**2022 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER ROAD TO CHARLES SCHWAB CUP SHOW TRANSCRIPT**

VO>> Hello, everyone, and welcome to the road to the Schwab Cup Special. What a season it has been. And it all comes to an exciting conclusion this week in Phenix in the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. The playoffs started three weeks ago in Richmond, Virginia, with a Dominion Energy charity classic. The man who has been leading the Charles Schwab Cup standings for majority of the regular season added his overall margin. Steven Alker won for the fourth time. It was his 16th top ten in 21 starts this season. Alker was the defending champion in Boca Raton, Florida, for the Timbertech championship.

But it was the tour's living legend again raising the bar. 65-year-old Bernhard Langer extended his own record as the oldest winner on PGA Tour champions. He made it three career Timbertech championship titles and 44 career victories on this tour, one shy of the all-time mark. And now we are down to the finale. Classic Phoenix Country Club hosted the Charles Schwab Cup Championship for the sixth consecutive year. This is a 72-hole four round event with play beginning Thursday at 4 p.m. Eastern Time. And going into that first round, Steven Alker has a 600,000 plus points lead in the Charles Schwab Cup Point standings over Padraig Harrington. Points are doubled in the playoffs. Jerry Kelly moved up a spot to third, and Langer's win at the Timbertech Championship places him in the top five.

OC>> Joined now by the man who topped the standings, Steven Alker. He's part of a two-man race. It's come down to this. And basically, the cup is yours. Unless Padraig Harrington wins, and you finish outside the top five. So, you know, the formula is that good to have a target going in?

OC>> Yeah, it's nice to know where I stand. You know, what's going to happen this week? So, you know, if I don't have a chance to win it, I know the top five have something to shoot for. That's what I'm going for. You know, it's better than having to win. So, yeah, you know, it's a good position to be in. But yeah, I'd like to know for itself where I'm at. So, I know now which is good.

OC>> It is good. So, tell me about the layout. How comfortable are you here?

OC>> Yeah, it fits my eye nicely. I played well here last year. I had a second to Mickelson and we don't play old style courses very often. So, it's a nice fit. I love just playing all the older style golf courses going to be straight, you know, and the greens are going to be perfect this week, so it'll be good scoring.

OC/VO>> So given last year and the success you had last year, was that an indication to you that this year could be really a breakout season for you?

VO/OC>> Yeah, I think so. You know, just the biggest thing Vince was getting that comfortability factor just kind of in my environment, feeling a little more comfortable. And I kind of felt like I did that by the end of the last year. And then coming in this year, you know, you can never know what you've got when you come back after Christmas and all that sort of stuff. So, I got straight into it, you know, pretty quickly, you know, with a second. So, there was a nice start. So yeah, it was that feeling, that building that yeah.

OC>> So it made you anxious to come back and this year good things happen for sure. It's interesting going into this event. You have a dozen top three finishes, so that tells me that your game just travels. Why are you so comfortable in all of these PGA Tour champions layouts?

OC/VO>> You know, I think having played the Korn Ferry for as long as I did and the buildup coming in those last two or three years, courses, is reasonably similar. Playing against good competition. The young guys just kind of keep me sharp and kind of fit my all, you know, they just that 7000, 7000, 100 yards not seven, six, seven, seven, you know. So yeah, a lot of them have kind of suited my game a little bit. But, you know, one thing I'm proud of is my scoring this year Vince has been consistent, and I haven't really been searching for anything in my game, it's just kind of been there most weeks and just kind of carried on. Just get the putter rolling. I'll be I'll be good.

OC>> Yeah, that's been evident for sure. Have you heard from folks who said you've inspired them or try to keep them going and that you've given them hope that they can take a similar path?

OC>> Yeah, a little bit. A little bit. And not just pros, you know, older players as well. So, yeah, that's been that's been inspiring for me too, to know that, you know, I'm kind of inspiring someone else and that's been really cool.

OC>> Yeah, very cool. What would it mean to have your name on the Charles Schwab Cup with the likes of those players that are already there?

OC >> Yeah pretty special. I mean, you look at what Langer's done, you know, they're not easy to win but you know it's if you keep doing I keep doing the things that I I've been doing, you know, the chances are good. But it would be it would be so neat to get my name on there. That would be pretty cool.

OC>> I think we've talked about this before, but it's interesting to me that you don't really have a history with a lot of these players who are like World Golf Hall of Fame players and major champion winners. And to me as an outsider, it seems like that means there is never any scar tissue or never any history there. And I wonder how helpful that has been for you to just compete on this level, as, you know, clean slate?

OC/VO>> Yeah, I think it has been a big deal. If I look at all the things that kind of helped me get to where I am right now in this position is probably one of them because, you know, it's been getting you getting to know the guys, getting feeling comfortable in the environment and and it's been exciting. And I think that's the biggest thing. It's been exciting and fresh and I'm enjoying it.

OC>> Yeah. And I know the guys want to get fired up at you and mad at you, and you're such a good guy almost pulling for you.

OC>> Yeah. And the feedback and just the response, the guys and I've had a lot of help from the guys just getting, you know, encouragement and it's all been really positive. It's been super.

OC>> Well, listen, congratulations on the season and good luck this week for sure. Steven Alker, you heard from the player. Now let's hear from some of his peers talking about Steven

OC/VO>> Last year. I mean, he just started out kind of qualifying and then had a hard time finishing outside of the top ten. I think it might have once all, you know, the entire time. And, you know, I think it's fun to see good people have success, if that makes sense. And it's a great story. You know, Steven kind of reworked his whole career and kind of dug it out dirt. And, you know, now he's making the most of an opportunity and really has no weaknesses as far as eyes. Really good ball striker good short game makes good decisions I mean you can see it in his game he's as solid as they come but he's also a really nice person and I think that's lent him to our tour and guys are you know I guess you know if you mention his name and you mentioned what he's done and how he's gotten to this point, it has to put a smile on your face.

VO/OC>> I think the consensus is with Stephen Alker is where's he been all these years? The golf that he's played in the last year and a half has been absolutely phenomenal. I don't know if it rivals anyone that's played this tour previously, but it's week in, week out. If he's playing the event and he's in contention, his worst finishes are top tens. So, you know, I think we all maybe need to step up our games a little bit. He's playing great golf, but I think it's making everybody work a little bit harder.

OC/VO>> Steven has been amazing. I mean, it just his consistency is impressive, and he has the ball tremendously well. And You know, your desire and drive to keep doing what he's doing. Sometimes it's easy to get a little complacent and obviously that has not happened to him. And he's just so is, I would say, his drive and his in the way he strikes the ball in the two most impressive things.

OC>> Being out here you have to these kids I call them kids they're good. Alker is setting the standard you know. Bernhard set a standard. Alker is setting a huge standard this year. It's cool. It's really cool.

OC/VO>> Got a lot of confidence playing great from Tee to Green and he's got no weaknesses. Fairly long, he’s straight just had a phenomenal run there the last whatever it has been 16 months, 20 months. Quite amazing what he has done and my hat's off to him.

OC/VO>> I've known Steve in a long time. He's he's always been a pretty good player. I think he just got out here and realized that his game was good enough to to beat most everybody out here. He's obviously worked very hard. You know, once he got out here and realized that his game was where it needed to be, he just took off.

VO>> The road to the Schwab Cup special is just getting started. Coming up, one of the hardest working players on tour, Padraig Harrington, is all in on PGA Tour champions and shares his thoughts on his first full and very successful season. Plus, Jerry Kelly stops by for a lively chat on yet another terrific campaign. The story behind his story is on the way when we continue from learning center. Padraig Harrington won for the first time on PGA Tour champions in the US Senior Open. He held off Steve Stricker with a closing one over 72 to get his first professional win since the 2016 Portugal Masters. A span of five years, eight months for the three-time major champion. Harrington had three runner up finishes in five previous starts before his breakthrough victory. He joined this impressive list of international champions in the US Senior Open since 1995. Four starts removed from his first victory in the US Senior Open. Padraig won again, this time in the Dick's Sporting Goods Open. Harrington posted 16 under for a three round combined score of 200, his lowest total of his PGA Tour champions career.

He went one stroke lower to win for a third time, two events later in the Ascension Charity Classic. Each of his three wins on tour have come when Harrington competed in the final group.

OC>> It's always fun to sit with Padraig Harrington and I'll get to the scenario of the Charles Schwab Cup in just a moment. But first, I so admire your passion for this tour. What is it about it that that you so loved being out here for?

OC>> I just like being in contention, you know, trying to win tournaments where I would have been burnt out 2015, 16 type of thing. Certainly, radical a break with COVID. And I've kind of come out like wanting to play. I'm excited about playing. The fact that I'm pretty much in contention every week gives me, you know, it's a better place to be a contender. You know, if you play well on the PGA Tour and you finish 20th and somebody comes up and says, well, don't you? Like, you still weren't in contention. You still weren't really at the end of it that you're going to learn something about yourself. And your game was every week here, you know, you've got a chance and you know, you mess up sometimes you come through a lot of times and it's you just it's so much better for your, it's miserable at times, but it's so much better to be at the top end of the leaderboard and at least with a chance on Sunday.

OC>> There's no question and you know where you stand going into this finale, you must win and hope that Steven Alker finishes outside the top five. Is that a good thing to to know you have to do this accomplishment. I mean, and listen, going out there and say, hey, we'll just win, go win.

OC/VO>> Look, I've been trying to win anyway, so that's a good thing. I think the hard part is I can't manage Steve Alker, so I've no idea. You know, you said top five. I wasn't quite sure if it was six or seven at all, but I can't control his game, so I ain't going to play with him the first day. I still can't get involved in what he's doing. Can’t watch his shots with a view to What does it mean? I have to play my own game. The fact that 72 holes, I feel that's an advantage to me an extra day. I like the golf course. Obviously, I haven't played it before, but I do like the course. So yeah, look, this is what you want in a playoff. It's going to hopefully it'll come down to Sunday, not just this week. Hopefully going out on the boat. Myself and Steve would be in with a while. Steve is in without a shadow of a doubt. He's in with a chance, but hopefully I'll be in with a chance of playing well on Sunday. And winning it out right.

OC>> Now would be fantastic. And what does it say, Patty, about PGA Tour champions or maybe golf in general, that Alker can take this one path to get here, and you take a completely different path to get here and here you both are.

OC/VO>> Yeah. Look, I have this theory of professional golf. Everybody gets about two seasons, 18 months of of where they really peak at. And traditionally, it took ten, 12 years before you hit that peak. Your career lasted about 20 years. And I'm pretty much every pro fits into this profile. You might find an outlier. What we're seeing now with younger guys is they're having to 18 months at the very start of their career and it's very hard to live up to that peak as they go further into their career, with Steve.

Steve has always been a good player. I've known Steve for years and good, solid player, but physicality wise, he just wasn't long enough. Put him under a lot of pressure on the regular tours. But the fact is when he was in his late forties, he was still competing on the Korn Ferry. The guys who do well in the championship tour are guys who are still competing with the young guys into the late forties. The guys who come out here and struggle are the ones who have given the game up in their forties.

You just can't give it up for five years, eight years and expect to come back out here sharp. You've got to be pushing. And Steve Alker was pushing his game at that stage. He's come out here, he's on his Calderon. You know, he no doubt this is his peak performance of his career but he's very comfortable out here in is he's a decent lent he’s low in 160s or maybe even up to mid one sixties which is okay out here and he's comfortable and well you know so he found his place, you know, at this moment in time and he's just with Steve. All it is he's having his run a little bit later in life.

OC>> You've worked so hard on your game, and I know when you first came out here, you said I was doing things wrong, you had a bad input. What changed that allowed you to reset and be in contention?

OC/VO>> It takes a little bit to get used to the flow and the pace out here. There's no doubt. And the guys play well, and they score well and they keep going forward, you know, you know, some days you can go out there and it can be windy and six under lead and after the first round and you know you might be two under and you kind. I was six on the set, but they shoot another six under and, you know, they get to 15 under par pretty much. So, it's like Bernhard was 17 under par last week was phenomenal score. And so, yeah, the pace is different. You've got to keep going. You've got to keep your foot down; you've got to keep making birdies. And for me, I've got used to that. I found that some golf courses obviously suit me. Some might find a little bit tougher. It depends on, you know, different grass to suit as well, I think. I can't say I'm better with my wedge play than I have been, but I think mentally I'm just sharper and more ready for I go after a bit more. I take it on very much off the tee. That's my advantage. So, I'm not turning off the golf courses I'm trying to play with, like the guys who are shorter to me. I'm trying to play my game. I sort. So, if there's an opportunity, the only time I don't hit driver is when there's not an opportunity to hit.

OC>> You have great spirit. I wish you good luck this weekend. Congratulations on a great season.

OC>> I was going to say, you, you know, just 36 guys in this field, they're all out the golf course, all practice and mad work at work. They don't it's not there's a lot of work done out here in and I haven't done this in years. This is my year yardage book. This is the 18th green and that's all the slopes on the 18th green I've had putts on every green. Today I've gone around and hit putts to every old school. This is like what I would have done 20 years ago as a kid coming out on tour. I would have mapped the greens. Then we obviously got the green maps. Now we're not allowed green maps, so we're all back to it. We want to see the guys putting the time and effort in. We enjoy the competition.

OC/VO>> Well, I love the work. And you've always been a worker. Thanks, buddy. Appreciate it. Thank you very much. When the road to the Schwab Cup special continues, the unique perspective of one of the tour's most entertaining players, Jerry Kelly, racked up more victories on this tour in 2022.

He'll dial in with us next. Stay with us. Jerry Kelly's first of three wins this season came in the principal charity classic, the first week of June. With the win, it marked his fifth consecutive season with at least one victory since joining PGA Tour champions. Kelly's next win came in a major way at Firestone Country Club's south course in the Colleague Companies Championship. He joined Arnold Palmer, Dave Stockman, Raymond Floyd and Bernhard Langer as players to win this prestigious title twice or more in a career.

Two starts later, Kelly took his game north of the border and won the short charity classic in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. 54 holes were not enough. Kelly defeated John Houston in a playoff to improve his career playoff record to three and one. Always good to spend time with Jerry Kelly and Jerry outstanding campaign by any measure. But you and a lot of guys ran into the New Zealand buzzsaw I guess this year, right?

OC>> You know, I always say I love my year, I'm very happy with it. But it wasn't extremely consistent. It was very spotty at times. But that's been my whole career. Then you run into a guy like Langer. You run into a guy like Alker. They're not taking any weeks off from great golf. And it's a testament to what they've done that there's this kind of lead.

OC/VO>> Yeah. But to watch you methodically move up, you're in double digit wins. Now on this tour. You picked up a major again this year. And I'm just wondering what this tour has really meant for you as you're in this mix all the time?

OC>> Well. I think one of the main keys is that when I turned about 42 and I was still going strong on the PGA Tour, I kept on playing a lot of tournaments. I wanted to amass enough career money to be exempt out here for a long time because I knew I wanted to come out here and play, and then I was able to play all the way up until 50. Even when I turned 50, I was still exempt, and I chose to play here more. I think that was that was a big point in my mindset to know, hey, I've done that, you know, been there. It was it was fun. It was great. Let the young kids have it. I want to see what I can do out here now. And it's that kind of commitment that you have to have out here, because if you're waving back and forth, it's awful tough against this competition.

OC>> That's the way they make a living out here for sure. You talked about your game and consistency, but what aspect of your game do you feel is maybe as good or better than it's been and what maybe do might get loose at times?

OC/VO>> Hey, you know, I've just I have to stay in my lane, not search for that extra 20 yards and just get the ball in the fairway. I have to know my game. Stay in your lane, bro. But, you know, the short game has continually gotten better. When I go home, I take a short game day. And I never used to do that. I used to grind out the swing. Grind out the swing. And, you know, my swing is what it is. And it is basically based off of health that week and, you know, dance with the dates you brought, basically.

But you can always keep improving and getting better with that short game. I know a lot of people don't like the way I putt, but I know I'm a great putter. And, you know, if I can keep that mentality and just get the ball in the hole and not really care how much I lose, it's okay.

VO/OC>> I'm going to get to that in a minute. But you have a great sense of self. That's true. And I think, though, you know, given your track record here, when you're right, you're as good as anybody out here. So, your goals have to be very high as they are each and every year, right?

OC>> Absolutely. I mean, I, I wouldn't come to a tournament if I didn't think I could win that tournament. I'm not I'm not coming just to show up and participate and beat the ball around. Yeah. I don't want any participation medals. I want I want to be holding that thing at the end. And that's what we play for. And it's, it's important to me to get more wins. I didn't get that many wins on the on the regular tour. So it's really important for me in assessing how I've done out here, you know, because, you know, I felt like I was lacking, you know, was lacking the majors, lacking, you know, the amount of wins that I thought I could have had.

But it's also funny, I remember the first Sports Illustrated article that came out, you know, that that anonymous that anonymous questionnaire. And I was ranked in the top three most overrated and underrated at the same time. So, to do it was like, what? What am I? You know, I've always been kind of an anomaly, but that was pretty funny. But that kind of sums up the career.

OC>> I think you're one of the most entertaining players out here, not because you're sitting here, but just each and every week. And I know at the end of last season, golf took a complete backseat because of his wife, Carol's health issues. And I wonder how comfortable you'd be just maybe sharing where she is right now and how much golf was your sanctuary, maybe for both of you at some point?

OC/VO>> It was, you know, that we were able to travel. She had to go through immunotherapy treatments, so she didn't have to do the chemo and the radiation because they thought it was contained within the kidney. Even though it was such a large mass, it was very scary, was very touch and go. So, I had to go through immunotherapy every three weeks. So, we'd always make the trip back and go through that and we'd like to go through it together. If I wasn't in the room, I'd be FaceTiming with her. So, I was in the room, and she'd set me up on her iPad right there. And but it's something that that we went through together and that that's a big key. She was always there for me in the golf. I wanted to make sure I was there for her going through this. And, you know, the doctor told us she was having a few side effects and the doctor told her, you know, you can I think we're going to suspend the treatments and we're like, is that good? Is that a good idea or what's going on? But then we realized we can really take it as a positive so that the doctor felt like she had gotten enough in her. That is going to care for her for, you know, a couple more years is what that drug does.

And, you know, hopefully kill any rogue cells that that happen to be in there, so they don't cluster anymore. So, but her six-month scans came right before Des Moines when I turned everything around. And that was why I turned things around. It was such a positive time. I get chills thinking about it now, such a positive time for us. We were so happy and knowing she's going to be around for a long time still that that put that outlook into the golf, and you know that three wins and the in the six tournaments or so right there is basically because of what we went through together and having the happiness of, you know, where things were, things are at night.

OC>> Well, I'm part of this journey and that is good news. Jerry, congratulations on another great season. I don't think you're underrated or overrated. I'm picking right where you need to be.

OC>> Stay in your lane bro.

VO>> Coming up on the road to the Schwab Cup special. Inside the mind of one of the great observers of the game, he is a swing master and never short of unvarnished opinion. Steve Flesh is on the way. Coming in at fifth in the Charles Schwab Cup Point standings following his win at the Timber Tech Championship is Bernhard Langer He has been nothing short of remarkable in his dedication to the game at age 65, still competing and more importantly, still winning 44 times on PGA Tour champions. Langer's longtime caddie Terry Holt spoke about what it has been like to be side by side with Langer for the past 15 years.

VO/OC>> For all of the years that I've caddied, I would often wish that my player had X or that my player had Y or Z. And Bernhard Langer has everything that Caddie would want in his player. Not only can he play, but he's a nice guy he's a great guy with it two. So, but it's the consistency that he's had season after season. I think the thing that he would like to have gotten a little more credit for is that he's won 13 out of 15 money titles on this tour.

Only six Schwab Cups for me does not represent the consistency that he's had over those years. Having the discipline to do and to check every box every single day. Nick Faldo said it five or six years ago. They said to him, how was it week after week, month after month, year after year? This guy's at the top. Bernhard Langer is at the top. How does he do it? He said it's the discipline. He has it. You know, everybody wants to win on Sunday, he says. But come Monday, you know, I want to wake up. I want to go have a nice breakfast. I want to get showered and cleaned up and I want to go down the gym and then I want to work on my short game, and I maybe want to do some work on my mental game.

This guy does it every single day. He checks every single box every single day, right from the first event in Hawaii. He’s the first on the tee on Monday morning and right to the final event. And it relentless is the one word relentless in his pursuit of improving his game, even at 65 years of age.

VO/OC>> On a cool overcast Sunday in September along the Pacific shore, the pure insurance championship was high drama right to the finish. Faced with a possible four-man playoff, lefty Steve Flesch drained a clutch birdie putt on the iconic 18th hole at Pebble Beach to score his second victory of the season. And I'm joined now by the man who is now the top lefty on this tour. Too soon?

OC>> Soon enough for me.

OC>> All right. Good. Steve Flesch is with us, a multi winner this year. And we just show some video of you playing and winning at Pebble. I love the strategy at the end, knowing yourself as a player, knowing exactly what you had to do there, that was exciting.

OC/VO>> It it really was the only strategy I had because the way I'd been hitting it all week, I, I kind of hit it that way all year. I didn't hit it great. But that weekend at land, I managed my game very well, but it just did nothing about the shot fit. And that was kind of the only way that I knew I won was going to stay in the hole. Because if I went ahead to try and squeeze it up on the green, didn’t pull it off. I'm out of the golf tournament. But I kept myself in the hole, kept myself in the tournament, hit a good wedge like a wedge game and been great all week. And then I made the putt. But it was the only strategy for me at the time because nothing else kind of fit, right.

OC>> Yeah, well, it was a great win. You know, you're brutally honest in real life, and I think about your golf game as well. It's unvarnished all the time. And I can ask you about anything and you'll tell me particularly I was talking about the new putting strategy that you implemented. I guess it was the end of last year? Let's talk about that a little bit, why you did that.

OC>> Out of necessity.

OC>> So it’s kind of Bryson like?

OC/VO>> Yeah. For the most part, it's less scientific than Bryson. I play by feel with 100% of my game. Everything has got to feel right. I might not look. Perfect fundamentally sound in everything I do, but it feels right to me. But the arm lock method just kind of made me more consistent. I've still had some weeks where I couldn't putt it in the ocean this year, but last year, especially the last half of the year, I was on a great run. I mean, I putted fantastic. And this year it's been very spotty. I can't pinpoint why. It just has been, but it's just been a good method for me and for me not to change putters over the last year and a half. That's a huge record. I mean, that's the longest I've ever used the putter. So but it's still on waivers. It's never too comfortable.

OC>> You know, I think most guys on tour would say that, you know, more about the swing and watching somebody and seeing what might be corrected or need to be corrected than just about anybody. Does that benefit you? How do you not overthink your own game? Or maybe sometimes you do. Does that creep in?

OC/VO>> It is one of my downfalls. I think it creates a lot of doubt in my game because I'm like, this works for him. Why can't this work for me? How I deliver the club might not be the same way as him, but especially equipment wise. I'm always fidgeting and tinkering with equipment and it's a hobby for me. I love it, but sometimes I change just because I hate to say I'm bored with what I have in my bag and not necessarily a good thing, but it keeps my mind fresh and keeps me in the game. So hey, it's work out sometimes. Sometimes it's backfired, but I don't really care. That's how I want to play. And it's kind of how I've always succeeded in playing golf since I was, you know, yay big. But it's, it's what adds interest and enjoyment to the game for me, so I just keep at it.

OC>> Yeah, that's who you are. What does this tour meant to you personally and professionally?

OC/VO>> But wow, it's been a, I hate to say a godsend for me, but it's been so fun after my my short foray into doing television there with, you know, Golf Channel and Fox. But my goal was always playing here when I turned 50. And it's just, man, it's fun. I'm back playing with all my buddies. We played fun golf courses in not necessarily big towns that are really that embrace us coming in and it's just good to be competitive. I think once you've played for a living that you don't lose that competitive drive and for me, I'm as competitive now and as hard on myself as I was when I played the tour. So, it's going to be a sad day for me when I have to walk away from it. But it's been a blast so far.

OC>> Hey, real quick, before I let you go, your son Griffin caddied for Fred Couples and they had amazing win Sunday 60 at the SAS championship. Griffin kind of was part of the story and I just wonder how proud you were of him and how much you enjoy that ride for him.

OC/VO>> You know, that was that was so fun. I granted I wish it was me and we got the win together. But I mean, I told Griff I was there behind the 18th green, and I gave him a hug. I said, Man, how cool is this? I said, Fred frickin couples, man. I said, you won on a Hall of Famer's bag. And I said, probably one of the all-time coolest guys ever to play this game. And more importantly, though, I deep down, I believe Fred tried extra hard that week because he had Griff on the bag. I mean, you know, its unfortunate circumstances kept his regular guy from caddying for him. And he asked Griff in the text message that we have with the three of us, hey, man, you want to to come work for me in North Carolina next week? And Griff basically said, Yeah, are you kidding me? You know, because that's how big an opportunity and just a fun a fun week it was going to be for him. And I think every part of that week lived up to Griffin expectations and hopes and to get the victory. You know, he's already got the bib frame and the flag framed and I it would have been great him caddying for me, but I think it meant the world to Griffin and what a fun time. And I told Griff, I said, honestly, I felt like I won too on Sunday because I saw the enjoyment in his in Griff space and, and Fred was great to him that week. So, man, what a memory he'll never, ever forget.

OC>> Fine, young man. Just like Pop. Thanks, Flesch.

OC>> Appreciate it.

VO>> Still ahead on the road to the Schwab Cup special, the 2023 schedule revealed, and there are exciting new places to see and do for our players. PGA Tour Champions. Bigger and better than ever. Once again, PGA Tour champions gave us a season to remember players with multiple wins, high drama and a journey across the continental United States, as well as the UK and Canada. It is truly where legends play and where age 50 isn't the finish line, but rather a new beginning. Here are several of the players assessing the 2022 campaign.

OC>> It's been a weird year for me in the sense that I when I played well, I really haven't been that competitive. It's been like, you know, the bottom of the top tens things, a lot of eights and whatever twelfths. But when I played poorly, it's been in a sense better instead of finishing 60th, I've finished 35th this year, my bad weeks, you know, whatever that is, you know. But I'm happy with the way I played. I just haven't taken advantage of my good play as much as I'd like. But you know, I don't know that you can expect that every time. And I'm getting. Older. Let's be honest.

OC>> I always like to be better. But yeah, overall, I think, you know, my goal every year is to be in that 36 when the year ends. So, I'll be there.

OC>> It's been okay. I haven't driven it as well as I like to this year, so. That just creates difficult second shots. So here at my stats this year, driving. Proximity to hole for second shots hasn't been good. So disappointing with that. But still we've got some results on the board. And you know, I think anytime you can get to Phoenix it's been a decent year.

OC/VO>> Tell me about a struggle for sure I think you know my first my first full season out here was really eight months and everything seemed to go really well. I don't think I had a finish outside of the top 20. You know, three wins, as you mentioned, had a lot of opportunities to win golf tournaments. It was fun to kind of get in the mix. And so, everything kind of went right for the first year and a half. This year it's been a bit of a struggle in spots, especially kind of early mid-part of the year. Towards the end of the year, I've started to have some pretty good finishes and playing a little bit better golf. But I really been struggling kind of with my ball striking. So as good as I hit it kind of last year, this year I just really haven't been hitting the ball as crisp and as straight as I would like to. And it's been reflected in some of my scores and finishes.

OC>> And now the man in command of the exciting schedule in 2023 PGA Tour champions President Miller Brady is spending time with us. And I see two words in describing it bigger and better, the schedule.

OC>> Well, we try to make it bigger and better every single year. Right. And so, if you look at where we're coming from 2022 into next year, we have one more event, but we're also planning for more prize money. So, it is bigger and better.

OC>> Yeah, a couple of the venues and we've talked about this a little bit, but going back to Coachella, the Coachella Valley, yeah.

OC/VO>> We're tremendously excited to get back to the Palm Springs area for the Champions Tour has been a long time since we've been there. Our players have wanted to go back for a long time. So, you know, marrying that up and being able to go back there, Mission Hills is going to be fantastic.

OC>> Great vibe, great history in that area. And what is returning to Morocco mean?

OC/VO>> Well, you know, we weren't able to go to Morocco past few years because of COVID. They missed it. We've missed them. So, we're going back. We're going to go to Dar Salaam and Rabat as opposed to being in Marrakech. But it's going to be another wonderful event for us.

OC>> Yeah, another reach reaching out across the globe for PGA Tour champions. What do players tell you? Miller that they most enjoy about this season and just in passing conversation.

OC/VO>> I think it says a few different things. One is the camaraderie. They're playing with the guys that they grew up playing with all along, but it's also very competitive. Their competitive juices still flow. They enjoy that. They enjoy getting in the hunt, but they leave it on the golf course because they're going to go and have a glass of wine with the fellow player afterwards or go to dinner. It just it's a comforting feeling for them.

OC>> Pretty good race here down the stretch when you say, I mean, do you have to be happy with how these things shook out?

OC>> Yeah, thrilled. I mean, we've had so many players win multiple events this year, but it has come down to the finale with Padraig Harrington having a chance. But Steven Alker's sort of been the guy all year.

OC>> So we love a little drama toward the end. We'll have a surprise finish probably. All right. Well, let's do it.

OC>> Let's do it.

OC>>All right. Congratulations on another big year.

OC>> Thank you.

OC/VO>> Thank you, Miller. More ahead on the road to the Schwab Cup, World Golf Hall of Fame member and voice of the tour, Lanny Wadkins, joins us to give us his observations on the tour. And the season's brightest star. From New Zealand to New Horizons. So how did we get to this point? The top 72 of the Charles Schwab Cup standings made it to Richmond, Virginia, for the first event of the playoffs. 18 players were eliminated, which meant a field of 54 competed in the Timber Test Championship. And now we are down to the final 36. One man walks away with the Charles Schwab Cup at the end of the week. World Golf Hall of Fame member Lanny Wadkins esteemed pretty much everything on PGA Tour champions. But Lanny, I wonder if you've seen what we've seen in 2022, and that is with the natural Steven Alker. This guy's come out of nowhere and taken number one by storm.

OC/VO>> Well, he really has. And it started about a year ago as he played his way into tournaments, you know, made his own mark, if you will, to get in. They kept finishing top ten to stay. And then he won at TimberTech a year ago to get into the championship and be exempt for the rest of the

year. And what he's done is is is incredible. It's not just the wins and the seconds is I want to say there's something like 15 top threes or top fives something ridiculous that he's done this year. I mean, every single tournament that he plays in, he's in the middle of it.

VO>> What do you see when you watch Steven Alker play? What do you see in his game?

VO/OC>> The main thing I see is where has he been? I mean, this is a really good golf swing. I love his setup, his set up, his beautiful hands are down. He gets the club up. He does everything textbook in his golf swing. I don't see anything any reason it should ever go awry. Putting can be suspect a little bit at times, but he makes a boatload of putts, so no real weaknesses or flaws that you really see in his game.

And you watch him play for about a week or two and you can understand why he's in the middle of every tournament.

VO>> Just super steady. And a guy who's really keeping pace with him and giving chase is Padraig Harrington. And to me, Lanny, Padre seems like the next guy on this tour to really can carry the banner of PGA Tour champions.

OC/VO>> Well, you talk about the yin and the yang just the opposite of Stephen Alker. Here's a guy who's won three majors. Borderline Hall of Famer. He may make it in down the road, and he is attacking in a different way. He's doing his version of Bryson DeChambeau, you know, hit as hard as he can. When you watch him in slomo, his left foot is completely off the ground. He hits it that hard, that his foot comes off the ground during the swing, but he finds a way to control it. His putting has been steady, his arm play. If he could tighten up his short arm play, I think he'd be unbeatable.

VO>> You know, there's such star power on this tour. You've got Jerry Kelly, Steve Stricker, Ernie Els, all these guys who really come aboard. And we've talked about this in the past, how the tour kind of replenishes itself, doesn't it, with this star power?

VO/OC>> Well, it really does. I mean, we've got a guy like Stewart Cink who's turning 50 next year. And so, we look for guys that have won majors to keep coming out here. They're all competitive. They want to keep playing. They don't want to just turn 50 and hang their clubs up and not play anymore. It's too ingrained in them as human beings and what they do. They want to be out here and being participating and in tournaments and be competitive. And this this tour gives them that chance and we all benefit from that.

VO>> So finally, Lanny, overall, just, you know, your thoughts on this year's run for the tour? Really a lot of different winners. We've had guys we know about, guys we kind of just met.

OC/VO>> But we've had like five guys win three times, you know, multiple times this year, five or six guys have won multiple events. And to me, that's outstanding. That just shows you that we've got a core group of guys that look for them to be involved every week. And then we get guys that are jumping and trying to get their slice of the pie and with purses going larger than they've ever gone in 23 Stewart Cink coming out, I think things are just going to get bigger and better.

VO>> Yeah, it's going. To be another great ride. Thank you, Lanny, so much.

VO>> You bet.

VO>> When we return, the man who redesigned Phoenix Country Club, Tom Lehman, joins us to share his strategy on the pivotal closing hole at Phenix Country Club, which once again could very well come into play. The 18th hole at the Phoenix Country Club is a par five that plays around 525 yards. It has historically been a birdie hole, providing one last chance for a player to post a number or win a title. Tom Lehman helped redesign the course in 2002 and takes us through what will be the final hole played this season.

OC/VO>> We're at the AT&T at the Phoenix Country Club, 527-yard par five players get to this tee and they have one last chance and it's a great chance to make something really good happen on this round of golf is a tee shot is everything. It's a tight tee shot, 305 to the far-left bunker. But those who can carry it 280 can hit it over the right bunker and have much more fairway to work with. So, a length is a big deal here, but more importantly, you got to get it straight as well. You hit it straight, you're setting yourself up for a possible three so you can see this is the space that the shorter hitters have to hit into between the bunker and the rough. It's a very narrow fairway keeping it short of this bunker here.

But this area in here is where the longer hitters can aim. They got 305 to this bunker. Then they've got this whole wide fairway about 35 or 40 yards across to hit two. So, a big advantage for the longer hitters, you know, and then they have this remaining. As you can see, it's an elevated green. There's water, right? There's water short. There is no room to miss to the right, you know, but there's plenty of recovery possible left. So, once you get to this point here with a shorter shot aiming at the left side of the green is the play. If you hit it in the left bunker. It's a pretty simple up and down. If you hit a good shot, you have a chance for a three. The only thing you can do, obviously, is miss it to the right, but under pressure, that's a tall order. You know that that water in the right is a is a magnet to golf balls. So, it becomes a very, very tough little shot with pressure on a Sunday afternoon. Here we are, the 18th green. Obviously, the water to the right is is a significant challenge of this whole anything has flown over to the right somewhere as wet, and you feel like a goofball because you have a mile left to miss. So, there's a little bit of rough that'll catch a ball that trickles off the green. But anything that's well right is wet. That's why you're going see more players aiming left over here in the left, you see you've got a couple of bunkers and you have the grandstands. So, anything that's hit left is either going to be in these bunkers or in the grandstands where you're dropping and chipping. So, expect to see players who can reach the green aiming at this left side of the green and have way more misses left and right. If you miss it to the right, you've really made a huge mental blunder. Everything to the left here is recoverable and gives you a great chance at Birdie.

VO>> And that will do it for the show. Another Charles Schwab Cup champion stepping forward. I'm Vince Cellini, and we thank you for joining us for another year alongside living legends of the Game.