack the Tiger Goat debate needed a third option. I'm probably not the right guy to ask. Greatest of all time not there. Has won more dollars in nine senior starts in his entire PGA Tour career. Yeah, pretty amazing. That was a that was a nice stretch and it was it was a pretty amazing ten events. Ssurprised myself a little bit there. Quite remarkable story for a guy who plugged away on various tours for so long. An awesome story for a wonderful bloke. Oh, thanks for saying I'm wonderful bloke, that's nice. Uh Oh, we going back to 2010 here. He played 21 Nationwide Korn Ferry Tour events and he missed 21 cuts. Yep. I remember those days. There are some I'm reading, you know, there are some 60’s in there and some seventies, not too many eighties though. So I kind of mean that. That was pretty bad actually. Golf magic dot com read the amazing story of Steven Alker, the newest star on the PGA Tour champions. Thank you all. I feel like a star. There are a lot more stars out there than than me. But I appreciate all the kind words. Thank you. Keeps getting more outlandish after Steven Alker won the TimberTech championship. Yeah, there was a pretty cool memory. First win on the Champions that have will be pretty special and have spent the past year making millions crushing on the Champions Tour, you know. Yeah, it's it's been an amazing journey. So all short journey, but one I've been waiting for for a long time, but it didn't happen without a lot of support. So thank you all. Appreciate it. I got I got my tongue hanging out. That’s a bad photo please don’t use that one.

VO > Coming up on Learning Center, the harrowing journey of John Huston, whose story of overcoming a near career ending condition will inspire you. And Tongchai Jaidee was cooking not only on the course, but for some 100 people who enjoyed a Thai feast, leaving hearts and stomachs full. That's all next.

VO > John Huston story is simply remarkable. The fact that he was playing at all, let alone in the playoff mix, was hard to believe, even for the 61 year old himself. Huston has recovered from two brain surgeries to control involuntary movements in his neck and head, which were not only affecting his game, but his everyday life. John explains his path back to golf success.

OC VO > That's what a John. At first it was just I couldn't see the ball. My head would turn too much. I couldn't see the ball. And then once I got the surgery and I had it turned up maybe too high and it would really affect my coordination. I had almost given up, but stuck with it. They drilled two holes in the top of your head and they put wire leads down in there. And then it runs down, and I've got a battery pack in my stomach. And it kind of blocks that. Signal that was making my head turn. Well, it was two different surgeries. So the first one was kind of surreal being awake for brain surgery.

But then, you know, the second one, I was pretty sore afterwards, but then after a few weeks, it was I felt pretty good. I stuck with it pretty good, which I can't believe I'm still playing. But, you know, there was definitely several times that I wanted to quit. Now I can. Now I can play a full schedule next year and hopefully my body holds up. It'll all depend on how I feel. You know, if I'm feeling good, then I will play a lot. But, you know, it'll just depend on what the body says.

VO > Just as a capper, Huston finished 17 in the Charles Schwab Cup Championship and 35th overall in the Points race. Quite a run for a player who thought his career might be over. Well done, John. Well done.

VO > Last week, ahead of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship, more than 100 people gathered for a dinner prepared by PGA Tour champions player Tongchai Jaidee and his family. It was a Thai food feast and reports are the meal was excellent. Here's Jaidee explaining the reason behind the idea.

OC> To cook enough for 100 people. We have spare ones. I want to prepare something one time in on The Tour. I want it to be a center my thai food be on Tour. You know, I know with I wanted to do something warm with all the people and players and caddies all together. Like a like a party. I think one time or two times a year, just have a good time because my buddy yesterday, I wanted to chip away and I want to do something to send all my country, my food. How to do my food, how to do it. How do you how do cooking. And then also is you're really happy to be here, you know, wholesome on the on the food on on The Tour. I think I think I want to the minute I want to do it for the new year, for next year, to to do the same thing maybe twice.

VO > Turns out that meal was our dessert. Another season has come to an end, but in two months it all starts again. The 2023 season will have 28 events in 20 states and three countries, as players will compete for $66 million in total prize money, the most in tour history. It all starts with the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai on January 19. And Learning Center will be there. I'm Vince Cellini. Thank you to our legendary players and, of course, to you for watching.