**PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING SHOW #2**

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > It was a festive welcome as PGA Tour champions return to Morocco for another Northern Africa adventure. The event was put on hold since 2020, but was back with a new course in Rabat and a fun chase in the second tour event of the season. Their Steven Ames and old man Par made for quite a team. Ames put together a steady final round, avoiding any missteps and strolled to victory in Rabat, though he was winless in 22. Ames made great strides last season, and they were evident in grabbing his third victory on PGA Tour champions in this early season event. Bob Popper and Sam Torrence with a look back at the final round, which includes the winning moment.

VO > Thanks for its second time. The PGA Tour champions is coming to Morocco. The trophy Hassan two trophy on the line. And Sam, you take a look at Miguel Angel Jimenez. He lead the field. No, that there could be some scores to be had. This was his tee shot at the 14th.

VO > Yeah. He made a great two to get him to five under for the day and up four under a great round of golf from the Spaniard.

VO > Yeah that would set up his fifth birdie of the day. Richard Green medalist at the PGA Tour champions Q school rolling in this putt for birdie and having a nice week. He would shoot a three under par 70. Mark Hensby trailed by one shot and then missed this birdie putt at 12 that would have tied him for the lead at nine under. And then it all started to unravel, Sam his second at 13.

VO > He’s gone a little thin cause over the back a really poor bunker shot from there down to the front of the green then three putted it for double.

VO > He would make double at 13 and double at 14. Stephen Ames his third at the 10th. Now Hensby was in tight for birdie and this was a huge par save by Ames. And then after a mishit second shot at 15 another clutch save for Ames. That would make it 15 straight pars. Stephen Ames started the day with a three shot lead. 18 pars later, Ames victorious for the third time in his PGA Tour, champions career. Kiss and hug from wife Kelly. Stephen Ames goes wire to wire in Morocco, led by three after the first round, led by three going into the final round and wins by five. Richard Green with a nice week, a three and a final round 70. Paul Stankowski shot two under. Jimenez at four under par 69. Collin Montgomerie working his way along with Retief Goosen and Harrison Frazier to top tens. After the round, we had a chance to hear from our champion, Stephen Ames.

OC VO > Two years ago I came in second here, so it's kind of a little bit of a revenge to get that back this weekend have done that for me. Obviously, as everybody knows, this is a tough golf course. It was very, as Sam put it, beginning of the week has a lot of patience and there was a lot of patience going on this week for me. But no anesthetic about the wind moves me forward nicely.

VO > And what a final round. Your wife, Kelly, said that you said it in the week level par you take all day long. Was that the mindset going in?

VO OC > Not really. It wasn't my mindset, but at the same time I knew that everybody else had to catch me and I played the game that I needed to play, put the ball in play, kept it in play, and had the opportunities which I didn't make, but at the same time it didn't fall to me. Unfortunately, Mark did faulter coming in on the end with a double bogey select kind of opened the door of it more for me. So in some respects, coming out in the end it was a bit of a mindset. Par was good.

VO > Thank you, gentlemen. With the Victory Ames rockets to the top of the Charles Schwab Cup standings, Steve Stricker just behind after winning the opener in Hualalai. Mark Hensby is rewarded for that performance in Marrakesh. And given the ever increasing depth of talent on PGA Tour champions, this should be another very entertaining race with lots of movement throughout the season.

VO > Trophy Hassan II, was the first full field event of the season, and with that came the first opportunity for the five Q school graduates to start earning Charles Schwab Cup points. Tim O'Neil, Brian Cooper and Richard Green were three of the five players who earned playing privileges through the final stage of qualifying, and the trio spoke about their expectations for this season in this week's What's Your Edge?

OC VO > Goal one was to get some status on the Champions Tour and, you know, self achieve that. So you got to reassess and see where you want to go again. You know, I remember back in the night when I played on the European tour for a long time. I just wanted to win on the European tour. And I guess now that's the that's the goal to try and get a win on this tour. And if I do that, you know, that'll be good effort. That'd be goal achieved big time, you know. So we'll see how we go.

VO OC > I don't think anybody when you're trying to do it kind of pictures how it's going to look or how or what's going to happen after. So it's been, you know, as much as you want to enjoy it, it's also been one of those things you got to take each day at a time. And because there's a lot there's a lot to learn. I mean, there's a lot to learn coming out here with, you know, being a full member and, you know, everything you got to do. But for the most part, it's been, you know, just an absolute whirlwind of good stuff. I mean, truly good stuff. Yeah. I mean, it's been a long time coming in my and for my feelings, but it's super cool to be here now.

VO OC > Everyone's good, you know? So you're not trying to win. You shouldn't be out here, you know? I mean, that's how I see it. So like I said, I just want to get myself in contention and and see what I can do.

VO > Billy Mayfair is about as far from rookie status as one can get. Last week, he made his 900th career combine start across the PGA Tour and PGA Tour Champions. He made his pro debut on the PGA Tour in 1988. In 761 events, he won five times, including beating Tiger Woods in a playoff at the 1998 Genesis Invitational. On PGA Tour Champions he's played in 139 events but is still searching for that first win over the age of 50. Still, what an impressive career.

VO OC > It's a dream come true, actually, because I've gotten to do my whole life something I love to do and and like I said, I've gotten me such great tour professionals and people around the world and presidents and celebrities and all that stuff. So I think I'm very lucky person, you know, as we talked before, I think getting to play with Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, President Bush, you know, kind of sticks out of my in my head. But, you know, I've enjoyed all the amateurs and enjoyed the professionals that I've gotten to play with. And like I said, I've seen a lot of neat golf courses and been to a lot of really neat places too.

VO > Last week, Jesper Parnevik known for his style, on and off the course explored the beautiful city of Rabat. The Swedish golfer took some time to take in the rich cultural heritage of the city, visiting its stunning historical landmarks and indulging in its delicious cuisine. Here's a taste of the sights and sounds of Morocco with Jesper as your guide.

OC VO > Have you seen the movie Alien? Yeah. And they have those eggs, you know, that thing. It kind of looks like that. I know. If we go shopping. Yes. That's Rabat Means Sale in Sweden, but this is the name of the city. It's not doesn't mean everything’s on sale.

OC > It's everything my fiance says it's Rabat.

OC > Just let him. Do you sell belts?

OC > Yeah, they have just this one

OC > All just like.

OC > Or you don't have your towel

OC > Brown? No. Well, so how much this one is?

OC > 150. What have you. And how much is that?

OC > I know you cannot just you know.

OC > You can just 15.

OC > $15. Now we get it. If you don't, I got to go to. Oh, so we go 14.

OC > No…

OC > You're better than this. No, you actually.

OC > You terrible at this..

OC > I'll take it. Yeah, yeah. Oh, yeah. Uh, okay. So now next. I need underwear. You sell underwear like Like underwear.

OC > No.

OC > Good news is we found a belt. Bad news is I am washing underwear in the bathtub.

OC > Can we take that...?

OC > We're renovating, and we don't have a front door yet, but that.

OC > That is what this is. Yeah, that's a good idea. No, no, no, no. We should buy a new front door.

OC > Yeah, figure that. Oh, well, okay. That door is nice.

OC > They have to agree. Who lives here? Yes, the kids. Here we think it is like old and antique that they ring.

OC > These are open to fix. Okay.

OC > All right.

OC > We jump in and we jump in.

OC > What is this, like a light? Well. Oh, okay. We're just.

Getting.

All right. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Oh, it's like, oh, you put coins in it or.

OC > Oh, in the back.

OC VO > Okay, okay. All right. I can sea sick. My wife organized when I turned 40. She organized a Moroccan party and everybody that showed up or came as a gift. More shoes like this. Oh, you have to have a belly dancers that she had. It all was a lot of fun, but shoes were the best, right?

OC > Shoes were cute.

VO > Still to come, Justin Leonard is all in on PGA Tour champions this year. Find out what he learned from his four starts in 2022 and discover how much he intends to play this season. Plus, NBA all star and champion Steph Curry is still 16 years away from being eligible to compete on PGA Tour champions, but that did not stop the tour from getting him a prestige award. You'll find out what that is when we return.

VO > Sam Workman, the caddie for Steven Alker, passed away last week after a battle with cancer. Workman was on Alker’s bag for five PGA Tour champions wins, including his Charles Schwab Cup and Player of the Year honors this past year. Workman spent most of his professional life in the golf industry working as a teaching pro, along with caddying on the Korn Ferry Tour and PGA Tour champions. He was terrific on the course and was very personable and helpful to those who cover the game. During last week's event, players and caddies wore black ribbons on their hats to pay tribute to Sam. Steven Alker, who, due to circumstances, did not play in Morocco, released this statement. Words cannot describe the sudden passing of Sam Workman from his fight with cancer on February six, 2023. You will be missed by so many. It has been a privilege walking the fairways with you, my man. Our deepest condolences go out to Sam's family and his closest friends. Thoughts and prayers are with you at this time of sorrow. Behind every great player is a professional on his back. Their hard work is often unnoticed but essential to player success. Workman was a wonderful example of an elite caddy. Sam Workman was 55 years old.

VO > The Kaulig Company's championship and PGA Tour champions have announced that NBA champion Steph Curry will receive the 2023 Ambassador of Golf Award. The award recognizes a person who has promoted the ideals of golf on an international level and has shown concern for others beyond the golf course.

VO > Two years ago, Curry launched the underrated golf tour, which is committed to promoting equity and opportunity for student athletes from diverse communities. In partnership with the Northern Ohio Golf Charities Foundation and underrated Golf PGA Tour Champions will host an event at Firestone Country Club for 96 junior golfers in July.

VO > Steph responded to the announcement, saying, A dream come true for a game I've grown to love. Thank you, Champions Tour for the honor of being named Ambassador of Golf, proud to work with the PGA Tour to make golf more accessible to all and thrilled to bring underrated golf to the legendary Firestone Country Club.

VO > Later this week, PGA Tour champions returns to the mainland for the first time this year with the Chubb Classic in Naples, Florida. Bernhard Langer is the defending champion. He won the event four times in his career. A win this week would tie him with Hale Irwin for the most career wins in PGA Tour Champions history at 45. On the other end of the spectrum is Justin Leonard, who will be competing in his first Chubb Classic and sixth career Champions Tour event. Leonard recorded his first career Top ten in the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai. Now the former Open champion and NBC golf analyst is ready to make competing on PGA Tour champions his priority.

OC> Joining me now is Justin Leonard, 12 time winner on the PGA Tour, the 97 open champion. It's good to see you. And after four events last year, what do you think maybe you picked up on that and what do you think you'll try to do now moving forward Justin?

OC VO > I picked up on the fact that I've had a lot of work to do, taking basically six years off from competitive golf, playing wise, there's some rust, but there's also I've got some energy to do it. I'm excited about it. You know, balancing two things, doing my, you know, my TV work with NBC and Golf Channel and then turning around and playing. And so I didn't really have the time to prepare as well as I would have liked. There are a number of scenarios where I was working for two or three weeks and then I had a week to get ready to play and I saw enough good things in my game to have some optimism and see, you know, that that feel like I can with some work that I can be competitive. But I certainly saw enough you know, things that I need to work on. And it's it's been fun. That's really what I've been doing the last couple of months. I did my last event with NBC at the Presidents Cup in Charlotte and so these last couple of months, I've just been focused on on golf and just not 156 players games, just one players game.

OC> And and so I'm seeing, you know, I'm seeing some of the fruit of the work that I put in.

OC > Can you elaborate on some of those things? Because golf, we have these things that bring us back for guys like me. But for you, what were those things that you kind of held on to went, wow, that felt that's that's the old Justin Leonard. That's me.

OC VO > Well, I've I've gotten a little bit of speed, which has been nice. And I noticed it's fascinating. The first event I played was in Akron, Ohio, golf course. I played a number of times. And, you know, I was pretty used to hitting my clubs a certain distance. All of a sudden I got in the tournament and the ball was going 6 to 10 yards further with with like a six or seven iron. And I had a ton of them because that golf course played, you know, fairly long for us. And so I think a little bit of recalibrating and living in Colorado for so many years. I didn't do a lot of golf specific workouts. I did very little gym work. It was more hiking, biking, skiing, doing some upselling. Those things. And so I think my body kind of composition changed a little bit. And so I noticed, you know, a little more speed and it's something that, you know, it's exciting. Look, it's not Patrick Harrington speed, I mean, and it never will be. But for me personally, it's nice to to have some carry numbers that I haven't seen before and then just a lot of short game work. And and, you know, I'm in a great place now in Florida where, you know, I can I can play and practice year round. But also really, you know, work on my short game a lot, hit every shot I need to. So just putting the work in has been really a lot of fun. I've enjoyed getting back into it.

OC > Yeah and embracing the work. You mentioned Padraig who not only puts and I saw you in Jacksonville before the Constellation Furyk and Friends in the gym, you're always in the gym and working out but you've had to ramp that up along with the golf work because all of that and embracing it really, really wanting to be a part of that. Yes.

OC > Yeah. And it's getting in a little more golf specific training, but I don't want to lose the things that I feel like I gained being in Colorado. So I still spend a lot of time on the bike and I enjoy doing cardio now more than I do even, you know, weights. So my lifting is a little bit different. I do a lot of core and strengthening work through, you know, golf forever. And so it's I've enjoyed getting back into it, but it's, it's certainly it's changed my daily routine quite a bit from, you know, when I'm doing TV and, and, you know, having the time to, to work out and do whatever and then, you know, the rest of the day, kind of what is the family need? What do I need to get done?

VO OC > Now it's like, wait, I need to I need to carve out 3 to 5 hours where I'm just at the golf course. And and so it's changed the routine a little bit. But it's, you know, again, it's a lot of this process, a lot of it I remember. But a lot of it's kind of new because a lot of things have changed and I've changed. So, you know, finding that balance has been fun.

OC > Yeah, but it's it's interesting because when you do. The guys that kind of stay with the game and continue to play into their late forties and fifties, it's not that big an adjustment when you do take some time off. It is almost a re acclimation to everything because I would imagine the game changes all the time. So you're coming back to something relatively different, as you mentioned?

OC VO > It does. I mean, there's that a little bit. The style of play has changed, not as much on the Champions Tour, but after watching the best players in the world play on the PGA Tour, you know, doing TV, like I take more chances now and I hit driver more often. I'm still, you know, my tendency still to like, okay, let's put it in the fairway here and get it on the green. Those kind of things. But par fives, maybe I can't reach it, but maybe it's better to go ahead and push because that's what all the data and analytics say. And so I'm like, Well, I'm a good wedge player, whether it's from 40 yards or 80 yards. So, you know, the data says push it up there. So I've even changed my mindset and strategy in the golf course a little bit.

OC > That's interesting. Can you explain to folks now that you've had a taste of it, sort of the the rhythm or the pace of playing on PGA Tour champions? What is different about that entering events and being there the three days?

OC > Oh, it's it's a little different, you know, the beginning of the week, because I'm playing two pro-ams, which is great because a, you know, I enjoy being around amateurs and they love the Champions Tour. I get to see the golf course twice, but also like just getting out there and playing and it's, you know, there's different once you get on site at a tournament to, you know, and then the whole routine going into it. Like what? What do I want to do in the gym before the round? What, you know, which days do I want to work out. What kind of work do I want to put in those kind of things? And, you know, your hear stories, you know, it's it's a lot of fun. And, you know, guys don't practice as much. Well, it is a lot of fun. But the no practice is much that that's not true in any way. I mean, I remember being at the SAS Championship and on Saturday after the round I went over the range and I had one of the later tee times I go over the range, there's 40 guys hitting balls and practicing on the range, you know, the guys you have to put in the work.

VO > Sure.

OC > And just because guys have been doing it for so long doesn't mean they stop doing it. So and I look, I love to work, so it's it's fun. It's inspiring. The competition is great. And I get to be around a lot of guys that, you know, that I've known for 20 and 30 years, which is which is fun as well.

OC > Absolutely. How much will we see you out there this season?

OC > I'm going to play a good bit. I'm, you know, kind of in that 17 to 20 event range, I'm probably going to cut back. I am definitely going to cut back my TV schedule, maybe just work one or two events. We haven't figured that out yet, but I figured, look, I my body feels good. I'm 50. If I'm going to play, I need to play now. And, and so I'm excited about it putting a schedule together and, and, you know, working it around, you know, graduations and, you know, high school and, and, you know, parents weekends at college and all those things. But it's a lot of fun.

OC >Well, we're so happy to have you. Thanks, Justin.

Thank Vince. Appreciate it.

VO > It's back to work for the over 50 tour this weekend in Naples, Florida. First round coverage of the Chubb Classic hits the air Friday at noon Eastern Time on Golf Channel. With that, we bid farewell to Rabt and get set to return to the states. See you in Florida this week. I'm Vince Cellini. As always, we thank you for watching. PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.