**2024 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW #2**

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center

VO > PGA Tour champions return to familiar territory for event number two on the 24 schedule, the Chubb Classic, which dates back to 1988. Beautiful Naples, Florida, showing its fierce side weatherwise. We'll have more on that in a moment. But let's see how the twice abbreviated Chubb unfolded.

VO > The string of Stephens continued this time not Alker, but rather Stephen Ames, who Saturday 64, followed of Friday, 67 and 13 under total. Ames vaulted into the lead in round two and secured the victory when inclement weather rolled into the area, marking just the second time in the tournament's 37 year history. The winner was decided in less than 54 holes. Ames adds a fifth victory in his most recent 24 starts on PGA Tour champions. Now our men in the booth with a recap.

VO > Rain washing out the final round of the Chubb Classic in Naples, Florida, ballpark, along with Peter Jacobson. And let's take a look at some highlights from Saturday. Second round. First round leader Rocco Mediate, who fired a nine under par 63, was wobbling a little, but Peter reignited his round with his tee shot at 16.

VO > Yeah, he showed us a lot with a little struggle early on. Almost makes an ace right there at the par three.

VO > So, that would get him back to even on his round and nine under four off the lead. Then this nifty little pinch shot in the closing hole got him to within three of the lead.

VO > Yeah, he's so good with the wedge around the green. You saw him Cut that off and add that extra spin. He went on to tap that in for his birdie four.

VO > So, that got him to solo second. But Stephen Ames was the story after birdies at five and six at the par 3 7th. Pitches in for another birdie to make it three in a row.

VO > Yeah one of those unexpected birdies that you'll make in a round which this round turned out to be very special. The next hole in eight just a short wedge and like he did all day he went after it.

VO > And Ames is on a roll right now. Four birdies in a row and then at the par 4 11th pours this in didn't have to make a lot of long ones either. He was dialed in with the irons and Stephen Ames starting to take control of this tournament. This was his second at 14.

VO > He is staring this one down it’s right on line and almost jars that.

VO > Almost looks embarrassed. Now he made a bogey at the par 5 15th and then bounces back with this birdie at 16.

VO > And you kind of figured that if we weren't going to play today, that was it. But this was the key, I think 17 the most difficult hole on the golf course all week. Hits a beautiful tee shot, a nice iron and just walks in an easy birdie, just the third birdie of the day in the second round.

VO > Stephen Ames with a 64 and winds up beating Rocco Mediate by three shots. Ernie Els, Alex Cejka, Mark Hensby and Paul Broadhurst all share third place with the rain shortened Chubb Classic. Stephen Ames, your winner. Let's hear from the champion of the Chubb Classic.

VO OC > You know what? It's unfortunate what's happened. Chubb has been a wonderful sponsor for this tour for so many years. It was kind of ironic that the other event on the PGA Tour was actually in L.A. and there were those beautiful out there, which is unusual, you know, but for Florida, very unusual to have this weather going on here right now. And it's unfortunate that we'd end up being two rounds.

VO > Mindset going forward, goals, new goals.

VO > At this day and age, we always look to see how many more majors we can went or knock on the door. That is definitely one of my goals this year is to see if I can win one of the five. The wins are all always special. They always add that confidence to your game. The majors are always a little different animal to deal with and that ends up being a little bit more mental than anything else.

VO > It's a Steven Steve Fest again. Alker is out in front after his two event win streak ended. Ames seventh career win has him right behind and Rocco Mediate second place finish in Naples his best on tour since 2019 places him third followed by Harrison Frazier and 2023 Schwab Cup winner Steve Stricker.

VO > The Chubb Classic was the first full field event of the season, and with that came a chance to see some old faces and newcomers like Heath Slocum making his tour debut. The always popular John Daly is in his eighth season on PGA Tour champions. Last year, he played in only 13 events, the fewest in his career. Daly's been battling injuries, including recovering from a left knee replacement at the end of 2022. But for now, things are feeling better and he's looking forward to the year ahead.

VO OC > Well, I haven't played with two full legs since I've been out here, so it's nice to follow through again, hopefully get my wedge gain back a little bit. To me, that was the hardest part about it all. Just trying to control my wedge shots and eight, nine irons. That's been the most difficult thing. So, this left knee is about there. The it still swells up a little bit. But, you know, it's I'm not really going to set anything, just going to play and try to enjoy having two legs again. I want to play as much as I can match my body. Let me I mean, you know, I feel okay, cancer's doing great. Still benign. I go back February 28th and get that checked again and to see what happens.

VO > It wasn't Daly's knee, but rather a hand injury that forced him to withdraw. In round two of the Chubb Classic, J.D. explained things in a tweet, complete with a photo. Here's hoping it's not too serious. And we see J.D. back in form for this week's event in Morocco.

VO > Soon to be Hall of Famer Padraig Harrington made his first start of the new season at the Chubb Classic last year. Harrington competed eight times on the PGA Tour and 13 times on PGA Tour. Champions in those 21 combined starts. He won twice, first at the Dick's Sporting Goods Open, then in the playoffs and the TimberTech championship. Harrington is aiming for more success on both tours with eyes on the over 50 majors.

OC VO > Just win, you know, that's always the goal to try and win tournaments and yeah ideally I’d win some of the senior majors. I think a big goal of mine would be trying to win a regular tournament just I'm at that age so if I could win on the regular to be something special. I think playing four PGA Tour events coming up, I'm swinging the club better than I've ever swung the club. I started to putt, well, mentally, you know, I mean, you know, mentally can be a little bit harder and these kids are really good now. So, the standard is hard, but I'm quite bullish if I can get myself into the right place on Sunday afternoon, that I could take my chance. But I think as all of our guys do, we find a hard. We are under a lot of pressure. We if I turn up for PGA Tour events, I really feel I need my A-plus game. And it's tough when you feel like that. That's tough. You play much better golf when you are within yourself and you think, you know, you know, Tiger was famous for it. You know, he said he could win his B-game. And when you think he can win with your B-game, your A-game turns up. So, yeah, that would be probably the biggest goal is to win on a regular tour. But really out here, try and win tournaments and, you know, hopefully win some of the senior majors.

VO > Only eight men have won on the PGA Tour after turning 50, the most recent Phil Mickelson, who claimed the PGA Championship in 2021. The 52-year-old Harrington will place most of his playing focus on PGA Tour champions starting in May.

VO > As mentioned, one of the new faces on tour is Heath Slocum, four time PGA Tour winner who turned 50 on February 3rd. One of Heath's close friends is fellow newcomer Boo Weekley. The two grew up in Milton, Florida, went to the same high school and played junior golf together. Now that they have been reunited again, who better to introduce Heath to the tour than Thomas Brant Weekly himself.

OC > Excuse me. Hey, Vince. You know how I got Heath here right now. Hey, Heath, how how you feel about playing down here in Naples, Florida, this week at the Chubb Classic?

OC > I mean, I obviously I feel pretty good. I mean, look at this weather. I mean, old friends.

VO > Yeah. I mean.

VO > First event. I'm ready.

VO > All right, this is awesome. You get to see the old colleagues that we used to play with back in the day?

VO > The whole range is filled with them, you know? And I mean, like, what a better place to star then Naples.

VO OC > Right? You have that right. Which one? Which one you think you're going to pick out this week to beat up on?

OC > Man, That's a good question. I would like to say all but that's not going to happen.

OC > I understand. I understand. I felt the same way when I came out the first time myself. But hey, I think I got to send it back to the Vince real fast. Thank you, Vince, back to you.

VO > Thank you, Boo. And hello, Heath. As for his debut, Slocum shot 74 69 to get to one under and finished T41 Slocum if you got him. Welcome aboard, Heath.

VO > Coming up, another life change for hard charging Rob Labritz, not just making his mark on PGA Tour champions, but moving his family to the Sunshine State, where it's a group effort to grow and win.

VO > There are various paths to success on PGA Tour champions, Rob Labritz took the blue collar approach. A longtime PGA teaching professional and New York State celebrates won medalist honors at Q-School in 2021 and taught us all what hard work can accomplish in a very short time.

VO OC > My daughter Ryan, she got a Schwab Cup flag and she got me to sign it and she goes, Daddy, I got one other person sign it Bernhard Langer. So, she got Bernhard and me and she goes and you can hang it up right next to you, work out. It can always give you motivation. So, my daughter at ten is giving me motivation by putting this on my peloton in the morning. I'm not an odds guy. I don't bet. I don't really watch sports. Just try to envision things that I want and and try to go after. I have to keep improving where I am. I got better from my first year to my second year. My stats in all areas improved. I was a knucklehead in a few years when I was younger and I don't want to waste any more time, so I'm going to work harder to make up for this knucklehead years. You know.

VO > In his first year on PGA Tour Champions Labritz, played in 25 events, including three top tens. He made the playoffs but missed the finale in Phoenix in his second season on tour, a dramatic bogey putt on the final hole at the second playoff event in Boca Raton pushed him into the top 36 and the Charles Schwab Cup Championship.

OC VO > I can't believe my whole entire season came down to the last part in the last hole. I can't believe it. Never been so nervous over putt. It reminded me a lot of Q-school. I was really nervous. I had the good line. I hit it where I wanted to. I hit the right speed and it went in. When you make putts like that, under that pressure, the pressure put upon yourself, you're definitely grow as a player, and I grew as a player there. To get in the top 36 was a goal. A lot of the other players out here, they're all great players, have played great for so many years and I'm still trying to make a living. So, my stomach took about a week and a half to untwist. I took a few red wines, and it took a few a lot of family and no golf. And I unplug from my social media and my phone for about a week too, which was kind of really cool. It felt good.

VO > In July of 2023, after living separately from his family, who remains in New York, Rob and his wife Kerry, decided to pack up and move the family down to South Florida in West Palm Beach, so he could focus on his game and have loved ones close by.

VO OC > Rob and Kerry Labritz, We're here in Florida now our home. This is kind of like our day in the life of, I don't know.

OC > Boredom.

OC VO > It's kind of boring, but it's nice.

VO OC > The last few years have been interesting, exciting and just I mean, tough too, really tough. It's been a bit of a challenge getting, you know, just readjusting to life.

OC > It's been a couple of months, but I'm here now for a few months and I think I can get this knocked out probably just by this weekend. We're tired of being away. The winters from each other. I come down here in the winter to this area. It's going to be away from my family and playing practice to get ready for the season starting up in February. We made a move in July to come down here, South Florida, and we're going to see how long it can parlay this this warm weather, move into a few more seasons on The Champions Tour. We get to hang out with each other. We get to get to take my kids to school, I get to have dinner with my family. And it's just it feels more like life. It doesn't feel like I'm away from my family, like I'm doing something without them.

VO OC > Living down here has been a big adjustment for us, you know, coming from the north where we had this small community that we lived in, they had some really great friends and he has a nice family friend, you know, just always there for each other. So, coming down here and not having any family around or anybody that's not, you know, traveling so much, it was definitely a definite first. But we're starting to settle in.

OC VO > She’s not a morning person. She wakes up in the morning and gets a little. Yeah. she's got to have her coffee, you know. You know, we've had kids. Now we've got a ten-year-old and now Logan's two should be three in January. The time together that we have means everything to us because we don't get a ton of it alone.

OC > 7:39. Oh, no. We have a slow poke in front of us.

OC > No.

OC VO > That's the way it always works. My daughter got into a great school down here and she's thriving. So when she thrives, it motivates me to to work harder and play harder because I know that it's just going to help her in the long run. For me, it's just about being around my family, so I have to be away from them. We are good 7:40 right on time.

OC > I love you daddy.

OC > I love you so you sweetness.

OC > I think just even for the kids, just to be able to see the drive and the perseverance that he went through to get to where you wanted to be. I mean, when I met him, you know, he always told me that his goal was to get on the Champions story and to do this. And he did it. And just the amount of work and hard effort that he puts in, I mean, it's incredible.

OC > The week my dad, my father passed away of brain cancer. I wasn't going to play a golf tournament. I was playing the Golden Bear tour and and I played in the tournament and won the tournament in a playoff. It was just crazy.

VO > His 30 year journey from club professional to the PGA Tour champions features playing in majors and winning multiple titles and accolades. He became a touring pro, working as director of golf at the prestigious Glen Arbor Golf Club in New York for 23 years. It was a circuitous route, but all the more rewarding.

OC VO > We made such a beautiful golf club in New York. This Glen Arbor Golf Club is something special, and 23 years of my life was there. That's almost half my life to go from that role to, you know, tour player. It was a lot of envisioning. A lot of envisioning. I can't tell you how much I would sit there and ride my peloton and, you know, sit there at night, sit there when I'm laying and going to bed of just seeing this vision of what I want. I heard so much about people saying, You got to see what you want. So I put it into play and it and it worked a few times. And then I put it in to play harder for this and it came in to fruition. Power of the Brain is unbelievable.

VO OC > I got people coming up to me like the hotdog vendor saying what a great guy my husband is. And just hearing those kinds of things really means a lot. Just goes to show you what kind of personality that Rob has and how he connects with everybody. Inaudible.

OC > I think it might be time to let it go, but, you know, it's just one of these things where we don't we don't see we don't have any room for this stuff anymore. And I hate to just, you know, throw it in storage. You guys want a deer head.

OC > Just bring so much lighter, like life to people. And I think that's one of the best things. And one of the things I love about it most.

VO > This is.

OC > We will still have some of those boxes and a couple of years down the road.

VO CO > It's the dream is here. We're living it now. We have to continue to improve, you know, 1 to 2% every year. I don't want to do anything else. I love it out here. So it's just fabulous.

OC > Definitely a fairy tale. You don't really hear many of those kind of stories.

OC > It's a dream come true. So I don't want to go away.

VO > He has fashioned himself as a PGA Tour champion, strong man off the tee. Padraig Harrington shows us how to generate more power with the drive, something we all can use. And you will hear from Stephen Ames, fresh off a strong season a year ago. And ahead as defending champion in Morocco.

VO > He is Professor Padraig Harrington. In some corners, the player who loves to teach and help others. This time secrets to more power all tee a technique he calls step and hit, which means better striking by stepping into the ball movies you've recently had tournament play and as far back as 2006.

OC > So, if you notice, is there a lot of times that people are practice swinging, you'll see pros that start forward and then have a little step. It's much more natural to step If we were going to throw a ball, we'd step. Okay. Always be stepping. So essentially, it's a good practice to to hit shots when stepping. So I would say to all amateurs then to step and hit shots. So and you see it's a very here that's a step forward start. So you get left early. You should be able to do that and not feel like it's really alien or uncomfortable. So you've got to practice on until that feels pretty normal to you. What you will find, especially if you are an athlete as a kid, you know, if you played sports, you will find that that movement will free you up, will give you a lot more of the separation that we talk about.Will get you left like they all talk about, and you probably end up playing with it. Just because it's unconventional doesn't mean you shouldn't do it. But most people will just hit the golf ball far better by having that little step. And remember, it's the natural step. So I just narrowed my stance a little bit to do that. But at this point I stepped. But it's the same if I had a ball, you could see if I was going to skim a stone in water. As I draw back, I'd step forward. So I'm not going here on stepping. I'm actually early step. If you're just a regular golfer who maybe is not been an athlete, you should practices until it becomes comfortable because even with your feet in the ground, you need that press. I just released a technical video on Paddy's Golf tips on how the feet work, but this one is really all you need for most amateur golfers. Just get that motion step, step. And it really does. It feels much more comfortable, much more athletic, much more normal. And if it doesn't feel right, it means you swing the club wrong, because that should be in your golf swing.

VO > PGA Tour champions will again span the globe, heading to Morocco for Trophy Hassan II the next event on the schedule. This tournament expands the worldwide reach of PGA Tour champions and brings players to an exotic land where golf is a universal language for these ambassadors of the sport. We speak of Stephen Ames, who will defend that a place that saw him jump start his year. It was the first of a career best four wins on the season, the Ames victory in Naples, proving again he is one to watch in 2024 and spoke of the tour making its way to Northern Africa to compete. And reasons he's looking forward to this week's international events.

OC VO> One being a…you've got a pretty good golf course. You get to see a different culture. You got to the different food that you normally would not get here in America. So I think overall we're learning a different culture and how they live and how they eat and everything else about it. So in that respect, I think it's it's a wonderful experience that we're we've been given to go and play over there.

VO > And that will do it for this week's edition of PGA Tour Champions Learning Center. It's off to another continent where we will once again bring you Legends of the Game. I'm Vince Cellini. Thank you so much for watching. We will see you next time.