***2023 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SEASON PREVIEW***

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > It's the most amazing greeting in sport, where golf meets a slice of Hawaiian heaven. For the 27th consecutive season, PGA Tour champions opens its season at Hualalai Golf Course on the big island of Hawaii. Sun fun, but make no mistake, elite competition.

OC > Hello and welcome to the 2023 PGA Tour Champion Season Preview. I'm Vince Cellini, coming to you from, well, from paradise. And after dazzling us last season on the over 50 tour, the legends are back. Step one, the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai. And we begin our show focusing on one particular player, Steven Alker, who enters after a life changing campaign. Alker is the reigning Charles Schwab Cup champion and his meteoric rise is out of nowhere story has captured the attention of his fellow players.

OC >I think everybody out here is like, dude, where have you been?

VO > But Stephen Alker is your Charles Schwab Cup champion.

OC VO > Some of the runs he's been on, I mean, some guys we've agreed they're kind of almost tiger esc like the guy just if he's in contention, he wins. And if it isn't, you know, a win, it's a top five. And it's remarkable because a lot of guys out here play a lot of good golf and he's just kind of run through us all.

OC VO > Yeah, he's been always a great player. Pretty quiet, you know, like a under achiever, like on the big stage at that moment, you know, a couple of years ago, it's finally paying off.

VO > I think Stephen's success has come with confidence.

VO > Pours it in Steven Alker Drop the line, drop the putter.

VO OC > It's not just teeing off, hoping you finish in the top 20. He's hoping he's going to win. You know, it's a huge difference and in a mentality. And he was on a roll and he was amazing. I mean, the birdies that you strung together, you know, five, six, seven in a row stuff, that's momentum.

VO > His fourth win this season.

OC VO > Steven's one of those guys that is kind of a quiet, reserved guy, but really a nice guy. And I think if you come out here, you're going to see folks root for him, you know, even other players kind of rotting for him. And you're happy for a guy like that that's worked so hard through his career and now he's seeing kind of the fruits of their labor. And in playing some superb golf.

VO > You describe this season in one word, what would it be and why?

OC > Alker. He's been dominant.

VO > Boom, a winner again. The red hot run continues for Steven Alker.

VO OC > He doesn't do anything wrong. I consider myself a pretty straight driver. He goes straight at me 40 yards farther. You know, that's kind of where the greatness is, is that we all can do what Steve Alker did in a given week or two. And to do it for a year is what makes it so outstanding.

OC VO > I know his game is very consistent. If putting well, Iron play good and strong. Being good, everything comes together. I don't see he missed a lot, you know? Yeah. Very consistent.

VO OC > I'm very happy for him. You know, Stephen is in great shape, no injuries, and he probably doesn't have as many bad skeletons in his head as some of the guys that played for years and years on a PGA tour. But I'm very happy for him. He's doing so well.

VO OC > Being competitive. 48 49 is a huge game. When you turn 50, he's come out here, you've got comfortable. He's a perfect example. If you stay very fit and competitive into your late forties, you're going to do very nicely on The Champions Tour.

OC > So we heard from others about Steven Alker and now we talked to the man himself. It's great to see you, champ.

OC > Thank you. It's great to be back in Hualalai. And what a great start to the year.

OC> Absolutely unbelievable. And congratulations on everything. I use the word life changing about your season last year. Is it fair to say that that's that's accurate with you and Tania and the family?

OC > Yeah, I think in terms of just like where I'm where I'm at right now, the environment, I mean, you know, the status, the victories, you know, just kind of schedule, all that sort of stuff, you know? I mean, that's that that's life changing, so its been great.

OC > Yeah. So what's it like to come back as the reigning champion now? It's a little bit different.

OC VO > Yeah, yeah. It's kind of like push the reset button. Okay, we're going to start again. Everyone starts on zero and let's go again. So, like, you know, I played it well here last year. Yes. I lost my miles and then. Yeah. So this is it feels nice. It's just coming here and playing and like the golf course. So some good vibes.

VO OC > It's a great place for you to start. And these are heady times, but it wasn't that long ago in your early forties when wins and I might say money was scarce. You know, when you think about those times now that you're kind of back on.

OC VO > Sure, you're probably more so, you know, and just how grateful we are now for what we have and where I'm you know, what I did last year and where I'm sitting, I was in the status, you know, the victories were had. It's it's kind of mind boggling, to be honest. You know, where I was 15, 18 months ago. So, yeah, it's it's been great. Christmas has been great. Just chilling out and just really sitting down, taking in what. What I've actually done in the last 15 months. Yeah.

VO > Any extra pressure this year?

OC VO > No, I don't think so. It doesn't feel like it. I'm just I just want to go out and play my game, you know, show people my game and the fans and just enjoy the company in. You know, I just love playing with these guys and just. Just. Just try and win golf tournaments. You know, I loved, I had four wins last year, so it was it was great. I enjoyed that. And being in the hunt every most weeks.

OC > Yeah. Most recently, I was checking out some of your stats first in actual scoring first and Greens in regulation percentage first and putting average first all around. You've always been good and I think I probably asked you this question several different ways, but why is this fit now? Why, why? Why is this just the right just the right fit?

OC VO > Yeah. You know, a lot of things that's going to be my answer. But, you know, a contributing factor is obviously just the environment. I mean, you know, just been inspired by playing, coming out and playing with these guys, you know. So that's that's been huge. And obviously the support, you know, you know, a game has come around the right time, all the ducks in a row, you know, the fitness, everything like that is just come together and yeah. Worked out.

OC > And before I let you go, have you been approached by anyone to portray you in this Steven Alker story is that film. Is that made for TV movie?

OC > No, I haven't any approach. No one from Hollywood's called yet. But yeah, I know it's quite a story, you know, and I'm just I'm just very grateful to have this second career, this opportunity. And that's that's been huge for our family.

VO OC > You know, and a lot of our audience has gotten to meet you. But when I talk to the players, they know you've been very good for a very long time. So they know that. And it's just been a it's been a great run and I hope it continues for you.

O C> Well, thank you. Appreciate it.

OC > Thank you so much, Steven. Congratulations again. Thank you.

VO > Coming up, Patty is in pursuit. Steven Alker may notice Padraig Harrington on his heels. Patty on attacking this tour and his goals in 2023. Plus, we'll hear from the man who won here in Hawaii two years ago. Darren Clarke feels he has something more to prove and is preparing to make that happen.

VO > Darren Clarke is a major champion and enjoys his legendary leisure time for certain. But he was all business in the gym, preparing for the 2023 season. DC is putting in the work and hopes the sweat he spills now will pay dividends as he is determined to be in better shape this year. So what is driving him to put forth this type of effort?

VO OC > I've had a bit of, especially over the last year, I've had a bit of a stall through the ball, so I need to keep my hips going. I've been a little bit under last year with my golf swing and wasn't happy with the way I had the ball last year, so I had to do something about it and that's why I did it. The man Yeah, we sort of get one of those things and put it up this way so that whatever I'm in there, you know, I do look a little bit like a sumo wrestler or whenever I have it up there but got to keep it out of body I somewhere or another. If you can't laugh at yourself, who can you laugh at.

OC VO > From one major champion now to another. And the great thing about PGA Tour Champions is you can become a rookie all over again at the age of 50 and you won't find a more accomplished first year man than Padraig Harrington. Harrington spent his first full season on this tour last year and not only walked away with Rookie of the Year honors, but nearly won the season long race. And make no mistake, Padraig Harrington is just getting started.

OC > Always happy to spend time with Padraig Harrington, who is now insisted that the Rookie of the Year trophy be with any interview that's going to be done for the upcoming season.

OC > It’s my first ever rookie year.

OC > That's awesome.

OC > Yeah. You joked about.

OC> what a great few well-deserved. I mean, you almost at the end took it all, including the Charles Schwab Cup after a magnificent performance in Phoenix 62 65 on the weekend, 27 under. And so you went into this with a plan and a determination and that's what happened. So what's what's your take away as you've kind of caught your breath now of the year?

OC VO > You know, I was hopeful that I was going to be competitive. You know, I felt just as well coming to 50, I started playing quite nicely. I started putting better. I felt reasonably competitive with the young guys, so I felt good about it going to the Champions Tour. I didn't realize how much I would enjoy every time I win a tournament on The Champions Tour. I love winning. I really enjoy the competitiveness. But I'm reliving my three major wins because that's what that's what you're doing. It is The Champions Tour. It's the second win, the second life to give us a chance to remember the glory days.

OC > Couldn't agree more. Golf, like anything else, any other sport involves talent but hard work. And the hard work that you've put into that was rewarded. Not only the fitness aspect of it, but going out there and doing your homework and understanding everything that took place. So maybe you can encompass what everything that went into that type of a season for you.

OC VO > When I'm competing against young guys, you always feel like there's a gap you need to, to, to bridge. So if I went out and say I played last year, I think in the Arnold Palmer and I think I finished about 20th. So I don't think something like that, but I'm probably six, seven, eight shots back off the lead. So on Sunday evening, I'm going to be sitting there as I was and I've got to hit it better. And I hit the irons better. Got a swing of better, got a hole, more puts, got to hit it further. Like I'm pulling the whole game apart technically. Whereas I go to the Champions Tour event, I'm pretty much every Sunday I'm in contention. So on a Sunday evening I'm sitting there if I haven't won, I'm two shots behind them. Two shots just wasn't into that tee shot. You know, where was my focus on that hole what you know? So when you're close to winning. The difference is always mental and you always focus on trying to improve your mental game. When you're not close to winning, you always think it's a physical thing. You always think it's a technical thing. You always think you need to be better. Ball Striker. So because I was in contention more, I just focused a lot more on my mental game and the good stuff. That's really when the good stuff comes out, when you start looking at your routines and where your head's at. And that sort of pressure has certainly helped get my head in the game and much better. IT will be interesting to see. I'm going to play with some of the young guys now at the start of the year and I'll play the Middle East swing in Europe. I'm going to go back and play a couple of my favorites at the Honda Classic, obviously, and I'm going to play Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill as well. So they're my kind of favorite tournaments I’ll go back and play. I wonder, am I a better player than I was a year ago because of the Champions Tou, because of being in contention?

OC VO > Well, if it's mental, I would I would say yes. And that aspect of it. What about the speed? How did you how did you do that? Everyone's everyone's talking about that. What what's the secret?

VO OC > What I start working on, I go to the golf course and had done good speed, good work. My first shot will be 176. My second shot will be 178. My third shot, you know, when I'm practicing so 176, 178, 180, 182. So basically you seen me take those practice swings pretty aggressive. I'm trying to prep one, two, three. So my fourth one is that 182. So I think ultimately what I have done is I've handled my speed better. I've had it at the top end, but I figured out how to get it. It was the first swing. I figured out how to hit it straight with that speed.

OC > This is definitely a process. So I was like, finally, are you in for the long haul? Are you going to be Bernhard Langer on this tour eventually?

OC VO > Yeah. You know, Hale Irwin texts me quite a bit, so I have a mentor and The Champions Tour it is Hale Irwan believe it or not. Yeah. He texted me and talks to me when you have been out to a couple of events and he's won 45.

VO > 45

VO > and Bernhard has won 44.

VO > Yes.

VO OC > Their records are phenomenal. But I'm aware I don't they're not going to sit here and say, I think I can win 45 events or 44 or 46, whatever it is. I'm you know, that's just incredible. But I have done the math to figure out how to get there.

OC> Well, I hope you do. We'll be watching. That's great.

OC > You know what? Anybody who can come out to The Champions Tour. It is a different place, you know, not just for the players, for the spectators. There's more there's great value for the sponsors and the spectators. We're we're out there. We're trying. We're giant. We're enjoying it pretty darn good in places. Yeah, pretty bad and sometimes I'm not saying I'm not saying we're parrotfish, but. It's interesting. It really is. It's an interesting environment where I think pretty much all the players appreciate the fact that they're getting a second chance.

OC > Here. Here. Thank you, Patty. Always great to see you.

OC > Thank you.

OC VO > Congratulations again. Yeah, been great.

VO > Bernhard Langer won twice in 2022, putting him one win behind Hale Irwin for the all time tour mark. When we return, we'll hear from Hale and Bernie, both of them offering their take on 45 victories. And if this is indeed the year, the remarkable record is broken.

VO OC > I think there's one word to describe Bernhard Langer, and that's discipline.

OC > He's just disciplined.

OC > He's like a machine.

VO > Bernhard Langer has won on the PGA Tour champions.

VO > Just an unbelievable day for Bernhard Langer.

OC >The strongest part of his game, his mind.

OC > He’s ageless,

VO OC > He just as motivated as he was probably when he was 18 years old.

VO OC > And that's what's great about watching Bernhard Langer play golf. It might not be flashy, it might not be exciting, but he just wears you out with his consistency. And that's why the guy just continues to beat us at 65.

VO OC > For his first Champions Tour victory. And welcome to the Champions Tour in your fourth event. Bernhard Langer He's won on the Champions Tour.

VO OC > He wants to do it for the records. He wants the trophies. He's this is what we do.

VO > Number 44 for Bernhard Langer.

VO OC > I would expect Bernard to to tie and then overtake Hale Irwin’s record, which would be something very special.

OC > I think there's no question that he's going to break Hale's record. Sorry, Hale.

VO > If you follow PGA Tour champions, you know, two men have separated themselves as the all-time winners Hale Irwin's record 45 victories seemed out of reach until Bernhard Langer began his methodical chase. Perhaps this is the year their paths intersect again. Let's hear now from two tour types on the pursuit of this magical mark.

VO > Well, Bernhard kept himself fit. He's he's prepares as well as anybody for every tournament. Obviously, he's very gifted player, so he has a lot of things going for him.

VO > I think this is the year for just the three ties or possibly breaks.

OC > I don't know who you're talking about. What are you talking about? I don't know. I'm going to take his putter. I'm behind it and hide it from him. Oh, it could be. You know, Bernhard, he's there all the time. And it would be it would be no surprise if if he were to at least tie it, if not break the record. So but, you know, I've had my run if I was only one person, anything about that and that's me and it may is decided to have more fun doing something else.

OC > And now the man in pursuit of the all time wins Mark on this tour, the incredible Bernhard Langer is with me. And Bernie, we've talked about this for years and years, your pursuit of the all-time mark. But now that it's right there within reach, what are you feeling at this point? Is it satisfaction? Some relief or .

OC > And I was I wasn't sure I'd ever come this far. So I'm yeah, I'm one away to catch Hale and two away to set a record. And I think it's doable, but it's not going to be easy. Let's face it, there's a lot of young guys out here younger than me that hit it much further and have a huge advantage on most of the course, just so I got to play my best golf on some of the courses and hope for a W

OC > well, you're a three time winner at Hualalai, so why not just get this over with and we can move on?

OC > That would be a wonderful start to the year. I love this place and everybody does, right?

OC > Yeah. Well, what's not to like? Yeah, Bernard, I don't think I've met anyone athletically who's been more of a person who's a problem solver or find solutions for things than you do. And I wonder how much pride you take in that as you've been able to navigate through your career, changes in yourself, your body equipment, all of these things?

OC VO > Well, I think that's part of reinventing yourself. Everybody out here has to do that to some degree. And if you have a longer career, like I started very young, I turned pro when I was 15, I'm 65, so that's five decades. You've got to do a lot of reinventing, but everybody has to do some of that. Just the equipment was so drastic in a way. The golf ball, you know, the lighter shafts, the longer shafts, all of that. So we all had to get used to it because it was definitely an advantage. But but it was a change. And then your body changes over the years. So you have to make slight swing changes to accommodate the body, I think, and many other things that just come along with living life.

OC > So age is a number. Okay. And you are 65, but do you do you think about that? Do you have goals now as we reach maybe 65 to 70 and who knows beyond or how much in a moment are you for this?

OC VO > Well, I'm usually in the moment all the time. But, you know, my my goal was to shoot my age. That was one of my goals. And I was trying to do it when I was 62 and three, and I couldn't quite make it. But then I shot 64, my 64th birthday. How you know, how great is that? So that was fun and I've done it a few times since. But yeah, now it's just, you know, still playing the best I can and hoping to get a few more wins in and, you know, set a new record for the oldest winner, which I've already done twice, but continue that and enjoy the fruits of my labor, the fruits of my work for the last 50 years. You know, enjoy this last, whatever it may be, five, ten, three. We don't know the future but enjoy every day and it's a great place to do that. The Champions Tour is awesome, wonderful people, you know, from the caddies to the players to the media, really, everybody is really fantastic and it's great to be around quality people.

OC > Well, you've moved the numbers historically on this tour, that's for sure.

OC > Thank you.

OC > Best of luck this year and we'll see you when.

OC > Appreciate it.

OC > Your nose to nose and maybe passe Hale.

VO > We'll fix things and when our season preview returns. PGA Tour champions just gets better. A word with major champion Stewart Cink fresh off teaching those PGA Tour members a thing or two and ready for a new challenge. As his 50th birthday approaches. Cink on his 2023 debut.

OC> Doug. What's going on, brother?

OC > Nothing. I know you've loved the golf course at Kohanaiki. But I've got to show you my favorite place. And these comfort stations are amazing.

OC > I mean, this is incredible. Cool lets go.

OC > So. So I've been wanting to show you that comfort station.

OC > Let’s Do it.

OC > That’s my favorite part. Don't even get started over here because we got a ways to go. But it's like, Oh, this is my favorite ice cream sandwiches. I’ll eat these any time of day. You ggot your frozen grapes. Come down here, you get your bars. It's not your normal hot dog stand.

OC > I'm just going to say, I thought maybe it was a hot dog and a Snickers. But this is.

VO > You probably maitai. So would you like to start the day off with one?

VO > After you, sir.

OC> There you go.

OC > Okay. Sure.

OC > Yeah, we'll do a little. Cheers.

OC > This place is amazing, Doug.

VO > Yeah, well, it is. It's called a real comfort station. Cheers to a great year.

OC > I'll be comfortable pretty soon. Oh, my goodness. Yeah. So what's. What are these bags for over here? All this stuff, like. Like.

OC > Well, look, see, I'm going to get a little. I'm going to fill up on something, I guess.

OC > Show me what your special treats are here.

OC > Lots. These are chocolate covered almonds. That's my favorite. Yes. Yes. And then I go with the Chex Mix, but you're going to freak out when you see what I'll put in last. You can get what you want later.

OC > Well, I thought that was for me

OC VO > That's not that. Okay, sure. Gonna get my Chex in and I'm coming over to the real place. Now, this is where it's at. They get the best jerky.

OC > Look at the beef jerky.

OC > and the orange mango slices. I put it in there because it just kind of makes it taste good. If you hadn't had some dried mango, you got to eat it. It's phenomenal.

OC > Oh, my gosh. Well, this is how the other half lives.

OC > I know. This is one week a year. I get to feel like the other half.

OC > I'll say, Well, all we need is a plasma TV and a futon. I could live here.

OC > I know. We could watch a playoff game here all day. That's great. I hope you have fun in here. It's great.

OC > I did. I'm not going. I'm staying for a little while.

OC > No, no doubt.

OC > I know you have to go practice.

OC > I'm going to eat my ice cream sandwich all the way out. It's all right.

OC > Well, not too many of those, because I know I've been working out of shape.

OC > When you see these things. I mean, they do everything first class or something.

OC > Oh, my gosh.

OC > They're a little firm. And the more I have to give them a couple of hours of I'll. These are phenomenal.

OC > I'll tell you what, Kohanaiki Comfort Station, there's nothing like it.

OC > Unbelievable.

OC > No place on earth.

OC > Thanks. I'm glad you liked it.

OC > Thanks for letting me in.

OC > Hey, man.

VO > Stewart Cink turns a half century this year, May 21st, to be exact. Meaning he will be Champions Tour eligible just in time for the KitchenAid senior PGA Championship. Cink is expected to be competitive on this tour. After all, he won on the PGA Tour less than two years ago and qualified for the FedExCup playoffs last season. Cink recently shared with us his plans once he reaches the big five oh.

OC > Oh, well, proving once again, the PGA Tour Champions replenishes itself with great talent as major champion. Steward Cink who will join May 21st upon turning Big five. Oh, yeah. So you'll be welcomed aboard. What? What are you looking forward to in this next chapter in your great career?

OC VO > A couple of things. I really think that it's going to be about the guys. You know, there's so many guys I just haven't seen. I mean, I have a lot of new friends on the PGA Tour that I've gotten close to. But our I mean, I'm making friends with people, my kids ages, you know, which is it's good, but it's also kind of hard to make a real natural connection. So I'm looking forward to seeing some of the guys in I've played with years ago and for for all that time, that plus also the venues. I'm looking forward to seeing some different places, you know, been the same. My schedules been the same for a long time. And so it's going to be nice to see some new places and it's a new cities. And my wife and I love traveling and seeing new places and kind of experiencing all that. So that'll be fun.

OC > Well, I'm sure you have expectations about the tour and I'm sure you've also done your homework and talking to guys and what it's all about. What have you gathered about PGA Tour Champions?

OC > Well, you're wrong about that. I haven't done any homework.

OC > Okay, maybe that's the way to go.

OC > There's a reason for that, though. It is because I felt like if I started looking ahead to the future post 50 and playing more Champions golf, that I would pretty much effectively be finished playing on the PGA Tour. It's not easy, you know, to keep the focus and the grind going when you have done this for a long time and and you're getting to this age. So I need every little ounce of that focus I can get. And I felt like I would cost myself that if I really started looking ahead. So I haven't done any I don't know the schedule. I don't know where anybody's playing.

OC > So you haven't thought about where you're going to play or how many events you're playing, because I know you're still kind of back and forth, right?

OC > Yeah. No, I've thought about that. Okay. I have thought about that. And I'm pretty sure that I can probably go ahead and safely announce that if I'm healthy, I'm going to play in the PGA Seniors, Senior PGA. I think it's called Senior PGA Championship.

OC > Okay.

OC > And that's the one at Trinity. No, not Trinity. Sorry. That's the one at Frisco. Frisco. Frisco, the PGA of America's facility. Okay. And so that'll be the week after I turn 50. But after that, I'll probably sprinkle in a couple. But the PGA Tour just offers a whole lot right now. And I still I love that the grind aspect of playing against the best players and making the cuts and the elevated purses don't hurt. So I'm going to I really want to try to get into those for for one last real good fling. And after that, we'll see which way to the road forks.

OC > Yeah, well, I could see why. Because you qualify for the FedEx playoffs at 49, you won twice at 47. What is it that allowed you to to play at that level with the younger guys. I mean, to win at that age, that's that's impressive.

OC > I think I, I have a I have physically, I just I've kept myself up. Okay. And I've got plenty of power has never been a problem. But also I think I've learned a lot about myself over the years. I've learned a lot about my tendencies, you know, some good and some bad. But you have to know both sides of it in this game. And so it's enabled me to sort of understand when the bad stuff happens and sort of arrest my back slides quick, quickly and. And there's just been a really big asset of mine that I've been able to kind of use as a effective tool.

OC > Mm hmm. So finally, you have grown children, and while Connor and Reagan play with you with the PNC Championship And. And what is it like? How much of a motivation are not only those guys, but the younger guys? I mean, do you glean a little bit of that excitement and enthusiasm from them and take it with you? Because I know you love the game anyway, but it's always fun to be around the younger guys, too.

OC VO > Definitely. And I remember when I was a rookie back in the nineties, I sat in lunch with guys like Tom Lehman and Lee Jansen and Curtis Strange. You know, those guys were like, Oh my gosh, one day maybe I can be like them. And I just tried to soak in a little bit about what they do and how they were doing their their craft. And now that I kind of have become one of those guys, I'm exactly doing the opposite, which is to sit with younger players and figure out what they're doing and how they're doing their craft. And because the game has kind of evolved while I've kind of stayed on the same course. And so now I find myself looking backwards to try to figure out what they're doing. Like, you know, all the technology that we have available to us. Like I could easily just not use any of that and just do things sort of in a stubborn way. Like I still want to, you know, hit my driver and my irons and all that, you know, the same way. But I've had to evolve. I had to watch what everybody else doing and take advantage of things the same way they are. And that's been a huge benefit to me, both in the very beginning and all the way to today.

OC > Well, I know we're excited to have you on PGA Tour Champions, so I think probably a lot of the players there are saying, well, you know, take your time and we'll see you when we see you.

OC > Yeah, well, I definitely as recently as this morning, I heard that from one Padraig Harrington, who was very encouraging for me on my PGA Tour golf next year. But I don't know why, but. Yeah.

OC > Yeah. Well, good to see you.

OC > Okay,

OC > Best of luck.

OC > Thanks.

VO > There is much more ahead on PGA Tour champion season preview. We love us some. Steve Stricker. It's pretty simple. He plays, he wins most of the time. But how much will we see of the victorious U.S. Ryder Cup captain? Answers next.

VO > The last time we saw Steve Stricker compete on PGA Tour champions, he was winning the constellation Furyk and Friends. Oh, and before that, he won the Sanford International. Stricker didn't compete in the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs. So he is well-rested and ready to go for three in a row this week at Hualalai.

OC > And as you can see, we are with Steve Stricker now, who's down from a tree, not a palm tree, but a tree stand. Your favorite activities. And what was the off season like?

OC > Oh, we had a gas. We had a lot of fun. It was a it's a family thing, like I've said before. And, you know, Nicki Nicki shot a buck. We we did well, Mario did. My brother in law. I did. Another couple of friends of mine did. We had we had a great season. It was a lot of fun. And and that's what it's all about, you know, even even the guys, my uncle in law who didn't chew on it, he's a guy that we can jab and and, you know, just give a lot of crap to, basically. And he takes it. So it's it's all good and we have such a good time with it. And it was a it was a great offseason.

OC > It's great to see you in Hawaii again because it's been a little bit of time here for you. So good to have you back here. You didn't go to the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs, which is your choice and no pressure. But we'd like to see you out here. We love seeing you out here.

OC > Appreciate it. And I enjoy being out here, don't get me wrong. But I've also learned over the course of my career what makes me happy and that's being home, spending time with my family and friends and doing the hunting thing that I like to do. And and now that Nicki's into it, too, a little bit. She's kind of a fairweather and hunter. Only when it's like 60 degrees, you know, she go out if it drops below that, she doesn't want to have any part of part of it. But she's been doing that with us. And that always adds another level of fun for all of us.

OC > I love that she has certain conditions that she'll do that. And that's interesting. You want a third of your events last year, four of 12, including three of your last four. Is that about as dialed in, do you think you've been?

OC VO > It was good year. I mean, it really was a good year. And, you know, in more ways than one, you know, I got a late start because I wasn't feeling well last this time last year. So to get that behind me and start working on my body, my strength, my game, and then to have it all come together throughout the year and especially towards the end, I wish I could have played a little bit more at times, you know what I mean? Early in the season, you know. But I, I did what I had to do and it was it was a good end to the season. And I look to build on that and keep that momentum going forward this year.

OC > It's kind of wondering like, you know, how you look at it. Bigger picture in playing on PGA Tour Champions and you know what? What kind of an impact you'd like to eventually have when you eventually walk away?

OC > Yeah, I mean, I think the impact or the fun that we've been having is with our foundation and the American Family Assurance Championship and Madison being able to raise over $2 million a year for the last, I don't know, six, seven years or whatever. And I think we're up to about 15 million to be able to give back to our community, to give back to those charities that depend on us and our community. I think that's been more fun and more impactful when I look back at my career than anything that I've ever done. And, you know, that's that's been a lot of fun for all of us. Our family is deeply involved in it.And then American Family Insurance, a sponsor of mine, I mean, it's it's what we all strive to do and put on a great event in the summertime and to give back to our local charities.

OC > And it's been great. All things being equal. And now you're healthy again. Yeah. Do you have a number of events in your mind that you might come out here and play?

OC VO > I am going to play a lot. I really am. I'm excited to be out here. I'd like to play a couple on the regular tour as well. Sure. If I get those opportunities, I'd like to do that still and see see where I stack up. It's it's getting harder and harder each and every year, especially when, you know, you play against some of those guys that are hidden 30, 40, 50 by you, you know. But there's something to be said about veterans, right?

OC >Absolutely.

OC > And being able to do other things and get it around, manage your ball, take care of your ball and do those little things. Right. That's that's where something to,

OC > I think, going to be like, Nicky, I'm only going to do outside interviews if it's like 75 and above.

OC> Here we are.

OC > At a very tropical place. Good to see you.

OC > Good to see you Vince. Thanks for having me. You, too.

VO > When we return, it's a new year, which means new rules, new places and new faces. We'll tell you what to look forward to as 2023 unfolds. So stay with us.

OC VO > Aloha and Happy New Year. I'm Joe Terry. PGA Tour Champions Rules Official. We're here at the Hualalai Resort on the island of Kona to kick off the 2023 Champions Tour season. And as we begin this season, we're also going to be looking at some changes to the rules of golf. One of the most significant. My dad, one of the most popular changes in the rules of golf, deals with a ball that has been dropped, placed or replaced, comes to rest, and then by an act of nature, rolls into a different part of the golf course. As you can all remember recently with Charley Hoffman and Rickie Fowler in the Phoenix event at the Waste Management. These guys took a penalty relief, put the ball in play by dropping it, walked away to look at the circumstances surrounding the shot, came back and the ball had rolled back into the penalty area where they were required to take an additional penalty and go through the dropping process again. Well, if it comes to rest and then should, by an act of nature, move and come to rest in a different part of the golf course, you simply with no penalty, you pick it up and put it back. It doesn't have to be a penalty relief. It could be a free relief or whatever. But you must be careful before you lift your ball if it should move, and make sure that it was moved by, first of all, an act of nature or natural forces and then it has changed to a different part of the golf course. If I were to drop a ball in the general area and walk away from it to get a club in is now rolled into a bunker. Well, I've gone from the general area to a bunker. In that circumstance, I would be required to take the ball out of the bunker and place it back where it was at rest before natural forces caused it to move. Hopefully this will help your enjoyment of the game be more pleasant in 2023 and that you will understand a little more about how the rules of golf are intended to help you with the enjoyment of this great game.

OC > And now, sharing some time with the man on top PGA Tour champions President Miller Brady is with us. And Miller, you can't beat this almost three decades in opening the season, four seasons Hualalai.

OC > 37 years.

OC > I mean, what is it about this? Try to explain to folks, put it into words the opening the season here?

OC > Well, for the players, right? I mean, they're coming from all over the country or all over the world where it may be snowing and really cold and you get to come to Hawaii where it's 80 every single day. I mean, look at this. It's perfect.

OC > It's just amazing. And each year you're more and more impressed with it. So we're coming off this incredible race last year and it's down to Phoenix with Alker and Harrington and and this this might be a sign of things to come. I mean, we're going to have this kind of competition like Yankees, Red Sox or whatever.

OC > Yeah, but I think it's more than just a two-horse race, you know, for this year. Steven Alker you can throw Ernie Els in there, Padraig Harrington, Jim Furyk, Jerry Kelly. I mean, the list goes on, but it'll be fun to see who gets out to a hot start.

OC > And that's kind of the fun of this tour is who who's taking a journey from South Africa, from New Zealand, from Wisconsin.

OC > All over.

VO OC > And they converge here, you know, and Jerry Kelly said something interesting. He said, this is really the purest form of competition because the guys all have their money and they're out here battling one another for the win.

OC > Well, they know they don't have to be out here. Right. They're here because they love to compete. That's what it is. Right? I mean, for the most of them have earned their money. They have enough money. So it's not necessarily about the money they love to compete.

OC > Let me ask you, as the president, is it how is it different to lead this World Golf Hall of Fame sort of crew or these veteran guys, as opposed to maybe the PGA Tour and guys that are on the the up and coming? I mean, what are what are some of the nuances of of your job?

OC > Well, look, for us, I mean, these guys, it's a second lease on their career, right? Right. A second lease on life for them. I think they enjoy it a little bit more because they turn 50. They still want to compete, like I said. But they also appreciate what they have. They appreciate the sponsors, they appreciate each other, the camaraderie, and so they just seem to enjoy it a little bit more, which makes it a little bit easier for us.

OC > No, no. They're the best when it comes to all of that. And just this year, keeping things strong with new events and new places to play here and the tour always seems to replenish itself.

OC > Well, we're very fortunate. We played 27 events last year. We're going to play 28 this year. We're going back to Morocco. We added a new event on our schedule in Palm Springs with Gallery as our title sponsor. So looking forward to the year, we have a tremendous amount of energy and excitement coming into this year as well.

OC > Well, let's do it.

OC > You got it.

OC > Thanks.

OC > Thank you. Great to see you.

VO > Coming up next, who's hungry? Kevin Sutherland is cooking us a Hawaiian style meal. We knew he was great with the irons, but kitchen utensils.

OC VO > We have the executive chef, Richard, here from the Four Seasons resource Hualalai.

VO OC > First of all, congratulations Kevin on being here.

OC > Well, thank you. Appreciate it very much.

OC VO > Pleasure to be part of the tournament as well. I'm very excited to see all this. Right. So we're going to be cooking a Thai shrimp curry today. So we're in the herb garden and and seafood by the seafood tanks here at the Four Seasons resort of Hualalai , where we we cultivate a lot of the produce on property, but also a lot of the seafood that we use in property, including the prawns that you see here and the oysters that we serve on property are raised right here in these tanks. So I guess we'll go ahead and get started here. And really, the secret to any good curry, especially Thai curries, is all in the curry paste. So we're going to go ahead and put some shallots in here. We're going to put some garlic. We have some galangal. And so Galangal is Ginger's citrusy brother. So we also have some dried red chilies that we've soaked in water, some Thai chilies. And depending on how spicy you like it.

VO > I'm good. You can go as spicy as you want.

VO OC > Plenty of Thai chilies in there. All right. Because these are very, very hot. Some fresh cilantro and then some tuman and coriander. And Kevin, I'm actually going to ask you to step in here.

OC > All right. I'm all good

OC > and work this all together.

OC VO > Now, you're taking a big risk here.

OC VO > To start the curry and build flavor. What we're going to do is we're going to sweat down some onions, some garlic, some ginger in a neutral oil. So we have grapeseed oil here today. Let's give it at this point. We want to keep keep this medium high. It really mix this into the oil. And now we're going to add some shrimp stock in there and then we're going to add in our fresh coconut milk. It's actually almost done. So the next step, we really want to kind of turn down the heat. Add the shrimp in there so that they're just submerged. And we just want to gently poach them and we don't want to overcook because shrimp cook really fast. We're just going to put the lid on so that all cooked through, all together, that's nice and hot.

VO > How long does it take you to go from that to,

VO > I would say a good 30 minutes, get the curry paste to where it needs to be.

VO > Okay.

OC VO > So what we're going to do is really start with our shrimp. Just put those down. Let's take a little over these nice tender vegetables. We have some garnishes here, right? So we have this chutney here that we made earlier, but we're just going to kind of drop that around on the plate here. Some fresh chili oil, some crispy garlic.

OC > Gives a little color, too.

OC > Exactly.

VO > I mean, that's amazing.

OC > Here we are.

OC > I'm ready.

OC > Enjoy it. You ready?

OC > I'm ready.

VO > Okay. Give it a try.

OC > Let me give it a try. That's awesome. You can have some.

OC > I'm going to try it. Perfect.

OC > Thank you, executive chef Richard. This is an amazing plate. And it's the shrimp is is it's awesome. It really is. The flavor is great. It's got a little kick to it. It's fantastic.

OC VO > I'm glad you've been enjoying the food on property.

VO > I have. My food here is amazing.

OC VO > And that will do it for the 2023 PGA Tour Champion season preview. Soon Island time becomes competition time. Some of the game's all time greats all caught here in Hawaii.

VO > I'm Vince Cellini. Thank you for watching. Aloha.