**2024 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW SEASON PREVIEW**

VO > PGA Tour champions is back and opening the season. As always, on the big island of Hawaii with the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai. Paradise in the South Pacific and a blend of sun, surf and sensational storylines. Steve Stricker ran the table in 2023, winning six times and returns here as defending champion. Can he continue to dominate in 24? Ernie Els comes in seeking the Hawaiian triple career wins at Sentry, Sony and perhaps Hualalai. The Big Easy is always a threat. Three-time Mitsubishi electric icon Bernhard Langer is back for a 17th season on the tour champions. At age 66 he looks to have his all-time tour winless and in Hawaii, when he's not under par, Steven Alker is underwater and will tag along. It's all next on the PGA Tour Champions Season preview.

VO > The PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > The Kona coast on the big island of Hawaii, a tropical paradise and an escape from the brutal winter cold. It's also a workplace for the over 50 tour, soon to be in session.

OC > Hi, everyone, and welcome to the 2024 PGA Tour Champion season preview. I'm Vince Cellini. For the 28th consecutive year. The tour begins play here on the big island of Hawaii with the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at July the first of 28 events on the schedule. The defending champion Steve Stricker, well, he lit up the place last year, winning his first of six victories on tour and going on to take the Charles Schwab Cup. Stricker Fellow players who have seen a thing or two. Like all of us, we're thoroughly impressed.

OC > The crown goes to Stricker. I mean, there is no two ways about it.

OC > Steve Stricker deserves the crown because he has beaten the pants off of us all year.

OC > Guys, the best player, plain and simple.

OC > He's played the best, just flat out he's the best.

OC VO > It's been a remarkable year coming back from his illness and he just hasn't stopped since.

OC > Steve Stricker deserves the crown for this season.

OC VO > Steve Stricker starts here you go. Complete a streak of 55 straight rounds of par or better record on tour sanctioned circuit, surpassing Tiger Woods.

OC > Surpassing Tiger Woods.

OC > Surpassing Tiger Woods. Yeah, ok, that's a feat.

OC > Six wins, five runner up finishes in 16 starts.

OC VO > Six out of however many times he played this year is a remarkable clip. That's a Tiger Woods type pace in efficiency.

OC > Won three of four senior majors he played and finished second in the other. That's quite impressive.

OC > He won three of four majors he played and finished second in the other. Yeah that’s

OC > To have won six times with three majors and a second in that fourth major.

OC > It's almost Tigerish isn’t it.

VO > It's an exceptional year. We know he's an exceptional player.

OC > Top two. Almost 70 percent of his starts. That's impressive, too.

OC > You know, I can't pick one of these. That just shows how how good of a player Steve Stricker is and how consistency is.

OC VO > He was determined to to play more out here and to try and win the Charles Schwab Cup. He did it three quarters of the way through the season. Steve has the crown.

VO OC > I just hope to be playing with him more on Sundays next year because if you're playing with Steve on a Sunday, you've probably got a chance to win the golf tournament.

VO > Over the last five seasons, players have loosened Bernhard Langer's grip on the Charles Schwab Cup. Langer won his sixth in the combined season three years ago, but since New Zealand's Steven Alker has had a breakthrough campaign 2022 and Steve Stricker captured the Cup just this past fall in Phoenix.

OC > Joining us now is Steve Stricker. And to me, this is unprecedented. I've never seen an athlete actually bring his trophy. Insist that we have the Schwab Cup behind us. No, you didn't do that at all. But congratulations.

OC > Thank you.

OC > And what a great reminder to your season. What do you do for an encore in 24?

OC > I tell you what, it was such a fun year. You know, a great year. Had a lot of memories that I won't forget. You know, I had a ton of different people on the bag. I had family on the bag. My daughter was on the bag for the PGA senior PGA. Mario, my wife, Nicki, you know, just a lot of fun all the way around. And I think the part that I'm really most happy about was the consistency of which I played all year long, had opportunities to win other tournaments. But just in there, all, you know, most weeks and and gave myself chances most weeks to win.

OC > Yeah, you had six wins of the sixteen events and five runner up. So, to your point, that's exactly what happened and is that was that the most satisfying part of the season? Was this being able to go out there and know that, you know, this could happen again this week?

OC > Yeah, and that's the fun part, right?

OC > Right.

OC VO > We're out here to try to win golf tournaments and still very blessed to be able to play the game for a living, to do what I've done my entire career is work at something, work towards a goal. And so, to be able to do that is still really special. And that's why we're all here. It was we're all here to try to win. And when you get in contention and then, you know, hit the shots down the stretch like like I did at times last year is very rewarding.

OC > So, Steve, we talked about this a year ago sitting out here in Hualalai and you deliver it on everything. What is it that will possibly keep you on track or determine that that will be a year-to-year situation for you on PGA Tour Champions?

OC VO > I think it's just the inside the driven part of me on the inside. You know, I still want to play well. I still work hard at it. I still enjoy the game. I enjoy the practice. I don't enjoy the travel probably as much anymore, but I enjoy the competitiveness of this tour. I get to play in a couple of regular tour events this year, which will even drive me even more so to get my game ready and to try to compete out at the highest stage in golf. So, there's a lot to play for. And that's and that's part of the fun.

OC VO > In February, you turn 57. At this point in your career, did you imagine that it would be about where it is now or what is Champions Tour offer to you?

VO OC > Yeah, it's it's been a great experience, really, and it's given us the opportunity to continue our trade and our our abilities well into and past our prime. Right. So, it's it's been a lot of fun and I didn't think I'd be playing still at 56 and 57 years of age. You know, I just I felt like I had enough on the regular tour, and I was going to spend my time at home, but my families into golf. You know, my wife caddies plays a lot. My kids are big golfers and they've been on the bag. So, it's it's been a family affair. And if it wasn't that way, I don't know if I'd be out here. But they they continue to push me, encouraged me to to play and and to come out here and and they give me the ability to come out here to do this. So, it's been a lot of fun.

OC > You're speaking your family. That was where I was going next because your wife Nicki’s been on the bag, Bobby’s been on, Izzy, Mario Tiziani, your brother-in-law. But I would imagine the Stricker household more so than maybe anywhere in the country. The golf scrutiny that takes place there, it must be through the. What is it like when you guys talk about each other's games? I mean, no one's safe, I would imagine.

OC > Well, I have to be careful because I live with three women, so nothing against women. I love them to death. But I have to be careful what I say. Right. And but I'm there for support. I try to support them as much as they support me. And, you know, they it's not that I wanted them to play golf. You know, Nicki plays more than any of us. First of all, she practices harder, and she works at it harder. She wants to play better than I do. And and then our girls, you know, they've just taken it up on their own and they enjoy the process so far, too. And which is cool. We never push them down that road, but they they found that joy in golf, too. So that's been a real cool.

OC > Well, thank you for everything that you've done for the tour. You've raised the bar and it'll be another challenge because you know, the guys are coming after you this year.

OC > Yeah. Look forward to it.

OC > All right. Thanks.

OC > Thanks, Vince. Thanks buddy.

VO > Coming up on the season preview, we'll hear from more legends. This season begins in earnest. Ernie Els seeking some Hawaiian magic and a run-in top player on tour. Bernhard Langer is a three-time winner of the Mitsubishi Electric Championship and at age 66, inspires us all and is this the year Fred Couples cashes in at Hualalai, checking in with the guy who plays like Island Time, all the time and.

VO > Welcome back to this one-of-a-kind setting Hualalai golf course in Hawaii. Beauty at every turn and competition among the very best in the game's history, including Ernie Els, who has three PGA Tour wins in Hawaii, the first coming in 2003 at Kapalua. Els won The Sentry, in record setting fashion, he set the PGA Tour scoring record in relation to par and 31 under. Els hot play continued the following week on the island of Oahu. The Big Easy completed Aaron Baddeley in a playoff to win the Sony Open and become the first player in 14 years to win the first two PGA Tour events of the season. One year later, Els defended his Sony Open title by defeating Harrison Frazier on the event's third playoff hole. He became the tournament's first back-to-back winner in 17 years.

OC > So let's welcome in the Big Easy. Ernie Els spending time with us. And I guess we'll start with your connection to Hawaii and the victories there. And it would be nice to complete the picture here. Wouldn’t it Ernie?

OC > Thanks, Vince. Yeah, I've always enjoyed the islands. It's just amazing to get out here. From South Africa, it’s quite a long travel, but when you get here, it's paradise. And I've been coming here since the nineties, since the Grand Slam days in the in the middle nineties and yeah, I've had some success, but most of all I've just had a great time on the islands.

OC > It'd be nice to add a certain piece of hardware here at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship.

OC VO > It would be great. I mean this is just another piece of jewelry that we have in the islands. I mean the golf course plays great game. Close my very first time, very first event ever as a Champions Tour player, you know, getting in a playoff with Fred and and Miguel Jimenez and Jimenez, you know, winning that that event. Been running close at this event. Love it but just haven't got it over the line yet.

VO OC > Well, let's talk a little bit about what happened last year coming into this, got back into the winner's circle, finished third in the Cup standings. So really a good year for you. A really. How do you assess last year and going into this?

OC VO > Yeah, I think it was a consistent year. You know, I had some really nice finishes obviously winning at the Hoag again was great you know but you know three wins in four seasons out there. You know people think I'm underachieving, you know, but I feel like I've had to work on quite a few aspects of my game. You know, I from 45 to 50, I didn't have a great time, you know, playing on the main tour and I think I lost a lot of confidence in some areas. So, I've had to work on that, and it's given me a great opportunity out here on The Champions Tour to get to to work on those. And I feel that's coming around and with good finishes like I had last year, I think I can build on that to maybe really have a good one this year.

OC > That's so interesting that you're losing some of the confidence along the way. You think of, you know, amateur players and you suffer some of the same things. But at at 54 you have this is this journey is just getting started for you. I mean, where where do you see yourself going? Are you in the moment? Person Yeah, no, you know what?

OC > I'm kind of in the moment. Guy But I know what I've had to work on, as I just mentioned, and I feel like it's coming around. Out here it seems like you hit your peak. You know, I wouldn't want to talk about Bernhard Langer, but you just figure that's normal guys around my age now, you know, from that look, what Steve Stricker has done is done amazing. You know, he's been doing it for quite a few years now, but he really hit it last year. So, I feel I'm working on that trend, and I feel like things are coming around.

OC > When I saw you on the range, you're just you're hitting driver, but can you go into depth more about what you might be working on? What are those areas you need to strengthen? You feel.

OC VO > Well, just the body, you know, I'm in pretty good shape, but I can get better, you know, traveling a lot, you know, coming to this event. I've had to come from South Africa with a stop in Portugal, so I've got a lot of other things going on. So, I've really got to keep my body in mind, that I've got to keep it fresh. I've got a physio on tour now that works on me, so I just got to keep my body in shape and then I can do what I need to do in the golf swing. If you can't move, the back is stiff. You know, it's tough to hit the ball the way you want to.

OC > You know, this tour just gets better every year and it's going to get better this year again. So, I wonder if you could address some of the competition, how you see this since you've had your PGA Tour champions veteran now. Yeah. You can assess where this tour is going.

OC > Wow, that's going great. I mean, we're just getting more and more talent come through. Look what Padraig Harrington's brought to the tour. You know, with his driving ability. Now, he's really taken that to heart to really keep it up for the young guys. I think Stewart Cink’s going to have some some really good events. You know, Tiger, we're waiting for Tiger. Hopefully he plays. It'll be so unbelievable for the trophy plays. And I think he he'd have a great time because, you know, you can do it doesn't have to walk it off and play quite a few events in a car. But but just the competition, you know, to have him out would be unbelievable. So, the tour's looking great for the future. We've got great sponsors. Look at Mitsubishi Electric doing such a great job for us and and the guys really enjoy it. And we've been very fortunate to have these kind of people around us.

OC > Well, I'm talking to some folks here close to the tour. You're one to watch this year. They're looking for a big year from you as well.

OC > You know, you just keep giving me tips.

OC > Tips on how to work with you. Nothing major just to tweak or two.

OC > We don't have to tell anybody.

OC > Be our little secret. Thanks, Ernie.

OC > Thanks

OC > Have a wonderful year. Thank you.

VO > Up next on PGA Tour champion season preview light waves on the Hawaiian shoreline. Bernhard Langer is a constant. We'll chat with the tour's all-time winningest player about his magnificent career, which is still being offered this week on the big Island.

VO > He remains the face of PGA Tour champions and one of the finest players the game's ever known while still competing at a high level at age 66. Bernhard Langer is venturing into uncharted waters. No athlete in any sport has been so good for so long and won. Langer has the tour record for majors won with 12. Has authored 11 straight multi win seasons, sat down with a six-time Charles Schwab Cup champion to talk about what's next.

OC > It wouldn't be a season opener if we did not spend time with a three-time champion out here to Hualalai. Bernhard Langer is with us. And I wonder at this time of year, Bernie, if you have some sort of internal alarm clock that goes off and tells you the season is about to be here and and so on. How does that work?

OC VO > It works very easily. It's easy to explain when you make it to Hualalai it's time to go. It's you know, the sentence being sharpened by the blue water and the blue sky, the lava rock being black and the green grass, the white sand. It doesn't get much better than this.

OC > That is pretty good incentive as long as well as being a three-time winner. 46 wins achieved last season and Bernie 46 on any tour is outstanding, astounding and outstanding both. I've asked you this many times, what what keeps you going? What is it that keeps you going?

OC VO > Probably just the love of the game and the enjoyment of competing and being out here with wonderful people, you know, great colleagues of mine. We've been doing this for quite a while, and we know a lot about each other. And it's it's a great way to earn a living.

VO OC > Well, the physical wear and tear is one thing, but the mental grind has done in many players over the years as well with the with the travel, with the gym, with the range, with with just everything that goes along with being out of focus. So how have you managed that? Just the mental part.

OC VO > Yeah. Not, you know, not everybody can cope with being away from home for 26 weeks a year and away from family, from friends, from church, just from home, from the surroundings. But for me personally, it's become a part of my life. I'm used to it. I actually miss it at times. So, when I'm home too long, I get itchy and to look forward to being out here again and do what I enjoy doing and what I'm doing fairly well and not everybody's made that way. You know, we're we're all different. Some want to go fishing, someone to go hunting. I don't I enjoy playing golf, but I also lately have taken a lot more time off when I go home. I don't spend 4 hours on the driving range or another 4 hours playing 18 holes. I haven't played one hole actually since the PNC Championship, so today was my first-time playing holes. Having said that, I did practice some the last two weeks but not playing on the course.

OC > You know, it's interesting that through all this time, a 17th season here and I've asked you about the numbers. We talked about the 46 wins, and I talked about the 12 majors, but to me, it's 11 straight seasons of of multiple wins. It's not like you're out here hanging on. You are out here competing completely in the mix.

OC > Not yet.

OC > You have a ways to go for that. But my point is that you're out here and staying ultra-competitive in the mix, and that's that's what it's about. I wonder if you'd be out here if it weren't another way.

OC VO > Well, that's a great question. I wonder that myself. You know, hopefully I don't have to ask myself that in this year or next year. But sooner or later, I'm going to ask myself, you know, do you want to be out here if you finish 40th every week? I don't think I do. But I can't answer that yet. So far, I've been in contention on many of the tournaments I play in, and that's really what I strive for and what I long for.

OC > One of the victories in 23, the U.S. Senior Open. And that means that you will have a place in the U.S. Open at Pinehurst, and at that time you will become the oldest competitor to be in that particular event. How exciting is that for you? And because I know you've loved the Masters, going back to The Masters.

OC VO > I do, it's going to be my last Masters this year. So, I've already decided on that. and probably will be my last U.S. Open too, unless some miracle happens in the future. But yeah, it's exciting. At the same time, I am aware that, you know, I'm be hitting three irons and two hybrids when the guys are hitting nine irons into the green. And that's that's tough to compete against, but it's a challenge and I usually don't shy away from challenges.

OC > Thank you, Bernie, for spending time with us, Bernhard Langer, and look forward to seeing you in 2024.

OC > Thank you.

OC > Thank you.

VO > When our season preview returns, how about this marquee pairing? Tom Lehman and Jay Haas discussed the state of the PGA Tour champions, where things stand and where they're headed.

OC > Well, time now for a very special segment note. This is an over 50 tour, but this is going to be in over 60 conversation. And if you don't like that, you can just get off our lawn right now. Want to welcome in two great players. But really more than that great people. Given so much back to this tour and to golf as well. Jay Haas and Tom Lehman. Thanks, guys.

OC > Yeah, thanks Vince.

OC > My pleasure.

 OC > Jay, I'll start with you. We. Tom and I will kind of talk about the state of golf right now and kind of where where we are in terms of PGA Tour champions or beyond. That's a broad question. But I mean, how do you see it now?

OC > It is something that I never saw coming. And a lot of people if you're in that same boat, it's kind of beyond belief, really. All I've ever known is performance-based golf prize money, things like that. And to see what's happened just in the last couple of years, I don't know that anyone could have seen that coming or where it's going to end up in 3 to 5 years what is it going to look like? What's the landscape going to look like for PGA Tour or PGA Tour champions live on down the line? I guess I don't think that it was broken. So why are we doing all this?

OC > Yeah, well, I don't think it's broken either, but I think we broke it.

OC > Right.

OC > Somewhere along the way it was broken. And it's like, much like college football, in my opinion, where you don't really recognize college football the way it has been all these years. Not that there weren't issues, but the same thing with golf is that maybe there are have been issues but did not ever want to see it get to the point where it's all about money. You know, the idea of golf is simply like you said, Jaybird, you know, you get what you earn. You you put your time in you you are mentally tough. You're you're you do what you have to do. And, you know, you get what you get, you know, And that's the beauty of it. And, you know, there's so many talented young players today. So, I kind of hate to see this happening during their time. I just I just think that guys like Scheffler and Rory and, you know, guys like that are such outstanding people and great golfers. And I certainly want to see them perform in the same way that we did, you know, you know, kind of breaking whatever records they can break.

OC> While still evolving. So, who knows where it's going to be going in five, six, ten years.

OC > Right.

OC > Nobody knows. But let's put a finer point on it with the PGA Tour champions. And Tom, you've been added for a while on this particular tour. And I would think that the 50 that you see now is not the 50th saying with 25, 30 years ago. Right, guys coming out here and they look at 50.

OC > You know, they're not looking 50, they're not playing 50. I think it's always been that way. But, you know, but the game as it's evolved, you know, first of all, I would say the Champions Tour's in a really great position. I think the quality of golf out here is sensational, the quality of people amazing. It's a it's a great little niche in the world of golf, which is, you know, really enjoyable for us. You know, I think it's a great for the fans, but the guys who come out at 50 are still very, very competitive on the PGA Tour, which they always have been. But they're playing that game which has morphed into this complete power game all about speed. And they come out here and they do it so well. I mean, and they hit the ball, you know, three 320 330 I mean, look at Padraig, hit it and you know Darren Clarke and guys like that it just Stewart Cink is killing it. They hit it so far. And now here they are playing against guys in their sixties. That's not even fair.

OC VO > Guys are taking better care of themselves, too, you know, on down the line just to keep up on the PGA Tour. But then the benefit from that will be seen when they get to the 50 and over to when my Uncle Bob Goalby was just starting with the with the guys back in the eighties, I guess you'd say the early eighties. I never thought I'd be 50. Certainly, was never going to be that old. And so, it wasn't really on my radar. But as time came closer to that, I won't say I couldn't wait, you know. But I was playing pretty well on the PGA Tour, and that translated into pretty good golf on the on the Champions Tour. So, you know, I've had a ball. I hadn't been out for a while, a few months. And I sat down with Jeff Sluman and in Olin Brown yesterday at breakfast and it was like we had missed a beat. We start telling stories. One story led to another story, and we were laughing so hard. And I just those are the things that we missed, I think, when we were when we're not out here.

VO OC > Well, I think there's a different dynamic to when you get out here. You've you've already had a really good career, which is why you're able to play out here almost to the point where in some ways you say, hey, there's nothing to prove. It's just to go out and have fun and compete. And of course, you still like to play well, you still like to win. And there is no doubt that we work hard, and we try to win. But I do think the relationships I mean, I've had more than one guy out here, you know, to say, hey, you know, why don't we hang out much before? I mean, we had all these years on the tour, and we never hung out together at all. You know, we missed, you know, 25 years out there of hanging out and that we do it now. And I think that's very true. It's very relational out here and end. You kind of find out that there's some guys that weren't part of your circle who should have been, and you wish they.

OC > That’s a great point. Yeah.

OC > Before I let you guys go, I'm going to throw some names out. I just want to get some reaction. So, we're kind of sizing up this season. So first off, you mentioned earlier topics about Padraig Harrington.

OC > Right.

OC > Is in there.

OC > Well, tremendous. He's still a force on the DP World Tour or the PGA Tour, and it's fun to see his energy that he brings and his desire to get better. And I think that's what you're seeing is young guys, fifties, they come out here 48, 49, 50, 51. They're they're energetic and they want to be here. And I think Padraig is that guy.

OC > Earnie Els?

OC > You know well I played with him in the U.S. Senior Open last year, and I just realized that nothing has changed. Ernie Els at age 25 and Ernie Els at age in his early fifties looks almost identical. He's doing he's one of the most beautiful golfers that I've ever seen, and he still plays that way.

OC > and finally contemporary Bernhard Langer.

OC > Well, you mentioned you asked a question about, you know, when you get into your fifties, and I remember asking Bernhard, like, Bernhard, you know, you could still be playing on the PGA Tour. What do you what are you doing out here? This is like maybe ten years ago, you know, he was 56 or something and he said, I like to win.

OC > And he has done that.

OC > And he's done that well.

OC > And he’s done that better than anyone. So.

OC > Gentlemen, thank you so much and thank you for roughing it out here.

OC > Yeah, this is tough stuff here.

OC > There's a ball mark this grass. We got to fix that.

OC > Tom Lehman, thank you so much, guys.

OC > Thank you. It's all right.

VO > Much more ahead on PGA Tour champion season preview, including a chat with the man who brings timeless style to the game, the incomparable Fred Couples. Perhaps the most sought-after swing in the game, moving into 2024,

VO > Robert Karlsson popped the question in the off season. The tall Swede made it official, proposing to fiancé Gay Diller. It happened with the breathtaking backdrop of the North Carolina mountains. Congratulations to the couple. No date for the wedding has been set.

OC > Always fun to spend time with. The incomparable Fred Couples said. Here in Hawaii, you've had so much success. 14th appearance at the season opener four times a runner up. Fred let's go.

OC > I know it's just one of my favorite spots. Everybody's to start the year out here. You know, for me, I'm a California guy, so I've actually been playing a little bit. When I come to this tournament, I feel like I'm game ready and four runner up the very first time was to Tom Watson, my very first year out here. Sometimes they get the numbers wrong. I think I shot 21 under or 22 under and and lost to Tom. So, it was a good loss. I don't mind losing anything to Tom Watson.

OC > It doesn't take some of the sting off because you're out here. Or is it just the competition kicks in? I mean, cause runner ups tough.

OC > Yeah, No. Well, the last one was Ernie Els and Miguel.

OC > Miguel in their playoff.

OC VO > I mean, it stinks, you know, because again, this is a tournament that I feel like I can win. Yeah. As I'm 64 now, you know, I feel like I better do everything right, but I can still play the course. There's there's no doubt it's my length is still good. But yeah, it stings because, you know, you come here normally I'm one of maybe 40 players. I don't know how many are here this year.

VO > 42.

VO OC > So it's not like a full field, although, you know, 77 you're still playing your best golf. But again, I love the course. And by the way, it is absolutely in perfect condition.

OC > Yes, It's it's it's beautiful out here. I always ask you this, at the start of the year, was it ten events last year? How often are we going to see you? Because, you know, I love we love to bring you down for a little chat.

OC > I know everyone's laughing, so I'm going to go the reverse gucci, I'm going to play three times this year in Augusta, three times as all anything above three. I'm going to feel really good about.

OC > The over under is three.

OC VO > I've come here with you and said, you know, I feel like if I play up, I can win the Schwab Cup that I want to play 16 times. And then it's like 12. I have Griff caddying from Griff Flesch, so I'm already told we've already penciled in tournaments. I do want to play enough to have some fun. I'm getting as we all are getting older, but I'm hoping to play 12 times. I really am. And I want to play good golf. I don't want to just play just to come out. So, my goal, you know, they're all silly goals, but I still you know, when I won at the SAS a couple of years ago, I thought, okay, I've done it. I want to know I want to do it again, like everybody I want to follow, and I want to follow Langer's process. Somehow, I can't, but I want to follow.

OC > Well, that's listen, winning is what it's all about. And at least at the SAS, it was such an exciting finish there and it showed. You still have that. What are the kids say rizz. You got the.

OC > Rizz

VO > You got the rizz? Yes. You still got it. Which is was great to know.

VO OC > I think I think that I also say this to you every time. The pairings really are fun out here. And I don't mean that in any condescending way. It means I get Ernie Els, I get Stricker. So, I know I have to play exceptionally well to compete with those guys. When I was 52 or three or four, I knew everyone had to compete really well to compete with me. Now it's to the point where I watch them. I know when I go home. Okay, I took it a little easy here. I need to drive it better. Or maybe I need to get better around the greens. But the whole process is to win.

OC> Sure.

OC > And anything. And I'm no different than Marco Dawson or Scott Parel or anyone who can win out here. I just feel like I got to really come out and practice and earn it.

VO OC > How much of that is tied to where you are in your personal life? A few years ago, getting married, I saw you competing with Hunter Ryder Tournament. So, are there things that are there things that, you know, maybe you have to play golf, you know, in a different area in your life?

OC VO > Yeah, that's a great that's well put. I think that Suzanne's a golfer, loves to play. So, we play a little bit at home. Hunter's got football and volleyball and maybe he can you can talk to him about football, but he likes golf enough. But we don't play very often. And to say it really quick, we did play in the desert two weeks ago. We won the Madison member member, and he was we played with John Elway the second day and J.J., good friends. And Hunter had an app. He's talking a lot about golf. He's got buddies at golf. So, I hope that's a push. I don't I really would like to play with him in the father son. I think I think he can get there. I think he can hit it sharply enough if he plays and maybe we can do that. But as far as me, I think I play a little bit more because Suzanne golfs. I go out and I'll play nine holes with her. Instead, I might go hit a few balls, but I like to play in Steve Flesch I just played with, and he said, Man, I'm not going to go here, but I want to go play. He might play nine more holes. I think it's more fun, even though in nine holes I'm going to hit five drives, a couple of irons and par threes and a few putts. I still would rather be out there visualizing what the hell I'm doing.

OC > Well, any time we have you out here is, is, is good for us. So, we'll take whatever. We'll take it ever we can get.

OC > I love doing the show. Yeah. Remember, I'm only playing three times.

OC > Only three time I got you. Got you, Freddy. Thank you. Go get em.

OC > Thank you.

VO > When we return, the man who won in Hualalai three years ago. Find out how Darren Clarke's been improving his putting. And wait until you see all the gadgets and gizmos he's using.

VO > In 2021, Darren Clarke won his debut on the Big Island. He closed with a back 930, his final round, including a 50-foot birdie putt on the 17th. He posted a 64 and a 21 under total to win the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai.

OC > We just saw Darren Clarke's heroics on Saturday in the final round, a Mitsubishi winning as a first-time participant. But the work is never done, right?

OC > > No. No.

OC> On the green?

OC > No.

OC > So you're tweaking again.?

OC VO > I'm tweaking again. Vince, you know, I played 17 there this morning. The good memories are not great, obviously. I'd love to say I'm good enough to think I'm going to hold a 50-footer, but that's just one that, you know, under those circumstances, trying to log up there closed and I hit it the perfect speed. Good read and it and managed to go in. But last year I struggled a little bit on the greens, and I lost 1.09 shots per round on the greens, which is not going to do any any good in any tournament. So, I've been working away and there's a guy I've been following on Instagram for about a year, a guy called Markus Potter, so I sent him a couple of videos. He was at Sentry with a couple of PGA Tour players, and he came back to me, give me a couple of ideas, said, Darren, try this and do that. A lot of it was to do with my my initial move off the ball is a little bit one of my old habits. I go into my left, left heal a little bit. So then consequently as a whole balance thing and catch up from there.

OC > Consequently.

OC > Consequently, got these little balanced pods that I dug out of the thing at home. The obviously if I go into my heal the toe is going to go up. So, it's all about trying to stay balanced and make them make the stroke and then my head isn't going to dip down too much. So those are one of the things that he has me doing. And another one was my alignment stick that and it goes in. It's an eyeline thing. You said this is also there to help me try and keep my height a little bit. So, they don't take back down. So just sits in the back of the back of the putter like so, and then goes into my sternum and then I'm trying to keep it out there and then just make more of a rocking stroke from there so that I'm not losing height. So then consequently I don't have to manipulate the club face through the ball.

OC > So, is that a common problem that you see with, say, maybe lesser players, not pros or and I guess can creep in with anyone?

OC > Yeah, creeps in with anybody. But if you watch some of the best players that way, you know you take a look at Tiger. I think the parts of his old on pressure are beyond anybody. And Jack was the same, obviously. But if you look at really good putters, they're very, very grounded. They have very little movement in the bottom half. So, they don't lose height. They don't come up out of it to stay. Steve Stricker, same sort of thing, keeps his posture, keeps it all the way through, which is much easier said than done. And it takes it takes a lot of work. So, for me, if I have that a little bit of movement, then there has to be a compensation. Compensation under pressure doesn't work. So, you know, I'm trying to maybe this year a little bit better.

OC > Right? So lastly, does all of this apparatus go into one suitcase when you travel or is it a trunk or?

OC > It's a heavy suitcase. I've got I've got a suitcase specifically for the gadgets. But hopefully these are the right gadgets this time. I've got lots of them. A lot of them work. A lot of them don't work. But hopefully these are the right one.

OC > Yeah, but again, the process never stops. Take it easy.

OC > Thank you.

But thank you. Best of luck.

OC > Thank you.

OC VO > Hi, I'm Joe Terry. PGA Tour Champions Rules Official. We're here at The Hualalai Resort for the Mitsubishi Electric Championship. And on this golf course, Lava is a large part of this golf course. And here's a situation we may find as a common occurrence because of the amount of lava that we encounter. Here I have found my golf ball. It's in the lava. It's virtually impossible to get in there to make a stroke at it. So, I'm going to have to declare the ball unplayable. If I do so, it's going to cost me a penalty stroke for being unplayable. My options for relief are two club links from where the ball is at rest or go back to where I've last struck the ball before it became unplayable. Or I may take a point between the flagstick through where the golf ball is at rest and go back along that line. As far as I would like to. Two club lengths obviously is not going to get me clear of the lava. So that option is out of the question. The second option would be to go back to where I last hit it. I hit that ball from a great distance away and it's not very appealing to have to go back there again. So, I'm going to look at back on the line relief, which is a type of relief that requires a little bit of a different dropping formula than than other relief procedures. So, we're going to take a look at that line.

VO OC > To continue with my relief procedure for back on the line. Let me first explain what is back on the line. To take my relief, I would need to draw an imaginary line between the hole, the point where the ball was unplayable and that imaginary line can extend as far back as long as I would like it to go, as long as it's on the golf course. So here I draw that imaginary line from the hole through the point where the golf ball was, and that imaginary line is right here, and I go to drop it. I can stand to either side of the line or I can stand on the line. But the real key is for this procedure, the ball must be dropped on the line. So, when I drop it, I'll double check to make sure that I have that imaginary line. Drop it from knee highs. I've dropped it on the line. That ball is now in play. Had I dropped it over here, it could hit the ground, roll over and stop on the line. But it is still in a wrong place because it was dropped improperly. If that should happen, you can avoid penalty by lifting it for no penalty stroke and re dropping it. But if you play it and it hasn't been dropped on the line, it will cost you an additional two strokes. So don't get yourself in a deeper hole from where you already are. Back on the line. Relief. Drop it on the line.

VO > Coming up next, enjoying activities on the big island. This New Zealand native is down under again, this time in Pacific waters. Come snorkeling with Stephen Walker when we return,

VO > Seven-time PGA Tour champions winner and pass Charles Schwab Cup chant. Steven Alford is a Kiwi by birth, so he's used to being down under. And once again in Hawaii. The Big Island is home for many unique activities, and snorkeling is certainly one of them. This is the one-time Alker is glad he found the water.

OC > This is an amazing start of the year. The Four Seasons resort hear do a great job and Hualalai we got a nice golf course. And it's it's a great place to bring a family. I mean, it doesn’t get any better than this great start to the year.

VO OC > It’s good, especially this early in the morning. There's a little there's a little hazy under there, but because the swells, the big swells of the morning.

VO OC > I very much enjoyed seeing various fish, especially ones which I thought that could get me.

VO OC > Saw a lot of those like gray fish that were like really big. Kind of looked mini sharks, really cool.

OC > Enjoyable or just nice and salty.

OC VO > I saw he stingrays thing was pretty cool.

VO CO > Saw the manta rays and I just saw a lot of color was great, a lot of fun.

OC > It's nice. It’s lovely.

VO OC > To be able to be here. All four of us together is is just spectacular. It's the first time in two years the children and I will have to go back slightly early, so Ben can go back to university.

OC > What kind of cruel parent objects us to this.

OC VO > Which is a shame, but at least we got to be here with dad for the first round and we get to do fantastic things like swim with these amazing sea marine creatures and enjoy the beautiful sun and the fantastic islands.

VO OC > We're going to explore a bit more than we did last time, and I'm really excited for that. And it definitely means that it's been my senior year and stuff, so this might be one of my last chances to come and do it, so very excited.

VO OC > I’m going to obviously miss stuff like this a lot. Fantastic to be here. We get to be with them and experience this with them. See my dad just doing what he does and do it well.

VO OC > Not even, not even slightly in my wildest dreams did I think in January of 21 that this would be a reality. It's just amazing, amazing and phenomenal. And yes, it's truly a dream come true. It's truly a dream come true for our family, for the Steve to have this amazing, you know, new career. So, yeah, we're exceptionally grateful.

VO OC > It's an amazing week. It's a great start to the year. Kind of feels like vacation for me. It's hard to separate the golf vacation side, but to have everyone here is is great, especially with the 19 or. 17-year-olds, because it's time to go their separate ways. So, this is a nice start to the year.

VO > First round coverage of the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai begins Thursday at 7 p.m. Eastern on Golf Channel. Escape the January cold and come join the Big Island party.

VO > And that will do it for the 2024 PGA Tour Champions Season Preview. As soon Island time becomes competition time. The game's all-time greats will be holding court and we can't wait. I'm Vince Cellini. Aloha.