**2023 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW #7**

VO > PGA TOUR Champions Learning Center. PGA Tour champions went deep in the heart of Texas, the Dallas-Fort Worth area, for the always entertaining, Invited Celebrity Classic at Las Colinas Country Club. The over 50 stars met stars from entertainment and sports in an event high on the wow factor.

VO > On a cool overcast Sunday, 54 holes were not enough. We had a playoff at the Invited Celebrity Classic and a guaranteed first-time winner, Australian Mark Hensby and South Korea's Charlie Wi in extra holes. We in the field as the fifth alternate all pars on the first three playoff holes. On hole number four the third time they are playing the 18th. Wi is in trouble and finds the water on his second shot. He would make double bogey. Leaving Hensby to make his five. And winning his first PGA Tour champions event in his 15th start. After a second and third place finish this year, Hensby cashes in.

VO > And now a win for Mark Hensby. In his 15 stars on the PGA Tour champions makes par on the fourth playoff hole. And Mark Hensby has won the invited celebrity classic.

VO > Put in perspective a little bit for us, if you would, what this victory means to you.

VO OC > You know, I mean, obviously, you know, after last year, almost not playing anymore and then, you know, coming out and having a good start this year. Now, it's nice to obviously win on this tour. I think when you win anywhere these days, it's it's an accomplishment. So yeah, I'm happy. I mean, I'm tired today, but happy. I didn't have my best today, but overall, I was excited.

VO OC > You're like a cat with nine lives out there. It seemed like you kept by yourself into it and then out of it. And then you look back up on 16, you're tied for the lead with Alex Cejeka and here you are. What was the emotional rollercoaster like?

OC VO > Yeah, you know, I. I didn't look at the board until 16 and then I saw I was tied for lead. And to be honest, I thought I wasn't anywhere near it. And then, you know, when I got an 18 and, you know, I probably hit the best shot of my the day when I had to because I saw Charlie made Birdie. So it was it was an up and down day and obviously 6 hours, I think it took to play to that. So it was pretty slow out there. But, you know, it was, you know, just tried to stay patient. And then, as I said, once, I knew I still had a chance. Obviously, the grind may went back into into place.

OC > And the playoff the three wood you hit that ended up rolling backwards into the water. Tell us about that shot, how you hit it?

OC VO > Yeah, I hit that probably as good as the first one, but it just it was a bit cooler and a little bit more wind. But I still thought I could get it there, you know, out here, unless you win, you really got nothing. So, you know, obviously I wasn't going to lay up.

OC > Well, congratulations on your first win on the PGA Tour champions. Way to go.

VO > Appreciate it. Thank you.

VO > With the victory, Hensby continues his fine start and steady climb in the Charles Schwab Cup standings, now sitting third behind Steve Stricker and two-time winner and pace setter David Toms. New blood in the top ten as the tour winds down the month of April.

VO > 2013 Charles Schwab Cup champion Kenny Perry competed in his first event since the end of 2021. Perry had stepped away from the game to help care for his wife, Sandy, who was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's. Last week ahead of the opening round, Perry provided us with an update.

OC VO > We found some good doctors, but there's really not a lot of out there to cure. But what we have found, what she has is is slow. It's a it's a slow process. A few years. We've got a few years here. We've got a little window to hopefully somebody comes up with a cure or something that'll slow it down or whatever causing the problem, we figure it out. And so that was my goal, you know, was to, you know, attack that and we try to figure it out. And and now that a year and a half has gone by, we've kind of figured out what's going on a little bit. We’ve got a little bit of a handle on it and so, you know, you look at her and talk to her you wouldn't think nothing's wrong. And but we just want to enjoy life a little bit, so see the grandkids, play a little golf, enjoy. You know, you work so hard to get to a point in life, you want to enjoy it. You don't want to have to be at the doctor's office and struggling. And so we're going to enjoy it and we're going to try to try to figure it out and find a cure for this.

VO > Kenny Perry spirit hasn't been dampened as he remains upbeat and as popular as ever. One of the real good guys in sports and a welcome sight for his fellow PGA Tour champions competitors. We wish Sandy and Kenny the very best.

OC > These are exciting times for PGA Tour champions because come December, this tour will stage the inaugural World Champions Cup in Bradenton, Florida. It's a Ryder Presidents Cup type competition featuring six man teams and playing captains, Jim Furyk of the United States, Ernie Els of Team International, and Darren Clarke for Team Europe. Three days of competition, nine-hole matches, both individual and team in the high point total is the winner. Let's hear from the captains now and what we might expect.

OC VO > That's going to be exciting. You know, it's going to be back to that Ryder Cup, a little bit of match play, a purest form of the game. You know, it's going to be a little bit more banter, I guess, you know, as we're a little bit older, there'll be a little bit of this and but it's exciting. It's going to be a brilliant tournament events at the golf course. I played there last week and they made me an honorary member, which was wonderful.

VO > The concession.

OC > The concession, yeah. And the golf course. It's we're going to play the back nine, nine hole matches obviously Thursday, Friday, Sunday. Holes are going to be brilliant, you know, risk reward. But it's just going to be brilliant get back into the match play scenario again.

OC VO > And there's some real great champions are going to be playing in this event. It'll be the who's who of golf of our generation. And I think the fans will tune in. And I'm not sure how the team meetings will be. If I'm going to be saying anything, we'll be listening, you know, because a lot of the guys have been around the block. What are you going to tell a guy that has done about just about everything in golf? It'll just be a lot of fun. And it's an honor for me to have been asked by Peter and his committee and and the organizers to to actually captain the international team. It's quite an honor.

OC VO > Having the opportunity to do that as a Senior or Champions Tour player and now have, you know, the best players in the world over 50, whether it's the United States, whether it's an international contingent, whether it's the European players. It just sounds like a fun event. I mean, the guys that will play on those teams played in the Presidents Cups and the Ryder Cups and and they have those same memories as well. So now we kind of get like we get to do it all over again and to have two good friends as captains in Ernie Els, Darren Clarke, two guys I admire. I spent a lot of time with them during my career. And, you know, to be to be asked and to be part of that, you know, I guess I probably we're probably all in the right place at the right time, at the right age. But it was an honor to to be in that position.

VO > Coming up on Learning Center, a high flying former NBA great gives us the lowdown on his current passion golf. Vince Carter brings Vince sanity to the invited celebrity classic.

VO > In the celebrity competition at Las Colinas Country Club. Tony Romo, the former Dallas Cowboys quarterback, found the end zone. A year after losing to Mardy Fish at a playoff. In this event, Romo fired a four under 67 and finished with 107 points in the modified Stableford scoring system to top the man who ousted him in last year's invited celebrity. A great tuneup for Romo who intends to play in the USGA qualifier in early May in hopes of eventually making the 2023 U.S. Open.

VO > Knocks it in for par. Tony Romo has won the celebrity edition of the Invited Celebrity Classic.

OC > Please do spend time with Vince Carter, a.k.a. The Insanity, a.k.a. Half Man, Half amazing. Grew up. It's great to see, by the way, playing in the league unlike any other player for four different decades. That's that's golf longevity. Right? You're like the Bernhard Langer of the NBA.

OC > Right, right.

OC > How did you do it?

OC VO > My willingness to do whatever it took to stick around. I still had the skill. You know, I still at that point, wasn’t as athletic as some of the young talent coming in. But I still had a jump shot, understood the game. So and in a voice in the locker room I was willing to obviously sacrifice points per game average was a lot of people asked but like why you points per game average. I didn't really care about that. I enjoyed playing the game of basketball. I enjoyed helping the young generation that was coming behind me. Well, well, behind me. But, you know, it was just fun and I got all of it out of me. You know, I played as long as I possibly could.

OC > And I know you'll play this as long as you possibly can to golf. What do you love about the game?

OC VO > The challenge, the competition. And it's a it's a different challenge every day. You know, you can break 80. shoot somewhere in the seventies and feel good about yourself and be humble just the next day and sometimes the next hole. And, you know, that's kind of my competition now. So walking away from the game, playing 22 years of NBA basketball and all that comes with it, it's a challenge, but golf, once I walked away from I needed something to challenge me. And, you know, golf will do that, right?

OC > So growing up Daytona area, so obviously you were a great basketball star, but was golf part of what you did back then being a Florida kid?

OC VO > Not not until I got to college. Rest in peace, Dean Smith, he was the one that when I Antwone and I decided to come out of college, he said, hey, you might want to pick up the game of golf who like okay, fine, fine.

VO > Antwone Jamieson?

VO OC > Jamieson. So Antoine and I go out to the range one day and just hacking around, hacking around and all the Carolina faithful kind of just giving us tips and, you know, being, you know, in the sport where, you know, you're you're given instruction all the time, you you take it and you work at it and it's kind of worked out. And then it went from the I enjoy golf. Golf is cool to a bad habit. It's a bad habit. As I got older, probably, I mean, I played more probably ten years in. So year, ten, 12. Once I got to Memphis, I started playing with Mike Conley. So I started having guys that were kind of really loving it and I figured out this handicap thing. That was it. Once I was like, okay, my handicap started at, you know, high twenties. High to mid twenties. I say the challenge was, Can I get it down? Can I get it down? Get it down in here.

OC > Where are you?

OC > At a single digit now.

OC > Nice.

OC > Yeah. So I've, I've worked hard at it but there again is some days I walk out there like I said, golf will humble you. I'll get over it, I'll play around and like there's no way I'm a single digit the way I just played.

VO OC > Right, right. So are there any parallels between basketball? You talked about doing the work in basketball and golf?

OC VO > 100%. You know, I look at putting like free throw shooting the concentration, obviously. You know, I think the golf game of golf is a lot more technical, but it's kind of the same approach. You know, when you're shooting a free throw, you're kind of by yourself in the moment and everybody's watching and you kind of have to focus on your target, if you would. And obviously, you know, golf can be that same way. If I can hit if I can run off two or three shots in a row, that's, you know, you're having a little success in the game. If I hit a drive 300 plus, I can't handle success. My second shot is probably gonna be terrible. And I said all time, it's like, I can't handle success in golf yet. I'm not there where it's like, okay, I'm supposed to do this. I mean, you're, you know, I get wowed by, you know, you hit it 280 290. So okay. But when you're hitting 300 plus, you like, yeah, yeah, this is with the big dogs now and second shot bombed.

OC > But ou can see is one of the great athletes in the NBA that this has become an athletic game. I mean, you see it on a tour, you see the young guys coming up. Now, it's a power game now, isn't it?

OC > It really is. And it's just I have some friends that are and who are long drivers, long drive competition and just watch them. And, you know, we all as golfers, we want more, want more. But being that golf is so humbling, I try to stay within myself. And that's another parallel of golf and basketball, staying within yourself, doing what you can do. And obviously you work at it. You know, we always want a little more speed, a little more distance, and you work at it. But when I'm out there on the course, I'm trying to just stay within myself. And hey, if I'm hitting just 280, 290, that's good. 300 plus I'll leave that to the big guys.

OC > Well, you're on a great path. It's so great to see you.

OC > I always a pleasure.

OC > One Vince to the other.

OC > Play well, yeah.

OC > Yes. Thank you.

VO > When Learning Center. Returns the reigning player of the year, Steven Alker, on returning to the Insperity Invitational near Houston without his friend and longtime caddie on the bag. Alker on working through that loss.

VO > A year ago at the Insperity Invitational at the Woodlands, Texas. Steven Alker caught fire on the back nine on Sunday to pull away from Steve Stricker and post win number two on the season. Alker returns this week as defending champion but without longtime caddie and friend Sam Workman, who lost his battle with cancer back in February at age 55.

OC VO > To actually win in that area like last year and have friends and family of his there and be among that atmosphere was really cool it was great and great for Sam, great for his family and and just doing in Texas. I don't think I've won in Texas before. So it was pretty neat. So to go back, you know, it's going to be mixed emotions. And he has family and some friends there and it be a nice gathering. Just just looking forward to the week. Just catching up with everybody and trying to think.

VO > Do you feel his spirit with you still?

OC VO > Yeah. You know, it's funny, I was talking to someone literally asked that same question the other day and I said, you know, you just you just kind of miss the small things. I think we've talked about this before, just some of the things he says and, you know, just his presence just been there because he's, you know, very calm, easygoing, levelheaded guy. So, yeah, you kind of you kind of miss that. And I'm sure there'll be certain spirit you'll be looking down on this next week for sure.

VO > No doubt, it was at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, California, where a first tee fundraiser took place in Sam Workman's Memory. Once again, the PGA Tour champions family came together to help one of their own. Beyond golf. This tour is a brotherhood.

VO OC > Why are we here today? Well, buddy, Sam Workman. Special day for him. First Tee charity. Has been a tough couple of months, you know, just kind of getting through it.

OC > Today's format is a four or five or three person shamble. However, your teams were made.

VO OC > You got a lot of the caddies and the players that got together kind of honor Sam, maybe raise some money. I'm sure there'll be a lot of laughs and a lot of fun and also probably a couple of tears as well and some stories. And I got to play alongside Steven maybe two or three times. And to see that rise, I mean, it was a storybook rise to the top. And, you know, our best player on tour last year and I know he considered Sam a big brother and a huge part of that accomplishment.

VO > Steven Alker, there's your Charles Schwab Cup playoff champion.

VO OC > What they did together as a team was unprecedented. I mean, it really was he he played so well for Sam to get that diagnosis and passed away so quickly. It was just shocking to all of us. I mean, we just saw him in Hawaii. And I just couldn't believe it. So we're here to raise money for Sam's dying wish. First Tee San Antonio and the first Tee of Palm Springs. We've got a great field. So many players, when they started hearing that the caddies were doing this tournament, wanted to participate.

OC > Welcome to the Sam Workman charity pro-am.

VO OC > This day. So awesome to be out here and represent my brother. To see all the caddies and the players that are sponsoring him today is just amazing. And this is actually something that Sam loved to do, is to teach. And so all the proceeds today go to the first tee of San Antonio and Palm Springs.

OC VO > I think when you have someone like Sam whose passion was to grow the game of golf and he was living his dream, doing what he loved, we are honored and we look forward to being able to grow the game of golf just like Sam would have wanted.

VO OC > And he was right behind that, you know, coaching young ones and just try and build the game and I mean, grow the game. So, yeah, this is this is perfect. This is ideal. And we're here. We are in the desert, Palm Springs. The sun is out. It's a great day.

VO OC > Talked about it every day. Every single day. He talked about golf. And I don't think it was just the golf. I think that he thought your family out here. And so he loved being with each and every one of you. And he made an impact on a lot of people.

OC > On the fairway.

OC > I'm shocked, too.

OC > It's not very far from the fairway.

OC VO > No, I'm when we hit it that short, you better hit it straight. It's a tough thing. I mean, when you have a family member like these guys are that you see every single week, it's tough to lose one. It's very sad. But that just shows you how respected he was that they're all out here supporting him and having a charity as well. So I'm gonna match, whatever we raise from the Ken Duke and friends organization and just it's it's a tough thing and I'm just thankful everybody turned out we appreciate everything.

VO OC > and the mantra of, you know, let's go, let's do something. You know, today's a new day, get up and do something. And so he just was a joy to be with sadly missed. And a lot of us that's all we think about is, you know, let's go, you know, like, let's go, Sammy.

OC VO > I think Sam ended up his career the way he wanted it. Last year, winning the Charles Schwab, being so successful with Steve that he couldn't have died at a better time. Because he was on the top.

VO > The event raised $12,000. Ken Duke generously match those earnings, which meant a total of $24,000 was shared among two First Tee chapters in honor of Sam Workman. Quite a tribute to a friend.

VO > On that note, we closed this edition of PGA Tour Champions Learning Center and head south this week for the Insperity Invitational at The Woodlands, where another champion will be crowned. I've Vinci Cel;ini so long from the Lone Star State.