**2023 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW #4**

VO > The PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > Tucson, Arizona, was the first stop in a mini western swing on PGA Tour. Champions. The Desert Beauty, obscured by a more wintry scene earlier in the week. More on that in a moment. But first, how things shook out of the Cologuard classic at Omni Tucson National.

VO > Sunday was an interesting finish for Final Round leader David Toms. His two shot advantage at the last was fading after a drive in the water and an errant third shot to the par 4 18th hole. With Robert Karlsson looking to swoop in and grab the event from Toms. David makes a pressure play to get up and down for bogey Karlsson par and toms with a putt for five and a closing 68 and 15 under total to earn his third victory on PGA Tour champions. Let's hear from the champ in this week's winning moment.

OC > Great up and down. You know, Steve, you know, he's always been a good friend and he just said, go, go get that ball up and down, you know, make it make it so that's what I did. I had a tough chip there and I hit a great putt. So I got the monkey off my back. I guess, you know, it's hard to win out here. I've had a lot of close calls, but it feels good.

VO > The updated Charles Schwab Cup standings shake out this way. Toms jumps up 18 spots with the victory sitting in second place behind leader Steve Stricker. Bernhard Langer hold steady at three after a top 20 finish and Cologuard runner up, Robert Karlsson moves up to sixth in the overall standings.

VO > Prior to play at the Cologuard Classic. The course looked more like a ski resort.The city saw its 10th occurrence of measurable snow in Tucson's March climate history as the white stuff blanketed the area, causing a winter weather advisory. What a surprise for those in the field, most of whom took it in stride, including Dickie Pride and Olin Browne, who joined members of the first tee of Tucson in making and not carding a snowman when in Rome or in these conditions make a memory.

VO OC > The first tee kids over here. And one of them was in my group yesterday. They got here early so they could caddie. They became kids and started having a snowball fight and then building a snowman. So I said, Hey, yo, let's go put that on the range and I'll go grab one of my clubs. So we decided to do it. This is what you do when it snows in Tucson while you're playing the Cologuard Classic. Came up to see the driving beginning this morning. There's a little snow out here. Beautiful out here.

VO > You need to go get a Cologuard, bib. Yes. You guys have done it.

OC > Pretty tough downhill. It's slick right now. This is a little taller. Ha ha ha ha. Almost made it. It was in the air quite a bit. That was pretty good. Now, tap-ins are tough book. For some reason, I feel like I'm on my toes. Oh, boy. That is a two putt for the win right there.

VO OC > You're playing with a dog? I'm just making shots right now. It's zero Celsius and I want to say three inches snow. It's really crazy overnight, you know? But we love it.

VO OC > Never seen it stick like this, this much accumulation. It is really cool. A little bit of Wisconsin down here in the south.

VO > Michael Castillo is certainly not used to the snow. He lives in Hawaii and works as the head golf professional at Kapalua Resort's Plantation Course, Home of the Sentury Tournament of Champions. This past September. He won the Aloha PGA section, which qualified him to play in this year's Sony Open, his first career PGA Tour event. This past week, the 60 year old added another first by competing in his first PGA Tour Champions event in the Cologuard classic.

OC > And from Kapalua, Hawaii, please welcome Michael Castillo.

VO > This event has special meaning to Castillo, who was recently diagnosed with colon cancer.

VO OC > Five years ago. I did a home test to see, you know, instead of I've kind of chickened out of trying to get the colonoscopy done early. I waited till I was 55, which is maybe five years too late. And I took the home test that came back positive. So I guess I go through this colonoscopy thing and I did it and I found out I had colon cancer. And I had you know, I was in Newport Beach at the time and I had fantastic doctors, did some surgery, removed it, did some chemo. It worked pretty well. Apparently not well enough because they found some cancer on my liver. And then I did more chemo and it was very successful on Maui and I was in remission for a little bit. And through the whole process of all the scans, there were some suspicious things on my lungs and another part of my liver, but they weren't coming up cancerous, so we kept an eye on it. And then, sure enough, the lungs showed a positive through a PET scan. So I did radiation on that and then it was successful. And then most recently in November of last November, there was a little bit on my liver, one millimeter in size, so it wasn't very big. But again, radiation. And I'm hoping after this tournament I go back and get a PET scan and and see if the radiation was successful. And they consider me back in remission and I'm back at it again.

VO > And of course, we are wishing Michael all the best for good health moving forward. When we return, Jim Furyk goes back to college in Tucson at the University of Arizona and meets up with another Wildcat Hall of Fame member. That and more next.

OC > Hi, everyone. I'm Katie Couric. You know, when Exact Sciences invited me to attend the Cologuard Classic here in Tucson, Arizona, I was thrilled not only to support their incredible colon cancer awareness initiatives, but also to meet some of the legends of golf. And while they're really impressive on the course on camera, I got to be honest, it's a whole different story. They could really use some media training, so I offered to help.

VO > Jim, everyone knows you have an unorthodox swing. Where did that come from? Do you ever think about changing it?

OC > You know, I've been playing golf now professionally for 30 years, and I honestly, I don't get that question as much anymore. But it gets old after a while, to be honest with you. I mean, it was good enough. I mean, hey, 17 wins on tour, U.S. Open champion.

OC > Okay, Jim, I think let's break it down. I think we could be a little more gracious in that answer. Look, let me show you something. See what I mean?

OC > I can try that.

OC > Okay, let's. Let's have a do over. All right. A mulligan, as you might say.

OC> We don't get. A lot of those. Okay. All right. Good luck.

OC > Well, honestly, this swing came very natural to me, and I was very lucky as a young player. My dad was always my coach, a great teacher. And so he helped me develop that swing and make it consistent. And I guess I've been very fortunate to be able to win 17 times on the tour and and also win the US Open.

VO > Okay, perfect. Yeah.

VO > Bernard, last week you won for the 45th time PGA Tour Champions that would be a special moment. Do you ever look at your ling list of accomplishments and say wow, amazing run has been.

OC > Yeah, I had a nice career.

OC > Hmm. Okay, Bernard, I think we could grow a little bit with that answer there. Looking for you to expand upon your career, talk about all of your accomplishments. Let's let's try it again. Let's give them a little bit more. Kind of like adding adding some yards on your drive. Okay. Let's give it another shot, and maybe you could even smile.

OC > Yeah, I've had a very nice career, and actually it's been a true blessing and I've worked very hard at it and had a very long and successful career.

OC > These guys work so hard on their game, so hopefully I was able to give them a few pointers for their future interviews.

OC > You know, I was thinking all those media tips that Bernard and I got, it's probably only fair if I help you out with your putting a little bit.

OC > Okay. All right. I’m game.

OC > Okay. Here you go. You can use this one.

OC > Turnabout is fair play, my friend.

OC > Let's see what you got.

OC > Okay. Tell me what to do.

OC > We're going to narrow up our feet. Point your toes towards me. Stand a little bit closer to the ball. Maybe choke up a little bit. The putter a little long for you. All right. It looks a little better.

OC > What if I get it? The first time.

OC > I'm betting against you?

OC > Get ready.

OC > That's good. I think that's it. I think that's it. It's that easy.

OC > I'm a fast learner Jim.

OC > You know it. I love it.

OC > You think I have a future.

OC > Broadcasting or golf?

OC > Golf.

VO > Jim Furyk was right at home in Tucson where he helped win an NCAA championship and gained all-American honors while attending the University of Arizona. Last week, ahead of the Cologuard Classic, Jim found time to return to class and we tagged along on campus.

OC VO > Hey, how you doing? Were here at the Universoty of Arizona. And this is the Hall of Champions. I put some of my gear up front just for today. Kind of a special moment for me. I got to Las Vegas Invitational, so my first win on tour in Las Vegas. You got the Ryder Cup at the K Club. Unfortunately, I never did make the cover of Sports Illustrated. How you doing?

OC > Doing good.

OC > Hey, Jim Furyk.

OC > Jim, how you doing? Chuck

OC > Chuck, what do you think of this player, man? Be pretty cool to have your picture up there wouldn’t it?

OC > It would be pretty cool.

OC > Who is the guy on the top left?

OC > I think that's me.

OC > Too vicious for the NFL at 190 pounds. How cool is that?

OC > Prety cool.

OC > I don't know. I don't want to DC on a football field. I'm sure you don't want a piece of me on the golf course, you know.

OC > I mean, of course, I tell you what, I win some hoops. Yeah, you have to give me a golf lesson.

OC > I could really screw it. Yeah. I mean, you see me swing good. Like I can intimidate some guys on a Champion Tour with that look.

OC > I can get you to have that look, I don't know what if you can have what's behind it.

OC > Right now, fair enough. All right. Now I want a piece of it.

OC VO > Old men first. Oh, I missed. Yeah, this might take a minute, right? Oh, take a suck of that. You know, this game is getting started.

OC > On the line, money. Oh, please don't make this. Long Range h-o-r.

VO > Get in there.

OC > All right. How's your left hand? Ooh. All right.

OC > Oh, yeah.

OC > All right. Ready for this one? Really? Okay.

OC > Oh, well, they're going to try first one.

OC > He shot better. I junked it out. Jim I enjoyed it for sure.

OC> Yeah. Good to see you.

OC > You as well. Well, I don't know, man. It's tough project. How are you going to…Think I have hope.

OC > Absolutely. All right.

VO > Coming up on PGA Tour, Champions Learning Center, we'll turn our attention to the players championship and hear from two men who statistically have played the 17th hole at TPC Sawgrass better than anyone. Their advice could help your game as well. Stay with us.

VO > The players championship begins this week at TPC Sawgrass. Jerry Kelly earned an exemption into the PGA Tour's flagship event, courtesy of his win in the Kaulig Companies Championship at Firestone Country Club last year. It will be Kelly's 24th time competing in the event. And if there's anyone who believes this time could be the charm, it's Jerry.

OC VO > A win for me next week. I mean, I would say it's out of the realm of anybody else's possibilities except for me. No, I got to go in there thinking I can win if I get everything, every last ounce that I could possibly ever find out of my game at a golf course like that. I mean, you have to think otherwise. Why would I even go play? I mean, there's there's no sense. So, yes, that's what you're trying to do. You try and tee it up to win a golf tournament. I mean, you try and birdie every single hole. I mean, 54 is a distinct possibility anywhere unless you throw in a couple of eagles and maybe shoot 52. I don't know if those things are possible. So that's that's what movies are made of. So I'd love to write a script next week.

VO > At TPC Sawgrass. No player has made more birdies on the 17th hole than Bernhard Langer in his 94 competitive rounds in the players championship. He has 26 birdies on the famed Island Green, while Langer may have the Birdie record on 17. Tom Lehman has the best career scoring average in his 62 rounds with the players, he has averaged 2.82 strokes on the par three. So who better to turn to for advice on playing one of golf's most iconic holes? This is What's Your Edge?

OC VO > For me, the key. Was always to figure out the wind and then to control the distance I hit the ball. You have to be good with the pitching wedge, nine iron, eight iron and control that distance. So the ball lands within a plus minus two yards and stays on the green and does you don't want it to spin off. You don't want it to bounce over. And those are the challenges. And, you know, if you hit a great shot, you're going to have a shorter putt and a bigger chance for birdie.

OC VO > You know, the 17th at Sawgrass is it strikes a little fear in the heart. And I think I had a lot of success there. And the success came from a healthy dose of fear of that hole. I really never tried to to do a whole lot. You know, the pins that I didn't like, I hit in the middle of the green, the pins that I loved, I got more aggressive. But to me, the funny thing was, is one of my goals was always I never want to hit a ball in the water on 17 and all the years that I played there from the tour schools through the players championships never hit a ball in the water. But then finally someone in the media got a hold of it. So I got to the 17th hole one one day as as Tom Lehman has hit successfully under the green, you know, 78 times in a row. Then the next day was 79 times in a row. The next day it was 80 times in a row. And then it came the following year, and I was 81 times in a row. And I'm playing, I think, virtually my last players championship. And I got to the last hole or the 17th hole in my last round, and I hit it over the green into the water for the first time ever. And the only time in the water I was hoping to make my entire career water free, but I just couldn't quite get it done.

VO > Fred Couples has had his share of success at the Island Green. He made a hole in one there in 1997 using a nine iron in the final round.

VO > Watch out for that one, gene. Looky here, looky here.

VO > Two years later, in the opening round of the players, couples tee shot at 17 came up short of the green and on the water. He reteed. Hit a nine iron again.

VO > And same club that's a nine iron again. No, wait a minute. Well, that's the all-American par. Gary. Unbelievable, Fred. Couples with some magic at 17.

VO > Prior to those memorable moments. He won the event in 1996, Couples reminisces. About these career. Highlights in this week's Couples Chronicle.

OC> Everybody, Fred Couples hear stories again with myself. We're talking Players Championship or back when I played the TPC, which I was lucky enough to win in 84 and 96. And in a 96, couple of fun things happened and this guy coming in here was part of it.

OC > Hey, everybody, what's happening?

OC VO > So he saw it all. But there's one story before we get to 96 and 99. I was five over after 16 and everyone knows the shot and it was the pin on the front. It's a pretty simple shot, and I hadn't hit it in the water too many times. As in, I. Actually love the hole. And so I stepped up there and I hit a pretty good shot soup. And then you tell. What did you say to me after that?

VO > Well, basically, I'm trying to, you know, kind of regroup a little bit, right?

VO > Yeah. I'm five over.

VO OC > I'm looking to clean the club and I have a ball ready. And then in my mind, I'm trying to think we go to the drop zone, which can be a dicey shot where we stay right there. But I had no say in anything at that point. He just gave me the look like, give me the F and ball and shut the F up. So I tossed Fred the ball and he kind of grabs it and goes down and grabs a little half t no clean club kind of swings, you know, that swing and that attitude like get me out of here. And as he hits, it looks pretty good in the air. But the first one didn't look bad either, setting up a hair short. So it's looking pretty good in the air. And then, you know, Fred, as the ball's halfway, there is probably 20 yards that way. As you know, the tee kind of goes that way. And he's already done. He's really kind of not paying attention but paying attention. And I'm back of the bag. You know.

OC > We're not hitting the stick.

VO > I mean, it hit right in the cup didn’t it?

VO > Yeah, flew right in the cup.

VO > All on three. And so I think you pared 18.

VO OC > Yes, but there's more to the story. So I'm walking up and everyone would be all excited. And he's again behind me because I had I'd left him on the tee because it's going in the air. So we get up there, I go get the ball I think. You stood way in the back cause we're done. So we he didn’t even come up over the bridge and we go back and it was such a surreal thing because it's my favorite event and I wasn't even happy about it. But then three days later.

OC > Right? You play pretty solid when it got, you know, like unplayable, unplayable golf. And like I said, I think he shot 77. So now we're thinking probably I'm going to cut it despite.

OC> Right, bye bye.

OC VO > Because I think that they the scores weren't that bad, but it got worse every day, it seemed like. And I think the course got a little away from the boys. And I don't remember the exact score you shot, but I know you finished somewhere in the top five and had a really good last day and Pass the world.

VO OC > Yeah, and that's the year Duvall won. So now we have some other fun stuff. In 96, I ended up beating Tommy totals and Montgomery and I'll go back to that. But in 84, I beat for me. I beat them all. I beat Savvy, I beat Trevino, I beat Watkins. I think Thorpe was up there. Yeah. I would like to say Jack Nicklaus. I was tied with him with one to play, but that's not how it went. But that was unreal for me. And as I said, even I've had a lot of other good finishes there, but 96 I played really well every single round.

VO > Yeah, no, you played very, very solid. And to shoot 64 the last day I think, I don't remember every shop, six birdies and an eagle. Do I have that.

VO > That's about right.

VO OC > Yeah. And then you made the two things that stand out to me was that I don't remember a sewer three iron in a number eight, which these guys are going to laugh about right now. But two or three is it back then at eight to about six feet and buried that. Yeah. And then I think you had a lay up on 11 to that back left pins. No bueno. No fun. No. And you stuff it up two or three feet or whatever and then well on your way up.

OC > Correct.

VO > And as we say goodbye, we salute Bernhard Langer, who competed in his 1,000th round on PGA Tour champions in the second round of the Cologuard classic. Bernie just keeps going and going. I'm Vince Cellini and I'm gone. We'll see you next time.