**2023 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW #12**

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > Central Iowa was the scene as PGA Tour champions ushered in the month of June with the principal Charity Classic. As part of a tight leaderboard, Stephen Ames went after the Wakonda Club on Sunday as part of a magnificent week. Ames made only a single bogey and three rounds closed with a 5 under par 67 and held off defending champion Jerry Kelly.

VO > Stephen Ames is the champion. He stares down Steve Stricker

VO > And tour money leader Steve Stricker to win by a stroke in Des Moines at 17 under par. His second principal Charity Classic victory in three years and his third overall win this season. Let's hear from the champion in this week's Winning moment.

OC VO > When you consider the fact how well Steve has played all year and when you consider the fact that the play of two of the one one putt Wisconsin boys this week, you know, I figured I had to do something this week and I got a really nice and warm, which is good for me because I've had problems with it the last couple events that I've played. You know, it's certainly going to come back here and win. So this is my second one here, principal. And it's a it was a good battle today.

VO > And boy, they show out here, don't they? I mean, it's been a great week.

VO OC > Yeah, they love the golf out here, which is awesome. They do have a wonderful attendance here every every year that we've come back. And next year is going to be a different golf course. So we're looking forward to seeing what that's going to look like. But I think overall, it was a it was a great week.

VO > Now a look at the Charles Schwab Cup standings. Stephen Ames is now in second place, trailing only fellow three time winner this season, Steve Stricker. David Toms, Stephen Alker and Miguel Angel Jimenez round out the top five in what has been a sensational season long race for the Cup.

VO > We had a welcome back moment last weekend as Mark Calcavecchia made his season debut in the principal charity Classic. Prior to his appearance in Des Moines, the last time Mark competed was in the 150th Open Championship when the 1989 Open champion said farewell to the game's oldest event. That's amazing. That week, Mark played through pain. It wasn't until he returned to the States he discovered he had micro fractures in his knees and needed major surgery if he hoped to compete again.

OC VO > I went to the University of Wisconsin doctor and he said, You're going to need 2 full knee replacements. There's no doubt about it. So I thought once I got over that and got past that, that I might be okay because I've heard great things about knee replacements.

VO > With unwavering determination, Parke faced his surgery head on, knowing that a brighter future awaited him. And sure enough, the results have been astounding.

VO OC > This has only been three months since this one started done, and I started playing after two months, which is amazing nowadays considering the things they do. And I couldn't be happier when he.

VO > Calc Joined the PGA Tour in 1982 and has played in over 1000 tour sanctioned events. His accomplishments speak for themselves, and while there are moments he cherishes, other times he contemplates a career with a hint of what if?

VO OC > Yeah, I'm satisfied with my career. I probably should have made it close to 20 wins instead of 13 and I'm glad I made the difference to the Hall of Fame. There are one more major, you know, Sandy hit that, Lyle hit that amazing bunker shot on 18 out of the fairway bunker. But if I had won the Masters that year, I might not have won the British the next year. So you never know. But I was really I think I was really close to being in the Hall of Fame, which would have been capped off for my career, but I am very excited. Right back in action, looking for a miracle.

VO > Mark's passion for the game remains unchanged. The next chapter beckons, and if he remains healthy, expect to see a lot of Mark Calcavecchia next year.

VO OC > I think next year I play 18 to 20, which is still a lot. You know, I'll start off my and the first three or four. Naples and Tucson and Newport stuff. And I look forward to that. And should feel pretty healthy. But I want to play probably, yeah, 18 tournaments, let's say for the next two or three years and reevaluate, see how I feel and see how I'm playing and go from there.

VO > Coming up, we put this show on ice with hockey legends Jeremy Roenick and Mike Modano discussing their rivalry and love of golf. It's a super fun segment.

OC > Go Knights go. Go Knights go.

VO > Off topic. Lord Stanley's Cup is on the line as the NHL finals began over the weekend with the Florida Panthers visiting the Vegas Golden Knights in what promises to be a great series as it is. Hockey and golf make for an interesting crossover as players often trade sticks for, well, sticks. Recently, two of the best ever to hit the ice sat down to discuss their similar paths to a less physical, but certainly very challenging sport.

OC > Golf meets hockey again, and I'm pleased to sit down with two of the finest American born NHL players in history. Both of these guys are just part of a handful of American born players with 500 career goals. Mike Modano and Jeremy Roenick. You guys are contemporaries. And Jeremy, you were saying you guys have been competing against each other, whether it's out here on the ice for a long, long time. Right?

OC VO > Well, since you were kids, you know, Mike from Michigan and me from Boston and then throughout the US programs. It was always it was always the conversation. Right. Who was the best player in the country, me or him? And he showed why he is the best player of all time in American history. I say that and I would say that if Mike wasn't here. It's we've had a very interesting relationship for a lot of years. I mean, I love Mike Modano and he was my he was my steppingstone as I played because, you know, he was drafted, number one. But he's just one of the greatest guys in the world. And I still think the greatest American ever to play. And I know he'll say different, but I think a lot of people.

VO > Think that's great.

OC > Because I'm sitting here.

VO > I think I would say that otherwise, not sure. How would you describe Jeremy as a competitor on the ice and in golf?

OC VO > Very high competitor. I think he made me a better player on the ice because I knew he was coming, you know, So he made me well aware when he's on the ice and and like he said, we knew each other as teenagers. Jersey. I was in Detroit with Little Caesars. And so there was this, you know, word of mouth, you know, can't get around like it can nowadays. But we still had heard of each other growing up. And and then we got into the world Juniors and and then eventually I go to Minnesota He Chicago Oh so division rivals you know this whole thing so it and extended it and then I go to Dallas he comes to L.A. is like he kept following me around every every division in the league so I couldn't shake him. But he I'm he made me a better player because I had to be on my toes when I was out.

VO OC > It's a funny story. I get to tell you this real quick because it happened at the end of our career so near the end of our career, where Mike's going back to get the puck and I'm chasing right behind him, right? And and all of a sudden I say, Mike, Mike, I'm right behind you. Right behind your right. And we're going up the ice. He comes back and he goes. Who are you? What did you do with Jeremy Roenick? You’ve changed.

OC > You gave him a heads up. I love that. So why is golf this sport of of hockey players? Why is that, Mike?

OC VO > Well, I think it's a seasonal thing, obviously, where we got the summers off, you know, so you either fish or golf. And I'm not you know, I can't sit in the boat and just throw the rod and real out there. So I'm a big I got into golf at an early age in Detroit. And, you know, Minnesota met some great guys who played and you come to Texas and play. It's like what we got get to play all week and all season long. So that was a big thing. So but I don't know what it is. It's just, you know, it's a competitive thing. You know, it's trying to perfect something that's imperfection as it is. So I think we're just we're our egos are too high enough to let that be the problem. We feel we can we should be able to, you know, conquer anything because we did it, you know, did for the most part in hockey a little bit. But, you know, when it comes to golf, it doesn't look that hard. You know, You know, you're hitting something that's on the ground. We did it. I mean, we did that in hockey and things just move in there. But I think with hockey, you're always moving. You don't have time to think. You know, when you're standing over the ball. There's a lot of things going through your head at that moment.

VO OC > Yeah, I seen both of you guys, The American Century Championship, I know you love the game as well, Jeremy, what is it that gripped you?

OC VO > You know, I think you can never you can never beat it, right? You can always you can always get better right here on the score to be that's and what Mike said is that competitive nature, right. That you as hockey players, you always want to be better. You have that competition, that competitive mentality. And golf is something that can either drive you absolutely crazy or bring you back another day because you make a birdie an 18 no matter what you did in the first 17 holes. It's that kind of mentality. Plus hockey players have that that same kind of rotation. You know that that I hand coordination slap shots are a lot similar to golf. So I think there are similarities within the game in terms of what we do. But I think Mike is right on. It's the seasons, you know, the seasonal can't play in the wintertime. We play golf in the summer and and it's nice not someone's not chasing you, trying to hit you all the time. It's more of a pleasant game.

OC > Yeah, you make a great point. And Mike, I know you've been asked about this as well with the actual mechanics of both the sports, like, you know, hockey guys have been Dan Quinn and Grant Fuhr and Lemieux and Happy Gilmore and all you guys have that that sort of set up. What is it? Is it just striking down on an object?

OC > Yeah, I think we're very we're very steep on everything, so in some ways that's a good thing. But then you got it and you got to hit up on the driver, which is really weird. But I'm a left handed hockey, but I right golf, so I'm kind of all messed up a little bit. But yeah, there's, there's that thing. But you know, sometimes we're able to fix things at the last minute because our hands are pretty good and we kind of know if you're in trouble.

OC > And this is why. Mike, Look at the size of these mitts. And they were soft as ever. They're soft as ever. Look at the size of that. That's why he scored 560 goals and did what he did. And he putts like a dream.

OC > Yeah, we can flip it at the last second and, you know, somewhat save it. But yeah, it's I became a real mess with the mechanics after I stopped playing it. Almost like it's a detriment. You start thinking way too much and start to perfected y it's just it's just kind of go out and have fun and play. But yeah, we're, I think our hands the rotation in the body heading down a little bit of it it's very similar that slapshot.

OC > we still have to putt that. That ball right?

OC > No question.

OC > And how's that going?

OC > Yeah, you know, it's better now I better now back in the old the old Tahoe days, Ivan Lendl nicknamed me Mister Yippee. And there are three putters that are in Lake Tahoe because of that nickname. Come on. Yeah. Really? Oh, yeah. Just. Just a little bit competitive, so. Yeah, Yeah, I putted with my driver probably more than I played with my putter at certain points.

VO > This is. This must be special to have this event too here in the Dallas area for you. Right. Because you've been the face of hockey here for a long time.

VO OC > Yeah. Yeah, it was. It was good. I missed the last year. I was on a Disney cruise with our kids and so the years flip flops, so we just got one off one on Sunday. So I was able to pack and repack and come back here. So it was good and just happened to be. Oh, Minnesota's play in Dallas in the first round of playoffs, so got to go out of the game last night and see everybody. But yeah, it's always come. It's always good to come back. Dallas. I mean, I love Texas, I love Dallas. The fans, the people here, it's pretty special. Spot.

OC > Yeah, I was watching the playoff game last night, so it's exciting.

VO CO > Yeah. Playoff hockey in Dallas has been something that fans have kind of grown accustomed to, to have, especially had a, you know, good seven, eight year run here in the late nineties and 2000. So it's it's it's this time of year people get a little more rambunctious.

OC > I want to bring this full circle and Jeremy just back to competing again with with guys that you know in the league with but other athletes out here and what a wonderful opportunity this is and golf is giving both of you, I'm sure, to be able to do that.

VO OC > Oh, there's no question, because we need that in our lives. Right. It's really hard when you retire, especially in the late thirties, like Mike and I did, to defining what's going to get that fuel that fire again and get that that those competitive juices going. When you come to these events and you start seeing the guys that you're with and the celebrities or even playing that with The Champions guys, you want to play your best against them and that you challenge yourself and you try to compete and to the highest level that you can brings us back to those days and we need competition. I mean, we just can't stop it. It's in our blood. And so these sort of things bring it out. And I sense I love it. I can't wait for them every every year.

OC > I just hope that if the guy's playing slow in front of you. You just don't pull a shirt over his head and just, you know.

OC > It's it's been close. It’s been close.

OC VO > Thanks guys. I can't wait. Thanks guys.

OC > Yeah thanks.

VO > Victor Hovland won the memorial tournament in a playoff over Denny McCarthy back on Sunday, his fourth tour win. One of the traditions is shaking the hand of host Jack Nicklaus as you walk off 18 at Muirfield Village Golf Club. It's a memory Hovland will certainly cherish. This year also marks the silver anniversary of Fred Couples 1998 win in the memorial. Couples won by four strokes over Andrew McGee in an on again, off again weather delayed final round. After 72 holes were finally complete. Fred had his brief moment with the Golden Bear as he shares with us in this edition of The Couples Chronicles.

VO OC > And what I kind of remember is waking up and Jack was standing there and I kind of gave them, you know, they call it the ole. And most people, you know, he'll talk to or you'll say something. I just was extremely nervous and I, I kind of remember that I've not seen it on film. Maybe I did stand and talk to him, but I kind of remember that I didn't. But what a tournament, you know, I've said my whole career that I've won Arnold Palmer's tournament, Byron Nelson's tournament and Jack Nicklaus this tournament. And that, you know, was a feat in itself. But Jack is everyone's idol. It’s an unreal course, it's an unbelievable week. We did have some bad weather. So, you know, the crowds on Sunday were a little low. And I think there was a big delay. And I was playing with Andrew McGee and we kind of fought it out a little bit, but I ended up beating.

VO > When Learning Center returns. More from Fred Couples. On how he hopes to get a little Stricker luck this week. But it's not the stricker you’re thinking of.

VO > This week Thongchai Jaidee defends the American Family Insurance Championship. Last year he won by one stroke and became the first Thai winner in PGA Tour champions history. The 53 year old takes us up close now and shows us what's in the bag.

OC > Hi. I'm Thongchai Jaidee. This one for everything in my bag. I will show you what I have in my bag. We start on the my front pocket. We have, like, a couple small gloves to put on. Yes, some of my reading glasses, some of my badge, some of the sand grass. I mean, you know, some. It's an act put on here. Yeah, it is like a peanut everything mix in here, right by the energy in the course. Yeah. Like you put on on the top here. And another thing, you know, it's internal bag we have a couple of things. He have small thing on here. We have my put my wallet on here like in my wallet. A couple of money on a credit card, something in here and a couple of my get my watch I got Rolex like this and this special one. Yeah that's one way away. It is one of the long term. And also we have like ball marker, we have three different things in mind for my ball marker like I got the Scottie Cameron, I got this one I think this one you senior open in Omaha this three years ago two years ago and a couple coin for marking as well, but that's when we go you know and couple of things in it I think we put on here and very important thing we are my person from Thailand. There is my country. Yeah a lot of people, they like a Buddhist. I'm a Buddhist, you know, like, you know, all we, we, we carry on this one, you know, this one like my naked. We put on Buddha on that. This one my luck like give me a lot of luck you know give me my lucky one.

VO > Two Sundays ago the family Stricker had another winning moment. Steve Stricker captured the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship, his sixth major championship title on PGA Tour champions, and this time with daughter Izzy on the back. Previously wife Nicky and brother-in-law Mario Tiziana have caddie for Strick. But wait, there's more At this week's American Family Insurance Championship. Steve's other daughter, Bobby will caddie not for her dad, but rather for Fred Couples.

VO OC > Two weeks ago I talked to Steve about having Bobby Stricker caddie for and that was before I knew is he was going to caddie for him. So I thought that was unreal timing. And Suzanne and I love both. We love everything about the Strickers. And so I just didn't want Bobby to caddie in and have a tournament, you know, carrying the bag and all that. And she says, no, I love it. I can't wait to do it. So after Steve won, I sent her a text we’re next. And I don't know if she meant we're next in line or we're next to win. I meant next to win. So she and I will be a great team. And then she does have a tournament in Madison right after we play the Am Fam. So I'm very excited that she's very excited. And I told Steve, Is there any way you can pair us together there in Madison? This would be unreal. So we'll see what happens.

OC > She's super excited and so is Freddy. He's been he's been great, actually, for both of the girls, you know, reaching out to them when they're playing, when they have things going on. It's it's been really cool. They call him Uncle Freddy.

VO > And that is our show from our extended PGA Tour Champions family. Now it's off to Sconnie for the American Family Insurance Championship. Until then, I'm Vince Cellini. As always, we thank you for watching.