**VO>>** Lebron James isn’t the only superstar battling father time. 65-year-old Bernard Langer again extended his record. Securing a third career Timbertech Championship with weekend rounds of 63 and 66. Langer posted a bogey free final round for a 17 under total and following this winning moment, made it 44 career victories on this tour. He's closing in on a mark some though would never be broken.

**VO>>** Langer's relentless pursuit of 45, has him one shy of the great Hale Irwin. The two have separated themselves from the pack of legends to have competed on the over 50 circuit. Our Phil Blackmare spoke with Langer following his ninth win of the state of Florida PGA Tour Championship and inching closer to history.

**OC>>** I said all along, it's unlikely it's turning out to be more possible, just one away.

 **VO>>** But I'm getting older and there's a lot of young guys like Padraig Harrington and Steve Alker and many others who hit it way past me. And it's- it's hard to beat these guys on a regular basis, but on certain courses and when my game is on, the putter's hot, I can still pull it off. So, we'll see what the future holds.

**VO>>** With the victory, Langer moves himself into the top five in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. Jerry Kelly climbed up to third, and Steven Alker, a T6 at Timber Tech, holds a 600,000 plus points lead on the man closest pursuit, Padraig Harrington and barring a collapse that looks to get Alker to the finish line and to the Charles Schwab Cup title.

**VO>>** Now for the finale and it comes as Phenix Country Club once again plays host to the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. Classic course, classic players. The opening round of this 72 hole event begins Thursday with coverage starting each day at 4 p.m. Eastern on GOLF Channel.

**OC>>** Hi and welcome to Learning Center. I'm Vince Cellini. 2022 was a memorable season filled with champions with whom we are familiar and some new faces who burst onto the scene to grab their share.

**VO>>**Over the next 30 minutes will delve into the brilliant minds of these players and find out their secrets to success. And maybe along the way, help your game. Who better to start with than the reigning Charles Schwab Cup Champion, Bernard Langer?

**OC>>**Thanks, Vince. And I'm here today to show you how to get it up and down from these runoff areas that we find so many on so many golf courses. One of the tricky parties in certain parts of America, we have a lot of grain and you can you can see it there. The grass is growing down the slope. And now and I'm chipping with with a wedge or sand wedge what you normally would do, you get that kind of the club gets stuck into the grain that the club doesn't slide through. So much safer shot than hitting a wedge and taking a chance would be try the putter, which works very well on most occasions. So if, say, you're here and the green is in to me. You have to hit it a little bit harder. But the ball gets on top of the grass and rolls fairly well because the putter has three or four degrees aloft and. You just hit a normal part. Try and get the speed ride and it's a very safe shot.

**OC>>** All right. You're not going to junket. You're not going to top it. You're going to get it on the green. And most of the time, you're going to get it really close for good up and down. The other option I would also recommend is if you have a hybrid, a two hybrid, three hybrid. This is 18 degrees of loft, like a putting stroke. Delofted slightly, my hands forward and it just put a smooth roll on that ball. You see how well the ball rolls on top of that grain, which is it's a very hard shot with a wedge and a sand wedge, lob wedge. And it's a simple shot with a hybrid or putter. And now to the 2019 Schwab Cup champion, Scott McCarron.

**OC>>** 18, at Pebble, one of the most iconic holes in golf. Oh, that's a good one. Thanks, Bernard. One of the things I'm looking for in swing speed and one things, a drill you can do is make sure your grip is really loose. So, the stronger I'm gripping on the club, the more tension I'm going to have on my shoulders in my arm. So, I want my grip to be fairly loose and I want to swing back with a big full turn and go as hard as I can. And the more I start swinging faster and faster, the more I can swing faster on the golf course. So, when I'm looking for when I'm looking at the Trackman, I'm looking for launch. I want about a 10 or 11 degree launch and I'm looking for anywhere from 2200 to 2500 RPM in spin. So, if I can get that launch and that spin and then lastly, I'm looking for ball speed. If I can get ball speed around 166 to 170 and I've got the right launch conditions, that's a good driver for me. So, let's go for some putting tips. Kevin Sutherland, your 2017 Schwab Cup Champion.

**OC>>** Thanks, Scott. I like to talk to you about lag putting. And one thing I've noticed playing in a lot of pro-ams and stuff is most and there's don't play enough break on putts that break over three feet. And one of the keys I really focus on when I'm reading my putt is I want to make sure the ball does not cross in front of the hole, realizing that when the ball crosses in front of goal, now it's just working away from the hole. So, I really focus on making sure this ball stays on the high side. I want this ball to either go in the hole obviously or go around the hole to the back side. You end up with a lot as happens. So, I'm looking at this putt, I really try to make sure I take a high line and see if I can do what I'm saying. And that's perfect. That's exactly what I want to do. I gave it a chance to make it. It goes around the high side. I got a foot and a half coming back. And now we're going to go to the man who's been leading the Schwab Cup the entire year, Steven Alker.

**OC>>** All right. Thanks, Kevin. Here we are, Pebble Beach, number seventh hole. Oh, beautiful backdrop here. But I'm going to give you a couple of bunker tips that hopefully will help your game. I'm in a pretty deep bunker here. I got my 58 degree and with bunkers. They're actually very easy. I'd rather be in a bunker than some heavy rough. So, the first thing I focus on and technique wise is make sure when I set up, I'm just a little bit open. So, my here’s my feet line and this is my target line, so I'm a little open to the target. Okay. And with the face been a little open, that's just going to compensate and offset that. Okay. The next thing is making sure the ball is reasonably well centered, maybe a little forward of center. But when I hit the ball, I'm- I'm taking the sand first. I'm using the bounce of the club. I'm never using the leading edge. I'm using the bounce. Okay, now I'm going to head maybe an inch behind, inch and a half. It's about standard. And when I come into the ball, the club is actually going to pass my hands. Okay. So, I'm going to it's almost like a scooping action. And that's the only way you can hit really good bunker shots, especially if you need to get it up quickly. Okay. So, I'm a little open to the my target and I'm just going to feel like the club is passing my hands as I hit it . Here we go. Yeah. That was really nice. So little open to my target. Make sure we take some sand first and use that bounce and let the club pass the hands. Okay. I hope that helps you guys. Now over to one of the straightest guys on tour, Jerry Kelly.

**OC>>** I'd much rather be leading the money list than the tour driving stats, but, you know, baby steps right now, if I can hit just a few more fairways, maybe I'll catch up to you. But I'm just trying to time that body in that club head up together. And I'm always working the ball with the fairway or with the wind or against the wind. I'm always trying to work something though. This one I'm going to work it against the wind a little bit. At least I know how that fairways.

**VO>>**When Learning Center continues. We'll hear from a couple of this year's major champions, Padraig Harrington with a tip to help you find the fairway off the tee. And Darren Clarke with a putting tip that will save you strokes.

**VO>>** The 2020-21 season was a great one for Darren Clarke, because it included 3 wins. But 2022, provided the Northern Irishman with his first senior major, and it came at the Senior Open as he navigated through a wet afternoon to capture jugs, both PGA Tour and PGA Tour Champions. When not competing, he has sand, not fairways under his feet. Earlier this year, Darren Clarke put down his fishing pole and gave us some golf tips from his home course in the Bahamas.

**OC>>** So we're on the 17th green here at Abaco Club in Winding Bay. And I'm just going to show you a little bit what I try and do in some of my long putts when I practice. We just so happen to be out on the golf course. But this is one of the drills that I do everywhere I go, to whatever week it is I'm to when I go on to new greens to try and find the speed of them. So, hitting a putt from here say this is what- maybe 45 feet down to the flag over there. So, what I'm trying to do is try and get a feel for that speed. And, you know, a good putt from here is, well, three or four feet. That's- that's a pretty, pretty good pop yet I see all the hammers that get really annoyed this maybe if they had it four feet short or five foot past or whatever, the speeds are inconsistent. So, what I try to do is I'm always taking my practice stroke, looking at the hole, thinking, okay, is that that's the length of the stroke that I'm trying to make. So, I'm picturing that ball rolling towards the hole, but I'm also feeling the length of my backstroke through. So that's what it takes to get the ball to the hole. And then I'll hit the putt, I'll hit the putt, keeping my eyes on the hole when I hit the putt. And that way it helps me try and get into my head the speed of the green quicker than anything else. This is a big double breaker. That's not a bad, but that's pretty decent. Decent. But I fancy myself to hold out from there. Obviously, I like it a little bit better, but I usually do this for three balls and I'm trying to get just a little bit better each time. So same thing. I'm trying to feel the length of the putt. Backstroke, through stroke. Line up. I'll keep my eyes on the hole on my target and make the stroke. That one. Yeah, it's a little bit better. So that one's a tap in. No worries, no pressure, no nothing. And then I'll hit the third one, and hopefully that'll be a little bit better than the first two. Not. Not quite, but not bad. But the whole thing was trying to get some feel. The whole process is by getting some feel, so I am looking at the target to see so many people that they're taking the practice strokes on their heads down here. So, what are you thinking about when your head's down here? You're thinking about technique all the time. And yes, there's technique, but also the other part of it is feel. And by looking at the whole looking at your target and rolling some balls, looking at your target, you're going to get a much better feel for the particular greens that you're on that week. And in the long term, nobody hits it inside ten feet all day long unless you're Tiger Woods. But nobody hits it inside ten feet all day long. So, you're going to have some long putts. And the better your feels, the more chance you've got of maybe possibly making the long one or walking or walking off with at

least two putts and not wasting one on the three putt.

**OC>>** So we're here in the 18th tee at the beautiful Abaco Club in Winding Bay. We got a par five ocean rocks, rubbish on the left, hazard bushes, everything on the right. So usually today there's not that much wind, but it can get very windy. So, this is one that you need to get in play as the 18th. Have you got a few bets on do whatever with your- with your mates got to hit the fairway so if I've got to hit the fairway a couple of things that I do. Obviously, I try and be a little bit more accurate with what I'm trying to do with the driver, how I'm going to play it. To do that, I'll hit a little bit lower than I normally would, so I won't hit it quite as far, but I'm trying to guarantee that got more chance of it into the fairway down there. So, a couple of things that I do. It's more like a knock down sort of driver, so I'll have my normal set up, but I'll try and take a little bit of a shorter back swing and a shorter follow through. So, what I feel is I've got less to go manipulation to go on with the club face so the ball should go that little bit shorter. I'm still hitting it reasonably hard, but I'm not moving way ahead of it to hit it lower, I'm just making sure that I turn on to it and make sure the ball is going this way. So, see if I can hit one here. So, it'll be a little bit more. It looks like a little bit more of a three-quarter swing. I'm trying to hit what I call a more like a little knock down driver. More like that. So, the ball says Low stays in play. I get up there and maybe take a few dollars off of me mates.

**OC>>** It's always a pleasure to spend time with Padraig Harrington, who now is going to give us a little driving tip here on this par four, 453 yards, a little bit of a dogleg left. So maybe take us through what your procedure is and some advice for our amateurs. Yeah, it is a dogleg left, but you don't need to play it like that. There's a bunker. It's 300 yards to the right-hand bunker. So, the safe shot is to play it as a straight hole. So that's coming up just short of 300 yards. It's going to be fine. So, for me, I'm just going to hit my low cut. If it turns, I know I'm getting around the corner, so but I'm not challenging the corner because that's the only place there is trouble. I'm trying to hit the low cut, but I know I can get away with a straight to a little draw as well. So, it shouldn't be too hard a shot as long as I don't take too much. So, to hit my cut, I'm going to prep it in my practice and then the swing at it, so I don't do anything when I'm hitting the golf. So, what I do in my practice I'm going to the low shot is more visual. I just I take it a little lower and I'm going to hit it low. But to actually hit the cut, I will exaggerate a few practice swings left like way exaggerated. Okay. And I've got the club face very open. Obviously, if I swing like that, I'd hit it, but then I just stand there and hit it. So, I want to be a little if I swing 45 degrees left, three times, surely there's going to be a couple of those degrees left in there when I go to hit. So it's as simple as that. A couple of left swings. And I just go hit it. Pick my target. See my parameters up there. A nice cut. Yeah, I did hit it too. Probably, yeah just short of the bunker.

**OC>>** It's just like you told us. Just like that. So, it's one thing to play. And it's so great to see you on PGA Tour champions in your first year. How much have you really embraced sort of the instruction of it as well? Because we had the videos on YouTube, and we love talking to you and are you getting something out of it?

**OC>>** Yeah, I like the coaching. I like coming out here even today in the Pro-Am and telling these guys, I play a couple of single figure golfers and I told them something on the green there that they hadn't heard of. And, you know, they're low handicappers. They're playing a game a, you know, 30 years and they didn't know a couple of little tips are pretty easy, you know, just about the color and the the broken part of the hole you know, I've put all this on YouTube, obviously, as well. So, it's I get a kick out of the fact that I'm telling- I'm a bit contrarian, you know, so I get a kick out of telling people something they didn't know and trying to change their opinion. And it's nice, you know, it's nice that you can, you know, especially with some of the tips, can be quite quick that it can help people improve without much effort. Obviously, there's lots of tips that take a bit of effort, but sometimes you can tell somebody something that you know, that they just didn't realize. And it really is. Yeah, well, thanks for getting back to them and us, Paddy. You're welcome. Always great to see you.

**OC>>** Thank you.

**VO>>** When we return, the Big Easy provides a simple to remember bunker tip. Ernie Els joins the show. That's next. So, stay with us.

**VO>>** Ernie Els ended his 2022 season with a tie for sixth in a Dominion Energy Charity Classic. It marked a run of 6 top tens in his final seven starts. While Els was winless in 2022, he shows no signs of slowing down heading into next year. Week in and week out, Els is one of the top ranked players and Greens in regulation, but when he misses a green, he has to know how to get up and down, including out of the sand.

**OC>>** Hello guys. We find ourselves in a bunker. I've got quite a long bunker shot. Yeah, I can’t really play that explosion shot. So, I'm going to take my 59-degree sand iron here and I'm going to play it on the back foot a little bit with a nice, weak grip. What the shot requires is to play down and through the ball and you want to catch that ball first. If you catch ball, if you don't catch it first, you know you're just going to he's not going to go anywhere. So, I grip down on the club a little bit, put it kind of in the middle back of my stance. Hands a little forward. And I want to play from the outside to the inside. We want to hit the ball on the way down from the outside to the inside. I feel like you're going to cut across the ball a little bit but make very sure that you catch the ball first and have a nice weak grip on that on the club and you're going to get some spin. It's going to come out low, is going to really spin nicely for you.

**VO>>** Another lesson from one of the best. That's what PGA Tour Champions Learning Center is all about.

**OC>>** Can you throw a kiss? Throw ‘em a kiss.

**VO>>** We reached the end and so has the season, the final event. The Charles Schwab Cup Championship begins Thursday at 4 p.m. EST on Golf Channel. I'm Vince Cellini and as always, thank you for watching.